SAHEL
OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

2018
SAHEL: A REGION IN CRISIS

$2.7B
TOTAL REQUIREMENT
8 COUNTRIES
150M SAHEL POPULATION
24M PEOPLE IN NEED
14M PEOPLE TARGETED

16.8 MILLION
REQUIREMENT
340,000 PEOPLE TARGETED

SENEGAL

REQUIREMENT
PEOPLE TARGETED

MAURITANIA

262.9 MILLION
REQUIREMENT
1.6 MILLION PEOPLE TARGETED

MALI

NIGER

NIGERIA

BURKINA FASO

116 MILLION
REQUIREMENT
618,000 PEOPLE TARGETED

This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from January to December 2018.

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(*) In this document, the Sahel comprises Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Cameroon, Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States), and Senegal.
(**) All requirement figures in this documents are as per the data in the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), Online Project System (OPS) as reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) and Humanitarian Work Plans.

10.8M people facing food insecurity
4.7M children under five acutely malnourished
2.1M internally displaced
919K refugees

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(**) All requirement figures in this documents are as per the data in the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), Online Project System (OPS) as reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) and Humanitarian Work Plans.
Acute rainfall deficits last season in several regions of the Sahel, and worsening insecurity have escalated humanitarian needs. Drought has prematurely thrust pastoralist communities into the lean season, with herders migrating earlier than usual. Growing insecurity in Mali and armed attacks in border regions with Burkina Faso and Niger have uprooted hundreds of families in recent months, adding to the devastation by the long-running conflict around the Lake Chad Basin.

Swaths of pastoral and agro-pastoral regions are suffering severe pasture and water deficits. Around 2.5 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are at risk of serious livelihood crisis in 2018. Mauritania, and parts of Burkina Faso, Chad, Senegal and Mali are the worst affected in the Sahel.

Armed attacks, banditry and intercommunity conflict have increased in Mali’s central regions. In areas unaffected by conflict, chronic vulnerabilities persist. In the Lake Chad Basin, humanitarian needs will remain high in 2018 and beyond. In areas worst hit by violence, almost 500,000 children are severely acutely malnourished and 5.8 million people are struggling with high levels of food insecurity.

In 2018, 24 million people will need humanitarian assistance in the Sahel. Some 32 million people are at risk of, or struggling with food insecurity – among them 10.8 million severely food insecure – and 4.7 million children are malnourished. Over 5 million refugees, internally displaced people and returnees are grappling with the consequences of forced displacement.

Sahel countries count among the world’s most at risk of crises and disasters. Increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, frequent droughts and floods and land degradation threaten the livelihoods of highly vulnerable communities. Food insecurity and malnutrition are often high and widespread, with seasonal peaks pushing millions into crisis. In the last decade, a spike in armed conflict and violence has worsened chronic needs, uprooted entire communities and disrupted livelihoods.

To address the most urgent needs across the region, humanitarians will need US$2.7 billion in 2018. In five countries – Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria – aid organisations and Governments have developed response plans to provide life-saving assistance and help communities rebuild livelihoods. In Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal, humanitarian work plans address acute peaks, while preparing the full integration of relief response in longer-term strategies that address the structural causes of vulnerability.

Humanitarian action across the region is progressively adopting the New Way of Working. Response strategies this year are further strengthening collaboration with Governments and development actors to provide urgent relief assistance and tackle the causes of recurrent emergencies. The Sahel humanitarian response is aligned with the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) priorities, which recognise the importance of the humanitarian-development and security-peace nexus and enshrines a proactive crisis prevention-oriented approach. The UNISS support plan seeks to address common humanitarian/security concerns in the Sahel, particularly the Lake Chad Basin areas, northern Mali and the Liptako-Gourma region.

Only concerted and sustained efforts by all actors can bring peace, security, and development, improve human rights, uplift Sahel’s most vulnerable inhabitants from recurrent crises, and create stable conditions for communities and families to prosper.
CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION
Conflicts remain one of the main drivers of humanitarian emergencies in the Sahel. Increased hostilities could heighten humanitarian needs in the region, where 24 million require assistance this year. The deteriorating insecurity has opened a new front. Regions in Burkina Faso and Niger bordering Mali have come under a rising spate of armed attacks. 90 incidents of insecurity were recorded in Burkina Faso, forcing 141 schools to shut and affecting thousands of children. Villages in Niger’s western Tillabéri and Tahoua regions have also suffered multiple attacks that have uprooted residents. Burkina Faso and Niger respectively host 23,000 and 56,000 Malian refugees.

