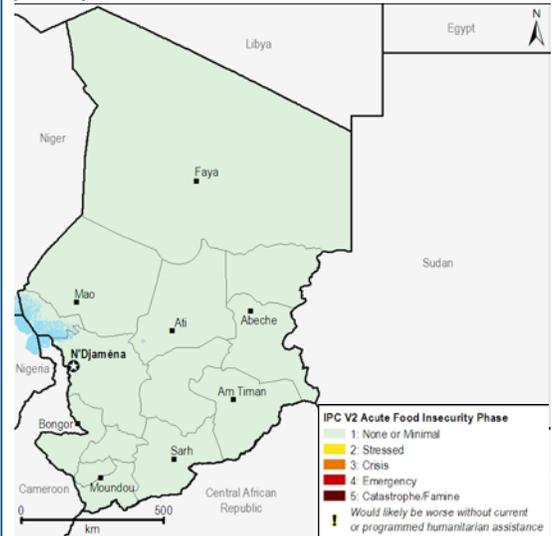


Good rainfall levels visibly improve agropastoral conditions

KEY MESSAGES

- Good 2012/13 harvests allowed very poor and poor households to replenish their food reserves. These reserves, which should last one to two months longer than usual, will reduce household dependence on market purchases between May and June.
- Market prices across the country are stable and are trending downwards. Cereal prices should follow normal seasonal trends but will stay well above the five-year average. Thus, prices will remain stable between now and March before edging slightly upwards as of March/April.
- Cash income sources from crop sales and off-farm activities will be normal to above-normal over the next six months. These relatively good incomes will help offset rising cereal prices as of March.
- Food security conditions are steadily improving with the rebuilding of production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets. Likewise, current price levels are improving food access. Thus, households in all livelihood zones will face Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity between now and June.

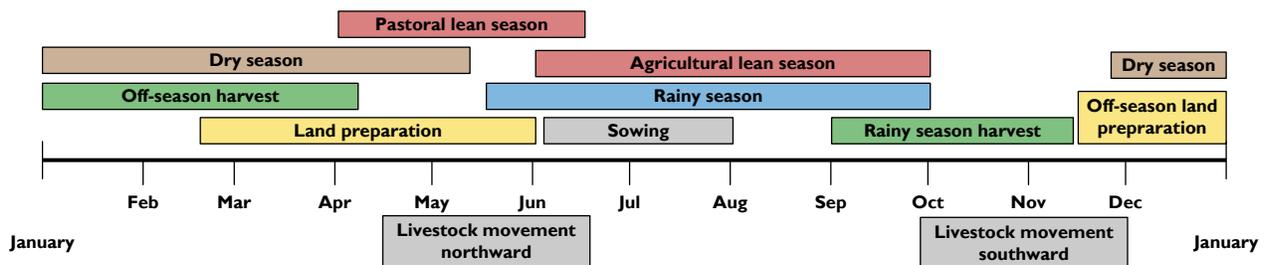
Figure 1. Current food security outcomes, January 2013



Source: FEWS NET

This map shows relevant acute food insecurity outcomes for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. Please visit www.fews.net/foodinsecurityscale for more on the food insecurity scale.

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current situation

Agropastoral conditions

Harvests of rainfed crops are nearly complete (90 percent). Farmers are currently occupied with threshing and, to a lesser extent, cereal storage. In localized areas, they are also active in market gardening and *berbére* (flood-recession sorghum) activities. The ongoing off-season is normal with normal crop development. In general, the area planted is up from last year (by 10 to 15 percent) and from the five-year average (by five to 10 percent) due to good flooding levels and the availability of farm input assistance from food security partners such as the FAO and the National Food Security Program (PNSA). In border irrigation schemes in the Lake Chad area, the third round of irrigation for corn and wheat crops is just beginning with crops in the tillering stage.

Pastoral conditions are good, marked by a good water and pasture availability. Despite a steady deterioration in the quality of pasture due to the heat and the destruction of pasture by earlier than usual scattered brush fires in Moyen Chari, Batha, Guera, and Tandjilé, livestock are in adequate physical shape and animal health conditions across the country are relatively stable. However, as usual, there is a high incidence of soil-borne diseases in localized areas of Mayo-Kebbi, Moyen Chari, and Guera. Transhumant pastoralists in the Sahelian zone, where animal watering holes are beginning to dry up, are continuing to move their herds to seasonal grazing lands. Thus, transhumant herds from Batha are in the Guera and Salamat areas and transhumant livestock from northern Kanem are in the Hadjer Lamis and Chari Baguirmi areas. Long-range migratory herds are already in the Moyen-Chari area, but are unable to continue on into the Central African Republic at this time due to reported clashes between the government and the « Seleka » rebel coalition in that country.

