Despite overall satisfactory agricultural production, ongoing civil insecurity in the region remains the main driver of food insecurity in the Sahel, with worsening levels of food security and nutrition.

Forage deficits were recorded in the far west of the Sahel, particularly in Mauritania and Senegal, and parts of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and the Niger. This has led to early transhumance movements and the increased risk of aggravating conflict between farmers and pastoralists.

The latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis (November 2019) indicates that nearly 10.8 million people are currently severely food insecure, including in Cameroon. The projection for next year’s lean season (June–August 2020) is even higher reaching an estimated 15.5 million people – an alarming deterioration that has never been observed in the last five years.

**Planned response**

- dry season agricultural activities
- unconditional cash transfers
- income-generating activities
- provision of feed for core breeding stock
- animal feed
- vegetable and fodder seeds
- tillage equipment
- deworming
- vaccination campaigns
- rehabilitation of wells
- goat restocking
- cash+
- cash for work

**Response to date since 2018**

- 2 539 447 people assisted
- Repurchased 1 500 animals benefiting 5 567 households | distributed 30 675 animals to 6 300 households | distributed 14 955 tonnes of animal feed (grain and multinutrient blocs) | produced 18.4 tonnes of dried meat benefiting 4 333 households | vaccinated 5 469 712 animals reaching 181 603 households | distributed 31 500 veterinary kits reaching 31 500 households
- Distributed 601 tonnes of seeds to 57 425 households | distributed 9 150 agricultural kits reaching 8 785 households | trained 33 002 people
- Rehabilitated five wells reaching 7 700 households
- Distributed USD 3 603 520 through cash-based transfers and cash+ activities, benefiting 36 526 households

The security crisis across the region along with recurrent climate shocks continue to adversely affect households’ agriculture-based livelihoods, with the disruption of markets and basic social services.
Challenges facing food security and agriculture

High levels of insecurity and inter-community conflict persist in various areas across the Sahel, particularly in parts of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. Population displacements are thus significantly increasing, with over 800,000 refugees and nearly 1 million IDPs in the region. Continuous insecurity in conflict-affected areas such as the Lake Chad Basin and the Liptako-Gourma region, associated with renewed attacks, looting, banditry and border closure measures, has affected market functioning, and has hampered access to fields and agricultural inputs. In fact, despite overall satisfactory agricultural production, there are significant disparities between geographical areas.

Declines in cereal production compared with last year are expected in various countries, including Senegal. Price increases compared with the five-year average are driven by localised production deficits and the closure of Nigeria’s land borders, which is also negatively impacting livestock trade. The pastoral situation is marked by significant forage deficits in the far west of the Sahel – Senegal and Mauritania – and in parts of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and the Niger, which have led to early transhumance movements and the increased risk of aggravating farmer-pastoralist conflicts.

According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis (November 2019), 15.5 million people, including in Cameroon, are projected to be severely food insecure during next year’s lean season (June–August 2020) – an alarming deterioration that has never been observed in the last five years. This is the result of cyclical causes, including local cereal and fodder production deficits due to drought and floods, but mainly due to the worsening security situation in the region. High prevalence of acute malnutrition is also still observed, particularly in Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. If the security situation deteriorates further, nutrition conditions would also worsen, especially among IDPs and host communities.

Providing immediate agricultural support is crucial to support the livelihoods of vulnerable displaced and host families to improve their food security and nutrition, as well as to reduce the risk of tensions over already limited natural resources.