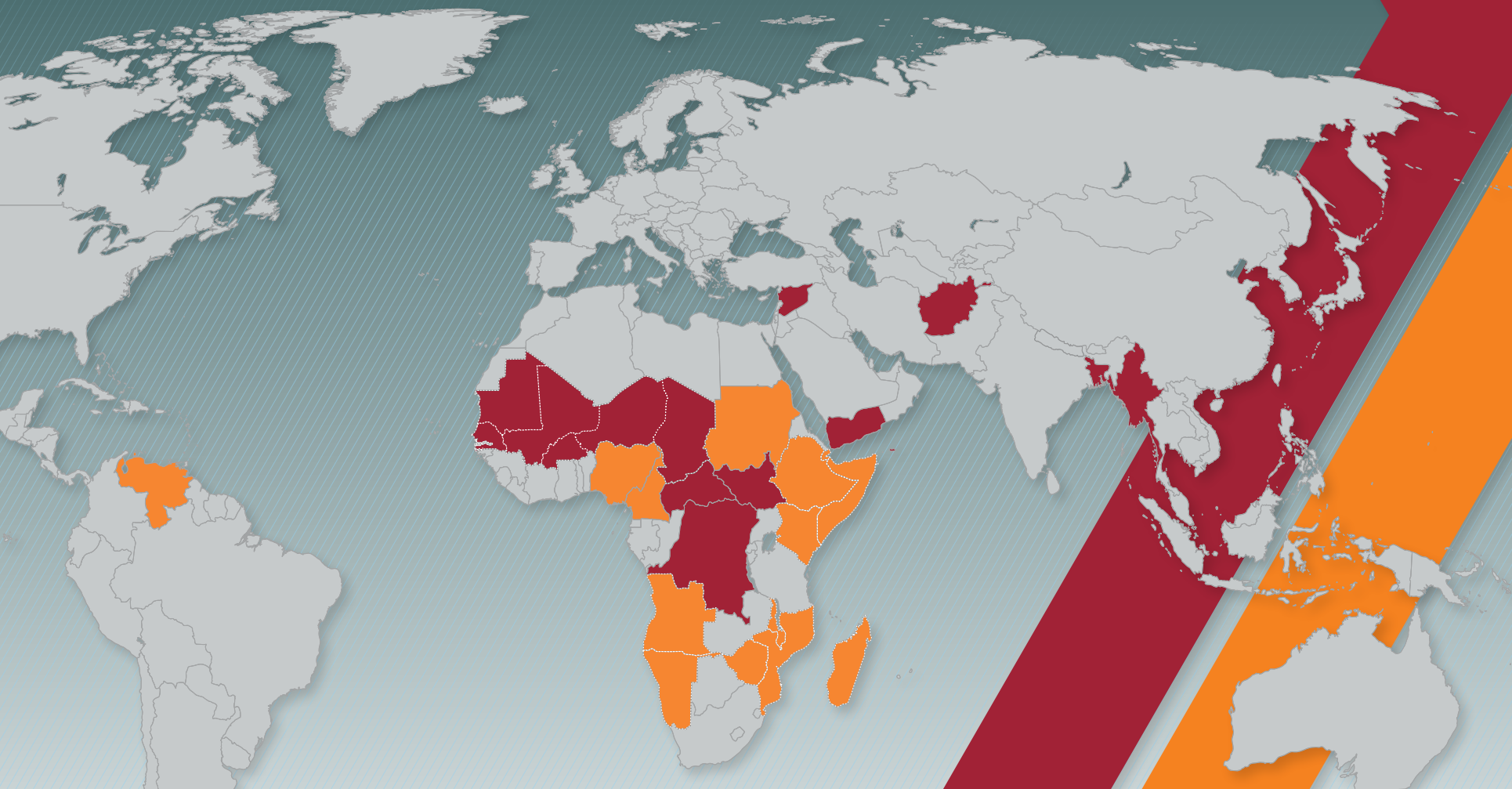




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Early Warning Early Action report on food security and agriculture

2018
July–September



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Overview

The Early Warning Early Action initiative has been developed with the understanding that disaster losses and emergency response costs can be drastically reduced by using early warning analysis to act before a crisis escalates into an emergency. Early actions strengthen the resilience of at-risk populations, mitigate the impact of disasters and help communities, governments and national and international humanitarian agencies to respond more effectively and efficiently.

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

The **Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) report on food security and agriculture** is developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It provides a quarterly forward-looking analysis of major disaster risks to food security and agriculture, specifically highlighting:

- potential new emergencies resulting from imminent disaster threats
- new developments in countries already affected by protracted crises which are likely to cause a further deterioration of food insecurity

This report is part of FAO's efforts to systematically link early warnings to anticipatory actions. By providing specific early action recommendations for each country, the report aims to prompt FAO and partners to proactively mitigate and/or prevent disasters before they start to adversely impact food security.

High risk

Countries are categorized as “high risk” when there is a high likelihood of a new emergency or a significant deterioration of the current situation with potentially severe effects on agriculture and food security.

On watch

Countries categorized as “on watch” instead have a comparatively more moderate likelihood and/or potential impact, requiring close monitoring.

This report represents a summary and a prioritization of analysis provided by FAO's corporate and joint multi-agency information and early warning systems:

- Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS)
- Food Chain Crisis and Emergency Prevention System (FCC-EMPRES)
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH)

In addition to these, a number of other external sources are consulted. The list of sources is available on page vii.

Countries with ongoing emergency response efforts are not included in the report, unless there are signs of potential significant deterioration. An overview of countries worldwide with humanitarian response plans or emergency plans is provided on page vi.

More details on the risk ranking methodology and the early action recommendations are provided on page ii.

Methodology

Risk value

High risk

FAO and partners should start implementing early actions on a no-regrets basis

On watch

FAO should strengthen corporate monitoring, preparedness and plan for the implementation of certain low cost early actions

The countries and regions flagged in this report are selected through a consultative process led by early warning focal points from the EWEA, GIEWS, FCC-EMPRES and IPC teams. The main steps of the process are:

1. Shortlist countries flagged by FAO's corporate early warning systems, IPC and CH
2. Triangulate risk information with other datasets and external early warning systems
3. Verify and rank the final list of risks based on the following three criteria:
 - **Likelihood of occurrence** is classified into five levels (very unlikely, unlikely, moderately likely, likely and very likely). The term likelihood applies to the probability that, within the time period considered, either a new disaster risk or the significant deterioration of the situation will occur.
 - **Potential impact** is classified into five levels (negligible, minor, moderate, severe and critical). The impact is analysed both in terms of magnitude (the number of potentially affected people and/or geographical extent of the impact on agriculture, livelihoods and food security) and severity (the gravity of the impact on agriculture, livelihoods and food security, especially in relation to pre-existing vulnerability and food insecurity).
 - **Country capacity** to cope with and respond to potential disasters or deteriorated situations is also classified into five levels (very low, low, medium, high and very high). The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) is further applied to measure the coping capacity of a country.

Famine declared and risk of famine

As per IPC guidance, when a new emergency or further deterioration of the situation might lead to an increased risk of famine, this aspect is highlighted in the global risk map and narrative of the report as "risk of famine". When the occurrence of famine has been declared, this is labelled as "famine declared".

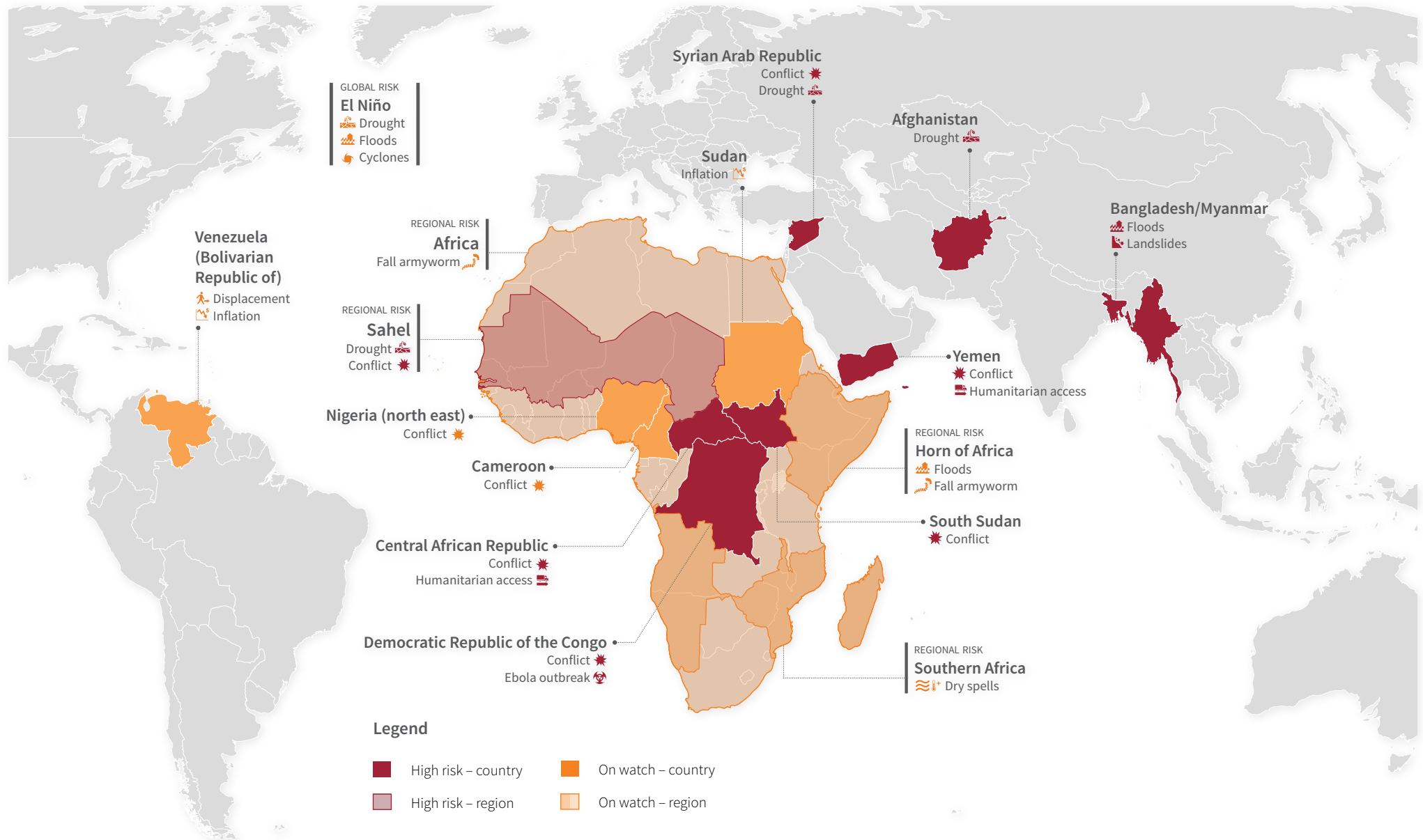
Recommendations for early actions

Early action recommendations are indicated for each risk that features in this report. They outline a range of the most appropriate interventions over the coming months which could prevent, mitigate or prepare for the potential impact of a specific disaster on the agriculture sector and livelihoods. The interventions are also sector specific and non-binding in nature. Early actions can vary from activities aiming to protect livelihood assets to planning and preparatory activities. The recommendations are developed by FAO through a consultative process involving technical experts and FAO country, sub-regional and regional offices.

Global risk map

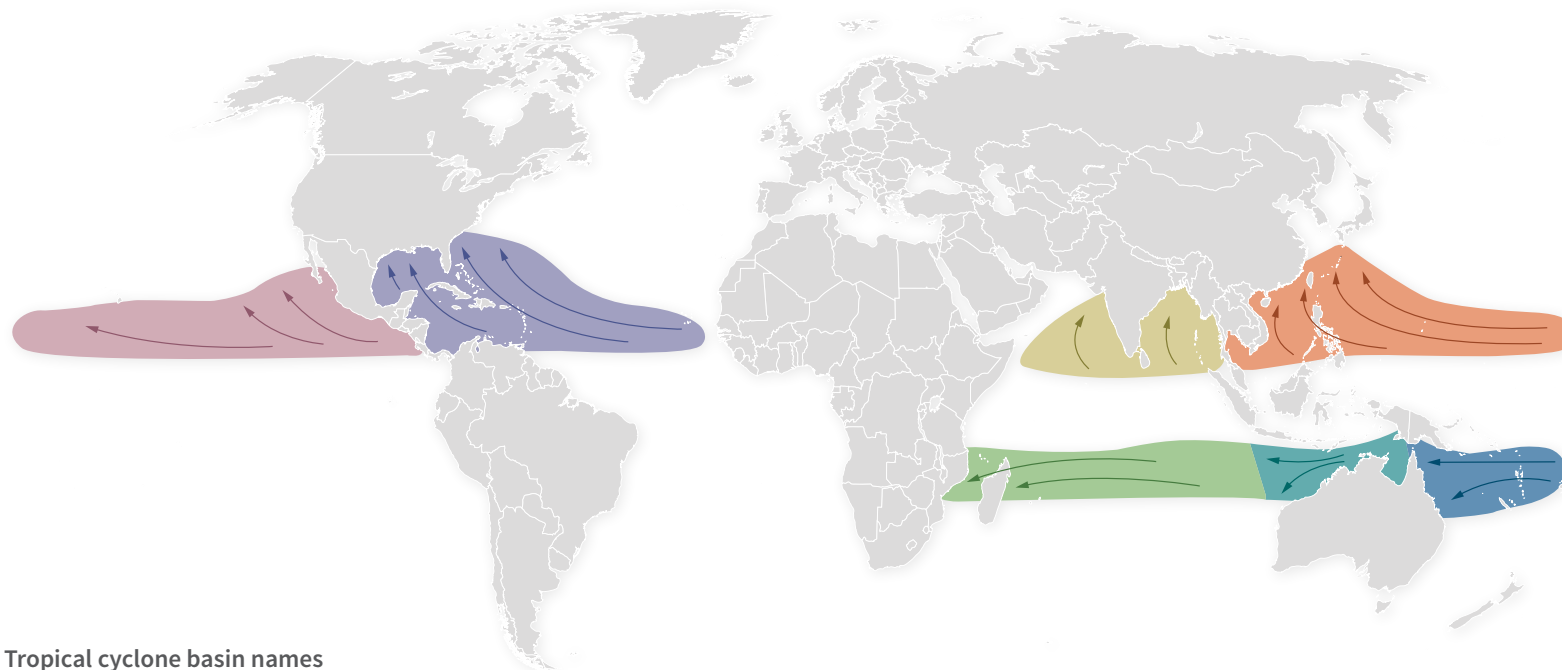
The map on the right provides a visualization of major disaster risks to food security and agriculture in the indicated reporting period. When a new emergency or deterioration of the current situation is very likely and might have severe impacts, it is indicated as "high risk". In case of moderate to high likelihood and moderate and significant impact, the risk is listed as "on watch". Ongoing humanitarian crises, such as protracted emergencies, are not highlighted in this report unless a deterioration is likely.

Global risk map: July–September 2018



Cyclone seasonality

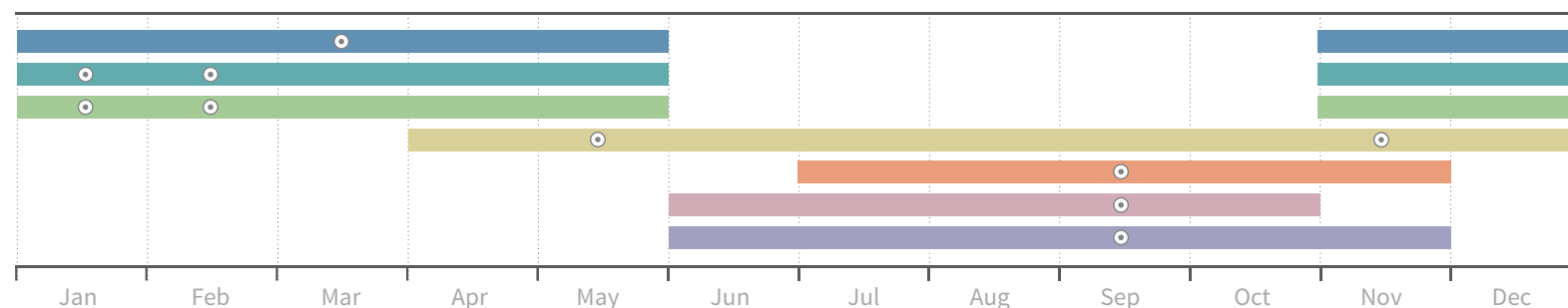
This map provides an overview of the timeline of cyclone formations and their historical tracks. There are seven tropical cyclone basins, with specific peak timings during the calendar year. When available, the seasonal forecast (below- or above-average cyclone activity) is also provided.



