

HIGHLIGHTS

- Additional funding needed to support agro-pastoral families during the lean season
- Threat of locusts infestation, the most serious since 2005, could affect 50 million people
- Population displacements in Mali and neighbouring countries trigger more humanitarian needs

PROJECTED FIGURES

Total population at risk of malnutrition	18.7 M
Children at risk of severe acute malnutrition	1.1.M
Children at risk of moderate acute malnutrition	3 M
Maliens displaced by conflict (IDPs and refugees)	426,000

FUNDING

US\$1.6 billion
Requested

51%
Received



IRIN/Nigeria

In this issue

- Food and nutrition crisis P.1
- Displacement and access P.2
- Building resilience P.3
- Response overview P.3
- Funding status P.5

Food and nutrition crisis

Food security and nutrition likely to worsen in coming weeks; agencies appeal for urgent funding

With the first rains, planting activities for the ongoing food production campaign in the Sahel region have started. But despite improved water availability and significant food assistance targeting 18.7 million people, the most vulnerable households are continuing to sell their livelihoods assets, including their livestock, eroding further their capacity to cope with this crisis.

The food security and nutrition situation of vulnerable families is likely to worsen during the lean period from June to September which had an early start this year. Crops won't be harvested yet and food reserves are exhausted. High grain prices, especially in the Central Basin, are an aggravating factor.

In August, according to WFP, humanitarian assistance will be the main means of survival for many. The programme, which has supported over six million people since January, is appealing for urgent contributions of US\$115 million to address pipeline shortfalls for the next three months.



Food distribution in Alaba Sani, Niger. Photo credit: FAO

Underfunding is also threatening the ability to support domestic animal production and agricultural activities, notably preparations for the next production campaign from October to December, with FAO's financial requirements of US\$ 112 million only 24 per cent funded.

Locusts infestation threatens 50 million people; breeding under way

Desert locust infestation remains dangerous as more egg-laying and hatching are expected in the coming weeks. Agricultural crop production, food and nutrition security, and the livelihood of some 50 million people in Chad, Mali and Niger are currently at risk, according to the FAO. This threat is the most serious since 2005.

Ground teams in Niger have treated 1,200 hectares against the pest since 5 June but ground surveys need to be scaled up to determine the scale and extent of current breeding, especially in those areas where rains have recently fallen.

International assistance is needed to maintain and expand surveys and treatment operations in affected areas.

In northern Mali, the locust situation and expected developments are likely to be similar to those in Niger. However, due to the level of insecurity, ground teams have not been able to access potentially infested areas. It is assumed, however, that breeding is underway in parts of the Adrar des Iforas and Tamesna.

Survey teams in Algeria's extreme south along the borders with Mali and Niger have been able to confirm the presence of mature adults. In Mauritania, ground surveys have started in the southeast where egg-laying is in progress west of Nema. In Chad, ground surveys are in progress in the west (Kanem) and east (Abeche to Adre) where only low numbers of locusts have been detected.

National action plans for desert locust operations have been developed in Mali, Niger and Chad in accordance with national contingency plans. But additional funding is required. FAO has appealed for US\$10 million to maintain and expand operations. As of 21 July, France funded US\$ 550, 000 and discussions are ongoing with four other donors for more than US\$ 5 million. As of 17 June, an additional US\$2.8 million of emergency funding had been pledged bilaterally by donors at the country level.

Mali: continuing displacement

Maliens continue to flee insecurity and violence

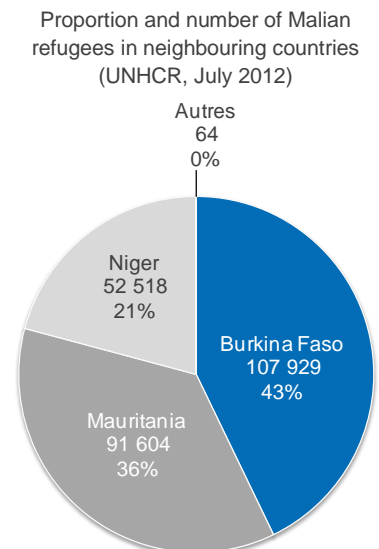
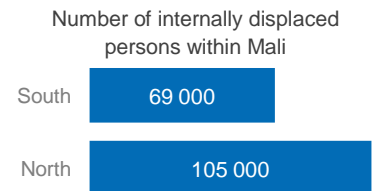
Political instability, insecurity and lack of access to food and water continue to force thousands of Malians out of their homes. As of 31 July, more than 420,000 persons had been displaced in or outside Mali since January.

