



OCHA

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2.5 million people displaced by crisis in Lake Chad Basin. Over 2.1 million IDPs reported in Nigeria alone across several states.
- Elections in October in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and CAR. Burkina elections likely to be postponed.
- Ebola infections in Sierra Leone and Guinea decline, no new outbreak in Liberia.
- More than 300,000 people affected by floods in Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

KEY FIGURES

No. of people living in conflict-affected areas around Lake Chad	29.6 million
People displaced around Lake Chad	2.5 million
IDPs in Nigeria	2.1 million

FUNDING OF THE SAHEL STRATEGY

US\$1.976 billion requested

\$ 775 million received (in SRP)

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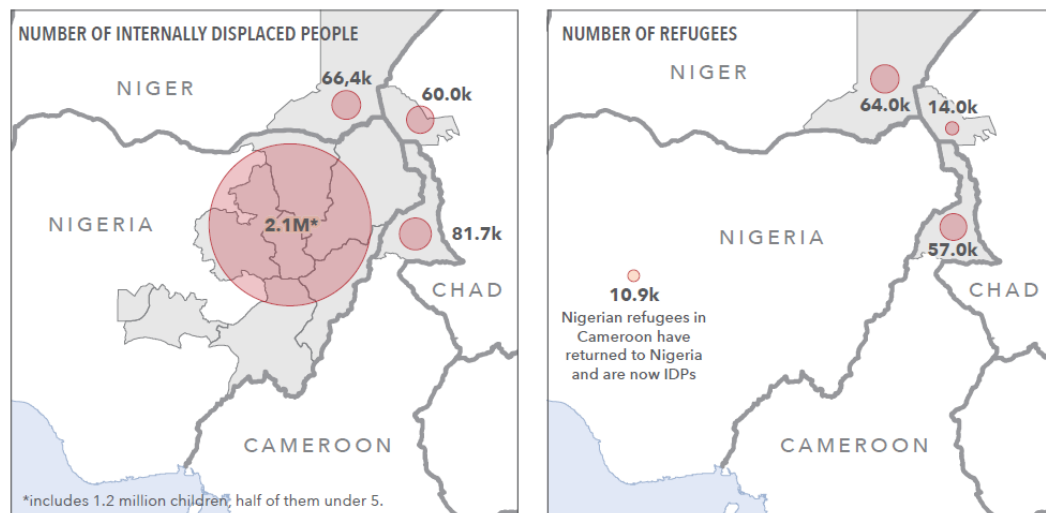
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Multiple displacements around Lake Chad

As of the end of September, attacks by the Boko Haram insurgency as well as counter-insurgency measures have displaced 2.5 million people in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Population movements in the Lake Chad Basin have been growing in complexity, with multiple displacements and returns within countries and across borders.

Majority of displaced are children

In Nigeria alone, according to the results of the latest displacement assessment published by the Government's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in cooperation with IOM, there are 2,150,451 internally displaced persons (IDPs), or 300,000 households, spread across several states including Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Nassarawa, Taraba Yobe and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). Children constitute 58 per cent of the IDP population, with more than half under fiveyears..



As of 10 September, UNHCR reported 10,943 Nigerian returnees from Cameroon. Relocation efforts are underway and emergency food, household items and healthcare have been provided by NEMA, Adamawa and Borno State Emergency Management Agencies and humanitarian partners.

In Chad, since July, over 41,000 people are reported to have fled Lake Chad islands to safer areas. New spontaneous IDP sites emerged in the southern Lake region in August and September, bringing the total number of IDP sites to 17 around Bol and Baga Sola alone.

The closure of the border between Chad and Nigeria is further impeding trade and disrupting ancestral migration routes for the herders and cattle. Fishermen too, are deprived of their livelihoods.

Strained livelihoods

Security measures, including the closure of borders, have cut people off from their sources of livelihood and blocked trade, straining economic and food security. Household food security has been jeopardized, for example, by a ban on fishing in the Lake Chad, and border closures have adversely affected the terms of trade for pastoralists and have driven up the prices of key staple foods in the north-east of the country, a trend likely to continue into the next harvest in October. The closure of the border between Chad and Nigeria is further impeding trade and disrupting ancestral migration routes for the herders and cattle.