Tropical cyclone basin names

- North Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea*
- Northeast Pacific basin
- Northwest Pacific basin
- North Indian basin
- Southwest Indian basin
- Southeast Indian/Australian Basin
- Australian/Southwest Pacific basin
- Peak

Seasonality calendar

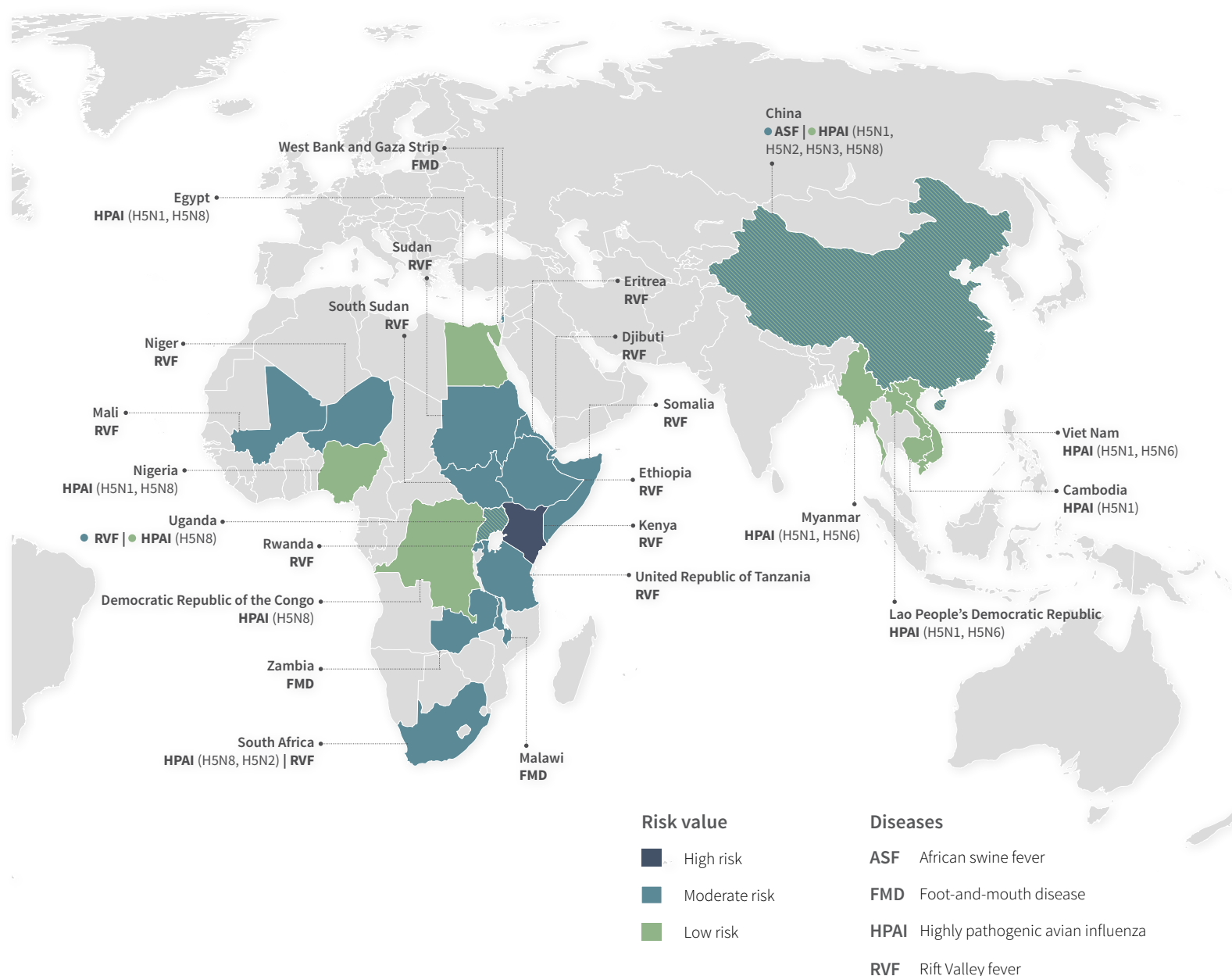


* Cyclone activity in 2018 is forecast to be 15 percent below the long-term average

Animal health risks

This map highlights selected countries facing animal health risks during the reporting period. Countries are only highlighted if the risk has the potential to impact food security. The information used to compile this map was extracted from the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC) Early Warning Bulletin for the period April–June 2018.

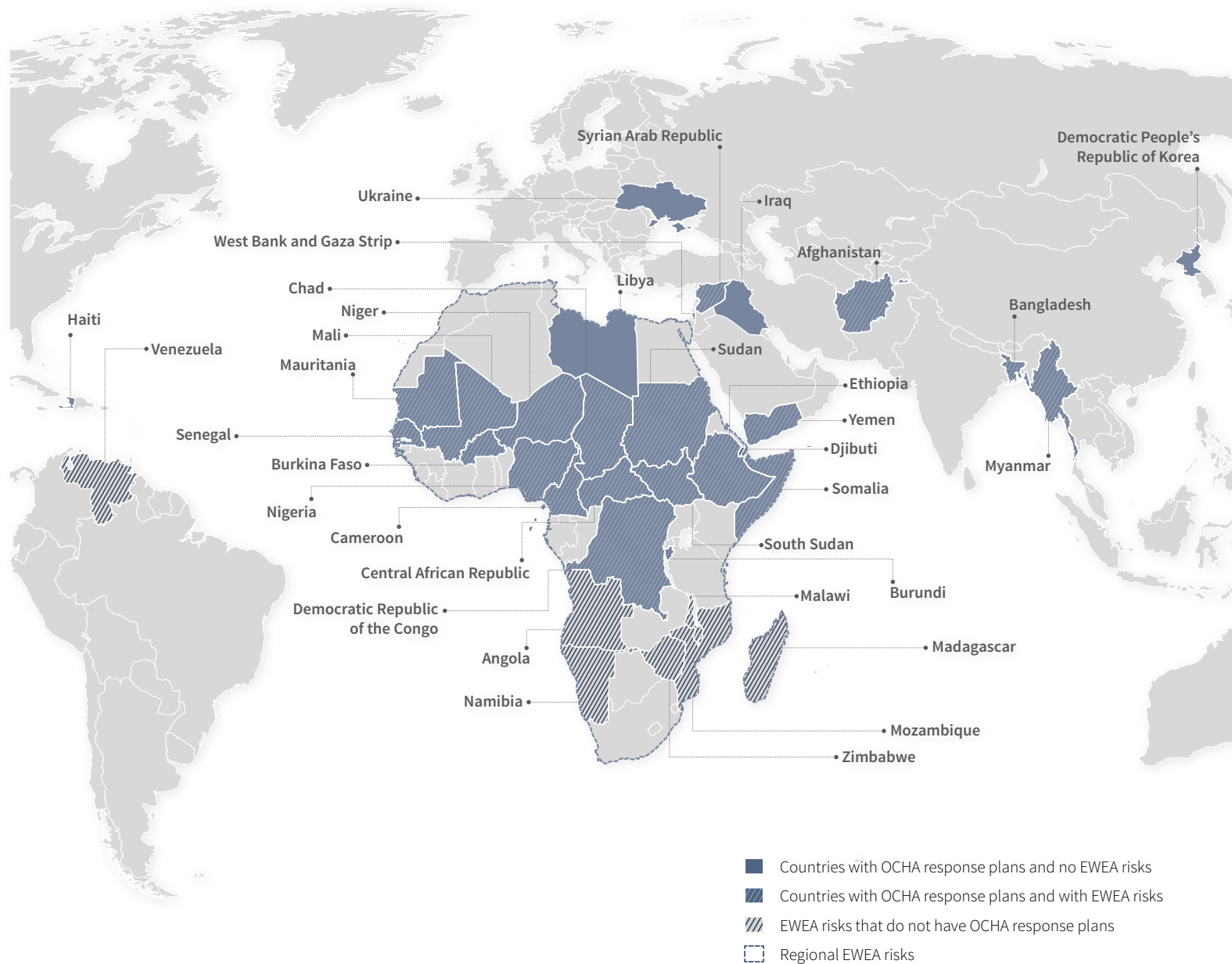
For a complete list of countries and threats, and more detailed information see: www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis/early-warning-bulletin



The information provided was compiled as of 21 June 2018

EWEA risks within the wider humanitarian context

The EWEA report exclusively highlights new emergencies in food and agriculture and ongoing crises in which a potential significant deterioration is likely. The report does not cover ongoing crises with no indication of an upcoming deterioration. This map shows countries flagged by the report in relation to countries with ongoing emergency operations (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [OCHA] response plans) in which a major deterioration is not foreseen over the reporting period.



Source: Global Humanitarian Overview 2018, OCHA



Sources of information

This report consolidates information provided by GIEWS, FCC-EMPRES and IPC, and external sources of information. The analytical basis for the prioritization of countries and the major sources of information and data presented in the report are three main groups of datasets:

- countries requiring external assistance and the food security situation of low-income food-deficit countries*
- forecasting threats to the food chain affecting food security in countries and regions**
- IPC and CH acute food security analysis

Additional information and data presented in the report are consolidated from the following external sources (including but not limited to):

- reports and bulletins by agencies of the United Nations (UN), in particular OCHA, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme's (WFP) Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- updates from external sources including INFORM, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) and International Research Institute for Climate and Society – Columbia University (IRI), Reliefweb, and local international media

*Crop Prospects and Food Situation Bulletin, and Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM), GIEWS

**Food Chain Crisis early warning bulletin, FCC-EMPRES, Animal Production and Health Early Warning Systems Team

As of May 2018, an estimated 4.5 million internally displaced people (IDP) were recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – most of whom lost their productive assets and face extremely limited access to livelihoods.

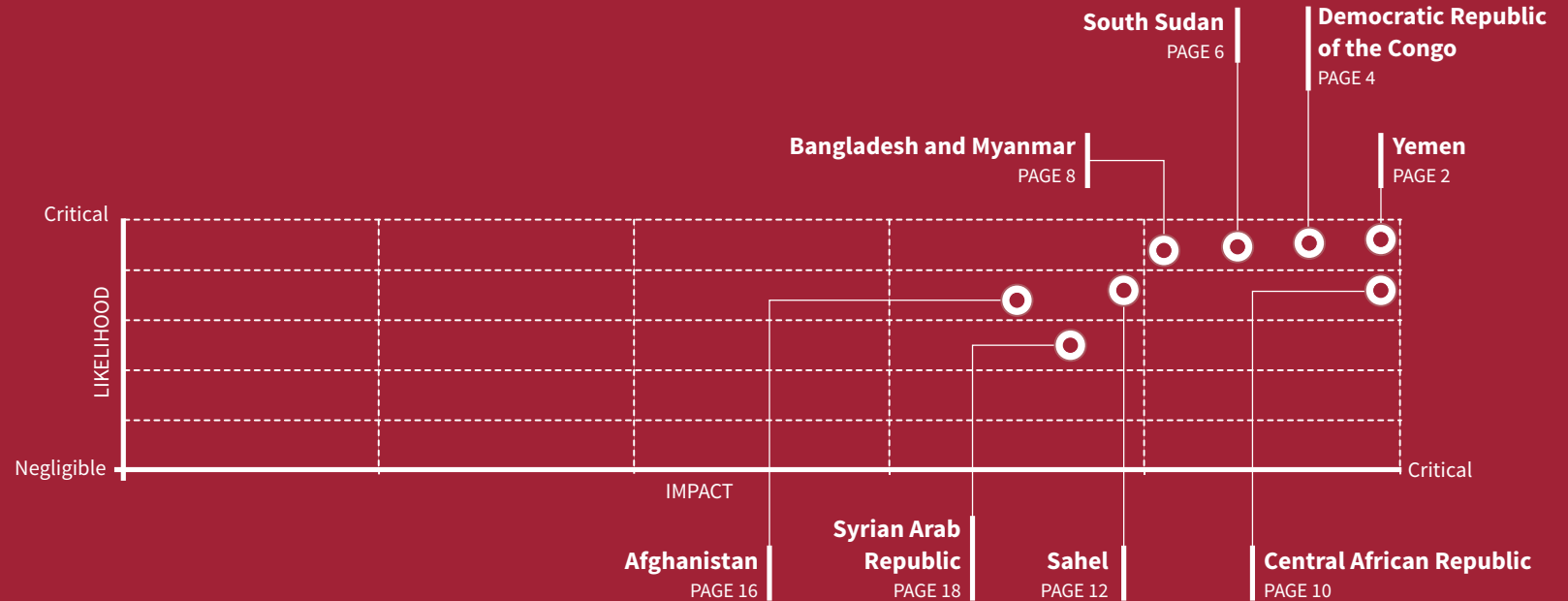


High risk

The matrix provides an overview of the ranking of risks featured in this report. The risks are prioritized based on the severity, likelihood and magnitude of their impact, while also balanced against the countries individual coping capacity.

In order of intensity, for the period July–September 2018, the **high risk** section includes:

- Yemen
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- South Sudan
- Bangladesh and Myanmar
- Central African Republic
- Sahel
- Afghanistan
- Syrian Arab Republic








Yemen

Assault on Al Hudaydah port likely to exacerbate existing food insecurity and may halt life-saving assistance

 **17.8 million** food insecure people, of which **8.4 million** are severely food insecure

 **600 000** people in Al Hudaydah at risk from escalated violence

 More than **1.1 million** suspected cholera cases since May 2018

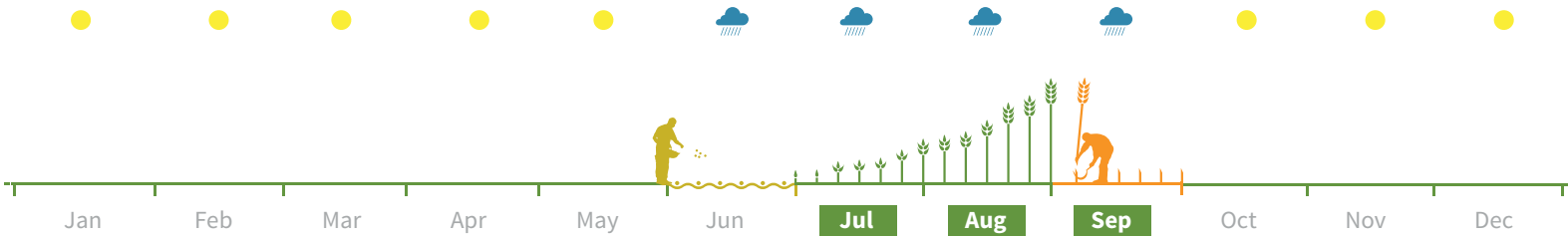
 **130 000** people displaced since December 2017

Risk overview

- As of June 2018, the Saudi-led coalition began an assault on the port of Al Hudaydah. The port is the primary point of entry for commercial and humanitarian aid as well as basic commodities. Approximately 90 percent of food is imported into Yemen, of which 70 percent flows through Al Hudaydah port. The city hosts around 600 000 people who live in and around the port. An attack on such a critical infrastructure would have a devastating impact on the survival of a population already suffering from severe food insecurity.
- According to the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, 22.2 million people (75 percent of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance. The December 2017 Famine Risk Monitoring results revealed that 17.8 million people are food insecure, of which 8.4 million are severely food insecure – a 24 percent increase compared with 2017. Further access constraints in Yemen, particularly in Al Hudaydah, are likely to compound these existing levels of vulnerability and food insecurity.
- Since the beginning of 2018, the pace of the coalition’s progress along the Red Coast has increased. The surge of violence along the coastline has resulted in civilian casualties, water infrastructure destruction and additional displacements. As of December 2017, conflict on the perimeters of Al Hudaydah and Taiz governorates had displaced more than 130 000 people. Due

to increased insecurity, the UN and other humanitarian agencies have been advised to withdraw from Al Hudaydah, which will further limit access and ability to respond.

- The onset of the rainy season against the backdrop of the collapsed health system has exacerbated cholera and diphtheria outbreaks in Yemen. As of May 2018, more than 1 million suspected cholera cases and more than 2 000 deaths have been reported, as well as more than 1 500 suspected diphtheria cases, including 85 associated deaths. Increased attacks on health facilities have also been reported, and as of June 2018, both the International Committee of the Red Cross and *Médecins Sans Frontières* have temporarily suspended activities.
- As of May 2018, the overall average exchange rate was 487 YRI/USD – an increase of 126.5 percent compared with the pre-crisis period (February 2015).
- Cooking gas shortages remain a challenge since February, already negatively impacting household cooking, private businesses and transport systems. As people search for alternatives, deforestation is likely due to many families now cooking with firewood.



During the July–September period, conflict in Al Hudaydah is likely to continue and strain humanitarian access into the country. Other ports into Yemen or access through overland transport does not currently hold the capacity to reach (primarily due to damaged infrastructure) or hold the volume of goods needed to respond to those requiring assistance.



