

FOOD SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN IMPLICATIONS IN WEST AFRICA



Food and Agriculture Organization
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KEY POINTS

Sections



Agriculture



Displacements



International
Markets



West Africa
Markets



Food Security

- ◆ Good agricultural production 2015-2016 are confirmed in the Sahel and West Africa.
- ◆ 6.7 million people are affected by food and nutrition insecurity with 4.2 million people displaced in the Sahel and West Africa due to civil insecurity prevailing in the Lake Chad Basin, northern Mali, Libya, Central African Republic and Sudan.
- ◆ Globally, the markets remain well supplied and are characterized by stable or lower food prices compared to the previous year and the five-year average.
- ◆ Globally, near average to deficit rainfall is expected for most of the Gulf of Guinea in the March - May 2016 period.

The 2015-2016 agro-pastoral campaign registered good productions compared to last year (2014-2015) and the past five-year average (2010-2014) in the region, except in Chad, Guinea Bissau and Burkina Faso where a decrease was noted. However, the production does not cover all of the region's food needs and significant number of very poor households that do not depend primarily on agriculture and livestock to feed itself were unable to take advantage of the excellent agro climatic conditions in 2015. Moreover, with the arrival of the lean season and the gradual installation of the 2016-2017 agro-pastoral campaign, food insecurity remains and is exacerbated by population displacements.

Food and nutrition insecurity affects 6.7 million people in the region during the post-harvest period and these vulnerable populations might reach 9.5 million during the lean season (June - August 2016) if adequate responses are not taken to improve their level of food consumption, protect their livelihoods, and prevent and treat malnutrition.

The Lake Chad Basin which is affected by insecurity and displacements, populations are facing a situation of food and nutritional crisis (phase 3 of the *Cadre Harmonisé*) which requires an immediate response in the accessible areas from humanitarian actors. In Nigeria, a deterioration of households' food consumption and livelihoods was noted in the States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. In Cameroon, in the departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga in the Extreme - North, almost half of internally displaced persons have a poor and borderline food consumption score.

For the next agricultural 2016-2017 season, the dates to the start of the rainy season are expected to be normal to late in the Gulf of Guinea countries and the impact to the start of the crop year needs to be followed closely. The weather forecasts for the regions of the Sahel should be available in May 2016.

Recommendations for regional partners

- Monitor the 2016-2017 agricultural campagne 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;
- Monitor the situation of food and nutritional security in countries experiencing an early pastoral lean season;
- Advocate for funding for food and nutrition security projects mentioned in the 2016 HRP.

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.

To go to





2015-2016 agropastoral campaign

Good agricultural production trends are confirmed in Africa West/Sahel

The result of the regional consultation meeting on food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa, held in Accra from 29 to 31 March 2016 as part of the regional Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC) mechanism, indicate that the production trends that were announced in November 2015 are confirmed. Thus, cereal production is estimated at 64.4 million tonnes, representing 5 percent and 13 percent increases respectively compared to last year (2014-2015) and the last five-year (2010-2014) average. However, production declines are recorded in Burkina Faso (-7 percent), Guinea Bissau (-8 percent) and Chad (-9 percent) relative to the five-year average. Regarding tubers, production levels estimated at 157 million tonnes are also above the average of the past five (5) years. The same holds true for cash crops including groundnuts with 8.4 million and cowpea with 5.5 million and sesame with 673,000 metric tonnes. These results have been endorsed in the restricted meeting of the network of Prevention of Crises Alimentaires (RPCA) held in Paris from 13 to 15 April 2016.

In the Sahel, cereal production is approximately 23,075,000 tonnes, representing 12.6 percent and 17.4 per cent increases respectively compared to last year and the average of the last five years.

In the Gulf of Guinea countries, cereal production is estimated at 40.6 million tons, representing 6.8 percent and 12 percent increases respectively compared to last year and the average of the last five years.

On the pastoral level, the feeding and watering conditions of livestock are better than last year's during the same

period despite forage shortages recorded particularly in Niger and Chad. Both countries already witness an early pastoral lean season that could be exacerbated due to the exhaustion of residual fodder stock and drying up of certain surface water points. In general, transhumance movements remain normal except in forage deficit areas and conflict areas, especially in the Lake Chad Basin.

