

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit are being transformed into an Action Plan.
- Some 3.8 million people in the Lake Chad Basin are facing severe food insecurity in the current lean period.
- Aid groups step up response to people in need across the Lake Chad Basin, where hunger and malnutrition are on the rise.
- Heavy flooding triggered by torrential rains in Ghana, Chad and Niger.
- Ebola outbreak is over in the three worst-hit West African countries.

## KEY FIGURES

People displaced in recent attacks in Niger	70K
Severely food insecure people in Lake Chad Basin	3.8M
People facing crisis level of food insecurity in the Sahel	6.7M

## SAHEL FUNDING

**US \$2 billion**  
requested in 2016

**25%** funded



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## The World Humanitarian Summit – next steps

With the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and related funding requirements hitting record high in the past decade, the UN Secretary-General convened a World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to discuss how and what must be done better to end conflict, alleviate human suffering and reduce risk and vulnerability.

### More than 9,000 participants

On 23 - 24 May, more than 9,000 representatives from the UN member states, local and international NGOs, the private sector, affected communities and other stakeholders gathered Istanbul for the WHS, demonstrating an overwhelming support for the Agenda for Humanity.

The diversity of voices heard at the Summit and their convergence around strategic issues and ideas was a first for the humanitarian sector. More than 1,500 pledges and commitments were made on how to better address the unprecedented levels of suffering and vulnerability of people caught up in natural disasters and conflicts; to empower them as agents of their own recovery; and to summon greater political will to prevent and end the wars which are causing so much distress.

### West and Central Africa at the WHS

The West and Central Africa region was represented at the highest level. Presidents from the Central African Republic, Mali, Mauritania and Niger attended the Summit, as well as high level mission from most other countries of the region. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were also present and particularly engaged in the new Regional Organisations for Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN).

In collaboration with Governments, United Nations, INGOs and Civil society organisations, the region held two side events featuring panel discussions and representatives from affected communities on the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, and on Mali and radicalization and stability in the Sahel.

## Participation in numbers

**180 UN member states (93% of all members)**

**700 NGOs - 350 national NGOs and CSOs; 250 international NGOs**

**400 Private sector firms**

**130 Individuals representing UN agencies**

*The UN has committed to build on the momentum generated to work in partnership with world leaders, including those who were not present, and with all stakeholders to support the most vulnerable people in the world*

## Grand bargain

Whereas many initiatives were launched at the summit, a couple stood out in significance. The launch of the “Grand Bargain” was groundbreaking and aimed at ensuring efficiency and transparency by investing in front-line humanitarian action over the next five years. Donors also committed to new funding initiatives to protect women and girls from gender-based violence; to



*At the WHS in Istanbul. Credit: OCHA*

ensure that millions of children in crisis can continue their education; address one of the most urgent priorities of refugees and displaced people around the world; and bridge the gap between humanitarian and development work by creating a new way of working together to reduce needs, manage risks and reach common goals to end needs.

## Translating commitments into action

The UN has committed to build on the momentum generated to work in partnership with world leaders and all stakeholders to support the most vulnerable people in the world. All commitments made at the Summit are being aligned and reflected in a Commitment to Action Platform.

This platform will be publicly accessible to allow for self-accountability on commitments made. In September, the UN Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly on the key outcomes of the WHS and propose ways in which to take the commitments forward.

In West and Central Africa, leaders are called upon to prioritize political leadership to address the causes of crises – through preventing conflicts, protecting rights, tackling climate change and resourcing efforts to reduce the risk of disasters and increase community resilience – for the well-being of tens of millions of people who struggle to survive.

## Lake Chad Basin crisis update

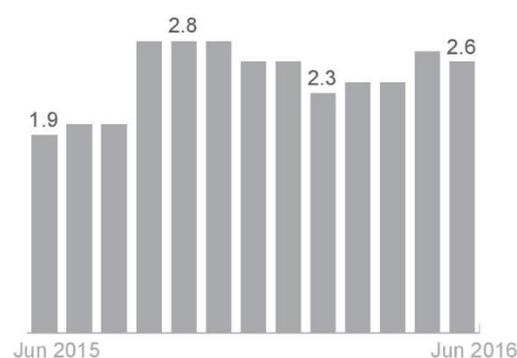
Hunger and malnutrition are worsening in several parts of Lake Chad Basin amid persistent Boko Haram attacks that have recently displaced tens of thousands of people. Meanwhile, humanitarian organizations are reaching more people in need and making efforts to increase response.