Mali and the Lake Chad Basin remain the region’s prominent conflict hotspots. In Mali, insecurity is spreading from the northern to the central regions. Clashes between armed groups, banditry and intercommunal violence recurrently cause displacements. Some 5.1 million people – more than 27 per cent of the country’s population – live in the areas affected by insecurity. Currently 59,000 people are displaced within the country, and almost one in five Malians is food insecure. While humanitarian assistance has enabled hundreds of thousands of people to survive, the situation remains critical. In 2018, aid groups will assist around 1.6 million people, 200,000 more than the previous year.

Across the conflict-hit Lake Chad Basin, around 2.2 million people have been displaced. Millions of people are grappling with hunger, poor living conditions in displacement sites and other adversity unleashed by the nine-year-long conflict. Humanitarian action has saved many lives, but millions of people still require relief assistance to survive and rebuild their livelihoods.

As humanitarians strive to assist Sahel’s vulnerable populations, Governments are making efforts to tackle extremist violence. The establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force hopes to address a key factor of regional instability. However, military operations could complicate humanitarian access, underscoring the need for dialogue and coordination between humanitarian and military actors.

**Risk Index**

- **Very High Risk**
- **High Risk**
- **Medium Risk**
- **Low Risk**
- **Very Low Risk**

**INFORM SAHEL 2017**

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SAHEL: OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

FOOD INSECURITY, DROUGHT AND PASTORAL CRISIS

Following poor rains in 2017, Mauritania and parts of Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mauritania and Senegal are witnessing severe pasture and water shortages. In these areas, the lean season has begun early and will last longer. Many pastoralist communities, who make up 30 per cent of Sahel’s population, begun migrating earlier than usual and will face a tough lean season as their resources dwindle. The early transhumance is exacerbating vulnerability. Meat and milk production has declined, livelihoods taken a hit and food prices are increasing. Terms of trade between cereals and livestock is unfavourable for herders. For instance, in Mali, Mauritania and Niger it dropped by 15 - 50 per cent compared to December 2016. In areas where pastoralists have moved into, the additional herds are exerting pressure on limited water and pasture and the likelihood of intercommunity tensions increased.

Across the region, food insecurity will remain high owing to the effects of poor rainfall, transhumance restrictions, high staple food prices and increasing displacement by conflict. For children, worsening food security will create additional hurdles such as learning difficulties or school retention, as parents are unable to afford fees and need their children to stay at home to work.

HIGH MALNUTRITION RATES

Malnutrition also remains prevalent in the region and is expected to deteriorate if early and sustained actions are not taken. Poor access to healthcare, water, sanitation, education and other basic services has left millions of children suffering from acute malnutrition. Some 4.7 million children are likely to face acute malnutrition. Global and severe acute malnutrition rates have surpassed the emergency threshold in parts of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. The drought that has also caused crisis among Sahel’s pastoralist communities is likely to increase the already high malnutrition rates. Education can play a key role in malnutrition prevention programmes by assisting children in school and their young parents with nutrition education, malnutrition screening services and prevention packages for the household.

FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS*

CHILDREN WITH ACUTE MALNUTRITION**

DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPS AND REFUGEES)

* Moderate (Phase II), emergency (Phase III) and crisis (Phase IV) of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis
MOBILISING FOR ACCELERATED RESPONSE

Humanitarian needs remain high in the Sahel, home to some of the world’s most protracted and severe crises. The impact of climate change, armed conflict and insecurity, underdevelopment and poverty subject millions of people to severe hardship. Around one in five people requiring humanitarian assistance in the world resides in the Sahel, and 16 per cent of the region’s 150 million inhabitants needs help.

The number of people uprooted, mainly by conflict, has nearly tripled in the past four years, rising from 1.8 million in 2014 to more than 5 million this year. Humanitarian response budget has hovered around $2 billion over the same period. In 2018, Sahel’s budget accounts for 12 per cent of the $22.5 billion global humanitarian financial requirement.

