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MAPS & FACTS

FOOD AND NUTRITION CRISIS 2020

ANALYSES & RESPONSES

SAHEL AND
WEST AFRICA





ABOUT THE RPCA

Promoting dialogue and co-ordination, building a coherent and shared understanding of the food and nutrition situation, and nurturing decision-making: these objectives have been at the heart of the Food Crisis Prevention Network's (RPCA) mission for over 35 years. Created in 1984, the RPCA is an international network for co-operation and co-ordination under the political leadership of the Commissions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). Co-ordinated jointly by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD), the RPCA brings together more than 100 key stakeholders: representatives of Sahelian and West African countries, regional organisations, regional and international information systems, bilateral and multilateral co-operation agencies, humanitarian agencies and international NGOs, agricultural professional organisations, civil society and the private sector.



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The food and nutrition crisis of 2020 will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most serious in recent decades. Behind the figures that the reader will come across in this brochure there are lives at risk, women in distress, and children whose stunted growth is compromising their prospects of leading a dignified life. All serious threats to the future.

The Members of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) and the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) are concerned. Since the severe droughts of the 1970s and 1980s, hunger has still not been eradicated, despite the considerable financial efforts made by governments, their regional organisations and the international community. These concerns must not allow fatalism to take hold.

It is important to remember that every year millions of people are rescued and hundreds of thousands of children benefit from nutrition programmes. Without the continued mobilisation of all stakeholders, the situation would be much worse. However, we cannot be complacent about this observation and most importantly, we cannot consider that our work is over. This is why we need to improve our understanding of the 2020 crisis.

An unusually high number of factors were triggered simultaneously in a fragile environment where chronic malnutrition is still too prevalent: a paroxysmal security crisis and massive population displacements, a pastoral crisis, serious impediments to the functioning of markets stemming from violence and the health crisis, price increases

and destructive floods. All of these elements were intertwined, either prompting or exacerbating matters.

What lessons can be learned from this combination of problems and the responses to them?

We hope that this brochure will help inform this discussion. Its content owes much to the Members of the RPCA. It reflects the vibrancy of this network, which the SWAC Secretariat has supported for over three decades.



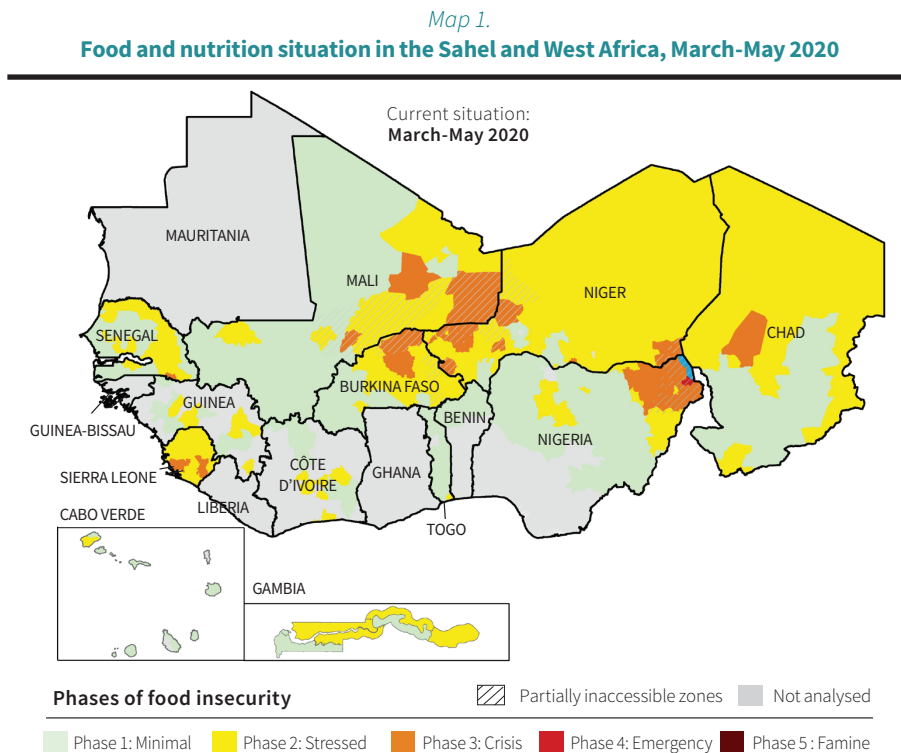
Laurent Bossard

Director, SWAC/OECD Secretariat

FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY TRENDS

11.4 MILLION PEOPLE IN “CRISIS” OR WORSE SITUATION, MARCH-MAY 2020

Some 11.4 million people were estimated to be in immediate need of assistance (phases 3-5) in March-May 2020 in the 13 countries analysed in the Sahel and West Africa region, including 5.1 million in Nigeria, 1.6 million in Burkina Faso and 1.6 million in Niger. The food and nutrition situation remains difficult in conflict-affected areas such as the Liptako-Gourma area or the Lake Chad basin, particularly in northeast Nigeria, which accounted for 34% of food insecure people in the region. Some areas are still not accessible to humanitarian actors, and the situation of people living in these areas remains unknown. In 2020, Sierra Leone was also among the hotspot countries, mostly due to macro-economic shocks. The food and nutrition situation in Liberia deteriorated but could not be analysed due to lack of data.

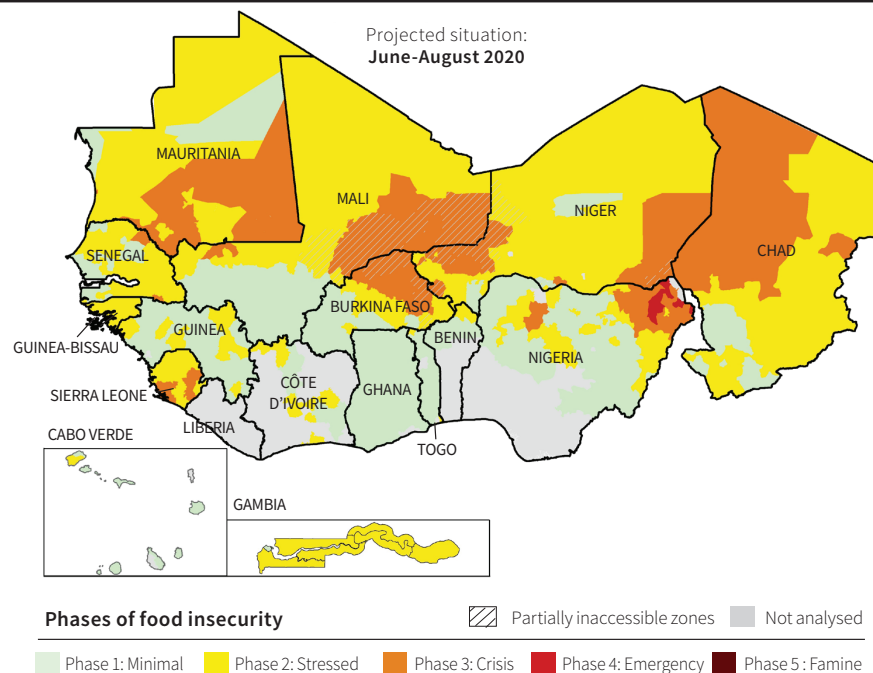


Source: Cadre harmonisé analysis, regional concertation meeting, Niamey, Niger, March 2020. Map: © CILSS.

17 MILLION PEOPLE IN “CRISIS” OR WORSE SITUATION, JUNE-AUGUST 2020

Map 2.

Food and nutrition outlook in the Sahel and West Africa, June-August 2020



According to March 2020 estimates (pre-Covid-19), some 17 million people were projected to be in a “Crisis” or worse situation by June-August 2020, including 1.2 million in emergency (phase 4). This is 5 million people more than the five-year average (Figure 2). A partial update of the Cadre harmonisé analysis was conducted in Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Togo in June 2020 (Pages 13 and 19). The number of acutely food-insecure people in Burkina Faso increased from 2.2 million to 3.4 million people, including 11 400 people facing famine (phase 5). Nigeria recorded an additional 1.55 million food insecure people, including 669 000 people facing an emergency situation (phase 4). New estimates for Togo indicated some 280 000 people facing a crisis (up from less than 4 000 people). The small coastal country particularly suffered from the impacts of Nigeria’s border closure and the effects of Covid-19-related protection measures.

Source: Cadre harmonisé analysis, regional concertation meeting, Niamey, Niger, March 2020. Map: © CILSS.

THE CADRE HARMONISÉ ANALYSIS



KEY FEATURES

The Cadre harmonisé (CH) is the West African tool for analysing the vulnerability of populations to food and nutrition insecurity. Drawing on various information sources and a common methodology, the analysis identifies the number and areas of food insecure people. They are categorised in 5 phases (minimal, stressed, crisis, emergency and famine). The CH analysis feeds into national response plans (Page 38) and informs the decision-making bodies of ECOWAS and UEMOA. It also provides the basis for requests by member states to trigger the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Reserve (Page 47). At the global level, the results of CH analysis serve as a basis for the preparation of humanitarian appeals. The analysis is conducted twice per year, offering an assessment of the current situation (October-December and March-May) and the projected situation (June-August). Updated data is presented during the RPCA meetings in April and December. The CH cycle is supported and co-ordinated by CILSS, in close collaboration with national governments and partners.

DATA GAPS & EVOLUTIONS UNDER CH.2

Lack of data and information remains a key challenge, particularly in coastal countries, which heavily rely on proxy indicators. While household surveys on the food consumption and livelihood changes are mostly available, improving the reporting process of nutritional data remains a major challenge in many countries. The reliability of national analyses is not the same. Moreover, the CH Technical Committee introduced a new manual (CH.2), which allows for much more accurate estimates of the food situation, including inaccessible areas. The sharp increase in the number of severely food-insecure people in some countries can be partially explained by the use of specific protocols covering the situation of people in refugee and internally displaced persons camps, which were previously not included. Some national analyses (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal) include capital cities. However, the CH tool does not yet address systematically the food and nutrition situation of urban areas. Similarly, the CH.2 includes provisions for the analysis of gender dynamics, which remains limited because of the lack of gender-disaggregated data at household level.

COMPARABILITY

While the CH analysis makes an effort of regional data consolidation (a major difference compared with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC), direct comparison between countries and over different periods of time remains nevertheless challenging. The number of people and areas analysed varies for some countries within and between years. This affects the comparability of the number of acutely food-insecure people between time periods. Comparison over time thus indicates a general trend but should be used with caution.

FUNDING CHALLENGES

Lack of funding heavily undermines the ability to collect reliable and timely data. During the March 2020 cycle, this was particularly the case in Benin, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Mauritania.

KEY FIGURES

The table provides an overview of the projections of the CH analysis, which have been reviewed during a regional concertation meeting in March 2020 (pre-Covid-19).

- ▶ No country was initially projected to face famine (phase 5); however, the CH June update for Burkina Faso identified 11 400 people in phase 5
- ▶ At least 1.2 million people in the region were set to be in an emergency situation (phase 4)
- ▶ Six countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) counted more than 1 million people in a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)
- ▶ 51 million vulnerable people (phase 2) required close monitoring as they were at risk of falling into a crisis situation
- ▶ More than 1 out of 10 people was severely food insecure in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Sierra Leone (prevalence >10%)

Table 1. Key figures, June-August 2020

FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY OUTLOOK 2020

Estimated number of people per phase of food and nutrition insecurity, projected situation, June-August 2020

Country	Population analysed	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phases 3-5	
		# people	# people	# people	# people	# people	# people	%
Benin*	8 154 221	7 344 140	795 504	14 578	-	-	14 578	0.2
Burkina Faso**	21 398 997	14 093 370	5 153 661	2 015 791	136 175	-	2 151 966	10.1
Cabo Verde	481 155	405 622	65 521	10 012	-	-	10 012	2.1
Chad	14 640 810	10 543 253	3 080 199	882 474	134 884	-	1 017 358	7.0
Côte d'Ivoire*	6 181 235	5 111 105	901 732	168 398	-	-	168 398	2.7
Gambia (The)	2 455 843	1 763 268	555 988	136 586	-	-	136 586	5.6
Guinea	10 259 872	8 573 522	1 419 134	267 170	-	-	267 170	2.6
Guinea-Bissau	1 298 279	913 459	317 053	67 767	-	-	67 767	5.2
Ghana	28 552 702	26 726 375	1 804 615	21 712	-	-	21 712	0.1
Mali**	20 537 000	15 541 372	3 654 887	1 210 866	129 874	-	1 340 740	6.5
Mauritania	4 173 047	2 764 040	799 826	542 194	66 986	-	609 180	14.6
Niger**	22 140 083	15 109 102	5 018 614	1 950 608	61 758	-	2 012 366	9.1
Nigeria***	103 042 030	76 709 687	19 245 241	6 543 645	543 458	-	7 087 103	6.9
Senegal	16 705 590	12 468 577	3 470 287	757 851	8 874	-	766 725	4.6
Sierra Leone	8 260 417	2 912 022	4 043 410	1 231 462	73 523	-	1 304 985	15.8
Togo	5 768 550	5 311 876	453 115	3 560	-	-	3 560	0.1
Total	274 049 831	206 290 790	50 778 787	15 824 674	1 155 532	-	16 980 206	6.2

* Liberia as well as several areas of Benin and Côte d'Ivoire were not included due to lack of data.

** Some areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger were inaccessible.

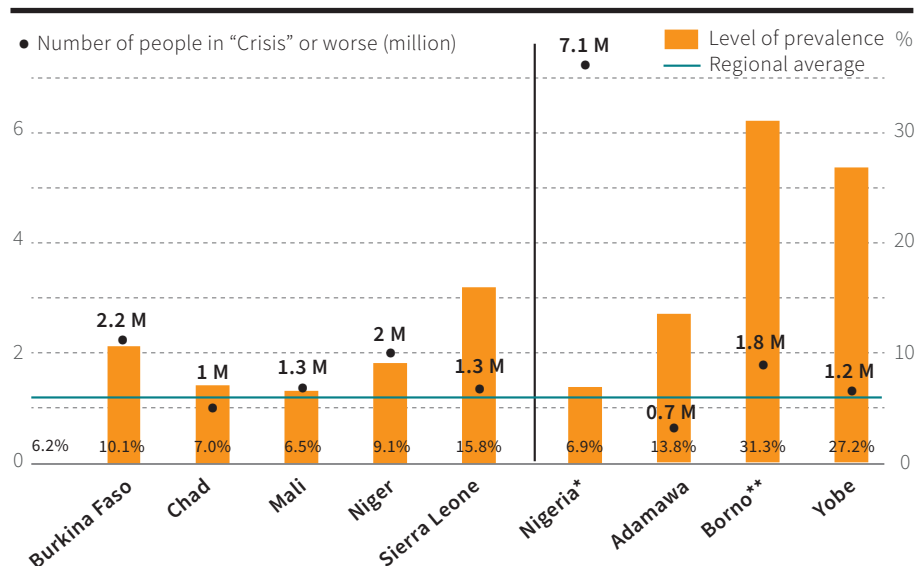
*** In Nigeria, the analysis covers 16 of the 36 federal states as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Some areas in Borno State were inaccessible.

Source: Cadre harmonisé analysis, regional concertation meeting, Niamey, Niger, March 2020.

PREVALENCE OF SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY

When looking at the regional overview, it is important to distinguish between absolute numbers and the level of prevalence of severe food insecurity. High numbers of people in “Crisis” or worse situation (phase 3-5) do not always mean high prevalence. Nigeria, for example, has an average prevalence of 6.9%, close to the regional average of 6.2%. However, prevalence largely varies within the country. The three crisis-affected States in the northeast (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) have very high levels of prevalence of severe food insecurity: nearly one out of three people needs emergency assistance. The northern regions of Burkina Faso reached the highest prevalence level of 52% in the region (June CH update). Sierra Leone is the country with the highest national prevalence level (15.8%). Given its small population size, it is, however, usually not quoted among the acute food insecurity hotspots. At the regional level, Sierra Leone ranked position 5 of countries with the largest number of people requiring urgent support.

