

HIGHLIGHTS

- US\$739 million required for Lake Chad Basin crisis.
- Food insecurity on the rise across the conflict-hit Lake Chad Basin.
- Above average rainfall across much of Sahel and West Africa.
- Record flooding expected to hit Mali's inner Niger delta in the coming months.
- Côte d'Ivoire officially reopens border with Guinea and Sierra Leone following the end of Ebola outbreak.

KEY FIGURES

Severely food insecure people in Lake Chad Basin	6.3M
People facing "crisis" and "emergency" levels of food insecurity in north-east Nigeria	4.4M
Meningitis cases during the December - June epidemic season	19,700

SAHEL FUNDING

US \$2 billion requested in 2016
31% funded



In this issue

- New funding requirements for LCB crisis P.1
- Humanitarian needs remain huge in CAR P.2
- Seasonal climatic outlook P.4
- Humanitarian news round-up P.5
- Sahel funding update P.6

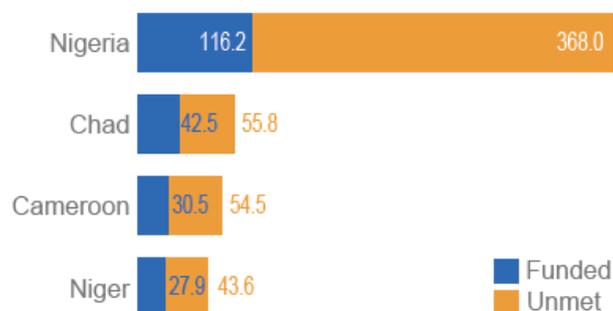
US\$739 million needed for Lake Chad Basin crisis

Humanitarian organizations working to assist millions of conflict-affected people across the Lake Chad Basin revised their financial requirements in September, seeking US\$739 million from \$520 million at the beginning of the year. The scale and the impact of the long-running violence has become even more apparent in recent months, as millions more people in areas formerly controlled by Boko Haram are being reached. Food insecurity has also deepened, with pockets of famine reported as the lean season progresses.

In Nigeria's north-east, more than 4.4 million people are estimated to be facing "crisis" and "emergency" levels of food insecurity across north-eastern Nigeria. At least 65,000 people are experiencing famine-like conditions. The overall figure represents a 50-per cent increase compared to March projection, which estimated that 3 million people were at crisis level and above. Malnutrition rates are also high: 134 children are at risk of dying every day if no assistance is provided.

Revised Requirement Sep - Dec 2016

(in million US\$)



Funding shortfall

Even as humanitarian organizations step up assistance, inadequate funding and persistent insecurity are some of the main hurdles to reaching those most in need. Some \$197 million, or less than a third, of the \$739 million had been provided by mid-September.

The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Toby Lanzer, continues to appeal for increased international support for the millions of people devastated by conflict, displacement and loss of livelihood across the Lake Chad Basin. On the side-lines of the UN General Assembly on 23 September, the presidents of Chad, Niger and Nigeria took part in a high-level event to draw more attention and donor support for the crisis affecting the four countries. Donors including Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States pledged over \$163 million during the event.

Persistent insecurity

The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Toby Lanzer, continues to appeal for increased international support for the millions of people devastated by conflict, displacement and loss of livelihood

Despite facing military pressure from regional armies, Boko Haram gunmen continue to launch raids. After a decline in attacks in Diffa in the south-east of Niger in August when only two attacks were reported, at least seven village raids attributed to the armed group were recorded by mid-September alone. The Multinational Joint Task Force and the Nigerien army launched heavy military operations following deadly raids in May and June in Bosso and Yebi areas. A months-long state of emergency is in force until 27 October.

In the western Lac region of Chad, increased insecurity and large military operations have led to new population displacements and curtailed humanitarian operations in some areas. Since the end of July, multiple attacks have occurred in the northern basin of the Lac region near the Niger border. There has been an increase use of improvised explosive devices, with four IED-related incidents since May, and more attacks to loot food and livestock. As a result, several humanitarian partners have suspended operations in health, nutrition and food security in Kaiga Kinjiria and Boma areas, affecting around 8,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 800 refugees.