Progressively adopting the New Way of Working, humanitarian, Governments and development actors in the region have developed strategies to respond to the humanitarian emergency and address the causes of Sahel’s recurrent crises. Donor support has been critical in saving lives. 2018 is expected to be a very difficult year not only for pastoralist communities but also for thousands of communities who rely on markets for access to food in the Sahel. Accelerated efforts by all actors are crucial in reducing human suffering and restoring livelihoods.
DISPLACEMENT IN THE SAHEL

FOOD SECURITY IN THE SAHEL

CADRE HARMONISÉ ANALYSIS FOOD SECURITY PROJECTION (JUNE – AUGUST 2018)
OVERVIEW OF OTHER SECTORS
In the Sahel, insecurity has forced the closure of more than 1,700 schools, with the worst situation reported in Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso. Around 5 million children will need education assistance this year. Despite the considerable response provided in 2017, the gap remains huge (1.3 million children targeted by clusters were not reached) and the needs for 2018 are significant: in Nigeria alone, 2.9 million school-age children require education assistance.

To narrow the education access gap, under the leadership of the Education Ministry, Burkina Faso and Chad will in 2018 embark on radio education in emergencies programming to reach out-of-school, emergency-affected children with a protective learning routine. Since 2016, Ministries of Education in the Lake Chad Basin and Burkina Faso are adopting an approach to education in emergencies focused on school resilience, where teachers, students, and communities become responsible for identifying the hazards affecting them (risk analysis), and developing local, affordable solutions.

Severe acute malnutrition is likely to create additional vulnerabilities for children, including vulnerabilities to school retention, as parents are unable to afford school fees and will need their children to stay home to work. Teacher absenteeism is also a worry. There is anecdotal evidence that in zones affected by food insecurity, classrooms are empty and schools are closing. A regional study on the impact of malnutrition on the education sector is planned in 2018.

A resilient school approach is key to bridging the cyclical humanitarian emergencies. Efforts are ongoing to achieve sustainable development goal for quality and inclusive education for children of all ages.
Conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has forced more than 205,000 Nigerians to flee to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Since 2015, the refugee population has remained relatively stable owing to ongoing violence and spontaneous returns to Nigeria. Refugees and their hosts bear the brunt of the conflict and security measures, leaving them dependent on humanitarian assistance. In 2018, the refugee response will focus on providing long-term solutions and supporting access to asylum and protection.

In Mali, insecurity is prevalent in the northern and central regions. More than 132,000 Malians remain in refuge in neighbouring Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. As of January 2018, 63,107 refugees had returned, according to Mali’s Government. Threats of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence in the north and central regions continue to devastate civilians and limit humanitarian access. Rights violation persist: communities are grappling with limited access to services, documentation, water, education and food. Food rations for camp-based refugees have decreased due to budget constraints. Large-scale returns of Malian refugees are not expected due to persistent violence. However, insecurity and attacks in Burkina Faso could lead to spontaneous returns to Mali as well as arrivals of Burkinabe refugees. Response will consist of supporting socio-economic integration of those who do not yet wish to return to boost their self-reliance.
The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has displaced around 2.2 million people, 1.6 million in Nigeria’s north-east alone. More than 205,000 Nigerians have fled to neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The protection situation in Nigeria as well as in the border areas of Cameroon, Chad and Niger remains dire.

Protracted violence has subjected civilians, including IDPs, refugees and host communities to grave protection risks and violations such as limitations on freedom of movement and arbitrary and extended detentions. Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) is widespread in communities affected by the crisis, but is underreported due to fear of reprisals and stigmatisation. Women, girls and boys are the most vulnerable to SGBV. Children are exposed to risk of recruitment, violence and exploitation. Many families have also been separated during displacement, leaving unaccompanied or separated children vulnerable to exploitation. Many refugee and IDP children need support, yet child protection services in communities are few and lack the capacity to address these needs.