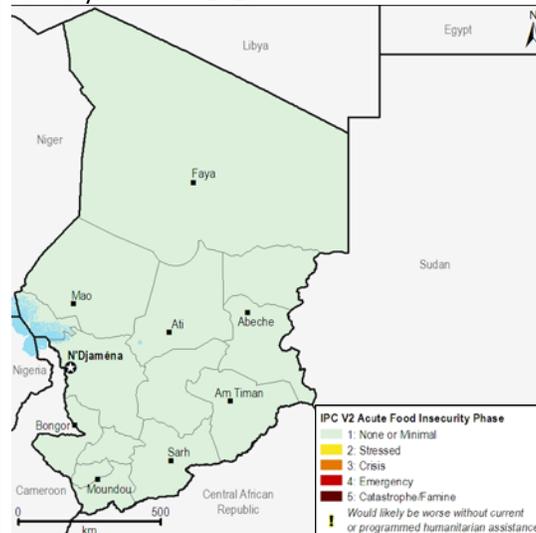
Markets and trade

Cereal markets are running well due to regular adequate supplies of surplus crops. However, there are reports of localized fluctuations in the prices of certain crops according to the level of supplies on different markets. Prices in Abéché are down slightly from the same time last year (by six percent) and close to (five percent above) compared to the five-year average. Corn prices in Bol are down from last year by 31 percent and 11 percent compared with the five-year average. Millet prices in N'Djamena are stable and trending downwards. The current price of millet in N'Djamena is above the five-year average (by 20 percent) due to government restrictions on grain shipments from the Sudanian to the Sahelian zone preventing supplies on rural markets from reaching N'Djamena.

Sesame prices on the Sarh and Moundou markets are up by 44 and 23 percent, respectively, while prices on the Kélo market are stable. Groundnut prices are close to the five-year average in Sarh but up by 17 and 50 percent, respectively, in Moundou and Kélo. In addition to the sale of these crops, other sources of income at this time of year include sales of firewood, *sékos* (woven straw fences), straw and wood for use as building materials, wild fruits, and market garden crops, which should generate a normal to above-normal stream of income, depending on the product in question.

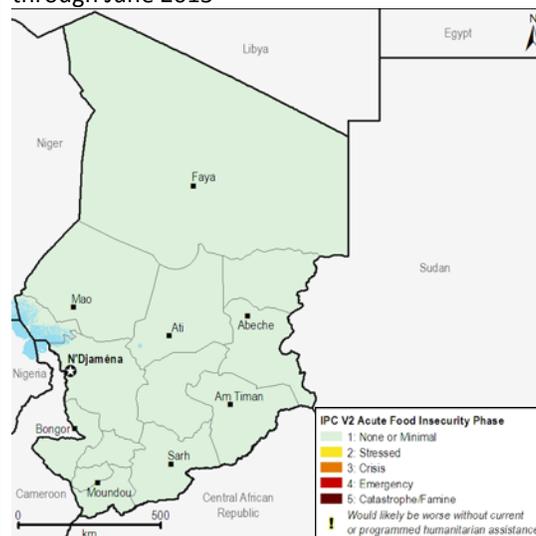
There is a normal flow of trade for this time of year. Cereal shipments from the Sudanian to the Sahelian zones are down from the same time last year due to the good cereal harvests in the Sahel (86 percent above the five-year average) and the

Figure 2. Projected food security outcomes, January to March 2013



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 3. Projected food security outcomes, April through June 2013