The desert locust situation remains calm. In March, the presence of immature and mature solitarious and transiens adults were observed between Zouarate and Bir Moghreïn, also in the Adrar des Iforas in Mali and, on the two places on the Tarzézait plateau in Niger. In Mauritania, the teams treated 659 ha in March. Any locust activity were reported in the rest of the country usually followed by locust experts (Chad, Senegal,...). With the drying of vegetation that is observed in the normal zones, small groups of hoppers and adults will continue to form, mainly near Zouarate in Mauritania and the Adrar des Iforas in Mali, might also be in the Timetrine and the Tilemsi Valley in Mali. [FAO](#)

The H5N1 avian influenza virus outbreak continues its spread in Nigeria, five (5) new suspected avian influenza cases reported at March 31, 2016. The total number of States (including Abuja) where avian influenza has been reported and confirmed positive remains 26, while the number of local government areas to outbreaks is still 120 Local Government Authority's (LGAs). The total reported number of culled birds stands at 3,299,906 and 382,931 destroyed eggs. So far, no human cases reported in the region.



2016-2017 agropastoral campaign

The seasonal forecasts for the Gulf of Guinea countries announces that the season onset date are expected to be normal to late starting dates

The results of the third regional forum of seasonal climate forecasts for the countries of the Gulf of Guinea (PRESAGG-03), held in Lomé, Togo from 14 to 18 March 2016, give the probable evolution of precipitation periods, the start and the end of the 2016 rainy season in the region.

A rainy season with average to below average cumulative rainfall, normal to late onset dates of the season and longer dry spells duration during the critical phases of crops growing and reproduction, are expected between March and July 2016.

For the March-April-May period (MAM), it is expected for the Gulf of Guinea countries, average to below average rainfall amounts especially in the South-Eastern Côte d'Ivoire, Southern Ghana and Togo and at the extreme South-Western part of Benin. Over the other localities below 8°N, close to average rainfall amounts are expected.

For the April-May-June period (AMJ), below average to near average cumulative rainfall are expected over the half part of South-Eastern Côte d'Ivoire, Southern Ghana and Togo. Near to average cumulative rainfalls are very likely over the remaining part of the concerned area.

In general, normal to late onset date of the season are expected within the localities stretching from the Central-Southern part of Côte d'Ivoire to Southern Nigeria, including Southern Ghana, Togo and Benin.

Over the South-Eastern part of Côte, Southern Ghana, Togo and Benin, early to average ending dates of the season are expected. However, in the Central-East of Ghana, Central-West of Togo and the Southern half of Nigeria, normal to early ending dates are very likely.

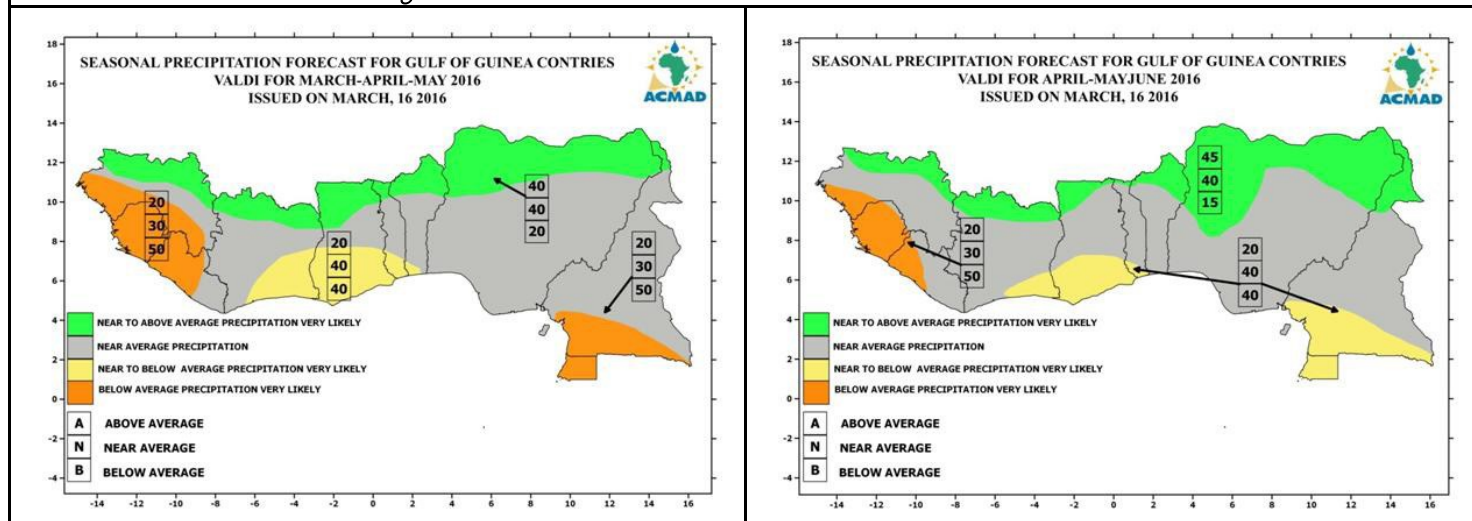
2016-2017 agropastoral campaign (continued)

