



During the period under review, five regional working groups met: Food Security and Nutrition (24 May, 21 June), Education in Emergencies (28 May), the Cholera Platform (12 June), Cash Transfer (13 June) and Health (14 June). Below are the main points of discussion of the meetings.

## 1. Food Security and Nutrition Regional Working Group

### 24 May

- Above average rainfall is expected in the Sudanian and Sudano-Sahelian zones of West Africa and Chad for the 2018 rainy season. It is recommended to monitor rainfall trends (spatiotemporal distribution) and keep track of preparations for the winter season.
- In April 2018 agricultural activities were dominated by growing of off-season crops and market gardening due to the heat, drying up of water points, and winter season preparations.
- The pastoral situation remains worrying and is characterized by a continued seasonal regression of biomass, a continued decline in water availability, the physical condition of livestock, and a drastic fall in prices and a worsening of trade for livestock/cereals.
- Cadre Harmonisé analysis was concluded for the first time in Cameroon. The official results are not yet available.
- The second evaluation of the PREGEC Charter was considering the National Response Plans in Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.
- Nutritional situation in the Sahel: There were 361,859 new Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions for the following countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad, representing an increase of almost 20 per cent compared to the number of admissions in the first quarter of 2017. The nutritional situation is especially worrying in Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Nigeria.

### 21 June

- The group emphasized a generally normal to late start of the rainy season. There is an improvement in the pastoral situation in areas where rainfall has already been satisfactory, resulting in the beginning of regeneration of the herbaceous cover and the filling of the water points.
- Participants discussed the need to harmonize figures used on public documents and statements. The use of a multitude of numbers, as well as inappropriate mixes between Cadre Harmonisé numbers and national response plans are likely to generate questions, confusion or loss of credibility.
- Following discussions between partners, OCHA will resume the monitoring of the regional indicators for better visibility of the current response at the Sahel level. The monitored indicators will be for Food Security, Nutrition and WASH.

*Meeting materials can be found [here](#).*

## 2. Education in Emergencies Working Group

- The meeting centered on the drafting of the group's Terms of Reference and work plan for 2018. Copies were distributed to the group following the meeting for feedback and will be finalized in the next meeting in July.

## 3. Cash Transfer Regional Working Group

- The summary of ten lessons learned from the Grand Bargain Workshop in Rome was shared with participants, noting significant progress. The discussion was focused on the quality of Cash delivery, such as monitoring and funding, etc. The Grand Bargain Cash Work stream is led by WFP and DFID.

- A Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEB) case study documenting the process in five countries in the region (Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Chad) was discussed. Challenges and lessons learned from the case studies were discussed to further identify how to strengthen collective support to these initiatives and the role of the Regional Cash Transfer Working Group (CWG).
- BIEP (Building Individual Expertise Program) is a program that started as a pilot to provide minimum understanding of Cash for people in organizations involved in Cash Transfer. The program received positive member reviews and will soon begin a new phase and call for applications in the coming months.
- CASH in Ebola: Recommendations on how humanitarians can use Cash Transfer during epidemics was shared through a report and case study (found in the link below).
- The HDX (Humanitarian Data Exchange), an open platform for sharing data, was presented and its possibilities to be adapted and utilized for the CWG were discussed.
- The CWG Terms of Reference will be reviewed in the next group meeting scheduled in September.

*Meeting materials can be found [here](#).*

#### **4. Health Regional Working Group**

- During a special meeting on Ebola, participants recommended that the case confirmation process be done quickly so that reclassification of suspect cases does not take much time. They further recommended that measures be taken to ensure compensation when patients' belongings are burnt upon their departure.
- Funding for the DRC Response Plan is currently at 108%, and funds are sufficient to cover the next three months.
- Participants highlighted the need to soon receive information on emerging or potential epidemics (such as the measles cases in Mali and Chad), but no substantial information is yet available.

#### **5. Cholera Platform**

- Since the beginning of 2018, 22,500 cholera cases and 466 deaths have been reported. 52% of cases came from the DRC and 47% from Nigeria. In the DRC, the most affected, there is risk of the epidemic spreading to Kasai, a region that has historically not been affected by cholera.
- It was reported that the DRC has a lower long-term cholera eradication commitment policy. Unlike West African countries, there is no national plan to eliminate cholera.
- The Platform has developed a web map tool that demonstrates in real-time the evolution of cholera cases in countries.
- In terms of finance, the Platform is looking for donors to provide 2019 funding.