

Food Security and Humanitarian Implications in West Africa and the Sahel



Food and Agriculture Organization
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KEY POINTS

Sections



Agriculture



Displacement



International
Markets



West African
Markets



Food Security

- ◆ Good agro-pastoral production is expected in West Africa and the Sahel.
- ◆ Some localized fodder deficits in the pastoral zone of Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Chad may lead to an early pastoral lean period.
- ◆ Results of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) indicate that 7.9 million people are in crisis in the current period (October-December 2015) and 10.5 million people during the lean period (June-August 2016) in 17 countries in the region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap Vert, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The increase in grain production by 13 percent in the Sahel and 12 percent across the region over the five-year average currently allows for a good supply in most markets in the region.

The pastoral situation is satisfactory with good fodder availability, however, there is a localized fodder deficit north of the Sahel (Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad), and this area merits monitoring.

Food and nutrition insecurity affect 7.9 million people in this time of harvest and 10.5 million people are estimated to be food and nutrition insecurity in the 2016 lean period if no adequate response is made.

In Chad, the low levels of production and insecurity could lead to a slump in food availability until June 2016 for vulnerable households.

Recommendations for regional partners

- Monitor the implementation of response plans for populations in food and nutritional insecurity.
- Monitor the food situation of pastoralists and livestock in areas with fodder shortage.
- Monitor food and nutritional security of populations from Central African Republic (C.A.R), Nigeria and Northern Mali.
- Continue to monitor price behavior notably Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana and Chad.

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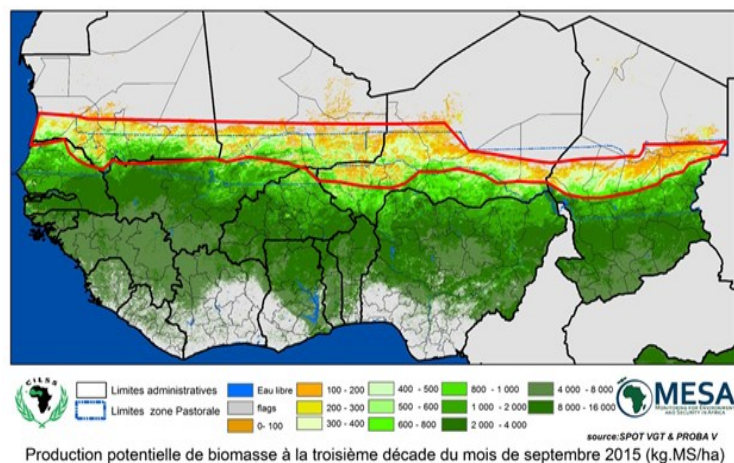
Objective: Within the framework of the monthly meetings of the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group for West Africa, it has been agreed that, in a humanitarian perspective, FAO and WFP provide the group with highlights on the food security situation of the previous month.

The results from the consultation of the regional information system for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC) organized by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS) held from 23 to 25 November 2015 in Niamey (Niger) indicate a globally satisfactory food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa.

The provisional cereal production in the Sahel and West Africa, with the exception of Niger is estimated at over 58 million tons, up to 4 percent compared to the 2014/2015 campaign and 12 percent compared to the average of the past five years. In the Sahel, cereal production is estimated at 18 million tons, an increase of 13 percent compared to last year and 16 percent compared to the five year average. While in the coastal countries, cereal production is estimated to over 40 million tons, about the same quantity as last year, but an increase of 10 percent from the average of the past five years. Chad is the only country in the region where cereal production fell both in relation to the 2014/2015 campaign (-12%) and the five year average (-10%).

Total tubers production for the whole region is about 158.6 million tons, an increase of 8 percent and 18 percent respectively compared to that of last year and the average of the last five years. The total production of cowpea for the whole region is about 3.6 million tons, an increase of 12 percent compared to last year and a decrease of 4 percent compared to the average of the last five years. The total peanut production for the entire region is estimated at 7.1 million tons, an increase of 10 percent and 19 percent respectively compared to last year and the average of last five years.