Figure 1.
Prevalence and absolute number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation
in most affected countries and northeast Nigeria, June-August 2020



* In Nigeria, the analysis covers 16 of the 36 federal states as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

** Some areas in Borno State were inaccessible.

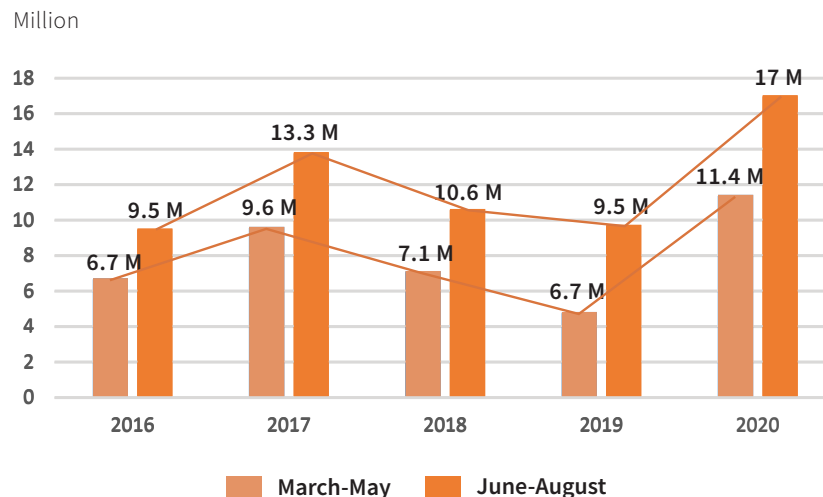
Source: Cadre harmonisé analysis, regional concertation meeting, Niamey, Niger, March 2020; author's calculation. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS OVER TIME

The number of acutely food-insecure people has increased over the past five years, mostly due to insecurity and large-scale displacement in conflict-affected countries. The increase is also due to economic shocks and extreme climate events in some countries as well as to Covid-19-related impacts in 2020. Figure 2 illustrates the region's typical seasonal variations, which are marked by the precarious lean season in Sahelian countries (June-August), a three-month period between two harvests when food stocks are depleted. The food situation usually improves once new harvests become available. The 2020 food and nutrition crisis reaches a new peak of food insecurity in the region. Between 2016-20, the region counted on average about 8.3 million acutely food-insecure people in March-May and 12 million in June-August. The number of food insecure people requiring urgent assistance in 2020 is far above the 5-year average and doubled in many countries compared to 2019. These estimates do not yet take into account the negative impacts of Covid-19-related lockdowns on the urban poor.

Figure 2.

Number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in the Sahel and West Africa over time



Note: Comparison over time indicates a general trend but should be used with caution as regional coverage and methodology may vary significantly (Page 9).

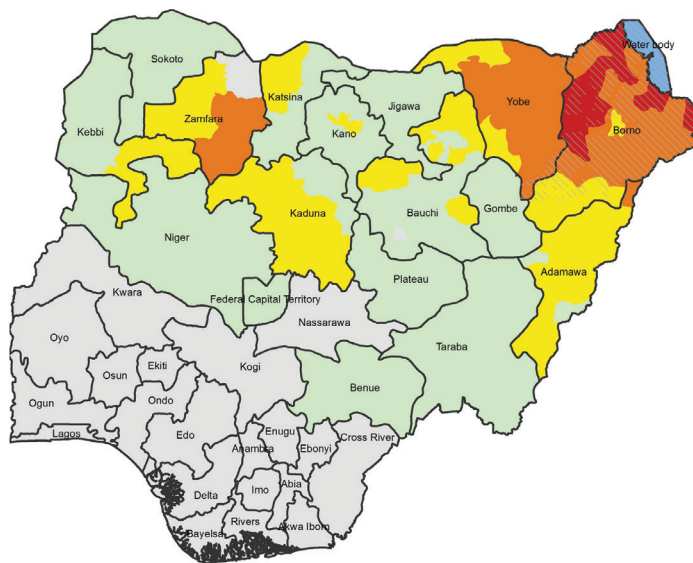
Source: Cadre harmonisé analysis, 2016-20, March data; author's calculation. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY HOTSPOTS

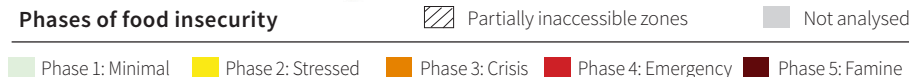
NIGERIA: 7.1 MILLION ACUTELY FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE

Nigeria alone accounts for 42% of the region's total number of acutely food-insecure people. In terms of absolute numbers, Nigeria ranked among the world's 10 worst food crises in 2019, with 5 million food insecure people. One year on, according to the CH national analysis (March 2020), some 5.1 million people were still in immediate need of assistance (phases 3-5) in March-May 2020, including 1.4 million in Borno State, 1 million in Yobe State and 0.5 million in Adamawa State. The number of food insecure people has increased by 1.1 million people since October-December 2019. By June-August 2020, 7.1 million people were estimated to be in a "Crisis" or worse situation (phases 3-5).

Map 3.
Food and nutrition situation in Nigeria, June-August 2020, projected situation



Phases of food insecurity



Source: Cadre harmonisé national analysis, Abuja, Nigeria, March 2020. Map: © CILSS.

A WORSENING SITUATION

An update of the CH analysis was prepared in June 2020 covering four states (Adamawa, Borno, Kano and Yobe). It analysed the impacts of the unfolding health crisis in the context of the extremely fragile environment of northeast Nigeria and the strategic importance of Kano State as a commercial hub in northwest Nigeria. According to the June update, some 8.65 million Nigerians were in a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5) in June-August 2020. This means that 2.7 million additional people required urgent humanitarian assistance compared to the initial estimate of November 2019 (Table 2). One out of two food insecure Nigerians lives in northeast Nigeria. However, the number of people in a “Crisis” situation (phase 3) also sharply increased in the state of Kano from 578 000 people (March estimates) to 1.4 million people (June update). The rising figures reflect the combined impact of the security and the health crises. The estimates offer only a partial picture as the CH analysis covers only about half of Nigeria’s population (111 million people).

↓ **Table 2. CH updates on the food & nutrition situation in Nigeria, June-August 2020**

ESTIMATES	NOVEMBER 2019	MARCH 2020	JUNE 2020
Number of food insecure people (phases 3-5)	5.94 million	7.10 million	8.65 million

Source: Cadre harmonisé national analyses, Abuja, Nigeria, November 2019, March 2020 and June 2020.

Nigeria’s overall situation is worse. Its urban south has been heavily affected by the negative consequences of Covid-19-related lockdowns and reduced intra-regional trade with neighbouring countries. Nigeria’s border closure with Benin and Niger (since August 2019) contributed to pushing up food prices (Page 32). Preventive measures to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic heavily affected informal workers in the urban economy. Nigerians heavily depend on purchasing food on markets and its food prices are among the highest in West Africa. According to a survey of the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigerians spend on average about 56.7% of their household expenditures on food items. The full extent of food insecurity in Nigeria is yet unknown.

GROWING SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

The CH analysis was conducted by CILSS, the Government of Nigeria as well as partners. It covered 16 out of 36 federal states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT): Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara. For the first time, four completely inaccessible local government areas (LGAs) of Borno State were analysed via remote surveys and land observation tools (Abadam, Guzamala, Kukawa and Marte). The security situation remains highly volatile. Key stakeholders in Nigeria called for rapid and co-ordinated deployment of food and humanitarian assistance in areas with limited humanitarian access, including military operations to open up access to vulnerable populations.

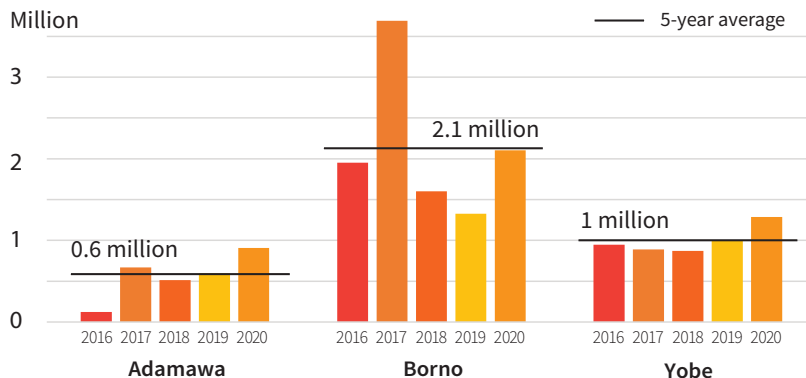
ENTRENCHED CONFLICT IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

Northeast Nigeria has been struggling with the Islamist insurgency since 2008. Violent conflict has severely weakened fragile livelihoods resulting in a deep humanitarian crisis. The states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe recorded very high levels of food insecurity over the past decade (Figure 3). Food insecurity has become a chronic problem. Large-scale population displacement negatively impacted livelihood activities within displaced and host community households.

Between 2016-20, northeast Nigeria counted on average some 3.7 million people in urgent need of humanitarian and food assistance every year. The number of acutely food-insecure people reached a peak in Borno in June-August 2017 (3.7 million people). RPCA members already sounded the alarm in December 2016 and released a declaration to encourage international partners to develop more structural responses based on a long-term vision and a recovery plan for these conflict-affected areas.

Figure 3.

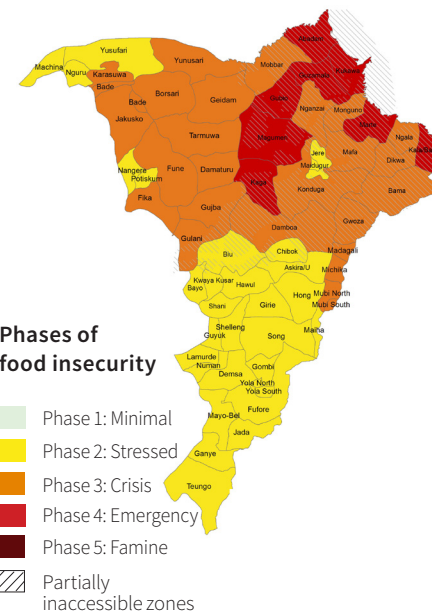
Number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in northeast Nigeria, June-August 2016-20



Source: Cadre harmonisé national analysis, Abuja, Nigeria, March 2016-20; author's calculation. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

Map 4.
Food and nutrition situation
in northeast Nigeria: 4.3 million people
in “Crisis” or worse situation

Projected situation: **June-August 2020**

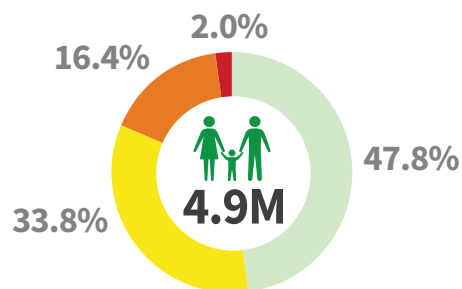


Source : Cadre harmonisé national analysis, Abuja, Nigeria, March 2020. Map: © CILSS.

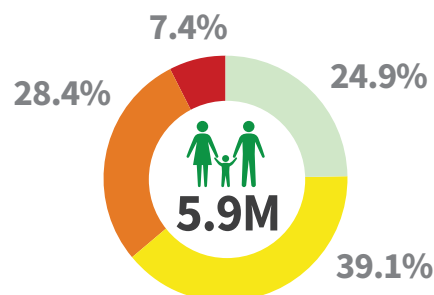
Figure 4. Number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in northeast Nigeria, June-August 2020 (CH June update)

ADAMAWA

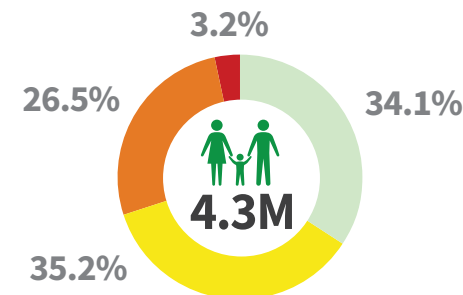
910K or 18.4% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)

**BORNO**

2.1M or 35.8% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)

**YOBE**

1.3M or 29.7% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATION IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA**

Estimated number of people per phase of food and nutrition insecurity, projected situation, June-August 2020

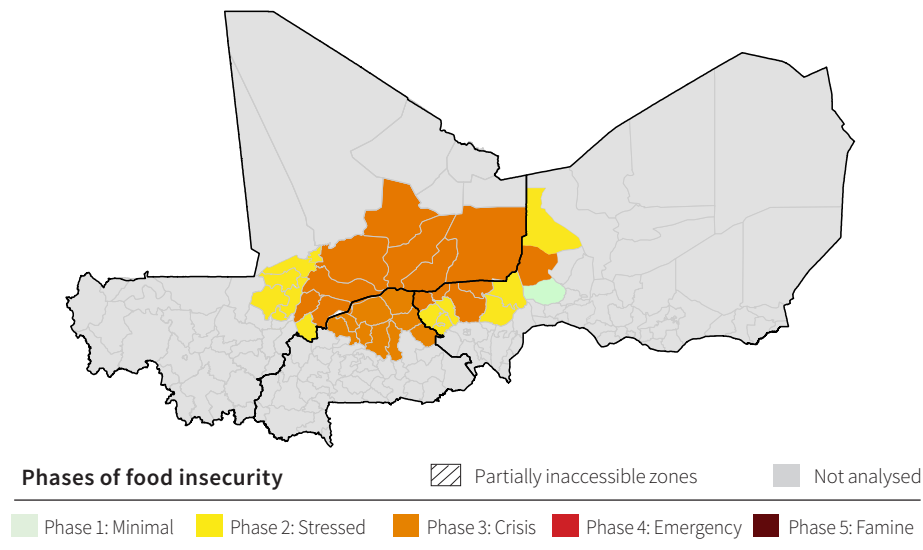
State	Population analysed	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phases 3-5	
		# people	# people	# people	# people	# people	# people	%
Adamawa	4 946 724	2 366 919	1 670 980	813 429	95 396	-	908 825	18.4
Borno	5 884 116	1 465 472	2 298 249	1 671 264	433 498	-	2 104 762	35.8
Yobe	4 340 967	1 481 144	1 529 710	1 148 068	139 034	-	1 287 103	29.7
Total	15 171 807	5 313 535	5 498 939	3 632 761	667 928	-	4 300 689	28.3

Source: Cadre harmonisé national analysis, Abuja, Nigeria, June 2020; author's calculation. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

LIPTAKO-GOURMA: 2.7 MILLION ACUTELY FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE

The Liptako-Gourma area – composed of border areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger – is the second acute food insecurity hotspot in the region. While geographic definitions may vary, the border areas of these three countries concentrate a disproportional large share of severely food-insecure people compared to the rest of their respective territories. Nearly half of the food insecure people of the three countries (2.7 million out of 5.5 million people) live in this area. According to the CH June update of Burkina Faso (Page 19), the number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in Burkina Faso’s northern areas increased by nearly 400 000 people, notably in the Sahel region. This brings the total number of people in need of emergency assistance to over 3 million people. Acute food insecurity worsened primarily because of increasing insecurity and violence in cross-border areas, including terrorist attacks on civilian populations. Some 3 242 security incidents have been reported since 2014 and nearly 10 000 people have died (WFP, 2020). The persistent security crisis triggered massive internal displacement (Page 31).

