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.
The late arrival of rains entail an extension of pastoral lean season and the delay of the start of the cropping season

The period is characterized by the onset of the rainy season in the region, which is much more effective in the central and eastern regions of the Sahel than in the western. This is confirmed by the position of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) which is situated in June, above its average position, in Niger and Chad. In the western part of the Sahel (Mali, Mauritania and Senegal), the rising of ITCZ has had slight delay compared to its average position in the same period.

Rainfall between 100 and 200 mm were observed in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. As of June 22, following the late arrival of the rains, precipitation deficits were observed over a large part of the region comprising the northern areas of Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo, southern Mali and Niger, Nigeria and Senegal (Fig.1). However, these first rains allowed the start of the cropping season by field cleaning operations the supply of organic fertilizer and the start of planting of millet in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger (Afrique Verte). The El Niño phenomenon of warming of eastern Pacific will continue until the end of the year. However, according to the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), its effects will be felt in the region until the end of 2015 after the rain-fed agricultural season. Vigilance must, prevail because some climate models predict less optimistic scenarios.

In Burkina Faso, the pastoral situation is marked by an early depletion of fodder resources. In Mali, the general stockbreeding conditions remain more or less acceptable, especially in the southern areas of the country; however, they are characterized by the scarcity of grazing in the northern regions (Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal), northern Kayes and center of the country. Livestock overweight status is average for the current availability of pastures, crop residues and water points. Niger, in the Agadez region, the pastoral situation is characterized by poor livestock overweight status mainly due to undernourishment (scarcity of natural grazing and high cost of cattle feed). The cattle market remains well supplied and prices continue to fall with the terms of trade for livestock / grain to the disadvantage of breeders. (Afrique Verte)

The outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza has spread to Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. In Nigeria, the number of affected areas has slightly decreased (76 to 74); however there is also an increase in the number of affected poultry farms (425 to 438 farms) and 10 birds markets were affected; the total number of culled or dead birds fell from 1.35 to 1.6 million. In Burkina Faso, as of June 12, 2015, 94 infected sites were reported in 6 out of 45 provinces. The affected provinces are Bazenga, Boukikiemde, Houet, Kadiogo, Poni, and Sanguie and overall 228,000 deaths were reported. In Niger, since June 16, no cases were reported after the culling operations, cleaning and disinfection measures. In Côte d’Ivoire, the first cases were reported on April 9, 2015 in a traditional farm with more than 90% mortality rate. The majority of deaths occurred in the traditional poultry farming sector (218 in Bouaké, 18 in Agboville, 5,000 in a poultry farm in Dabou and 1,100 in the live birds market in Koumasi).

Due to the late arrival of the first rains, pastoral lean period continues in most of the Sahel countries. Sedentary and transhumant livestock continue to exploit the remaining fodder biomass of past campaign. This causes a delay in the rise of transhumant livestock and can lead to conflicts between herders and farmers. Most of the livestock water supply comes from wells and permanent water bodies.
The late arrival of rains entail an extension of pastoral lean season and the delay of the start of the cropping season

In Ghana, the H5N1 epidemic was officially confirmed on June 4 and high mortality was reported in commercial and traditional poultry farming sectors of the region of Accra.

The working group on H5N1 avian influenza, in collaboration with ECOWAS organized a regional meeting from June 15 to 16 (Abuja, Nigeria), with the participation of delegations from all countries at risk or affected of West and Central Africa. During this meeting, an action plan was developed to strengthen the capacity of countries to prevent and combat the H5N1 virus.

Following attacks by armed groups, the ongoing conflicts in Mali and in Nigeria continuing to displace people. This situation contributes in deterioration of the Food Security situation of displaced persons as well as host communities.