Potential impact

- The battle for Al Hudaydah could likely protract, and leave millions of Yemenis without food, medicine, fuel and other vital supplies. According to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, if Al Hudaydah port is subjected to a prolonged siege, an estimated 250 000 people would be in imminent danger and up to 350 000 could be displaced.
- The continued decline of livelihood opportunities, income, and purchasing power, combined with the expected shortage of commodities, are likely to exacerbate an already chronically food insecure situation.
- Intensifying conflict in Al Hudaydah raises grave concerns about the future of trade and access in and out of Yemen. The port is a lifeline for the country. Humanitarian actors provide about one-quarter of total cereal imports into Yemen. If access is lost to these areas or trade facilities are compromised, it is unlikely that the humanitarian community or neighboring countries could fill the large import gaps that would be created. Ongoing insecurity in and around Al Hudaydah will likely have a significant impact on availability and prices of food and other essential commodities in the local markets, which serve around two-thirds of the population.
- While agricultural harvests will take place between July and September 2018 in the central highlands and eastern plateau regions, these harvests are not expected to significantly improve food security outcomes. This is due to the small-scale nature of cereal production as a result of the lack of availability and/or access to inputs and limited access to fields in conflict zones.



Recommended early actions

With the lack of humanitarian presence in Al Hudaydah, the ability for actors to implement activities will be restricted. Lobbying for the continuation of commercial trade and supply is also fundamental to help stabilize the price of essential commodities and increase households' purchasing power. These factors have been taken into consideration for early actions, which should be implemented in close cooperation with local partners, access permitting.

Assessment

- Continuously monitor the food security situation through rapid food security assessments and needs assessments.

Crops

- Provide agricultural inputs (seeds and tools) and training on improved water harvesting techniques to support rain-fed agriculture.

Livestock

- Safeguard pastoralist assets through prepositioning and distributing livestock vaccinations and emergency health treatments.
- Preposition emergency livestock feed.

Partnership and accessibility

- Advocate for the access and protection in conflict-affected areas for both humanitarian actors and farmers to facilitate the harvesting season.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Intensification of conflict in eastern regions and Ebola Virus Disease outbreak further compound an already dire humanitarian crisis



7.7 million severely food-insecure people



More than **5 million** displaced people



More than **2.2 million** children suffer from severe acute malnutrition

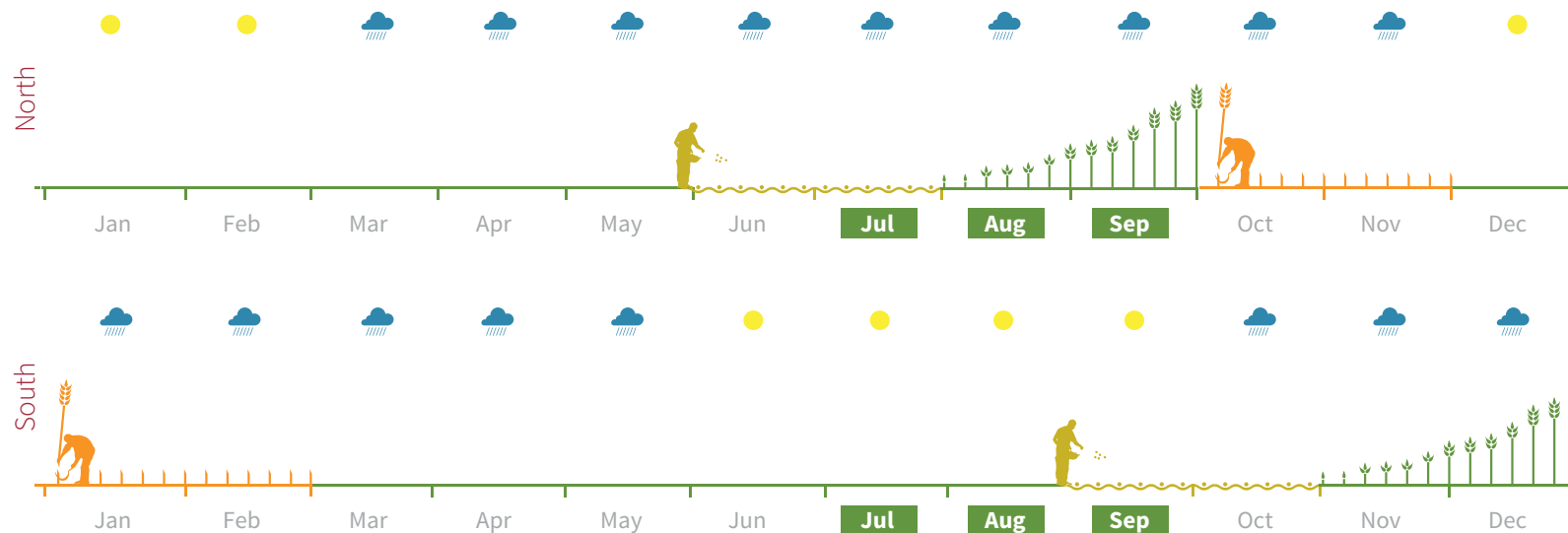


38 EVD cases confirmed



Risk overview

- The upsurge of conflict in 2016 and 2017 in the Kasai region, Tanganyika and eastern parts of the country has contributed to increased food insecurity, with nearly 30 percent of the population food insecure (IPC Phases 3 and 4) and more than 2 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (December 2017). According to OCHA, 13.1 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance this year.
 - Intercommunal violence between Lendu and Hema communities in Ituri province since December 2017 has prompted hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. To date, around 61 000 Congolese have sought refuge in neighbouring Uganda, while more than 425 000 people remain internally displaced.
 - As of May 2018, an estimated 4.5 million internally displaced people (IDP) were recorded – double the number from 2016. Most IDPs have lost their key assets and face extremely limited access to basic necessities and income. Moreover, as of late
- May 2018, the country hosts more than 540 000 refugees from neighbouring countries including Burundi, the Central African Republic, Rwanda and South Sudan.
 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo officially declared an Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in Bikoro, Équateur province on 8 May 2018. As of 12 June, 38 confirmed cases and 28 deaths have been reported. This is the ninth outbreak in the country since 1976.
 - According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the risk of EVD spreading is higher than past outbreaks, given the proximity of the affected areas to the Congo River and Mbandaka – a city with over a million inhabitants. However thanks to close monitoring and a prompt response, the outbreak has largely been contained – the last EVD confirmed cases in Equateur were discharged from the treatment centre in mid-June 2018. WHO's response remains focused on intensive surveillance as the risk for national spread is still assessed as “medium”.



Early actions in the Équateur province are critical to mitigate the impact of EVD on food security.



Potential impact

- The harvest of season B (June–August) in conflict-affected areas in the northeast and central-east is likely to be negatively impacted by violence and difficulty in accessing land and inputs.
- The fall armyworm pest is reportedly confirmed in the eastern parts of the country (Kivu and Tanganyika), potentially resulting in a 50 percent yield loss in cereal production.
- Insecurity in the country is likely to affect market functioning, while the constant depreciation of the local currency against the United States dollar is likely to continue driving food prices upward in the coming months.
- Intercommunal conflict over resources – especially in the Ituri province – is likely to result in further displacement to neighbouring provinces and across the border.
- Although the EVD outbreak has been contained, WHO warns about the risk of resurgence and flare-ups posed by potentially undetected transmission chains and the possible sexual transmission of the virus.



Recommended early actions

July–August

Cash

- Implement cash-based activities to improve food security through cash transfers and voucher schemes to enable access to agricultural inputs, food items (e.g. fresh food) and cash for basic needs. Beneficiaries would be based on WHO, Médecins sans frontières and government existing lists of people at risk as well as households from EVD-affected villages.

September onwards

Assessment

- Ensure continuous and timely monitoring of the food security situation in the areas affected by conflict and EVD outbreaks.

Crops

- Distribute vegetable seeds to support off-season food production throughout the July–September period to particularly reach food insecure IDPs, returnees and host communities. Seed multiplication is the only viable option to make seeds available in and around Bikoro.

Fisheries

- Provide fishing kits and training throughout the July–September period to reach fishing communities in the areas surrounding the fish-rich Lake Tumba.
- Distribute fish conservation units to reduce post-harvest losses.

Livestock

- Distribute small ruminants to sustain the livelihoods of conflict-affected, food-insecure people throughout the July–September period.

Partnership and accessibility

- Advocate for improving farmers' access to cultivated lands in conflict-affected areas to facilitate the harvesting season.

South Sudan

Conflict-affected areas to record worsening food security outcomes despite some localized seasonal gains



7.1 million people facing IPC Crisis or Emergency food insecurity levels in the absence of assistance



More than **4 million** displaced people



Risk overview

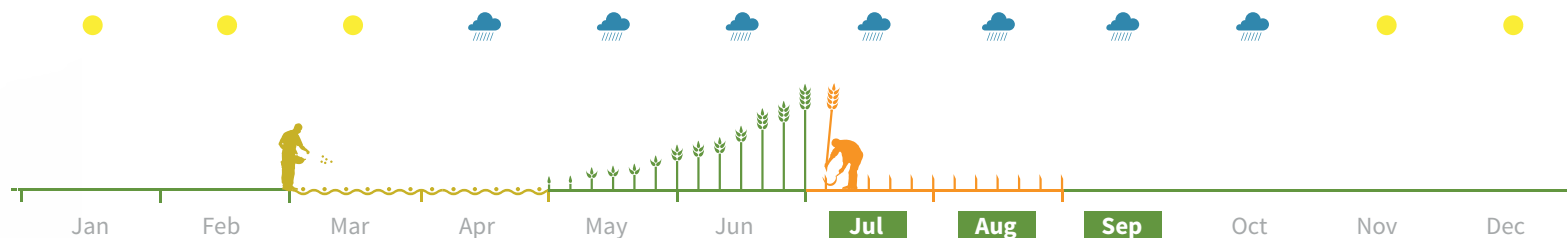
- Extreme food insecurity persists across South Sudan at the peak of the lean season, with conflict-driven displacements and resulted disruptions to livelihoods continuing to undermine food production. According to the IPC analysis conducted in January 2018, 7.1 million people (63 percent of the population) were projected to be in Crisis or worse acute food insecurity levels (IPC Phases 3 and above) in May–July 2018, including 2.4 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In a scenario where no humanitarian assistance is provided, a further 155 000 people could experience Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) levels of food insecurity.
- More than 2 million internally displaced people (IDP) face the greatest risk, while more than 2 million additional people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries.
- Leer and Mayendit counties in Unity state are the areas of the greatest concern, where a re-emergence of conflict accompanied with population displacements and restrictions to humanitarian assistance have resulted in a worsening food security situation. The severity of food insecurity in these two counties cannot be assessed due to the absence of adequate information.
- There is an improvement in the food security situation of communities in the relatively secure greenbelt areas of Greater Equatoria. They planted early and are already consuming green harvest, while selling surplus in the markets.
- The upcoming wet season is suitable for the spread of Rift Valley

fever (RVF). Given the ongoing outbreak in the country and in neighboring Kenya as well as the high density of domestic animals in the area, uncontrolled movement of livestock and lack of veterinary services, the risk of RVF spread within the country is probable.



Potential impact

- The conflict is ongoing and potentially expanding to the states of Unity, Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and the western part of the country. Continued conflict is likely to increase movement restrictions, preventing households from accessing food, as well as restricting delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Households are likely to face significant food consumption gaps in July and August. This is due to low crop production in 2018 that has resulted in limited availability of food stocks during the May–July lean season, as well as high food prices and limited income-earning opportunities.
- Humanitarian assistance during the first quarter of 2018 reached a smaller percentage of the overall needs than in previous years. Extreme hunger remains a possibility in conflict-affected areas including Leer and Mayendit communities, which declared famine in February 2017 and where access is restricted, livelihoods and markets are disrupted and extreme loss of livelihood assets has occurred, thus requiring a significant increase in the provision of humanitarian assistance.



Early actions are needed to strengthen food production and preserve agricultural livelihoods of the most vulnerable households.



Recommended early actions

Advocacy

- Secure access to the most vulnerable populations to assess their food security situation and deliver lifesaving humanitarian assistance.

Crops

- Distribute quality crop seeds (maize, sorghum and cowpea) to households facing severe food insecurity (IPC phases 3, 4 and 5) in the southern part of the country to support the second season in August.
- Distribute fast-maturing vegetable seeds (depending on the agro-ecological zone, preferences and prevailing situation) to the most vulnerable households in July–August to support food production during the lean season.

Fisheries

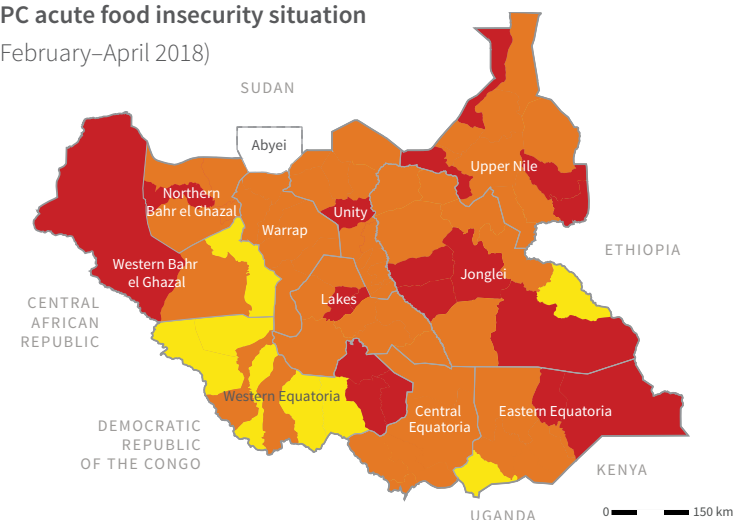
- Distribute fishing kits to severely food insecure households in riverine areas of the country in July–August to support food production during the lean season.

Livestock

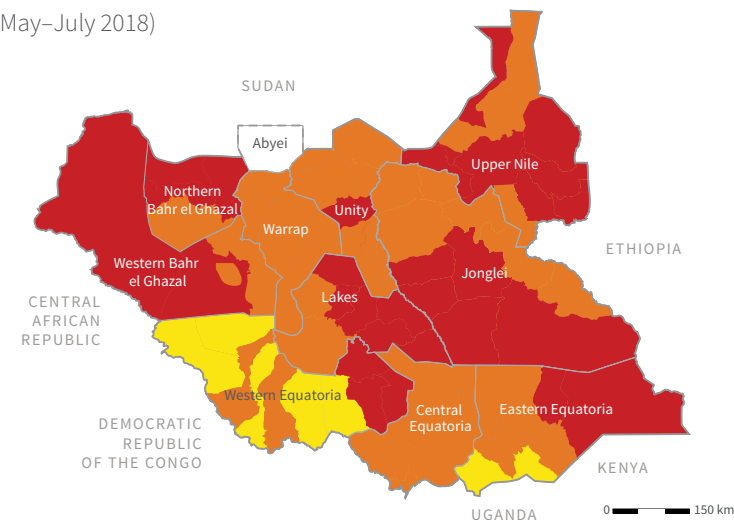
- Provide vaccination and treatment to safeguard the most vulnerable pastoral communities' livestock assets through networks of community-based animal health workers.

IPC acute food insecurity situation

(February–April 2018)



(May–July 2018)



IPC Phase Classification

 Famine	 Crisis	 Minimal	 Insufficient data
 Emergency	 Stressed	 Not analysed	

Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, January 2018

high risk

Bangladesh and Myanmar

Ongoing monsoon season continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh and spikes of violence drive new displacements in Myanmar



More than **1.3 million** people in need in Cox's Bazar, including host communities



Nearly **1 million** refugees currently reside in Cox's Bazar



Some **24 700** people have been affected by floods and landslides



More than **6 900** recorded diphtheria cases

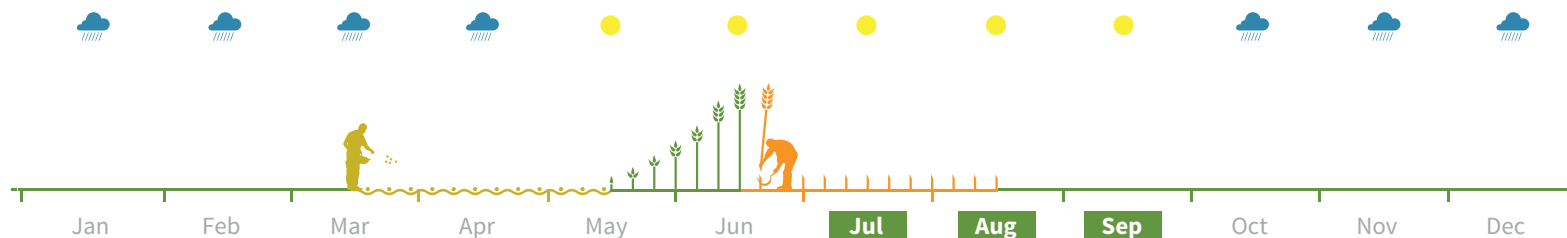


Risk overview

- As of 25 August 2017, extreme violence in Rakhine State has instigated mass population movements of Rohingya refugees across the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In May 2018, the situation was further exacerbated by the onset of the monsoon season, which is set to continue until September. A total of 1.3 million people are in need in Cox's Bazar, including host communities.
- Cox's Bazar has already experienced the first rains of the season, initiating flooding and landslides in camps. As a result, more than 24 700 people have already been affected. Since June, rainfall has become nearly continuous. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, nearly 400 mm has fallen in only five days – equivalent to two-thirds of the average June rainfall. In light of these conditions, more than 29 000 refugees have been relocated from high-risk locations. However, this is only a small proportion of the 150 000–200 000 refugees who are currently at risk. Evacuation facilities are established for host communities, however these plans are yet to be provided for the refugee population.
- With the onset of the rains combined with high population density and poor hygiene, diphtheria cases have continued to rise. As of May 2018, more than 6 900 cases and 42 deaths were reported by the World Health Organization.
- On 6 June 2018, UNHCR and the United Nations Development

Programme signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding with the Government of Myanmar to establish a framework for cooperation aimed at creating conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their places of origin or of their choosing. The two UN agencies and the Government aim to create improved and resilient livelihoods for all communities living in Rakhine State.