Food insecurity spikes

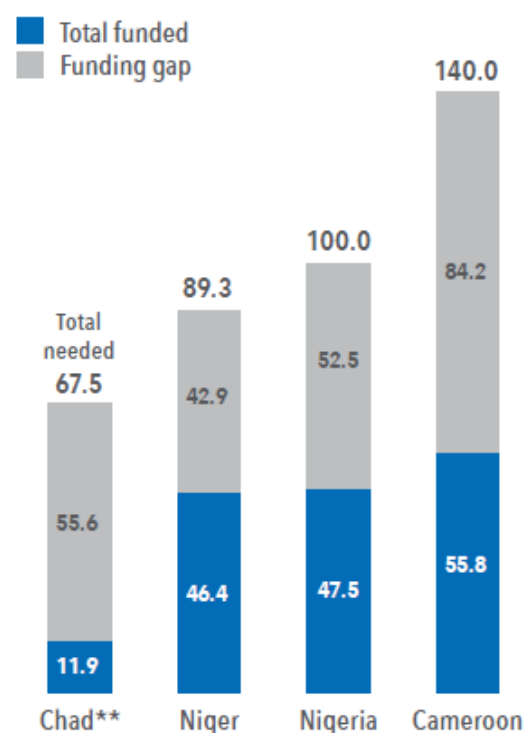
Prospects of a poor agricultural season, the lack of access to land due to insecurity, and the onset of the lean season further aggravate the situation in the Lake Chad Basin. In the Far North region of Cameroon, food insecurity has dramatically spiked in recent months, currently affecting one in every three people, a figure three times higher than two years ago.

In Nigeria, an estimated 4.6 million people are food insecure of whom 3.5 million face severe food insecurity and need emergency food assistance.. In Niger's Diffa region, the number of children under age 5 admitted for SAM treatment has doubled compared to the same period last year.

An outbreak of cholera has recently been reported in three IDP camps in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital at the epicentre of the humanitarian crisis. As at 15 September, a total of 175 cases and 11 deaths had been reported.

Despite these multidimensional needs, humanitarian response plans for the region remain severely under-funded. As of 10 September, the funding gap in the response plans amount to almost US\$400 million.

FUNDING BY COUNTRY IN 2015* in million US\$



*Includes Humanitarian Response Plans and Regional Refugee Response Plans.

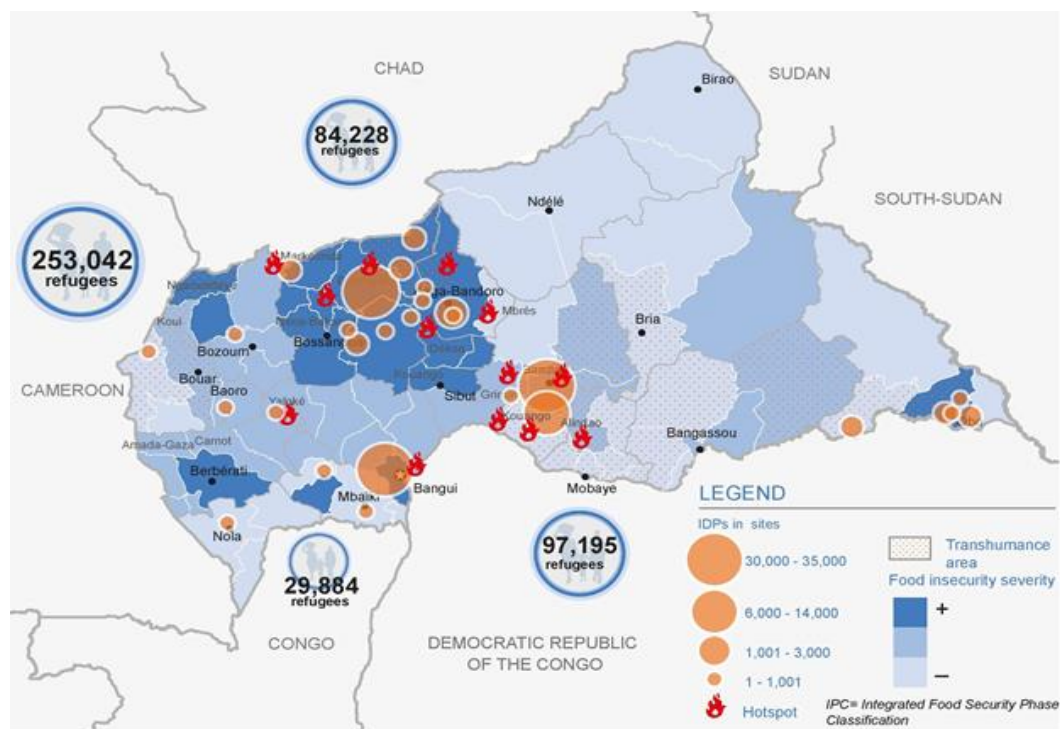
**In Chad, two response plans have been launched in 2015 addressing successive waves of displacement in April (\$26 M) and September (\$11.5 M).