Source: FEWS NET

larger than usual restrictions (by the governors of Western Logone and Mandoul) on sales of local food crops outside their jurisdictions. These measures are designed to prevent outside demand from driving up cereal prices in these regions. However in spite of these bans, a few illegal cereal traders have been spotted in villages in the Sudanian zone. In any event, urban markets are still well-stocked with foodstuffs. The closing of the border between Chad and Libya back in mid December is sharply tightening market supplies in Borkou, Tibesti, and Eastern and Western Ennedi (chronically deficit areas), where nearly all food supplies are imported from Libya. Small quantities of foodstuffs are still getting across the border through informal trade channels, but the closure of the border has disrupted trade and reduced inventories of imported products from Libya. Many of the food products sold on the Biltine, Faya, and Fada markets normally come from southern Libya (Sebha and Koufra). During the last FEWS NET mission to Biltine (on December 19-21, 2012), local residents reported that their reserves were lower than usual and expressed their fear of market shortages of items such as macaroni, rice, spaghetti, flour, and fuel. Food prices on these markets are up by five to 10 percent from December. Institutional procurements began earlier than usual and are still underway in the Batha and Lac areas and parts of Moyen Chari.

Prices on livestock markets have been stable since the year-end holidays in December (Christmas and New Years). Demand for livestock emanating from Libya has flagged to some extent, but has not affected prices thanks to the increasingly large shipments of animals from Batha and Guera to Nigeria, via N'Djamena, and to the Sudan since the last quarter of last year with the larger presence of exporters in these areas.

Food security situation

Unlike last year, there are presently no complaints by very poor and poor households of poor food availability or poor food access. The household food security situation is good in all parts of the country, with food availability sustained largely by the good harvests for this growing season and carry-over trader inventories. There are adequate on-farm reserves, even in flood-stricken areas. The growing of market garden crops as an income-generating activity has significantly reduced out-migration in rural areas offering good job prospects (N'Djamena, Abèché, Moundou, and Sarh). The more plentiful than usual supply of fish and fish products thanks to the abnormally high levels of rivers, streams, and lakes this year is helping to improve food security conditions in certain flood-stricken areas like Eastern Mayo-Kebbi, Western Logone, Salamat, and Batha.

The main source of household income is the sale of crops. Women are earning extra income from the sale of processed oilseed products such as sesame and groundnut oil.

Food access is improving in livestock-oriented areas, where local households are currently eating three meals a day. However, the closing of the border between Chad and Libya for civil security reasons is beginning to affect the dietary habits of residents of the BET area, where nearly all food supplies are imported from Libya. Though substituting different types of foods, these households still have normal food access and have not yet changed their eating habits.

Thus, households are presently able to meet their food and nonfood needs, which puts them in Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity.

Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the period from January through June 2013 is based on the following assumptions with regard to nationwide conditions:

- **Grain reserves:** Household grain reserves from this year's harvests will be better than usual and larger than at the same time last year, except in grain-short areas where reserves will be near-average. As of February, grain availability in flood-recession farming and gum-Arabic producing areas will be bolstered by harvests of berbéré (flood-recession sorghum) crops. Grain reserves in other areas will begin to dwindle by April, but reserves in flood recession farming and gum Arabic-producing areas will last until the next round of harvests in September.
- **Market gardening activities:** Large-scale market gardening activities in the first quarter of the year will ensure a good availability of market garden produce during that period. These activities will generate a larger than usual stream of extra income for certain groups of households, including very poor and poor households.
- **Institutional procurements:** There will be a normal volume of such procurements, whose slightly early start this year could put more inflationary pressure on prices than last year.

- **Closure of the border between Chad and Libya:** The border will remain closed for the entire outlook period (January through June 2013), posing a problem for the provisioning of markets in the BET area. Normal patterns of grain trade with suppliers in Ouaddaï will be stretched to include sources of supply as far away as Batha and Salamat.
- **Markets and prices:** There will be regular adequate shipments of grain to markets throughout the outlook period, with a normal supply of grain on all markets except for those normally stocked with imported foodstuffs from Libya. Trade flows from the Sudanian to the Sahelian zone will be in line with normal seasonal trends, though down slightly due to local government restrictions on outflows of grain. Trade will start to slow as of May with the beginning of the rainy season in the Sudanian zone. Grain prices will follow normal seasonal trends, but will stay well above the five-year average. Prices will remain stable through the end of March, edging slightly upwards as of April. The price of pearl millet on the N'Djamena market will drop by approximately 20 to 30 percent as of February. Grain markets in the BET area will get their supplies from sources in Wadi-Fira, Ouaddaï, Batha, and Salamat. Prices for imported foodstuffs from Libya will continue to rise and could be up by as much as 10 to 20 percent by March.
- **Pastoral conditions:** There will be normal feeding and watering conditions for livestock between now and June in spite of the usual depletion of pasture resources in May. The physical condition of livestock could improve with the first rains expected sometime around May or June, depending on the area, promoting new pasture growth and helping to restore water availability in animal watering holes. There will be a normal incidence of soil-borne diseases throughout the outlook period and a normal pattern of seasonal migration southwards by transhumant livestock. However, herd movements towards the border with the Central African Republic (CAR) will be cut short by the civil security problems in that country. Livestock prices could begin to rise as of February with the high demand from Nigerian and Sudanese exporters.
- **Rainy season:** The rainy season will get off to a normal start in April in the Sudanian zone and in June in the Sahelian zone.