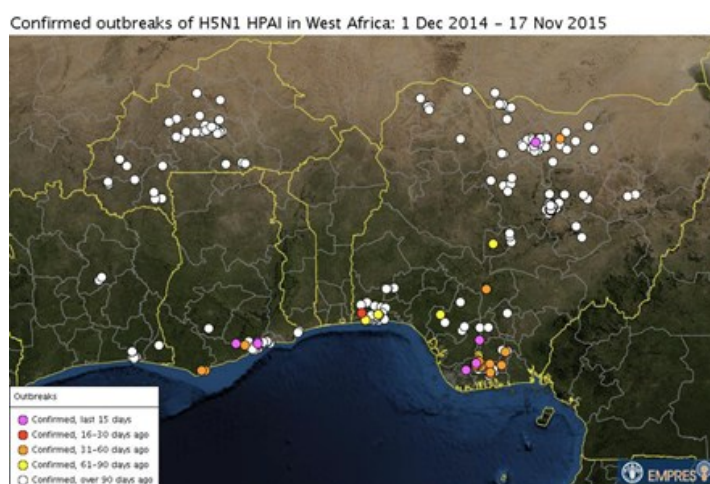
Figure 1: Biomass production in the third decade of September 2015 (kg MS/ha)



Source: SPOT VGT & PROBA V

The pastoral situation is satisfactory with well-filled water points and pastures well supplied. However, there are some fodder deficit pockets in the pastoral zone of Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Chad (Figure 1). The movements of transhumant and nomadic herds are normal, except in areas of northern Mali and Lake Chad Basin due to insecurity. (PREGEC Release)

Figure 2: Outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza in poultry from December 2014 to November 15, 2015



The outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza continues to spread in the region. The update as of November 18, 2015 indicates that only Nigeria and Ghana have experienced new cases (Figure 2). In Nigeria, the number of outbreak increased from 512 to 523, while the number of at-risk birds is still 1.7 million. In Ghana, three new outbreaks were added bringing the total to 30, including 24 in the only region of Great Accra. (FAO)

The current locust situation remains calm. Late summer breeding is in progress in northern Niger and north-western Mauritania. Low numbers of locusts persist in north-eastern Chad and in Sudan. In November, small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in north-western Mauritania and is likely to extend to areas that received heavy rains.



Population movements situation in the region

The precarious and volatile security situation in the region continues to maintain millions of people in food and nutrition insecurity.

The precarious and volatile security situation in the region continues to maintain millions of people into food and nutrition insecurity. More than 3 million displaced persons, refugees and returnees are currently registered in the region. The humanitarian situation around Lake Chad Basin remains worrying, the crisis in Nigeria has displaced more than 2,636,000 people, including 217,000 refugees and internally displaced 150,000 in the neighboring countries of Nigeria; Among the 2,233,506 IDPs in northern Nigeria, only 5 percent

live in the camps (formal and informal) while 95 percent of the displaced are hosted by host communities.

The crisis in Mali has displaced 217,000 people more than 139,000 refugees in neighboring countries of Mali, 62,000 IDPs and 16,000 returned. [UNHCR](#)



Trends on international markets

The FAO Food Price Index up by almost 4 percent in October

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.

The **FAO Food Price Index** averaged nearly 162 points in October 2015, as much as 6 points (3.9 percent) more than in September and the sharpest increase since July 2012. The October surge was mainly the result of rises in the sugar, vegetable oils and dairy quotations, while cereal prices were subject to a more modest increase and those of meat remained stable. According to the index, food on international markets in October was still 16 percent cheaper than one year ago.

The **FAO Cereal Price Index** averaged 157.4 points in October, up 2.6 points (1.7 percent) from September, largely led by an upturn in wheat and maize prices. Wheat quotations were higher, mostly on concerns about dryness affecting winter wheat in some countries and deteriorating production prospects in Australia. Maize prices strengthened, largely reflecting a slowdown in farmers' sales in the United States, the world's biggest producer and exporter of maize. By contrast, rice prices fell, as a result of marked declines in the fragrant and Japonica rice segments

In October, the world rice prices showed mixed trends. Thai and Vietnamese prices increased due to further Asian demand, while Indian and Pakistanis prices remained weak. In the United States, export prices also reduced. Previously, the latter had registered strong gains due to a decline in production. The year 2015 has been characterized by unfavorable weather conditions, which could last for 2016. The *El Niño* climate phenomenon affects the major rice growing regions of Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and the Philippines, where import demand could be pushed in the coming months. The world production may drop in 2015, for the first time since

2009, and stocks in exporting countries would fall to one of the lowest levels of the last four years. However, competition between exporters remains aggressive, which could limit increases in world prices in the coming months. [InterRice](#)

Figure 3: FAO Food Price Index



Source: [FAO](#)



