**SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY SITUATION**

**Key figures**

**Current situation: October-December 2019**

- 9.4 million people or 3.3% of the population analysed is in a crisis situation or worse (phases 3-5)
- 14.4 million people or 5.4% of the population analysed will probably be in a crisis situation or worse (phases 3-5)

**Projected situation: June-August 2020**

- 9.4 million people or 3.5% of the population analysed is in a crisis situation or worse (phases 3-5)

**Key findings**

Some 9.4 million people are estimated to be in immediate need of assistance (phases 3-5) in October-December 2019 in the 16 countries analysed in the Sahel and West Africa region (excluding Liberia), including 4 million in Nigeria, 1.5 million in Niger and 1.2 million in Burkina Faso. This situation is likely to worsen, mainly due to insecurity. By June-August 2020, 14.4 million people (5.4%) are projected to be in a crisis situation or worse, including 1.2 million in an emergency situation (phase 4).

Civil insecurity has led to a sharp increase in the number of displaced people, particularly in northern Burkina Faso (480 000 people), northwestern Niger (310 000 people) and Nigeria (180 000 people). Nearly 1.9 million people continue to be internally displaced in Nigeria. The majority are hosted in local communities, placing increasing pressure on food resources and local livelihoods in the short and long term.

Despite humanitarian assistance, the food and nutrition situation of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remains a major concern, due to limited resources, continued displacement and difficult human access. More than a third, or 262 000 people living in IDP camps in nine local government areas (LGAs) in Borno State, Nigeria, are in a food crisis or worse (phases 3-5); similarly, 17 000 of the 70 000 Malian refugees in five official camps in Niger are in need of increased urgent assistance.

**Recommendations**

- Establish and coordinate immediate assistance for populations in crisis (phase 3) and emergency (phase 4) situations, particularly in the Lake Chad basin and southwestern Mauritania.
- Secure and facilitate livestock transhumance to prevent community conflicts.
- Boost cross-border trade flows.
- Establish and co-ordinate immediate assistance in border areas and refugee camps.
- Mobilise resources to develop and implement the Cadre harmonisé analyses and key findings.

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**Technical partners**

- ACF
- EC-JRC
- FAO
- FEWS NET
- IFRC
- IPC/GSU
- OXFAM
- Save the Children
- SWC/OECD
- UNICEF
- WFP

**Financial partners**

- RPCA political leaders and technical facilitators

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**Methodology**

These findings are based on the national analyses that took place in October and November 2019 using the Cadre harmonisé guidebook 2.0 and its new analytical tools. The Liptako-Gourma area and northern Mali were not included due to lack of data. The data analyses come mostly from food security and vulnerability surveys, household economic analyses, nutritional and mortality surveys. For the first time, a special analysis of food and nutrition insecurity was conducted in nine camps for internally displaced people in Nigeria (Bama, Dambboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Jere, Konduga, Maiduguri, Monguno and Ngala) and five refugee camps in Niger (Abulak, Intikkan, Maringi, Sayam Forage and Tabarey Barey). Similarly, hard-to-reach areas in Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria were analysed using the special protocols in the Cadre harmonisé guidebook 2.0. The national analyses were validated by the Cadre harmonisé Regional Technical Committee (N’zérékoré, 18-23 November 2019). The work was co-ordinated by CILSS with the participation of technical partners (ACF, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWS NET, IFRC, IPC/GSU, OXFAM, Save the Children, SWC/OECD, UNICEF and WFP).

**Insecurity**

The security situation has weakened people’s livelihoods by increasing their exposure to severe food and nutrition insecurity, particularly in the Lake Chad basin, the Liptako-Gourma area and northern Mali.

**Displacement**

Civil insecurity has led to a sharp increase in the number of displaced persons in northern Burkina Faso, in the border areas between Niger and Nigeria and in northeastern Nigeria.

**Flooding**

Heavy rains damaged crops in several areas in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

**Dry spells**

Prolonged dry spells and poor spatial and temporal distribution have affected agricultural and forage production, particularly in Mauritania’s border areas with Mali and Senegal, between Niger and Chad, and in north-central Burkina Faso.

**Market failures**

Trade flows are severely disrupted by insecurity and internal displacement in affected areas.

**Border closure**

Nigeria’s closure of its land borders with Benin and Niger has disrupted cross-border trade since late August 2019.

**Current situation: October-December 2019**

- 9.4 million people or 3.3% of the population analysed is in a crisis situation or worse (phases 3-5)

**Projected situation: June-August 2020**

- 14.4 million people or 5.4% of the population analysed will probably be in a crisis situation or worse (phases 3-5)

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**Number of people suffering from severe food insecurity (phases 3-5) by country**

**Projected situation: June-August 2020**

- Guinea: 9.4 million people
- The Gambia: 11.4 million people
- Sierra Leone: 1 million people
- Mauritania: 1.2 million people
- Senegal: 1 million people
- Chad: 1.5 million people
- Burkina Faso: 1.2 million people
- Nigeria: 1.5 million people
- Niger: 1.2 million people

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**URGENT ACTIONS**

- Establish and coordinate immediate assistance for populations in crisis (phase 3) and emergency (phase 4) situations, particularly in the Lake Chad basin and the Liptako-Gourma area, as well as in northern Mali, the Sahelian strip of Chad and southwestern Mauritania.
- Secure and facilitate livestock transhumance to prevent community conflicts.
- Boost cross-border trade flows.
- Establish and coordinate immediate assistance in border areas and refugee camps.
- Mobilise resources to develop and implement the Cadre harmonisé analyses and key findings.

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**TO STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM**

- Build technical and financial capacity to enable national institutions to collect data, including gender-disaggregated data.
- Establish conditions for data collection in non-accessible areas.
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the impact of national, regional and international responses on the ground.
- Mobilise resources to develop and implement the Cadre harmonisé analyses at country and regional level (i.e. training, facilitation and coaching, etc.).
- Improve the sharing and usage of the Cadre harmonisé analyses and key findings.