Objective: Within the framework of the monthly meetings of the Food Security and Nutrition Regional Working Group for West Africa, from a humanitarian perspective, FAO and WFP inform the group with highlights on the food security situation of the previous month.

Relatively well-distributed rainfall in most of the region with above normal in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

Normal availability of pastures in the pastoral areas of the region.

Increase in the number of food and nutrition insecure people in North East Nigeria, including 65,095 people in phase 5 (famine)

Since the beginning of the rainy season, a favourable rainfall has been observed in the region. Yet, deficits were observed in the extreme west of the Sahel, particularly in west-central Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia and Liberia, the extreme south of Togo as well as the central region of Ghana.

Heavy rains caused floods in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and north east Senegal. In addition to the destruction of houses and the exposure to sanitary risks, in rural areas, these floods affected the livelihoods of households (crop destruction, loss of livestock, barrier to the commercialization of food products, etc.).

The update of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis in the three states (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) of north east Nigeria shows that approximately 4.5 million people are food and nutrition insecure, especially returnees who are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.

According to the WFP’s mobile survey (mVAM) conducted between June and July 2016 in the North East Nigeria, in Potiskum (Yobe) and Maiduguri / Jere (Borno) LGA, the percentage of severe food insecure households has doubled since February-March 2016.

Overall, the cereal prices in the region remain at relatively low levels compared to the five years average. Exceptions are found in Ghana and Nigeria where high inflation is being observed.

Recommendations for regional partners

- Monitor the 2016 - 2017 agricultural campaign;
- Continue to monitor the food and nutrition security in the Lake Chad Basin;
- Monitor the situation in all of northern Nigeria (especially rising prices and floods);
- Advocate for funding for the food and nutrition security projects included in the 2016 HRP.
Since the beginning of the rainy season, the evolution of seasonal rainfall in West Africa/Sahel has been overall satisfactory and no abnormal dry period has affected the region. The most noticeable deficits were observed in the extreme west of The Sahel, particularly in west-central Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia, Liberia, the extreme south of Togo and the central region of Ghana (Figure 1).

The 2016-2017 crop year is characterized by floods recorded in several regions of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and north east Senegal. These floods caused damages to crops, houses, hydraulic infrastructures and equipment. Since the beginning of the rainy season, nearly 141,000 people have been affected and more than 60 cases of human losses. Niger has been the most affected country with 92,000 flood victims and 38 reported deaths.

OCHA

The water requirements for irrigated crops (millet and sorghum) are over 90 percent satisfied for the whole agricultural area of West Africa, except for some localities in Niger (Tillabéry, West Tahoua and Central Maradi), Burkina Faso (Dori and its surroundings) and Senegal (northern part). The areas with irrigation deficits are even wider for maize crops, with water supply satisfaction levels ranging from very low to average across the agricultural area of Niger (except for the region of Dosso and the extreme south of Tahoua and Zinder), some localities of the northern agricultural area of Chad, the north of Burkina Faso, the agricultural area of Mopti in Mali, south east of Mauritania and northern Senegal. Agrhymet

The pastoral situation is marked by normal availability of pastures, for example in the north of Senegal where the situation has improved compared to the same period last year (August 2015) and in the region of Diffa in Niger which, however, remains an insecure zone difficult to access for pastoralists. However, in certain areas, there is an observed deficit in the productivity of pastures compared to the same period last year (August 2015). These areas include: Gao region (Mali), central Niger in Maradi and Tahoua.

