

# RISK DRIVER 2

# SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND LIVELIHOODS

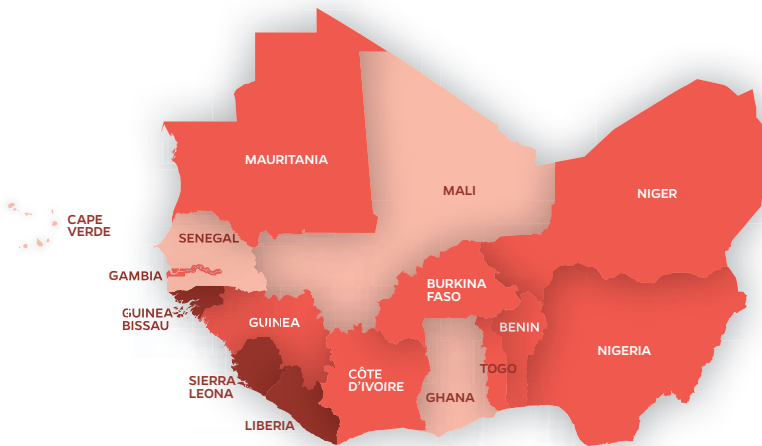
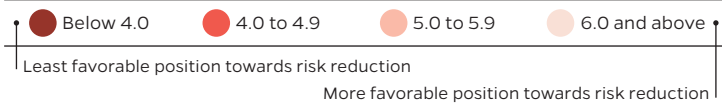
## FACTORS

under Risk Driver 2 include conditions and capacities regarding health, education, poverty, employment and gender equality.

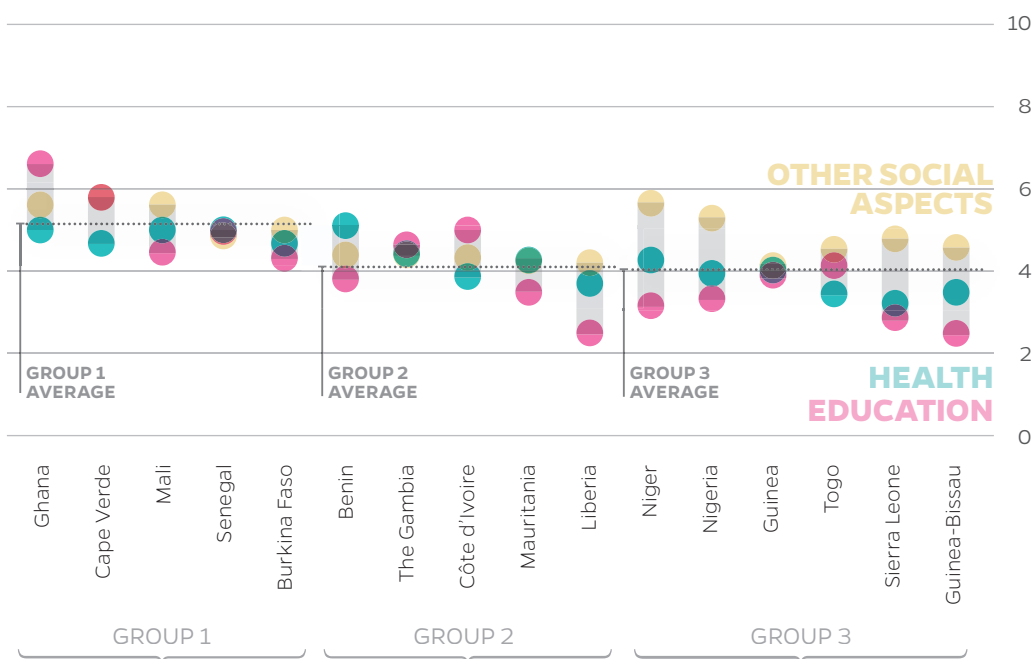
**COMPARED** to other areas of the world, countries in West Africa present extremely poor scores for indicators on access to health and access to education. High levels of poverty, food insecurity, gender inequality and vulnerable employment also affect the region, combining to make West Africa one of the world's most vulnerable regions in terms of socioeconomic conditions. Access to education and literacy are vital in the process of reducing people's exposure to risk. Health-related issues receive some of the lowest scores in the West Africa region, as compared to other regions of the world. African countries have the lowest scores worldwide for health-related indicators, especially related to access to health services. In fact, even in Ghana and Cape Verde access to health still receives the lowest scores for indicators in this driver.

**CAPE VERDE** and Ghana are the only two

### SCORES LEGEND



# STATE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL ASPECTS IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES



countries in the region that are not classified as Least Developed countries according to the UNDP's World Development Report (2013). The rest of the region presents low levels of socioeconomic conditions overall, with 4 being the maximum score attained (indicating deficient conditions on the 0-10 range).

**THE WEST AFRICA** region presents the highest rates of gender inequality in the world, especially when measured in terms of school attendance rates and access. Gender inequality, particularly in terms of exposure to risk, is complex to capture. Women have more limited access to means of production, including credit, inputs like seeds, fertilizers, farming equipment and land. Land tenure systems also pose discrimination in relation to property rights. Poor rural women in West Africa and the Sahel normally undertake much more strenuous tasks and work for longer hours than men.