Map 5. Food and nutrition situation in the Liptako-Gourma area, June-August 2020



Burkina Faso : Centre-Nord (Bam, Namentenga and Sanmatenga); Nord (Loroum, Yatenga) and Sahel (Oudalan, Seno, Soum and Yagha)

Mali : Gao (Ansongo, Bourem, Gao), Ménaka, Mopti (Bandiagara, Bankass, Djenné, Douentza, Koro, Mopti, Tenenkou, Youwarou) and Timbuktu (Diré, Gourma Rharous and Niafunké)

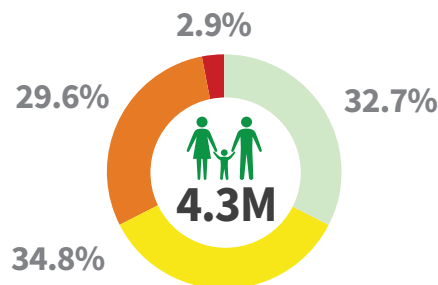
Niger : Tahoua (Tahoua, Tassara and Tilia) and Tillabéri (Abala, Ayerou, Banibangou, Bankilaré, Filingué, Gotheie, Ouallam, Téra and Tillabéri)

Source: Cadre harmonisé national analyses of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, March 2020.

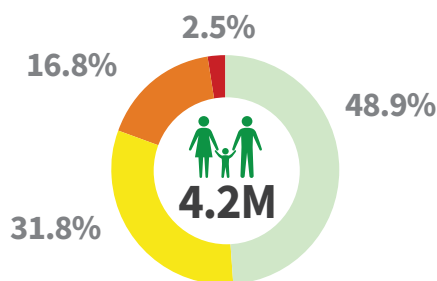
Figure 5. Number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in the Liptako-Gourma area, June-August 2020

BURKINA FASO**CENTRE-NORD, NORD AND SAHEL***

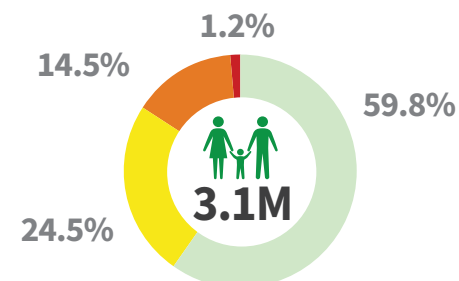
1.4M or 32.5% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)

**MALI****GAO, MÉNAKA, MOPTI & TIMBUKTU***

813K or 19.3% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)

**NIGER****TAHOUA AND TILLABÉRI***

486K or 15.7% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-5)

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATION IN THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA AREA**

Estimated number of people per phase of food and nutrition insecurity, projected situation, June-August 2020

* Definition of Page 16

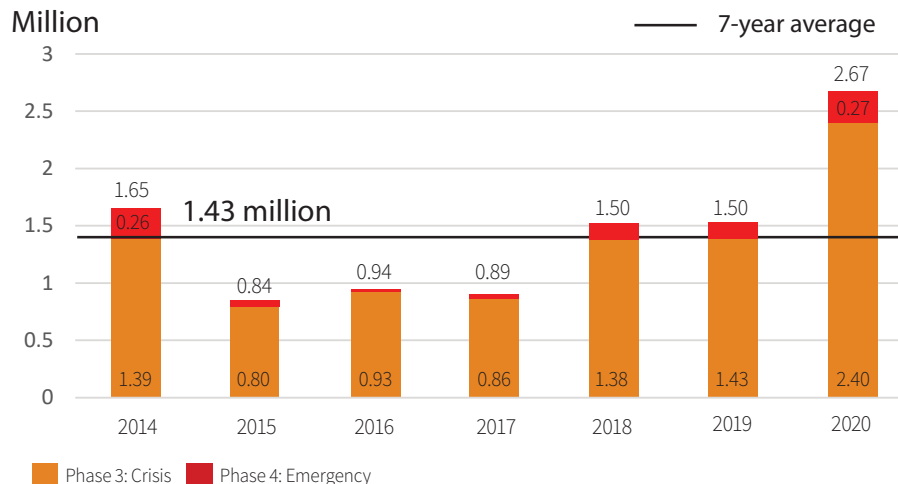
Border areas*	Population analysed	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phases 3-5	
		# people	# people	# people	# people	# people	# people	%
Burkina Faso	4 262 778	1 395 000	1 482 894	1 262 105	122 780	-	1 384 884	32.5
Mali	4 204 817	2 055 203	1 336 657	706 735	106 223	-	812 958	19.3
Niger	3 090 874	1 848 001	757 095	446 445	39 333	-	485 778	15.7
Liptako-Gourma	11 558 468	5 298 203	3 576 644	2 415 285	266 313	-	2 683 619	23.2

Source: Cadre harmonisé national analyses of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, March 2020; author's calculation. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

RECURRENT FOOD INSECURITY

The Liptako-Gourma area has become chronically food insecure. Over the past seven years, this cross-border area counted on average about 1.43 million people per year in need of humanitarian food assistance, including 114 000 people facing an emergency situation. Moreover, every year during the lean season, about 4 million additional people are under stress (phase 2). As a result, nearly half of the people in the border areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger face a difficult situation every year, which requires continuous external support. To date, one out of four people in the Liptako-Gourma area depends on food assistance. This sour situation highlights the need for long-term, structural investments in this fragile cross-border area.

Figure 6. Number of acutely food-insecure people in the Liptako-Gourma area (phases 3-4), June-August 2014-20

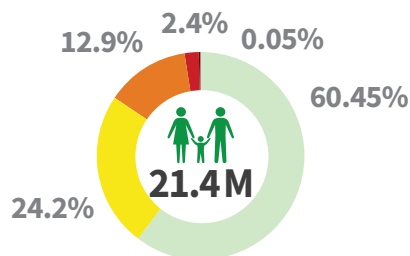


Source: Cadre harmonisé national analyses of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, March 2020 and the Global Report on Food Crisis 2020 for 2014-19 data, p. 41; author's calculation. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

BURKINA FASO: 3.3 MILLION ACUTELY FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE

According to the CH June 2020 update taking into account the deteriorating security situation, high levels of acute malnutrition and Covid-19 related impacts, the number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation has more than doubled in Burkina Faso from 1.6 million (CH March) to 3.3 million. The provinces of the Sahel region – Ouadalan and Soum – were driven into an emergency phase. In June-August 2020, some 6 100 and 5 300 people respectively faced famine (phase 5) making the situation worse than in northeast Nigeria. One out of two people was in need of emergency assistance. Despite the ongoing humanitarian response, additional support is urgently needed (Page 51).

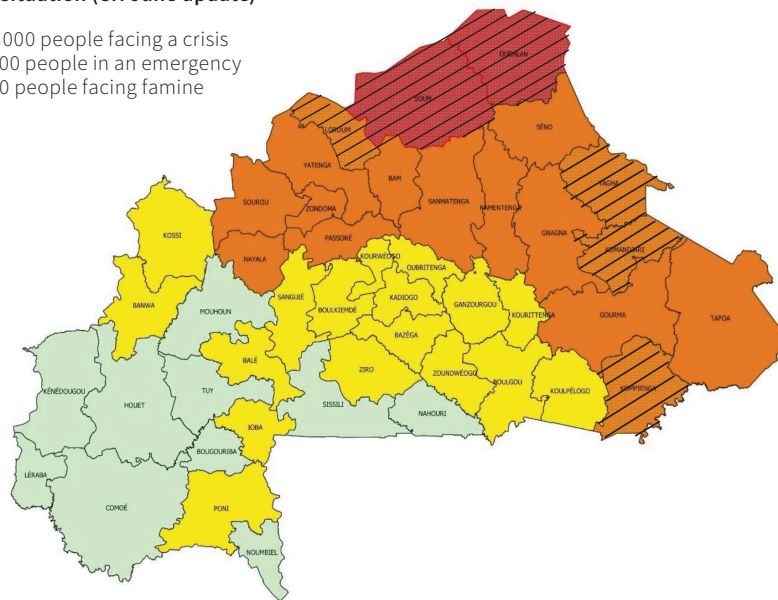
3.3M or 15.7% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” or worse situation(phases 3-5)



Map 6. Number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in Burkina Faso, June-August 2020

Current situation (CH June update)

- 2 760 000 people facing a crisis
- 507 500 people in an emergency
- 11 400 people facing famine



Phases of food insecurity

 Partially inaccessible zones

■ Not analysed

Phase 1: Minimal Phase 2: Stressed Phase 3: Crisis Phase 4: Emergency Phase 5: Famine

Source: Cadre harmonisé national analysis, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, June 2020. Map: © CILSS.

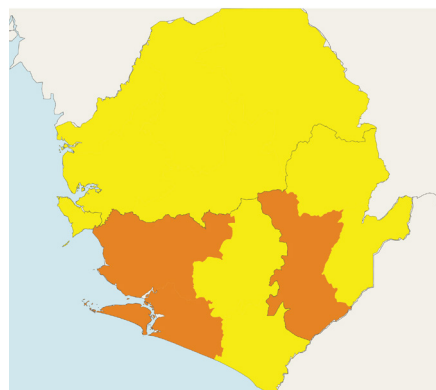
SIERRA LEONE: 1.3 MILLION ACUTELY FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE

This small coastal country is also among the hotspot countries in 2020, exceeding 1 million food-insecure people, mainly in the districts of Bonthe, Kenema and Moyamba. Considering its small population size (8.3 million people), Sierra Leone is the country with the highest national prevalence rate of acutely food-insecure people (15.8%). Nearly half of its population is “Stressed” (phase 2). Following the Ebola crisis in 2014-16, Sierra Leone remains fragile to internal and external shocks. In 2019, economic shocks were the main driver of food insecurity. The national currency depreciated by 10% compared to 2018 levels (CILSS, 2019). Sierra Leone also recorded a decline of 15% in its cereal production, compared to the five-year average, due to unfavourable weather conditions, increasing the country’s dependency on imported foodstuffs. Many small-scale farming households adopted negative coping strategies such as reduced or irregular food consumption, consumption of seeds meant for planting, etc. According to the FAO, in March 2020, 60% of households spent over 65% of their income on food.

Map 7 & Figure 7.

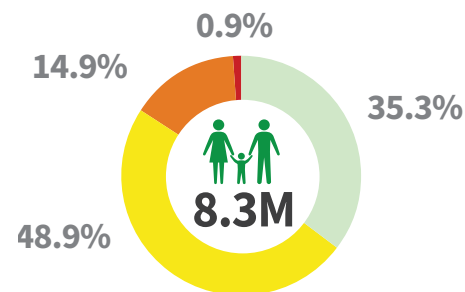
Number of people in “Crisis” or worse situation in Sierra Leone, June-August 2020

Projected situation: **June-August 2020**



SIERRA LEONE

1.3M or 15.8% of the population analysed, are facing a “Crisis” situation or worse (phases 3-5)



Phases of food insecurity

Partially inaccessible zones Not analysed

Phase 1: Minimal Phase 2: Stressed Phase 3: Crisis Phase 4: Emergency Phase 5: Famine

Source: Cadre harmonisé national analysis, Freetown, Sierra Leone, March 2020. Map: © CILSS.

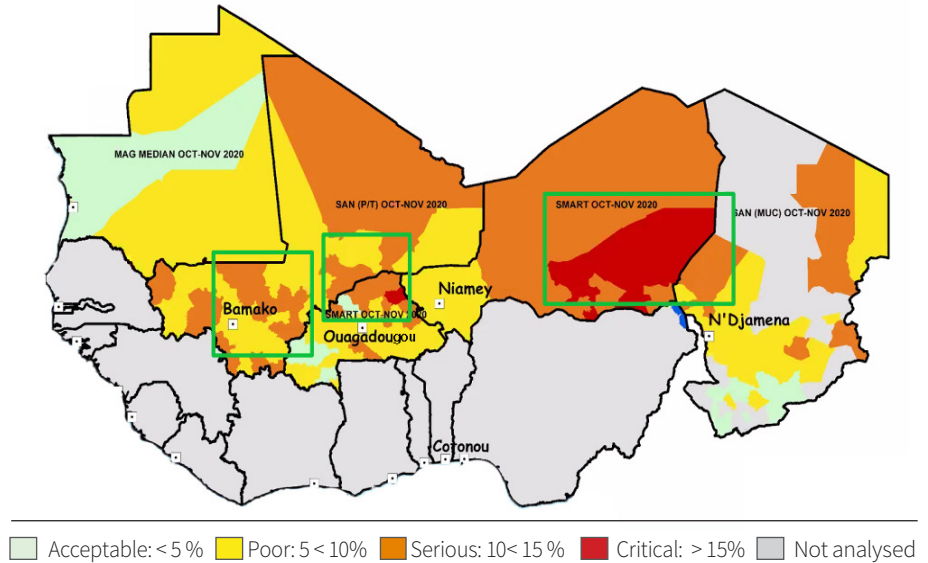
Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of children under five years of age reached a peak in June 2020; some 88 500 children were admitted for SAM treatment (Page 22).

MALNUTRITION

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Acute malnutrition persists throughout the region, particularly in Sahelian countries where the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) regularly exceeds a threshold of 10% (labelled “high”, WHO). In early 2020, more than 8.1 million GAM cases were expected among children under 5 years of age in these countries, including an estimated 2.5 million severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases. According to revised estimates (UNICEF/WFP, May 2020), the number of GAM cases could increase by 20% in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic (socio-economic impact on households and food systems, as well as a reduced coverage of basic nutrition services). According to UNICEF estimates, the coverage of nutrition services during the early phase of the pandemic was reduced by approximately 30%. These disruptions have reached a much higher level in countries under lockdown measures and in conflict-affected countries, where nutrition services were sometimes completely disrupted. Massive population displacements, limited access to basic social services and increasingly restricted humanitarian access have worsened

Map 8. Global acute malnutrition in the Sahel and West Africa, November 2020



Source: CH Technical Committee, November 2020, including national representatives and partners (AFD, ACF, CILSS, ECOWAS, EU, FewsNet, Save the Children, Oxfam, UNICEF, USAID and WFP). Map: © CILSS.

the nutritional situation of millions of women and children. While key stakeholders in the nutrition sector have adapted preventive and

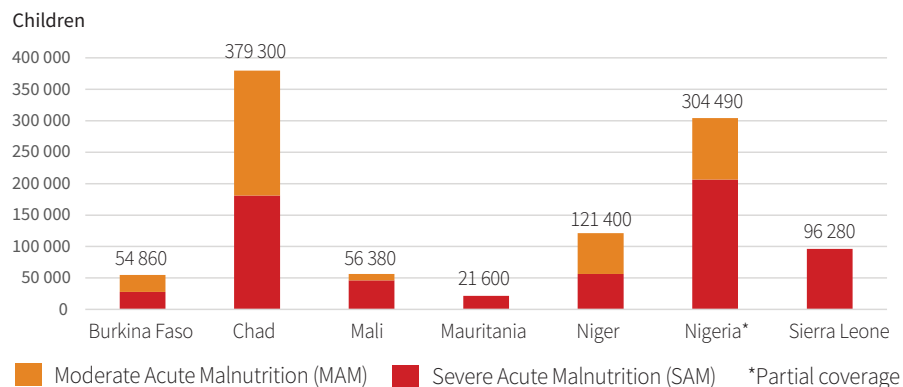
curative services to ensure the continuity of nutritional services, disruptions are already being observed.

This text was prepared on the basis of a contribution from UNICEF/West And Central Africa Regional Office.

NEW ADMISSIONS OF MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

According to data collected by CILSS from seven Sahelian and coastal countries, more than a million malnourished children were admitted for moderate and severe acute malnutrition treatment between January and August 2020. The majority of cases were recorded in Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Coastal countries such as Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Senegal and Togo had less than 10 000 new admissions. However, improving the reporting process of nutritional data within national health information systems remains a major challenge in most of these countries.

