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HIGHLIGHTS

- IDPs in CAR increase by 57 per cent to 394,900 IDPs.
- 458,475 people affected by floods and at least 32,000 hectares of agricultural land destroyed.
- Rainfall deficits observed in June and July in the Sahel have been covered by heavy rains in August and September.
- The post-elections situation in Guinea is tense with the opposition calling on supporters and militants to be on alert for instruction.
- Nearly 6 million people have been affected by violence in northeast Nigeria, 3 million of whom are women and children.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE SAHEL -

Food insecure people **11.3 Million**

Nb. of children <5 estimated SAM **1.5 Million**

Nb. of children <5 and pregnant women estimated MAM **3.4 Million**

* As per Mid-Year Review 2013 figures

FUNDING OF THE SAHEL STRATEGY-

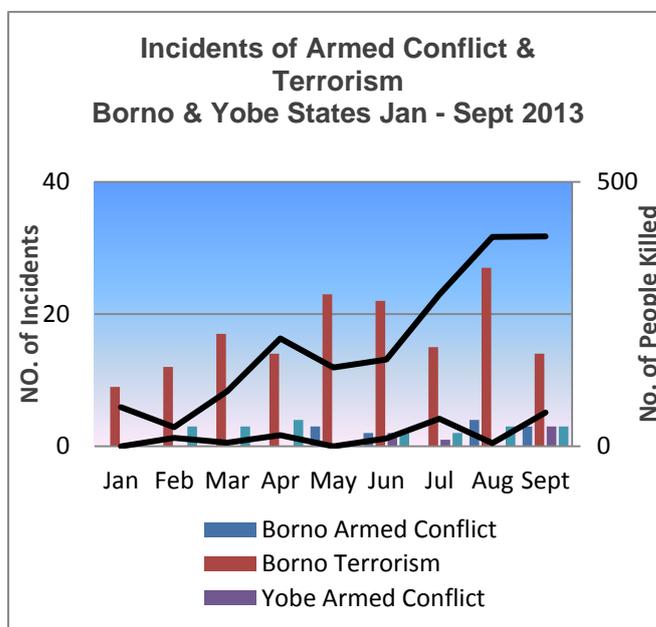
2013:
USD\$1.71 billion requested
USD\$ 799 million received

* CAP and non-CAP contributions



Nigeria: Joint Mission to the Northeast

UN presents preliminary findings from a joint mission to northeast Nigeria



Source: Preliminary Joint Mission Report, October 2013

From 15-20 September, a joint assessment mission was undertaken by OCHA, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the Nigerian Red Cross to gauge the damage and humanitarian needs in seven northeast states affected by the ongoing violence between insurgent group Boko Haram and the Nigerian Armed Forces. The states visited included the three states where a state of emergency (SOE) was declared by the Government of Nigeria in May

2013 (*viz.* Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) and the surrounding states of Gombe, Bauchi, Jigawa, and Taraba, which have been impacted by the spill over of conflict and displaced persons from the SOE states.

Six Million Affected, three million women and children

The mission found that an estimated 5,973,692 persons have been affected in the SOE states, with Borno experiencing the highest affected population with 4,171,104 affected people; 3 million women and children continue to be the most vulnerable group of the affected population. Urgent needs include food insecurity, WASH and Protection. Human rights violations are on the rise, with children particularly at risk of recruitment to armed groups and separation from their families.