Locust situation (as of August 04, 2016): The situation remained calm. A low number of solitary adults appeared in the summer breeding areas of the northern Sahel in southern Mauritania, Niger and Mali during July. This coincided with an increase in the seasonal rains. By the end of July, ecological conditions became favourable for breeding in many areas. A small-scale breeding started in Mauritania in mid-July and the hatchings began at the end of the month. During the forecasted period, breeding will continue in Mauritania and will start in northern Mali, Niger and Chad. Hatching will occur during August and the number of locusts could slightly increase. However it should remain below threatening levels.
**Population movement’s situation in the region**

**Multiple security incidents in the Lake Chad Basin region**

**Nigerian crisis (as of August 31st):** The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of August 2016 indicates a slight increase in the number of displaced people. The number of internally displaced persons raised to 2,093,030. The increase in number of displaced people compared to the latest evaluation cycle of June 2016 (2,066,783 IDPs) is largely due to the fact that many areas in Borno and all the LGA of Yobe are now accessible. The evaluation of returnees conducted in 19 LGA in north Adamawa, Borno and Yobe identified 910,955 returnees. DTM

These returnees, who went back to their destroyed houses and livelihood activities face the loss of all their assets and have limited access to revenues. Moreover, they are in immediate need of humanitarian assistance.

**Malian crisis:** As of July 31st, 2016, the partners of the Population Movement Commission (CMP) reported 51,196 repatriated people, which corresponds to an increase of 389 people compared to June 2015 data. At the same time, 39,182 internally displaced persons and 468,467 returnees were registered by the Direction Nationale du Développement Social (DNDS). Furthermore, UNHCR counted 134,336 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries (Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger). Commission Mouvement de Populations (CMP)

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**Trends on international markets**

**The FAO food price index shows a slight decline after a 5-month consecutive increase**

The food consumption of the majority of countries in West Africa and the Sahel depends on imports of basic products (rice and wheat in particular) whose prices are negotiated on international markets.

**The FAO food price index (FFPI)** averaged 161.9 points in July 2016, down 1.3 points (0.8 per cent) from June and a 1.4 per cent decrease from July 2015. The slight drop in July, which follows a 5-month straight increase, is largely due to a decline of cereals and vegetable oils’ prices on international markets, which more than cancels the effects of price increases of sugar, meat and dairy products.

**The FAO cereal price index** averaged 148.1 points in July 2016, down 8.8 points (5.6 per cent) from June and an 11 per cent decrease from July 2015. Among the main cereals, maize prices dropped significantly because of better than expected meteorological conditions observed in the production areas of the United States. Wheat prices also declined in July, mostly due to important world stocks, and in particular, substantial exportable stock available in the Black Sea region. (Figure 4)

In July, **world rice prices** remained firm but started to weaken at the end of the month as exports became more important. Thailand’s government is continuing its policy of massive destocking of its former stock. Harvest in the northern hemisphere is promising. However, world prices should remain firm as import demand from south east Asia is recovering in the second half of the year. The world production increase expected this year will not be enough to cover the total needs for a third consecutive year. Therefore, it will again be necessary to use the world’s stocks to cover for global consumption. The first forecasts for 2017 show a decline in stocks to a level of 165 millions of tons.

*Figure 4: FAO Food Price Index*

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Source: FAO
In Nigeria, inflation has continued to rise to a rate of 17.3 percent in July, following the sharp depreciation of the naira. This has continued to exert upward pressure on locally produced and imported food prices. The tendency to the strong increase in coarse grain prices that started in recent months continued on Kano market; prices of sorghum and corn more than doubled in a year, while those of millet have gained nearly 80 percent. (FAO)

In Ghana as well, inflation remains very high (16.7 percent), which affects the prices of several cereals. In Benin, maize prices decreased in June in the southern markets where harvest of the first 2016 campaign started, while in the northern markets, including Malanville, prices increased. In Togo, maize prices remained stable overall, but were significantly higher than in June of last year, due to increases observed in recent months as consequence of the reduced crop of 2015. (FAO)

Since May 2016, across the Sahel, in Niger, the general trend in grain prices is on the rise for local cereals (millet and sorghum) and stable for imports (rice and corn). In Mali and Burkina Faso, the general trend of the evolution of prices on grain markets is stability. (Afrique Verte) In Chad, since the beginning of the year, cereal prices remain stable. In Mauritania, since January 2016, an increase in the price of local rice has been recorded while other grains showed downward trends due to a substitution effect. Indeed, in January, the price of imported rice increased following a rise in customs duties which resulted in an increased demand for local rice and a price increase that continued until July.

