



FAO requires
USD 44.5 million



to assist
1.1 million people



1 million people facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels*



66.2% of the population lives in severe poverty



2.2 million children suffer from malnutrition



80% of the population relies on agriculture and livestock for their food and income



850 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 71 deaths (June 2020)

*Source: Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS) *Cadre Harmonisé*, Chad – Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (June–August 2020 projection), April 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on food security and agriculture

- In Chad, recurrent climatic shocks and conflict are exacerbating people's food insecurity, particularly in the Lake Chad Basin, where there are nearly 300 000 displaced people. In addition, the country hosts a large number of refugees from the Central African Republic and the Sudan. Despite good cereal production from the 2019/20 agricultural season, a 42-percent fodder deficit was registered in the Sahel region, significantly affecting feed availability for pastoralists' during the dry season. Furthermore, drought, irregular rainfall and increased insecurity are preventing herders from access grazing land. Livestock mortality rates have also been increasing during this year's pastoral lean season.
- Following confirmed COVID-19 cases, the Government put in place a series of urgent and essential health-related mitigation measures, including the lockdown of all the main cities, movement restrictions and border closures. These are indirectly affecting the supply chain, limiting imports and disrupting markets, which is adding pressure on conflict-affected areas – Lake Chad Basin and Tibesti – where 40 percent of the population is experiencing difficulties in accessing markets. In addition, the prices of millet – one of Chad's most important subsistence crops – has sharply increased, by 37 percent between April 2019 and April 2020.
- Although a late start of the rainy season was observed in May, rainfall is predicted to be above average, especially in the Lake Chad region. However, the effects of the essential containment



measures may have significantly disrupted the preparation of the agricultural season. Households' incomes have also decreased due to the lack of work opportunities and a significant reduction of remittances. Moreover, following the pastoral and crop lean seasons, the number of households affected by inadequate food consumption have strongly increased since the beginning of the

crisis – from 1.3 to 2.5 million people (World Food Programme [WFP], June 2020), especially in the Sahel regions. Agropastoral livelihoods have also been significantly disrupted, leading to the decrease of prices of livestock due to market-gathering restrictions, which is further increasing households' vulnerabilities, already affected by a seasonal reductions in food access.

Likely evolution of the impacts of COVID-19 on food security

According to the latest *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis (March 2020), over 1 million people are projected to be in face acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels during the lean season (June–August 2020), which was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore expected to be higher. Moreover, it is expected that an increase in the number of cases will coincide with the rainy season and subsequent floods that already affect a significant proportion of the population in the country every year. Similarly, there is a risk of other recurrent epidemics such as cholera and measles. The combination of all of these factors could severely affect the most vulnerable populations, aggravating their already fragile situation and further threaten their livelihoods and food security. More specifically, the main anticipated impacts may include the following:

- **Pastoral communities to significantly be affected by the impacts of the pandemic.** Prior to COVID-19, severe fodder deficits were recorded in most of the provinces of the Sahel region, following a poor rainy season. Thus, many pastoralists were already in need of animal feed before the onset of the July rainy season. The indirect impacts of the pandemic have further squeezed their purchasing power, thus reducing their ability to buy feed, and constrained their ability to undertake their traditional transhumance.
- **Agricultural activities to be disrupted during the main cropping season.** Starting from July 2020, most of agropastoral communities will engage in planting activities for the main cropping season, crucial to many vulnerable and poor households' food security. Any further disruptions resulting from the pandemic are likely to hinder households' access to inputs and necessary agricultural support to conduct activities and could lead to the adoption of negative coping mechanisms, such as eating seeds or selling productive assets to cover basic needs.



Anticipatory actions and response

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has developed and implemented its COVID-19 business continuity plan since March 2020, in order to ensure the continuity of ongoing essential activities. Within the framework of FAO's Corporate COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, the following actions have been identified to meet the urgent short-term needs of the most vulnerable food-insecure populations and protect their assets. It also represents FAO's contribution to the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

- Provide urgent support to pastoralists and agropastoralists, who were already hardly hit by an early pastoral lean season and subsequently by the closure of cattle markets and borders to neighbouring countries, and by the interruption of veterinary services and vaccination campaigns due to the pandemic. Specific activities focus on the provision of fodder and nutritional supplements and vaccination campaigns.
- Support people in urban areas in N'Djamena through unconditional cash transfers, who normally depend on informal jobs including in the agriculture sector,

but have lost their income due to the indirect effects of the pandemic.

- Provide agricultural inputs to vulnerable farming households in time for the next agricultural season, starting in June–July.

Critical response activities aim to achieve the following strategic results:

- I. Populations' basic needs are met in compliance with international standards in terms of food security.
- II. Vulnerable populations' resilience to crises is strengthened and sustainable livelihoods as well as participation in humanitarian and development actions are promoted.
- III. The capacities to implement sectoral or intersectoral food security and nutrition policies and strategies are strengthened.
- IV. Local authorities and communities' technical, multisectoral and integrated capacities in conflict, crisis and disaster management linked to COVID-19 are strengthened through coordination and effective communication of interventions.

Funding



FAO requires
USD 44.5 million

- **USD 19.5 million** under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19
- **USD 25 million** under the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020

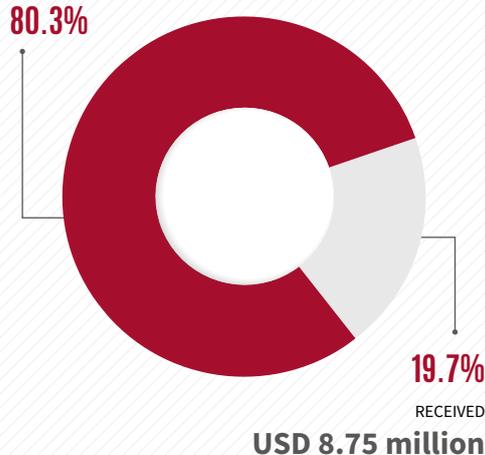


to assist
1.1 million people

FUNDING GAP

USD 35.75 million

80.3%



Resource partners

the Government of Canada and the World Bank

Coordination and partnerships

Implemented in close collaboration with the Government, FAO's response is in line with the Food Security Cluster's Strategy. The strategic partnerships between FAO, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO) will be strengthened to provide integrated assistance to vulnerable populations. Information and awareness messages related to COVID-19 will be in line with WHO's models to reach as many people as possible, especially in rural areas.

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