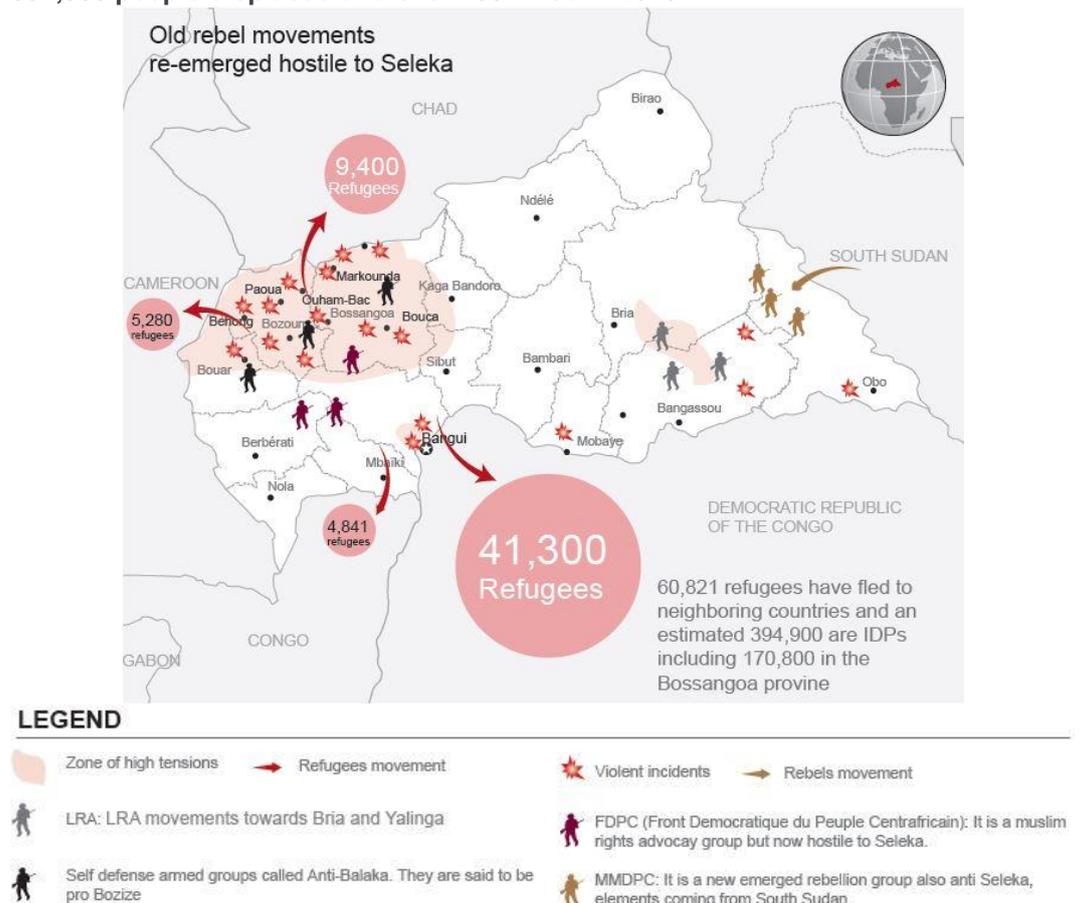
The mission found that humanitarian access was limited in the SOE states but not restricted; continued terrorist attacks on troops have led to the cessation of all development activities and impeded governance structures. It was observed that Local Government Areas under direct military surveillance were particularly difficult to access with a curfew still imposed in most towns outside of Maiduguri (in Borno state); telecommunications is largely unavailable in Borno State with only the use of satellite phones permitted, albeit restrictedly.

Recommendations of the mission underlined as urgent and in need of immediate attention are (1) cash transfers to address high food insecurity; (2) UNCT advocacy with the government of Nigeria towards the release of grains from the national reserve to address high food prices in the SOE states; (3) the provision of WASH services in areas of high IDP population influx; (4) access to basic health care services in communities bordering the SOE states; and (5) increased security along roads leading to and from the SOE states.

The Joint Mission is in the process of finalizing a full report of their findings to be made available in the coming weeks.

CAR: Highest Displacement Figures in 2013

394,900 people displaced and over 700 killed in 2013



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The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic continues to degenerate. The latest upsurge in violence in the North-West (notably Bossangoa) has resulted in 737 deaths and 394,900 people displaced in 2013 alone-- a 57 per cent increase in the past six weeks alone; half of CARs IDPs are children.

On 13 October, EU Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius visited Bangui to assess the situation in the country. Minister Fabius stated that the key priority issues in CAR include the restoration of security, humanitarian assistance, political transition and elections. Commissioner Georgieva met with Humanitarian Coordinator, Kaarina Immonen, and other members of the humanitarian community; she underlined her commitment to maintain high-visibility on the country through the regular organization of high-level events and duly committed to continue her efforts to push UN actors to increase their presence in CAR accounting for financial and human resource concerns that arise from such surge demands.