The seasonal forecasts for the Gulf of Guinea countries announces that the season onset date are expected to be normal to late starting dates

The durations of dry spells after the onset of the season are likely to be longer to equivalent to the normal situation in the Southern Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and South-Eastern Côte d'Ivoire. And longer to normal dry spells towards the

end of the season are expected in Southern Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and South-Eastern Côte d'Ivoire. These forecasts will be updated in the coming months. [PRESAGG-03](#)

Figure 1 : Cumulative rainfall forecast for the Gulf of Guinea countries



Source : CILSS/AGRHYMET

Population movement's situation in the region

The number of displaced persons in the region tripled between February 2014 and March 2016

The number of displaced persons in the region tripled between February 2014 (1.6 million) and March 2016; there are more than 4.2 million persons displaced across the region due to conflict, violence and to a lesser extent, climate change. The situation remains unstable, while fewer displacements have taken place in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the large population movements observed in the last quarter of 2015. The crisis in the Lake Chad Basin have more than 2.4 million displaced. [OCHA mars 2016](#)

In Nigeria, the situation remains unstable, a large number of spontaneous returns was observed in Adamawa state, while in other parts of the country, the movement continue. In late March, 2,241,481 people are still displaced in different

States in northeastern Nigeria and 209,824 people refugees in neighbouring countries including 138,321 in Niger, 64,862 in Cameroon and Chad 6,641. [UNHCR](#)

The Malian crisis continues to maintain populations in displacement both internally and in neighbouring countries. Inside of Mali, it was recorded in late March, 52,163 displaced internal and 19,161 returned. The number of Malian refugees in neighbouring countries has stabilized relatively to 143,436 persons, despite localized increases found in Niger (from 58,743 to 60,262 refugees) following security incidents and a slight decrease of Malia refugees in Mauritania (from 50,551 to 49,701 refugees) and Burkina Faso (from 33,844 to 33,158 refugees). [UNHCR](#)

Trends on international markets

The FAO Food Price Index in slight increase

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 151.0 points in March 2016, up 1.0 percent from February, but almost 21 points (12.0 percent) below its March 2015 level. The main feature last month was the strong rebound in sugar prices, which, combined with a further increase in vegetable oil quotations, more than offset a plunge in dairy values. International prices of the other commodities used in the

calculation of the FFPI changed little.