IED attacks are also restricting access to IDPs, refugees and communities hosting them in Cameroon's Far North region, where security remains volatile owing to recurrent Boko Haram ambushes. Humanitarian operations in and around Mora town and UN missions to Mora and Banki town across the border in Nigeria were recently suspended. Mora is an important base for humanitarian activities and strategic for cross-border operations to Banki.

CAR: humanitarian needs remain huge

The worst of the Central African Republic's violence has largely ebbed away, and a new Government has been elected. Throughout the country though, millions of civilians do not have enough to eat and struggle to survive. Around 390,000 are still displaced and sporadic outbursts of violence continue to uproot people from their homes. Aid groups are struggling to deliver assistance amid the insecurity.

Half of the country's 4.6 million people badly need humanitarian assistance. Some 2.1 million people are food insecure and acute malnutrition threatens the survival of around 2 million others. Currently, 467,000 Central Africans are refugees in neighbouring countries.



Distribution of hygiene kits following the recent cholera outbreak. Credit: WHO

President Faustin Archange Touadera says that the Central African Republic has "turned its back on past dark days".

President Faustin Archange Touadera on 23 September told the UN General Assembly that the country has "turned its back on past dark days". The president, who was elected in February, stressed that his government was working to unite the country under a four-part strategy of peace and security; national reconciliation; economic recovery; and justice and human rights.

Still, outbreaks of violent attacks continue to erupt across the country as it struggles to recover from the devastation of widespread conflict triggered by the March 2013 coup d'état. In the latest attacks, six people were killed when rival armed groups clashed in mid-September in the northern Kaga-Bandoro and Ndomete towns, prompting the UN peacekeeping mission, MINUSCA, to reinforce presence in those areas to protect civilians.

The European Union and the CAR will hold a conference on 17 November in Brussels to draw more support to help the authorities restore peace and security and improve the socio-economic environment

Call for action

At a UN ministerial meeting with the Central African authorities also on 23 September, the country's main international partners called for concrete steps to quickly kick off national reconciliation and negotiations with armed groups to allow the launching of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme as part of efforts to cement stability.

To shore up those efforts, the European Union and the CAR will hold a conference on 17 November in Brussels to draw more support to help the authorities restore peace and security and improve the socio-economic environment. The CAR authorities will on their present the national strategy for the next five years and spell out reform commitments.

The CAR is still faced with a complex humanitarian crisis as it strives to rebuild from the conflict. However, funding for the humanitarian assistance this year remains low. Donors had by September financed only one third of the \$531 million required to assist 2.3 million people.

Huge humanitarian needs



Conflict, displacement and insecurity have deepened food insecurity and malnutrition. Credit: OCHA/Gemma Cortes

The conflict has left millions of people destitute and vulnerable. The extent of food insecurity and malnutrition, lack of health services and education as well as other basic services is critical. Civilians continue to suffer egregious human right violations.

Public and social services are extremely limited or inexistent, with humanitarian organizations providing much of the basic services to the population. In recent weeks, the country has been battling a cholera outbreak that has infected 266 people and killed 21 others.

Efforts by aid groups have largely contained the epidemic. However, an outbreak of monkeypox is also ongoing in the southern Basse-Kotto province on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Seventeen cases and one death had been reported as of 20 September. Another 10 undiagnosed deaths were reported by the local residents.

Only half of the CAR's health centres and hospitals are operational, essentially with the support of non-governmental organizations and UN agencies.

Since January 2014, more than 2,800 incidents of insecurity have been recorded, including 420 acts of violence against humanitarian partners.

Many Central Africans have suffered some of the worst atrocities by armed groups. Killings and violence against women are especially common. Several cases of gender-based violence continue to be reported, while between 6,000 and 10,000 girls and boys have been forcefully recruited by armed groups.