The Food Security Cluster conducted a nation-wide Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in 14 out of 17 CAR prefectures; results are expected in mid-October. WFP has re-opened two sub-offices in the northwest to facilitate access to vulnerable populations and is in the process of reopening two additional sub-offices; WFP is similarly responding with mobile teams, the deployment of an emergency coordinator, and additional surge capacity; the organization has reached 200,000 out of a targeted 500,000 people in 2013 with its food security activities.

Food Crisis and Malnutrition Update

Mali facing possible food crisis; rainfall deficits have been covered by improved rainfall

Recurrent food crises in the region have reportedly weakened the resilience of many rural farmers to the point that they will unlikely benefit from this year's good harvest. The Food Security and Nutrition Regional Sector Group reported that recurrent food crises has caused the poorest rural households to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling their labour instead of working their own land. This situation, combined with a reduced commitment from donors to support the agricultural sector, will preclude those most vulnerable from benefiting from the expected 2013-2014 normal to good harvest, and continue exposing them to food and nutrition insecurity.

Floods negatively impacting livelihoods

Good rainfall during the months of August and September has covered the rainfall deficits observed in June and July in the Sahel, avoiding possible adverse agricultural impacts previously forewarned by a September WFP/FAO report. However, high rainfall has similarly resulted in floods, with 458,475 people affected to date and over 32,000 hectares of agricultural land destroyed. Losses to affected people include loss of/damage to homes and access to public infrastructure, and possible loss of livestock, which fall prey to disease and starvation absent adequate shelter, veterinary care, and/or adequate feed- inputs compromised by floods.

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FAO and WFP Appeal for Immediate Support for Northern Mali

A severe food crisis is looming in Mali where a high influx of refugees and IDPs rely heavily on host communities and families, over-stretching already scarce resources. Negative coping practices, high food prices, limited access to agricultural outputs, and livelihoods erosion have all been reported since July this year, however, funding for food security in Mali remains at 53 per cent.

An Emergency Food Security Assessment was conducted jointly by the Government of Mali, FAO, WFP, and 15 other partners. The Assessment showed that three out of four households living in northern regions of the country are food insecure and heavily reliant on food assistance. An estimated 1.3 million of the country's most vulnerable people live in Northern Mali and have had low capacity to recover from the recent conflict and last year's food and nutrition crisis as a result of erratic rains. As IDPs and refugees begin to return to their communities of origin, limited resources are further strained and the number of people requiring assistance is increasing. Although the local economy is slowly recovering in the North and food security agencies are strengthening their presence, many farmers have been unable to purchase seeds and fertilizer, and, consequently, continue to require food assistance.

Urgent funding for livestock, off-season and floodplain recession campaign

The seeding period lasts from October to December; to prevent and fight food insecurity in the region, FAO recommends investment in cereal and vegetable production during the off-season and the floodplain recession campaigns. Activities should aim to provide adapted inputs (e.g. drought resistant seeds), rehabilitate degraded soils, irrigation systems and water points, and strengthen productive value chains towards improving household food security and resilience. FAO is calling for the immediate availability of funds to support the preparation of the off-season campaign, and animal health for livestock restocking.

Guinea: Post-Election Instability

Opposition calls for annulment of the elections and for militants supporters to stand-by for instructions

Tension continues in Guinea in anticipation of the official results of the 28 September parliamentary elections; results were initially due to be published by 2 October but have since been delayed until 17 October. Opposition insists that electoral fraud occurred and, as a result, has called for the annulment of the elections and for supporters and militants to be on alert for instructions. On 9 October, the international community - including SRSG Said Djinnit (UNOWA) and representatives from the EU and ECOWAS, *inter alia* – echoed the opposition's claims, noting electoral irregularities in eight out of the thirty-eight constituencies; the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) has admitted errors but labeled them as minor. The UN and its partners have called upon political parties and the CENI to co-operate in publishing results from the Matoto district in the capital, which both sides claim to have won and upon which an electoral victory might depend.

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At the time of reporting, security in the capital of Conakry is precarious. Commerce has slowed with many stores reportedly closed in Conakry. The opposition continues to contest the validity of the electoral process and it is feared that street protests might resume in the coming days. No major violence was reported during the elections themselves, however, various reports of pre-electoral violence were made with some 70 persons reported as injured and one killed as a result of pre-electoral military/civilian confrontations.

