



Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OCHA

Regional Office for West Africa

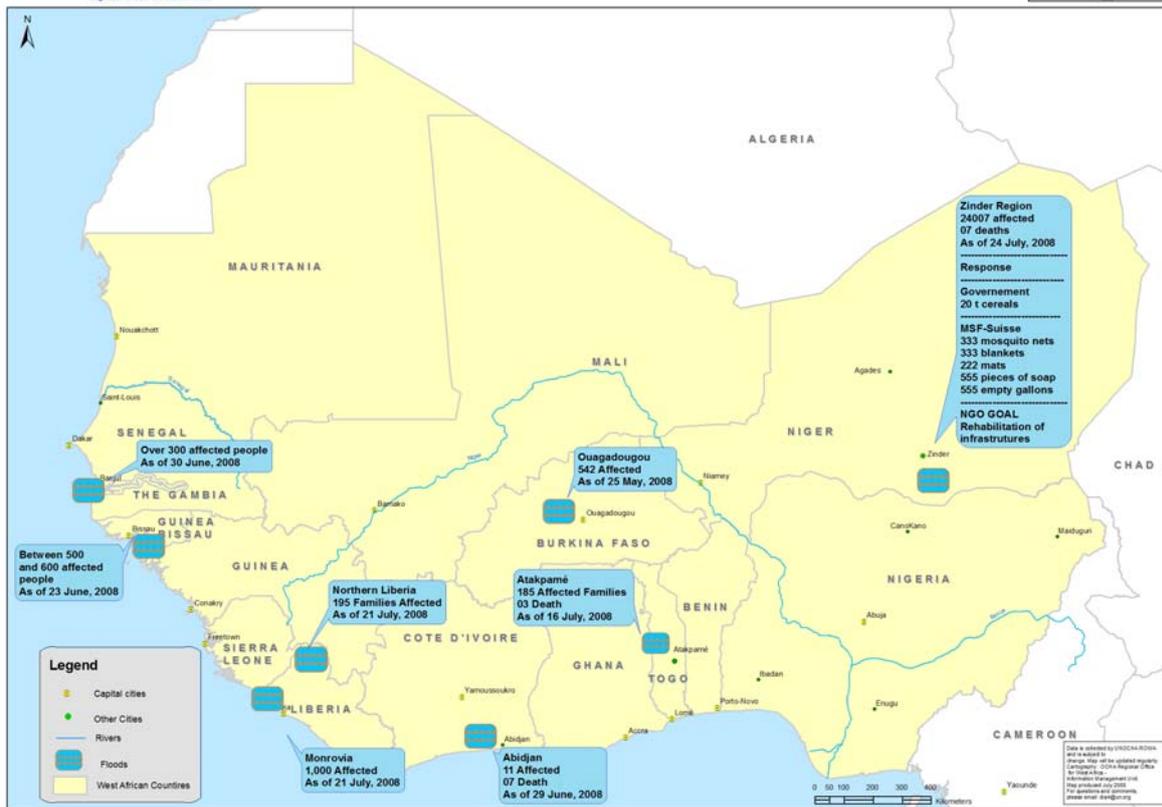
31 July 2008

Monthly situation report



West Africa - Floods 2008

As of 25 July, 2008



SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

- Niger: More than 24.000 people affected by floods
- Guinea-Bissau: About 870 cholera cases recorded
- Niger: MSF-F expelled from Maradi
- Cameroon-Nigeria border: 12 persons killed in Bakassi
- Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone: more than 1 ton of cocaine captured in aircrafts from South America
- IFRC needs 730.000 US\$ to face the floods in the sub-region
- The 2009 West Africa CAP will focus on the consequences of the rising prices and food crisis

1. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

1.1 Food security and nutrition

Guinea: WFP distributes food items to the most vulnerable groups

To respond to the rising food prices, the World Food Programme (WFP) has started free distributions of food items to the most vulnerable people on 15 July 2008. 20,000 MT of cereals will be distributed during the next three months in four regions. In rural areas, about 100,000 people have been targeted in the prefecture of Pita (Moyenne Guinée), 100,000 people in the prefecture of Kouroussa (Haute Guinée) and 200,000 people in the prefecture of Lola (Guinée Forestière). The targeted beneficiaries are mainly farmers compelled to buy food during the lean season. In urban areas, particularly in Conakry (Basse Guinée), supplementary and therapeutic food rations will be distributed to patients in hospitals and health centers. People who accompany patients and convalescent children will also benefit from the food assistance. In addition to this, WFP will provide nutritional support to 25,000 under-five children and to pregnant and lactating women.