**Nigeria:** The number of internally displaced persons (IDP) has become constant and close to 1.5 million since last month. According to INGO Forum, the conditions in most areas of displacement are not suitable for supporting safe and voluntary returns due to insecurity, lack of basic services and absence of humanitarian actors in these areas. In all the affected States, food is the most urgent need identified for displaced person. Amount the displaced population, 57 percent are children in which 28 percent are under 5 years, this means that nearly 855,000 children have been moved, which half are under 5 years. INGO Forum

**Niger:** Since early May, the populations of the Lake Chad islands have moved to the Diffa mainland upon a request from the authorities for security reasons. These populations are mainly located in Bosso and Nguigmi. The authorities estimated that about 13,000 arrived in the department of Bosso, and 18,827 in the department of Nguigmi (Kimegana site). Alongside these internal displacements, about 16,000 Nigerians from the islands decided to return to Nigeria. These new population movements are to be added to the 40,000 internally displaced persons within the Diffa region following the Bosso and Diffa attacks in February 2015. UNHCR

**Chad:** Chadian authorities estimate that there are over 18,000 Nigerian refugees in Chad. Some 13,384 have been registered by UNHCR and the Commission Nationale d’Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Repatriés (CNARR), and 6,781 of these refugees live in the Dar Es Salam site (Baga Sola), with the remainder living in communities. The Government has estimated that another 7,000 are living in remote areas. Humanitarian assessment missions in the Lake Area have indicated the presence of an estimated 14,420 IDPs, and an Inter-Agency mission has estimated that some 12,936 Chadian returnees are present around the Lake. UNHCR

**Cameroon:** According to the results of a profiling exercise conducted by UNHCR in collaboration with IOM and the Government, the numbers of internally displaced persons are 81,693 persons, the returnees (former internal displaced) are 35,957 and 24,487 refugees (non-camp). Spontaneous arrivals continue to be registered but at a decreasing rate. The Minawao camp has been registering 60-70 persons per day since the beginning of the month as opposed to 400 a day between April and May 2015. UNHCR

**Mali:** The results of registration and assessments carried out by the Direction Nationale du Développement Social (DNDS) and IOM in March to June 17,2015, indicate a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali which passes from 102,346 IDPs (situation report No. 07 of 02 June 2015) to 90,218 IDPs.

In addition, data updated in IDPs camp, following the recent events in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu, also indicate a decrease in the number of people displaced in these regions. The number of new IDPs in the country is indeed passed from 59,245 individuals (situation report No. 07 of 02 June 2015) to 47,117 persons in June 17, 2015. (Source: matrix of tracking the movements (DTM) - situation report - Sitrep No. 08 of June 17, 2015).
Market trends in West Africa
With the beginning of the lean season first price increases are observed

For the month of May, the overall cereal availability remains satisfactory in most markets in the region, however, with the beginning of the lean season first price increases are observed. In the western trade basin, despite a timid campaign launch and following agricultural activities, demand and household purchasing power remain low. This affects commercial activities which remain slow, in particular in the 3 Ebola-affected countries, where food prices remain stable. In Mauritania and northern Senegal, the purchasing power of pastoral is deteriorating as bad weather forecast is affecting their livelihoods. In Gambia, facing pressures vis-à-vis the exchange, national authorities fixed the exchange rate of the Dalasi to an over evaluated amount by 20 percent, which could impact on its balance commercial. In Guinea-Bissau, for cash products such as cashew nuts, farmers benefit from a favorable farm gate price up 20 percent compared to last year.

In the Central trade basin, in Mali, for example, compared to May of last year, prices rose up for rice and maize while they are still stable for millet and sorghum. In Burkina Faso, prices also begin to rise, although they remain below their five year average. In Ghana, after the announcement of the Agency of Meteorology (meteo.gov.gh), forecasting poor rains in 2015, farmers have not yet begun with field preparation work while their power of purchase is already heavily affected by high prices since 2014. Important price spikes are observed in Tamale for example. (fig 5) The situation in Ghana was specifically addressed during the restricted meeting of the Regional device Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC).

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 166.8 points in May 2015, down 2.4 points (1.4 percent) from April and as much as 43.6 points (20.7 percent) below the corresponding month last year. Cereals and dairy products were responsible for much of last month’s decline, although meat quotations also fell. By contrast, oils and sugar markets firmed. The May average puts the FAO Food Price Index at its lowest level since September 2009.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 160.8 points in May, 6.4 points (3.8 percent) less than in April and 46 points (22.4 percent) below its level in May 2014. Ample stocks combined with generally favourable crop outlooks for this year continued to keep international prices under downward pressure. Subdued trade prospects, with many importing countries postponing purchases to later this year, also contributed to the general decline in prices. The May average was the lowest since July 2010.