- Civilians continue to be severely affected by ongoing armed conflict in Kachin and Shan states of Myanmar, following heavy fighting between the Myanmar armed forces and Kachin Independence Army. This includes more than 60 000 people temporarily displaced by conflict in 24 different townships between January 2017 and May 2018. In most cases, this was short-term displacement, with people returning to their places of origin within weeks or months.
- The preliminary findings of a recent agriculture and food security mission carried out jointly by FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation in Rakhine State confirmed that the population in northern Rakhine incurred heavy harvest and post-harvest losses and that livestock was decimated. Overall insecurity and reduced access to means of production will continue to undermine the capacity of the most vulnerable populations to produce and access sufficient, diversified and nutritious food, leading to employment of negative coping mechanisms and limited ability to meet basic needs.



The monsoon season is likely to instigate more flooding and landslides in Cox's Bazar, compromising the safety and lives of those in the camps. Host communities previously protected by surrounding forest cover are now equally vulnerable to flash flooding and landslides due to extensive deforestation. Acting early is crucial to mitigate the impact of these hazards on the already fragile food security situation of Rohingya refugees and host communities. In order to make these actions possible, it is important that transport routes are accessible to facilitate access to refugee locations.



Potential impact

- Historically, July is the wettest month in Bangladesh. While a normal monsoon season is forecasted, the high level of exposure in Cox's Bazar raises grave concerns. Although the first cyclone season has passed without incident, it is imperative to continue preparedness activities for the second cyclone season due in August. A large-scale cyclone event is by far the most dangerous threat to the refugee and host community population. Thousands of hand-built tarpaulin and bamboo shelters are threatened by strong winds and heavy rain. Rohingya refugees living on the steep, deforested slopes of sand and clay, in particular, are the most at-risk.
- Without continued desludging and solid waste management site improvements, there is a high risk of water and vector-borne disease outbreaks, due to the poor sanitary conditions.
- As the monsoon season continues, tensions between host communities and Rohingya refugees are likely to emerge. If host community needs are not acknowledged or are excluded from response efforts, instability is likely to increase and has the potential to reduce humanitarian operational space.
- Continued movement restrictions in Northern Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states will likely obstruct access to food and add constraints on the already scarce livelihood opportunities.



Recommended early actions

Crops

- Pre-position seeds and agricultural tools to support the prompt resumption of agricultural production, should landslides and typhoons affect refugee camps and surrounding areas.

Disease

- Conduct sensitization campaigns to prevent outbreaks of water-borne diseases in refugee camps.

Energy and natural resources

- Facilitate access of refugees and host communities to alternative sources of cooking fuel and energy efficient technologies to control deforestation and mitigate the risk of landslides.
- Undertake land stabilization planting activities is still required to prevent soil loss and reduce the risk of flash flooding.

Food security/food safety

- Expand the distribution programme of hermetically sealed food storage containers for the safe storage of food rations.

Social cohesion

- Continue to support host community needs and provide key messages for needs-based programming.

Livelihood

- Support income-generating activities and employment opportunities for vulnerable households, through cash transfer interventions for construction and repair of hazard-mitigation infrastructure.
- Ensure livelihood programmes promote social cohesion between Rohingya and Rakhine ethnic groups, strengthen the resilience of affected communities and mitigate effects of the protracted crises.

Nutrition

- Continue to support and increase access to nutritious foods and increased nutritional awareness of pregnant and lactating women and children under five in communities with high malnutrition rates.
- Conduct awareness sessions on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and support dietary diversification.

Central African Republic

Upsurge of violence affecting food security and delivery of assistance to affected populations



2.5 million

people in need of humanitarian assistance



2 million people facing acute food insecurity



More than **1.2 million** displaced people



Risk overview

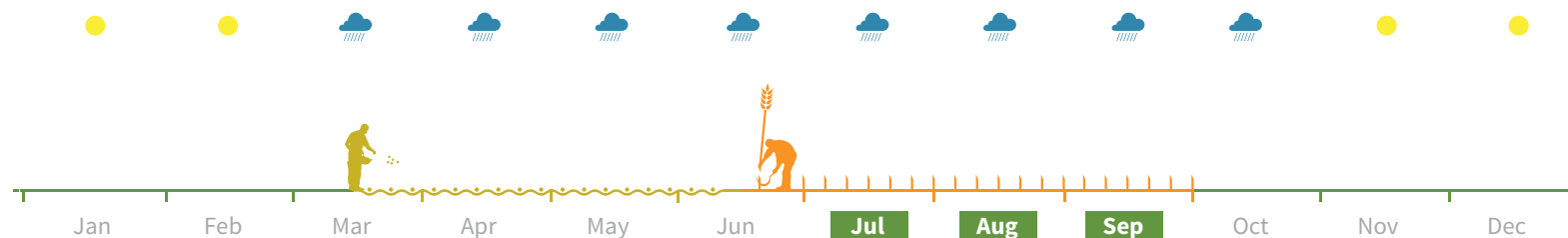
- The dire humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic continues to be driven by persistent insecurity. The presence of armed groups competing for resources is severely affecting people's access to food and their livelihoods.
- According to UNHCR, the number of internally displaced people (IDP) has risen to an estimated 700 000 by the end of January 2018 out of a total population of 4.5 million – a 47 percent increase compared with the beginning of 2017.
- In May 2018, an upsurge in violence and attacks against humanitarian actors were reported in many areas of the country including Bangui, Bambari and Kaga-Bandoro. These attacks come just one month after the launch of a military operation by the national security forces with the support of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to neutralize militia leaders in PK5 district of Bangui. Military activity has led to movement restrictions and the suspension of humanitarian operations. As a result, the food security situation of the population is of concern.
- According to the IPC analysis conducted in March 2018, seven areas with high concentration of IDPs were classified to be in Emergency food insecurity levels (IPC Phase 4), as well as ten prefectures and two areas in Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) – with

about 2 million people possibly facing acute food insecurity during the lean season (April–August 2018).



Potential impact

- The crisis is a key driver of the deterioration in food security as farmers have had no access to their land and a huge number of crops have been burned or destroyed over the past months. If the situation continues, it is likely that the country's aggregate cereal output will be reduced for the sixth consecutive year.
- Due to the increased insecurity affecting the main supply routes in the country, a reduction or suspension of humanitarian assistance is likely in the upcoming months.
- Since areas with high concentration of IDPs are usually not equipped with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities due to the restricted humanitarian access to the affected areas, the health situation is likely to deteriorate with 50 percent of health facilities nonoperational or partially or totally destroyed.



The harsh consequences of persistent food insecurity in conflict-affected areas call for the timely implementation of early actions over the next months to avoid further deterioration.



Recommended early actions

Livelihood diversification

- Improve access to microcredits, savings and loans and the reintegration of youth into farming and off-farm activities.

Crops

- Distribute food crops and vegetable seeds to support ongoing food production (July–September) and during the off-season period to reach food insecure IDPs, returnees and host communities, particularly areas experiencing IPC Phases 3 and 4.
- Support the restoration of the means of production to strengthen seed systems.

Fisheries

- Provide fishing kits and training throughout the July–September period to food insecure conflict-affected riverine communities.

Livestock

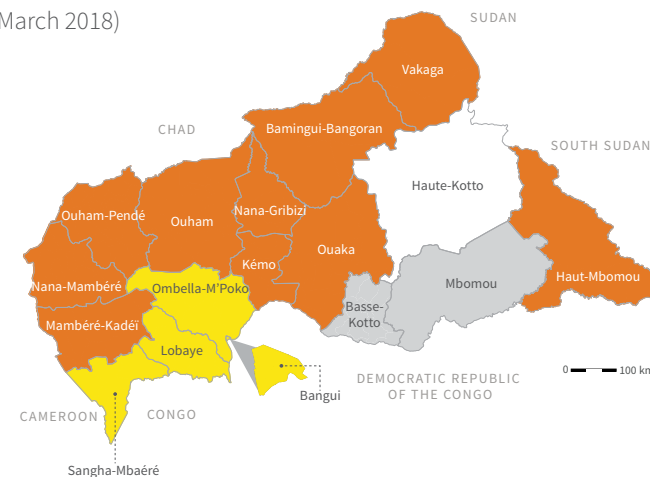
- Distribute small ruminants to support the diversification of conflict-affected populations' livelihoods throughout the July–September period.

Partnerships and accessibility

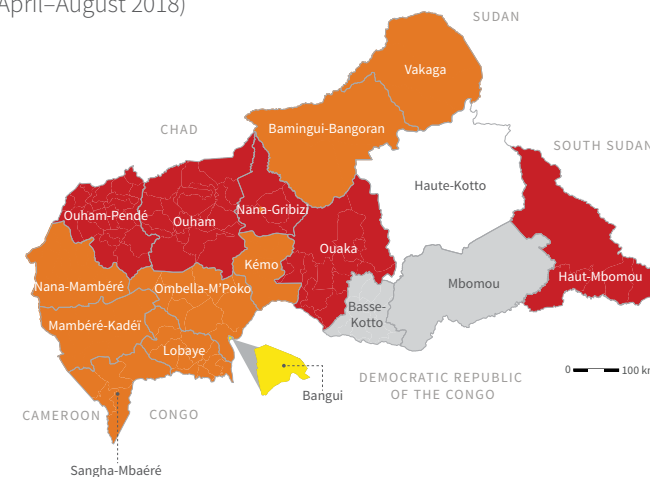
- Advocate for the access of humanitarian actors in conflict-affected areas.

IPC acute food insecurity situation

(March 2018)



(April–August 2018)



IPC Phase Classification

Famine	Crisis	Minimal	Insufficient data
Emergency	Stressed	Not analysed	

Source: CAR IPC Technical Working Group, March 2018

high risk



Sahel

Projected deteriorating food security due to the pastoral crisis, upcoming lean season and localized conflict



Risk overview

- Food insecurity levels within pastoral communities in the Sahel are expected to further increase during the upcoming lean season (June–August 2018), according to the latest CH analysis conducted in March 2018. The poor performance of the rains in 2017 across major pastoral and agropastoral areas of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal has led to early transhumance movements, two to four months earlier than normal. This has led to the concentration of animals in host areas and exacerbation of available natural resources.
- A recent assessment indicated that the number of pastoralists and agropastoralists that may require food and livelihood assistance in 2018 has increased from 2.5 to 2.7 million people.
- To varying degrees, the 2017 rain deficit (spatial or temporal distribution) has affected all Sahelian countries and led to a fodder deficit in major livestock farming areas. Overall, compared with the last five years' average, countries experiencing the highest levels of vegetation deficit were Chad, Mauritania and Senegal, with some areas experiencing 50–100 percent deficits. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, up to 50 percent production deficits were reported in some areas.
- This situation was further aggravated by insecurity in certain areas. The presence of armed groups in the region (e.g. Boko Haram and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) has hindered trade flows and restricted the movement of pastoralists to more

forage-rich areas. The constant decrease in water availability and restrictive movement policies, including the closure of borders in some coastal neighboring countries, further exacerbate the situation.

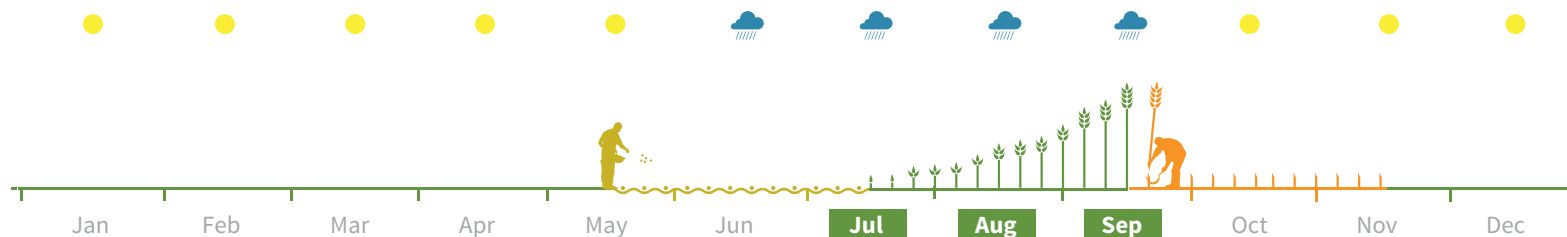
- Agricultural markets in the region are characterized by a general increase of prices of local products including foodstuffs, cereals and tubers. In addition to the decline in production in the Sahelian belt, the increase of prices is also attributable to the effects of the depreciation of certain local currencies and inflation in several countries.
- The wider west African region is approaching the wet season, which represents a risk period for the Rift Valley fever (RVF) and fall armyworm occurrence. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an above-average precipitation forecast for June–September 2018 in southwestern Mali and southeastern Niger – both endemic countries for RVF and should remain vigilant about the disease in the coming months.



Nearly **6 million** people will face food insecurity during the lean season



2.7 million pastoralists and agropastoralists require food and livelihood assistance



During the lean season, assistance should reach the most affected pastoralists and agropastoralists for the improvement of animal body conditions.



Potential impact

- The low availability of pasture and difficult access to fodder has undermined livestock body conditions and increased their fragility to infectious diseases. Although no major animal disease outbreaks were reported, the risk of an emergence of new epidemics continues to be reported, requiring vigilance, preparedness and response planning.
- As of July 2018, households have already depleted their food stocks, which is likely to increase their reliance on markets, potentially driving already high prices upwards.
- Nearly 6 million people in pastoral areas across the Sahel will face food insecurity (CH Phases 3 and 4) during the lean season.



Recommended early actions

Cash

- Implement unconditional cash transfer, cash-for-work and cash+ activities for pasture replenishment, water point rehabilitation, soil protection and technologies to reduce women's workload between July and September in the affected countries.