Most likely food security outcomes

The food security situation in the first quarter of the year will be in line with the norm. The increasingly large availability of coarse grains will suffice to meet household needs. Households in certain areas will continue to rebuild their food reserves with crops from recent harvests and harvests of *berbéré* (flood-recession sorghum) crops in these areas. The availability of market garden crops and of fish and fish products will strengthen food security conditions. The stabilization and/or decline in prices in the first quarter of the year will improve the food access of very poor and poor households. The entire country will be classified in IPC 2.0 Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity) throughout this period (Figure 2).

The nationwide food security outlook as of the beginning of the second quarter of the year is still good, with a few noteworthy exceptions in deficit or flood-stricken areas. By the end of the second quarter, with the lean season underway, household grain reserves will be depleted and very poor and poor households will be completely dependent on market-buying. These trends will be reflected in pockets of deteriorating food security conditions. Households will implement their usual livelihood strategies, which should function normally. Normal sales of animals in livestock-raising areas could strengthen the food security situation by improving household food access.

The continuing closure of the border between Chad and Libya will present a problem for the provisioning of markets in the BET area and, thus, a food access problem for local households, with the potential to destabilize the food security situation in that area. However, any food access problems for local households will be resolved by shipments of grain from Wadi Fira, Ouaddaï, Batha, and Salamat. Thus, all parts of the country will continue to be classified in IPC 2.0 Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity) (Figure 3).

AREA OF CONCERN

Parts of the central agropastoral livelihood zone in Western Batha (Ati and Koundjourou)

Crop production

The pre-harvest assessment for the 2012-2013 crop year by the National Rural Development Agency (ONDR) puts crop (millet and sorghum) production in Western Batha (Ati and Yao) at 141,089 metric tons, up 95 percent from the 72,184 metric ton harvest for the 2011-2012 crop year and seven percent above the five-year average. Thus, crop production has not been compromised by the flash flooding in August and September of last year.

Pastoral conditions

Feeding and watering conditions for livestock are more or less normal. Seasonal lakes and ponds still have water, which is improving the availability of animal watering holes. Supplies of crop residues are bolstering pasture resources, which are beginning to dwindle. Livestock are producing larger than usual quantities of milk for this time of year due to their good physical condition. Short-range migratory herds are in the Lake Fitri area.

Animal health conditions across the area are stable, except in Ati where there are continuing reports of stronger than usual tension among transhumant pastoralists concentrated around area wells. There have been several human fatalities tied to these disputes since November.

Markets and prices

Markets are presently well-stocked with grain crops from recent harvests which, as usual, are slowly reaching the Ati market. This good grain availability has driven down the market price of pearl millet by 49 percent from the same time last year, putting it close to the five-year average. Institutional procurements currently in progress are going normally and there is a larger than usual demand for grain from N'Djamena and the BET area. The stable November prices for sheep, goats, and poultry were driven upwards in December by demand for the year-end holidays in Nigeria and Sudan, before falling back down in January. Terms of trade for pastoralists selling sheep are favorable and steadily improving with the higher than usual seasonal prices of livestock and the stabilization or downward trend in grain prices.

Off-season crops

Berbéré crops: In general, the growing season for *berbéré* (flood-recession sorghum) crops is going fairly well thanks to the good soaking of lowland areas by floodwaters. Most crops are currently in the milk grain stage of the ripening process. There are scattered reports of early harvests (beginning a month earlier than usual).