Figure 8. Admissions, moderate and severe acute malnutrition, January-August 2020



Source: CILSS (2020), *Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food and nutrition security*, No. 1-5, author's calculations. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

DEFINITIONS

The weight and height of children under 59 months are used as proxy measures for the general health of the entire population. Weight-for-height (WFH - wasting) provides the clearest picture of acute malnutrition in a population at a specific point in time.

Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

is identified by moderate wasting:
WFH < -2 z-score and > 3 z-score for children 0-59 months (or for children 6-59 months, MUAC < 125 mm and > 115 mm).

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

is identified by severe wasting:
WFH < -3 z-score for children 0-59 months (or for children 6-59 months, MUAC < 115 mm) or the presence of bilateral pitting edema.

Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)

is the presence of both MAM and SAM in a population. High prevalence rates outside of the seasonal norm are particularly worrisome. A GAM rate of more than 10% indicates an emergency.

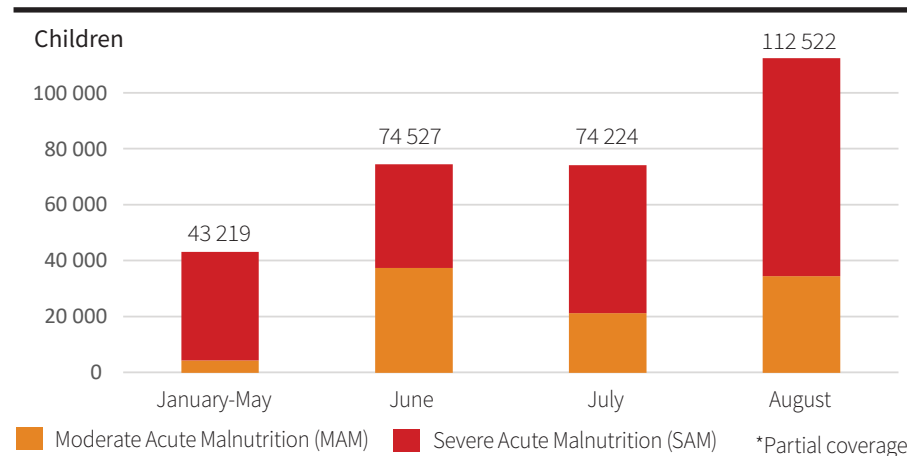
Source: WHO, UNHCR, IFRC, WFP (2000), *The management of nutrition in major emergencies*.

MORBIDITY AND MALNUTRITION IN NIGERIA

From 1 June to 20 July 2020, the Government of Nigeria reported some 311 000 new child admissions across the 16 analysed states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) (Table 3). The states of Jigawa (42%), Borno (23%) and Niger (16%) counted the highest levels of morbidity. The majority of health facilities in charge of treatment of children with acute malnutrition remained operational

across northern Nigeria. Figure 9 illustrates increasing rates of malnutrition during the country's typical seasonal food insecurity. Limited food availability during the lean season reduces the purchasing power of caregivers and affects their capacity to access nutritious and safe quality foods for their children.

Figure 9. Admissions, moderate and severe acute malnutrition, Nigeria*, January-August 2020



Source: CILSS (2020), *Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food and nutrition security*, No. 1-5, Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

Table 3.

↓ Morbidity & malnutrition in Nigeria ↓

1 June - 20 July 2020, number of admission cases

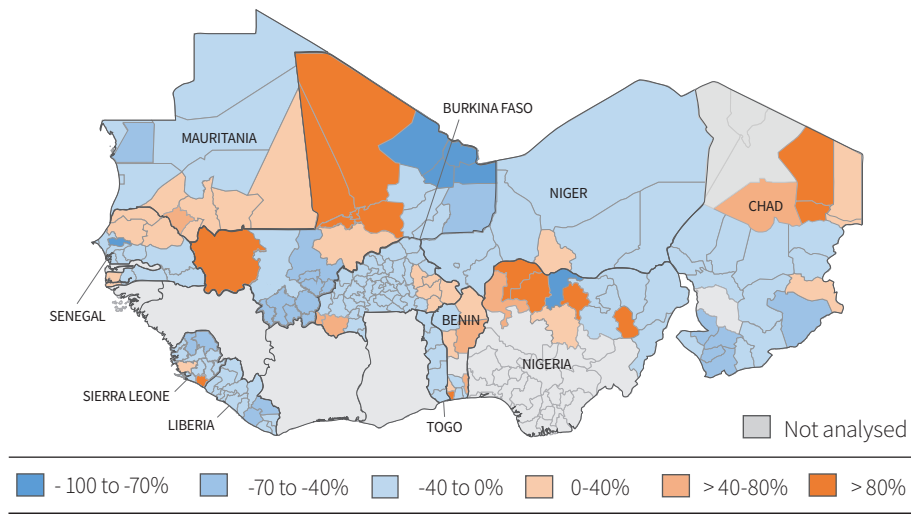
STATE	MORBIDITY	SAM	MAM
Adamawa	7 948	1 141	1 197
Bauchi	4 968	1 954	229
Benue	387	56	37
Borno	54 881	7 740	8 630
FCT	758	339	101
Gombe	n/a	2 253	n/a
Jigawa	100 565	4 076	n/a
Kaduna	n/a	2 737	n/a
Kano	22 245	17 514	497
Katsina	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kebbi	2 291	1 439	1 206
Niger	38 770	2 060	n/a
Plateau	2 138	28	371
Sokoto	n/a	1 620	7 896
Taraba	1 735	n/a	n/a
Yobe	n/a	9 952	1 151
Zamfara	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	236 686	52 909	21 315

Source: Government of Nigeria, CILSS, FAO (2020). *Impact of Covid-19 on food and nutrition security in the 16 Cadre harmonisé States of Nigeria and FCT*, report No. 4, July 2020.

FEWER ADMISSIONS DESPITE HIGH LEVELS OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Although the full impact of Covid-19 on the nutritional situation is not yet known, significant disruptions of nutritional services have already been observed. For example, vitamin A supplementation coverage, targeting children aged 6-59 months, decreased by 75% in the first semester of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. According to 2020 nutrition survey data from Burkina Faso and Niger, the nutritional situation has clearly deteriorated in these countries. In the six Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal), a total of 718 629 children (6-59 months) with severe acute malnutrition were admitted in specialised health facilities for SAM treatment from January to September 2020. This represents about half of the estimated number of expected SAM cases in 2020 (UNICEF/WFP, May 2020). According to data from national ministries of health, the number of SAM admissions in the six Sahelian countries has decreased by 10% compared to the same period in 2019. Mauritania is the only country that recorded an increase (+ 5.8%) of new SAM admissions. The Sahel's downward trend could be explained by the direct effects of Covid-19-related preventive measures, which have

Map 9. SAM admission trends, annual variation (2019), January-September 2020



Source: National ministries of health and sanitation, October 2020. Map: © UNICEF.

resulted in movement restrictions, cancellations of certain mass activities, as well as a reduced frequentation of health services by community members for fear of being contaminated. More analysis needs to be conducted in order to better understand these trends. In response to the new realities, an operational paradigm shift

is needed to maintain, scale up and accelerate the delivery of services for the benefit of the most vulnerable populations. More than ever, it is vital to strengthen multi-sectoral approaches aimed at protecting the nutritional status of women and children in order to prevent any deterioration in their nutritional situation.

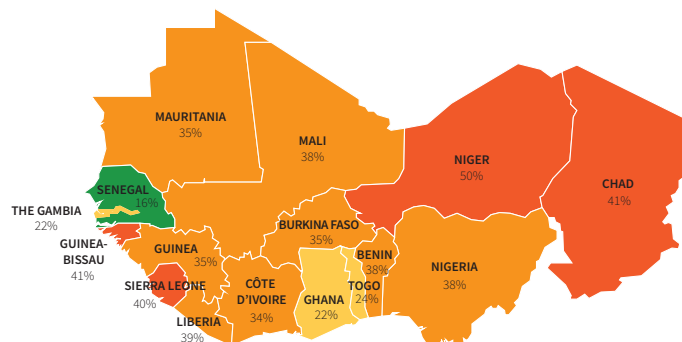
This text was prepared on the basis of a contribution from UNICEF/West And Central Africa Regional Office.

PERSISTING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION

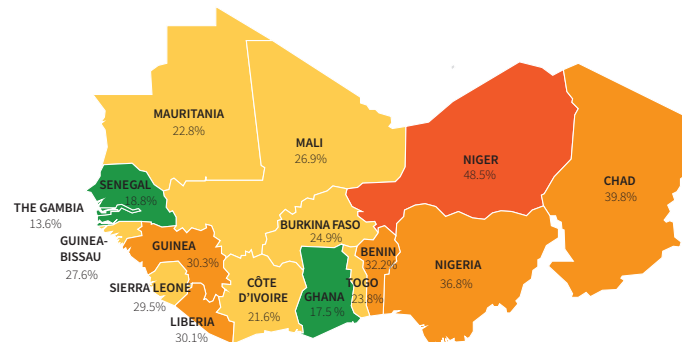
Nearly 20 million children under 5 years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition. While the prevalence rate has decreased in some countries, the absolute number of stunted children has increased more than anywhere else in the world. About one-third of adolescent girls have their first baby before the age of 18, and about half of them suffer from anaemia. Early marriage and the high number of pregnancies contribute to increasing the malnutrition that is transmitted from generation to generation. Other forms of malnutrition (overweight, obesity, diet-related non-communicable diseases) are amplifying existing challenges. Malnutrition is a chronic situation in the region, which requires interventions addressing the structural causes. In the Banjul Declaration (December 2018), RPCA members call for a strong mobilisation of all stakeholders to take long-term measures to reverse negative and destructive nutritional trends, based on a strong focus on prevention, multi-sectoral and community-level approaches and sustainable financing for nutrition. Acute and chronic malnutrition need to be tackled simultaneously.

Map 10. Prevalence of stunting (% of children, 0-5 years)

2000-06



2014-19



■ < 20%
 ■ 20 < 30%
 ■ 30 < 40%
 ■ ≥ 40%

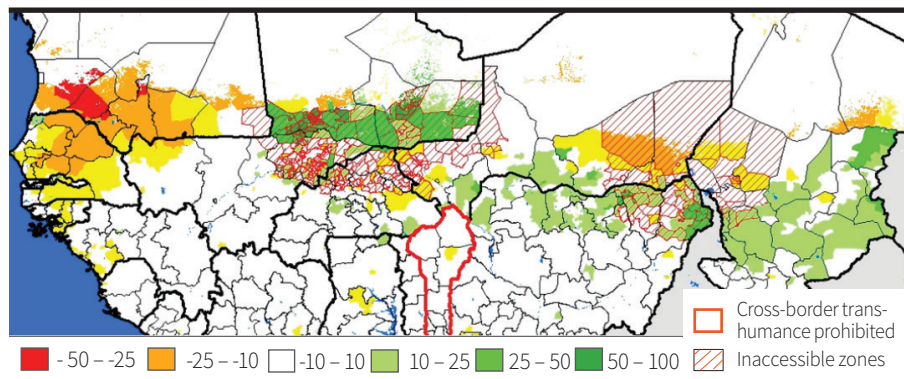
Sources: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group (2020), *Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates*, 2020 edition; UNICEF, WHO, World Bank (2016); *Global Report on Nutrition 2016*; Map: © SWAC/OECD.

PASTORAL SITUATION

PASTORAL COMMUNITIES UNDER STRAIN

Pastoral communities were already facing many challenges long before the Covid-19 outbreak. These include significant fodder shortages in Mauritania and Senegal, and in parts of Mali and Niger as well as competition with farmers over access to land, water and resources. The security crisis disrupts pastoral activities in the Liptako-Gourma area and the Lake Chad basin with the closure of markets, reduced access to pastures, and limited transhumance, triggering massive displacement of pastoralists to peri-urban areas. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the pastoral situation has deteriorated further. Market closure and public movement restrictions heavily impacted pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. They were among the hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis and strongly depend on external support. One out of four pastoral communities received some kind of support during the lean season. Mauritania launched a special agro-pastoral programme worth EUR 4.1 million. RPCA members mobilised

Map 11. Fodder production anomalies compared to the 20-year average



Source: CILSS (2020), *Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food & nutrition security*, no. 1, April. Map: © CILSS.

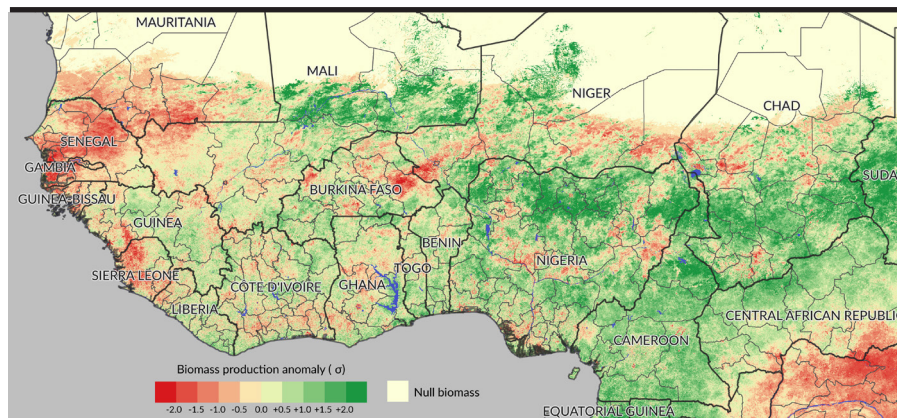
to strengthen existing early warning systems, set-up new monitoring tools and co-ordinate responses. For example, the *Association for the Promotion of the Livestock in the Sahel and the Savannah* (APESS) conducted an analysis in 12 member countries to identify trends negatively affecting the agro-pastoral sector. The *Réseau Billital Maroobé* (RBM) network set

up together with *Action Against Hunger* (ACF) a monitoring tool, which provided weekly updated and analysed the economic impact of Covid-19-related measures on pastoral communities in 11 countries. On a positive note, the new situation also showed that distance learning is working. This might offer new opportunities for education in pastoral communities in the future.

BIOMASS SITUATION

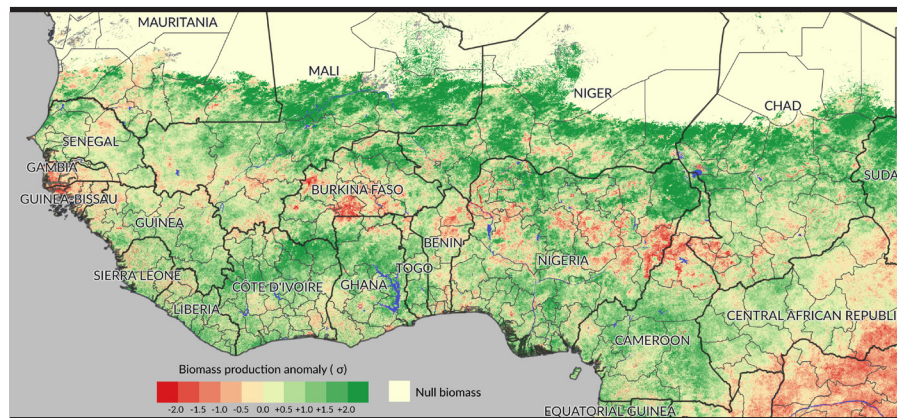
While biomass was in generally good supply across the countries of the Gulf of Guinea, it was scarce in Sahelian countries. Some regions in Nigeria (Adamawa, Central zone, Northern zone, Southern zone) also crossed the warning threshold. The situation was worse in Mauritania and Senegal, which suffered from serious biomass shortages for the fourth consecutive year. An analysis by ACF, GNAP and RBM in February 2020, showed that soils in 84% of southern Mauritania and 49.6% of northern Senegal are bare, with no grass for grazing. In addition, wildfires destroyed the scarce viable grazing land, thus exacerbating the vulnerability of pastoral households. Biomass production in the Sahelian strip has now recovered. The heavy rains in July/August 2020 (Page 36) had a positive impact on biomass production. Nearly all countries of the Sahelian strip reached a surplus of biomass production compared to 2019 levels (Map 13). This is good news for pastoralists who can expect a shorter pastoral lean season. However, there were once again significant biomass deficits in Mauritania and parts of Burkina Faso. The renewal or reconstitution of herds takes time. A single good year will not be sufficient to help recover dry spots in Mauritania and Senegal.