### New attacks displace 70,000 in Niger

Around 70,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Niger’s south-eastern Bosso area when Boko Haram elements carried out a series of raids in early June. Attacks by the armed group have been on the rise in southern Niger since March, as it came under pressure from military operations in Nigeria and

### Displacement trends

Total displacements in the Lake Chad Basin, including IDPs, refugees and returnees (in million)



*The conflict has intensified hunger across the Lake Chad Basin, where some 3.8 million people are now facing severe food shortages*

*In July, Cameroon, Nigeria and UNHCR are expected to sign a tripartite agreement on the voluntary return of refugees. The three sides have already endorsed the agreement*

Cameroon.

Chad has seen a lull in attacks in recent months, allowing aid organizations to reach more people affected by the conflict in the western Lac region.

More areas in north-east Nigeria's Borno State have become accessible as the military dislodges Boko Haram from towns and other strongholds.

But also in areas where the intensity and frequency of attacks have reduced, insecurity remains a huge impediment to a return to normal life as well as humanitarian access.

### **Deepening food insecurity**

In the entire Lake Chad Basin, some 3.8 million people are now facing hunger. Over the past two months UN agencies and partner organizations have gained access to more localities in north-eastern Nigeria. At a camp for the displaced in Bama town in Borno State, aid groups have reported extreme levels of malnutrition and hunger. During a visit to the town, aid group Médecins Sans Frontières reported that since May at least 188 people have died in the camp - almost six people per day - mainly from diarrhoea and malnutrition. The Government and a local NGO in June evacuated 1,192 people requiring medical care from Bama to Maiduguri, the capital of Borno.

Needs are likely to be even more acute in other localities in north-eastern Nigeria that remain inaccessible due to persistent insecurity.

### **Improving assistance**

The humanitarian community has shored up operations in areas they are now able to reach, and will further increase assistance in the coming months.

In Cameroon, humanitarian organizations in June conducted a multi-sector rapid assessment

in Logone and Chari. The department is the

most difficult area to access in the Far North region which hosts 60 per cent of all internally displaced persons. The assessment is aimed at improving assistance in the conflict-hit region.

### **Tackling protection threats**

The violence, displacement and disenfranchisement of millions of people across the Lake Chad Basin have exposed them to abuse and human rights violation. Boko Haram attacks have taken a heavy toll on communities, boys and girls have been abducted and forcefully recruited and women taken as slaves. Boko Haram elements have also attacked displacement camps, where cases of rape, sexual and gender based violence have also been reported.

In Nigeria's Borno States, sexual exploitation and rape cases were reported in IDP camps. Survival sex has been reported by women and girls, including in exchange for food assistance and to gain freedom of movement in and out of camps.

In June, a regional protection dialogue was held in Abuja gathering participants from the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, international and regional organizations, donor governments and civil society. The Governments agreed on



*Residents in a camp for the displaced in Damaturu, the capital of Nigerian north-eastern Yobe State, fetch water. Otto Bakano/OCHA*

*It is believed that humanitarian needs are more acute in other localities in north-eastern Nigeria that are still inaccessible. The humanitarian community is planning to increase assistance in the coming months in areas they are able to reach those in need*

measures to provide better protection and assistance to populations of the Lake Chad Basin, in particular to refugees and IDPs.

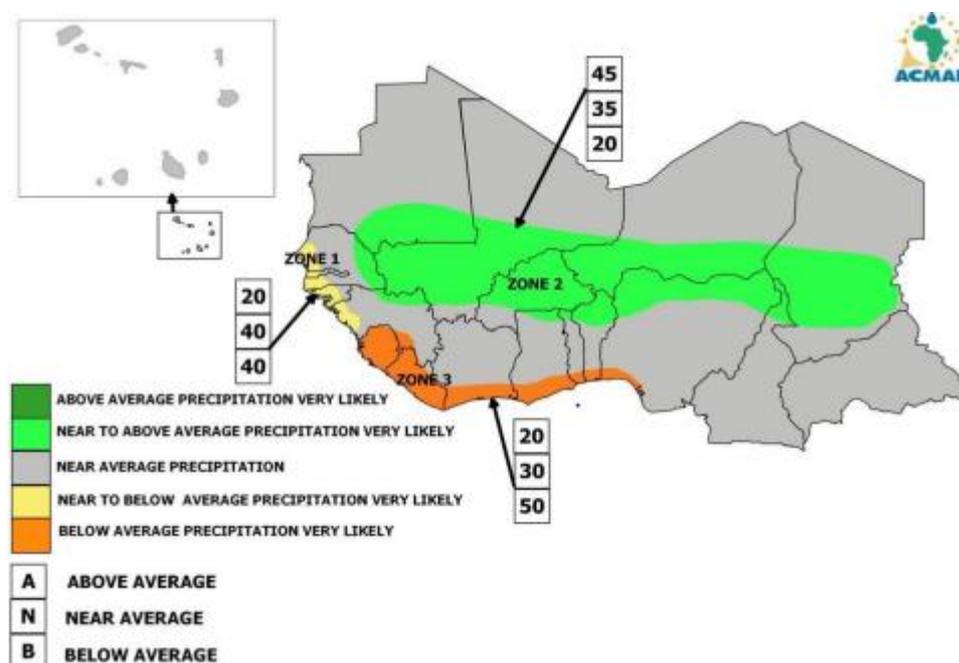
In July, Cameroon, Nigeria and UNHCR are expected to sign a tripartite agreement on the voluntary return of refugees. The three sides have already endorsed the agreement.