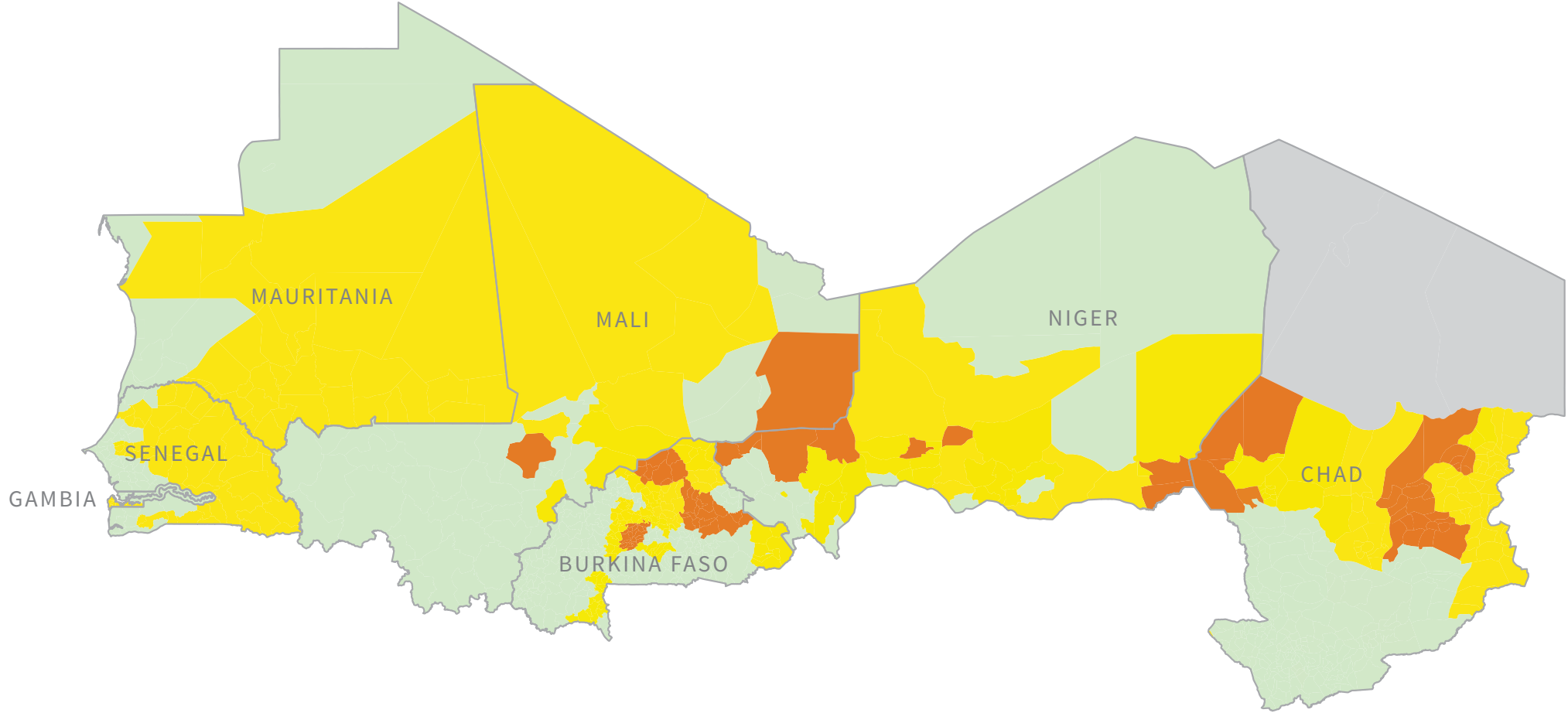
Crops

- Provide agricultural inputs through direct distribution or through cash and voucher programmes between July and October reaching the most affected households in:
 - Niger: Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder
 - Central and northern regions of Mali: Gao, Mopti, Ségou, Menaka and Timbuktu
 - Senegal: Kaffrine, Louga, Matam, Saint-Louis and Tambacounda
 - Burkina Faso: Centre-Nord, Centre-Ouest, Est Region, Nord, Plateau-Central and Sahel

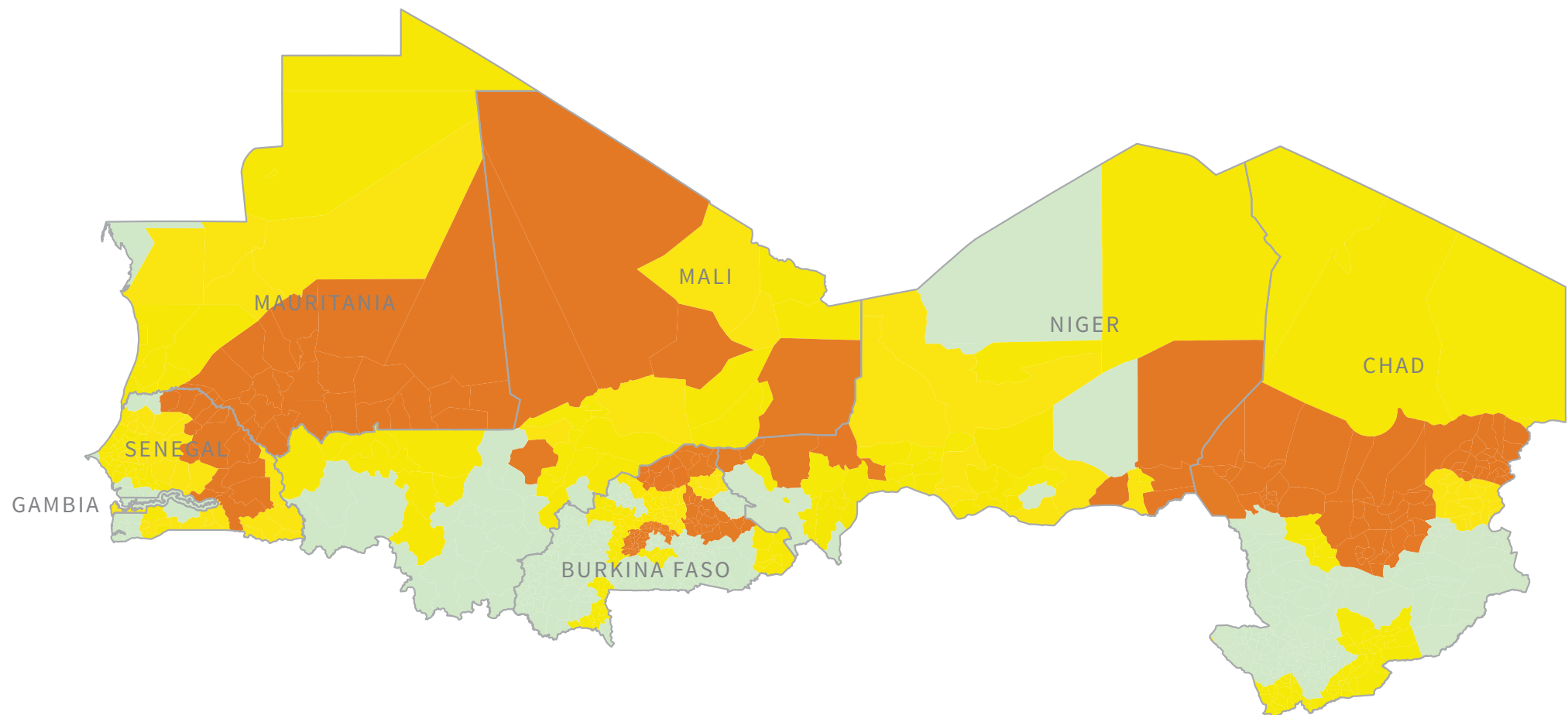
Livestock

- Carry out emergency livestock destocking activities.
- Provide animal health services (vaccination and deworming) throughout the lean season.
- Support restocking/destocking of livestock for the most vulnerable pastoralists and their families from July 2018.
- Purchase cows from vulnerable pastoralists in Chad to process dry meat for consumption by malnourished children and women.
- Promote animal fodder production during July–December for better livestock feed during the upcoming dry season.

CH acute food insecurity situation
(March–May 2018)



CH acute food insecurity situation
(June–August 2018)



IPC Phase Classification

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Famine | Minimal |
| Emergency | Not analysed |
| Crisis | Insufficient data |
| Stressed | |

Source: CH, March 2018

high risk

Afghanistan

Prolonged drought conditions threaten the output of the upcoming cereal harvest



5.5 million
people food insecure



2.2 million people
affected by drought



20–30 percent
decrease of livestock prices

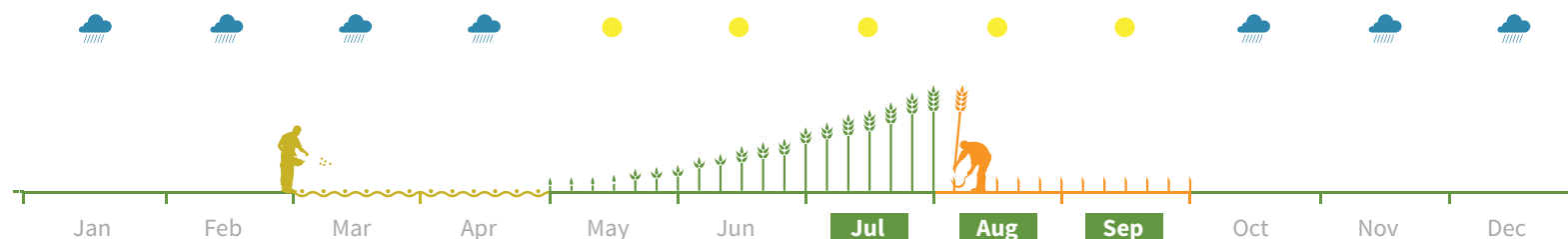


Risk overview

- As of April 2018, the Government of Afghanistan officially declared a drought across the country following months of dryness. A precipitation deficit of up to 70 percent in most parts of the country has affected the winter harvest and resulted in dire prospects for crop production in the spring and summer.
- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster estimates that 2.2 million people in 20 provinces (Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nimruz, Nuristan, Samangan, Sar-e Pol, Takhar, Urozgan and Zabul) are affected by prevailing drought conditions. This brings the total number of severely food insecure people in Afghanistan to 5.5 million.
- As of April 2018, more than 21 000 drought-affected people have migrated to urban centers. In the last week of June, 530 people alone arrived from six districts from Qala i Naw – the provincial capital of Badghis.
- According to the FAO Rapid Assessment of the 2018 Winter Dry Spell in Afghanistan, the October 2017 – February 2018 wet season was characterized by below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures. This led to very low snowpack formation in the mountainous regions, which is key for irrigation systems to function and provide water for the

summer months. Lack of precipitation overall has prevented the recharging of key aquifers which support crop production. Preliminary reports estimate that 60–70 percent of rainfed wheat production areas have suffered damages due to dryness.

- According to livestock keepers, pastures have been desiccated. This has led to below-average livestock conditions and an estimated 30 percent decrease in milk production. The poor production of fodder in 2017 has increased market price and prevented many livestock keepers from storing enough fodder to make it through winter.
- An increase of more than 150 percent in fodder prices was registered in some areas, while livestock prices have decreased 20–30 percent on average as of October 2017. Herders are increasingly selling their weakened animals in order to avoid further losses.
- Outbreaks of locusts and sun pests also contributed to poor wheat and fodder outputs. Locust in particular have thrived in the dry conditions and their movements have progressed quicker than expected from grass areas to wheat fields. Production in Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Ghor, Kunduz, Samangan and Takhar provinces has been particularly affected by locust, while Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan and Sar-e Pol provinces have reported sun pest outbreaks.



The impact of drought on the 2017/18 winter and spring season calls for actions to prevent further deterioration of food security conditions and support preparations for the main planting season starting in autumn in order to avoid asset depletion, migration and malnutrition.



Potential impact

- Low irrigation water availability is likely to have an adverse impact on yields for the second crops (August–November), particularly in downstream areas. This shortage could affect the 2.2 million people across 20 provinces who are reliant on agriculture, livestock, or agriculture-related wage labor for their food security and livelihoods.
- Negative coping mechanisms are likely to increase as agropastoral livelihoods are disrupted. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists may attempt to migrate to areas with better pasture and water availability or sell livestock at below-average prices. As a result, an increase of distress sales of core breeding stocks is likely.



Recommended early actions

Crops

- Pre-position certified wheat seeds by September in preparation for the autumn season to reach vulnerable farmers in drought-affected wheat producing areas, especially in the northern part of the country.
- Establish water-harvesting systems and water catchments in drought-affected areas by September.
- Provide training on water conservation and the clearance of canals for the upcoming wheat planting/growing season. For vegetables, provide drip irrigation mechanisms to support water management.
- Provide continued support for kitchen gardening activities to increase nutritional status of displaced households, female- and elderly-headed households in drought-affected areas.

Livestock

- Support winterization of fodder stocks by September to improve fodder availability during winter months in northern/northeastern, western and southern pastoral areas.
- Conduct deworming and vaccination campaigns to prevent the spread of livestock diseases in drought-affected northeastern, western and southern pastoral areas to reach vulnerable livestock keepers, including nomadic herders (*kuchis*).
- Continued distribution of fodder crop seeds in drought-affected northeastern, western and southern pastoral areas
- Provide continued support for the establishment of backyard poultry production to increase nutritional status of displaced households, female- and elderly-headed households in drought-affected areas.
- Support through community-based and context-based management and rehabilitation of water supply system for livestock.

Syrian Arab Republic

Possible takeover of Idlib to result in worsening food security, and next planting season in the northeast at risk due to poor rainfall



More than **13.1 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance



6.6 million internally displaced people



More than **5.6 million** registered Syrian refugees



6.5 million food insecure people

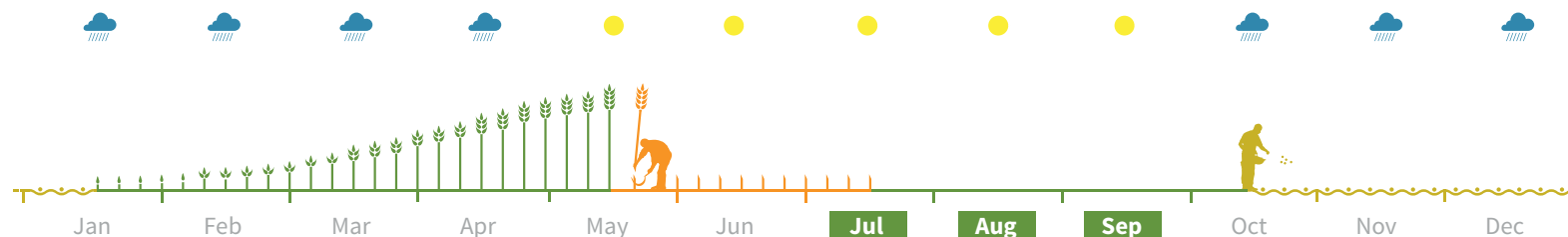


Risk overview

- As of June 2018, 13.1 million people – more than half of the Syrian population – are in need of humanitarian assistance, with 1.5 million people living in hard-to-reach areas. The number of internally displaced people reached 6.6 million in the same month. The number of registered Syrian refugees in the Near East and North Africa region amounted to more than 5.6 million in May. A significant number of Syrians have left the country but do not hold refugee status.
- A total of 6.5 million people in the country are food insecure, while a further 4 million are at risk of becoming acutely food insecure. In total, this constitutes over half of the Syrian population who are in need of urgent life-saving and life-sustaining food, agriculture and livelihood assistance.
- In the past months, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regained control of almost all rebel-held areas around Damascus. The province of Idlib in northwestern Syria, the largest populated area in the country, is still in the hands of insurgents. The province is densely populated, with more than 2 and a half million civilians – of which 1 million are estimated to be children.
- Iran, Turkey and Russia declared the area a conflict de-escalation zone in May 2017. Despite this status and Turkish presence, the situation remains tense. Former insurgents continue to

be resettled in the province and airstrikes have been widely reported over the past month. At the same time, political initiatives seeking non-military solutions continue.

- The political situation is likely to remain extremely volatile. In the northern part of the country, Turkey has gradually expanded its military deployment, entering the city of Afrin in March. In the south, Israel struck key Iranian military infrastructure inside the country in its biggest assault since the start of the civil war in May, and risks of a further escalation cannot be dismissed.
- The city of Dar'a in the southern part of the country was included in a “de-escalation zone” to freeze conflict lines in 2017, but a large-scale government offensive from the middle of June onwards has resulted in the temporary displacement of around 250 000 people (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, July 2018).



The dire humanitarian situation is compounded by the disruption of agricultural supply chains and widespread damage to agricultural infrastructure, which further aggravate the impact of the crisis on agricultural production and food security. The potential further deterioration of the humanitarian situation over the next few months requires advocating for strengthened assistance to act early and mitigate impacts on food security.



Potential impact

- According to top UN experts, despite the difficult prediction of when an Idlib takeover will take place, it could result in a humanitarian crisis of the scale of that following the Aleppo takeover. Implications for food security could be serious and humanitarian access likely to be severely hindered.
- Should Idlib come under major attack, emigration outflows towards Turkey would increase dramatically. Turkey is already hosting almost 3.6 million registered Syrian refugees. Such an event would put increasing pressure on the delivery of basic services to people of concern. There is also a need to take into account the possible flow of returnees, both voluntary and induced, to the Syrian Arab Republic from other countries, as their ability to support a large refugee population worsens, compounding the humanitarian situation. Extremely volatile security, coupled with widespread funding cuts will hinder the ability of humanitarian agencies to support the population in need inside the Syrian Arab Republic over the coming months.
- The Syrian Arab Republic received only one-third of its average rainfall during the 2018 growing season, and the late season rainfall resulted in damage and disease of standing crops. Recent food security assessment missions indicate that this year's cereal harvest is expected to be significantly reduced compared with the already low level obtained in 2017. The northeastern part of the country was the most impacted, where widespread crop failure threatens the next planting season given seed shortages. The conflict will also continue to put a strain on the agriculture sector. The limited availability and high costs of farming inputs in addition to livestock decimation are likely to increase dependency on external assistance.



Recommended early actions

Crops

- Distribute agricultural inputs (especially vegetable seeds) to the most vulnerable farmers in conflict-affected areas.
- Advocate for urgent funding for wheat seed distribution in drought-affected northeastern areas.
- Monitor food prices in neighboring countries (especially Jordan and Lebanon) and analyse potential consequences of a spike in food prices on Syrian refugees.

Livestock

- Provide livestock vaccination and preventative animal health treatment to vulnerable livestock keepers, especially in Eastern Ghouta, Idlib and the southwest.

Water

- Restore irrigation infrastructure and rehabilitate water points by September.

More than half of the Syrian population is in need of humanitarian assistance, with 1.5 million people living in hard-to-reach areas.