Map 12. Biomass production anomaly at the end of the rainy season, October 2019



Source: Action Against Hunger (2019), October. Map: © ACF.

Map 13. Biomass production anomaly at the end of the rainy season, October 2020

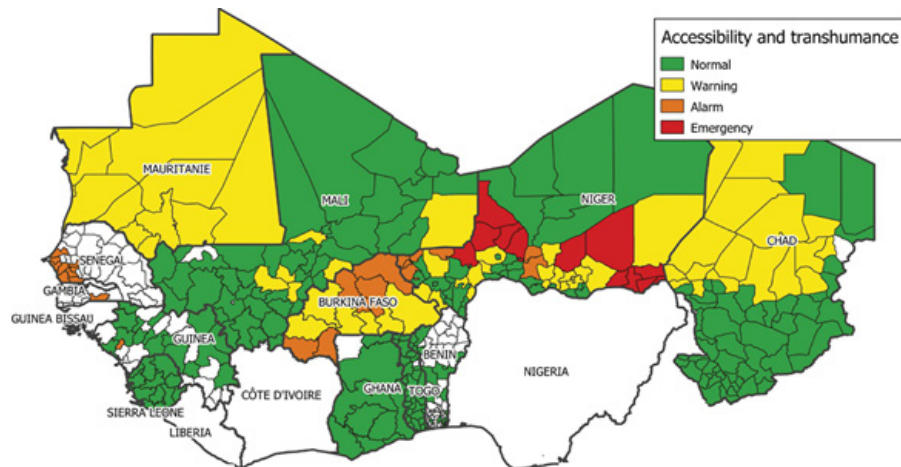


Source: Action Against Hunger (2020), October. Map: © ACF.

ACCESS TO GRAZING LAND

Due to persistent insecurity, access to grazing land in the pastoral areas of most Sahelian countries was very difficult, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma area and the Boko Haram-affected areas. Several areas have become completely inaccessible and exceed the warning threshold of 75%. During the early lean season, access to grazing land was still possible in some areas of Niger (Goudoumaria, Manesora, Ngourti), Chad (Batha Est, Fitri Bourkou, Lac and Kanem) and Mali. In Chad, the extreme southern part next to the border with the Central African Republic was the only area that benefited from abundant grazing land. As of June 2020, access to grazing land became extremely difficult in many parts of Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria (states of Benue, Niger and Yobe) and some areas of Senegal. Access to pasture has improved overall with the beginning of the rainy season.

Map 14. Accessibility and transhumance, June 2020

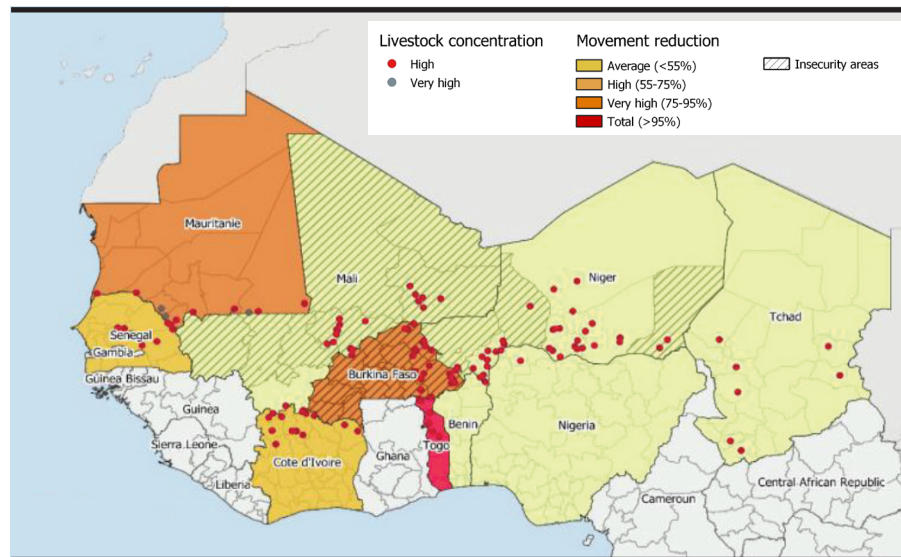


Source: CILSS (2020), *Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food & nutrition security*, no. 3, June. Map: © CILSS.

TRANSHUMANCE - REDUCED SEASONAL MOBILITY

Border closures and country-internal movement restrictions disrupted the region's typical seasonal migration of transhumant herders and livestock between Sahelian and coastal areas, and within countries. While many transhumant herders had already left their home areas in the search of grazing land, their return has been complicated due to Covid-19-related movement restrictions. Cross-border transhumant populations needed support to return to their home communities in order to mitigate the risk of animal diseases and to prevent potential inter-community conflicts. In July 2020, some transhumant herders were still blocked in a host country due to border closures and insecurity. This was the case of some 150 transhumant herders with nearly 10 000 heads of cattle from eastern Burkina Faso, who were stuck at the border area of Togo (Kodjoare, Mandouri, Sagbeiebou). In June 2020, transhumance remained prohibited in nearly all parts of Niger, and disrupted in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria (states of Benue, Niger and Plateau), Mauritania and Senegal. The ban on transhumance between wilayas of Mauritania has been lifted. Movement restrictions led

Map 15. Movement restrictions and livestock concentration



Sources: Action Against Hunger and Réseau Billital Marobé (2020), newsletter, June. Map: © ACF/RBM.

to high concentration of livestock in many border areas (eastern Burkina Faso, northern Côte d'Ivoire, southern Mauritania, southern Niger, border areas between Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), increasing the risk of resource degradation, animal diseases and conflict with

host communities. Long before Covid-19, the 2019-20 pastoral season was marred by Nigeria's closure of its land borders with Benin and Niger, and Benin's ban on cross-border transhumance, which started in December 2019.

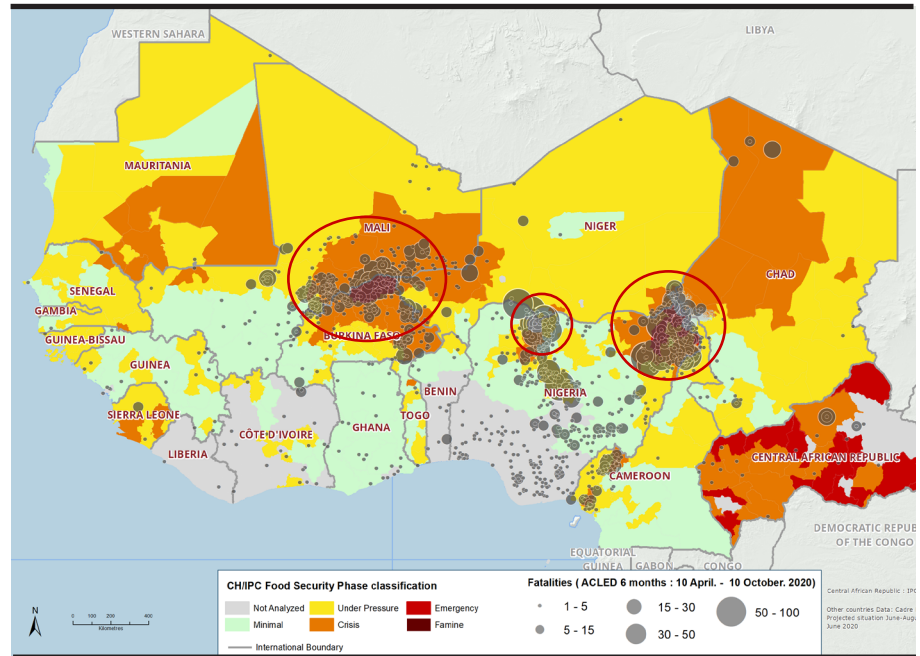
AGGRAVATING FACTORS

INSECURITY



Insecurity was and continues to be an aggravating factor of food and nutrition insecurity in the region. Acutely food insecure populations are concentrated in the conflict-affected areas in the Liptako-Gourma area and the Lake Chad basin (Pages 14 & 16). Moreover, many food insecure areas are hard to reach, which makes it difficult to analyse the situation and to deliver assistance. Humanitarian access became even more difficult facing additional logistics hurdles, which impeded the timely delivery of urgent humanitarian and food assistance. However, many of these areas are chronically fragile (Page 18) and have been food insecure for the past decades, well before the eruption of violence. Beyond emergency aid, these fragile areas require structural investments.

Map 16. Food & nutrition insecurity and violent events



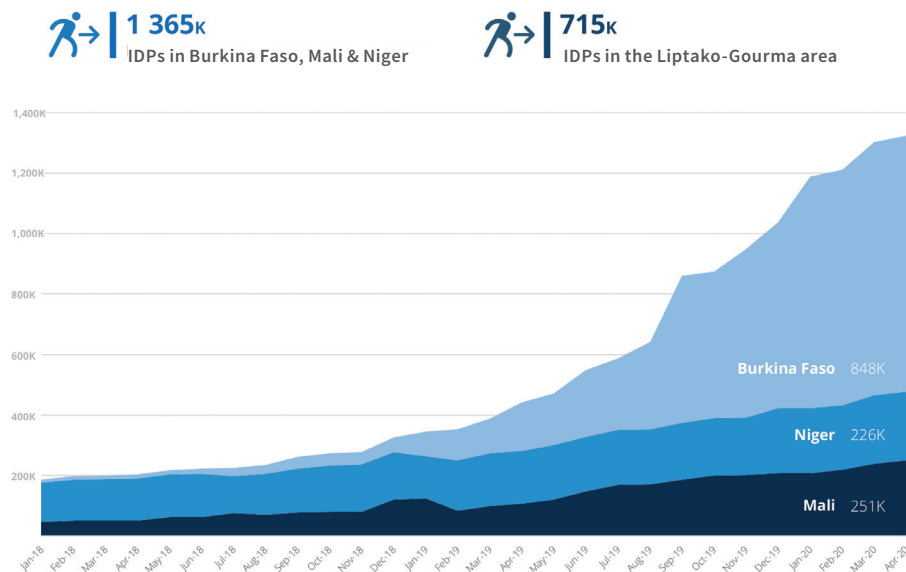
Sources: Cadre harmonisé analysis, March 2020, June update; ACLED, November 2020. Map: © WFP.

DISPLACEMENT



The persistent security crisis triggered massive internal displacements, notably in Burkina Faso, weakening or destroying people's livelihoods and undermining the preparation of the next agricultural campaign. Many farmers had to flee and abandon their farms. In June 2020, the Liptako-Gourma area counted some 715 000 internally displaced people and 107 000 refugees, placing additional pressure on already fragile host communities. Burkina Faso alone recorded nearly 1 million IDPs as of August 2020. This situation directly impacts agricultural activities and livestock. Satellite imagery analysis of the World Food Programme (WFP) revealed significant cropland losses in the Liptako-Gourma area.

Figure 10.
Number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso, Mali & Niger, June 2020



Source: ALG, WFP (2020), *Conflits persistants, pertes de terres agricoles et insécurité alimentaire récurrente dans la région du Liptako-Gourma*. Figure: © WFP.

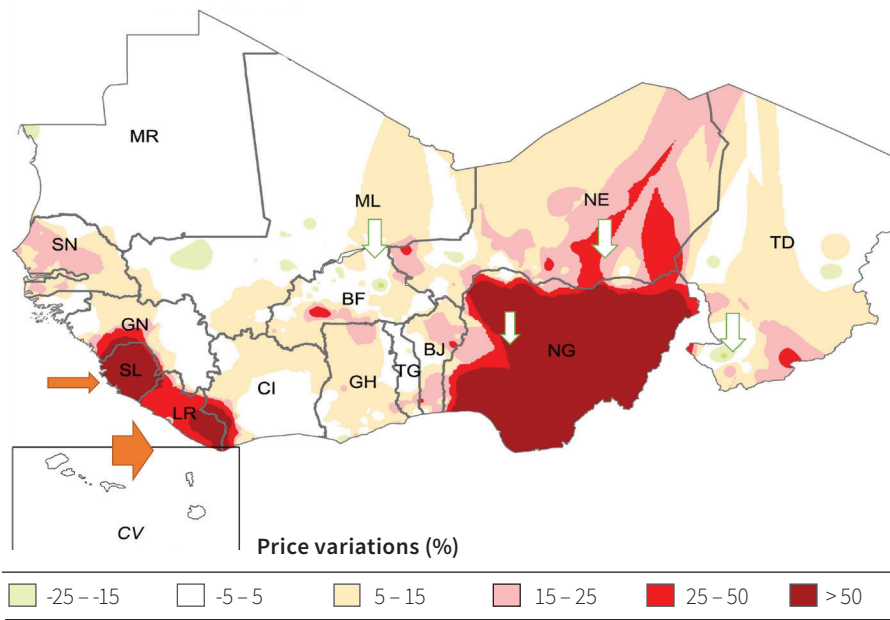
HIGH FOOD PRICES



Seasonal price increases during the lean season as well as Covid-19-related price increases and supply restrictions or disruptions contributed to aggravating food insecurity. Countries with lower production levels in 2019-20 (The Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone) already experienced rising prices of dry cereals as stocks declined in April. According to market monitoring conducted by CILSS, 9 out of 17 countries recorded cereal price increases above 10% compared to the 5-year average. Cereal prices increased by more than 50% compared to the 5-year average in Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Senegal, a country that is usually less affected by seasonal increases, recorded a 15% increase of cereal prices compared to the 5-year average, while Mali and Mauritania experienced nearly no increases.

The impact of high food prices on the food and nutrition situation was probably overall less strong felt than initially feared (with the exception of Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, which suffered from macro-economic shocks). Many national response plans (Page 38) included direct and immediate support for

Map 17. Cereal price average compared to 5-year average, September-October 2020



Source: CILSS (2020), PREGEC meeting, November 2020. Map: © CILSS.

the most vulnerable populations (free cereal distribution, subsidised cereal prices, cash transfers) in order to increase food availability

and improve access to food. Food commodities prices have been volatile throughout 2019-20 requiring close monitoring.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RELATED MEASURES

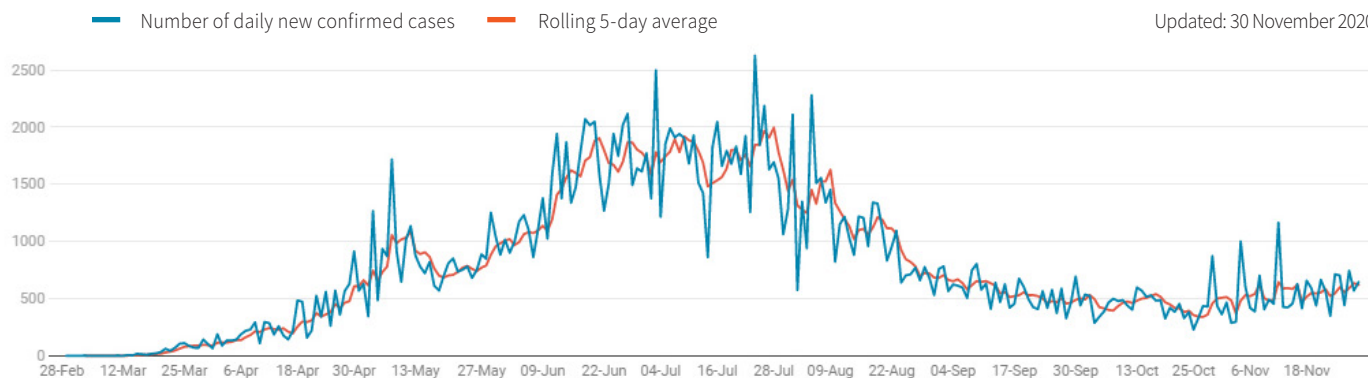


Many measures aimed at tackling the health crisis have interconnected short-, medium- and long-term impacts on food and nutrition security. Depending on different scenarios, the number of food insecure people was set to double or triple. In April 2020, RPCA members estimated that the security crisis and the Covid-19 health crisis could tip over as many as 50 million additional people (phase 2) into a food and nutrition crisis.

