



GIEWS Country Brief Cameroon

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FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over performance of upcoming 2017 cropping season in Far North Region
- Main maize season crop estimated average or above average due to adequate and well-distributed rainfall during cropping season
- Alarming food insecurity conditions persist in northern and eastern regions due to refugee influx and internal displacements

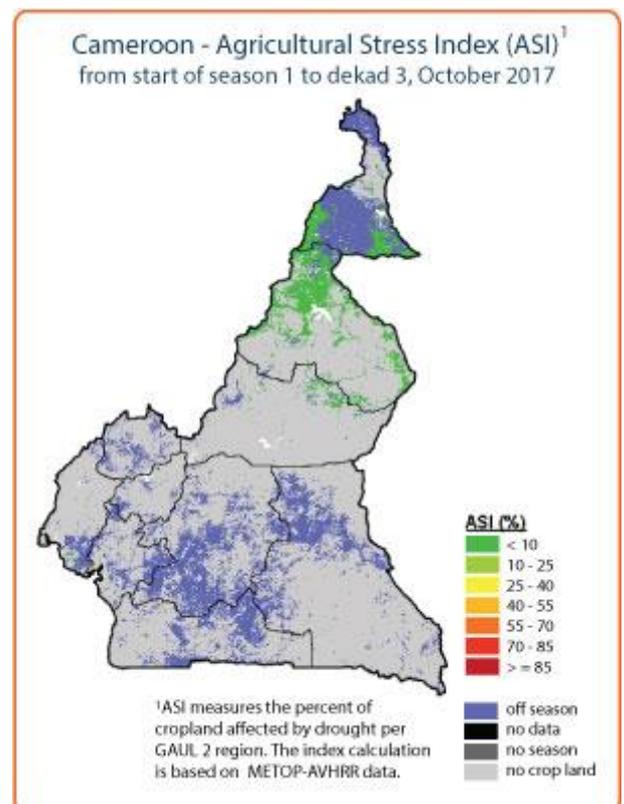
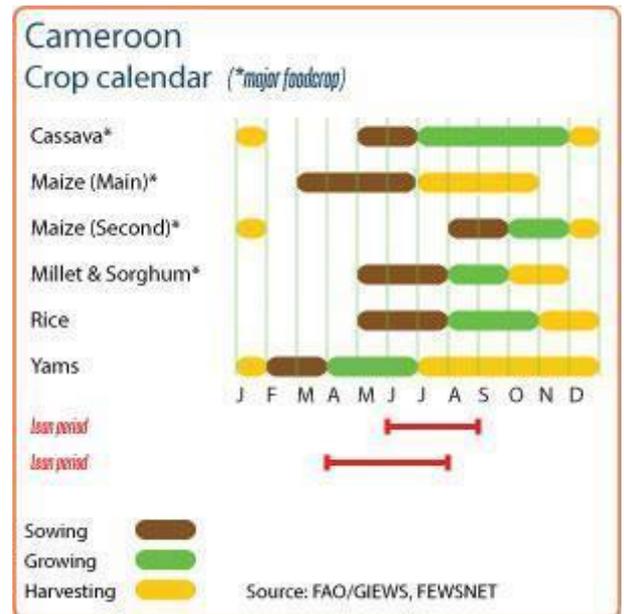
Uncertain prospects for 2017 cropping season in Far North Region

In the bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South, harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop is complete. Planting of the second season maize crops was concluded in late September and crops are currently developing normally. According to satellite-based analysis, rainfall has been adequate and well-distributed during the main cropping season and production prospects for the 2017 maize crop are expected to be average or above average. By contrast, in the uni-modal north where harvesting of the sorghum and millet crops is underway, despite favourable weather conditions (see map), the production prospects are uncertain due to civil insecurity. Agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the civil unrest, which spread from neighbouring Nigeria in late 2014. The widespread insecurity continues to result in displacement of people, causing input shortages and depleting the already inadequate households' productive assets. As a result, a reduced agricultural output for the third consecutive year is likely.

To help avert a full scale food security and nutrition crisis, in the framework of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO appealed for USD 4.6 million to respond to the needs of 100 000 crisis-hit farmers. FAO has been supporting crop and vegetable production through the distribution of cowpea, maize and sorghum seeds, fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Moreover, FAO has been supporting livestock production through livestock infrastructure and construction of water points and vaccination parks, small ruminants re-stocking and animal vaccination.

Inflation rates remain low

According to the International Monetary Fund, the average annual inflation rate, which was estimated at a low 2.7 percent in 2015 and 2.2 percent in 2016, is forecast to remain stable at 2.2 percent in 2017. In the last several years, rates of inflation



were highly volatile, varying from a low of 1 percent in 2007 to 5 percent in 2008 and then declining to 3 percent in 2009 and to 1 percent in 2010. The rates rose again in 2011 to 3 percent, before progressively declining to 1.9 percent in 2014.

Acute food insecurity situation in northern and eastern regions due to civil insecurity and climatic shocks

The overall food security situation has sharply deteriorated in recent years due to multiple shocks, including the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, increasing civil insecurity and natural hazards. The number of food insecure people was estimated at 2.5 million in March 2017 with the majority of the vulnerable groups located in the four regions of Adamaoua, East, North and Far North. In these regions, a substantial and increasing number of households are resorting to negative coping strategies.

In the Far North Region, the impact of the Boko Haram armed forces on civil insecurity has resulted in the displacement of about 236 000 Cameroonians and an influx of about 89 000 refugees from Nigeria. Furthermore, the resurgence of violence in the Central Africa Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country during recent months. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamaoua regions, increasing the local needs for humanitarian assistance. The total number of refugees from the Central African Republic residing in the country is estimated at about 216 000.

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