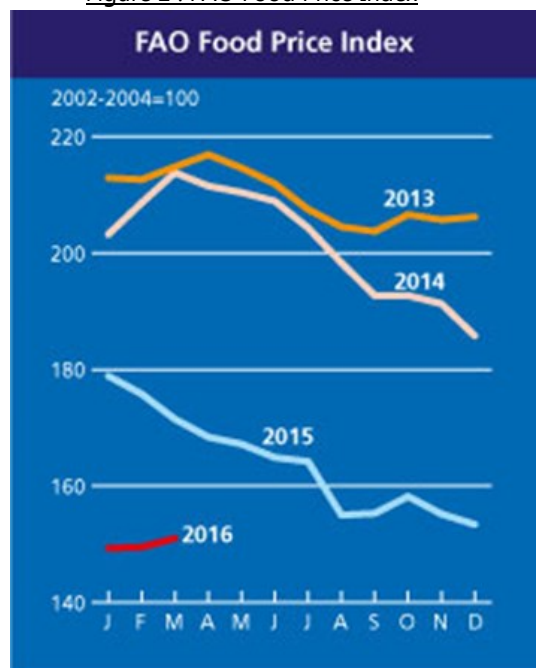
The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 147.6 points in March 2016, down marginally from February, but 13.1 percent less than in March 2015. Wheat prices averaged slightly lower, as a result of strong competition and a generally favourable supply outlook in the new season. Maize quotations remained under downward pressure, largely influenced by favourable production prospects in South America, weak import demand and larger than anticipated outlook for plantings in the United States. Rice prices were stable.



Trends on international markets (continued)

The FAO Food Price Index in slight increase

Figure 2 : FAO Food Price Index



Source : [FAO](#)

In March, the world prices remained firm since import demand has increased. Global stocks and export availabilities begin to reduce, which has also influence on the upward trend in world prices. The sales of Asian exporters remain active and register, in most cases, an increase in relation to last year at the same time. However, Thailand and India, leaders in the world rice market, could reduce their exports in 2016 following a significant decrease in export availabilities. We must remember that despite the low growth of world production, the surplus of global stocks has contributed to the drop of international prices since early 2013. However, the stocks of the major global exporters have reduced by 50 percent during the last three years. Therefore, world prices may remain firm in the rest of the year. [InterRice](#)



Market trends in West Africa

Good market supply, however the first price increases appear in the Sahel

The regional consultation on the food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa, held in Accra, Ghana from 29 to 31 March 2016 under the operation of the regional system Prevention and Food Crises Management (PREGEC) reported the following results:

Overall, market functioning is satisfactory and strengthened by the regular flow of agricultural goods except in the conflict area around the Lake Chad Basin where markets remain disrupted. Prices of major cereals are stable. However, significant price decreases were recorded in Senegal and Niger. Regarding other food crops including tubers, prices show an overall increase despite their availability. Same is observed for cash crops (peanuts and cashews) except cowpea and sesame which recorded significant price reductions in Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

For the outlook through the lean period, the prices of major commodities will experience seasonal increases overall but will be more marked in Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Chad.

In Mauritania, the supply of traditional cereals markets is still far below that of an average year. Besides the late harvest, many farmers still keep their rainfed cereal production for their own consumption.

In Senegal, in April 2016, the markets should be marked by an average level of supply of local cereals, good supply in imported rice and local vegetables but low supply for groundnut. This would result in higher prices of local cereals dry, more expensive than those of peanuts, while those of

imported rice, failing to drop will remain stable. CSA bulletin March 2016.

Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia commodity prices remain stable with ample supplies of imported rice markets, ensuring good access to food.

