

# FOOD SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN IMPLICATIONS IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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## KEY POINTS

### Sections



Agriculture



Displacements



International Markets



West Africa Markets



Food Security

To go to



- ♦ In Chad, food insecurity has deteriorated over the last three years in the Sahelian belt regions.
- ♦ Average rainfall to slightly surplus is very likely on the Sahelian belt.
- ♦ Alarming humanitarian situation continues in the Lake Chad Basin despite decreasing number of refugees and displaced persons.

This period is marked by the end of the off-season harvest and the gradual onset of the rains corresponding to the start of the 2016-2017 Agropastoral campaign. In the Gulf of Guinea countries, medium to normal rainfall are observed in this early season, while across the Sahel, average rainfall to slightly above average are very likely.

The pastoral situation is marked by an early depletion of forage resources with bad conditions of livestock's in Niger, while in the rest of the region, farming conditions are generally average with deterioration of pastures and watering conditions.

Population movements associated with Nigerian and Malian crisis are continuing with an increasing number of returnees and decreasing number of refugees and displaced persons. These returns can be explained in part by an improving security condition in the areas of origin, and also by the presence of humanitarian actors.

The humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin remains worrying. In Chad, about 2 million people are food insecure including 400 000 people in severely form in the eight regions of the Sahelian belt (Kanem, Lake, Bahr el Gazel, Batha, Wadi Fira, Sila, Guera, Ouaddai). The rate of Global Acute Malnutrition is above the emergency threshold in six of the eight regions. In Nigeria, more than 800 000 people (including 550 000 to Borno and 255 000 to Yobe) are severely food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance.

### Recommendations for regional partners

- Monitor the 2016-2017 agricultural campaign preparation;
- Continue to monitor the food and nutritional security situation in the Lake Chad basin;
- Continue to monitor the food and nutritional security situation in the countries with a substantial food deficit in the 2015-2016 crop year, including Chad;
- Advocate for funding for food and nutrition security projects mentioned in the HRP 2016.

**Objective:** Within the framework of the monthly meetings of the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group for West Africa, it has been agreed that, in a humanitarian perspective, FAO and WFP provide the group with highlights on the food security situation of the previous month.



## 2015-2016 Agropastoral campaign and preparation of 2016-2017 campaign

### Average rainfall to slightly surplus is very likely on the Sahelian belt

**The month of May agricultural situation** is characterized throughout by the activities of marketing of products from 2015-2016 agricultural campaign and off season crop which continued in areas where conditions are favorable. However, there is the decline or the end of the gardening activities and marketing with a corresponding decline in the supply of vegetables products on the markets. The first rains induced the preparation of the dune fields for the 2016 winter campaign in some localities of Burkina, Mali and Niger. (Afrique Verte, May 2016).

**The pastoral situation** is marked in Niger by an early depletion of forage resources with bad conditions of small ruminants (goats and sheep) which consequently, lowers their prices on the market. While in Mali and Burkina Faso, the farming conditions are average overall with less pastures and degrading watering conditions. Animal condition and livestock production levels are overall average. (Afrique Verte, May 2016)

**The desert locust situation:** Control operations continued against groups of larvae and adults in the southern part of Western Sahara, to the South of the Morocco and in the North of Mauritania. There is a risk that some groups and perhaps a few small swarms could move to the South of Mauritania and reach Senegal, while other groups could move towards the center of Algeria where a localized reproduction was underway. Elsewhere the situation remained calm. [FAO](#)

**The outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza** continues spreading in Nigeria and Ghana, however, no new cases reported in the rest of the monitored countries (Niger, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire). In Nigeria, 8 new outbreaks were observed on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the States of Kaduna, Kano and Plateau.

**Climate Outlook to 2016:** the 3rd Forum of seasonal climate forecasts in Africa Sahelian Sudano (PRESASS) for rainfall, agro-climatic and hydrological characteristics of the rainy season 2016 for the Sahel CILSS / ECOWAS, was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on May 20, 2016.