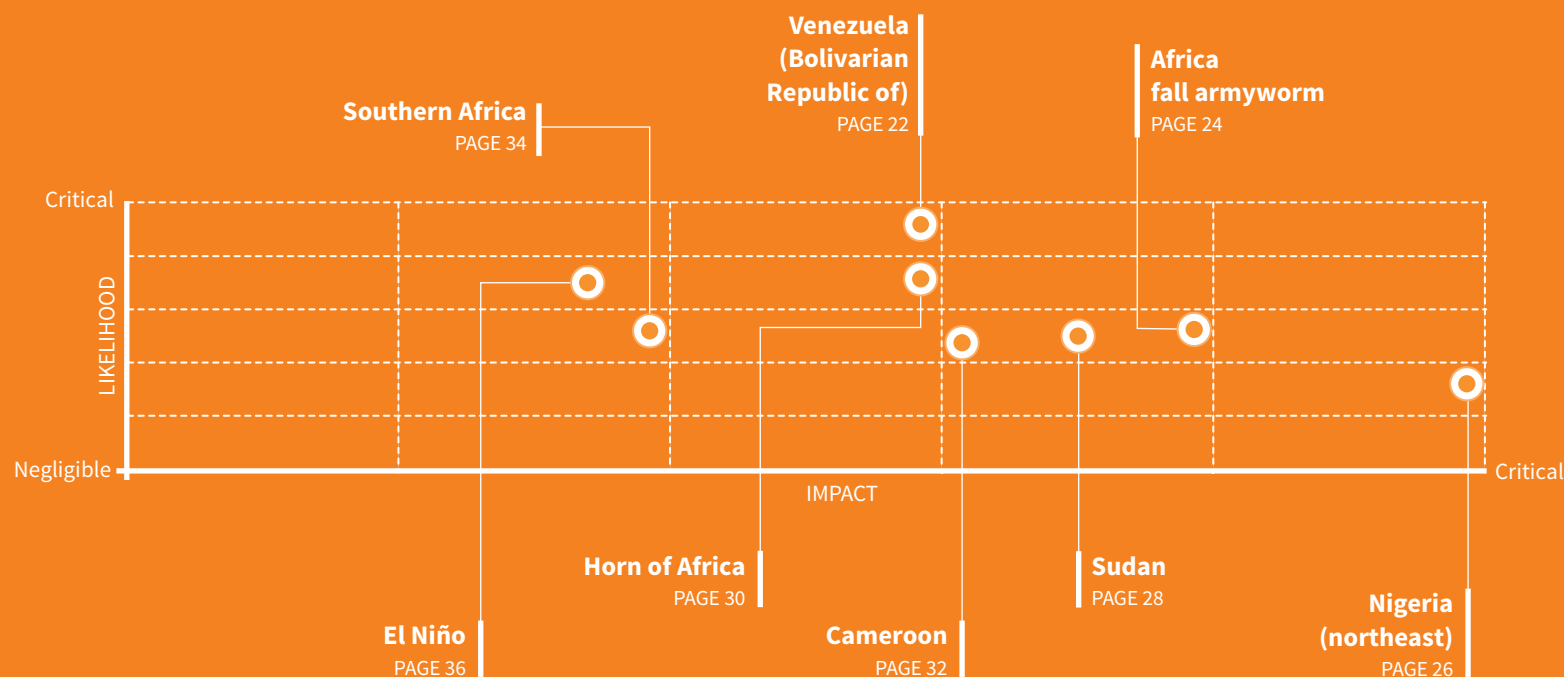


On watch

The matrix provides an overview of the ranking of risks featured in this report. The risks are prioritized based on the severity, likelihood and magnitude of their impact, while also balanced against the countries individual coping capacity.

In order of intensity, for the period July–September 2018, the **on watch** section includes:

- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Africa – fall armyworm
- Nigeria (northeast)
- Sudan
- Horn of Africa
- Cameroon
- Southern Africa region
- El Niño



Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Deteriorating food insecurity
continuing to fuel large-scale
emigration



Money supply has grown by
close to **3 000 percent**
in a year



Almost **940 000**
Venezuelans likely to relocate
to Colombia in 2018



Risk overview

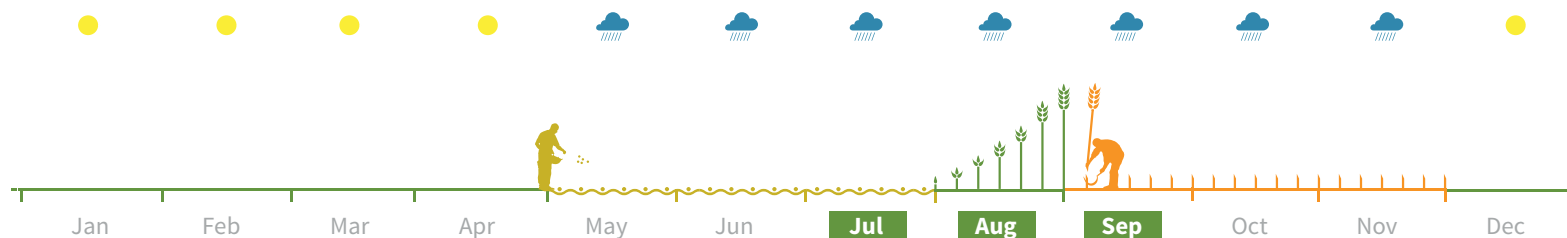
- According to estimates, Venezuela's inflation rate has reached 7 459 percent at the end of March 2018 and expansion of the money supply increased by about 3 000 percent in a year in April, which has rendered the local Bolivar currency increasingly worthless.
- The subsequent fall in purchasing power is severely limiting access to food and other basic necessities. UNICEF reports a dramatic deterioration of the food security situation over the past quarters According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the spread of ongoing large-scale outbreaks of measles, malaria and diphtheria across the country poses a very high risk.
- Oil exports are Venezuela's main source of revenues, and foreign oil sales have fallen by 40 percent from a year ago to 1.1 million of barrels per day in April 2018. Moreover, Reuters reported in June that Venezuela is nearly a month behind delivering crude to customers from its main export terminals amid a severe backlog of crude deliveries. Delays and production declines could temporarily halt state-run oil and natural gas company Petr leos de Venezuela's supply contracts. Further declines would curtail the government's ability to manage the economic downturn and the food security crisis.

- The influx of Venezuelan migrants in the region continues unabated. According to OCHA, the number of Venezuelans in Colombia doubled from 300 000 to 600 000 between July 2017 and January 2018.



Potential impact

- The continuation of the economic crisis in Venezuela will exacerbate the food security situation in the country over the coming months. Patterns of emigration to neighboring countries will put increasing pressure on host populations.
- The worsening humanitarian situation is likely to continue impacting regional stability. Colombia is of particular concern. The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan focused on the issue of displacement in Colombia, targeting a population in need of 1.19 million – 79 percent Venezuelans, 15 percent Colombian returnees from Venezuela and 6 percent host communities – estimating that almost 940 000 Venezuelans are likely to be in the country this year. Migration is increasingly impacting food security and nutrition, and straining the provision of public services, particularly in border departments such as Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander.



The continuous influx of Venezuelan migrants and Colombian returnees in Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander poses challenges to food security. Early actions are crucial to increase food production in host communities and prevent increases in food prices in local markets.



Recommended early actions

Assessment

- Conduct assessments on the needs of immigrants and host communities with regard to agricultural production and access to food in Arauca and Norte de Santander.

Crops

- Increase food production through the distribution of drought-resistant seeds (particularly maize, pumpkin and watermelon for human consumption and forage species for animal consumption) and agricultural tools to support the most vulnerable host communities in La Guajira.
- Provide technical assistance for the implementation of rapid food production models and protection of agricultural livelihoods in host communities of La Guajira.

Livestock

- Conduct animal health campaigns as a measure to reduce mortality of goats and sheep, which constitute the main livelihood resource of the Wayuu indigenous population that receiving Venezuelan migrants and Colombian returnees.
- Distribute feed and supplements for the recovery of health and nutritional status of herds (cattle, goats and sheep) in hosting communities of La Guajira.

Water

- Rehabilitate water supply systems for human consumption and agricultural production in La Guajira to preserve essential means of subsistence of host families and migrant population.



Africa fall armyworm

Risk of further spread to
West Africa, Egypt, Libya and
Yemen



20 percent

potential maize yield loss



8.3 million tonnes

(USD 2.5 billion) potential
maize yield loss per annum



Risk overview

- Fall armyworm (FAW), an insect native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, was detected in Africa (Benin, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, and Togo) in early 2016. On 30 January 2018, almost all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa (except Comoros, Djibouti, Lesotho and Mauritius) detected and reported FAW.
- FAW's larvae prefers maize as a host plant, however it can feed on more than 80 other plant species including rice, sorghum, vegetable crops and cotton, hence potentially causing damage to economically important crops for vulnerable farmers across the continent.



Potential impact

- Household food insecurity is likely to be exacerbated by FAW's active feeding from June through the wet season in West Africa – particularly in Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali, mainly due to seasonality. Several areas in those countries, as well as southern Chad, are likely to experience the highest vulnerability to FAW according to FAO's FAW Risk-Map. In addition, western Ethiopia, northern Cameroon, northern Tanzania, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Uganda will remain at high risk through the May – September period.
- The detection of FAW in Eritrea and Sudan increases the concern of a further spread to Egypt, Libya and Yemen. Despite the dry season slowing the spread of FAW, awareness must be raised and preparedness measures undertaken in these potentially affected countries.
- Most smallholders in Africa do not use pesticides in their maize production. The introduction of sustained use of pesticides is likely to increase production costs and human health risks,

as well as potentially making the local agricultural systems economically unviable.

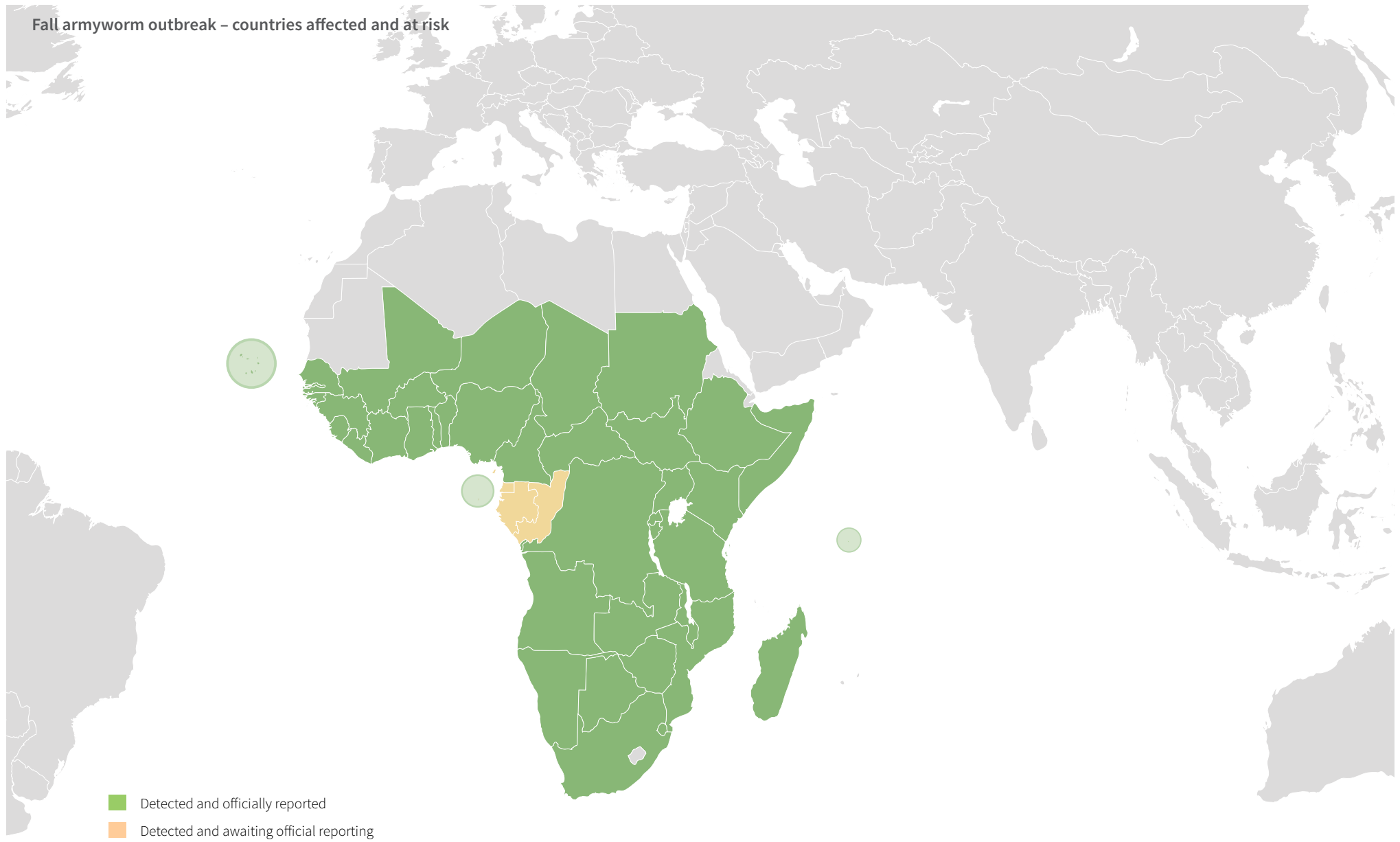
- Left unmanaged or in the absence of natural biological control, FAW can cause significant yield loss in maize and other crops. For maize, FAW can reduce yields by up to 20 percent. This would mean an estimated 8.3 million tonnes per year loss of maize worth around USD 2.5 billion. Yield losses are likely to be higher if its impact is quantified for the other species.



Recommended early actions

- Scale-up efforts to collect specific evidence on the spread and impact of FAW in African countries, with a specific focus on countries known to be at high risk of food insecurity due to the pest.
- Since the pest cannot be eradicated, the long-term focus lays on the development of economically effective pest management techniques for smallholder farmers.
- Support biological control efforts, such as the development of natural pesticides like predators and parasitoids.
- Support the design and testing of suitable programmes for pest management for smallholder farmers in Africa.
- Support the implementation of farmer field schools for the training of smallholder farmers on pest management.
- Strengthen regional coordination through early warning systems.
- Support south-south cooperation to share knowledge by facilitating events.
- Through advocacy and dissemination, increase the use of the Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System – a mobile application used to identify and report the level of infestation – and map its spread.

Fall armyworm outbreak – countries affected and at risk



Source: FAO Food Chain Crisis Management Framework, February 2018

Nigeria (northeast)

Conflict resulting in further displacement and deterioration of food security



2.3 million people facing severe food insecurity conditions (CH Phases 3 to 5), likely to increase to almost 2.9 million in June – August



1.8 million internally displaced people



Risk overview

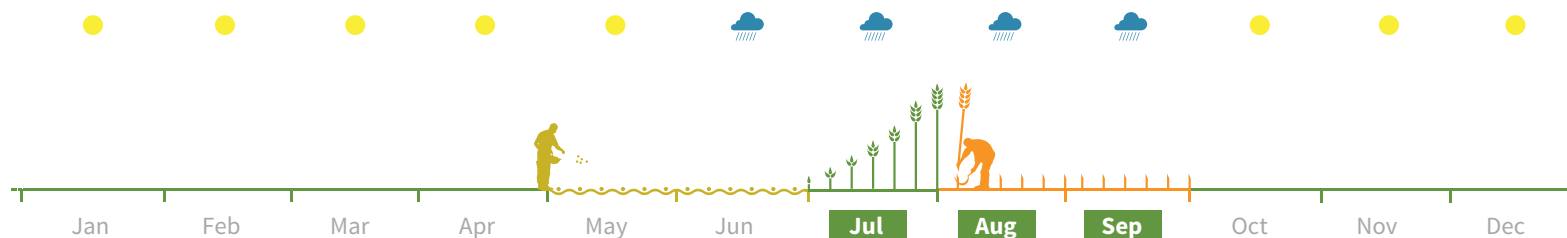
- Conflict-affected areas of in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in northeast Nigeria are likely to suffer from limited harvests, as prolonged conflict perpetuated by the Boko Haram insurgency continue to spur displacement and undermine food security.
- According to the latest CH food security analysis conducted in March 2018, 2.9 million people are estimated to be food insecure in the period between June and August in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. As of May, the insurgency had displaced 1.8 million people within the three most affected states. In April 2018, more than 2.6 million people received food assistance in the northeast and more than 1.2 million people received livelihood support in the same month. Borno state continues to host the highest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) – more than 1.4 million – as of the end of April. The steepest increase in IDPs was observed in Yobe – a 19 percent increase since February 2018. Since November 2017, large-scale displacements continue to take place weekly since hostilities intensified in the northeast. More than 130 000 people have been displaced, sometimes for the second or third time.
- In addition, the recent herders/farmers persistent crisis in the Demsa, Gerei, Larmorde and Numan local government areas in Adamawa state is further exacerbating displacement and food insecurity in the affected communities.
- Humanitarian assistance reached a monthly average of 2.25 million people with food assistance in the three

northeastern states since March 2017, with 2.6 million people reached in April 2018. However, needs in some areas are likely much greater than assistance provided. For example, food assistance in Adamawa and Yobe states declined by 29 percent and 10 percent, respectively, between March and April 2018 despite an increasing displaced population, primarily due to funding constraints.