This estimate did not materialise. The incidence of the coronavirus in Africa was overall much lower than initially estimated, despite limited testing capacity and data gaps. Moreover, many safety net programmes effectively helped protect vulnerable households. Nevertheless, the Covid-19 pandemic heavily affected food systems directly through impacts on food supply and demand, supply chain disruptions but also indirectly

through loss of incomes and employment, reduced social services, disruption of health services. Mobility restrictions, border closure, curfew, lockdowns, market and school closures heavily impacted people's access to food, particularly in urban areas. More than 20 million children missed out on school meals. Moreover, livelihoods of most vulnerable populations might be seriously deteriorated in the long term.

Figure 11. Covid-19 in West Africa, number of new cases confirmed daily, March–November 2020



Source: Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, November 2020. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LOCAL FOOD STOCKS



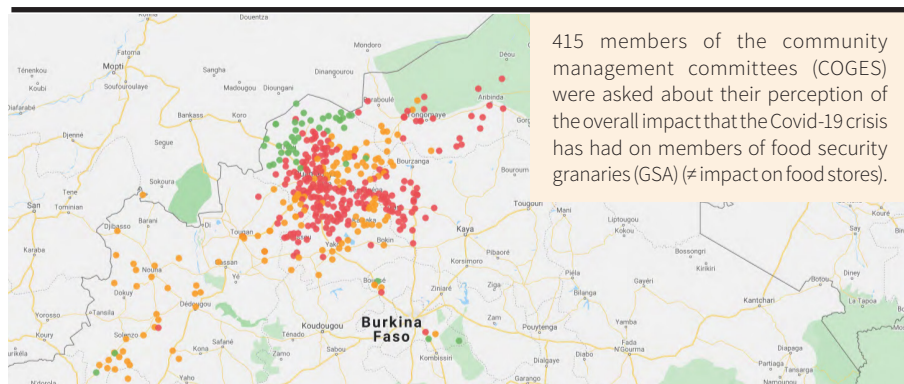
Community food stocks play a key role in ensuring food security at the local level and guaranteeing farmers' income through joint marketing. Restrictions put in place as part of efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 negatively affected the functioning of these stocks and consequently the populations (poor access to food, reduced availability of basic foodstuffs, loss of jobs and income). Oxfam analysed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local food stocks through an information system set up by farmers' organisations that are responsible for 1 700 food stocks in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger. Four federations of agricultural producers' unions participated in the opinion surveys (USCCPA and Viim Baore in Burkina Faso; Faso Jigi in Mali and Mooriben in Niger). The results show that the epidemic exacerbated many existing problems and had numerous effects on key functions (cereal collection, marketing, input supply and access to finance). These effects were more or less severe depending on the different localities.

BURKINA FASO

The survey results in Burkina Faso are clear: the impact of the security crisis is "incomparably greater" than that of Covid-19. Out of 415 food security granaries, 223 were already non-operational at the onset of the pandemic. Their number only slightly increased during the health crisis (16 additional ones). About 160 food

security granaries were inaccessible (provinces of Bam, Kossi, Loroum, Mouhoun, Soum, Sourou and Yatenga). Most of the villages in these areas have been partially or totally abandoned. In the Boucle du Mouhoun region, Burkina Faso's breadbasket, restrictive measures have severely affected the collection and marketing capacity of USCCPA members (89%).

Map 18.
Impact on members of food security granaries in Burkina Faso



415 members of the community management committees (COGES) were asked about their perception of the overall impact that the Covid-19 crisis has had on members of food security granaries (GSA) (≠ impact on food stores).

● Strong = 55% (227 responses) ● Medium = 34% (143 responses) ● Weak = 11% (45 responses)

Source: Oxfam (2020). Covid-19-related impacts on local food stocks in the Sahel; Viim Baore. Map: © Oxfam.

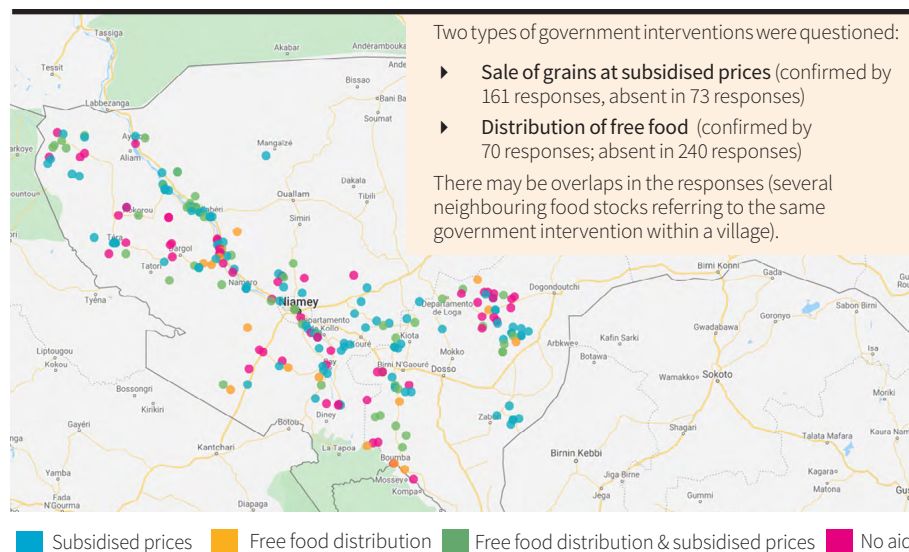
MALI

Food stores in Mali appear to be less affected by the Covid-19 crisis overall, according to the results of surveys conducted among members of the Faso Jigi Union/PACCEM. As in Burkina Faso, the impact of the Covid-19 crisis adds to existing difficulties related to insecurity. Restrictive measures had a quite moderate impact on grain collection capacity. In contrast, 60% of food stores (39 out of 64) were affected by border closures and 34% by quarantine measures within villages (22 out of 64). The majority of interviewees feel that access to credit for production and marketing was “more difficult” compared to 2019.

NIGER

Restrictive measures affected virtually all food stores of the Mooriben federation in Niger. Nonetheless, the majority of the members of the community management (72.9%) stated that the overall impact of the Covid-19 crisis was rather “moderate”. Only about a quarter of members (23%) found that the effects on the population were “severe”.

Map 19.
Government interventions in western Niger



Source: Oxfam(2020). Covid-19-related impacts on local food stocks in the Sahel; Mooriben. Map: © Oxfam.

However, Mooriben members reported serious material damage due to the flooding. The collapse of grain stores made from clay and straw caused heavy losses in the grains. Beyond Covid-19, many other factors (security, climatic hazards) impact the proper functioning of local food stocks.

Map 19 illustrates the different types of government interventions in western Niger. Sale of grains at subsidised prices was the most widely used response tool. Almost a third of interviewees also confirmed the distribution of free food.

FLOODING



While extreme weather events (droughts, floods) occur regularly in the fragile Sahelian areas, the situation was quite exceptional in 2020. Nearly all countries in the region experienced heavy rains. According to UNOCHA, flooding affected some 1.8 million people in the region and destroyed 162 000 homes.

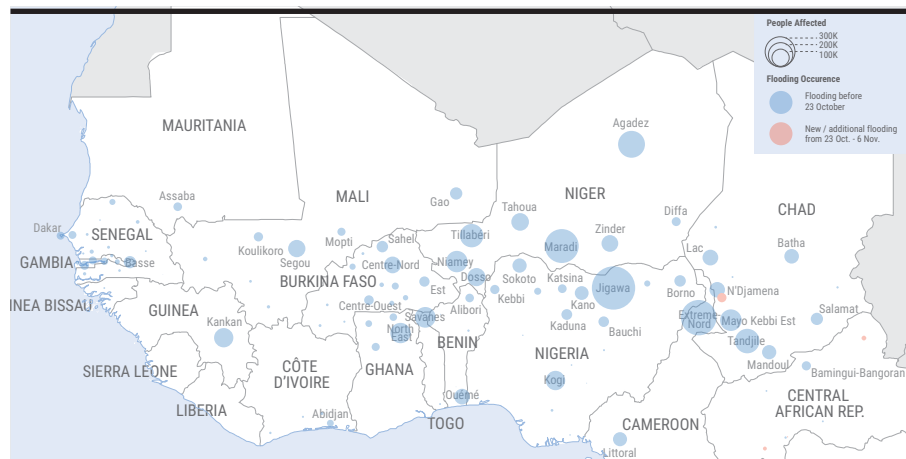
Table 4.

↓ **Number of people affected by flooding and households destroyed (thousands)** ↓

COUNTRY	PEOPLE	HOUSEHOLDS
Niger	516	44
Nigeria	436	66
Chad	296	8
Burkina Faso	106	15
Mali	85	8
Ghana	77	5
Togo	58	4
Gambia	53	9
Guinea	50	1
Benin	44	2
Senegal	32	
Cabo Verde	25	
Mauritania	10	
Côte d'Ivoire	9	
Total	1 797	162

Source: UNOCHA (2020). Report of 6 November.

Map 20. Flooding situation of West Africa, November 2020



Source: UNOCHA (2020), *West and Central Africa Flood Situation*, report of 6 November. Map © UNOCHA.

Some 62 000 Nigerians became internally displaced. The impacts were particularly severe in Niger, Nigeria and Chad – all three countries were already struggling with the food and nutrition crisis, further weakening the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. Some 0.5 million in Niger received emergency assistance through the national response plan (Page 42). In Senegal, nearly all regions, including the cities of Dakar and Thiès, were affected by the rains. Flash flooding also hit Praia, which received on 12 September 2020 nearly three times the monthly amount of rain on a single day (80 mm).

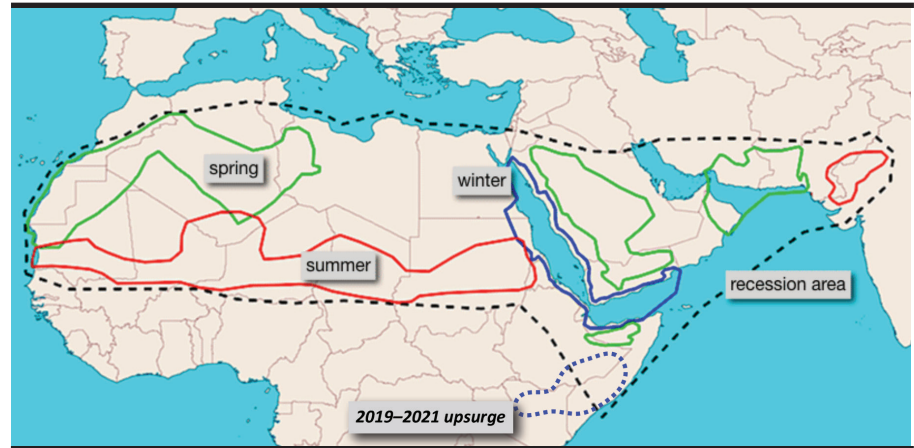
The PREGEC communiqué of June 2020 already warned about possible “runoffs higher than the 1981-2010 average in the upper basins of Niger, Senegal, Chari (Lake Chad sub-basin) and Volta rivers. This situation could cause floods that could affect agro-pastoral production and the livelihoods of the populations in the areas concerned”. RPCA members recommended states to “Anticipate the formulation and search for means to implement prevention and response plans to the flood risks.”

DESERT LOCUST THREAT



The desert locust situation remained calm but required constant monitoring. According to the PREGEC Communiqué of September 2020, “The risk of swarms from East Africa has decreased due to preventive actions implemented by States and partners within the framework of the Commission for controlling desert locust in the western region. However, vigilance and continuation of ongoing interventions are required.” The heavy rains in July/August created favourable conditions for locust development. Some small-scale breeding was observed in some areas of Chad, Niger and Mauritania (FAO, October 2020). Ecological conditions may be favourable to the development of the desert locust in these breeding areas (PREGEC, September).

Map 21. Desert locust seasonal breeding areas, 2021 forecast



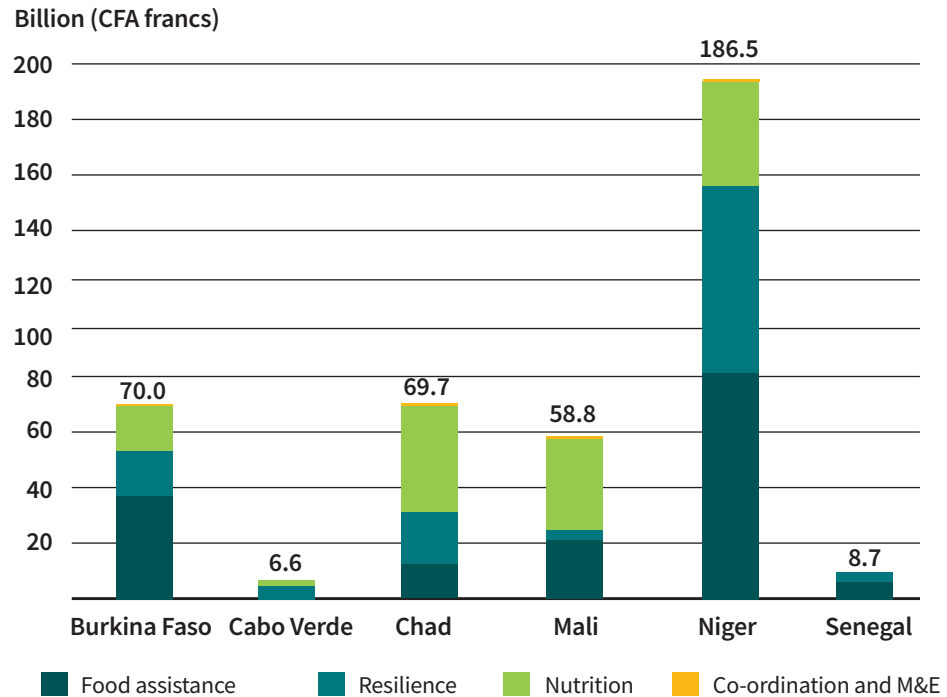
Source: FAO (2020), Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS), seasonal precipitation in desert locust winter/spring breeding areas (December 2020 – May 2021), November. Map: © FAO.

NATIONAL RESPONSES

ANTICIPATED RESPONSES

Countries moved swiftly and decisively to anticipate and respond to the food and nutrition crisis which began to emerge in December 2019. In early 2020, six countries (Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Mali, Niger and Senegal) had already drawn up response plans totalling more than 400 billion CFA francs (EUR 610 million). Estimated costs are based on the findings of the CH analysis and reflect the number of acutely food-insecure people and the degree to which they are vulnerable (phases 3-5). Response plans are made up of several sections: food assistance, livelihood protection (resilience) and measures to combat malnutrition. They also include co-ordination and the system of monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The budget and allocation of funds varies from one country to another. In Niger, the national response plan includes measures to strengthen the resilience of chronically vulnerable households, using multiannual social safety nets. These costs are not routinely included in other action plans, which accounts in part for the difference between budgets.