Niger: MSF-France expelled from Maradi

The private radio Anfani reported that the Niger Government has put an end to the activities of the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières-France in the region of Maradi (700 kilometers east of Niamey) and ordered the NGO to leave the area. The decision was taken on 18 July by the Minister of Interior, Albadé Abouba. Maradi has the highest fertility rate with an average of eight children per woman. In 2005, women and children in the region were severely affected by an unprecedented food crisis following the drought and a locust invasion. At that time, MSF opened treatment and re-nutrition centres for children and mothers. According to MSF-F, some 38,000 children were given care and support in 2005 alone, with a recovery rate of above 90%.

1.2 Protection and population movements

Mauritania: more than 4,600 people repatriated

The repatriation operation of refugees from Senegal is ongoing with the support of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). By the end of July, 4691 persons have reached the sites in the regions of Trarza, Gorgol and Brakna, bordering the Senegal River. The sites were established by the National Agency for the Reintegration of Refugees (ANAI) and the local NGO Association for Poverty Fight and Under-Development (ALPD). In addition, a joint mission of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) was conducted from 1 to 8 July in Mauritania in order to assess the actions undertaken in the programme for return and reintegration of refugees.

1.3 Health

Guinea: cholera has caused 25 deaths in 2008

A cholera outbreak has caused 25 deaths and more than 400 cases since January in Guinea, according to the Government. The first cholera cases were reported in January in Boké (300 km north-west of Conakry) and the epidemic continued to spread to Boffa (200 km north-west of Conakry). As of 18 July, 429 cases have been recorded (254 in Boké, 174 in Boffa et 1 in Dixinn, a district in central Conakry) with 15 deaths in Boké et 10 in Boffa. The situation is likely to deteriorate as the country faces issues of inadequate health infrastructures, few means and resources. The health ministry should have sufficient medication to control the epidemic provided by partners including the Canadian cooperation, the Red Cross and the World Health Organization, but there is a lack of communication in rural areas. Since 2005, Guinea has been struck by cholera every year. Last year, 8,500 cholera cases were registered with 310 deaths. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) disbursed about 12,830 US dollars to support cholera control activities through the Guinean Red Cross Society.

Guinea-Bissau: 22 deaths among 876 cholera cases

Since the beginning of the year, 876 cases with 22 deaths were recorded in the country. The number of cases increased dramatically over the last month, with 409 new cases recorded in July, according to the government. The capital city Bissau registered the highest number of patients with 641 cases of which 7 fatal. The disease has spread in 8 other regions of the country. IFRC disbursed 14,930 US\$ to the national Red Cross to reinforce prevention activities against cholera.

Nigeria: Avian influenza has reappeared in the Northern part of the country

As of 29 July, the Nigerian authorities declared several cases of avian influenza in Katsina and Kano states in the north of the country. The virus, which killed 4,249 poultry, was detected in a farm located in the village of Fagen-Kawo, Kano state. More than 80 poultry were also found dead in Kadarko, Katsina State. These cases have not been confirmed yet as H5N1. The first West African lethal case was registered in Lagos in January 2007, when a 22 year old woman had been in close contact with an infected chicken. The first case of avian influenza was detected in February 2006 in Kano state. The disease had later spread to other states and caused the slaughtering of approx 30,000 poultry in 97 farms in Kano state. Since then, three other states have declared an avian influenza outbreak.

