Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Northeastern Nigeria

SITUATION REPORT – January 2017

IN NUMBERS

5.1 million

People severely food insecure (*Cadre Harmonisé* Phases 3 to 5 [June to August 2017])

1.77 million IDPs

Due to ongoing crisis

1.9 million

People targeted by FAO in 2017

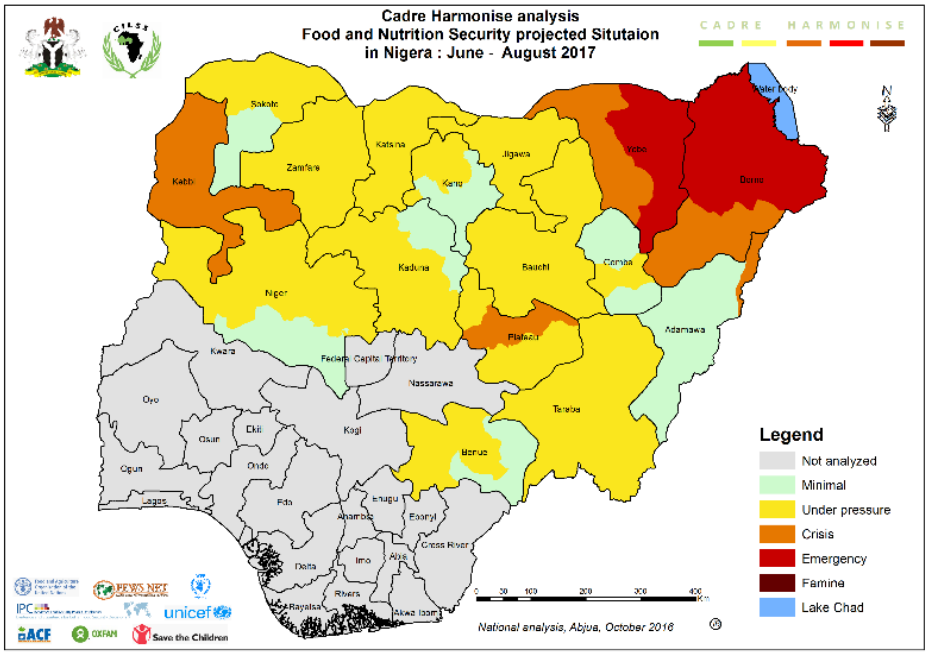
USD 62 million

Appealed for by FAO under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria

HIGHTLIGHTS

- **5.1 million people face acute food insecurity in northeastern Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States)** during the next lean season (*Cadre Harmonisé* analysis released on 28 October) – immediate intervention is required to assist these populations. A recent Special IPC Alert on Borno State (FEWS NET; 16 December) noted that a famine is likely ongoing and will continue in inaccessible areas of Borno State assuming conditions remain the same. The alert also noted that the current response is insufficient to meet needs.
- In 2017, FAO is asking for USD 62 million under the Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria. **Of this, USD 20 million is urgently required to reach 1.9 million people during the upcoming main planting season** starting in June 2017**.** Missing this season will mean food insecurity and, therefore, humanitarian costs will continue rising into 2018.
- FAO's dry season campaign is ongoing, with 174 400 people receiving vegetable seed, irrigation equipment and livestock support.
- **A combination of food assistance and food production support is the only way to address the scale of hunger facing the people of northeastern Nigeria.**

MAP



BACKGROUND

More than 80 percent of northeastern Nigeria's rural population depends on crop or livestock farming. The Boko Haram insurgency has led to massive displacements and high levels of food insecurity in the area. Already poor and vulnerable host communities have absorbed large numbers of people fleeing violence, placing considerable pressure on fragile agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, while the insecurity has severely disrupted markets and food availability. The October 2016 *Cadre Harmonisé* underlined the critical food insecurity and malnutrition in the worst-hit and least accessible areas, with food availability predicted to decline moving towards the lean season. The October 2016 Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis underscored the gravity of the situation, indicating that less than a quarter of households in Borno State had produced crops in 2016, while one-fifth of families reported having no livelihood source and almost three-quarters were deploying crisis coping strategies.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

As the main planting season – a critical period in the agricultural calendar – approaches, farmers lack the inputs they need to ensure production. A FAO **Seeds System Security Assessment** indicated that the insurgency has negatively impacted on both the formal and informal seed systems in the northeastern states. A recent FAO mission demonstrated that IDPs have access to land and there is no evidence of tension with host communities at this stage, meaning there is a real opportunity now to significantly increase food production and availability in 2017. However, agriculture-based livelihood interventions remain weakly funded. Missing the main planting season will force many IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities to rely on expensive and logistically challenging food assistance well into 2018. This will have a broad negative impact – rising hunger, lack of economic and employment opportunities, and possible harmful consequences including youth radicalization and enrolment in armed groups, and increased exposure to sexual abuse and exploitation. In the worst affected and least accessible areas of Borno and Yobe, reaching people remains a major challenge because of restricted access due to high levels of insecurity. Pastoralists have almost been forgotten in the response to the crisis and urgently require support to protect and rebuild their herds.

FAO KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND TARGETS

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS

320 400 people reached
(including ongoing dry season campaign)

2016/17 dry season

174 400 people

Support to rural, urban and peri-urban production (vegetable kits, technical support, infrastructure rehabilitation, cash-for-work, animal health, etc.)

2016 main season

146 000 people reached

Millet, sorghum, cowpea and vegetable seeds; fertilizers and food assistance.

2017 TARGETS

1.9 million people

2017 main season

Fast-maturing nutrient-rich cereal and pulse seeds, fertilizers, seed multiplication assistance, post-harvest storage, vegetable & fruit production, food processing, agricultural infrastructure

Alternative livelihoods support (year-round)

Viable, sustainable aquaculture, livestock infrastructure, animal health, livestock feed and restocking, SAFE kits for women (fuel-efficient stoves, solar lanterns, whistles), agriculture and market rehabilitation-related cash transfers.

FUNDING

In 2016, FAO received USD 7.2 million in funding for northeastern Nigeria from: Belgium, the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), FAO internal resources, Irish Aid, Japan, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UN Women, and World Food Programme (Food for Peace).

Under the **2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria**, FAO is seeking USD 62 million to assist 1.72 million people. Of this, USD 35 million is needed to assist 1 million people in the first half of 2017, including USD 20 million to support the critical main cropping season.

ASSESSMENTS

The next round of *Cadre Harmonisé* Acute Food Insecurity analysis is planned for the first quarter of 2017.

CONTACT

Nourou Macki Tall | FAO Representative, ad interim | Abuja, Nigeria | NourouMacki.Tall@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience | Rome, Italy | TCE-Director@fao.org