Market trends in West Africa

Generally stable prices in the region according to the PREGEC, November 2015

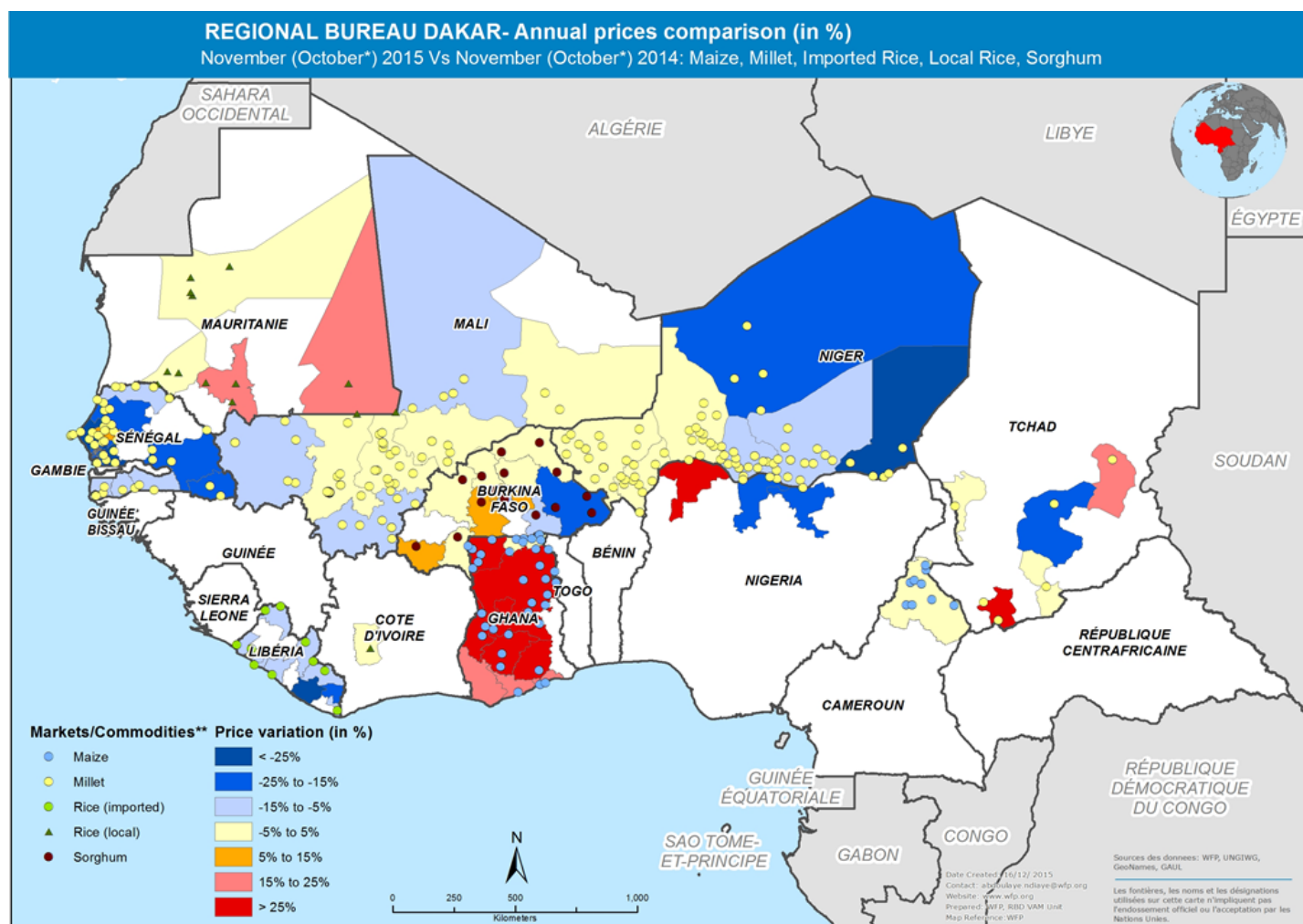
According to the result of the regional information system for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC) of November 2015, the markets in West Africa are generally well supplied and demand is now declining thanks to of ongoing harvests in the region. Prices of major cereals are generally stable with a slight upward trend compared to the five year average. The highest increases were observed in some countries of the Gulf of Guinea including Ghana, Benin and Togo. In the Sahel, the highest increases were registered in Chad and Gambia. (Communication PREGEC, November 2015)

According to FAO, while maize prices have declined significantly in October in Togo, they remained well above their levels of last year following the strong upward trend in the previous months. The high prices mainly reflect lower forecasts of cereal production. In the Sahel belt, the above-average

harvests have recently been collected in most countries, with the exception of Chad. Due to improved domestic supplies, millet and sorghum prices in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have declined in most markets in November and were generally below their levels of the previous year. In Chad, coarse grain prices continued to show mixed trends due to unfavorable prospects for the harvest of 2015, several parts of the country, particularly in the Sahelian zone.

