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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Between June and August, around 7.5 million people will face food crisis in Sahel and West Africa
- Late start of rainy season in parts of Sahel and West Africa
- Insecurity persists in CAR although violence has abated
- Election date set in CAR
- Ebola re-emerges in Liberia

## KEY FIGURES FOR SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

Food insecure people in the Sahel and West Africa **7.5 million**

Food insecure people in the Sahel **4.5 million**

People displaced in the Sahel **3.5 million**

## FUNDING OF THE SAHEL STRATEGY

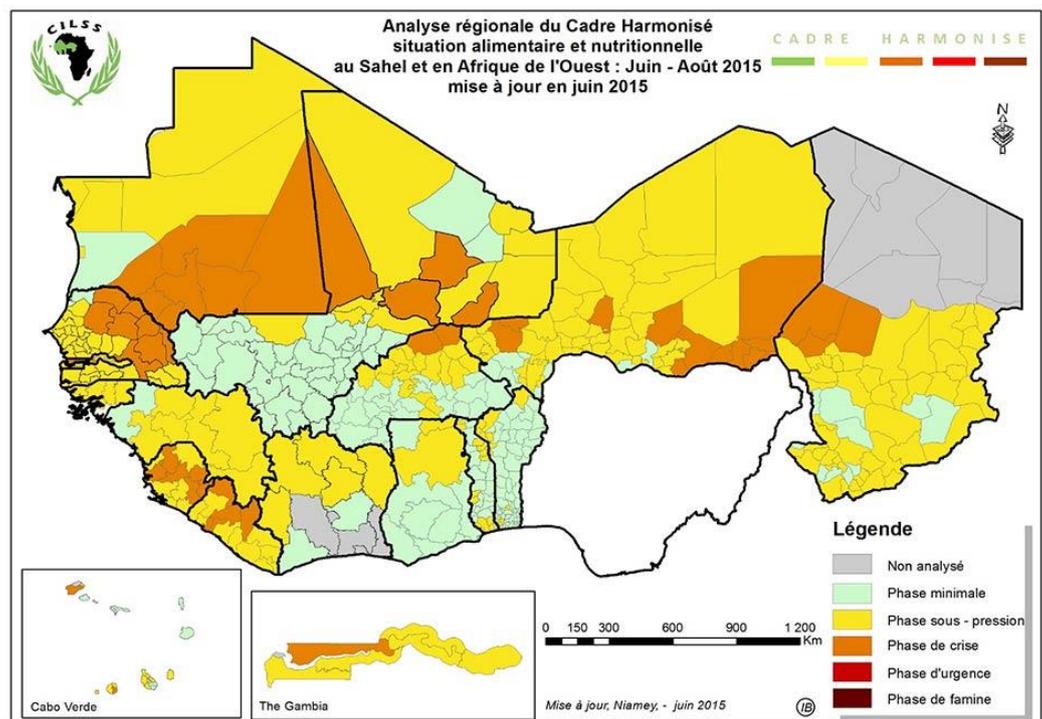
USD\$1.986 billion requested

USD\$ 609 million received (in SRP)

## Food insecurity in the Sahel

As the lean season gets underway in West Africa and the Sahel region, around 7.5 million people, including 4.5 million in the Sahel, will face a food and nutrition crisis between June and August, according to the June analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé. For the Sahel, this marks an increase of 900,000 compared to the start for the year.

Conflict, the late start of the rainy season, poor agricultural output in the 2014 - 2015 season, low pastoral production in localised areas and the residual effects of the Ebola outbreak are driving up food insecurity in the region, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) noted in its June food security outlook for West Africa.



Nonetheless across the region currently, markets are generally well supplied. Cereal supply has been boosted by surplus stocks and cross-border trade flows. But in conflict-affected areas of northern Mali, northern Niger and Lake Chad Basin, food supply is low in some markets. Commodity prices have remained close to the last five-year average, with downward trends in the Eastern and Central Basins. Persistent inflation due to the currency depreciation has triggered price hikes in Ghana, according to the outcome of the

*Around 3.5 million people in northeast Nigeria as well as a further 400,000 in Chad, Cameroon and Niger will be in crisis phase of food insecurity*

regional food and nutrition security monitoring system in the Sahel and West Africa (PREGEC) meeting held in June in Bamako.