Market gardening activities: Market gardening activities are going normally thanks to the higher than usual levels of the Batha River and seasonal lakes and ponds. The scale of these activities is larger than last year and slightly above-normal for this time of year. Market gardening is also an income-generating activity in Batha, where its scale has reduced out-migration by the rural workforce this year.

Food security situation

The household food security situation is better than at the same time last year thanks to the good grain harvest, which will meet needs for seven to eight months instead of the usual five to six months, and the stabilization or downward trend in market prices for grain. Supplies of fish and fish products, market garden produce, and wild plant foods and good milk availability are helping to bolster food access which, in turn, is improving food security conditions for poor households. Households in this area of concern are able to meet their basic food needs without resorting to coping strategies and assistance, which puts them in IPC 2.0 Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity).

Assumptions

The most likely scenario in the Western Batha area for the period from January through March 2013 is based on the following assumptions:

- **Berbéré harvest:** Despite the good levels of rainfall, the harvest will be average, with the later than usual recession of the floodwaters preventing farmers from planting larger than average areas in crops.

- **Grain-eating birds:** There will be normal levels of crop damage from grain-eating birds between January and February.
- **Livestock-raising:** There will be normal herd movements southwards through February, in line with the standard seasonal calendar. Livestock will be in normal physical condition and better shape than at the same time last year.
- **Prices:** The institutional procurements already underway and the high demand for grain emanating from N'Djamena and the BET area should drive grain prices up sharply as of April (to 20-30 percent above the seasonal average), which could significantly curtail the grain access (to pearl millet and sorghum) of poor households between April and June, at the beginning of the lean season. Livestock prices could rise by 15 to 20 percent between February and June with the strong demand emanating from Nigeria, via N'Djamena.
- **Migration:** There will be a smaller than usual flow of labor migration to major employment centers beginning as of March, after the harvest of *berbéré* (flood-recession sorghum) crops.
- **Sale and consumption of wild plant products:** With the good pattern of rainfall creating an abundance of wild plant products, there will be more than usual sales and consumption of these products between January and March.
- **Sources of food and income:** The breakdown of different sources of income should be more or less normal, with above-average sales of straw and fish products thanks to good rainfall conditions and current water levels in seasonal lakes and ponds. The breakdown of different sources of food will also be in line with the norm, but with households much more dependent on on-farm production, fish and fish products, and market garden produce in the first quarter of the year.

Most likely food security outcomes

Households will be able to meet their basic food and nonfood needs for the first half of the outlook period (January through March 2013) with on-farm crop production, which should last for seven to eight months, supplemented by a plentiful seasonal supply of fish and fish products and a larger than usual supply of wild plant products, which will keep them in IPC 2.0 Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity) throughout this period.

Likewise, households will have no difficulty meeting their food needs early in the second half of the outlook period (April-May). However, they will experience food security problems by the end of the second half of this period (June), during the lean season, as their reserves dwindle and they become largely dependent on market-buying. Poor households will turn to their usual livelihood strategies and those with small animal herds will sell one or two animals to add to their grain reserves. Thus, households in this area will continue to be classified in IPC 2.0 Phase 1 (no or minimal food insecurity) through the end of the second half of the outlook period.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1: Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security conditions
Ati and Koundjourou	Presence of larger than usual swarms of grain-eating birds between January and February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smaller <i>berbéré</i> harvests - Difficulty rebuilding household grain reserves - Few wage-earning prospects for farm laborers - Rise in grain prices
Ati	Escalation in disputes between transhumant pastoralists and farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Losses of livelihood assets (livestock and grain inventories) - Unusual herd movements by transhumant livestock to other parts of the country
Nationwide	Late start of the rainy season, particularly in pasture-short areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A locally protracted and harsh lean season for pastoral populations towards the end of June of this year - Grazing and watering problems for livestock - Delay in the planting of crops - Fewer wage-earning prospects for farm laborers
Nationwide	Recent floods in Nigeria sharply reduce crop production levels for 2012/2013 in that country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited flow of grain trade from Nigeria - Rise in grain prices as of April

ABOUT SCENARIO-BUILDING

To project food security outcomes over a six-month period, FEWS NET develops a set of basic assumptions with regard to possible events, their effects, and likely responses by different stakeholders. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to develop scenarios predicting food security outcomes. Typically, FEWS NET reports the most likely scenario.