While in the largest city of Kano northern Nigeria, the coarse grain prices continued to decline in October, there is high volatility in grain prices around the Lake Chad Basin in the surrounding countries.

Figure 4: Comparison (in %) of cereals prices from November (October) 2015 relative to November (October) 2014 (maize, millet, imported rice, local rice, sorghum)



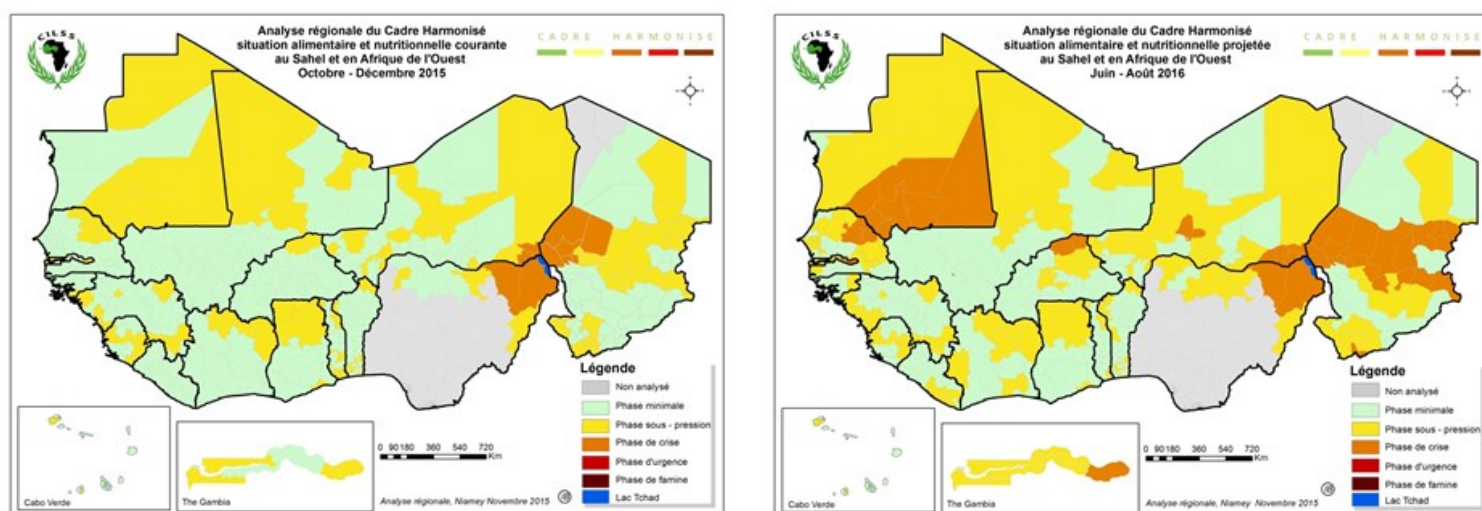
According to the Cadre Harmonisé, food and nutrition insecurity affects 7.9 million people in this harvest season

The results of the analysis of food security and nutrition with the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) tool, conducted in October and November 2015 in the 17 countries of the region show:

For the current status (October to December 2015), 11 areas mainly located in the Lake Chad Basin (Niger, Nigeria and Chad) are in crisis situation (phase 3) (Figure 5) with a total population for the entire region estimated at 7.9 million people and the number of population under pressure (phase 2) estimated at 34.5 million throughout the 147 zones.

For the projected period, which corresponds to the lean period, the number of people in crisis (phase 3) could reach 10.5 million in 42 zones (in Burkina Faso, Chad, The Gambia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) and the number of people under pressure will stand at 43.6 million in 186 areas if no adequate response is made.

