

# **KEY POINTS**

#### Sections



Agriculture



Displacements



International Markets



Markets n WA



Food Security

To go to



- According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis, which took place in February-March 2015, in the three Ebola-affected countries more than 1.2 million people are in need of immediate assistance to protect their livelihoods and to prevent malnutrition. This figure could reach 2.2 million between June and August if appropriate mitigation measures are not put in place.
- The off-season activities (gardening and rice farming) are ongoing normally.
- Pastoralists' lean season has already started in the areas that have encountered rainfall deficits, notably in Mali, in Mauritania, in Niger, in Senegal and in Chad.
- Cross-border trade normally operate with some obstacles observed between Mali and Niger due to insecurity

The off-season activities are continuing without any major hurdles. Regarding pastoralism, four months after the end of the rainy season, drying and depletion of pasture and water sources continue, particularly in areas that had a rainfall deficit in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. Pastoral lean season is already shaping up with high concentrations of animals in the areas that remain favourable to grazing, the descent into agricultural areas and cross-border transhumance, particularly towards Togo and Northern Benin. The results of the periodic food security monitoring which took place in Mauritania by the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire and WFP in December 2014 shows a deterioration of the food security situation with food insecurity rates never before seen in the post-harvest period. The effects of agriculture and pastoralism following the rain deficits recorded in the country could explain these high rates of food insecurity.

In West Africa, the results of the joint market assessments confirms the normal functioning of border exchanges with a couple obstacles observed along the Mali and Niger borders due to insecurity. In the three commercial basins of the region (East, West and Centre) prices are globally stable or decreasing with the exception of the drought-affected areas where cereals are recording higher prices.

The Cadre Harmonisé analysis in the three Ebola affected countries indicate that from February to March more than 1.2 million people will be in need of immediate assistance to protect their livelihoods and prevent malnutrition. This figure will reach 2.2 million during the period from June to August if appropriate measures are not undertaken.

# 2014-2015 Agro-pastoral season



## Continuation of the off-season and beginning of the pastoral lean season

The agricultural season is characterized by the continuation of the off-season activities (gardening and rice farming) and the marketing of cash crops. In Niger, the agricultural season is characterized by the off-season cropping in all regions of the country. Vegetable production abound in the market and a good progress of the onion marketing campaign in Agadez and Tillabery has been observed.

In Mali, the main agricultural activities focus on threshing and marketing of the productions from the last season, and also on the intensification of vegetable and off-season crops wherever water availability allows. The pest situation is relatively calm on the whole. However, a massive presence of granivorous birds is reported in the center of the country.

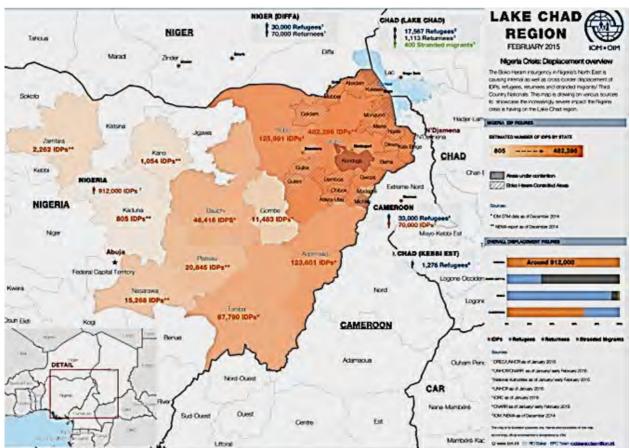
In Burkina Faso, agricultural activities are dominated by vegetable production in the proximity of water points, threshing the cereals harvested, mowing stalks in the fields, rebuilding stocks at household and trader levels and the practise of other incomegenerating activities (crafts, animal fattening, petty trade) (Afrique Verte).

Regarding pastoralism, four months after the end of the rainy season, drying of pasture and depletion of water sources continue, particularly in areas that had a rainfall deficit with regard to 2014-2015 campaign in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. Pastoral lean season is already shaping up with high concentrations of animals in the areas that remain favourable to grazing, the descent into agricultural areas and cross-border transhumance, particularly towards Togo and Northern Benin. The livestock health situation is relatively satisfactory (RMB).

# Displacement situation in the region

Increase in the number of IDPs due to insecurity in Nigeria





# Displacement situation in the region (continued)

## Increase in the number of IDPs due to insecurity in Nigeria

Nigeria: On February 2, 2015, following the insecurity caused by the Boko Haram movement, 915,219 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were registered in the northeast of the country by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). IDPs are seeking refuge in host communities (90%), informal settlements and government Population movements continue and humanitarian assistance needs to be adapted to changing conditions according to the International NGO National Forum (INGOFN). According to the survey on food security and nutrition conducted by FAO in the North Eastern states in January 2015, over 60% of displaced persons in camps and host communities have inadequate food consumption with low consumption of animal protein and foods containing vitamins and minerals (FAO).