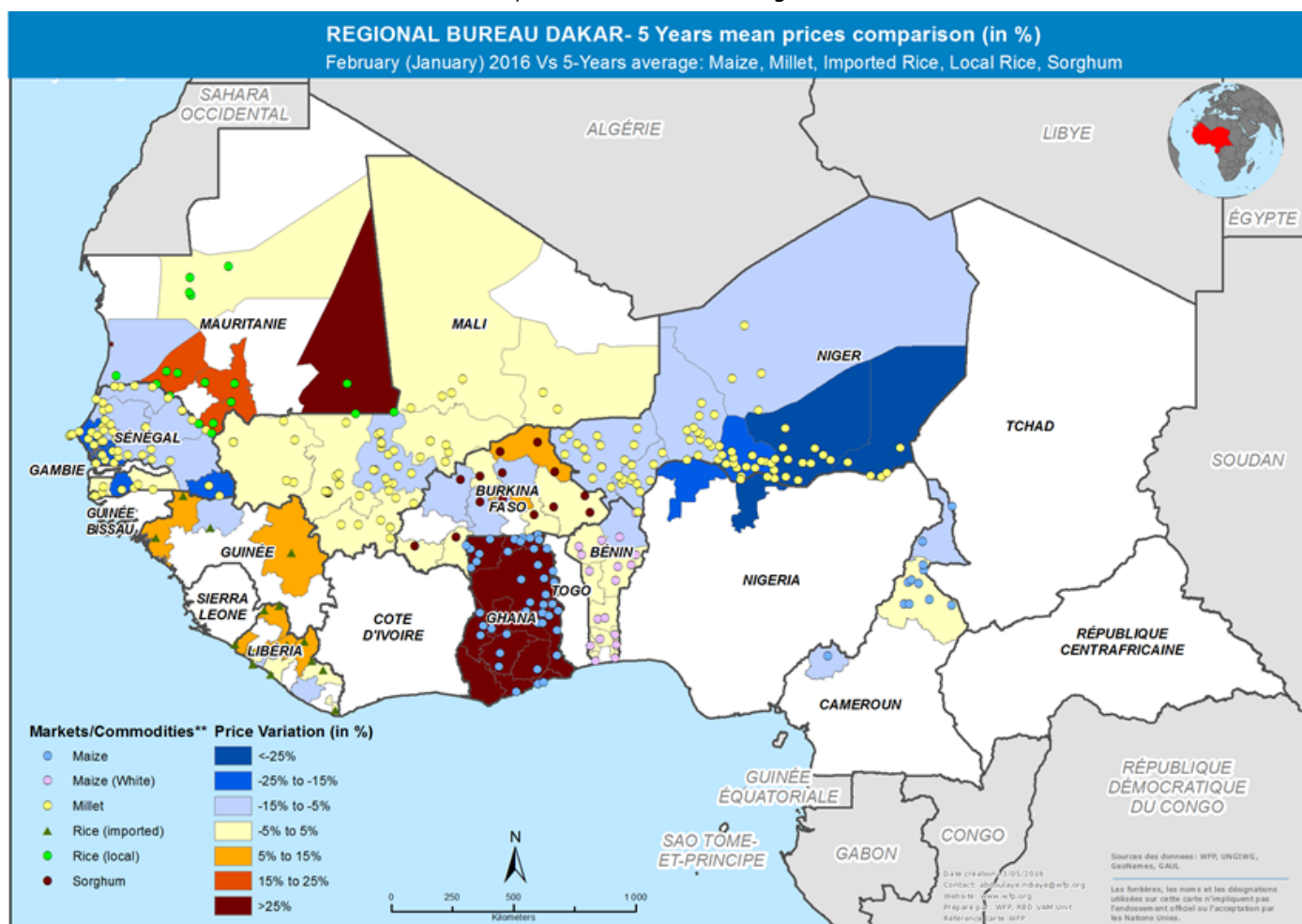
In the eastern basin, a survey of the market was conducted by WFP, NGOs and government partners on over one hundred markets around the Lake Chad Basin. Preliminary results finding of a humanitarian crisis in a region already in agricultural production deficit. In addition the closures of borders and markets, hinder the smooth flow of goods and increased transportation costs. A weak Naira also hampers business transactions by reducing the purchasing power of Nigerian traders.

In Niger, the Diffa region, suffers from the closing of Dammassak market the other side of the border, and led to deviation of flows through Gashua limiting the supply of grain. In Nigeria, the North-East zone remains strongly affected for insecurity, markets are functioning, but, carriers complain of the many checkpoints and ambushes. In Chad, the growing season was better than last year in the Lake region, but remains strongly lower than the average of five years. The influx of displaced people create strong pressure on demand that affects the price. At the extreme north of Cameroon, the closure of borders with Nigeria prevents the export to that country, and a fall in producer prices was observed due to high availability in this region.

Market trends in West Africa (continued)

Good market supply, however the first price increases appear in the Sahel

Figure 3 : Comparison (in %) of grain prices in February (January) in 2016 compared to the five-year average - Maize, Millet, Rice Imported, Local Rice and Sorghum



Source : WFP

Food Security Impact

An overall satisfactory food and nutrition situation except in Chad

The analysis of food and nutrition security with the *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) tool, conducted in March 2016 in 17 countries of the region show an acceptable food situation. However, 6.7 million people are affected by food and nutrition insecurity of which nearly 4.2 million displaced people in the region due to civil insecurity in the Lake Chad basin in northern Mali, Libya, Central African Republic and Sudan. It is important to note that the number of people requiring food assistance has declined from December 2015 (7.9 million) to March 2016 due to the positive effect of mitigation measures implemented by the States and their partners as well as good agropastoral production among others. However, these vulnerable populations could reach 9.5 million during the lean period (June-August 2016) if the necessary actions are not taken to improve their level of food consumption, protect their livelihoods, and prevent and treat malnutrition.