Figure 5: Regional Analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé



Source: CILSS/Agrhymet

In addition to the results of the Cadre Harmonisé, assessments of food security and nutrition have been conducted in certain countries in crisis:

In the **Central African Republic (CAR)** in September 2015, a joint food security survey conducted by WFP, FAO, government and their partners shows that about 50 percent of households are food insecure of which 15 percent are in severe food insecurity. An estimated 1.8 million people are moderately food insecure. The regions with the highest percentage of the food insecure are: Nana Mambere (77 percent), Mambéré Kadei (73 percent), Ouham (69 percent) and Haut Mbomou (74 percent). Among the surveyed households, 45 percent are displaced or returnees with 55 percent of the displaced and returnees being recent ones (less than 6 months). The food insecure households had more difficulty to farm because of the daily insecurity. Looting, theft and forced displacement affected access to food and livelihoods. (WFP CAR, EFSA 'Emergency Food Security Assessment' September 2015)

In **Cameroon**, according to the results of the EFSA survey conducted in September 2015 in four regions (East, North, Adamawa and Extreme-North) of the country, food insecurity affects 19 percent of households 2 percent severely food insecure. The most affected regions are the Extreme-North (35 percent) and Adamawa (19 percent). Among the food insecure households, 9 out of 10 have poor or borderline food consumption. For food needs, these households (44 percent) are using crisis coping strategies (reducing health expenditure / education) or emergency coping strategies (begging) which in the long run, causes a gradual deterioration of their livelihoods difficult to recover. The socio-economic profile shows that food insecure households are households whose livelihoods are precarious: day laborers (37 percent), artisans (33.3 percent), grants / donations (29.4 percent), natural resources (22.6 percent), farmers (20 percent) and pastoralist (20 percent). (WFP Cameroon, EFSA September 2015)



Food Security Impact (continued)

According to the Cadre Harmonisé, food and nutrition insecurity affects 7.9 million people in this harvest season

In Chad, in October 2015, the WFP and the Government conducted a national survey on the situation of the household food security. According to preliminary results of the survey, 25 percent of the population are food insecure with 6 percent in the severe form. An estimated one third of households were affected by shocks over the last six months. Food insecurity is very high in regions with a rainfall deficit with deficits of biomass and / or a decline in agricultural production. Nearly 60 percent of surveyed households being agropastoral, to meet their food needs, 13

percent resort to emergency strategies, most marked in the Sila (47 percent), the Logone Oriental (26 percent) and Kanem (24 percent). (WFP Chad, ENSA 'Enquête Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire' October 2015)

Analysis of **results HEA (Household Economy Analysis)** performed in the month of October 2015 by members of the Sahel HEA consortium focused on 67 basic profiles in 47 Livelihood Zones in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

From a global point of view, the results show a situation of relatively good economic households. Some areas, however, continue to face situations of concern:

- ◇ **In Niger**, the insecurity in the Diffa region that threatens agricultural labor sales opportunities combined with a cereal deficit will continue to weigh on poor and very poor households in the area: from the month of March 2016 and until the end of the lean season, they will face serious economic difficulties to ensure their subsistence survival.
- ◇ **In Burkina Faso**, in the province of Oudalan, the purchasing power of very poor households will continue to erode due to a decline in their production and farm incomes, amid soaring prices of basic commodities, reducing access of these households to the market.

To a lesser extent, people in areas Mangalmé and Biltine in Chad, in the province of Soum in Burkina Faso and Tillabery region of Niger also experience problems maintaining their survival threshold (the total food and cash income required to cover the food and non-food items necessary for survival in the short term). For Mangalmé and Biltine, low agricultural production combined with lower revenues from the exodus and an increase in basic commodity prices will lead to survival deficits several times a month for very poor and poor to medium households. For the province of Soum, the survival deficit will reach very poor households among the months of July and September 2016. As for the agro-pastoral zone in Tillabery, very poor households will experience problems to ensure their subsistence in connection with the loss of selling opportunities of their labor.



Mark your calendars !

- Joint CILSS / FAO / FEW NET / WFP / Government Crop Assessment:
 - ◇ Sahel countries: 2 to 6 November
- Analysis Workshops on the Cadre Harmonisé (CH):
 - ◇ Nigeria: October 26 to 30, consolidation at the federal level: 2 to 6 November
 - ◇ Sahel countries: 9 to 14 November
 - ◇ Guinea and Niger: 16 to 20 November
- Regional synthesis of CH in Niamey, Niger from 16 to 20 November;
- Meeting on PREGEC in Niamey, Niger from November 23 to 25;
- Regional Learning Workshop on Preparedness cash in Dakar, Senegal from November 30 to December 2 organized by the CaLP;
- Training on market analysis tools in Dakar, Senegal from 7 to 11 December organized by the CaLP;
- Launch of the Humanitarian Appeal 2016 Sahel in Dakar, Senegal 9 December 2015;
- Meeting on RPCA in Dakar, Senegal from December 14 to 15.



Food Security
Information in West Africa

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