In Mali, violence in the central and northern regions of the country have heightened displacement. The volatile security situation and weak State presence in central and northern regions continue to have a detrimental impact on civilians. Women and girls suffer SGBV and are stigmatised and excluded by their communities. Limited humanitarian access, inadequate and inaccessible services, growing insecurity, fear of reprisals and sociocultural pressure keep affected communities silent about SGBV. Children are at risk of recruitment and use by parties to the conflict. Stronger support is required for children associated with armed groups who have been released. Growing insecurity in border areas of Burkina Faso and Niger has worsened civilian protection.
Around 8 million people will require WASH assistance in 2018, with the sector targeting 5.45 million, mainly in the Lake Chad Basin. Those targeted for assistance include children suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition, displaced people or refugees and people living in floods, epidemics or conflict-affected areas where basic services have been severely disrupted.

The regional WASH approach looks to deliver minimum WASH packages tailored to vulnerabilities and supported by cross-sector and regional strategies. Approaches such as “WASH in Nut” and “Shield and Sword against cholera”, which integrate WASH services at nutrition centres and within health sector to provide safe drinking water, access to hand washing and hygienic latrines will be strengthened.

WASH partners work across sectors to support the development of contingency and national plans in cooperation with national authorities.

The establishment of early warning systems will be promoted to ensure the functionality of basic WASH facilities, including facilities at health centres and displacement sites.
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND WORK PLANS
SAHEL COUNTRIES WITH HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS
The impact of conflict in the Lake Chad Basin and in the Central African Republic as well as worsening food insecurity and malnutrition characterise Cameroon's humanitarian landscape. The country’s East hosts the highest number of Central African refugees, and its Far North region is deeply affected by the Boko Haram-linked insecurity and violence. Around 2.6 million people are struggling with food insecurity and malnutrition. Eighty per cent of them live in the Sahelian Adamaoua and Far North regions. In 2018, 3.3 million people require humanitarian assistance, a 12 per cent rise compared to the previous year. Aid organisations and the authorities are working on a multi-sector approach and coordinating response to provide emergency relief and tackle causes of human suffering.

Around 562,000 people (237,000 Central African and 89,000 Nigerian refugees and 236,000 IDPs) have been uprooted from their homes. The refugee influx is exerting significant pressure on natural resources and basic social services in host communities, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities. Those forced to flee their homes within Cameroon have lost their means of survival, homes and property. Some have been abducted or forcibly recruited by armed groups. Thousands of women, men and children have been subjected to abuse and violence and continue to be traumatised against a backdrop of prevailing insecurity.

Civilian protection in Far North region is a major challenge owing to heightened insecurity and recurrent attacks that have left civilians deeply vulnerable to rights abuse and violations. The violence has also sown suspicion whereby refugees or internally displaced people risk being wrongly perceived as sympathetic to the armed group. Forceful repatriation of asylum seekers is also a major concern.

More than 180,000 people, mainly in the Far North, are severely food insecure. Over 160,000 children risk suffering from malnutrition, including 45,000 projected to be severely acutely malnourished in 2018. Severe acute malnutrition rates have surpassed the 2 per cent emergency threshold in Far North. Access to essential services has deteriorated in areas affected by the conflict. In Far North, only 14 per cent of the population have access to adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities and more than half do not have access to a water source. At least 90 schools are no longer functioning in this region, leaving 45,000 children in urgent need of education and vulnerable to possible radicalization. Health centres, whose access and quality were already limited, are increasingly under pressure due to displacement and continuous influx of injured people.
CHAD

Chad struggles with three major crises: food insecurity and malnutrition, population displacements and health emergencies that generate multiple humanitarian needs. Around 4.4 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2018 – 30 per cent of Chad’s population – of whom 1.9 million will be targeted for assistance. Persistent insecurity and armed raids in areas along the border with Niger and Nigeria continue to trigger displacements that render the resumption of normal life impossible. Food scarcity and malnutrition have worsened. Currently, around 318,000 people are severely food insecure. More than twice as many (890,000) are projected to face high levels of food insecurity in the June - August 2018 lean season. Severe acute and global acute malnutrition levels stand at 3.9 and 17.8 per cent respectively, both surpassing the emergency threshold.