The nutritional situation remains worrying in the region in this time of harvest and post harvest with prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) above the warning or emergency thresholds in some areas of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Nigeria. The situation could deteriorate during the lean period mainly due to the emergence of certain seasonal diseases including malaria and diarrhea. Approximately 5.9 million children under the age of five years may suffer from global acute malnutrition in 2016 including 1.9 million in its severe form in West Africa.

In the Lake Chad basin, the food and nutritional security situation is concerning. Indeed in Nigeria, the results of the *Cadre Harmonisé* indicate a deterioration in food consumption and livelihoods of households in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. The nutritional situation in turn is critical in Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Yobe, but acceptable in Kano and Adamawa.



Food Security Impact (continued)

An overall satisfactory food and nutrition situation except in Chad

In Cameroon, according to the results of the second round of mVAM (Data collection in January 2016) in the departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo Tsanaga in the Far – North, almost half (47.1 percent) of internally displaced persons have a poor and borderline food consumption score compared to 32.3 percent in the 1st round (data collection in November 2015). Faced with this situation, households have adopted coping strategies such as eating low quality food (89.6 percent against 86 percent in the 1st round), reduce the quantity of food per meal (77.8 percent against 68.3 percent in the 1st round), reduce the amount of food consumed by adults on behalf of children (72.9 percent against 65.9 percent in the 1st round), or reduce the number of meals per day (75.2 percent against 72.5 percent in the 1st round). WFP Cameroon, mVAM January 2016

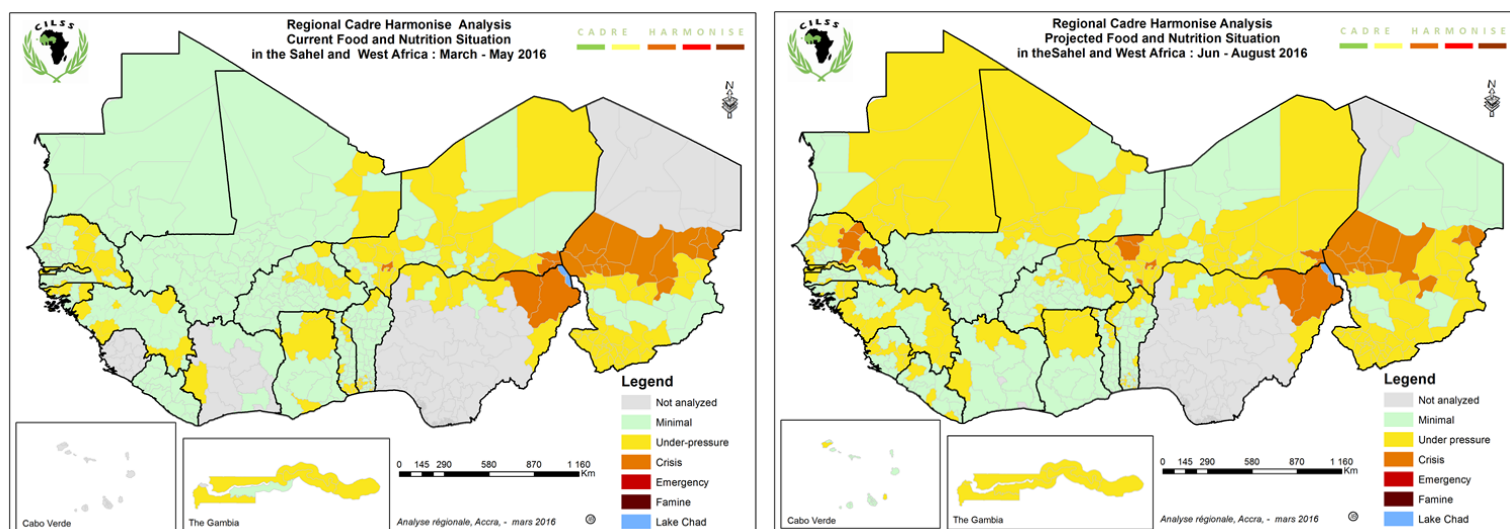
According to the results of the *Cadre Harmonisé*, in Niger and Chad forage deficits and conflict negatively affect the incomes of pastoral households.