### Seasonal cumulative rainfall are as follows:

→ **From June to August 2016:** average to slightly excess precipitation are very likely over the whole Sahelian belt, East of Senegal in Central Chad, passing through Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and southern Mauritania. Deficient rainfall averages are likely along the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea from Sierra Leone to Nigeria. An average rainfall to slightly deficient is likely on the coastal part of Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau;

→ **From July to September 2016:** an average rainfall to slightly surplus is expected on the Sahel Central and East, covering eastern Niger and South-Central Chad. Deficient rainfall averages are likely along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea from Liberia to Nigeria. Near the seasonal mean precipitation are very likely over the rest of West Africa.

### The forecasts of the agro-meteorological parameters of the rainy season are as follows:

→ **The 2016 rainy season onset dates** late to normal season onset dates are expected on the Northwest, South Central, and East of the Sahel. On the southwest of the Sahel and North of the Gulf of Guinea countries normal early season dates in late are planned. Early to normal onset dates are planned at the Centre and Southeast of the Sahel;

→ **The 2016 rainy season ending dates** late to normal season dates are expected in most parts of the countries of the Sahel and parts North of the Gulf of Guinea countries, excepting the area covering the West of Niger, the North of Benin and the extreme northwest of Nigeria where's the finish dates of normal for late season are planned;

→ **Dry spells after the onset dates of the season** (crop installation phase). On the West of the countries of the Sahel, the parts north of the country from the Gulf of Guinea and the region of Lake Chad, it is expected normal dry season long sequences. On the other hand, on the Centre and the Sahel is of dry sequences longer to normal are very likely;

→ **Dry spells at the end of the season** (period post-floral). Normal dry long sequences are planned on the West and the Centre of the Sahel, as well as on the North of the Gulf of Guinea country parties. On the East of the Sahel, it is very likely that the dry sequences are short in normal in the second half of the season.

# Population movement's situation in the region

## Decrease in the number of refugees and displaced persons

The Lake Chad Basin continues to witness violence, displacement and food insecurity. In north-eastern Nigeria, around 2.5 million people are facing hunger. Without urgent assistance, a famine-like situation could occur in the worst-affected areas. Security and humanitarian conditions are deteriorating in south-east Niger, where hundreds of thousands of people settled after fleeing Boko Haram violence. [OCHA](#)

In Nigeria, there is a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons, from **2 241 481 to 2 155 618 people**, or 4 percent of decrease. (Sources: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAS), IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) April 2016).

It is also observed that the number of Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries has decreased between March and May 2016, **209 824 to 186 323 refugees**, or **11 percent** of decrease. [UNHCR](#)

On the Malian crisis, the result of registration and evaluation operation carried by the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social* (DNDS) between March and April

2016, shown a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) in Mali, from **52 163 people** to **36 762 people** in April 2016, with a decrease of **15 401 internally displaced persons (29.5 percent)** were observed. This decrease could be explained on the one hand, by the return of the population to their place of origin following the dialogues intra and inter-communal and the securing of the villages of origin, and other by the presence of humanitarian actors involved in resilience, recovery and social cohesion in Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu, as well as the revival of economic activities in the areas of return. (DTM / *Direction Nationale de Développement Social* (DNDS), April 2016).

The number of refugees Malian in neighbouring between February and April 2016 has also decreased by **143 436 people to 134 232 people**, a decrease of 8 610 people (**6 percent**), despite localized increases found in Niger (60 262 to 60 473 refugees) following security incidents and decreases in Malian refugees in Mauritania (49 701 to 41 560 refugees) and Burkina Faso (from 33 158 to 32 229 refugees). [UNHCR](#)