While harvests from the 2017 season were above the five-year average, areas of the country’s Sahel region witnessed declines of up to 28 per cent owing to late start and premature end of farming, floods and pest destruction. Pasture production has been poor in several regions, forcing herders to migrate earlier than usual. Malnutrition among children under five has worsened compared to 2016. Global acute malnutrition has surpassed the emergency threshold in 12 of the country’s 23 regions.

Around 634,000 people in Chad are in displacement, including 409,000 refugees and asylum seekers, and 102,000 internally displaced persons. The displacements also affect nearly 500,000 people in host communities who are struggling with harsh living conditions amid deep poverty and significant protection risks. Majority, depending on their status, face movement restrictions, discrimination in access to services, but also threats or violence, including gender-based violence.

Malfunctioning and inaccessible health facilities, exacerbated by the country’s low development and widespread poverty, limit access to health care for more than 2 million vulnerable people. Children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and displaced and nomadic populations are particularly vulnerable. Poor access to drinking water, low education levels, especially among women, and the recurrence of food insecurity and malnutrition contribute to poor health indicators. Chad has the world’s second highest maternal mortality rate (860/100,000) and the sixth highest infant mortality rate (133/1,000) in the world. National immunization coverage also remains low (between 10 and 35 per cent).

In 2018, the humanitarian community will target 1.9 million people in line with the strategic priorities identified in the three-year (2017 – 2019) humanitarian response strategy. Addressing food insecurity, epidemics, protection risks and working with other actors to tackle the structural causes of human suffering are some of the main pillars of humanitarian response in 2018.
The security situation has deteriorated in recent months. Attacks, banditry and conflicts that mostly occurred in the northern region have spread southwards, affecting central regions of Mopti and Ségué. Clashes between armed groups and intercommunal violence have displaced thousands of civilians, restricted movement and disrupted livelihoods and access to services. Communities struggling daily to survive have been further weakened by the worsening security that is also deterring the return of those forced to flee for safety in other localities. By the start of the lean season in June, around 4.1 million people will be food insecure, up from 3.8 million in 2017 and 3 million the year before. Humanitarian needs in other sectors have been on the rise, too. For instance, 950,000 people need protection assistance, increasing from 590,000 in 2017. Droughts, floods and insufficient basic services are also driving up humanitarian needs.

Food insecurity and malnutrition are persistent and significant. One in five people is currently food insecure. Some 795,000 people need emergency food assistance. Conflict has accentuated food shortages, as families have been uprooted from their homes and livelihoods upended. The displaced and communities hosting them have depleted food reserves, leaving the elderly, pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children in extremely poor nutritional health. Global acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition have respectively reached 10.7 and 2.4 per cent nationally. In areas affected by insecurity such as Gao, Taoudénit and Timbuktu, global acute malnutrition has reached or exceeded the emergency threshold.

New internal displacements occur regularly due to ongoing violence and tensions in the northern and central parts of the country. More than 30,000 people were freshly displaced in 2017. As of October, there were almost 41,000 IDPs compared to 37,000 in October 2016. In all, some 59,000 are displaced within the country and 132,000 are in refuge in neighbouring countries.

Civilians, especially children and women, suffer heavy collateral damage of the clashes between armed groups. The volatile security situation and weak State presence contribute to the resurgence of acts of banditry against traders, among others, but also infringe on the right to life and physical integrity of civilian populations. More than 4 million people affected in the northern and central regions by the conflict, and those in the south by the floods, need protection.

The absence or poor availability of social services in areas of conflict and other localities deepens vulnerability and creates protection risks. Some 2.4 million people do not have sufficient access to water, hygiene and sanitation services. Tensions around access to water sources are regular as are cases of gender-based violence. Due to the insecurity, access to basic healthcare services in the north and centre of the country is gradually deteriorating.

To consult and contribute to the 2018 Mali Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/mali
Some 2.3 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2018. Food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and natural disaster recurrently cause humanitarian emergencies. Conflict has pushed up the number of people in need of relief assistance from 1.9 million in 2017. The south-eastern Diffa and the western Tillabery and Tahoua regions suffer recurrent armed attacks that have forced thousands of people from their homes. Boko Haram-related violence has sparked a massive, unprecedented humanitarian emergency in Diffa. Communities in the conflict-hit regions already grapple with extreme poverty and lack of basic services and infrastructure. Niger is also a major transit route for Europe-bound sub-Saharan Africa migrants traversing the territory through the central Agadez town. Among those in need of relief assistance are some 400,000 IDPs, refugees, returnees and migrants. All of Niger’s seven regions are struck by humanitarian emergency to varying degrees.