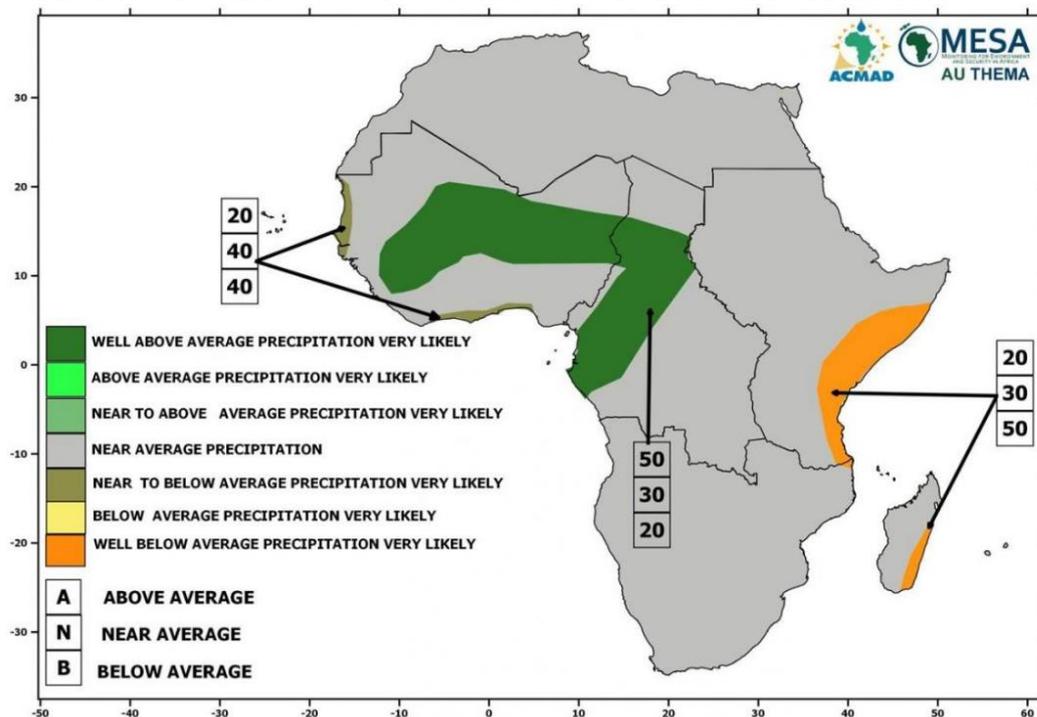
Humanitarian access continues to be hindered by various constraints, particularly violence against civilians including aid workers and their assets, interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities and active hostilities. Since January 2014, more than 2,800 incidents of insecurity have been recorded, including 420 acts of violence against humanitarian partners. In August, out of the 34 reported incidents, 29 per cent were acts of violence against aid workers.

Seasonal climate outlook: rainfall and flooding

Mali's Inner Niger Delta is expected to experience its largest surface of water in 50 years by November

Rainfall has been above average in most parts of central Sahel in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger so far, according to the forecast by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). This should lead to good harvest and replenishment of vegetation for livestock.

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST AUGUST – OCTOBER 2016



However, there are also worrying trends which could jeopardize these gains in some areas unless significant mitigation and preparedness measures are in place.

Mali's Inner Niger Delta is expected to experience its largest surface of water in 50 years by November. This could lead to increased agricultural outputs but also put infrastructure, crops, homes and animals at risk, according to the Netherlands-based Wetlands International.

The level of Benue River has reached red alert level from the Cameroon border to Lokoja region in Nigeria, where Benue and Niger rivers confluence. In 2012 the area around Lokoja was affected by unprecedented floods. Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency is working with the States and communities that are likely to be affected to ensure swift relocation and protection of assets should the water overflow the river's banks.