## Trends on international markets

### The FAO Food Price Index continuing a slow upward trend for the third consecutive

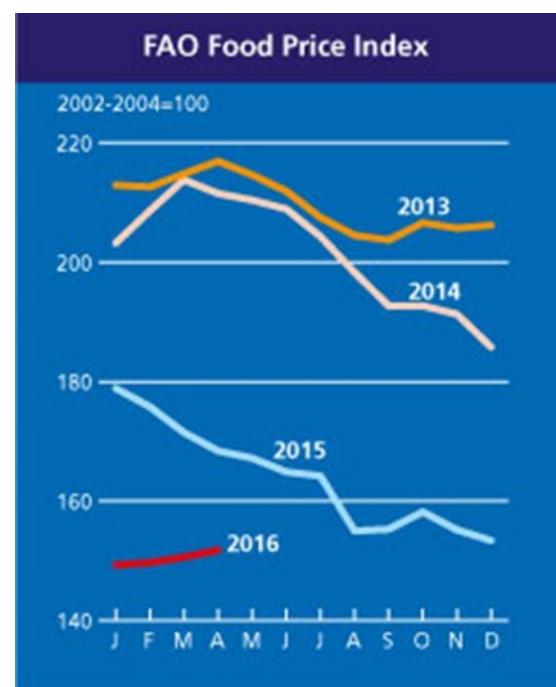
Food consumption in the majority of countries in West Africa and the Sahel depends in part on imports of commodities (especially rice and wheat) whose prices are traded on international markets.

**The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)** averaged 151.8 points in April 2016, up 1.1 points (0.7 percent) from March, but almost 10 percent below its April 2015 level. A relatively strong rise in vegetable oil quotations coupled with a more modest gain in international prices of cereals more than offset a decline in dairy and sugar prices. The small increase in April represented a third month of gradual rise in the value of the FAO Food Price Index.

**The FAO Cereal Price Index** averaged nearly 150 points in April, up 2.2 points (1.5 percent) from March, but still down 10.4 percent year-on-year. Maize quotations increased the most, influenced by weaker US dollar and spill over from soaring prices in the vegetable oils complex. However, favorable weather conditions and expected large supplies in the new season limited gains in wheat markets. On the other hand, rice prices were marginally down, under the

pressure of falling Japonica quotations, which outweighed modest increases in the Indica and Aromatic rice segments.

Figure 1: FAO Food Price Index



Source: [FAO](#)

## Trends on international markets (continued)

### The FAO Food Price Index continuing a slow upward trend for the third consecutive month



In April, the world prices remained firm for the third consecutive month. The high concerned more Thai and Pakistani prices. This trend is mainly caused by the reduction of global inventories and export supply. The reduction of global production due to the weather has had less influence. Indeed, the phenomenon El Niño could be mitigated in the coming weeks, especially in regions of Southeast Asia, and

open the way to the climate phenomenon La Niña, but only from the last quarter of the year. This could reflect on the excess of moisture during harvest periods in Asian countries. The import demand remains stable for now. Therefore, the upward trend in world prices may continue in the coming months, but in a limited way. [InterRice](#)



### Market trends in West Africa

#### Rising prices of cereals observed in the Sahel and around Lake

In the Sahel, prices of local products and main staple food such as millet and sorghum were stable or increased seasonally in April. In Mali, prices remained almost unchanged reflecting good availability of the 2015 crop. In Niger as well market supplies of domestic production were adequate and imports have maintained prices of coarse grains stable. The only exception is found for millet, which prices increased in some markets such as Agadez. In Burkina Faso, prices registered significant seasonal increases as for instance in Dori but remain otherwise widely stable. (Source: Afrique Verte)