Figure 12.
Estimated costs of national response plans, January 2020 (pre-Covid-19)

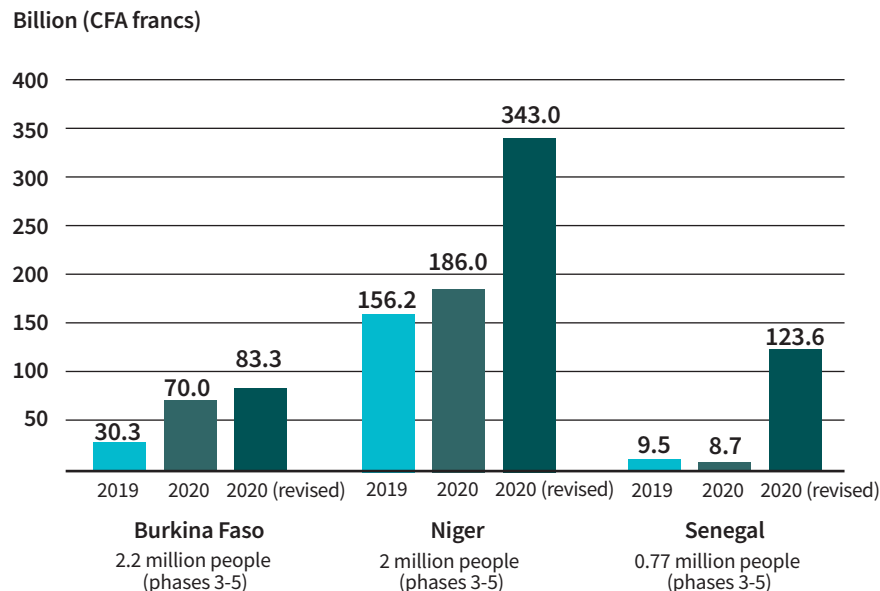


Source: CILSS, RPCA restricted meeting, April 2020. Figure: © SWAC/OECD

REVISED RESPONSE PLANS

Following the RPCA's recommendation of April 2020, response plans were revised to take account of changing security and health emergencies. Figure 13 shows that costs have rocketed. With the support of their partners, countries have put significantly greater resources into tackling the crisis. Senegal's National Emergency Plan for Food Security (PUSA) has widened its scope to include all areas likely to be hit by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus the budget for PUSA has increased by 114.9 billion CFA francs, which is 13 times the initial figure. In Niger, the response plan has also turned into a plan for coping with the coronavirus pandemic. This means that the food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture sector has been taken into account in the response to the effects of the pandemic, along with other sectors such as health and education. Revision of the plan has also enabled food assistance operations in urban areas to be included, which is not usually the case.

Figure 13.
Estimated costs of national response plans, 2019 and 2020



Sources: CILSS (2020) and national response plans of Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal (2020).
Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

EXAMPLE 1: BURKINA FASO'S RESPONSE

The 2020 Response and Support Plan for Food-Insecure and Malnourished Populations (PRSPV) is based on the results of the CH analysis for the country. The revised plan takes account of the worsening security situation and the impact of the health crisis. The budget has been increased (by 13.3 billion CFA francs = EUR 20.1 million) and has thus tripled from its 2019 level of 30.3 billion CFA francs.

The revised plan reflects new requirements to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (920 000 IDPs in June 2020). Sanmatenga province, for example, has nearly 270 000 IDPs and has received a food distribution to the value of 3.3 billion CFA francs. There was also an unconditional cash distribution. Specific measures were taken – where possible – in inaccessible areas (Kompienga, Komondjari, Loroum, Oudalan, Soum and Yagha). The plan targeted some 400 000 malnourished children in 31 provinces.

Measures to control Covid-19 (quarantining of towns affected, closing of markets, curfew) have hampered some types of activity (cash for work schemes). The Government has taken a series of mitigating measures (sales of cereal at subsidised prices and free food distribution). It also launched a solidarity fund for actors in the informal economy (women especially), to boost trade in fruit and vegetables. The lifting of restrictions and re-opening of the main markets enabled trade to resume, helping to improve supplies to agricultural markets.

Implementation of the PRSPV has been co-ordinated by the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Food Security (SE-CNSA). In April 2020, funding pledges covering 91.8% of the total for the plan were received.

SNAPSHOT

Total cost: 83.3 billion CFA francs (~EUR 126.5 million)

Overall objective: To improve the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations through suitable and harmonised measures to provide food assistance and protect their livelihoods

Specific objectives

- ▶ Facilitate access by target populations to sufficient good-quality food
- ▶ Improve the prevention of malnutrition and the provision of care for malnourished children
- ▶ Protect the livelihood of populations experiencing food and nutrition insecurity

Targets

- ▶ 2.15 million persons in crisis
- ▶ 0.4 million malnourished children
- ▶ 236 665 vulnerable households

Three phases

- ▶ January-June: mitigation period
- ▶ July-September: lean season
- ▶ October-December: recovery period

ACTIVITIES

Food assistance

- ▶ Distribution of free food to 1.4 million people in provinces with a shortage and vulnerable populations (phases 3-5)
- ▶ Unconditional distribution of cash in provinces with a surplus and populations in phases 3-5
- ▶ Sale of cereal at social/subsidised prices in communities at risk (100 kg of cereal/month sold to a value of 10 000 CFA francs)
- ▶ Sale of forage seed at subsidised prices (13 regions = 45 provinces)
- ▶ Rehabilitation and creation of pastoral forages (10 provinces)
- ▶ Support for market-garden production in vulnerable areas of accessible communities at risk
- ▶ Support for rainfed production by vulnerable farming households
- ▶ Distribution of small ruminant and poultry breeding nuclei to households (phases 3-5)

Protection of livelihood

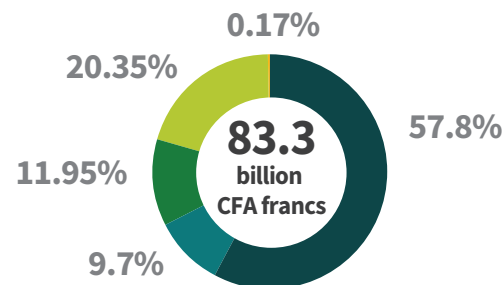
- ▶ Distribution of free agro-industrial by products in provinces with low availability of biomass, to IDPs and host households
- ▶ Distribution of free roughage in critical localities (8 provinces)
- ▶ Sale of livestock feed at subsidised prices (30 provinces)
- ▶ Sale of mineral licks and vitamin tablets at subsidised prices (30 provinces)
- ▶ Free provision of livestock mineral and vitamin complexes to IDPs and hosts (5 regions, 8 provinces)

Measures to combat malnutrition

- ▶ Tackling malnutrition in children aged 6-23 months in 31 provinces (SAM: 42 963 children; MAM: 143 038 children)
- ▶ Prevention of malnutrition in accordance with the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding (117 116 children)
- ▶ Creation of prevention community gardens in areas defined by the Global Strategy and communities at risk of food insecurity
- ▶ Rehabilitation and creation of forages in 16 communities

Figure 14.
Budget breakdown, national response plan of Burkina Faso, 2020

Total cost: 83.3 billion CFA francs
(~EUR 126.5 million)



- Food assistance (48.1 billion CFA francs)
- Animal production (8 billion CFA francs)
- Vegetable production (9.9 billion CFA francs)
- Nutrition and water (16.9 billion CFA francs)
- Co-ordination and M&E (13 billion CFA francs)

Source: 2020 Response and Support Plan for Food-Insecure and Malnourished Populations (PRSPV), final version, April 2020. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

EXAMPLE 2: NIGER'S RESPONSE

The CH national analysis had identified almost 2 million people as being in need of assistance (June-August 2020). The initial response plan had a budget of 186 billion CFA francs (20% more than that of the 2019 support plan). That plan was revised in April to take account of the various factors that were making food and nutrition insecurity worse, notably those related to the health crisis. According to new estimates, some 2.7 million people would now be needing food and nutrition assistance during the lean season, of whom about 240 000 were urban dwellers; close on 2.9 million people were suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic (including nearly 1 million urban dwellers). Building on a concerted and inclusive process, the Niger Government drew up a revised support plan with a more consistent budget of 343 billion CFA francs. The support plan was implemented by the National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (DNP-GCA), through the Food Crisis Unit and Social Safety Nets Unit and through measures funded and implemented directly by operational partners.

NEW FEATURES

- ▶ Extension of targeted free distributions to vulnerable urban households
- ▶ Extension of social safety nets in the form of monetary transfers to households suffering from the effects of the pandemic (through an adaptive social protection programme)
- ▶ Increase in the number of malnourished children supported
- ▶ Account taken of priorities in agro-sylvo-pastoral production and the impacts on agricultural production of reduced imports due to border closure
- ▶ Reassessment of implementing costs to allow for the application of preventive measures during operations (safe behaviour, avoiding public gatherings, etc.)

A comprehensive review of the implementation of the support plan will be conducted in December 2020. Since 2011, the funding rate of annual support plans has averaged 70%.

SNAPSHOT

Total cost: 343 billion CFA francs (~EUR 521.4 million)

Overall objective: To improve the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations and target groups exposed to humanitarian risks, through harmonised measures to provide food and nutrition aid and protect their livelihoods

Specific objectives

- ▶ Improve access to food for vulnerable households
- ▶ Help reduce morbidity and mortality related to malnutrition
- ▶ Protect and restore the livelihoods of vulnerable households

Targets: total of 5.6 million people:

- ▶ 2.7 million people in crisis (of whom 62 000 in urgent need – phase 4)
- ▶ 2.9 million vulnerable people of whom 1 million in urban areas
- ▶ 0.5 million malnourished children
- ▶ 500 000 IDPs and refugees
- ▶ 50 000 migrants in transit

ACTION TAKEN

(non-exhaustive list, ongoing implementation)

By the Food Crisis Unit

- ▶ 55 000 tonnes of cereal were sold at subsidised prices
- ▶ 30 000 tonnes of cereal and 3 500 tonnes of cowpeas were purchased to replenish the national stock, of which 5 200 tonnes were purchased from smallholders
- ▶ 171 000 households (or 1.2 million people) received free distributions of cereal and cowpeas, including 250 000 people in Niamey
- ▶ An additional 1 800 tonnes of rice and cowpeas were purchased as part of flood relief
- ▶ 20 000 households hit by floods received a partial ration of food assistance
- ▶ 35 000 households benefited from “food for work” (creation of over 6 000 km of firebreaks to protect grazing land from brush fires)
- ▶ 25 000 children received fortified flour rations
- ▶ 1 600 tonnes of seeds were distributed to vulnerable households
- ▶ 8 200 tonnes of animal feed were sold at subsidised prices

By the Social Safety Nets Unit

- ▶ 28 000 households (out of 50 000 eligible households) began receiving monthly payments under the multiannual social safety net system
- ▶ 13 500 households will receive social safety net payments as part of flood relief
- ▶ 13 000 households to benefit from “cash for work” schemes
- ▶ 432 000 households are in the process of signing up to receive social safety net payments in response to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to 86 000 households targeted by other sectors

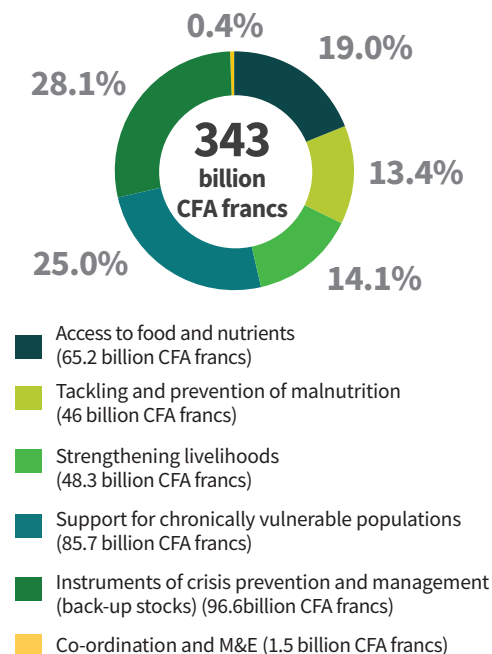
By operational partners

- ▶ 2.2 million people received food assistance (targeted free distribution)
- ▶ 8 500 tonnes of seeds were distributed
- ▶ 35 000 tonnes of animal feed were sold at subsidised prices

This text was prepared on the basis of a contribution from the High Commission to the 3N Initiative, Niger.

Figure 15.
**Budget breakdown,
national response plan of Niger, 2020**

Total cost: 343 billion CFA francs
(~EUR 521.4 million)



Source: Annual National Support Plan for Vulnerable Populations, April 2020. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

EXAMPLE 3: SENEGAL'S RESPONSE

The Government of Senegal has converted its initial response plan (designed to assist 0.77 million people in crisis) into an ambitious plan covering the entire country. The National Emergency Plan for Food Security (PUSA 2020) seeks to “help mount, in association with all stakeholders involved in combating food and nutrition insecurity, a quick, strong and effective response, tailored to the threefold health, food and social challenge which the country faces”.

As part of its Emergency Food Aid operation, the Government moved very fast to mitigate the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. From late April 2020, the Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity (MDCEST) launched a large-scale support operation, delivering food kits to 1 million vulnerable households (8-10 million people out of a population of 16 million).

*Action Against, Caritas, Catholic Relief Service, OXFAM, PINKK, Plan International, Save the Children and Word Vision International.

A second phase targeted some 529 627 households projected to be in crisis (CH analysis, March 2020) and under pressure in the 45 departments. At the same time, a consortium of six partner NGOs*, called *Replica*, carried out specific measures in seven especially vulnerable regions. This was made possible by funding of 11.5 billion CFA francs from a pay-out by the pan-African mutual insurer African Risk Capacity (ARC), including 6 billion CFA francs for the consortium. PUSA 2020 also includes support for the pastoral sector, notably in the north of Senegal (Matam and Saint Louis). Nutrition programmes have focused on identifying and tackling acute, moderate and severe malnutrition, complementing Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities conducted *Replica*.

Implementation of PUSA 2020 was co-ordinated by the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SE-CNSA), working together with other state agencies and partners. In April 2020, the funding rate of the plan was 65.1%.

SNAPSHOT

Total cost: 123.6 billion CFA francs (~EUR 188.5 million)

Overall objective: To mount a common, appropriate, quick and effective response designed to ease the distress of vulnerable populations and help them withstand the twofold health and food crisis

Specific objectives

- ▶ Provide appropriate food assistance to 529 627 households nationwide
- ▶ Provide nutrition assistance to children aged 0 to 5 years and to nursing and expectant mothers
- ▶ Strengthen prevention and epidemiological surveillance (WASH)
- ▶ Conduct a livestock safeguarding operation (349 848 units of tropical livestock)
- ▶ Monitor and evaluate the plan's impact

Targets

- ▶ 4.3 million people, of which 0.77 million people facing a “Crisis” or worse situation (phases 3-4) and 3.5 million people under pressure (phase 2)

Two phases

- ▶ Emergency Food Aid operation
- ▶ Assistance to vulnerable populations during the lean season

ACTION TAKEN

Emergency Food Aid operation

This operation was conducted as part of Senegal's Response Plan to Covid-19. With a budget of 69 billion CFA francs (EUR 105 million) for the purchase of 146 000 tonnes of foodstuffs, it is by far the biggest food assistance operation conducted by Senegal, benefiting almost half the population.

Almost all the food kits (1.06 million) were distributed successfully. The operation was repeated for 100 000 additional households (phase 2). A food kit consisted of 100 kg of rice, 10 litres of oil, 10 kg of pasta, 10 kg of sugar, and 18 300-gramme cakes of soap. This measure went a long way towards preventing populations in crisis from reaching a tipping point.