Niger: Since February 6, 2015, attacks by Boko Haram in the border region of Diffa and clashes between these groups and the armed forces in Niger, make the humanitarian situation more worrying. Significant internal displacements are observed in the region since the beginning of the attacks and fightings. Over 100,000 displaced people (refugees and Niger returnees together) from Nigeria were identified by the Niger authorities in the Diffa region according to preliminary data published by the Government on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. OCHA.

Chad: Since January 3, 2015, over 14,000 Nigerian refugees have fled attacks by Boko Haram movement in Northeastern Nigeria, to find refuge in western Chad in the Lake region. Combined with previous waves of arrivals in 2014, the total number of refugees from Nigeria to Chad adds to 17 000 people. (OCHA Situation Report No. 04 of 02.08.2015);

Cameroun: In February 2015, 41,256 Nigerian refugees have found refuge in the north of the country and 30,000 of them are hosted in the Minawao camp. Violence perpetrated by Boko Haram movement caused the displacement of nearly 70,000 internally displaced persons. The movement of people and agricultural and economic disturbances are likely to affect food security and access to health care. The already high malnutrition rates in the region could continue to deteriorate. (ECHO).



## Trends on international markets

#### The FAO Food Price Index falling again in January

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 182.7 points in January 2015, down 3.6 points (1.9 percent) compared to December 2014. While prices of sugar and dairy products remained virtually unchanged, those of the other commodities included in the Index fell in January, with cereals and oils registering the strongest declines. Besides a short respite in October 2014, the FAO Food Price Index has been falling every month since April 2014.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 177.4 points in January, down 6.6 points (3.6 percent) from December. This marked decline was mostly driven by a 7 percent reduction in international wheat prices, as coarse grains and rice subsided by only 1 percent or less. The sharp fall in wheat prices reflects confirmation of an ample supply situation this season and stronger likelihood of inventories reaching their highest level in over a decade. At its current value, the FAO Cereal Price Index has fallen to its lowest since July 2010 and is now as much as 90 points (34 percent) below its peak (267.7 points) in June 2008

Figure 2: FAO food price index



Source: FAO

## Trends on international markets (continued)

## The FAO Food Price Index falling again in January

In January, the world prices of rice continued to fall driven by still Middle East and West Africa markets are also likely to be active this abundant surplus and a stable import demand for the moment. Nev- year, stimulated by low world prices. OSIRIZ ertheless, Asian markets are likely to begin warming up in the following weeks, with festivities of the Chinese New Year, by February 19. Asian exporters continue to compete in the search for new markets.



## Market trends in West Africa

Cross-border trade work normally observed with some obstacles at the borders of Mali and Niger due to insecurity

The results of the joint CILSS, FAO, FEWS NET, WFP, Government assessments on markets and food security conducted in February 2015, provide the following key results:

#### Western basin:

In Mauritania and Senegal the supply of imported products in major markets is satisfactory; local grain supplies are below average. Grain prices remain higher than their five-year average in areas affected by breaks in rainfall. Demand in both countries is relatively low. Following the decline of the epidemic of Ebola Virus in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the re-opening of markets and increasing freedom of movement lead to a resurgence of commercial activities in all three countries. The supply and availability are satisfactory. A moderate decrease in production caused by labor constraints due to the outbreak of MVE and its consequences, was also noted in some localized areas. In recent months, business activities declined sharply due to border closures, the low purchasing power and the absence or limited availability of credit to households and businesses

#### Central Basin:

In Burkina Faso and Mali the supply of grain on local markets is sufficient, but demand is characterized by a certain lethargy. In Mali, commercial flows to the northern regions of the country continue despite the security situation. The seasonal decline in grain prices continues on the main markets. Cross-border flows are operating normally.

#### Eastern basin:

Niger's markets have generally satisfactory availability of grain and cash crops thanks to a good level of production in 2014. The prices are very close or just below their five-year average. Flows are considered normal, however some exceptions were noted this year compared to last year such as sorghum imports from Nigeria.

In Chad, the price evolution in major markets is marked by a general rise in prices of food products including cereals. This is mainly due to an increase in domestic demand.

In Benin, good availability and a good level of supply of grains, tubers and derivatives were observed, confirming the right level of production and large carryover stocks of the campaign 2014. Cross -border flows between Benin, Niger and Nigeria were maintained but there has been a reduction in volumes.

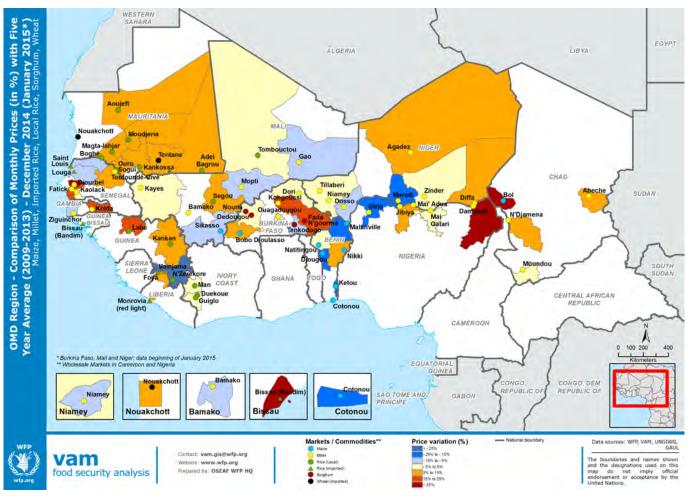
In Nigeria, the general price analysis shows a decline in grain markets compared to last year and the five year average. The offer for most products is moderately low on markets by the months of May and June 2015 and will be below last year and the five year average. For security reasons, the mission could not travel to Borno state where price increases above 25% have been reported.