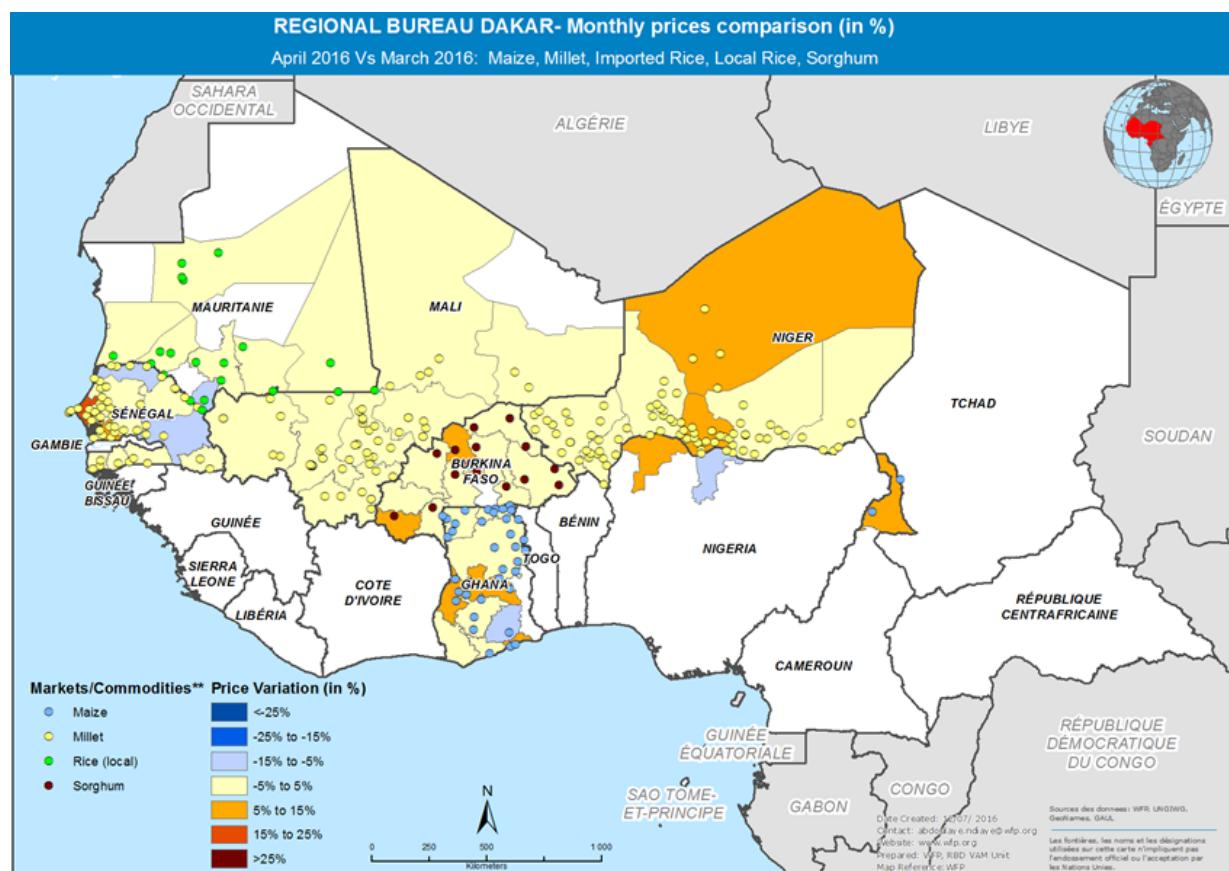
In Mauritania, markets are well supplied with main staples. Supply in coarse grain, despite a significant improvement

compared with the same period in 2015, remains below that of an average year but maintains sorghum prices falling. (Source: FEWS NET)

In Senegal, the falling price of millet improves access to food even for poorer households. (Source: FEWS NET)

In the Lake Chad Basin area, namely Nigeria, coarse grain prices have continued to rise sharply in March, with those of sorghum to record levels. Food prices in both domestic and imported commodities were supported by the continued depreciation of the naira on the black market due to the decline in oil revenues.

Figure 2: Comparison (in %) of grain prices from April 2016 compared to March 2016 - Maize, Millet, Imported Rice, Local Rice and Sorghum



Source: WFP

## Market trends in West Africa (continued)

### Rising prices of cereals observed in the Sahel and around Lake

In Far North Cameroon and South Eastern Niger, prices of sorghum and millet also continue to rise with the impact of the conflict (Figure 2).

In Chad, coarse grain prices rose in April in most markets, but remained lower than a year earlier, after significant declines in recent months.