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## Seasonal climate outlook and food security

The rainy season has begun in much of Central and West Africa. In the next two months, average to slightly above-average rainfall is expected across the Sahel zone from eastern Senegal to central Chad, according to forecasts by climate and food security experts in West Africa. Below average to average rainfall is likely along the Gulf of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Average to slightly below average rainfall are expected over the coastal parts of Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

The 2015-2016 season was marked by improved harvests and livestock production. However, the agricultural output does not usually cover all of the region's food needs. Cereal production in the last season in West Africa and the Sahel rose 12 per cent above the five-year average, with 63.6 million tons harvested.



*In the Gulf of Guinea, the start of the rainy season is expected to be normal to late and the impact on the crop year needs to be monitored closely*

Nonetheless, a significant number of very poor households that depend primarily on agriculture and livestock for survival will be unable to take advantage of the 2016 agro-climatic conditions. Currently, food and nutrition insecurity affects 6.7 million people in the region even in the post-harvest period. The numbers could reach 9.5 million during the June-August lean season.

The conflict-hit regions of the Lake Chad Basin are witnessing widespread hunger and malnutrition. Around 3.8 million people are severely food insecure, many of them having been displaced and facing hardship and deprivations in camps or in communities hosting them. In north-eastern Nigeria, famine-like conditions could occur in the worst-affected areas if assistance is not delivered swiftly.

In the Gulf of Guinea, the start of the rainy season is expected to be normal to late and the impact on the crop year needs to be monitored closely, according to the experts. In some counties, heavy flooding is already causing damage and claiming lives. More than 10 people have been killed by torrential rains and floods in Chad, Ghana and Niger.

## Disaster preparedness initiatives: May–June

*With the rainy season starting in most regions of West Africa, deadly floods have wreaked havoc in parts of Ghana, Chad and Niger*

### GECEAO consultation

From 31 May to 2 June, OCHA's Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROWCA), the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) held the tenth West African Regional Consultation in Senegal. The gathering of 16 countries from the region and partners such as OFDA and the Koffi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre aimed to strengthen the preparedness and emergency response capacities. The regional consultation is a platform for exchange and decision-making on emergency preparedness and response. During the meeting, participants discussed the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), major risks linked to the 2016 rainy season, the strengthening of civil-military cooperation during crises and the setting up of unique disaster management agencies based on the model proposed by the ECOWAS Commission.

### Emergency Response Preparedness training

An inter-agency Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) training was conducted by OCHA ROWCA, OCHA HQ, UNICEF and WFP from 13 to 15 June in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Around 30 country-based staff (NGO, UN) as well as Governmental representatives participated in the training.

The ERP approach was developed and validated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee at the global level. Issues related to ERP, including the analysis of risks, the minimum and advanced preparedness actions have been implemented with the UNCT and Cameroon's Civil Protection Agency. The main objective of the training was to introduce and operationalize the ERP approach in the context of the country to increase awareness and capacity of key stakeholders involved in humanitarian action at the national level, including subsequent follow-up activities of the implementation of ERP approach.

OCHA ROWCA, WFP and UNICEF regional offices in Dakar will conduct ERP training in at least five priority countries in West and Central Africa by the end of 2016.