Floods, malnutrition, food insecurity and epidemics are cyclic. However, violence and migration that has been on the rise since 2016 have compounded the existing adversity. Some 400,000 more people require assistance compared to 2017. Needs have risen in all sectors except shelter and basic household items. Nutrition sector has recorded the highest increase in the number of people needing assistance to reach 1.7 million people, up by 200,000 on the 2017 figures. Malnutrition is most prevalent in Agadez, Maradi and Zinder regions where global acute malnutrition rates are above the 10 per cent national average and have surpassed the emergency threshold for the severe form. Protection and health sectors have also seen significant rise in needs.

Despite favourable harvests in 2017, the drought that has struck pastoralist regions of northern Dosso, Maradi and the region between Agadez and Tahoua has wilted pasture. High food prices and poor cattle-to-cereal terms of trade have worsened food security among pastoralist communities. Security measures that have restricted movements and market closures have also contributed to losses and food shortages.

Population displacement due to conflict and insecurity or floods have badly affected livelihoods. In Diffa, around 250,000 people uprooted from their homes are living in makeshift shelters or among the local community with little prospects of returning home in 2018. Floods have become more frequent lately. The country suffered major flooding in 2017 following unusually heavy rains. In 2018, some 170,000 people are likely to require humanitarian assistance due to floods.

The risk of epidemics associated with seasonal weather changes have heightened the number of people needing help. The re-emergence of Rift Valley Fever in 2016 and hepatitis E in 2017 underscore the risks, in addition to poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene services.

To consult and contribute to the 2018 Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger
Civilians in north-east Nigeria continue to bear the brunt of the long-running conflict that has caused widespread displacement, heightened protection risks, destroyed infrastructure and crippled public services. Armed attacks, military operations and insecurity have impaired livelihoods, leaving a huge proportion of civilians dependent on humanitarian assistance. Some 7.7 million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states require humanitarian assistance for their survival and around 1.6 million people remain displaced. At least 1.3 million people have returned home, or close to their villages, many of whom to locations where infrastructure is still damaged or destroyed, services are not yet restored, and livelihoods lost or inaccessible due to insecurity. While scaled-up and fast response by aid groups and the Government helped avert the threat of famine in 2017, food insecurity and malnutrition remain high owing to the depredation of the conflict.

Some 2.6 million people are currently food insecure and require assistance. The figure is projected to rise to 3.7 million by the June - August 2018 lean season if adequate food and livelihoods assistance is not provided. While humanitarian assistance over the last year has stabilised the nutritional situation, an estimated 942,000 children under five in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe are still acutely malnourished. One in five is severely acutely malnourished and one in 15 suffers moderate acute malnutrition. Without treatment, they risk death.

Public services, notably health, nutrition, education and telecommunications infrastructure have collapsed due to the destruction of cities, towns and villages, including around 45 per cent of health facilities and nearly half of the public schools in Borno. Where public services have been restored, they are overburdened with increased needs from host communities and displaced families. With more than one third of children out of school, the resumption of education services is crucial not just for the future of the region, but also from a psychosocial perspective.

Protection remains an urgent need at all levels as most of the conflict-affected people have experienced significant psychosocial distress. At least 30 per cent of IDPs are currently separated from their families. Fifty-seven per cent of them have no contact with their kin. Such separation is detrimental to livelihoods, as separated family members (especially men and children) were also household providers prior to the crisis. On average, 30 per cent of households are now headed by women. The figure is much higher in some locations.

A significant portion of affected people are difficult to reach, which means that humanitarian actors are not able to assess their situation, or provide them with aid or basic services. These people are likely to face very high security risks and are believed to have limited or no access to markets, goods and services. 

