World Humanitarian Summit holds first regional consultation in West and Central Africa

Region becomes the frontrunner of the WHS regional consultations

On June 19th and 20th, 200 representatives across the whole spectrum of humanitarian action in West and Central Africa gathered in Cote d’Ivoire for the regional consultation of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). With the Abidjan meeting, West and Central Africa becomes world’s first region to set an agenda for action and provide the founding inputs to the global Summit, slated for May 2016 in Istanbul.

Conceived as a two year process aimed at adapting the humanitarian system to today’s challenges, the World Humanitarian Summit will be preceded by eight regional and two thematic consultations running from 2014 to 2016.

Diverse participants discuss future of humanitarian action

In the presence of Valerie Amos, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under – Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, the two-day discussions brought together a diverse group of aid professionals, affected populations, civil society, governments, regional organisations, academia and the private sector. Through open debates and intensive workshops, the participants discussed ideas and lessons learned and agreed on recommendations to improve regional humanitarian action that will also feed into the global Summit in 2016. This includes the creation of two regional humanitarian agencies for West and for Central Africa and a regional centre of excellence for humanitarian assistance.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE SAHEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food insecure people</td>
<td>20.2 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nb. of children &lt;5 estimated</td>
<td>1.5 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nb. of children &lt;5 and</td>
<td>3.5 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estimated MAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING OF THE SAHEL STRATEGY

2014:
USD$2.2 billion requested
USD$ 519 million received (in SRP)
USD$ 197 million received (outside SRP)
**West and Central Africa Online Survey**

In preparation of the regional consultation in Abidjan, OCHA conducted an online survey to capture the views of humanitarians in the region. Some of the results include:

**Top 3 challenges**
- **Funding**, including early funding for local actors, and streamlined reporting requirements.
- **Coordination**, including better information sharing with governments and regional bodies.
- **Respect for humanitarian principles and safe humanitarian access** to conflict-affected populations.

**Top 5 issues affecting humanitarian action**
- Funding gaps (88%)
- Conflict (73%)
- Displacements (58%)
- Resilience programming (42%)
-Multiplicity of aid actors (38%)

**Part of a broader consultative process in West and Central Africa**

To ensure Abidjan’s talks reflected inputs from across the diverse realities, priorities and needs of the 24 countries of West and Central Africa, several thematic and stakeholder consultations, online consultations and surveys scoped out the humanitarian community’s priorities and challenges in the months leading up to the regional consultation. Key sessions were also streamed live on the World Humanitarian Summit website.

---

**Thematic discussions with a regional angle**

Throughout the sessions, participants discussed ways to overcome the particular challenges of the region, where chronic emergencies – such as food insecurity, malnutrition and epidemics in the Sahel – are compounded by ongoing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), north-eastern Nigeria and northern Mali. Panelists examined the role of humanitarians in preventing and mitigating vulnerabilities caused by wider regional challenges – such as conflicts and displacements, climate change, rapid population growth, urbanization, depletion of natural resource, lack of access to services and stretched financial resources for protracted emergencies. Looking at humanitarian effectiveness, they discussed how to strengthen partnerships with governments, the private sector, local actors and the development community; and improving accountability and communication with affected communities. They mapped existing regional initiatives to support early response and looked at early warning mechanisms and flexible and longer-term funding. Assessing the challenges caused by on-going conflicts on the delivery of assistance, participants looked at remote management of operations, new forms of partnerships and debated on civil-military relations and ways to mobilize funding in the context of limited access.

---

A six-week online consultation enabled partners from across eleven countries in West and Central Africa to flag their main concerns and promote solutions. The web-based fora’s -moderated among others by Mr. Ibrahima Diane, Head of BBC Afrique- sparked lively debates. Opinions were for instance divided as to whether humanitarian action should be extended into long-term development; while emerging consensus was found around a set of recommendations –amongst which the need for more investment in local and regional capacity, strengthened cooperation with local governments and the necessity to re-consider current financing models- shaping priorities for the Abidjan gathering. Summaries from the online discussions are available at:

http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_WC_Africa

---

“To get to a smooth transition and sustainable action, relief organizations should collaborate with host governments and/or other local structures in developing and implementing appropriate exit strategy.”