## Market trends in West Africa (continued)

Cross-border trade work normally observed with some obstacles at the borders of Mali and Niger due to insecurity

Figure 3: Comparison of monthly prices (in %) with the five years average -December 2014 (January 2015\*)



Source: WFP



# mpact on Food Security

Mauritania: The first preliminary results of the Food security monitoring system (FSMS) which took place in December 2014 by the Commissariat à la securite alimentaire (CSA) and WFP indicate an alarming food situation. Close to one-fourth of the population are thought to be food insecure. This food security rate, if confirmed, would be the highest rate ever observed in Mauritania in the post-harvest period. The most affected regions are Gorgol, Hodh Echargi, Guidimakha and Tagant where the rate of food insecurity is over 30 percent. This detrimental food situation can be explained through a decline in agricultural production, due to poor harvest of rain-fed and flood recession as well as a decline in seasonal income from farming activities, affecting both availability and access to food. According to the first figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, the agricultural production has decreased by -38 percent compared to the 5 year average. In the pastoral zones, a deterioration in terms of trade livestock/cereals is expected due to the decrease of livestock prices resulting to a higher supply of livestock on markets.

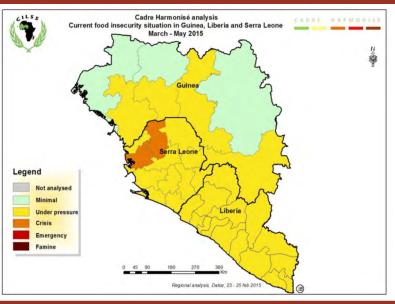
Niger: A remote monitoring survey via the use of mobile phones (mVAM) took place in the Malian refugee camp of Abala (Tilabéri region), based on a sample of 300 households in January 2015. The principal information collected was on households' food consumption and coping strategies. The results indicate a favorable food situation. Indeed, more than 72 percent of interviewed households have an acceptable food consumption score. Food assistance constitutes the households' main food source (57%) followed by market purchases (41%).

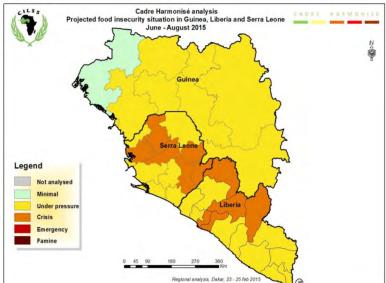
## The Ebola virus disease (EVD): Deterioration of food security due to EVD

In the Ebola countries, the analysis of the food security and nutritional situation with the Cadre harmonisé tool, which took place in February 2015, indicate that the current situation (February - March 2015), 32 zones are under pressure (phase 2) with 3,900,000 people, 2 zones in crisis (phase 3) with 1,235,000 people and no zones in emergency. The projected situation (June – August 2015) indicate that the number of zones under pressure (phase 2) will increase to 23 with 4,650,000 people concerned, and to 11 zones that risk becoming a food and nutrition crisis (phase 3) with 2,215,000 people.

	Current situation February – March 2015				<b>Projected situation</b> June - August 2015			
	Phase 2		Phases 3 to 5		Phase 2		Phases 3 to 5	
Guinea	1 350 000	15%	275 000	5%	1 500 000	20%	395 000	5%
Liberia	1 230 000	30%	190 000	5%	1 460 000	35%	720 000	15%
Sierra Leone	1 320 000	20%	770 000	10%	1 690 000	25%	1 100 000	15%
Total	3 900 000		1 235 000		4 650 000		2 215 000	

Figure 4-5: Maps of food and nutrition situation in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone: current (February-March 2015) and projected situation (June-August 2015)





# Recommendations for regional partners

- → Monitor population displacements from the Central African Republic (CAR), Nigeria and northern Mali.
- Advocate for timely funding of priority measures for the Sahel Humanitarian Appeal.
- Reinforce the monitoring of the impact of the Ebola virus disease on food security in the concerned countries (affected and neighbouring countries).



### Mark your calendars!

- →RPCA meeting: 2-6 March 2015 in Lome (Togo)
- →Workshop Analysis CH: Cabo Verde, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau: 2-6 March 2015, Burkina Faso: 2-7 March 2015
- →Workshop Analysis CH: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo: 9-13 March 2015
- →Workshop Analysis CH: Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad: 16-21 March 2015, Mali, 16-22 March
- →Regional consolidation workshop CH: 27-30 March 2015 in Nouakchott (Mauritania)
- → PREGEC: 1-3 April 2015 in Nouakchott (Mauritania)



# Information on food security in West Africa

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