### Impact of conflict

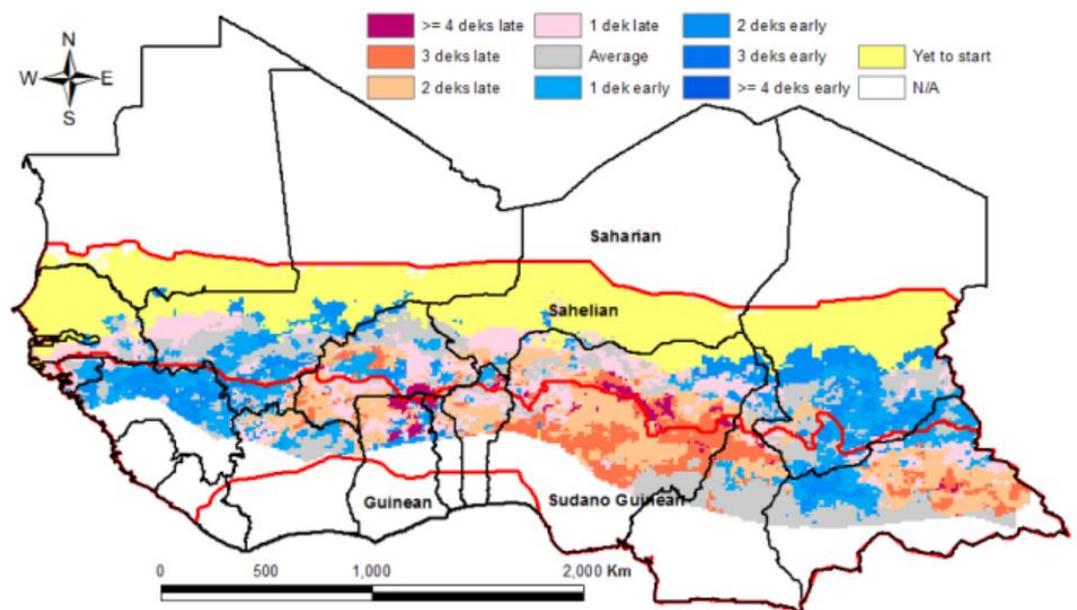
In areas affected by the Boko Haram conflict, a rapid assessment of northern Nigeria conducted by FEWS NET in May confirms that there will be emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity in worst-affected zones between July and September. In the absence of increased, well-targeted humanitarian assistance, approximately 3.5 million people in northeast Nigeria, as well as a further 400,000 people in neighbouring Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, will face crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity or worse.

In recent weeks, militant attacks have increased in north-eastern Nigeria as well as across the border into Cameroon, southern Niger and as far as the Chadian capital N'Djamena. In February, the armies of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria stepped up offensive against Boko Haram, pushing them back from many localities they had occupied.

Up to 85 percent of households have fled areas worst-hit by conflict and those who remain are unable to farm as usual. Off-season harvests once more came in well-below average. Currently, households are participating minimally in land preparation and planting for the main agricultural season. Additionally, seasonal forecasts are warning of a poor 2015 rainy season in northeast Nigeria. For the third consecutive year, the main season harvest, which begins in October, is expected to be well below average.

As regards livestock markets, prices are generally stable with a downward trend compared to last year but with levels higher than the last five-year average. However, a decline in the prices of livestock compared to the average of the past five years is observed in Chad because of the slowdown in trade with Nigeria.

*Planting in 2015 - 2016 season has started late, especially in the agricultural strip covering Mali, northern Burkina Faso and the western half of Niger.*



Start of season anomaly at the 2nd dekad of June. Source: USGS/FEWS NET

### Late start of season

The late onset of the June - September rainy season has depressed pasture growth. In Senegal, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Mali's Sahel region, pasture has been depleted. These factors have slowed down transhumance and risk causing conflicts between herders and farmers.

The 2015-2016 cropping season is characterised by a late installation of crops, especially in the agricultural strip covering Mali, northern Burkina Faso and the western half of

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Niger. Moreover, river flows below or close to normal levels are observed, especially for the Niger and Senegal Rivers.

Seasonal forecasts by different organisations predict varied scenarios for the July - September period, with some models showing increased probability of below average rainfall while others indicate average to above average rains depending on zones.

