December 10 update

Sahel Food Security Situation Report No. 11
Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal

LATEST SITUATION

- **19 million** people remain affected by the food and nutrition crisis in West Africa’s Sahel region due to a combination of drought, poor accessibility to food, high grain prices, environmental degradation and displacement due to conflict. The effects of the drought continue to impact the following number of people per country:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Affected Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>739,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Even though crisis levels of food insecurity have stabilized and/or improved in certain areas of the Sahel, immediate humanitarian assistance is still needed.

- The agro-pastoral zones between Mauritania and Chad as well as the zones in east-central Niger and Chad are seeing improvements and the region returning to a normal food security phase. However, the longer term affects of the drought will be felt for several years due to a lack of coping mechanisms, loss of harvests and the inability to recover from the affects of high food prices and environmental degradation due to climate change.

- Most of the major flooding in the Sahel has subsided with the exception of Niger and Nigeria which are dealing with a second flood stage of the Niger River due to heavy Guinean rains from early December.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- The Africa DRM Team has been present in the Sahel and East Africa region since late October/early November working with regional partners on the drought and flood crisis. The majority of the team is in Nigeria at present working with the Government on a post floods assessment.

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees continues to alert humanitarian agencies and regional governments of the seriousness of the refugee crisis from Mali. The latest data shows 203,845 people displaced in Mali and another 265,000 have fled as refugees to neighboring countries.

REGIONAL FORECAST

- The El Niño/La Niña Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Alert System has changed its earlier alert of a weak to moderate El Niño to that of a neutral event. Near normal rainfall levels are expected (in areas still experiencing rainfall) which would help ease flooding conditions.
• The Normal to above-normal rains experienced across the Sahel have had a favorable impact on agricultural conditions.
• Areas along the Niger River are still experiencing flooding and should continue to do so through the beginning of January.
• Food Prices remain high across the region although several countries (Nigeria, Chad, Benin) have seen prices drop slightly during December.

International Appeal
• UN OCHA reports that US$1.65 billion is required for humanitarian assistance. US$1.15 billion (69% of requirement) has been raised so far (including consolidated appeals).

Situation Analysis:
The emphasis for humanitarian assistance throughout the Sahel region will be on the continuing long-term effects of the drought, coping with the increased magnitude of disasters and identification of the underlying causes of flood and drought. It is important not to ignore the longer-term affects of the drought even though good harvests are currently being reported. Poorer families remain the most vulnerable and can quickly fall back into a food insecurity situation should any major shock occur.

The recently released World Bank Report on global warming and climate change, ‘Turn Down the Heat’ emphasizes how many Sahelian countries are particularly vulnerable to a 4 degrees Celsius change in temperature. It is important to link current DRM efforts with new findings such as “aerosol forcing” and water scarcity to better understand the causes of recent droughts.

COUNTRY SITUATION (for countries with recent updates)
Burkina Faso:
• The country continues to enjoy higher than normal crop development (FEWSNET) for this part of the year. The Ministry of Agriculture is predicting 7-17 percent increase in cereal production (compared to the five year average). The situation for the poorest households in improving.
• Areas bordering Niger and Mali host 37,000 refugees from Mali. The refugees are putting a strain on certain communities with limited grain resources.
• Cereal prices remain stable but high (23-60 percent higher compared to 5 year average). As new harvests come in, the prices are expected to drop.
• Recovery efforts continue after the floods in August and September which affected 190,000 people.

1 Difference between radiant energy received by the earth and energy re-radiated to space - 4 Degrees – Turn Down the Heat – November 2012 WBG report by Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Analytics
Chad:

- With the exception of areas heavily impacted by the recent flooding, a good harvest is expected thanks to above-average seasonal rainfall.
- Grain prices continue to drop thus improving household food access. Prices are still high however compared to the 5 year average.