According to IOM *Situation report of 26 July*, the number of internally displaced persons within Mali is now estimated at 174, 000, representing a relative moderate increase of 1,600 people compared to the end of June. A large majority of them are accommodated in host families and tend to remain in the northern part of the country; the south hosting only 36 per cent of the displaced. The area of origin varies but a majority of them comes from Gao and Timbuktu.

Refugees on the other hand have fled in greater number. According to UNHCR, close to 60,000 additional Malians moved to neighbouring countries, notably Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger, in the month of July alone, bringing the total number of refugees to 252,115 as of 31 July.

Despite recent contributions, UNHCR has only received one third of the \$153 million requested to assist uprooted Malians. While living conditions in refugee camps are improving, access to water and sanitation needs to step up to reach emergency standards. For example, only 25 per cent of latrines and 28 per cent of the showers needed have been built in Ferrerio camp, the most populated refugee site in Burkina Faso.

The lack of funding is also having a profound effect on access to education for children refugees in all three countries. In Mauritania, low funding level has resulted in only 20 per cent of school-age children going to school.



Building resilience

Breaking down barriers between “normal” and “crisis” responses

A special event on the situation in the Sahel Region held on 18 July in New York during the ECOSOC High Level Segment on Humanitarian Affairs highlighted the need to

address the structural causes of recurrent food and nutrition crisis in the region. Repeated crisis such as in 2015, 2010 and now in 2012 have increasingly eroded communities' ability to sustain shocks. This has left the most vulnerable unable to recover and restore their livelihood.

Even in a non-crisis situation, 230,000 children die every year of malnutrition and health-related consequences, which indicates a permanent large-scale nutrition crisis.

Speaking at the event, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, David Gressly, noted that both the opportunity and political will currently existed to make a real change in the Sahel. Donors have stepped up their engagement but those efforts now need to be translated into scaled up operations and longer-term investment.

The report [Ending the Everyday Emergency](#) commissioned by Save the Children and World Vision also recognized that "there is strong consensus for action among all actors to better integrate humanitarian and development efforts to strengthen resilience and break the hunger cycle. Preventing hunger crisis will require a new plan to break down barriers between "normal" and "crisis" response, says the report.

Performance indicators

Food Assistance

June 2012

Indicator	Population targeted	Population Assisted	% Assisted vs Targeted
Conditional transfers (Food based)	1 008 850	882 600	87% (Monthly Target)
Unconditional transfers (Food based)	3 370 111	2 582 238	77% (Monthly Target)
Conditional transfers (Cash / Voucher based)	248 000	200 514	81% (Monthly Target)

Food assistance

In June, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 5.7 million people affected by the Sahel crisis. The month of June marks a significant increase in people assisted as food stocks are depleted and households face tremendous challenges in ensuring that all family members receive the diet according to needs. Alongside the provision of assistance to beneficiaries, WFP provided capacity building for partners and conducted lessons learned workshops to learn from the first phase of implementation of cash based asset building interventions. Prepositioning continued in light of the onset of the rainy season, which renders access to remote sites difficult.

Through unconditional targeted distributions, 2.7 million people were supported with food rations, and 1.1 million with cash and vouchers, which, during the planting season, are expected to encourage rural communities to pursue agricultural activities. In addition, over 400,000 people participated in food and cash for work aiming at rendering communities more resilient to future shocks, and 300,000 people benefitted from the restocking of community managed village cereal banks, a key tool for food security during the lean season. WFP also assisted 125,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger through targeted food distributions and nutrition activities.

Nutrition

January - June 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - June)	% Assisted vs Targeted
# children 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for therapeutic care	1 094 986	1 094 867	411 196	38%
# and % of children 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition admitted for therapeutic care	3 006 339	360 708	374 403	104%
Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme - malnourished women		203 340	225 110	111%
Blanket Feeding*		1 100 192	982 171	89%
Number of health centres with nutrition programmes		2 150	4 727	220%

*WFP Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme for children and pregnant and nursing women

Nutrition

Substantial nutrition scale-up operations are underway in Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Cameroun which are starting from a lower baseline than Niger, Chad and Nigeria which have been undergoing up scale-up of nutrition interventions since 2010. In Burkina Faso, the government has also agreed to change the frequency of the reporting from quarterly to monthly (beginning in August). An increase in the estimated SAM caseload is also expected in Chad and Cameroon. The scaling up of capacity is paying off in these 3 countries.

In June, nearly one million children and women received special nutritious products under the blanket feeding activity alongside targeted food rations to households benefitting from the blanket feeding programme.

On-going massive screening undertaken as part of this preventive programme allows for the identification of children suffering from MAM and their referral to nutrition treatment centres. The screening will enable health workers to treat children with MAM at an early stage, and to avoid them from falling into severe acute malnutrition.

