

CAR: Imminent Food Crisis

An estimated 978,000 individuals are currently experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels, while another 309,000 individuals are at Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4). A total of 1.29 million people are in need of food assistance, nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. The areas most affected by food insecurity are Ouaka region in the center, Kabo and Batangafo sub-prefectures in the northwest, and Salo, Nola, Boda sub-prefectures in the southeast.

Several assessments found that large numbers of households lacked seeds for planting due to looting and/or household consumption; production prospects were particularly poor in the North (Ouham-Pende, Ouham, North Nana-Grebizi, Bamingui- Bangoran, Vakaga, and Haute Kotto).

Market supplies are low and food prices high following severe and widespread market disruptions. The main markets in Bangui have very low supplies of maize which has resulted in a 60 per cent price increase as compared to the pre-conflict levels. Meat and fish are not available in markets.

During a mission to the north-western region, OCHA witnessed the arrival of IDPs in Paoua from 1 to 2 September, following rumors of attacks by unidentified armed groups, targeting Seleka positions in the villages of Beboura and Nana-Barya. Villages are empty; the village of Beboura burned down along with the surrounding villages. While some IDPs are staying with host families, others are in a parish compound managed by Caritas. About 2,000 IDPs from Beboura and Nana-Barya are also occupying land provided by local authorities. The needs of these IDPs include food, healthcare, clean water, adequate shelter (due to the rainy season), mats and various utensils. The mission also identified many children, and pregnant and lactating women among the IDPs. Preliminary assessments carried out by UNHCR reported that about 300 Central Africans have fled to Chad due to insecurity in the Ouham-Pendé province.

Humanitarian Appeal

Response needs in CAR remain underfunded, with only 35 per cent of contributions made towards the 2013 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) requirement of USD\$195 million. The Protection Cluster has requested that the CAR Transition Government protect civilians and expedite the return of political-administrative authorities to the interior.

Food Crisis & Malnutrition Update

Dryness and Floods Negatively Impact Agriculture in the Region

Rain Deficit

Rain deficits have been recorded in Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Togo and Benin—with Benin only recently (in September) beginning to experience heavy rains. Delays and below-average rainfall will likely have a negative impact on agricultural production in the five Gulf of Guinea countries, namely, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. As reported by FAO/WFP, three successive months of water stress for crops in these countries has increased the possibility of below average harvest and a reduction in the planting of soybeans and rice in Ghana, and erratic rains in Senegal have caused irregular crop development for groundnut, cowpea and for cereal. Livestock are also experiencing difficulties in reaching their weights, with the state of vegetation development reported to be uneven across the region, with large areas of vegetation deficit observed in northern Senegal, central Mali, south of Niger and central Chad. Le Centre Régional de Formation et d'Application en Agrométéorologie et Hydrologie Opérationnelle (AGRHYMET) reports that despite the late start to the planting season, if the right water conditions improve in September or early October, the harvest will likely be at or above the average for the period across the Sahel.

www.unocha.org/rowca | www.unocha.org
For updates on the Sahel response, follow @OCHAROWCA
<http://sahelnow.blogspot.com>

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

Heavy Rains/Floods

Damaging floods have occurred in nine countries across West and Central Africa, which has caused floods to farmlands, crop destruction, loss of livestock, and disruption to marketing of food products. In addition to destroying farmlands and crops, heavy rains have also created breeding conditions for locusts: WFP/FAO report that heavy rains in summer breeding grounds for locusts occurred in Mali, Niger, Mauritania, and northeast Chad, noting that there will likely be an increase in locust infestations, as a result.

Recent flooding in Niger and Mali is causing some concern *vis-à-vis* impact on health facilities and consequently on malnutrition. A SMART Survey was conducted in Niger showing children between 6-23 months as the most affected group with a GAM prevalence of 20.6 per cent and a SAM prevalence of 4.9 per cent- lower than in 2012. A SMART Nutrition Survey was also completed in Mauritania showing emergency alert malnutrition levels with 6 out of the country's 13 regions reporting that 12 per cent of all children under five are malnourished and one in four Mauritians is food insecure. Surveys are underway in Mali for the southern regions and data analysis is underway in Chad, Cameroun and Nigeria. Results for Senegal nutrition survey are forthcoming.