Mali:

- Based on favorable harvests, it is estimated that 80 percent of the country is able to satisfy their basic food demands (FEWSNET). Much of the food insecurity in the country is now conflict related in the northern regions.
- There has been an improvement in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the North and favorable rains have eased food security levels. Emergency assistance is still needed as much of the farmland remains abandoned or untended.
- Food prices have dropped for major grains but remain high compared to the five year average (15-20 percent).
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in cooperation with the Mali Red Cross, continues limited general food distributions in the areas of Timbuktu and Gao assisting 160,000 vulnerable Malians.
- An estimated 174,000 people have been internally displaced since the coup. While it is estimated that 105,000 are currently in the North, there are 32,500 in Mopti, 20,550 in Segou, 12,390 in Bamako, 2,800 in Sikasso and 710 in Kayes. Another 265,000 refugees have been registered outside the country in Burkina Faso (37,000), Mauritania (101,904) and Niger (55,392). The Algerian authorities have also reported some 30,000 Malian nationals have sought refuge in the country (this group has not yet been registered by the UNHCR. This number significantly exceeds UNHCR’s contingency planning figure of a total of 85,000 refugees in all three countries. The refugees continue to place an enormous burden on local communities.

Mauritania:

- Seasonal rainfall levels for the country were normal to above normal although the general distribution was poor in some areas (FEWSNET). Nevertheless, the country is experiencing a normal food security phase.
- The recently launched World Bank supported national production plan focuses on new irrigation schemes and will help increase cereal production and increase drought resilience for the long term.
- In the extreme southeast, the arrival of herds of cattle from refugees is threatening local crops. Although 101,904 Malian refugees are currently residing in the country, their presence has not significantly impacted food access of the poorest households according to local Government officials.

Niger:

- Most farmers throughout the country are experiencing a normal growing season with harvests coming soon. With the exception of the Agadez region, food insecurity levels are generally in the stressed phase and are expected to stabilize up to the end of the year.
- The Agadez region is experiencing a cereal deficit of 115,777 tons. 211 villages are said to be in extreme difficulty
- The refugees fleeing Mali continue to place a large strain on the country. At present UNHCR estimates 65,000 refugees are present in the country.

Nigeria:

- Areas not affected by flooding continue to see an improvement in the growing season. An above normal harvest is expected for December.
• The northeast and northwest are the most unstable regions in the country due to civic unrest and in regards to food insecurity.

Senegal:
• Farmers in the southern region of Senegal (Kolda) are expecting a large grain harvest due to above average rains from earlier in the year. In some cases, the yield could be 50-60 percent higher.
• The Ministry of Agriculture is reporting higher yields per hectare for much of the grain producing regions of the country.
• Following severe flooding during the summer which affected more than 289,000 people, efforts are being made by the civil protectorate to improve drainage systems in and around Dakar (with Bank support).

World Bank Response (reflecting updates from previous 3 months for information purposes)

Regional:
• Following an initial dialogue with regional organizations such as CILSS, ECOWAS, AGRHYMET, ACMAD and UEMOA, an in-depth capacity assessment of ACMAD, AGRHYMET and CILSS is currently ongoing. A regional level impact assessment is being prepared.
• Support is provided to the open source website Sahel Response (www.SahelResponse.org) Additional Open Data Resilience Initiative efforts are being pursued

Burkina Faso:
• The country team is maintaining the medium and long-term objectives of its current projects aimed at building the country’s resilience to disasters.
• National capacities to address drought risk are being strengthened through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and recovery (GFDRR) financed national DRM Country Plan. The first phase of US$1.4 million is currently being implemented.

Niger:
• The Niger portfolio includes a Second Emergency Food Support Project of US$20 million.

Senegal:
• A US$1.1 million GFDRR financed project is currently underway to strengthen the capacity of the Senegalese Civil Protection Agency and support the country’s disaster risk reduction platform.

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Disaster Risk Management Website
Sources: Local Governments, UN, OCHA, WFP, ECHO, FEWSNet, Relief Web press releases from various local and int’l media sources, WB Staff

2 Permanent Inter-state Committee to Combat Drought (CILSS), Agro-meteorological and Hydro-meteorological branch of CILSS (AGRHYMET), African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).
3 Partnership with NASA SERVIR, Development, SEED, WFP, USAID and ITHACA to openly share regional data and improve regional monitoring.