

RAPID — in plain English

Informal talking points · West & Central Africa

RAPID reads a wide range of **public humanitarian data every week** and turns it into short, current, **country-level risk briefs** plus a regional overview — so you get the picture without trawling dozens of sources yourself. The AI does the reading and drafting; a person stays in the loop. It is a **data pipeline, not a chatbot**.

What it's for

- A fast, consistent **first-pass situational picture** for each country, refreshed weekly.
- Surfaces **what changed and what matters** — saves the hours normally spent gathering.
- A baseline that supports your judgement — **not a replacement** for it.

The sources it draws on — and why each matters

Conflict events (ACLED) — every recorded violent incident: where, when, who. The backbone of the risk picture across the Sahel. Near real-time.

Local & regional news — on-the-ground events, incidents and displacement that the structured datasets miss.

Food & market prices (WFP VAM) — an early signal of food-access stress before it shows up elsewhere.

Food-security classification (Cadre Harmonisé / IPC) — the official hunger phase; the authoritative baseline, with a clear flag whenever a figure is dated.

Humanitarian coordination layer (OCHA / ReliefWeb) — situation reports, cluster updates and funding status. **COMING ONLINE**

WFP operational funding (Country Strategic Plans / Annual Reports) — the funding gap per operation, the number WFP cares about most. **SWITCHING ON NOW**

Displacement tracking (IOM DTM) — who is displaced and where, for the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. **BEING WIRED IN**

Floods & climate signals — flood forecasting and climate anomalies for anticipatory warning ahead of the season. **COMING ONLINE**

The core is live for West Africa today — **conflict, news and prices**. The funding, displacement and hazard layers are being switched on now.

How it works

1. **Gather** — every week it pulls automatically from all those sources.
2. **Filter** — it checks each item for relevance and reliability, and discards the noise.
3. **Extract** — it pulls out the facts that matter: figures, events, funding gaps.
4. **Write** — it drafts a short country brief and a regional overview.
5. **Deliver** — the brief goes out by email and web.

How we keep it accurate

- **Everything traces to a source.** Every figure and claim links back to the document it came from — no unsourced numbers.

- **An independent AI stress-tests the figures.** A separate model actively tries to break the numbers before they are trusted — it catches the occasional confident-but-wrong figure.
- **The final fact-check is done by code, not AI.** The brief's numbers are compared against the source data by a program — because an AI can state a wrong number confidently, so code has the final say.
- **It is honest about gaps.** When data is missing or out of date, the brief says so rather than papering over it.
- **A person reviews the important runs,** and every change is tested on a safe copy before it goes live.

Honest framing: RAPID works from **public sources**, so it is a strong, current situational picture — not classified, and not a forecast. Think fast, consistent, well-sourced situational awareness.