— Mohammed, Sierra Leone, participant to the WHS online consultations.
WHS: A global Summit to make humanitarian action fit for future challenges

The first ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) - to be convened by the UN Secretary-General in 2016 in Istanbul - comes from the widespread recognition that the humanitarian landscape tremendously changed since the past decades and that the humanitarian community will need to adapt to a rapidly changing world to better serve the mounting needs of millions of people.

In the past decade, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has doubled globally and the cost of humanitarian action as tripled. Today's crises are also rarely short-lived and global trends like climate change, rapid population growth and technological advances increasingly. New risks coming from the ever complex operating environments, and opportunities stemming from the wider range of actors involved in today's responses or innovations all require more adaptive and effective humanitarian action.

Consultations with affected populations

Communities share insights on humanitarian action

Listening to the people who have been affected by conflicts, natural disasters and protracted crises is the cornerstone of the WHS initiative. In addition to the presence of representatives from affected communities at the regional consultation, OCHA and partners conducted grassroots consultations and interviews with communities from eleven countries across the region, hearing their insights on the assistance they had received and the improvements they would like to see.

In Burkina Faso, the village of Wutorobe faces many of the challenges typical for the Sahel. In difficult years, the entire community risks to fall into crisis.

"In Abidjan, tell them how difficult our life's become. When the rains start, hope returns. But when they stop too early, we can't cope without assistance. We need the means to make a living from the land and our animals. Otherwise, our village will disappear."

Grassroots photo project in Central African Republic

The photo project ‘Talk to Me’ organized in CAR’s capital Bangui in March 2014, aims to strengthen dialogue between affected populations and humanitarians.

Three local photographers interviewed and photographed over 100 affected persons in two IDP sites and two communities, who responded to humanitarian’s questions with images themselves.

The photo project also sparked a wider debate among affected populations which was facilitated and documented by humanitarian organizations working on the sites.

‘We need to play’

‘There is no more medicine to take. We are sick’
**Self-sufficiency at the core of communities’ priorities**

Grassroots consultations with focus group in affected communities were organised with local partners in the Central African Republic, Liberia, Burkina Faso and Chad between March and May, bringing together the voices of IDP’s, rural and urban refugees and returnees, as well as rural communities struck by the food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel.

In addition, IRIN reporters conducted interviews with individual community members across seven countries, asking a series of questions on the assistance given over a year period. One of the main feedback was that people felt they had not been properly consulted regarding their own views on aid priorities. Another point constantly reiterated was the need for aid to leave people as self-sufficient, not more dependent, than they had been prior to the crisis.

**Regional Innovation Contest**

**Humanitarians thinking off the beaten tracks**

A commitment to innovation and finding new solutions was at the heart of the World Humanitarian Summit’s Regional Consultation. A month-long Innovation Contest invited humanitarian actors in the region to present their ideas. Selected by a panel of humanitarian and innovation experts, the top three winners participated in the regional consultation in Abidjan and presented their projects in a special session.

*The Unit in Charge of Bilharzia* brings affordable home testing and treatment to affected families in Southern Chad. “We make it easier for people to know their status and get treatment before complications occur”, explained Didier Lalaye who manages the project which provides door-to-door testing for the infection and sends results via SMS to the families of tested persons.

*The Kit for Autonomous Cash Transfer in Humanitarian Emergencies (KACHE)* scheme enables e-cash transfers in remote contexts where a financial infrastructure is absent, with a pilot to be implemented in the coming months. “The Sahel is one of the world’s most challenging environments for this type of scheme. If we are able to implement it here, we can do it anywhere”, said Julien Jacob, leader of the project.

The project *Portable Clean Drinking Water Solution (Benin)* distributes hygienic water bags with water treatment packets to disaster-affected communities. “We want to provide enough water at the emergency stage to allow people to get back on their feet”, said Tricia Compas-Markman who manages the project.

“We received food aid. It was what we needed, but it wasn’t enough. It’s harder for me to face a crisis now than it was five years ago – my family has been weakened by food insecurity over the past five years.”

Mahamadou Abdoulaye Maiga, in Kita, a drought-prone region of southeastern Mali

“I’d like some financial assistance instead of food. Then I could set up a small roadside business so I can look after my children myself.”

Bernadette Tosséha, mother of a malnourished baby in Guiglo, western Côte d’Ivoire

*Ahmed and his grandson. Credit: IRIN*  
“Our cultural needs are not taken into account when it comes to food aid. We’ve asked for more meat and milk and less grain for a long time. Most of us re-sell our grain to buy meat.”