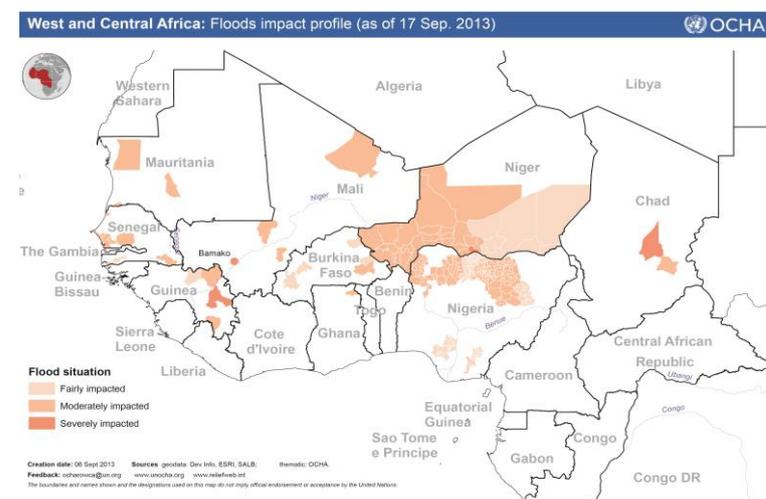
Global food prices have decreased by 7 points since last year, currently at 205.9 points. However, market trends in countries in the region, show increases in the price of some staple foods: in Benin, maize prices increased by 4 per cent; in Mali, millet and rice prices increased since last year; and in Burkina Faso, millet, sorghum, and maize prices are up.

The Lean Season: An Early Start

The lean season has begun earlier than usual in the Sahel, with peak months underway since August and set to continue until September. The most vulnerable households in the region have already begun to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling off assets (including livestock) and going into debt. SAM admissions are also on the rise: to date, 585,255 children under five across the Sahel have been admitted to SAM treatment facilities as compared to 526,000 children in 2012. Increased access to treatment options is cited as one of the causes for this increase.

378,395 People Affected by Floods to Date

Nine Countries Affected: Benin, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, on-going



OCHA-ROWCA has published a report this week describing where the region currently stands in the rainy season *vis-à-vis* humanitarian issues, such as displacement, food insecurity, and the spread of infectious disease (see www.unocha.org/rowca). The Report

www.unocha.org/rowca | www.unocha.org
For updates on the Sahel response, follow @OCHAROWCA
<http://sahelnow.blogspot.com>

indicates that damaging floods have been recorded in nine countries in the region, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. Heavy rains have caused both the Niger River and the Jamaarii River (in Bauchi state) to overflow causing floods in Benin and Nigeria, respectively. As a result of these floods, 378,395 people have been affected, 106 killed, and 40,444 people displaced. Although damages incurred are high this year, they are generally lower than the damage caused by the 2012 rainy season which affected 13 countries and 1.5 million people.

Update on Northeast Nigeria

690 deaths in 35 attacks since the State of Emergency was imposed in Yobe, Borno, and Adamawa in May 2013



Violence and Instability continue in Northeast Nigeria with more violent clashes between the religious sect Boko Haram and government troops and allies. Since the August issue of the Humanitarian Bulletin, the death toll has risen by 153 people killed in 7 attacks for a cumulative total of 690 deaths in 35 attacks since the State of Emergency was imposed in Yobe, Borno, and Adamawa in May 2013. Four months on and the result is on-going displacement to other states in Nigeria or across the border into Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. Since May 2013, UNHCR has tracked more

than 17,000 people (mainly women, children and the elderly) who have been internally displaced or fled across the borders into neighbouring Chad, Niger, and Cameroon.

Humanitarian Issues Highlighted

Access to the northeast continues to be limited due to on-going insecurity. However, OCHA-HAT in Nigeria has received reports that some humanitarian actors are operating in the northeast mostly through local partners. In addition to a lack of access, humanitarian actors have voiced additional concerns over (i) the lack of government capacity to ensure the protection of basic human rights; (ii) the erosion of household resilience given the protracted nature of the violence in the northeast - with accordant disruptions to livelihoods, markets, and access to foodstuffs; and (iii) the threat posed to humanitarian spaces, with reports circulating that insurgents in the northeast are fleeing to places of asylum or displacement.