Humanitarian Response

Response from the humanitarian community has focused on health preparedness and the ability to provide immediate medical attention to injured persons. UNICEF distributed first-aid medical kits; the ICRC is present in all affected neighbourhoods in Conakry and is providing transportation for injured or killed persons, additionally, the ICRC has prepositioned medical kits in six hospitals, trained surgeons in war surgery, provided ambulances and support to hospitals and is visiting prisoners to assure that detention conditions do not deteriorate in the wake of the instability.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) regional working group chaired by OCHA and UNICEF met on 10 October to discuss the preparedness and response capacity of Guinea and its six neighbouring countries, namely: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali. It has been recommended that these countries update their inter-agency contingency plan in the event of an influx of refugees from Guinea.

West and Central Africa Regional Humanitarian Policy Conference

Regional Partners gather to discuss the future of humanitarianism



Participants to the 2013 Humanitarian Policy Conference for West and Central Africa Dakar, Senegal, 3 October 2013.

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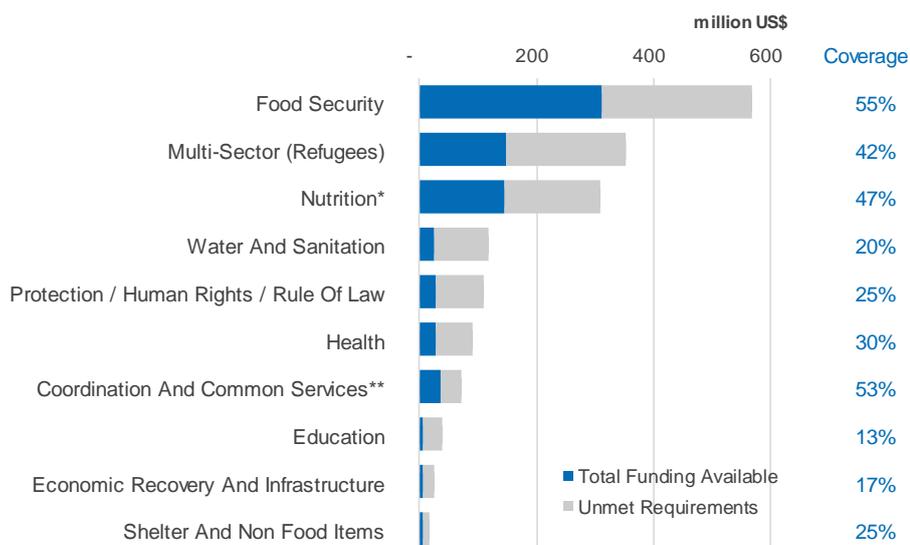
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) • Coordination Saves Lives

OCHA–ROWCA organized a two-day Humanitarian Policy Forum Conference for West and Central Africa in Dakar from 2-3 October. Over 50 participants comprising the NGO community, academia, and the private sector from across the region convened to discuss the most pressing issues in the field of humanitarianism and to share how they envisaged humanitarianism in the future. The Conference was opened by Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Robert Piper, who underlined that the future of humanitarianism was complex and, as such, would require an equally complex response from diverse actors.

The objective of the conference was to gather non-UN actors to see what role they currently and prospectively could play in the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Conference is part of a global UN initiative to improve humanitarian practices, with input from regional conferences feeding into the Global Humanitarian Policy Summit slated for 2016 in Turkey. More information on this global UN policy initiative can be found at www.unocha.org.

Funding Status Overview

Funding has not yet reached 50 per cent, though more than half way through 2013



To date, the Sahel has received 47 per cent (\$799 million) of the USD\$1.71 billion requested-- an eight per cent increase (or USD\$ 57 million) as compared the figure reported in the September issue of the ROWCA Humanitarian Bulletin. Very slight increases are noted in the different sectors, however, WASH, agriculture and education remain seriously underfunded. Additional and more balanced funding is needed to address the pressing needs of the Sahel and to move people out of the crisis. Over USD\$289 million is potentially available for the Sahel (outside of the traditional appeals) and almost USD\$76 million has been made in pledges.

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