In Senegal, in August 2016, the price increases for maize and millet were observed in the market of Thies.

Figure 5: Monthly comparison of cereal prices (%) in July 2016 and June 2016 - maize, millet, imported rice, local rice and Sorghum

Source: WFP
Impact on Food Security
Increase in the number of food and nutrition insecure people in North East Nigeria

Conclusions of the Cadre Harmonisé update in the 3 states of North East Nigeria

In order to provide a consensual analytical baseline that will enable an evaluation of food and nutrition insecurity severity, identification of affected populations and decision making support for an appropriate response, a review of the CH analysis for the three states (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) has been conducted following the information of an alarming food and nutrition insecurity situation in North East Nigeria, notably in certain LGA of Borno.

To obtain valuable data for the analysis, a rapid evaluation has been conducted from August 05 to August 12 in the three most affected states. The evaluation was carried out by three teams including representatives from the government, CILSS, FAO and FEWS NET. These teams organised focus groups, assessed anthropometric measurement and collected secondary data with local authorities and humanitarian organizations in the three states.

This update of the CH analysis organised from August 13 to August 18 in Abuja revealed that there would be nearly 4.5 million people suffering from food and nutrition insecurity in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (see details on table below). These people need immediate humanitarian assistance. The situation in the difficult to access areas is particularly concerning.

Classification of population by food and nutrition insecurity phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
<th>Phase 5</th>
<th>Total Phases 3 to 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adamawa</td>
<td>1 697 272</td>
<td>1 868 239</td>
<td>591 132</td>
<td>38 061</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>629 192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borno</td>
<td>675 726</td>
<td>1 672 388</td>
<td>2 218 959</td>
<td>886 179</td>
<td>58 506</td>
<td>3 163 644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yobe</td>
<td>1 544 813</td>
<td>1 074 895</td>
<td>534 844</td>
<td>113 691</td>
<td>6 590</td>
<td>655 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3 917 811</td>
<td>4 615 521</td>
<td>3 344 935</td>
<td>1 037 930</td>
<td>65 096</td>
<td>4 447 961</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map of food and nutrition insecurity phases by zone - North East Nigeria

Source: AGRHYMET
Impact on Food Security (continued)

Increase in the number of food and nutrition insecure people in North East Nigeria

Between June and July 2016, WFP and its partners conducted some assessments on the food and nutrition security of the populations in North East Nigeria whose results were used during the Cadre Harmonisé update in August 2016:

An EFSA (Emergency Food Security Assessment) in the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Gujba and Gulani in the state of Yobe has been conducted in July 2016. This survey covered 1,809 households of which 531 IDPs and 1,278 host populations. The results showed that:

- 74 percent of households are food insecure. 20 percent of them suffering from a severe form. The IDPs are more affected by severe food insecurity (30 percent) compared to the host populations (16 percent).

- Women food security situation is extremely alarming, especially for the female-headed households IDPs. In fact, 87 percent of them are food insecure of which 62 percent suffering from a severe form.

- Nearly half of households (47,5 percent) have poor food consumption. These households, facing food shortages, resort to negative coping strategies (39,5 percent) such as selling female breeding animals, begging, etc.

- The prevalence of global acute malnutrition measured by the MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) among children from 6 to 59 months old is 25,8 percent (19,5 for IDPs and 25,2 for host populations). This prevalence largely exceeds the emergency threshold (15 percent), which demonstrates the need for an urgent humanitarian intervention. (WFP, July 2016).

WFP’s mobile survey (mVAM) covering 6,017 households in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe has been conducted between June and July 2016. The results showed:

- An increase of food insecure households compared to February-March 2016 (from 33 percent to 38 percent).

- An EFSA in Yobe and Borno states showed a significant increase in food insecurity. In the LGA of Potiskum (Yobe) and Maiduguri/Jere (Borno), the percentage of severe food insecure households has doubled since February-March 2016.

- Overall, 61 percent of households does not have sufficient amount of food or money to purchase food. The negative and irreversible coping strategies are most used by poor households and IDPs.