The 22 - 23 June PREGEC meeting urged countries without early warning systems to set them up and also called on countries to enhance their coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of response plans, and to continue mobilising financial resources to implement the response plans for the benefit of vulnerable populations.

*As of June 2015, around 1.4 million people remained displaced in north-eastern Nigeria, a decline of about 106,000 since April.*

## Nigeria crisis update

Since May, suspected Boko Haram insurgents have increased attacks around the Lake Chad region, causing more civilian deaths and displacement as villages, towns and places of worship come under renewed raids, suicide bombings and gun attacks.



**A UN inter-agency mission meets with internally displaced families in their settlement near Moloko, in northern Cameroon. The World Food Programme (WFP) includes IDPs and host communities in ongoing food distribution. Access to schools and adequate health services remain a big challenge. Credit: OCHA**

In the month of June, large scale displacement persisted in Nigeria (about 1.4 million IDPs) and neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger (163,197). A wave of attacks at the beginning of July in north-eastern Nigeria left more than 230 people dead. In June and July, militants also launched attacks in south-eastern Niger and in the Chadian capital, killing dozens. In the third attack of its kind in a fortnight, around 3,000 people were displaced after militants raided Assaga village in Niger's Diffa region. Suicide bombers also killed at least 11 people on 12 July in Fotokol area in Cameroon's Far North Region.

### Displacement

In Nigeria, according to the results of the latest assessment by the National Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, a total of 1,385,298 IDPs were identified in the north-eastern states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe as of June 2015.

The figure represents a decrease of 106,408 since the last Displacement Tracking Matrix report published in April (1,491,706 IDPs) and is attributed to the movements of return observed on the ground, particularly in Adamawa State where the IDP population has

*Food insecurity and sanitation are also major concerns in Niger's Diffa region, where attacks have increased throughout the month of June.*

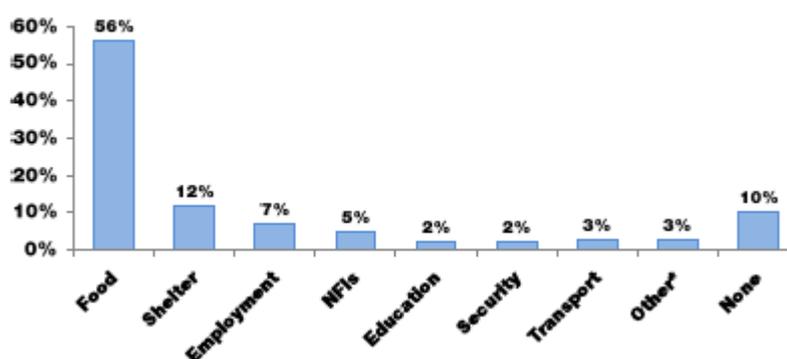
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decreased by 49 percent. In contrast, in the same period in Borno, the IDP population currently reaches over a million (1,002,688).

Children younger than 18 years constitute 56 percent of the IDP population and more than half of them are five years old or younger. Without the protective environment of their families, unaccompanied and separated children are at the heightened risk of abuse, violence, and exploitation. Child protection incidents have been reported in several IDP sites. Many of the IDPs emerging from captivity are severely traumatised and in need of psychosocial help, according to government officials.

Some 82 percent of the registered IDPs express the desire to return to their places of origin, but the ongoing conflict continues to cause displacements and conditions in most areas of displacement cannot support safe returns due to insecurity and lack of basic services. Concern also remains over the existence of mines/IED/UXO in locations where IDPs are planning to return.

## 2A: IDPS' NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE



Source: DTM Nigeria Report Round VI June 2015

### Key challenges

In Cameroon, access to water at the Minawao refugee camp in the Far North Region is still the main challenge. Refugees receive only 14 litres per day, two litres more than in the previous months. The region also faces worrying levels of food insecurity. Recent assessments conducted in conflict-affected villages found high rates of malnutrition among IDPs and the local population, with more than 8 out of 10 cases of moderate or severe malnutrition located in the North and Far North regions of the country.

Across the border in Chad, delivery of humanitarian assistance and identification of refugees has become difficult due to recent militia attacks.