To consult and contribute to the 2018 Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria

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**People in Need**

- **7.7M** People in need
- **6.1M** People targeted
- **1.05B** Requirement ($US)

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SAHEL COUNTRIES WITH HUMANITARIAN WORK PLANS
Many communities in Burkina Faso are struggling to cope with the effects of violence, food insecurity, epidemics and natural disaster. Some 790,000 people need humanitarian assistance. Recurrent armed attacks in the northern region have displaced people internally and limited access to basic services. The country also suffers regular poor crop harvest and livestock productivity and has chronically high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition. Owing to conflict and insecurity in neighbouring Mali, Burkina Faso is now home to approximately 23,000 Malian refugees. Humanitarian and development actors in Burkina Faso have strengthened collaboration through a three-year plan (2018 - 2020) to provide life-saving assistance.

Burkina Faso has experienced an increasing threat of armed attacks since 2016, particularly in the Sahel region. Ninety-four attacks and security incidents were identified by OCHA and partners in 2017, of which the Sahel region had 78. The deteriorating security has led to a surge in internal displacement, raising the number of IDPs to approximately 23,500. The violence has forced the closure of 141 schools and affected thousands of children. It has also limited humanitarian access and heightened the risk of protection-related incidents.

According to the October 2017 Cadre Harmonisé, the number of people projected to be severely food insecure in the 2018 lean season will increase fivefold from October 2017 to reach 620,000 people. According to the November 2017 SMART survey, 790,000 cases of acute malnutrition are expected in 2018.

Burkina Faso is highly vulnerable to natural disaster, with recurrent drought and severe flooding that pose an annual risk to destabilise already vulnerable populations. In 2017, 12 of 13 regions in the country were hit by flooding and violent winds, which affected more than 30,000 people and killed 12. Health hazards add further strain, as seen with the dengue fever epidemic in 2017 in which over 9,000 suspected cases and 18 deaths were recorded.

The 23,000 Malian refugees remain entirely dependent on humanitarian aid. The security situation in Mali, which has worsened in the recent months, and raids by armed groups on the border with Mali mean that voluntary returns or organised repatriation of Malian refugees in dignity and safety are almost impossible.

In response to these complex challenges, humanitarian actors in the country have launched an Emergency Relief and Resilience Plan, aligning it with the existing development and humanitarian emergency response strategies.
Poor rains in 2017 triggered a severe drought and acute food shortages in Mauritania, clawing back recovery from the devastating Sahel food crisis six years ago. In unprecedented highs since 2012, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is around 830,000. Mauritania faces recurrent and chronic vulnerabilities which have an impact on the food security and nutritional status of around 26 per cent of the population during the lean season. 2018 is expected to be an exceptionally difficult year, with estimates that 1.2 million people will be food insecure. The country also hosts some 52,000 Malian refugees who have little prospect of returning in 2018.

Drought indicators show that the lean season will be starting early this year and last unusually longer. Given the low rainfall, failed harvest and pasture deficits, more households will fall into extreme vulnerability. Estimates indicate that food insecurity and malnutrition levels in Mauritania are comparable to the 2011-12 food and nutrition crisis. 379,000 people are already severely food insecure and it is estimated that in 2018 up to 602,000 people will need emergency food aid.

In eight of the country’s 13 regions, global malnutrition rates have surpassed the 15 per cent emergency threshold. Malnutrition has also increased significantly in the past year: 2.3 per cent of children under 5 are suffering from the most severe form of malnutrition. Global acute malnutrition has reached 10.9 per cent. Some 119,000 children and 4,700 pregnant or lactating women will require nutritional assistance. Low access to water and sanitation services further aggravates malnutrition. The capacity of the health system to respond to these needs is limited, and vaccination coverage is well below target which raises serious concerns about the health of mothers and children.

The pastoral situation is rapidly deteriorating. 2017 rains were inadequate or failed in several regions and led to low agricultural production and reduced grazing land, which forced herders to migrate several months earlier than usual in search of pasture. This shift has the potential to increase not only malnutrition in pastoralist regions but also spark conflicts with communities over available resources.

Mauritania hosts around 52,000 Malian refugees in Mbera. They are particularly vulnerable and require sustained humanitarian assistance. Due to persistent insecurity in Mali they are not likely to return soon. The refugees live in a region with limited livelihoods, sharing meagre water supplies, pasture, land and basic services with the host populations, and the livestock they brought with them further strains local resources.