Ahmed, refugee in M’Bera camp, Mauritania
Overview of regional emergencies

Nigeria: 15.5 million people affected by violence in North-East

The joint humanitarian inter-agency multi-sectorial needs assessment mission, deployed in May to the six northeastern states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe, and Bauchi, has shared its preliminary results.

The mission found that 646,693 persons have been internally displaced across the six states due to the on-going insurgency in the three states under a state of emergency (i.e. Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa). The most affected state is Borno, with some 258,000 IDPs, 100,000 of whom are displaced in the capital, Maiduguri.

Majority if IDPs in host families

IDPs are comprised mainly of female headed households, most of whom have been widowed during attacks. Most IDPs reside with families in host communities who are themselves poor, thus severely straining already scarce resources and aggravating poverty levels, including food and nutrition insecurity. In the Northeast – where over 90 per cent of residents are engaged in agricultural activities – host communities report that they have exhausted their food stocks and resorted to eating grain reserved as seedlings for the next planting season. Household food stocks are reported to be below average and incomes are declining since the conflict has interrupted off-season livelihood activities and the seasonal increase in labour demand. Food access and cross border markets in border communities have been further impacted by the insecurity, particularly the blowing up of access bridges to neighbouring Cameroon.

The assessment also reports high prevalence of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) across the Northeast even though occurrences are not regularly reported due to stigma. There is an urgent need for emergency protection activities, including psychosocial support for unaccompanied and separated children and the setup of temporary safe learning spaces.
**CAR regional crisis**

**Humanitarian partners launch revised appeal for the CAR regional crisis**

On 23 June, humanitarian partners launched a comprehensive regional overview of humanitarian needs and financial requirements to respond to the protection crisis in CAR. Revised funding requirements call for $858 million worth of aid for 2014 to assist 2.7 million people including IDPs, refugees, Third Country Nationals/returning migrants, pastoralists, and host families in the five countries most affected by the emergency (CAR, Chad, Cameroon, the DRC and Congo). As of the end of June, only 24% of the funding requirements have been met, leaving a funding gap of $656 million. The CAR regional appeal can be found at: [http://www.unocha.org/car/regional-impact](http://www.unocha.org/car/regional-impact)

**More than 100,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon**

A total of 103,782 Central African refugees entered Cameroon since December 2013, with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions. The month of May was marked by a spike in the number of arrivals, with over 9,000 in the week 26-31 May, mostly women and children. Arrivals have now dropped back down to around 2,000 per week. Partners report that newly arrived refugees are in a state of exhaustion worse than those who fled CAR months ago. Many say they have been on the road for weeks or even months, insecurity forcing them to take long detours.

**Acute malnutrition up to 30 per cent**

Among the refugees from CAR to Cameroon, up to 30% of children under five suffer from acute malnutrition, according to a joint UNHCR-UNICEF-WFP mission conducted in early June in three border entry points and five refugee sites. Of serious concern is that malnutrition is not only limited to children under five. Admission records in nutrition centres show that 7-8% of admissions are for infants less than 6 months old and 18% for children over five and adults, including pregnant and breast-feeding women. Malnutrition amongst the elderly is also of concern. Approximately 15 per cent of all children with severe acute malnutrition require hospitalization. The assessment team reports overloaded nutrition services in host communities and estimates that inpatient facilities will need to triple their capacity to absorb the flow of patients. Some in-patient therapeutic feeding centres have shown mortality rates are well over 20 per cent in the last month, due to dehydration, hypothermia and severe anemia. MSF surveillance also highlights that under five mortality rates prevailing at 5.4/10,000/day in Gbîti and 3.1/10,000/day in Gado Bedzere far surpass the WHO emergency threshold (2/10,000/day).
**WFP declares L-3 emergency for Cameroon**

On 22 May WFP declared a Level 3 Emergency in Cameroon in light of the devastating nutrition situation of the newly arriving populations. The agency is seeking US$15 million over eight months to fund the response. All existing partners are currently scaling up the response. Over 1,600 cases of severe acute malnutrition have already been treated. In addition, a blanket supplementary feeding program rolled out in all refugee sites and some entry points reached over 9,000 children aged 6 to 59 months and 2,000 pregnant and lactating women.