Potential impact

- The number of food insecure people (CH Phases 3 – 4) in the three northeastern states will increase by more than 660 000 to almost 2.9 million during the June–August lean season. More people are expected to slide into Emergency levels (Phase 4) as a result of conflicts leading to an increase in the number of IDPs, disruption to market supply chains and livelihoods, and limited access to food.
- The International Research Institute for Climate and Society's precipitation forecast for the July–September period in the northeast points towards the probability of an above-average precipitation, but conflict-affected areas are still likely to have limited harvests overall.
- Military operations – particularly in the northeast and southeast of Borno State – will continue throughout the 2018 rainy season, therefore displacement trends are likely to continue at least until the end of August.



The expected further deterioration of the food security situation in conflict-affected areas of northeast Nigeria requires the implementation of early actions to support agricultural production throughout the lean season. Early actions should be framed within, and contribute to, the broader ongoing work aimed at addressing the impact of conflict on food security in northeast Nigeria, including through cash transfers and longer-term interventions to support job creation and income-generating activities among women and youth.

- Persistent attacks by armed herdsmen in rural communities in some part of Adamawa state, as well as in Taraba, poses serious threat to food security during the lean period.



Recommended early actions

Cash

- Carry out cash and voucher programmes to support vulnerable households' agricultural activities, scale-up social safety nets mechanisms (subsidized inventory credit scheme) and access to food throughout the lean season.

Crops

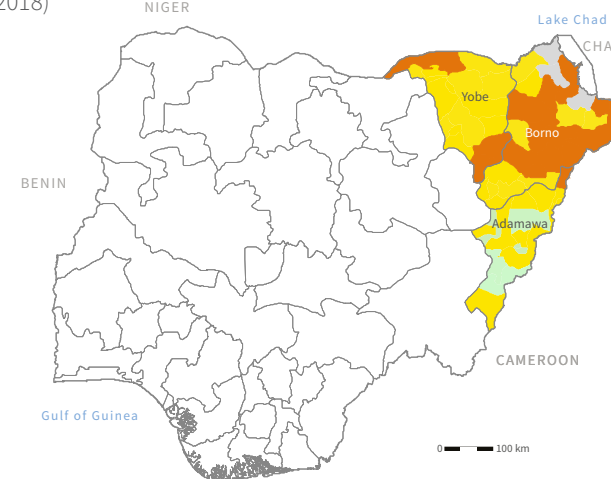
- Provide early-maturing and drought resistant seed varieties of cowpea, vegetables, millet and sorghum to conflict-affected people (IDPs, returnees and host communities) in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states by July.
- Assess the food security and livelihood needs of conflict-affected households in Adamawa state.

Livestock

- Conduct livestock disease control and deworming campaigns for vulnerable pastoral and agropastoral communities in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states throughout the July–September period.
- Advocate for the implementation of the recently developed National Livestock Development Plan to halt the continuous farmer/herder clashes across the country.

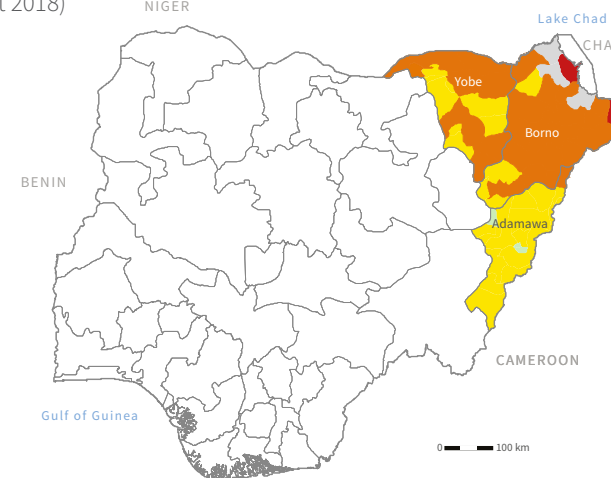
CH acute food insecurity situation

(March–May 2018)



CH acute food insecurity situation

(June–August 2018)



IPC Phase Classification

■ Famine	■ Crisis	■ Minimal	■ Insufficient data
■ Emergency	■ Stressed	■ Not analysed	

Source: CH, March 2018

Sudan

Economic reforms continue to drive a rise in food prices and food security set to deteriorate



6.2 million people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 by July 2018



Cereal production **40 percent** lower than the 2016 output



Risk overview

- Economic reforms in the Sudan have contributed to significant increases in staple food prices. Reforms included the devaluation of the Sudanese Pound, followed by the removal of wheat and electricity subsidies. Dry spells in Kassala, Gedaref and North Darfur have also exacerbated the economic crisis, resulting in cereal production shortfalls and in an earlier than usual start of the lean season in some areas.
- According to the latest IPC analysis conducted in April 2018, it is estimated that about 6.2 million people are in need of urgent support between May and July 2018 to reduce their food gaps and protect their livelihoods. This includes 5.5 million people experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels and more than half a million facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels.
- Some 2.8 million children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished – a 45 percent increase compared with the same period in 2017. In Darfur, where at least 2.1 million people are still displaced, almost half of the population are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food insecurity levels. In North Darfur, almost 1 million people are in IPC Phases 3 and 4. The highest prevalence of population in IPC Phase 3 and 4 are in the localities of Fashir, Kalemendo, Malha, Mallet and Tawila in North Darfur, as well as Ed Daein in East Darfur.
- As of December 2017, the Sudanese pound was devalued from 6.7 SDG/USD to 18 SDG/USD, and then to 30 SDG/USD in February 2018. As a result, inflation increased 55 percent in the first quarter of 2018 and is expected to continue to rise throughout 2018.
- According to GIEWS, total cereal production in 2017 is estimated at 5.2 million tonnes – 40 percent lower than the 2016 output. The output contraction was due to farmers' preference to cultivate more profitable cash crops, such as sesame and cotton, as well as drought-induced production shortfalls in Kassala, northern Gedaref and North Darfur, where cereal production was 65–90 percent lower than in the previous year.
- As of late 2017, cereal prices are soaring. Prices of sorghum, millet, and wheat are up to three times twice their year-earlier levels as of mid-2018, and are at record or near-record highs. The surge in cereal prices is mainly driven by the removal of wheat subsidies, which increased demand for millet and sorghum as substitutes for wheat, and the strong depreciation of the local currency, which triggered a significant rise in the general inflation rate. The removal of subsidies on electricity, scarcity of fuel across the country resulting in higher transport costs and localized 2017 crop production shortfalls provided further support to cereal prices.
- Scarcity of fuel is also affecting the provision for water pumps and fuel required to operate agriculture machinery to support the growing season of the main cereal crops for 2018/9. According to GIEWS, market prices of fertilizers and sorghum seeds in Gedaref are reported to be more than twice their year-earlier levels.



The expected further increases in food prices during the upcoming lean season calls for early actions to support crop planting and mitigate the impact of potential future dry spells on agricultural production and food security.

- Crop production shortfalls are compounding the economic crisis in Kassala, northern Gedaref and North Darfur which have resulted in an earlier than usual start of the lean season in parts of these areas. In Kassala, the lean season began in January 2018, four months earlier than normal.



Potential impact

- With the continuation of the lean season until September 2018, food prices are expected to increase. Households will likely exhaust their food stocks and depend on market purchases, which are becoming more expensive.
- While Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum highlights that seasonal rains are expected to be average to above-average, farmers in eastern and central parts of the country will likely experience hardship for the upcoming planting and growing periods of key cereals (June–October).
- The lack of diesel will compromise the use of agricultural machinery and irrigation pumps. This is further combined with low availability and high prices of agricultural inputs. While some relief in water availability will increase with the onset of the rainy season, concerns over access to pasture for livestock will remain until August.
- Fall armyworm was detected in the Sudan, with a confirmed presence in the Blue Nile, Gedaref, Khartoum, River Nile and Sennar states. With the onset of the seasonal rains in June, the pest will likely spread and could disrupt crop production for the key cereal harvest.
- Given the emergence of Rift Valley Fever in nearby Kenya, the seasonal rains could prompt a spread to neighbouring countries. Pastoralists will begin to move livestock to seasonal areas which could carry the disease from Kenya into the Sudan through South Sudan or Ethiopia.



Recommended early actions

Crops

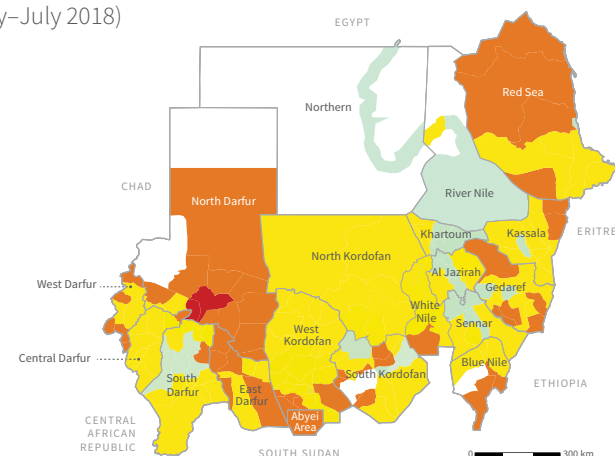
- Provide technical advice and support to improve water-harvesting techniques among vulnerable farmers.
- Support the establishment of improved terraces to reduce soil erosion and water runoff.
- Rehabilitate water points to increase water availability.

Livestock

- Strengthen the surveillance of RVF in livestock in southern Sudan to ensure transboundary movements are monitored and evaluated for local veterinary authorities to make informed decisions.

IPC acute food insecurity situation

(May–July 2018)



IPC Phase Classification

 Famine	 Crisis	 Minimal	 Insufficient data
 Emergency	 Stressed	 Not analysed	

Source: Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, April 2018



Horn of Africa

Risk of Rift Valley fever outbreak, and localized food production deficits due to floods



More than **1.4 million** people affected by floods



More than **190 000 ha** of agricultural land inundated in Somalia



Risk overview

- In April and May 2018, large-scale floods resulting from above-average rainfall and increased river levels affected around 830 000 people in Somalia, including 290 000 displaced people, 310 000 people in Kenya and 285 000 people in Ethiopia – with more than 170 000 displaced. In the middle of May, Tropical Cyclone Sagar hit the Horn of Africa, leaving at least 52 people dead and 162 000 affected in northern Somalia and 50 000 affected in Djibouti due to flash floods caused by the cyclone.
- According to GIEWS, pastoralists have benefited from the recent abundant rains. In rainfed areas, harvests are also likely to be average to above-average despite some localized production shortfalls due to floods. By contrast in Somalia, according to Somalia Water and Land Information Management, an estimated 52 000 ha of rainfed and 141 000 ha of irrigated and riverine agricultural land was inundated by the beginning of June. A substantial output contraction of the Gu crop is expected. Agricultural areas currently inundated by floods are also expected to have a delayed harvest. This, in turn, will prolong the lean season.
- After a period of abnormal, torrential rainfall and floods in the East African region, an outbreak of Rift Valley fever (RVF) was first reported in Kenya in June 2018.



Potential impact

- The RVF outbreak in Kenya is ongoing, affecting animals and humans, with a likelihood to spread, posing a significant risk to the whole region. Although the approaching season from July onwards will be unsuitable for the vector populations in most of the wider eastern Africa region (except for Ethiopia, South Sudan and southern Sudan), the potential spread of

the disease through animal movement and informal trade routes within and outside Kenya is likely to occur. FAO advises the veterinary services and livestock farmers' communities in the region to remain vigilant to the potential occurrence and spread of RVF in humans and/or animals. In particular, the risk of RVF spread is considered very high in Kenya and moderate in Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti. In the wider region, it is also considered moderate in Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. In addition, western Ethiopia may also be characterized by suitable environmental conditions for RVF vector amplification.

- The June – September period will be characterized by seasonally dry conditions over central, southern and eastern parts of the sub-region. By contrast, the main rainy season takes place in northern and western parts, including most of Ethiopia, Eritrea and southwestern Kenya. According to GIEWS, floods are expected in Ethiopia, with the latest forecast of the National Meteorology Agency anticipating a shift of the heavy rainfall from southeastern Ethiopia to central and western regions as well as parts of northern Ethiopia. Several of these areas are classified as being at risk of flooding according to the national disaster management authorities.
- In southwestern Kenya, the long rains will extend almost to September. GIEWS consider southwestern and central Kenya at risk from flooding over the coming weeks.
- In southern Somalia, FEWSNET predicts food security to improve between June and September due to likely above-average Gu harvests. However, GIEWS warn that April and May floods will result in localized production deficits. In riverine areas, crop damage from flooding is likely to result in below-average maize production in June – even as above-average off-season maize production is likely in September. Agricultural areas currently inundated by floods are also expected to have a delayed harvest and, this in turn, will prolong the lean season.

Widespread floods affect agricultural production especially in areas of the region which are at critical stages of the crop production cycle. Prompt action is essential to mitigate the impact of floods on agricultural livelihoods and food security. Vigilance and early action is also required to limit risks of a spread of RFV in areas characterized by suitable environmental conditions for vector amplification.

- There are concerns that floods could exacerbate the spread of water-borne diseases, including acute watery diarrhea and cholera. Heavy rains could also result in favorable breeding conditions for desert locusts.



Recommended early actions

Rift Valley fever

- Strengthen RVF surveillance in livestock, including support to emergency outbreak investigations.
- Laboratory support for diagnostics (equipment and reagents).
- Improve public awareness and communication on prevention and control.
- Develop coordination with all stakeholders in both veterinary and public health sectors – using the One Health approach.
- Procure and distribute preventative/protective materials.
- Distribute additional veterinary inputs to respond to effects of flooding and associated animal health challenges (e.g. foot-rot, liver fluke and trypanosomiasis).
- Provide personal protective equipment kits to veterinarians, inspectors, butchers, etc.

Floods

Crops

- Distribute seeds (maize, wheat and sorghum) in July to support the Meher planting season in flood-affected woredas of Ethiopia, including Afder, Jijiga, Korahe, Liban and Shabelle, zones.
- Provide cash assistance and on-farm support to flood-affected farmers in Somalia (e.g. tractor hours, quality seed).

Diseases

- Conduct sensitization activities to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases in flood-affected areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Livestock

- Support the establishment of fodder banks by September in lowland pastoral areas of Ethiopia (i.e. the Somali Region) to ensure availability of fodder when pasture will be scarce.
- Distribute supplementary feed to vulnerable pastoral communities the Afar region of Ethiopia for their core breeding animals by September.
- Provide appropriate veterinary drugs and services to control flood-related and vector-borne diseases in Somalia.
- Support community sensitization on good livestock practices during floods and vector-borne diseases (i.e. early detection and reporting) in the sub-region.


Water


- Take advantage of the low river flow in July and August to identify and close/open weak river embankments along the Juba and Shabelle rivers of Somalia.
- Support community sensitization on good practices before, during and after floods.



Cameroon

Insecurity in Far North region threatens the performance of the upcoming 2018 cropping season

 **3.3 million** people to require urgent assistance in 2018

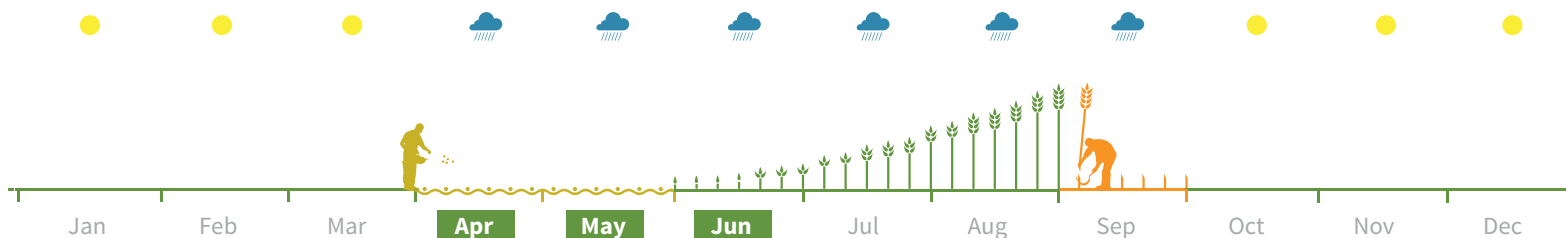
 Only **22 percent** of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan financed

Risk overview

- In 2018, Cameroon is suffering from the impacts of a triple humanitarian crisis. The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin region has caused massive displacement of Nigerian refugees and Cameroonians in the Far North. The conflict in the Central African Republic has driven thousands of refugees into the East, Adamawa and North regions. Meanwhile, growing civil conflict in western Cameroon's Anglophone regions is prompting internal population displacement and driving an increase in humanitarian needs. It is estimated that 3.3 million people will require urgent assistance in 2018.
- Cameroon is one of the countries most affected by the regional extension of the Boko Haram insurgency, which started in northeast Nigeria nine years ago. More than 60 suicide attacks were reported in the Far North in 2017, which represents a 50 percent increase compared with the previous year. 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.
- Civil unrest in the Far North is also affecting agricultural activities and income opportunities, and raises concerns over the performance of the 2018 cropping season. According to FEWSNET, poor dry season harvests of sorghum, compared with

past years, will not be sufficient to fill the deficit from the rainy season production (May–September 2017). Furthermore, and as a result of the experienced deficit, traders are taking speculative measures, driving high cereal prices in markets.

