



IN NUMBERS



6.9 million

people will be food insecure during the 2017 lean season (June–August 2017)



80-90%

of the population depend on agriculture, fisheries and livestock for their livelihoods



2.5 million

people are displaced



USD 73.6 million

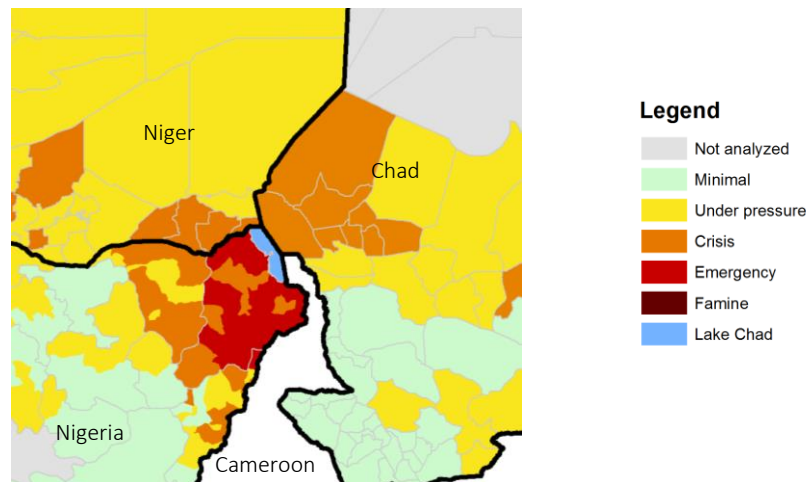
are urgently needed for the implementation of FAO's Response strategy in 2017

KEY MESSAGES

- **Restoring agricultural livelihoods is a priority** to avoid a further deterioration of the food security situation of **displaced people and host communities** in the coming months.
- **Limited funding received** in 2016 for livelihood interventions is a major concern, especially in northeastern Nigeria where 5.2 million people will suffer from severe food insecurity in 2017 (*Cadre Harmonisé*, June–August 2017).
- Without agriculture and livestock support, many farmers and herders will resort to **negative and sometimes irreversible coping mechanisms** with **long-lasting impact** on their livelihoods. This may result in an increase of humanitarian needs in 2017 and beyond.
- Special attention to **women and youth** is given in all FAO interventions. This is crucial to offer livelihoods alternatives and income generation opportunities, and support women that are particularly vulnerable during conflict.

MAP

Projected food security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, *Cadre Harmonisé*, June–August 2017



BACKGROUND

The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has intensified over the past years as Boko Haram attacks and suicide bombs have targeted civilians, causing widespread trauma, forcing millions from their homes, preventing people from accessing their fields and destroying essential infrastructure and services. The conflict has affected the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin – Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria – and has uprooted millions of people from their homes across the four countries. The arrival of a large number of Nigerians in border areas of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, along with the ongoing cross-border attacks is also putting already impoverished host communities under extreme pressure. As a result, host communities are in urgent need of assistance for food production and livelihoods restoration and protection. Insecurity has so far limited humanitarian access to certain areas where the food security and nutrition situation is critical. However, in the last few months, significant territory has been rendered accessible to humanitarian assistance, opening a window of opportunity to scale up interventions in the area.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Unprecedented levels of population displacements, together with reduced access to farming activities have caused a sharp increase of food insecurity in affected areas. Most of displaced people rely on the scarce resources of host communities for their basic needs including for food. Host families themselves, as well as other crisis-hit households, were unable to exploit their land because of fear of attacks, which resulted in the loss of productive assets, reduced incomes and food shortages. In addition, staple food crop prices are extremely high due to inflation.

Insecurity and related movement restrictions have disrupted transhumance flows and cross-border livestock trade. Local agricultural systems at large have been disrupted following destructions of farming and irrigations facilities, and reduced access for extension services. The number of returnees is expected to grow in 2017, thus increasing the need to restore improved livelihoods and revive the agriculture sector.

The crisis is exacerbating the challenges faced by vulnerable farmers who were increasingly exposed to natural hazards including cyclical droughts and floods in the past decade. The concentration of herds due to changes in transhumance flows is putting pastoral resources under extreme pressure, and could threaten animal health. Special attention should be given to the health conditions of herds in the Niger and Chad following fodder deficits observed in the past months, as well as abundant rainfall in some areas.

FAO'S RESPONSE

Cameroon: FAO plans to assist 200 000 crisis-hit farmers, mainly IDPs and host populations, in improving their food security and nutrition through small ruminant, local poultry and pig production. Support to agricultural activities will also be provided through distribution of cowpea, maize, rice and sorghum seeds, fertilizers and small farming equipment. Improved cattle production through pasture regeneration, construction of water points and vaccination baths will also be supported.

Niger: For the 2017 campaign, FAO plans to assist about 60 000 people with cereal seeds to kick-start the 2016 crop production deficit due to floods and droughts. The provision of animal feed and animal health care is also needed for returnees, refugees and host populations whose access to the Lake Chad area for livestock watering is compromised by insecurity.

Chad: FAO is targeting about 80 000 people for 2017. Proposed interventions include the provision of high-quality cereal seeds for the rainy season, as well as support to irrigated production. Activities to facilitate post-production processing and the marketing of agricultural products are also envisaged. Restocking activities will help compensate for animal losses in the past year.

Nigeria: For the 2017 main season (distribution to take place in May-June 2017), FAO is targeting 1.9 million people to be assisted through the distribution of fast growing, nutrient-rich cereal and pulse seeds, fertilizers, seed multiplication assistance, post-harvest storage, vegetable and fruit production, food processing and agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation. Funding for the main season is yet to be secured.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Of the USD 232 million requested to assist 3 million people in need under FAO's 2017–2019 Response strategy, **USD 73.6 million is required for 2017** to support beneficiaries through life-saving activities in the four countries. The breakdown per country for 2017 is as follows:



- Cameroon: USD 4.6 million, of which USD 1.1 million has been received.
- Chad: USD 5.1 million, of which USD 1.1 million has been received.
- Niger: USD 2 million, of which USD 1 million has been received.
- Nigeria: USD 62 million, of which USD 12.5 million has been received.

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