This text was prepared on the basis of a contribution from the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SE-CNSA).

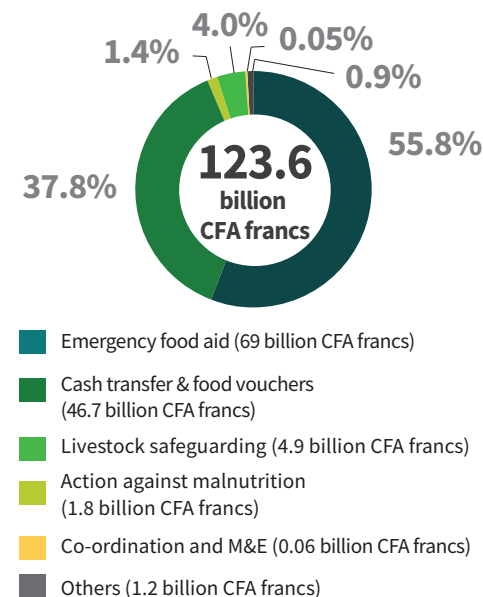
Table 5.

↓ Number of distributed food kits ↓			
REGION	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	TOTAL
Dakar	244 855	15 665	260 520
Diourbel	85 074	6 483	91 557
Fatick	56 772	6 204	62 976
Kaffrine	39 406	3 995	43 401
Kaolack	65 029	8 158	73 187
Kédougou	15 800	2 220	18 020
Kolda	60 772	7 692	68 464
Louga	49 443	4 742	54 185
Matam	30 574	7 969	38 543
Saint-Louis	64 150	10 996	75 146
Sédhiou	29 234	3 100	32 334
Tambacounda	52 313	7 250	59 563
Thiès	110 068	8 042	118 110
Ziguinchor	56 840	8 755	65 595
Total	960 330	101 271	1 061 601

Source: Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SE-CNSA), November 2020.

Figure 16.
**Budget breakdown,
national response plan of Senegal, 2020**

Total cost: 123.6 billion CFA francs
(~EUR 188.5 million)



Source: National Emergency Plan for Food Security (PUSA 2020), Senegal, April 2020. Figure: © SWAC/OECD.

REGIONAL RESPONSES

ECOWAS RESPONSE

ECOWAS and its partners mobilised strongly from March to organise a co-ordinated regional response. The agriculture ministers of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS met online on 31 March 2020. They approved a regional emergency action plan and decided to set up a Regional Task Force, involving the three organisations and led by ECOWAS. Its remit is to strengthen the co-ordination and monitoring of action to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on food and nutrition security. To support the Regional Task Force, the CILSS Executive Secretariat and the SWAC/OECD Secretariat, co-facilitators of the RPCA, set up a technical unit and an online platform for sharing information on the progress of the crisis, national response plans, and regional and international initiatives.

In line with RPCA recommendations, the ECOWAS Commission has played a pivotal role through its advocacy of co-ordinated action. It has constantly emphasised that the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting all sectors and disrupting systems of producing, stocking, marketing, processing and distributing agricultural inputs and food products.

Beyond its emergency aid (distribution of food through its Regional Food Security Reserve (Table 6), the ECOWAS Commission is pursuing further development of its social safety nets programme. Nineteen pilot projects, launched in 2016, have identified the types of social safety nets that need to be brought to scale in order to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Acting on ministers' recommendations, the ECOWAS Commission developed a regional emergency action plan. This plan sets out the measures needed in support of action being taken by member states. It has four strategic focuses:

- ▶ Facilitating access to agricultural inputs and setting up effective social safety nets for food security
- ▶ Increasing the distribution capacity of the Regional Food Security Reserve and other reserves to 300 000 tonnes of food
- ▶ Preventing, monitoring and controlling crop pests
- ▶ Preventing, monitoring and controlling cross-border animal diseases

MOBILISATION OF THE REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY RESERVE

ECOWAS has provided humanitarian assistance to member states most affected by food and nutrition insecurity by mobilising its Regional Food Security Reserve. The cereal provided was produced by smallholders in the region.

The Reserve was mobilised in favour of vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria on two levels:

- ▶ Mobilisation of USD 1 million from the ECOWAS Humanitarian Emergency Fund
- ▶ Mobilisation of an additional EUR 2 million for contingencies under the EU West Africa Food Security Storage Support Project, to increase food assistance to the targeted countries by releasing more stocks from the Reserve

Table 6.

↓ Mobilisation of the Regional Reserve ↓

COUNTRY	CEREALS (TONNES)	MONTH
Burkina Faso	954	July
Mali	733	November
Niger*	473	July
Nigeria	3 999	August
Total	6 219	-

*Niger has also benefited from nutritional products worth EUR 430 000.

Source: ECOWAS Commission, November 2020.

Decisions to mobilise the Regional Reserve to support a country in the region are founded on objective and recognised criteria, informed by the CH analysis and RPCA recommendations. The rules applicable to the Regional Reserve were validated by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers on 7 and 8 July 2018 in Lomé, Togo.

ABOUT THE RESERVE

The Regional Food Security Reserve is an integral part of implementing the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Reserve Strategy and is the third line of defence in the event of a food crisis, after local/community stocks and national mechanisms. The Regional Reserve was adopted by ECOWAS in February 2013 and implemented in order to promote regional solidarity in addressing food and nutrition crises. A number of discussions and studies, and expressions of support conducted by the Sahel and West Africa Club as part of the RPCA have resulted in progress in developing the Reserve and helped gain the endorsement and political support of the international community through the G20. A pilot project, funded by the European Commission to support implementation of the regional reserve, helped make it operational. The physical stock is held in four storage areas chosen for speed and ease of mobilisation and deployment.

UEMOA RESPONSE

The response of the UEMOA is part of the regional response which focuses on mitigation measures in its eight member states and on greater co-ordination within the Union. The UEMOA is a member of the Regional Task Force which strengthens the co-ordination and monitoring of actions taken. To manage the exceptional situation with regard to health and food, the bodies and institutions of the UEMOA – Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), Commission, West African Development Bank (BOAD) – opted for a holistic and concerted approach. The Union has broadly facilitated the mobilisation of internal resources, temporarily suspending application of the Convergence, Stability, Growth and Solidarity Pact.

At an extraordinary meeting held on 27 April 2020, the eight leaders of the Union noted “with alarm the particularly difficult food and nutrition situation of a certain number of populations in the Union, who will need immediate food and nutrition assistance during the lean season (June-August). This

food vulnerability, due in essence to the security situation, could be made even worse by the health crisis caused by Covid-19.” Whilst the CH analysis of March 2020 identified 6.5 million people as being in a “Crisis” or worse situation in the Union, the UEMOA High-Level Committee on Food Security, meeting on 19 May 2020, indicated some 19.7 million people, i.e. three times the initial number. Concerned at the low mobilisation of financial resources (52%), the ministers appealed to stakeholders to engage more strongly. Updating of national response plans – a key RPCA recommendation – became an official recommendation of the Union.

Union leaders also intend to facilitate peaceful transhumance and asked the UEMOA Commission to “give thought to promoting a forage economy by putting in place a regional programme for forage production and development of the forage trade amongst coastal and Sahelian countries.”

ACTION TAKEN

- ▶ Adoption of a common strategy of response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- ▶ Loan of 196.6 billion CFA francs to member states of the Union by the West African Development Bank (BOAD)
- ▶ Contribution of 25 billion CFA francs by the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) towards the subsidised BOAD loan
- ▶ Contribution of 15 billion CFA francs by the UEMOA Commission towards the subsidised BOAD loan to member states
- ▶ Contribution of 3 billion CFA francs by the Commission, to finance the national response plans of member states
- ▶ Contribution of 10 billion CFA francs to finance national response plans for Covid-19 in member states

Source: UEMOA Commission, October 2020.

CILSS RESPONSE

As the technical arm of ECOWAS and UEMOA, CILSS has supported all the measures taken by political leaders in the region. It has strengthened its monitoring and early warning system. Beyond its usual support as part of the PREGEC cycle, CILSS has assisted states in monitoring the situation closely. In June 2020, it co-ordinated the updating of CH national analyses in Burkina Faso, Togo and four sensitive states in Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno, Kano and Yobe). It successfully provided these services – on the ground and remotely – in conditions that were extremely tricky.

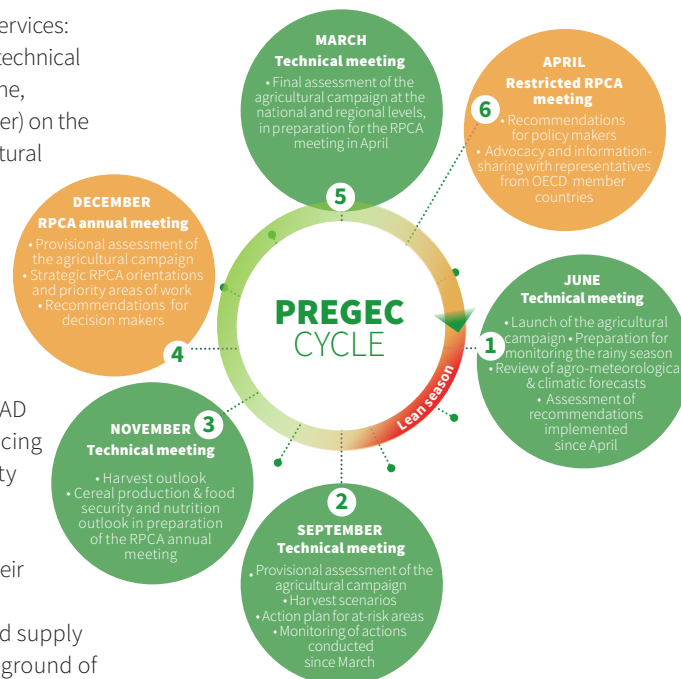
EARLY WARNING AND MONITORING

The CILSS piloted the early warning and monitoring group of the CH Technical Committee which has produced regular information on various areas of analysis (health, nutrition, market functioning, pastoral situation, household living conditions and the desert locust threat). The analysis and recommendations were shared in five newsletters and policy briefs. All products are available on the CILSS virtual cloud (*CILSS drive*). The information products were widely distributed, attracting a record-breaking audience.

SERVICES

- ▶ Regular animation of the PREGEC system and its services: organisation of regional technical consultations (March, June, September and November) on the 2020-21 food and agricultural outlook, the forecast results of the 2020-21 agropastoral campaign and the food & nutrition situation
- ▶ Seasonal forecast analysis (PRESASS) in collaboration with ACMAD
- ▶ Development and financing of a remote food security monitoring tool
- ▶ Supporting countries in the process of revising their national response plans
- ▶ Regional debate on food supply chains against the background of Covid-19 (in collaboration with WFP)
- ▶ Communication and advocacy: audio and video messages, articles and social networks

Figure 17.
PREGEC system



Source: RPCA; Figure: © SWAC/OECD, 2016.

This text was prepared on the basis of a contribution from CILSS.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

MULTIPLE INITIATIVES & CO-ORDINATION CHALLENGES

Thanks to the early warning launched by the RPCA in December 2019, the development community was able to anticipate the mobilisation of substantial international responses to the 2020 food and nutrition crisis. Co-ordination and alignment with the region's priorities are of paramount importance, as underlined by the Joint Statement of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.

COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

“We recognise that this response will require much more than finance. It needs sustained action by many actors to address the immediate public health and humanitarian crisis and simultaneous support for economic, environmental and social resilience. The response must take account of the role of women and girls, children, youth and vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and the elderly, and aim to reduce inequalities and protect human rights and freedoms.”

Source: Joint Statement of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (9 April 2020, point 7).

Development partners participate through sectoral support in the financing of national response plans. For example, 82.4% of the response plan of Burkina Faso was financed through development partners' contributions. Many development programmes and interventions by humanitarian actors complemented national responses. The WFP logistics hub in Accra was set up in May 2020 in response to the paralysed air transport. It played a crucial role in delivering life-saving material. Close to real-time monitoring through satellite imagery and remote surveys helped analyse the deteriorating food and nutrition situation in inaccessible areas. Many cash and food assistance programmes have been implemented by various development partners, including through national NGOs and civil society organisations. International financial institutions eased conditions for loans. The IMF announced in April 2020 an immediate debt relief for 11 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo) to help them address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To date, it is still too early to make a full assessment of development partners' contributions. However, even in 2021, when DAC data will report on the level of Official Development Assistance (ODA), it will be tricky to get a full picture on food and nutrition security interventions in the region. Interventions are mostly multi-sectoral and are attributed to various sectors of the DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS), further distinguishing between humanitarian and sector-allocable aid.

While co-ordination has greatly improved within food and nutrition security clusters at country level, there are still many co-ordination challenges at the regional and international levels. With a view to the multiplication of initiatives, improving co-ordination is more important than ever. These co-ordination challenges and a need for stronger African-owned policy dialogue were discussed within the Sahel and West Africa Club. There is a general sense that co-ordination of collective efforts has still a lot of room for improvement.

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE FOR THE CENTRAL SAHEL

Table 7.

Several development partners raised the alert concerning the deteriorating security situation in the Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger), which turned into “one of the world’s fastest-growing humanitarian crises”.

On 20 October 2020, the Government of Denmark, in partnership with the Government of Germany, the EU and the United Nations, hosted a high-level humanitarian event on the Central Sahel. The event included a ministerial roundtable, bringing together representatives from Member States, International Organisations, UN Agencies, NGOs and civil society. The roundtable obtained political commitments and raised a total of EUR 1.47 billion funding pledges (EUR 848.9 million for 2020 and EUR 620.8 for 2021 and beyond). All together, some 24 announcements were made.

All stakeholders acknowledged the importance of the concept of a ‘humanitarian-development-peace nexus’ to adequately addressing people’s vulnerability before, during and after crises and improve the co-ordination between

project-based development and humanitarian interventions. However, many development partners face difficulties in operationalising or delivering the nexus approach. Some progress has been made in setting up more flexible pooled funding mechanisms, which positively impacts how aid is co-ordinated, funded and delivered.

In the context of persisting security challenges and weak governance capacity, current development strategies so far have had quite limited success. Faced with multiple crises in an extremely fragile context, no single actor can solve the enormous development challenges of the Central Sahel alone. It is important to improve the understanding of these challenges and to base all development efforts on local, cross-border realities by promoting bottom-up, community-based approaches that address root causes. Moreover, the Central Sahel should not be considered in an isolated manner. It is key to capitalise on the broader regional economic dynamics between Sahelian and coastal countries.

* Does not include Sahel regional funding or funding for refugees from the Central Sahel in Mauritania.

↓ Financial announcements (million EUR) ↓			
COUNTRY	2020	2021 & <	TOTAL
Austria	4.8	1.2	6.0
Belgium	22.1	-	22.1
Canada	13.2	9.8	23.0
Czech Republic	1.8	1.5	3.3
Denmark	45.8	110.3	156.1
EU	104.6	-	104.6
Finland	5.5	-	5.5
France	26.0	27.0	53.0
Germany	49.4	51.3	100.7
Greece	0.03	-	0.03
Iceland	0.24	0.24	0.29
Ireland	4.9	-	4.9
Italy	35.0	-	35.0
Japon	39.3	-	39.3
Korea	5.6	3.1	8.7
Luxembourg	50.9	4.8	55.6
Malta	0.02	-	0.02
Norway	9.9	18.2	28.1
Romania	0.15	-	0.15
Sweden	48.7	24.2	73.0
Switzerland	76.0	322.2	398.2
United Kingdom	55.4	19.1	74.5
United States*	232.7	-	232.7
Education Cannot Wait	16.8	27.9	44.7
Total	848.9	620.8	1 468.0

Source: UNOCHA, October 2020.

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