www.unocha.org/rowca | www.unocha.org
 For updates on the Sahel response, follow @OCHAROWCA
<http://sahelnow.blogspot.com>

Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon: Resistance to Relocation

The relocation of refugees from the Nigeria-Cameroon border to Minawao planned camp is proving to be a challenge with only 1,159 persons located in this camp to date. Refugees have stated that they prefer to receive assistance from partners at the border since they would like to be able to return to their farmlands as soon as possible and be best positioned to closely monitor the situation in Nigeria. Located 130 km east of the Cameroon-Nigeria border, Camp Minawao is not yet fully-equipped to provide for refugees, with food distributions reportedly irregular to date; Cameroonian authorities, with the support of UNHCR, are sensitizing the refugees on the security risks of living along the border.

A CERF allocation of USD\$ 3 million was made to support Cameroonian authorities provide for the influx of refugees. In response to growing needs in Cameroon, UNHCR is providing protection assistance, IOM and Red Cross are providing shelter and WFP will begin regular distributions this month.

Assessment On-going

A one-week joint assessment mission began on 16 September; the assessment is being conducted by national authorities (*viz.* NEMA and SEMA), UNFPA, UNOPS, FAO, OCHA, and the Nigerian Red Cross. The assessment is taking place in a total of seven affected states: the three states where a state of emergency has been imposed since May 2013 (*viz.* Adamawa, Yobe, and Borno) and four surrounding states (*viz.* Gombe, Jigawa, Taraba, and Bauchi). Key sectors being assessed are food security, health, access to basic services, population movement, protection issues, livelihood and early recovery.

WHO Hosts Training on Disaster Risk Management in Burkina Faso

From 22 to 26 July 2013, WHO hosted a training workshop in Ouagadougou on disaster risk management (DRM) for Ministry of Health and national DRR platform authorities across francophone African countries. The purpose of this training was to integrate health issues into DRM approaches by accelerating the implementation of the WHO / AFRO strategy. The workshop brought together 43 participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, DRC, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

The workshop provided an opportunity for focal points of Health Ministries and national platforms alike to discuss and analyze their shared DRM experiences and challenges, and propose actions on the way forward. The venue similarly facilitated discussion of community-based strategies as effective means of integrating health concerns into DRM frameworks.

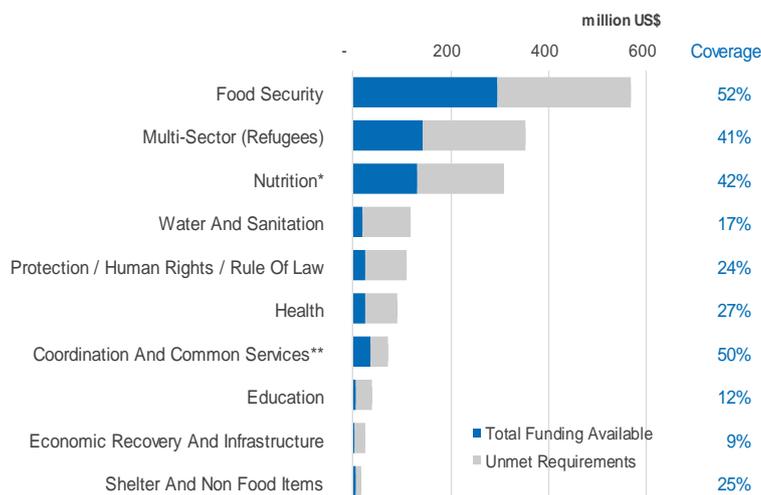
The Ministers of Health of the African Region of WHO had adopted the DRM strategy at the Regional Committee held in Luanda in November 2012. This strategy focused on strengthening the health system in the various phases of DRM, namely: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

www.unocha.org/rowca | www.unocha.org
For updates on the Sahel response, follow @OCHAROWCA
<http://sahelnow.blogspot.com>

The Strategy also gives guidance on effective implementation of the Strategy with technical support from WHO.

Funding Status Overview

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



As of 18 September, the Sahel has received 44 per cent of the USD\$1.71 billion requested representing a three per cent increase (or USD\$47 million) as compared to August 2013. WASH, agriculture and education remain seriously underfunded. Additional and balanced funding is needed to address the pressing needs of the Sahel and to move people out of the crisis.