1.4 Natural disasters

Togo: Heavy rainfall caused at least one death and important infrastructure damage

Heavy rainfall occurred in Atakpamé in the Hauts Plateaux region in Central Togo on 16 July 2008 and caused important damages. One person died and 185 households have become homeless. Following the disaster, the Togolese government appealed for international assistance and requested coordination support from the United Nations. A joint needs assessment mission is being conducted in the affected area. A few days later, floods were reported in the prefectures of Haho, Yoto, Vo and Golfe in the southern part of the country following torrential rains and damaging infrastructure. As of 29 July, seven bridges and one rail-bridge have been destroyed. Main roads and railways have become impracticable and the phone network has been cut off.

Burkina-Faso: 2,708 persons affected by floods

Rains are now regular in Burkina Faso and have caused considerable damage in several areas, mainly due to the breaking off of drainage works. As of 24 July, 2,708 persons are reported as disaster victims.

Niger: more than 24,000 persons affected by floods

According to media, at least five persons were killed and several others injured following heavy rains during the third week of July (14-20 July) in Zinder, the second largest town of Niger located in the Eastern part of the country. More than 200 mm of rain fell down within a few days. Numerous houses have collapsed and homeless households have been relocated in schools, according to the governorate of Zinder. A preliminary assessment estimates that 2,972 households, approx 24,000 persons, have been affected.

The government carried out distributions of 20 MT of cereals, while MSF-Suisse distributed Non Food Items. The World Food Program is likely to provide 158 MT of food. Other actors, such as UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, USAID, the national Red Cross Society and the NGO Goal, are expected to provide relief items and early recovery support.

Liberia: Monrovia experiencing the most severe flooding in its history

The torrential rains that occurred on 20 July in Monrovia caused the most severe flooding it has ever recorded. Around 1,000 persons had to flee their homes from Paynesville, Townhalk, King Gray, Fish Market and other communities. Jerome Nyenka, interim executive director of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) declared that severity of the floods were both due to rainfall and the constructions on wetlands.

Mauritania: Two persons killed and 30 injured during a storm

A sand and rain storm on 11 July killed two persons in Moundi, 300 km north of Nouakchott. The two victims died following the collapse of their house. As a result of the storm, about 200 households have become homeless. The local authorities of the Brakna region, along with the Commissariat à la Protection Sociale et à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CPSSA) conducted an assessment mission in order to determine the adequate relief activities to be carried out among the most affected populations.

Mali: Strengthening disaster preparedness

Within the framework of strengthening capacity and preparedness to emergencies, a training was organized on 16 - 17 July in Bamako. The objectives were to improve data collection and rapid needs assessment tools. The training was jointly organized by the Direction Regionale de la Protection Civile, UNDP and OCHA and facilitated by the head of OCHA Regional Office, Hervé Ludovic de Lys. Among participants were representatives from Protection Civile du Mali, UN agencies and programmes, USAID, NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement. Many issues were discussed such as resource mobilisation tools, the implementation of early warning systems and rapid needs assessment forms. As a result, participants developed and finally adopted a needs assessment form.

Ghana: Conference on climate change in August

The government of Ghana and the secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will organize a conference on climate changes on 21-30 August in Accra. This conference will gather about 2,000 representatives of 192 countries in order to prepare a road map in preparation of next year's conference on climate change in Copenhagen.

2. SOCIO-POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION

Sierra Leone: 600 kg of cocaine seized in Freetown airport

600 kg of cocaine were seized in Freetown airport on 13 July. During the bust, three Colombian, two Mexican, one Venezuelan and one American national were placed under arrest. The small aircraft, with fake Red Cross emblems landed at Freetown International Airport without clearance. During inspections, local police discovered the drugs along with AK47 and AK48 automatic rifles and ammunition. Following the drug bust, eleven foreigners and fifty Sierra-Leoneans were arrested, including some airport employees and five policemen. The investigation is on-going in collaboration with Interpol and British police. The Sierra-Leonean Minister for Transport and Aviation, Kemoh Sesay, revealed that one of the key suspects in this affair is his own brother, Mohamed Sesay. For some years now, West Africa has become an important transit point for South American cocaine on its route to Europe.

Guinea-Bissau: two planes carrying 515 kg of cocaine captured

The Bissau Guinean authorities seized 515 kg of cocaine from two planes that flew in from Venezuela. The two aircraft were brought to a standstill after landing without clearance in Bissau on 12 and 13 July. The South American crew managed to flee but a commander from the Bissau-Guinean army, suspected to be involved in this affair, was arrested.