Problems of access are also encountered in Nigeria, where some communities in remote areas who are or were formerly under Boko Haram's control are still inaccessible and have not been reached by humanitarian assistance due to insecurity even though very vulnerable people in these areas are in dire need of help, UNHCR said in a recent update on the displacement crisis around Lake Chad.

In Niger, food stocks decreased in June and cereal stocks are expected to significantly decrease by September. About 68 percent of villages in Diffa, where attacks increased during the month of June, are already experiencing a serious cereal deficit. Needs concerning shelter will soon become another serious issue in view of the rapidly approaching rainy season. Priorities include regaining access to certain areas as the security situation still prevents humanitarian actors from assisting the displaced population as well as the construction and/or rehabilitation of shelters in view of the upcoming rainy season. WFP has extended its assistance to 130,000 (+61 percent) people due to the lack of local resources.

In the absence of increased, well-targeted humanitarian assistance, around 3.5 million people in north-eastern Nigeria as well as a further 400,000 people in neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon will experience significant difficulty in meeting their basic food needs

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between June and September. Urgent humanitarian assistance and increased physical access to food insecure populations are needed to avert this food security emergency, according to the assessment.

## CAR crisis update

*Although violence has reduced in recent months in CAR, continued insecurity, banditry and sporadic inter-communal violence further deteriorates an already dire humanitarian situation.*

The crisis in Central African Republic (CAR) has forced more than 1 million people to flee their homes. Currently, almost 400,000 people remain displaced internally, living in the bush, in camps or with host families, including 33,000 in sites in Bangui. They are among the 2.7 million Central Africans, more than half of the population, who depend on aid to survive, including 1.2 million people food insecure.

Neighbouring countries still host more than 461,000 Central African refugees. Cameroon is now home to more than 53 percent of CAR refugees (244,819) while Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) hosts 98,281, Chad 91,211 and Congo 27,654.



Aishatou used to have a small tailor shop in Bangui. "Everything was destroyed and looted. I really don't have the courage yet to go back," she said. At Gado refugee camp in eastern Cameroon she trains young girls, many of whom are without formal education. Credit: OCHA

Humanitarian needs in CAR continue to exceed available resources and humanitarian partners are reporting that life-saving operations are shutting down due to lack of funding. Halfway through the year, only 30 percent of the required US\$ 613 million has been disbursed.

### **Persistent insecurity**

Although violence has reduced in recent months, continued insecurity, banditry and sporadic inter-communal violence further worsen an already dire humanitarian situation and hinder the ability of aid organisations to reach those in need of assistance as well as the redeployment of authorities and basic services throughout the country.

As of June, IDPs in CAR decreased to 399,268 with return movements in Bangui and up-country. These IDP returns are due to relative improvement in security and the presence of national and international forces in some areas (MINUSCA, French troops). There are now approximately 131,000 returnees throughout CAR.

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However, displacement is still occurring in north-western Ouham and Nana-Grebizi prefectures where new IDP sites have appeared. Conflicts between cattle herders and local populations as well as tensions between armed groups are causing this new displacement.

The rainy season has begun across the country, enabling planting to start. However, there is competition from herders over the agricultural zones following the diversion of transhumance corridors (Ouaka, Basse Kotto and Mbomou prefectures) owing to the socio-political tensions.

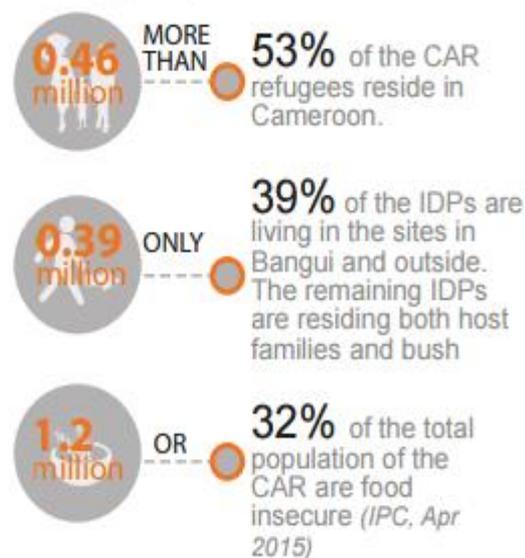
Since November 2014, transhumance related conflicts are among the main causes of displacement. Killings, destruction of farms and houses have been reported along the transhumance corridors.