In Mauritania, WFP and the Government proceeded in January 2016 with the follow-up of the household food security survey (FSMS). The results of this survey confirm the good food security situation compared to last year at the same period. Indeed, 17.5 percent of Mauritanian households (647,000 people) are food insecure. This represents a substantial decline from January 2015 where 23.8 percent of households were food insecure. Severe food insecurity also dropped from 5.6 percent to 3.9 percent in

one year. The most affected are those Wilayas in the north (Adrar, Inchiri Tiris Zemmour) where food insecurity affects over 25 percent of households. Long periods of strikes in the mining sector in the north and the poor dates production 2015 in these areas are factors of the deteriorating situation of households in the north of the country. Wilayas Hodh Echarghi (24.1 percent), Tagant (23.7 percent) and Nouakchott (20.7 percent) also have relatively high food insecurity rates. In Nouakchott specifically, it is the Wilayas of Nouakchott South and North that concentrate food insecurity with 27.7 percent and 29.6 percent of food insecure households.

Unlike in the past, urban areas are more affected than rural areas with 19.3 percent of urban households in food insecurity against 15.7 percent in rural areas; food assistance programs targeted by the government and its partners have been virtually absent in urban areas in the second half of 2015. WFP Mauritania, FSMS February 2016

Figure 4 : Regional analysis of the *Cadre Harmonisé*



Source : CILSS/AGRHYMET

Regional synthesis of results of the analysis of the household economy "Household Economy Approach (HEA)" (February-March 2016)

The second round of the HEA results analysis, conducted between February and March 2016 by members of the regional project Sahel HEA, focused on 59 baseline profiles spread out throughout 41 livelihood zones across Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Chad, Niger, Senegal and Nigeria.

Throughout the zones with HEA profiles, analysis shows a relatively good food situation in all countries covered by the exercise. The utilisation of the definitive agricultural production data suggests a slightly better situation than projected in the analysis of November 2015.

Although the situation is broadly acceptable, the food situation is concerning in some areas:

In Niger, the persistent insecurity in the Diffa region that reduces opportunities in agricultural manual labor, coupled with a cereal deficit, will continue to weigh on the food situation of poor and very poor households. The analysis projects a deterioration of the food situation in these households starting from April 2016 until the end of the lean season due to their economic inability to meet their survival needs and sustainably maintain their livelihoods.

In Burkina Faso, in the province of Oudalan in the Sahel region, very poor households will face food difficulties from May to September because of their low purchasing power, declining production and rising prices of basic commodities.

In Chad, the very poor population from the provinces of Mangalmé and Biltine will experience a food consumption deficit and difficulty in maintaining their livelihoods during the periods from January to April 2016 and from July to September, 2016.

In Mauritania, the purchasing power of poor and very poor peri-urban households in areas of Nouakchott continue to erode due to lower revenue opportunities and a sharp rise in basic food prices, thus reducing economic access of these households to markets throughout the year (October 2015-September 2016).



Calendars!

- CaLP level 2 training in Burkina Faso, 2 to 5 May 2016
- Mission of advocacy in Nigeria for the extension of the *Cadre Harmonisé* workshops to the 5 new States of Northern Nigeria, from 15 to May 28, 2016
- The *Cadre Harmonisé* Technical Committee meeting in conjunction with the PREGEC in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 6 to 7 June 2016
- PREGEC June meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 8 to 10 June 2016
- Regional workshop of definition of the analytical framework of analysis and measurement of resilience in the Sahel and West Africa, in Dakar, Senegal from 27 to 30 June 2016
- The Training for the *Cadre Harmonisé* workshops coaches in Cotonou, Benin from 28 to 30 July 2016



Food Security Information in West Africa

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