### ECCAS consultation

From 22 to 24 June, OCHA ROWCA and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) co-organized the sixth Central African regional consultation for disaster preparedness and response in Yaoundé. Nine countries, the IFRC and four national Red Cross societies from the Central Africa region took part in the discussions. The consultation focused mainly on the lessons learned and the way forward in the aftermath of the World Humanitarian Summit, climate forecast for the region, disaster preparedness initiatives and trainings such as the UNDAC methodology, the setting up of an emergency responders roster for Central Africa, the model one agency process and the validation of the 2015 - 2017 Yaoundé's Action Plan for disaster preparedness.

*The main objective of the Emergency Response Preparedness training is to operationalize its approach and increase the awareness and capacity of key stakeholders involved in humanitarian action at the national level*

## Humanitarian news round-up

### Heavy rains trigger floods

With the rainy season starting in most regions of West Africa, deadly floods have wreaked havoc in parts of Ghana, Chad and Niger. In June, heavy downpours claimed at least ten lives and destroyed property across Ghana, with the Central Region being the worst affected. In Agadez and Tahoua in Niger, floods affected at least 1,200 people, destroying around 200 houses and other buildings and killing more than 8,400 cattle. In the town of Oum Hadjer in central Chad, heavy rains killed 5 people, injured 21 and destroyed nearly 150 houses.

### Mali returnees

Mali, Mauritania and UNHCR on 16 June signed a tripartite agreement for the voluntary return of 40, 000 Malian refugees living in the Mbera camp in Mauritania. A committee is

*The Ebola outbreak in the three West African countries worst affected by the epidemic has been declared over Guinea and Liberia, where transmission ended in early June, are observing three months of enhanced surveillance*

to be established to define the modalities of and implement voluntary returns. Returns by the displaced picked up pace after the presidential and legislative elections following the signing of the first peace agreement in June 2013, and the ensuing improvement of the security in parts of the country's northern regions.

Four years after Mali's political crisis, 468,467 internally displaced persons have returned to their communities, primarily in the northern part of the country. However, 36,762 people remain internally displaced, according to the Malian government-led Displacement Tracking Matrix, a system that monitors population movements.

### Epidemics

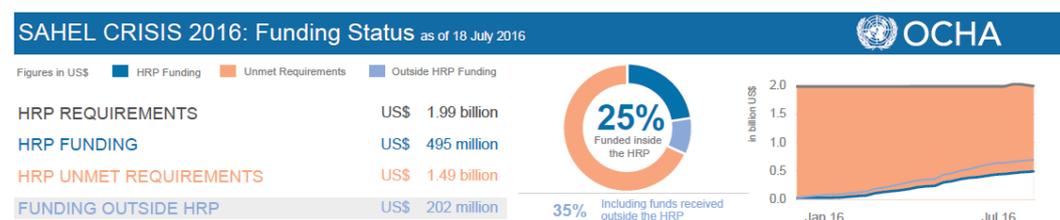
On 1 and 9 June, after an outbreak which lasted over two years, WHO declared the end of the Ebola virus transmission in Guinea and Liberia respectively. Both countries have now embarked on a 90-day heightened surveillance to ensure that any new cases are identified quickly before they can spread. In Guinea, the UN system received US \$2.9 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to maintain readiness, response capacity and surveillance to avoid new outbreaks. The three worst-affected West African countries have now all been declared free of the virus.

In Cameroon, a bird flu outbreak was confirmed by the Government on 24 May, after samples were tested from a large poultry farm in the capital Yaoundé. Two days later, new poultry deaths were reported in the South Region, bringing the toll to an estimated 30,000, with a strong epidemiological link to the poultry complex in Yaoundé. No human death or infections has so far been reported. WHO and UNICEF are providing technical support to the national authorities for field investigations.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a yellow fever outbreak was declared by the Ministry of Health on 20 June. A total of 1,106 suspected cases and 75 deaths were recorded in five of the country's 26 provinces. More than a million doses of vaccine have been dispatched in the provinces of Kinshasa and western Kwango, which borders Angola, where the disease has already killed more than 300 people since December. While the World Health Organization has not declared a public health emergency, it warned of possible vaccine shortages.

## Sahel Funding Status Overview

### 2016 Sahel Appeal funded at 25 per cent



The two-billion-dollar Sahel Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) had received US\$495 million by 18 July, representing 25 per cent of the year's requirements. Humanitarian activities outside the Response Plan had received US\$202 million. Overall, 35 per cent of funds have been received for activities in and outside the HRP. Logistics, shelter and coordination are the most funded activities.

ECHO, the United States and DFID are currently the top three donors. Burkina Faso and Niger are so far the best funded at 46 and 30 per cent respectively. Mali has received 28 per cent of the requested funds, while Nigeria and Senegal have each received 27 per cent.