### Political recovery efforts

The Bangui Peace Forum that took place in May with the participation of the transition authorities, armed groups, political parties, civil society and the religious communities sought ways of resolving CAR's two-year-old conflict. The forum agreed on a 'Republican Pact for Peace' which has enabled the setting of an elections timetable. Constitutional reforms, disarmament model, establishment of a criminal court and an agenda of humanitarian and development priorities are to be effected, too.

On 19 June, a timetable for the elections was officially announced. The presidential and parliamentary vote will be held on 18 October, with a second round of voting on 22 November, if necessary. A referendum vote will also take place on 4 October. A month-long voter registration started on 27 June. CAR refugees will, however, not be able to vote in the polls, according to a decision by the transitional authorities. CAR Humanitarian Coordinator Aurélien Agbénonci expressed concerns over the excusion.

## KEY FIGURES



## Ebola update

Seven weeks after it was declared free of Ebola, Liberia recorded the first death from the virus on 28 June. The victim was a 17 year-old boy from a village in Margibi county near the capital Monrovia. Another patient died on 12 July on arrival at an Ebola treatment centre in the capital Monrovia. Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the new infection. As of 12 July, there were six new confirmed cases, including two deaths.

The Liberian government has urged enhanced preventive measures. Some Ebola treatment centres have been reopened and around 120 people believed to have come into contact with the new cases are being monitored.

In Guinea, Conakry, Boké, Dubréka and Forécariah prefectures are currently the four EVD hotspots. Government and humanitarian actors have conducted sensitisation campaigns in the affected prefectures, where incidents of violence and hostility against health workers in some communities have hindered medical interventions.

*Liberia recorded its first Ebola case in seven weeks when a teenage boy died of the virus on 28 June. As of 7 July, there were five new confirmed cases, included the one death.*



An Ebola sensitization team meets a family in front of their house in the village of Moussayah, during a door-to-door campaign.

In three weeks, the campaigners reached 8,000 families in remote villages of southern Guinea's Forecariah district.

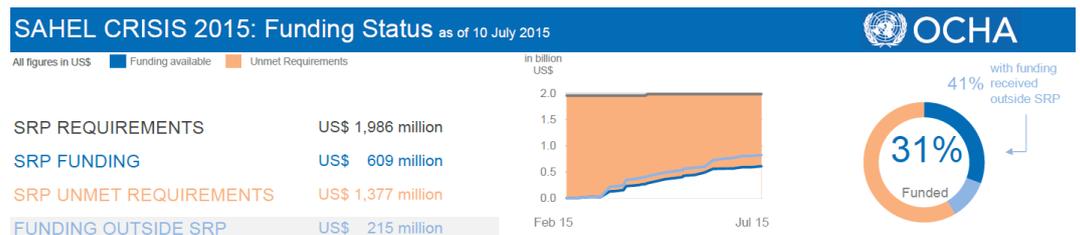
Credit: OCHA

A decline of infections seen in April and May in both Guinea and Sierra Leone halted in June. Weekly case incidence has been between 20 and 27 cases for the past five consecutive weeks. In the week to 28 June, there were 20 confirmed cases, the same as the previous week. Overall, a total 27,514 cases of whom 11,220 deaths have been recorded since the outbreak started.

Scale-up of the Ebola response continues in Sierra Leone's hotspot districts of Kambia and Port Loko. On 16 June, the National Ebola Response Centre launched a 21-day operation in the two districts to increase community surveillance, social mobilisation, implementation of better quarantine procedures and enforcement of safe burials. Partners have been asked to increase their presence to meet the needs of the response in these two districts. Humanitarian actors have recommended a three-month extension of the 21-day enhanced health intervention in Kambia and Port Loko districts.

## Sahel Funding Status Overview

### 2015 Sahel Appeal Funded at 31 percent as of 10 July



As of 10 July, the US \$1.986 billion Sahel Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan (SRP) had received \$ 609 million, representing 31 percent funding. Separately, \$ 215 million has been received outside the joint regional plan, bringing the total funding level of needs to 42 percent. The top three donors are the US, the European Union and Japan.

Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger are the three countries whose funding requirements have been met most, with each respectively receiving 84, 49 and 46 percent. Shelter, WASH and early recovery are the least funded sectors so far.

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