In May, the world prices went down by 1% for the third time in a row. This trend affects almost all export markets, except Pakistan, where prices remain firm. The external sales of the main exporters have advanced slowly and they register a delay of 10% to 20% in relation to the same period of the last year.

Trends on international markets
The FAO Food Price Index falls to its lowest value since September 2009

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

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Market trends in West Africa (continued)

With the beginning of the lean season first price increases are observed

In the Eastern trade basin, according to Afrique Verte in May, the food situation is deteriorating following the combined effects of late season crops against, the onset of the lean season, higher prices and the worsening humanitarian situation in the Diffa region, Niger. With good food availability, prices remain stable in Chad except eastern areas of the country (Fig. 6).

In northern Cameroon and northern Nigeria that prices continue to rise and commercial activities continue to be hampered.

Weather forecasts remain mixed in the medium-term, however sowing activities are initiated in some regions like northern Guinea and southern Mali while the forecast remains less favorable for coastal countries as Ghana, Benin and Nigeria, which could negatively impact on prices.

Impact on food security

In Sierra Leone 43% of households are food insecure, including 7% in severe food

The update in June of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis on food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa, confirmed that about 7.5 million people, including 4.5 million in the Sahel will be in food and nutrition crisis between June and August 2015. The persistence of security crises in northern Mali and in the Lake Chad Basin (Niger, Nigeria, Chad) could aggravate the food and nutritional insecurity.

Sierra Leone

The results of the June 2015 EFSA show that 43 percent of households are food insecure, including 7 percent severely food insecure. The most affected districts are located in the East (Kailahun: 74.4 percent, Kenema 7.9 percent, Bo: 57.4 percent) or economic activities still idling in part because of prohibitive measures taken to prevent the spread of the Ebola disease.

Liberia

The results of the June 2015 EFSA show that 14 percent of households are food insecure, including 2 percent severely food insecure. Food insecurity affects mainly female heads of households, households receiving money transfers and casual laborers in the agricultural sector. The level of negative coping strategies is high in the most affected by declines in income and food-insecure regions. To cover their basic food needs, 18 percent of households adopting emergency survival strategies (begging).

Guinea

The results of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in June 2015 show that around 1.9 million people are food insecure, including 59,000 severely food insecure. The regions with the largest number of food insecure households are those of Kinda N'Zérékoré Boké, Kankan, Labé and Faranah. More than half of people with severe food insecurity are at Labé and N'Zérékoré. Food insecurity does not only appearing areas affected by the Ebola disease.

Mali

Preliminary results of the February 2015 ENSAN show that a quarter of households are food insecure, including 3 percent severely food insecure. Compared to the results of the October 2014 EFSA, it appears that food security has deteriorated particularly in some areas around Timbuktu, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, Koulikoro and Kayes due to the precocity of the pastoral lean season and insecurity in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal.
Impact on food security (continued)

In Sierra Leone 43% of households are food insecure, including 7% in severe food

Niger

The food security situation is deteriorating following the combined effects of late season crops against, the lean period, of rising prices and the worsening humanitarian situation in the Diffa region. In this month of Ramadan, there was a relative increase in demand for local cereals such as millet. Compared to previous months, the markets are moderately stocked. Indeed, following the installation of the hesitant crop winter 2015, producers are reluctant to put their meagre stocks on the market. (Afrique Verte)

Senegal

A longer than expected lean period for poor households in agropastoral areas of central and northern countries due to lower revenues and weak 2014/15 agricultural and pastoral production leads them to reduce their food and non-food expenditures and to increase more than usual their coping strategies such as labor and migration. Despite the distribution of food and agricultural inputs provided by the Government, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists poor households in central and northern countries will find themselves in crisis situation (Phase 3 CH) June-August 2015. (Cadre Harmonisé)

Mark your calendars!

→ Country training on the Cadre Harmonisé in Niamey, Niger from 25 to 28 August 2015;
→ Training on Cadre Harmonisé indicators in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 7 to 11 September 2015;
→ Country needs identification workshop on tools to measure resilience in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 11 to 12 September 2015;
→ PREGEC Meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 14 to 16 September 2015;
→ Regional Synthesis of the Cadre Harmonisé in Niamey, Niger from 16 to 20 November 2015.

Food Security
Information in West Africa

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