CAR sees upsurge in violence

Since August, the Central African Republic (CAR), which is heading for elections in October, has witnessed a spike in violence. The polls are meant to restore democratic rule following the 2013 coup that toppled the then president François Bozizé.

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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Update date: 18 Sept. 2015. Sources: FAO, POC MINUSCA, OCHA, CMP, UNHCR. Feedback: ocha.in.car@gmail.com, ochaicar@un.org. www.car.humanitarianresponse.info. www.i

Renewed violence

After months of relative calm, inter-communal violence erupted on 20 August in Bambari area in central CAR, leaving a dozen dead and many injured, including a Red Cross worker. Clashes between armed groups in the south of the country near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have forced more than 97,000 people to seek refuge across the border.

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in CAR (MINUSCA) on 8 September established a 'weapons-free' zone in Bambari to guarantee security and the free movement of civilians as well as access for humanitarian workers. The humanitarian situation in the town and its surroundings remains worrying in a fragile security context.

Most recently, renewed violence also erupted in the capital. On 26 September, clashes between residents of PK5 in Bangui's 3rd and 5th districts left at least 24 people dead and one hundred injured. Houses were looted in and burned, and thousands of people fled the areas with heightened tension to seek refuge with host families and in displacement sites.

New internal displacements

A gradual return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR as well as refugees was observed in recent months. However, the latest security incidents in Ouham and Ouaka provinces, as well as in the capital Bangui, have also led to new waves of displacement.

According to the Population Movement Commission, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR increased to 378,425 in August from 369,490 in July. Around 3,000 people fleeing the violence in August have sought protection inside MINUSCA's base in Bambari, according to the national refugee commission. Bangui still hosts 27,315 IDPs in 31 sites around the capital.

The humanitarian situation in CAR remains alarming: more than 2.7 million people - out of a total population of 4.6 million - are in dire need of assistance and protection.

Food insecurity on the rise

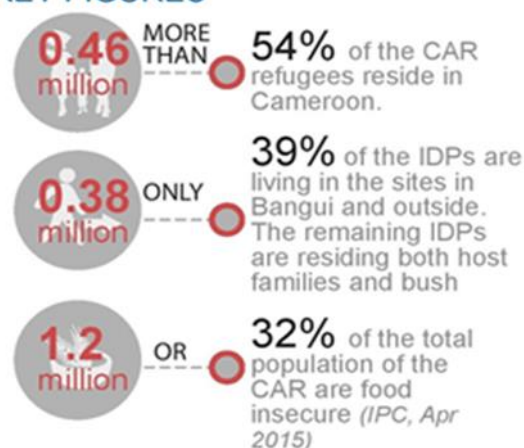
The ongoing insecurity has driven up food insecurity. Around 1.5 million people are food insecure. The level of chronic malnutrition has also further increased and is currently among the highest in the world at 40 per cent of children under 5 years, according to UNICEF. Communities' food stocks are empty and livelihoods have been severely affected by the fighting and looting, causing substantial increases in food prices and decrease in households income.

Over half of CAR's 4.6 million people is in immediate need of humanitarian assistance. The situation of the IDPs is of particular concern. Priority needs are food security, health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and basic household items.

Political transition

The first round of presidential and legislative elections is due on 18 October. A constitutional referendum will be held on 4 October. Voters will replace the current transitional authorities, whose mandate runs out at the end of the year and re-establish a democratic rule. On 30 August, the transitional government adopted a new constitution, which fixes the presidential mandate to two terms. Current and former members of the transitional government will not be allowed to run in the upcoming elections.