Nigeria-Cameroon: 12 persons killed during armed clashes in Bakassi

Twelve persons, including two military from Cameroon, were killed on 24 July during an attack by an armed group in the Bakassi peninsula, bordering Nigeria. According to the Cameroon Ministry of Defence, an unidentified armed group navigating in three motorized boats launched an attack on armed forces near Kombo and Jaméa. Two cameroonese troops were killed and four injured, while ten assailants were killed and eight were apprehended. An important stock of weapons was also captured. This attack is the fourth since November, and occurred only a few days after a Nigerian rebel group, the Niger Delta Defence and Security Council (NDDSC), claimed the area and announced more attacks.

Mali: a peace agreement between the government and the insurgents

An agreement may have been found on 21 July between the Malian government and the Touareg insurgents represented by the Alliance Démocratique du 23 Mai pour le Changement. The agreement will lead to the release of prisoners on both sides by 15 August, the demining of the Northern part of the country and assistance in the return of the displaced population. After mid August, both parties will meet again to relieve the military presence in the north, dismantle rebel bases and start a reintegration process of ex-combatants. A monitoring committee composed of 200 members from both parties was established in order to monitor the implementation of this new agreement.

3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

IFRC needs more than 730,000 US\$ to face floods

IFRC launched a preliminary emergency appeal of 730.000 US\$ to support the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to be prepared for the floods that are likely to strike West and Central Africa. The initiative is the result of a meteorological forecast announcing a particularly rainy season during July, August and September with a high risk of floods. IFRC also launched an appeal of 20,6 millions US\$ in order to fund a new HIV/AIDS program in the next three years (2008-2010) through the National Red Cross Societies in five western and central African countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Nigeria, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo).

CAP 2009 focused on rising food price crisis

Following regional meetings on the humanitarian appeal, partners are carrying out the preliminary analysis which will lead to the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for 2009 during the 10 and 11 September CAP workshop. In 2009, the West Africa CAP will be articulated around the crisis of soaring commodities.

CERF Mauritania approved

The request submitted by partners in Mauritania for funding by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was approved mid-July for a total amount of 1,132,595 US\$. These funds will be allocated to FAO (Emergency assistance to vulnerable horticultural farmers and breeders, 689,615 US\$), UNICEF (Nutrition and child survival emergency operations, 138,030 US\$) and to WHO (Health Emergency assistance to malnourished children, 304,950 US\$).

West Africa Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) 2008 funded at 53.1%

The Consolidated Appeal for West Africa, launched on 18 December 2007, was reviewed in June 2008. The United Nations and partners request more than 418 million US\$ to face the humanitarian challenges in West Africa in 2008. As of 31 July, 53.1% has been funded.

Table of 2008 CAP funding by theme (as of 7 July 2008)

Themes	Requests in US \$	Funding in US \$	%
Food security and Nutrition	207 105 589	107 492 362	52%
Health Emergencies	22 073 914	1 528 186	7%
Protection and Population Movements	149 852 545	97 853 819	65%
Natural Disaster preparedness	2 828 800	0	0%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	10 449 280	4 226 336	40%
Cross thematic/Coordination	24 221 253	6 116 435	25%
Theme not yet specified	1 882 665	4 709 971	250%
Overall Total:	418 414 046	221 927 109	53%

For more information on the 2008 CAP funding, please refer to www.reliefweb.int/fts . The direct link for information concerning the West Africa CAP: <http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&emergID=15184>

4. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Events	Where	Who
11-12 August	Retreat PIC	Geneva, Switzerland	OCHA
10-11 September	Workshop CAP West Africa	Dakar, Senegal	OCHA
30 sept-1 October	Workshop CERF	Dakar, Senegal	OCHA
08-10 October	Meeting of Resident Coordinators	Dakar, Senegal	OCHA

For further information on the humanitarian situation in West Africa and to consult other reports on the humanitarian situation in the region: <http://ochaonline.un.org/westafrica>

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