In the coastal countries like Togo, prices generally rose in April and were above their levels of the previous year. In Ghana, prices remain above their five-year average, particularly for maize and cassava.

### Food Security Impact

 In Chad, food insecurity has deteriorated over the last three years in the regions of Sahelian belt

In the Lake Chad Basin, the food security situation remains precarious. Indeed, in Chad, according to the results of the 'Emergency Food Security Assessment' (EFSA) conducted in eight regions of the Sahelian Belt (Bahr el Gazel, Kanem, Batha, Wadi Fira, Sila, Guera, Ouaddai, Lake), about 2 million people (45 percent of the population) remain food insecure. These include 400,000 people (9 percent) in severe food insecurity.

The food security situation has deteriorated compared to March 2015, with an increasing rate from 46 to 58 percent in Kanem and 40 to 49 percent in Bahr el Gazel. This situation has an impact on the nutrition situation: the Global Acute Malnutrition is increasing in six out of the eight regions covered by the assessment (Bahr El Gazel, Batha, Kanem, Lake, Sila, Wadi Fira) with prevalence above 15 percent, overhead the emergency threshold.

The survey was conducted among a representative sample of 4821 households that included 10,226 children aged 6 to 59 months. It was conducted in March / April 2016 by government in partnership with WFP, FAO and FEWS NET. (WFP Chad, EFSA March / April 2016)

**In Nigeria,** the UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNDSS and OCHA) conducted a rapid assessment

of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) and host communities food security situation of Borno and Yobe states. According to the results of this assessment led by WFP, over 800 000 people (including 550 000 to Borno and 255 000 to Yobe) are severely food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance.

Rising prices of basic food products, the long travel and the inability of households to access land in areas affected by the conflict are factors that deteriorate the food security situation of the population. In response to this difficult situation, households use negative and irreversible coping strategies. (Joint UN Multi-Sector Assessment: Summary report - Borno & Yobe, Nigeria, April 2016)

**In Niger,** in the Diffa region, cross-border flows continue to evolve in below average because of the Boko Haram conflict, thus limiting the food access of poor households in the area while increasing their dependence on humanitarian assistance. (FEWS NET, April 2016)

**In Burkina Faso,** the stability of the coarse grain prices reflects a regularity and availability of products on the market. This price stability is consecutive to a stable demand and support of the social partners (Government, NGOs). (Afrique Verte, May 2016)

### Food Security Assessments for 2016

Finalized	Ongoing	Planned
<b>EFSA</b> Chad	<b>CFSVA</b> Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Senegal	<b>EFSA</b> Cameroon, Guinea Bissau and Central African Republic
<b>ENSAN</b> Mali	<b>EFSA</b> Ghana and Nigeria	<b>JAM</b> Cameroon and Central African Republic
<b>FSMS</b> Mauritania	<b>JAM</b> Chad and Mauritania	<b>CFSAM</b> Cameroon and Mauritania
	<b>EVIAM</b> Niger	<b>FSMS</b> Cameroon, Mauritania and Benin
	<b>ENSAS</b> Senegal	<b>ENSAN</b> Mali
		<b>ENSA</b> Chad

You can access the reports on this [link](#) or to query [rbd.vam@wfp.org](mailto:rbd.vam@wfp.org)



## Calendars !

- Cadre Harmonisé Technical Committee (CT-CH) Meeting: 06-07 June 2016 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)
- PREGEC Meeting, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire): June 08 to 10, 2016
- WFP Workshop on Gender analysis, Empowerment and Humanitarian Action in West Africa: 14 to 15 June 2016 in Dakar (Senegal)
- Training for the Cadre Harmonisé coaches and revision of CH tools in Cotonou (Benin) from 28 July to 02 August 2016
- Countries training (Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Nigeria) to CH analysis tools from 8 to 13 August 2016



## Food Security Information in West Africa

[www.wfp.org/food-security](http://www.wfp.org/food-security)  
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