KEY FIGURES



Gearing up for three elections in October

Three West and Central African countries are to hold elections in October to end post-crisis transitional governments or vote in second term leaders. The Central African Republic (CAR) goes to the polls on 18 October to restore democratic governance, while voters in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, which respectively hold elections on 25 and 11 October, will elect leaders in presidential polls. The elections in Burkina Faso are likely to be postponed, after the failed coup attempt in September.

Burkina elections likely to be postponed

The military coup in Burkina Faso on 16 September has thrown into doubt the slotted dates of the presidential and parliamentary elections that were due to be held on 11 October. The elections were to bring an end to a year-long civilian-military transitional government installed after former president Blaise Compaoré ceded power following popular uprising against his bid to extend his term.

Mediation by leaders from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has resulted in the reinstatement of transitional President Michel Kafando. The interim government was overthrown by soldiers from the elite presidential guard, triggering tensions and protest that claimed the lives of at least 10 people and left more than 100 wounded. The coup came two days after a commission charged with drafting reforms for Burkina Faso's transitional government proposed disbanding the presidential guard, which was a key pillar of Compaoré's regime. No new election date has been set since President Kafando's reinstatement.

Hopes for a return of democracy in CAR

The 18 October elections in the Central African Republic are aimed at restoring democratic order more than two years after the country plunged into conflict following the

March 2013 ouster then president François Bozizé by a rebel coalition known as Séléka. The second-round of presidential election, if necessary, is set for 22 November. A referendum vote will take place on 4 October.

The security situation in many parts of CAR remains volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians and humanitarian workers. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of the country. Around 198,000 eligible refugees in CAR neighbouring countries were granted the right to vote by the Constitutional Court in July.

Complicated voter registration

However, concerns remain about the country's readiness to undertake such elections, considering that authorities have not created a representative voter roll. Voter registration took place in June and July, but thousands of people lost identity documents during the conflict, which complicated the process. Moreover, the transitional authorities have yet to operationalize the vote for the IDPs and refugees. Chad has signed an agreement with the UNHCR and the CAR government to set up voter registration. The DRC has yet to sign the document, while Congo and Cameroon have not made any decisions.



IDPs and refugees were granted the right to vote, but registration and operationalisation remain challenging. Credit: OCHA/Cortes

Elections in CAR are aimed at restoring democratic governance, but many challenges remain, including with regard to security and voter registration.

Polls in Côte d'Ivoire four years after conflict

Voters in Côte d'Ivoire on 25 October will elect a president in the first polls since the disputed 2010 election triggered conflict that claimed the lives of some 3,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands. Since then the country has strived to restore stability. There has been some improvement on the security and economy fronts, but challenges still remain in many other spheres.

In next month's election, President Alassane Ouattara will face nine opponents as he seeks a second term in office. In the first major eruption of trouble ahead of the poll, one person was killed on 10 September during opposition protests following the publication of presidential candidates by the Constitutional Court. The main challenges for the October election are participation and security, according to the National Democratic Institute.

Some 34,000 soldiers and 6,000 peacekeepers will be deployed to provide security during the election, an official with the electoral commission announced recently. During a national address in July, President Ouattara pledged to ensure peaceful election. He recently called for reconciliation in the run up to the vote.

Tense climate in Guinea

Guinea holds presidential elections on 11 October. President Condé faces seven candidates, including one woman, in the race for the top seat. A tense political climate, marked by opposition protests, ethnic tensions and poll disputes, has gripped the country since the 2010 election that brought President Alpha Condé to power. Opposition groups have held a series of protests this year over the electoral calendar and reforms of the electoral commission.

The country has also been battling Ebola since it first erupted there in December 2013. Infections have reduced to single digits in recent weeks. Daily and weekly markets have

reopened, but are functioning at reduced levels owing to Ebola-related fears. The impact of the epidemic on the economic, health and agricultural sectors among others will be significant, further impoverishing the population and setting back overall development.

Decline in Ebola incidence

Intensified surveillance, strong community engagement and community ownership to a vaccination trial are among the activities credited with falling Ebola case numbers.

Cases of Ebola have dropped significantly in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since July. Response efforts ranging from intensified surveillance to strong community engagement and community ownership to a vaccination trial are among the activities credited with falling case numbers.