In support of UNICEF's efforts to treat SAM and to improve retention rates, WFP provides food rations to caretakers of children admitted for SAM treatment. In June, through the targeted supplementary feeding programme, 600,000 children and women were supported.

Agriculture

January - June 2012

Indicator	Population Affected (or at risk)	Population targeted	Population Assisted	% Assisted vs Targeted	
Agriculture and Livestock	18 740 123	9 965 556	4 246 782	43%	(Annual Target)

Agriculture

As of June 2012, more than 38 million individuals were assisted by FAO in response to the Sahel crisis in Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. FAO's priority response interventions in the Sahel focus on protecting, restoring and building resilient livelihoods of crisis-affected vulnerable farmers, agro pastoralist and herders. The proposed interventions, linking action in a continuum from emergency to recovery and development are presented in the [Regional Response Programme to the Food and Nutrition Security Crisis in the Sahel](#).

The assistance provided in June included: helping farmers with the delivery of seeds, fertilizers and farming tools for the main planting season, which began in May/June 2012; drought-related assistance to herders, including the distribution of animal feed, veterinary inputs, and provision of small livestock; strengthening of technical capacities with training on good practices including vegetable processing and marketing, and best practices of livestock management.

It also included nutrition education sessions in order to increase the nutritional status of affected households with children and pregnant women facing high malnutrition rates, school gardens, rehabilitation of water points for irrigation and better access to water for human and livestock populations; and support to food security-information, early-warning systems and coordination. The impact of lack of funds on programmes is important. For instance the assistance provided to crisis-affected herders in Burkina Faso through animal fodder distribution covers a period of one to two months instead of four to five months ideally.

Women play a critical role in agriculture and in achieving household food security. As of June 2012, women accounted for 70 percent of the total beneficiaries of FAO's interventions in response to the crisis in Mali, whereas in Niger and Burkina Faso, FAO's assistance reached 52 and 55 percent of women respectively.

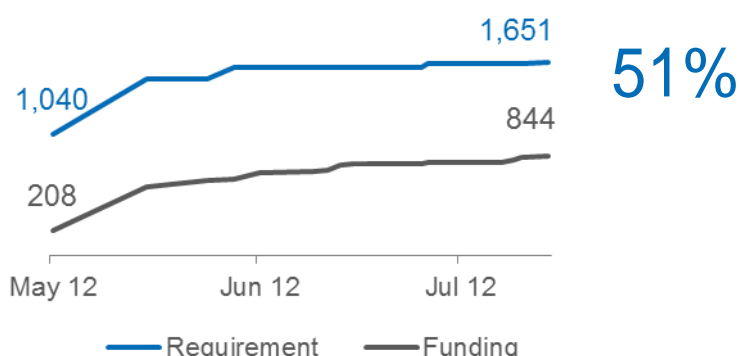
Funding status

Financial contributions received this month amount to US\$66.3 million, bringing the funding level of the Sahel crisis to 51 per cent. Commitments stand at US\$255 million and pledges at US\$6.5 million.

The overall funding requirement for the Sahel crisis has been

up by nearly US\$ 49 million since 2 July. An additional US\$ 39 million for UNHCR refugee projects in Niger was requested, as were US\$10 million for The Gambia. On the other hand, Chad overall needs declined by US\$ 854,790.

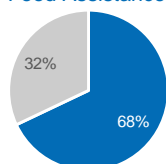
Food Security and Nutrition remain the highest funded sectors across the Sahel with respectively 58 and 61 per cent of funding requirements received to date. Gambia's food security sector saw a notable increase from 18% to 39%. Across the countries, Economic Recovery and Infrastructure, Education, Protection and Water and Sanitation remain underfunded.



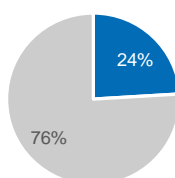
Sahel food insecurity crisis funding per country requirements vs. funding, 31 July 2012
(Source: OCHA FTS)

Proportion of funding available under the Food Security Cluster for Agriculture and Food Assistance for countries with CAP (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger)

Food Assistance



Agriculture



	Total Funding Available	Unmet Requirements	million US\$	
Chad	572		57%	
Niger	490		46%	
Mali	214		45%	
Burkina Faso	126		40%	
Mauritania	94		34%	
Senegal	68		43%	
Gambia	41		28%	
Cameroon	27		50%	
Nigeria	17		27%	

For further information, please contact:

Emmanuelle Schneider, OCHA Sahel Team, Spokesperson/Public Information Officer, schneider1@un.org, Tel. (221) 77 450 6232
Amal Saeed, OCHA Sahel Team, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, saeed5@un.org, Tel. (221) 77 450 6297

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at url of your website | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int