The Sahel: Humanitarian snapshot (March 2012)

OCHA

The Sahel region is facing this year a new severe food and nutrition crisis. Around 15.6 million people are already affected by food insecurity and over 1 million children in severe acute malnutrition[1]. Approximately 1.9 million children under five years are expected to suffer from moderate acute malnutrition[2].

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and the Gambia have declared a crisis and called for international assistance.

The armed conflict in Mali has provoked the displacement of over 210,000 including 44% of IDPs, 55% of refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and Algeria and 1% of nigerien returnees[5].

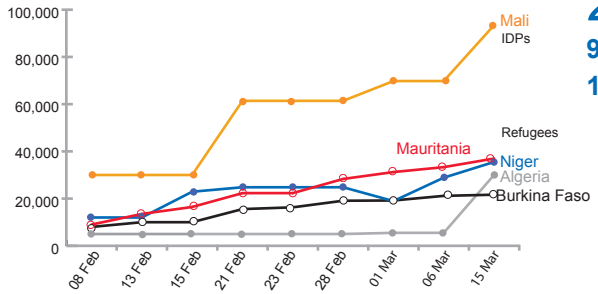
FOOD INSECURITY

15.6 million people are vulnerable[1]

Vulnerable people[1]	Niger[1]	Mali[3]	Burkina Faso[8]	Chad[1]	Mauritania[1]	Senegal[3]	The Gambia[7]
5.5 million	3.5 million	2.85m	1.6m	0.85	0.7	0.6*	

As a result of erratic rainfall and crop production shortage in 2011, the current food crisis affects around 15.6 million people in Burkina Faso, North Cameroon, North Nigeria, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and the Gambia.

POPULATIONS DISPLACED DUE TO THE CONFLICT IN MALI

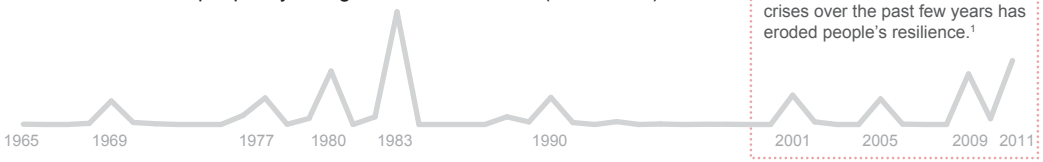


Evolution of displaced populations per country (as of 15 March 2012)[5]

213,177 people displaced including **93,433 IDPs**, **117,817** refugees and **1,927** nigerien returnees[5]

- Most of these populations have fled to areas hardly affected by food insecurity. Among affected people, non accompanied children and women have been registered.
- Major vital needs are food, WASH, shelter & non food item, health and protection.
- Humanitarian response is limited and access to vulnerable populations in remote areas of northern Mali is quasi impossible due to insecurity.

Number of affected people by drought in Western Africa (1965-2011)[4]



The increase in the frequency and severity of food and nutrition crises over the past few years has eroded people's resilience.[1]

NUTRITION

>1 million children at risk of severe acute malnutrition[1]

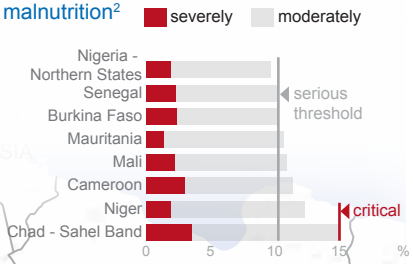
~1.9 million children at risk of moderate acute malnutrition[2]

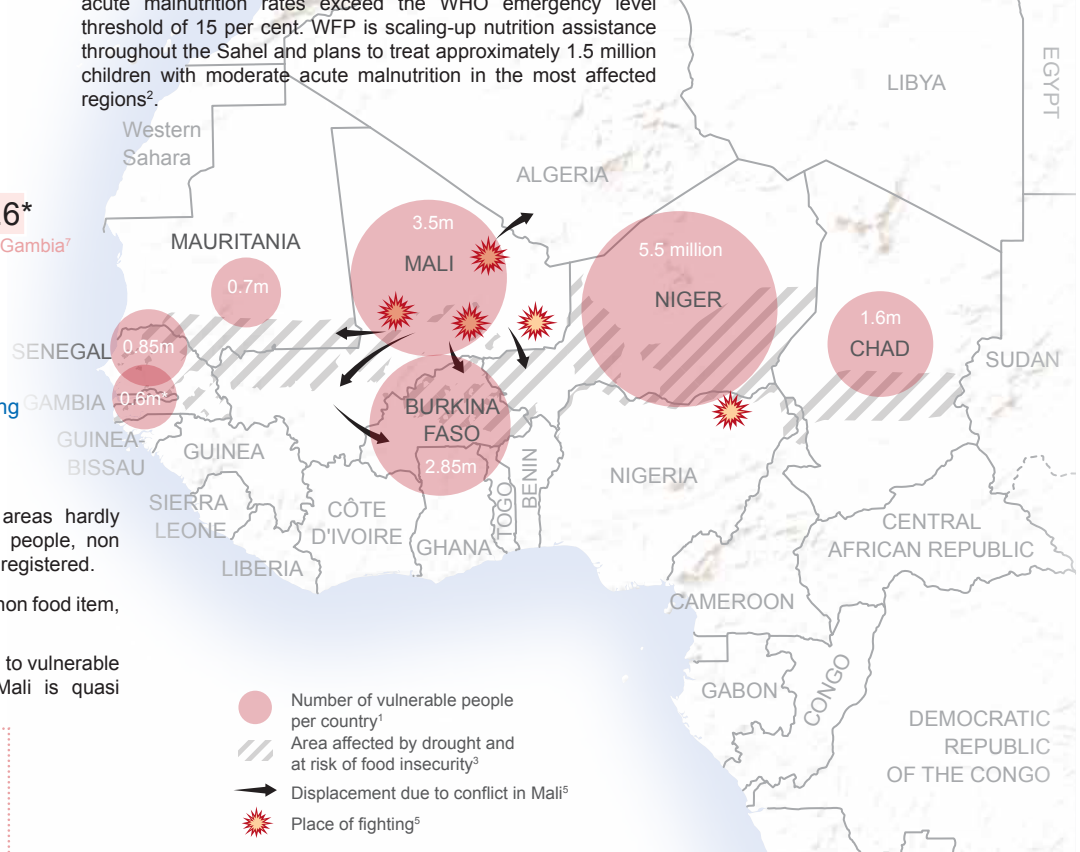
645,000 children die in the Sahel every year[1]

35% of these deaths are linked to malnutrition[1]

UNICEF estimates that over 1 million children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition. The nutrition situation is serious in affected countries where global acute malnutrition ranges consistently between 10 and 14 per cent. In some areas, of Chad especially, acute malnutrition rates exceed the WHO emergency level threshold of 15 per cent. WFP is scaling-up nutrition assistance throughout the Sahel and plans to treat approximately 1.5 million children with moderate acute malnutrition in the most affected regions[2].

% of malnourished children between 6 and 59 months (Sep 2011)[6]





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

** the estimated number of affected people in the Gambia represents the total population of the 19 most affected districts. The more estimation of the actual affected people is ongoing.*

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