Table 1: Confirmed cases from 12 July to 20 September 2015

Epidemiological week	Guinea	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Totals
12 July 2015	13	3	14	30
19 July 2015	22	0	4	26
26 July 2015	4	0	3	7
02 Aug 2015	1	0	1	2
09 Aug 2015	2	0	1	3
16 Aug 2015	3	0	0	3
23 Aug 2015	3	0	0	3
30 Aug 2015	2	0	1	3
06 Sep 2015	1	0	1	2
13 Sep 2015	0	0	5	5
20 Sep 2015	2	0	0	2
Totals	53	3	30	86

Source: World Health Organization, *Ebola Situation Reports*, 15 July 2015 through 23 September 2015. Available at: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/ebola-situation-reports-archive>

Guinea with two new cases

In Guinea, the week ending 20 September saw two new cases after the preceding week being the first in more than a year with no reported cases. The use of a vaccine in a ring vaccination trial – the same method used to eradicate smallpox – may have helped drive numbers down. Studies are underway to further verify the effectiveness of the vaccine.

New infections in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, a cautious celebration had taken place on 24 August when the last confirmed Ebola patient was discharged, after two weeks without new cases. However, a few days later, a 67-year old woman from the northern Kambia district died at home. Her infection was unreported and confirmed post-mortem to be Ebola. Four of her relatives have since been confirmed infected. Separately, in Bombali district, also in the north, a 16-year old girl died of Ebola, becoming the first case in the area in six months.

In the week ending 20 September, Sierra Leone reported no new cases and on 26 September, after discharging the last two Ebola patients, started a new 42-day countdown to be declared Ebola-free.

No cases in Liberia since July

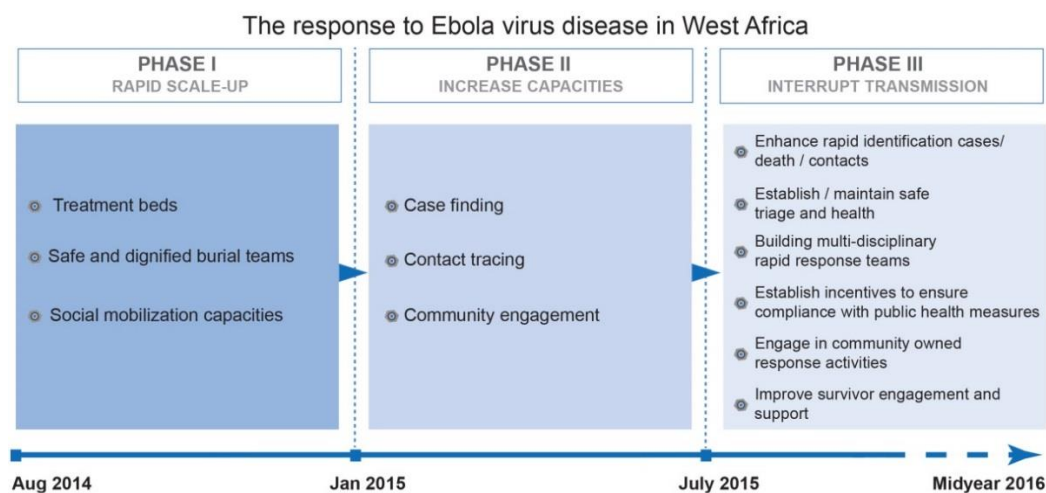
In Liberia, after completing 42 days on 9 May without Ebola transmission and entering a 90-day period of heightened surveillance, a case emerged in late June in a young man in Margibi County. Out of this one case, five additional cases resulted. On 2 September, the last case tested negative twice and was released from a treatment centre. The country is

once again in a 90-day period of heightened surveillance. No cases have emerged since the epidemiological week ending 19 July.

Ebola vaccine

On 31 July, WHO released results from an interim analysis of the Guinea Phase III efficacy vaccine trial which showed that Ebola vaccine VSV-EBOV is “highly effective against Ebola”. WHO however also noted that more conclusive evidence was needed on its capacity to protect populations. The vaccine trial has been expanded to Sierra Leone. Vaccination teams have been trained by WHO and have already deployed to areas where cases of Ebola virus disease have recently been confirmed.