Along the border between Niger and Benin, the Niger River has also reached alarming levels. The Benin Ministry of Interior officially declared an alert on 12 September. Local authorities, the National Agency for Civil Protection and partners have already implemented mitigation and prevention measures such as the identification of relocations sites for the population at risk.

Humanitarian news round-up

The Ministers of Health of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria in August declared the recent polio outbreak in Nigeria a public health emergency for the Lake Chad Basin countries.

Côte d'Ivoire officially reopens borders with Guinea, Liberia

Côte d'Ivoire on 7 September officially reopened its border with Guinea and Liberia more than two years after it was shut as part of Ebola containment measures. All other Ebola-related restrictions have also been lifted. The repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia had resumed before the official reopening of the border, with more than 15,000 people assisted to return home so far this year. The move will also enable UNHCR to restart the voluntary repatriation of around 7,000 Ivorian refugees in Guinea.

Anti-government protests rock DR Congo

Two days of violent anti-government protests and police crackdown from 19 September left dozens of people dead. The demonstrations were against perceived intention by President Joseph Kabila to prolong his tenure. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the violence and called for restraint. Talks to resolve the crisis that had been boycotted by the major opposition parties have now been suspended.

Gabon: Red Cross offers assistance during post-election unrest

Calm has largely returned to Gabon following violent protests triggered by the disputed presidential election results announced on 31 August. At the height of the protests, The Gabon Red Cross deployed more than 110 staff and volunteers to provide medical assistance to those wounded in the clashes. It also visited more than 50 people detained over the riots and distributed water and other relief items. The organization has established a mechanism to trace and reunite families separated during the chaos.

The constitutional court upheld the election of President Ali Bongo in a ruling following appeals by the opposition seeking a vote recount in Haut-Ogooué province, the president's stronghold. He has been sworn for a second term.

Epidemics

Western Africa region continue to face numerous public health challenges, among them the recurrent epidemics such as cholera, meningitis, yellow fever and Rift Valley Fever.

Cholera

Between January and August, 19,220 cholera cases including 549 deaths were reported mainly in Benin, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria. Ninety-four percent of the total number of cases was in DR Congo: 18,102 cases and 510 deaths.

Meningitis

The epidemiological situation remained calm in all the "meningitis belt" countries in August, with only sporadic cases reported. No district reached the epidemic or alert level. During this epidemic season, (the epidemiological season typically runs between December and June) 19,742 suspected cases with 1,645 deaths were recorded, with a case fatality rate of 8.3 per cent. Further assessment will be carried out during the post-epidemic season to boost epidemic control efforts and strengthen capacities at country level.

Polio

The Ministers of Health of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria in August declared the recent polio outbreak in Nigeria a public health emergency for the Lake Chad Basin countries. The Nigerian authorities on 11 August reported two new polio infections in Borno State, the first such cases in two years. The declaration calls on

Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin countries to urgently and fully implement coordinated responses to stem the outbreak before the end of the year and prevent international spread. In Chad, an immunization campaign targeting 3.3 million people is underway.

Rift Valley Fever

Between 2 August and 17 September, the Government of Niger reported 52 human cases infected with Rift Valley Fever, including 21 deaths in Tchintabaraden district in the south-east of the country and home to 250,000 people. The victims had been in direct contact with infected livestock. Tchintabaraden, bordering Gao region in Mali, is the epicentre of the epidemic. The Government, in partnership with WHO and other partners, is leading response.

Sahel Funding Status Overview

2016 Sahel Appeal funded at 31 per cent



As of 30 September, donors had provided \$657 million for the two-billion-dollar Sahel Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), representing 31 per cent of the year's requirements. Humanitarian activities outside the Response Plan had received \$255 million. Overall 44 per cent of funds have been received for activities in and outside the HRP. Logistics, nutrition and coordination are the most funded activities.

The United States, ECHO and DFID are the top three donors. Burkina Faso's \$90 million humanitarian assistance budget has been funded at 50 per cent, making it the best financed so far. Niger and Cameroon have respectively received 43 and 35 per cent of their budgets.