- The resurgence of violence in the Central African Republic has led to an increased flow of refugees into the country since early 2017. Almost all new arrivals have settled into host communities in East and Adamawa regions, increasing the need for humanitarian assistance. As of 30 April 2018, an estimated 256 000 refugees had sought shelter in Cameroon. In addition, UNHCR reports that Boko Haram-related violence has driven approximately 93 000 Nigerian refugees into the Far North region, where 241 000 Cameroonians are internally displaced.
- The humanitarian crisis in Cameroon has been further exacerbated by the Anglophone crisis that began in Southwest and Northwest regions, after a symbolic declaration of independent Ambazonia on 1 October 2017. As a result of this movement, an escalation of tension between secessionists and the army has resulted in 160 000 internally displaced people and 21 291 asylum seekers. In May 2018, recent fighting between the two groups has led a great number of villagers from the Southwest region to flee their homes for fear of being killed. The sociopolitical context in the Anglophone regions is having a significant negative economic impact.



Conflict-led insecurity in the Far North region, combined with reduced food availability during the ongoing lean season, could lead to a further deterioration of the food security situation unless targeted early actions are carried out promptly.



Potential impact

- 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. As of May 2018, only 22 percent of the Humanitarian Response Plan had been financed. In the absence of a sustained assistance to the affected populations, needs are expected to further increase.
- Although there has been a decrease in incursions and suicide attacks by Boko Haram in recent months, the security situation remains precarious in the Far North and is likely to continue driving the displacement of many people within the region.
- The majority of the vulnerable groups are located in the four regions of Adamawa, East, North and Far North, where substantial and increasing number of households is likely to resort to negative coping strategies with the arrival of the lean season between June and September 2018.
- The sociopolitical situation in the Anglophone regions is likely to remain extremely volatile due to the recent clashes between secessionists and the army, leading to further displacements.



Recommended early actions

Assessment

- Assist the government in undertaking CFSAM in the three northern regions of the country and an emergency food security assessment towards the end of the year.

Crops

- Distribute vegetable seeds to vulnerable farmers in the Far North Region to boost off-season food production.

Fisheries

- Distribute fishing kits and conduct trainings to support fishing communities along the Logone and Chari rivers throughout the July–September period.

Livestock

- Regenerate pasture in the Far North Region, especially in Mayo-Danay department, where vulnerable livestock keepers are forced to walk long distances in search for grazing land for their animals.



Southern Africa region

Localized production shortfalls affecting vulnerable households



Almost **1.3 million** projected food insecure people in Madagascar



Maize harvest in Malawi **19 percent** lower than last season



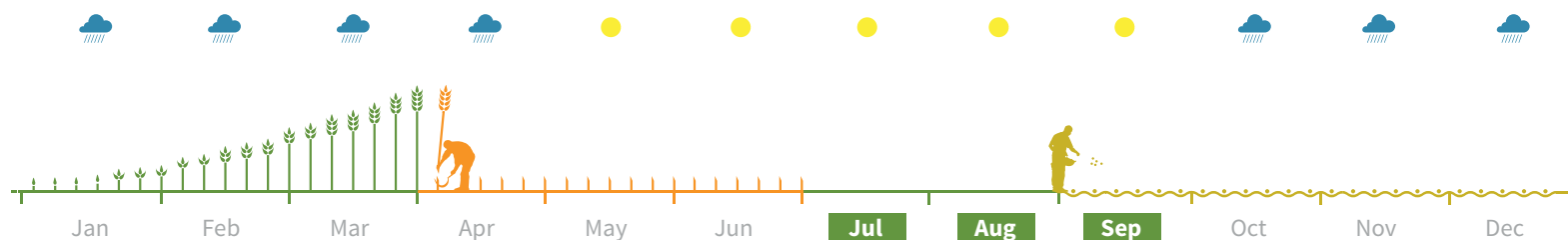
Risk overview

- Cereal production in several areas of southern Africa – most notably southern and central Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, southern Madagascar and Malawi – is forecast to decrease in 2018 from last year's high levels. Below-average yields and localized crop failure, mainly due to dry weather conditions during a critical December–January months, was the main driver of production decreases, while infestations of fall armyworm reportedly caused localized losses.
- Large carry-over stocks from the record high and bumper 2017 harvests are expected to partly cushion the impact of this year's estimated production decreases. South Africa is forecast to have above-average maize opening stocks of more than 4 million tonnes in the 2018/19 marketing year. Low cereal prices in most countries will also improve households' food access.
- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) of serotype O outbreaks, known to be endemic in Zambia, can occur after the detection of the virus. These events are of concern for possible spread from Zambia into the Southern Africa region, which has never been affected by this particular type in the past. In addition, further spread of FMD outbreaks (serotypes SAT 1, 2 and 3) could transpire in Malawi in non-vaccinated areas.



Potential impact

- In the Great South of Madagascar, it is expected that most districts will experience Crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3), with the exception of Beloha, where 68 percent of the population will be in IPC Phase 3 and 4, with more than 31 000 people facing Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4). The situation is due to an expected significant drop in 2017–18 crop production as a result of rainfall deficits and pest attacks. The total number of people in IPC 3 and 4 in the country is projected at almost 1.3 million people (IPC Phase 3 and 4) for the July–September period. In addition, IPC analysis projects an uncertain and difficult start of the 2018–19 crop season due to insufficient seed availability.
- In Malawi, the results from the second round of the Agriculture Production Estimates Survey for the 2017/8 agricultural season showed that maize production was projected to decrease from 3.4 million to 2.8 million tonnes, representing a 19 percent decrease compared with the 2016/17 production and about 13 percent deficit of the national requirement of 3.2 million tonnes. Legumes, rice and potatoes are also expected to be low.
- In Mozambique, steep cereal production declines are expected in southern provinces. According to the Southern Africa Food And Nutrition Security Working Group, food insecurity is expected to rise among vulnerable households in areas where production shortfalls are expected.



Acting early in Southern Africa can contribute to reducing the impact of agricultural production shortfalls on vulnerable households, especially through timely preparation for the upcoming planting season in October/November.

- FEWSNET predicts increasing Crisis levels of food insecurity in southern parts of Zimbabwe and central and southern Mozambique in the June–September period.
- Grazing livestock conditions continue to improve in most areas in Southern Africa, reflecting heavier rainfall since February. However, severe dryness is experienced in western and northwestern parts of Namibia, particularly Omaheke region, as well as parts of southern Angola in Benguela, Cunene, Huíla and Namibe provinces. There are reports of cattle deaths due to lack of water and pasture.¹³



Recommended early actions

Crops

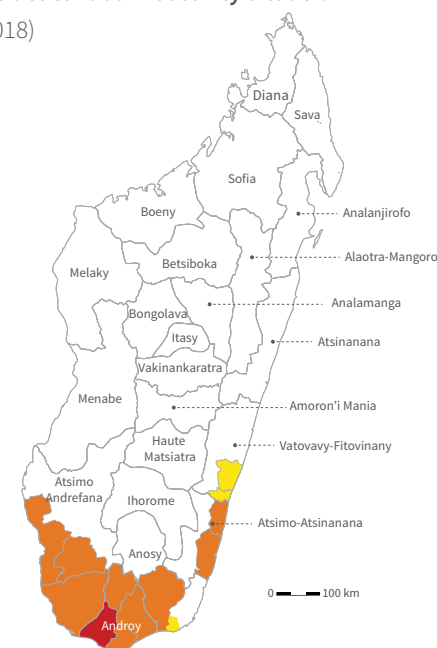
- Improve farmers' access to quality seeds through cash-based interventions by September, and incentivize early planting for vulnerable farmers in areas affected by erratic rains in Malawi.
- Enhance vulnerable farmers' access to quality drought tolerant seeds, including garden crops, in areas affected by erratic rains in Zimbabwe.
- Support/facilitate access to quality maize seeds by September for affected vulnerable farmers in Mozambique, before the start of the planting season in October.
- Enhance access to inputs in early July in southeastern Madagascar through seed fairs and cash-based interventions focusing on tubers, vegetables, rice and pulses.

Livestock

- Provide animal health treatments to prevent further FMD outbreaks in Malawi and invest in dipping tanks and preposition of fodder in highly affected areas.
- Increase the control of animal movements within FMD-affected areas and provide support to vulnerable herders to diversify their livelihoods.
- Provide subsidized stock feed to affected livestock farmers in Zimbabwe.

Madagascar IPC acute food insecurity situation

(June–August 2018)



IPC Phase Classification

 Famine	 Crisis	 Minimal	 Insufficient data
 Emergency	 Stressed	 Not analysed	

Source: Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group, June 2018

El Niño

Probability of an El Niño event in late 2018–early 2019, potentially impacting agriculture and food security



Risk overview

- El Niño is a recurrent atmospheric-oceanic phenomenon that is associated to an increase in sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific and a sustained weakening of the trade winds. It is a component of the wider El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon, an irregularly periodic variation in winds and sea surface temperatures, whereby the warming phase of sea temperature is known as El Niño, and the cooling phase as La Niña.
- El Niño develops roughly every two to seven years and lasts from six to 24 months. While reduced rainfall and drought is a key outcome of El Niño, the phenomenon can also cause heavy rains and flooding. Impacts of El Niño on agriculture and food security depend on a complex interplay of factors and range from minor to severe. The 2015–2016 El Niño episode severely affected over 60 million people worldwide, causing 23 countries to appeal for international humanitarian assistance.



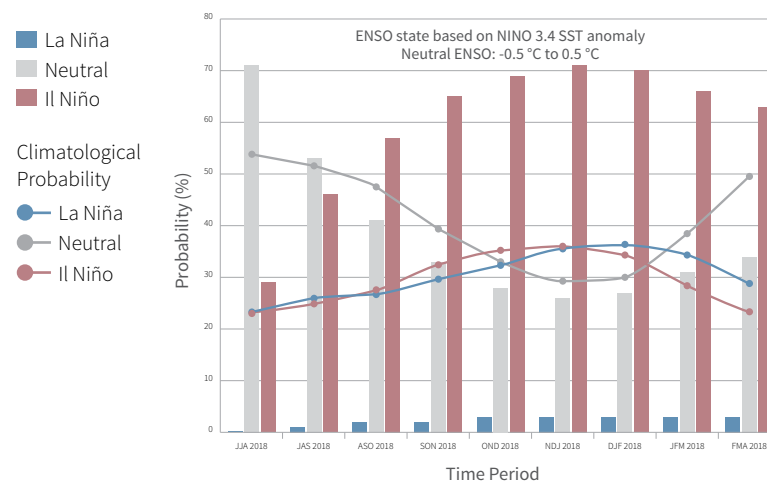
Potential impact

- The current official forecasts (consensus-based) provided by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society point to a 65 percent probability of a weak to moderate El Niño event during September–November 2018, and 71 percent during November 2018–January 2019 (chart). Forecasters largely agree on this scenario now that the spring barrier – a period of the year in which meteorological models suffer from a lack of accuracy – has passed.
- As a global phenomenon, El Niño can affect the climate system worldwide, resulting in precipitation anomalies that may affect agricultural production, especially if they coincide with critical stages of crop and pasture. An El Niño event during September 2018–April 2019 – and in particular during its peak

(November 2018–January 2019) – is likely to result in dry spells in the Southern Africa region, southern India, areas of South-East Asia, parts of Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the northwestern part of South America. El Niño is also likely to drive above-average wet conditions in Central Asia, the Horn of Africa region, the Pacific, parts of South America and the Gulf of Mexico.

- Given that some of these regions are still recovering from extended periods of dry spells (e.g. the Southern Africa region) or are currently enduring flooding (e.g. the Horn of Africa), a further continuation of extreme weather events later in the year would greatly curtail recovery and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, with serious impacts on food security.

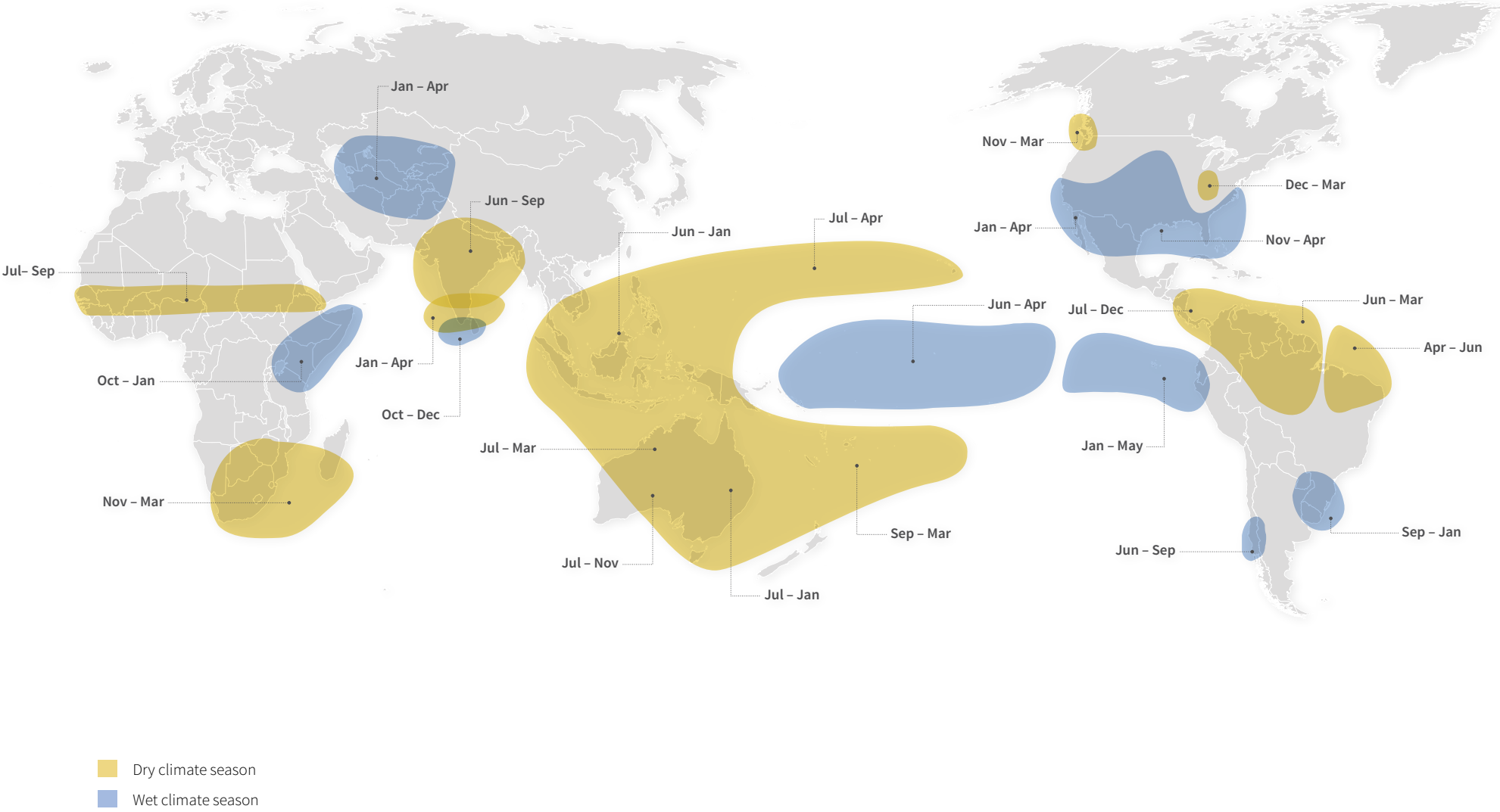
Early–Jul CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts




The chart above indicates that there is a 57 percent probability of an El Niño phenomenon to develop during August–October 2018, rising to 65 percent during September–November 2018 and reaching its peak at 71 percent during November 2018–January 2019. Although probability forecasts decrease progressively after February 2019, they remain well above the climatological average (red line).

Source: International Research Institute for Climate and Society

Historical El Niño trends



Source: NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



Early Warning Early Action
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

For more information

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