**Mali: Violence causes new displacements**

The confrontations between Malian security forces and the armed groups on 17 May 2014 seriously affected the security situation in Kidal region. The new clashes caused the displacement of 18,500 people, including 17,400 IDPs within the Kidal region, 500 who fled to Gao, and 120 who fled to Mauritania and Niger. According to IOM, the total number of IDPs in Mali now stands at 151,000, down from 353,000 at the peak of the crisis in June 2013. The conflict also affected some local authorities and civil servants who fled towards main population hubs, further challenging the deployment of authority in northern areas.

**OCHA Emergency Chief and Sahel Humanitarian Coordinator visit Mali**

OCHA’s Emergency Director, John Ging, and the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Robert Piper, conducted successive missions to Mali in early June, meeting with government officials and frontline humanitarian workers. RHC Piper visited agriculture and nutrition projects in Timbuktu and Kati, focussing mission toward strengthening the resilience agenda and addressing the food security situation in a country where 1.5 million people are in urgent need of food assistance.

During his travels to Gao and Menaka, John Ging reminded local representatives of the need for all actors to facilitate safe and unfettered humanitarian access to the most vulnerable, and paid a visit to Menaka’s civil society organisations - including women’s representatives- who shared their their priority needs in terms of protection, access to water, food security and support to livelihoods, especially for cattle herders. Addressing the media, John Ging said that more must be done to build a lasting peace and underlined that stability is a prerequisite to addressing the urgent humanitarian needs which remain across the country.

**Two humanitarians killed in roadside explosion**

The month of May was also marked by the death of two humanitarian staff of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on the Goudam –Timbuktu axis as they returned from completing a distribution of essential items to returnees. This is the first time humanitarian workers die on duty in Mali since the beginning of the crisis in 2012.
Sahel Funding Status Overview

**Sahel Appeal Underfunded at 24 per cent**

Half a year after its launch, the Sahel Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for 2014 is funded at only 24 per cent, receiving USD$519 million against its USD$2.2 billion requirement. This represents a USD$262 million increase as compared to last reporting period (April 14). USD$197 million was committed to humanitarian activities outside of the SRP.

The Gambia and conflict-torn Nigeria are the least funded country appeals, with only 1.6% and 3.5% respectively of requirements met for 2014. The response to the CAR regional crisis received 32% of requirements for 2014 (USD$565 million) despite pledges for more support. Neighbouring countries affected by the crisis have received even less funding, with Cameroon standing at 10% of USD$117 million required, and Chad at 18% of USD$527 million.

Across the Sahel, the sectors Refugees, WASH, Protection, Education, Shelter and NFI and Early Recovery are all less than 10% funded. More funding is urgently required to address the pressing needs in the Sahel and to build resilience ahead of the lean and epidemics season.

**Sahel Funding status as of 26 June 2014**

All figures in US$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SRP REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>US$ 2,187 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SRP FUNDING</td>
<td>US$ 519 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRP UNMET REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>US$ 1,668 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDING OUTSIDE SRP</td>
<td>US$ 197 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESTINATION COUNTRIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Pledges</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Funding outside SRP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>623,186,514</td>
<td>114,364,905</td>
<td>6,761,798</td>
<td>18.35%</td>
<td>50,831,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>568,416,225</td>
<td>181,924,698</td>
<td>573,598</td>
<td>32.01%</td>
<td>54,894,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>390,922,652</td>
<td>119,784,243</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36.64%</td>
<td>36,021,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>119,381,571</td>
<td>18,161,857</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15.21%</td>
<td>8,107,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>116,983,627</td>
<td>11,495,908</td>
<td>8,200,000</td>
<td>9.83%</td>
<td>7,200,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>109,281,921</td>
<td>12,667,979</td>
<td>3,600,000</td>
<td>11.59%</td>
<td>21,715,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>107,927,077</td>
<td>38,418,415</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35.60%</td>
<td>8,660,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>74,860,697</td>
<td>2,676,620</td>
<td>3,200,000</td>
<td>3.58%</td>
<td>9,687,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>49,759,671</td>
<td>18,887,760</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37.96%</td>
<td>1,346,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>25,983,666</td>
<td>429,856</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.65%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


www.unocha.org/rowca | www.unocha.org
For updates on the Sahel response, follow @OCHAROWCA
http://sahelnow.blogspot.com
Offices for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) • Coordination Saves Lives