In a call for urgent action, humanitarian actors have proposed a joint response requiring $116 million to prevent a new food and nutrition crisis.

To consult and contribute to the 2018 Mauritania Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/mauritania

**People in Need**
- 830k people in need of humanitarian assistance

**People Targeted**
- 617k people targeted

**Requirement ($US)**
- 116M

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Senegal is among the countries affected by the pastoral crisis this year. Climatic adversity and chronic vulnerability recurrently subject thousands of families into hardship requiring humanitarian assistance. The country’s eastern and northern regions are often the hardest hit. Rainfall deficit in 2017 and poor pasture production have sparked food insecurity and an early start of the lean season. Pasture production has fallen critically below the five-year average and the annual migration of herders from neighbouring Mauritania begun earlier than usual. Senegalese pastoralists also begun moving with their cattle by October 2017, months ahead of the usual migration. In the most affected localities, pasture production is below 60 kilogrammes per hectare. Malnutrition is persistent in the country’s northern regions since the 2012 Sahel food crisis despite recent improvements. Floods and epidemics that affect thousands of civilians every year could hit communities in the coming months.

Food security improved in 2016, but has since worsened and the situation is expected to persist in 2018. Around 297,000 people are currently food insecure at crisis level. Nearly twice as many (550,000) are likely to struggle with severe food insecurity between June and August at the height of the lean season. Thousands of pastoralist families already struck by the effects of drought in the worst affected localities of Kanel, Matam, Podor and Ranerou in northern Senegal, will face deeper crisis during the lean season. More than 484,000 people will need nutritional assistance, among them 120,000 acutely malnourished children. Despite the recent easing of malnutrition, the situation remains worrying in Saint-Louis, Matam, Louga, Tambacounda and Diourbel regions. Overall in 2018, some 814,000 people require humanitarian assistance.

The drought is wrecking the household economies of pastoralist communities as animal prices and production are slumping. The lean season has begun earlier and will last longer than usual. Water pans and mashes have dried up and huge herds are gathering at the remaining watering holes. If no assistance is provided in time, food insecurity and malnutrition will worsen as previously witnessed in 2012 and 2015. To address the triggers of the recurrent humanitarian emergencies, the authorities have begun integrating humanitarian response planning in the country development strategies.

The Government has established an emergency plan to assist the affected communities. Humanitarian actors will also provide food and nutrition assistance and work with the authorities to tackle the drivers of emergencies. Humanitarian needs in Senegal are mainly triggered by seasonal climatic shocks, persistent vulnerabilities and structural deficiencies such as poor access to basic services and lack of coping capacities to withstand shocks.
WHAT IF?

... WE FAIL TO RESPOND

If humanitarians are not able to raise funds and deliver aid for the Sahel crisis...

1. **More than 4 million acutely malnourished children will not receive treatment.** If untreated, many could die or suffer lifelong mental and physical damage, undermining their learning and development.

2. **Millions of people across Sahel will be left without support to help them rebuild their livelihoods and resume normal life.** Assistance to people restart livelihood activities will end, further increasing vulnerability.

3. **Displaced people will continue to face violence, abuse and exploitation.** Without psychosocial assistance and safe places to play and learn, we risk losing an entire generation of children in the Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Nigeria which are the worst-affected by violence.

4. **Lack of water, sanitation and hygiene services will increase the risk of outbreaks and considerably heighten malnutrition** given the link between malnutrition and poor sanitation and inadequate access to hygiene services and clean water.

5. **The number of people facing acute food insecurity will increase.** Without early warning systems, coordinating early response will be impossible and the severity of food insecurity may deepen. Agriculture and livelihood programmes could be hampered.

6. **The risk of outbreaks of communicable disease will grow.** Cholera, malaria, measles and meningitis outbreaks are recurrent. Without assistance, communities will face a higher risk of contracting the seasonal water- and vector-borne diseases.

7. **The education of at least 5 million children will be disrupted,** with a worsening of social and human capital indicators and severe protection risks for children who are out of school.

8. **Millions of crisis-affected people will be left without adequate access to drinking water.** In refugee camps or displacement sites, lack of safe and secure access to drinking water and appropriate sanitation facilities will increase the risk of gender-based violence, especially against women and children.

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