Ebola vaccine trials have been shown to be “highly effective”, but more evidence needed. The trials in Guinea have been expanded to Sierra Leone



Heavy rains set off destructive floods

Recent weeks have seen floods in several countries of the region, notably Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Sierra Leone. More than 300,000 people have been affected and at least 39 people killed in the last five weeks alone. The overall impact of this year’s seasonal rains and resulting floods is comparable to the past two years, while the 2012 season had been marked by much worse damage with 1.5 million people affected in 13 countries.

More than 200,000 affected in Nigeria

An estimated 206,000 people have been affected by floods in 15 Local Government Areas (LGA) in Adamawa State, since 30 August, and 42,800 people evacuated or displaced. The floods were triggered by spillage due to damage at the Dadin Kowa dam in Gombe State, which in turn caused an overflow at Kiri Dam located downstream in Adamawa State. Heavy rainfall worsened the flooding.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has mapped out the response, and humanitarian partners conducted rapid assessments in five LGAs, focusing on shelter, food security, sanitation, health and education. There is still no complete information on casualties and the full extent of the damage.

Floods and strong winds in Burkina Faso

Since the start of the rainy season in June, floods and strong winds have been causing severe damages in eight of Burkina Faso’s thirteen regions. The most affected areas are Ouagadougou’s Bissighin neighbourhood and Kilwin in the Central region, Dallo in the Central-Western region and Bama in the Hauts Bassins region. As of early September, eight people have been killed, 54 wounded and 28,781 people affected by flooding and strong winds. Forty per cent of the affected people are children. More than 2,428 people displaced from their homes are being sheltered in schools. The authorities are identifying alternative shelter before the beginning of the school year.

With more than 300,000 people affected in the last five weeks, the overall impact of this year's seasonal rains and resulting floods is now comparable to the last two years.

More than 50,000 affected in Niger

As of early September, the floods in seven central and southern regions had affected 52,000 people and killed 22. Heavy rains and strong wind have left 7,450 people displaced, mostly staying in schools and host families. 5,019 buildings have been damaged or destroyed. The floods affected the regions of Agadez, Dosso, Maradi, Niamey, Tillabéry, Tahoua and Zinder, the latter being the most impacted by the floods.



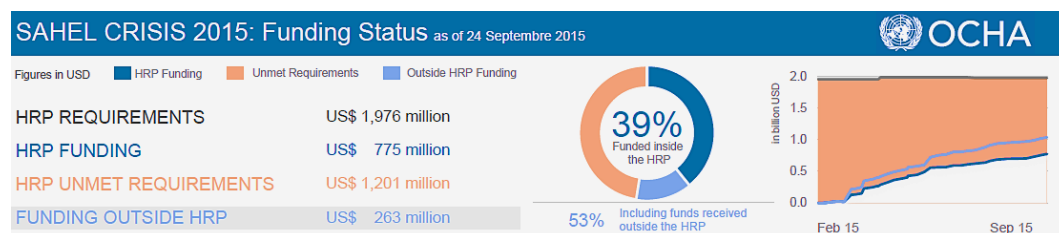
Houses that were destroyed by rains and resulting floods in Zinder, Niger. Credit: World Vision

Flooding in Sierra Leone

Torrential rains and flooding in parts of Sierra Leone's capital Freetown, on 16 September, led to nine deaths and caused extensive damage to homes and property. The worst affected areas were Kroo Bay, Moyiba, Aberdeen, Cockerill Bay and Wilkinson road. As of 25 September, 14,423 people were registered as displaced and temporarily settled at Siaka National Stadium and Atuga Stadium. Humanitarian partners are providing assistance, including food rations, water and hygiene kits, as well as malnutrition screening for children under the age of five. On 23/24 September, the district of Bonthe was also affected by heavy rains, with more than 2,500 people affected. Previously, on 4-6 September Bo and Pujehun districts had reported extensive flooding that also destroyed households, properties and livelihoods. 3,178 people registered as affected by the floods.

Sahel Funding Status Overview

2015 Sahel appeal funded at 39 percent as of 24 September



As of 24 September, the US\$ 1.976 billion Sahel Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan had received \$ 775 million, representing 39 per cent funding. Separately, \$ 263 million has been received outside the joint regional plan, bringing the total funding level of needs to 53 percent. The top three donors are the US, the European Union and Japan.

Mauritania had received the highest funding at 48 per cent followed by Nigeria at 47 per cent and Niger at 44 per cent. Shelter, WASH and Early recovery remain the least funded sectors so far.