



WEST AFRICA BRIEF

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FOOD SECURITY STAKEHOLDERS CALL FOR ACTION



Members of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) gathered from 16-18 April 2018 at OECD headquarters in Paris to validate the final results of the 2017-18 agro-pastoral campaign and take stock of the food and nutrition situation. The Network estimates that 7.1 million people are in need of urgent food and nutrition assistance, of which 3.7 million are in northeastern Nigeria. If appropriate measures are not promptly taken by the lean season in June-August 2018, the number of people affected could reach 10.6 million and the number of malnourished children could increase from 1.1 to 1.6 million. The meeting also focused on the critical pastoral situation in the Sahelian belt. Significant fodder and water shortages in the Sahel, particularly in Mauritania and Senegal, has led to an early departure of migrating animals and a high risk of conflict. Sahelian and coastal countries have developed response plans. RPCA recommended that ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS to support Sahelian states to mobilise funds to fill these response plan implementation

financing gaps in both sending and host countries. The RPCA also encouraged regional organisations to make the Regional Food Security Reserve for livestock feed operational and to invest in a favourable environment for safe, peaceful and mutually beneficial cross-border transhumance for both Sahelian and coastal countries. This includes implementing structural programmes to address the current and future challenges of pastoral livestock farming, particularly as they relate to education and youth employment. Niger's experience was showcased during the session of the Senior Experts' Group of the Global Alliance for Resilience (SEG-AGIR). The RPCA meeting offered many opportunities for dialogue, informal exchanges and networking between Sahelian and West African leaders and their technical and financial partners. The 34th RPCA annual meeting is scheduled to take place on 3-5 December 2018 in Banjul, Gambia.

The West Africa Brief is published by the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD). It presents political, economic and social developments in the region. Special focus is given to news regarding regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS) as well other SWAC Members' activities. The articles should not be reported as representing the official views of the OECD or of its member countries. Contact: julia.wanjiru@oecd.org

ECOWAS PROMOTES **PEACEFUL CROSS-BORDER TRANSHUMANCE**



On 26 April, ECOWAS held a high-level meeting on pastoralism and cross-border transhumance in Abuja. The conference brought together ministers of security and agriculture/animal resources from ECOWAS countries, Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania and the Central African Republic. Their goal was to find lasting solutions to the escalating conflicts between herders and farmers in the ECOWAS zone and in other regions. Nigeria alone has recorded an annual average of more than 2 000 fatalities from 2011 to 2016, sometimes exceeding the casualties due to the Boko Haram insurgency. “It is important to find urgent solutions to these conflicts which are mainly caused

by free movement of people, goods and services in the ECOWAS region, climate change and cattle theft,” explained Abdulrahman Dambazau, Nigeria’s Interior Minister. However, the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of people, goods and services is a corner stone of regional integration, which must be protected. Moreover, ECOWAS already approved a regulation (C-REG.3/01/03) on the implementation of transhumance regulations between ECOWAS member states in 2003. The meeting of experts that was organised before the ministerial conference on 24-25 April urged ECOWAS leaders to make these regulations operational through the implementation of regional programmes to develop pastoral areas and infrastructure for transhumance. Notably, the regulation involves setting up pilot cross-border projects to develop new joint methods to manage transhumance routes and host zones. Experts recommended that they prepare an audit of the how often existing community regulations on cross-border transhumance and the circulation of light weapons are applied or not. They also proposed preparing an update of the legal community framework by July 2018, and advancing its harmonisation with national laws.

ECOWAS, AFD LAUNCH **AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION SUPPORT PROJECT**



To support the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), ECOWAS and AFD launched an agro-ecological transition support project on 27 April in Abuja. The project will cover five West African countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Togo. With a budget of EUR 8 million, the programme will finance field projects that support agro-ecological intensification on family farms; it will also support methods to organise and manage this transition. Some 15 projects will be selected through a call for proposals. They will benefit from three years of financial support, with an average amount of EUR 400 000 per project. The programme capitalises on the experience of previous programmes that

were launched in 2011 and 2014. The implementation will be co-ordinated by the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) with technical support from Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF), the Institute for Research and Application of Development Methods (IRAM) and the African Institute for Economic and Social Development (INADES Formation). In the context of climate variability and climate change, the scaling up of more productive and resource-efficient systems offers West African countries an opportunity to increase their resilience and address challenges related to food insecurity and nutritional deficiencies that affect poor or very poor households. “AFD assists ECOWAS in the support of family farms in West Africa, in order to enable them to sustainably produce quality food in sufficient quantity while addressing climate change,” said Philippe Chedanne, AFD’s director of the “Grand Sahel” regional unit, during the launch ceremony. ECOWAS Commissioner Sékou Sangaré highlighted the need to produce more and better food in West Africa. “While doing so, we will spend less resources on imports, we will better supply our markets with more quality products at acceptable prices, while preserving consumers’ health,” he said.

MICROFINANCE NETWORKS CREATE REGIONAL INSTITUTE

Six West African microfinance networks joined forces to create a new regional institute, the Financière de l’Afrique de l’Ouest. Based in Dakar, the new financing institute will start with 4.5 million clients and 800 points of sale. The new institute aims to offer short-term credits (less than two years) at a rate of 5.5% and three-five-year credits at 7.5%. This is much less than

the rates that commercial banks charge, which range from 8% to 12%. Access to financing remains a key challenge for many small-scale businesses in West Africa. The six networks collected some 400 billion CFA francs in 2016 and granted loans worth 300 billion CFA francs.

BELGIUM SUPPORTS **HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM IN SENEGAL**



Only one out of every five Senegalese people has health coverage. Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency, is helping the government of Senegal put in place a health insurance system in the departments

of Kounghoul (160 000 inhabitants) and Foundiougne (280 000 inhabitants). Several pilot programmes are testing a flat-rate payment system. Membership is voluntary through a contribution to a health insurance account. The Enabel project then transfers a complementary sum, a function that the Senegalese government will take over at a later stage. Professionally managed departmental health insurance units (UDAM) administer the financial contributions. They also manage various exemption mechanisms including free service delivery for family security grant beneficiaries. The flat-rate paying system will help reform how health care is financed. This is an essential step in the development of mandatory health insurance and, eventually, universal health coverage.

MUST READ: PUBLIC SERVICE IN AFRICA



The 2018 Mo Ibrahim Forum Report paints a very poor picture of the state of Africa's public services. The reports covers a variety of sectors - from safety and security, health, education, climate change to justice - and illustrates these issues with facts and figures. Nearly all African governments fail to deliver essential public services to their citizens; the demand for quality services is quickly rising, particularly

in urban settings. A majority of African citizens are in favour of paying for public services. The report highlights the need to build a sound contract between citizens and public service providers. Citizen dissatisfaction with how African governments are addressing educational and health needs has grown over the last decade. Only three countries - Libya, Mauritius and Tunisia, have at least one doctor per 1 000 people. In Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, private health expenditure levels are higher than 70%. Between 30-50% of Africa's total tax liability remains uncollected. "Public service is the pillar of governance. Without strong public services and committed public servants, there will be no efficient delivery of expected public goods and services, nor implementation of any commitment, however strongly voiced," says Mo Ibrahim. Key findings from the report were discussed on 28 April at the 2018 Ibrahim Forum in Kigali, Rwanda.

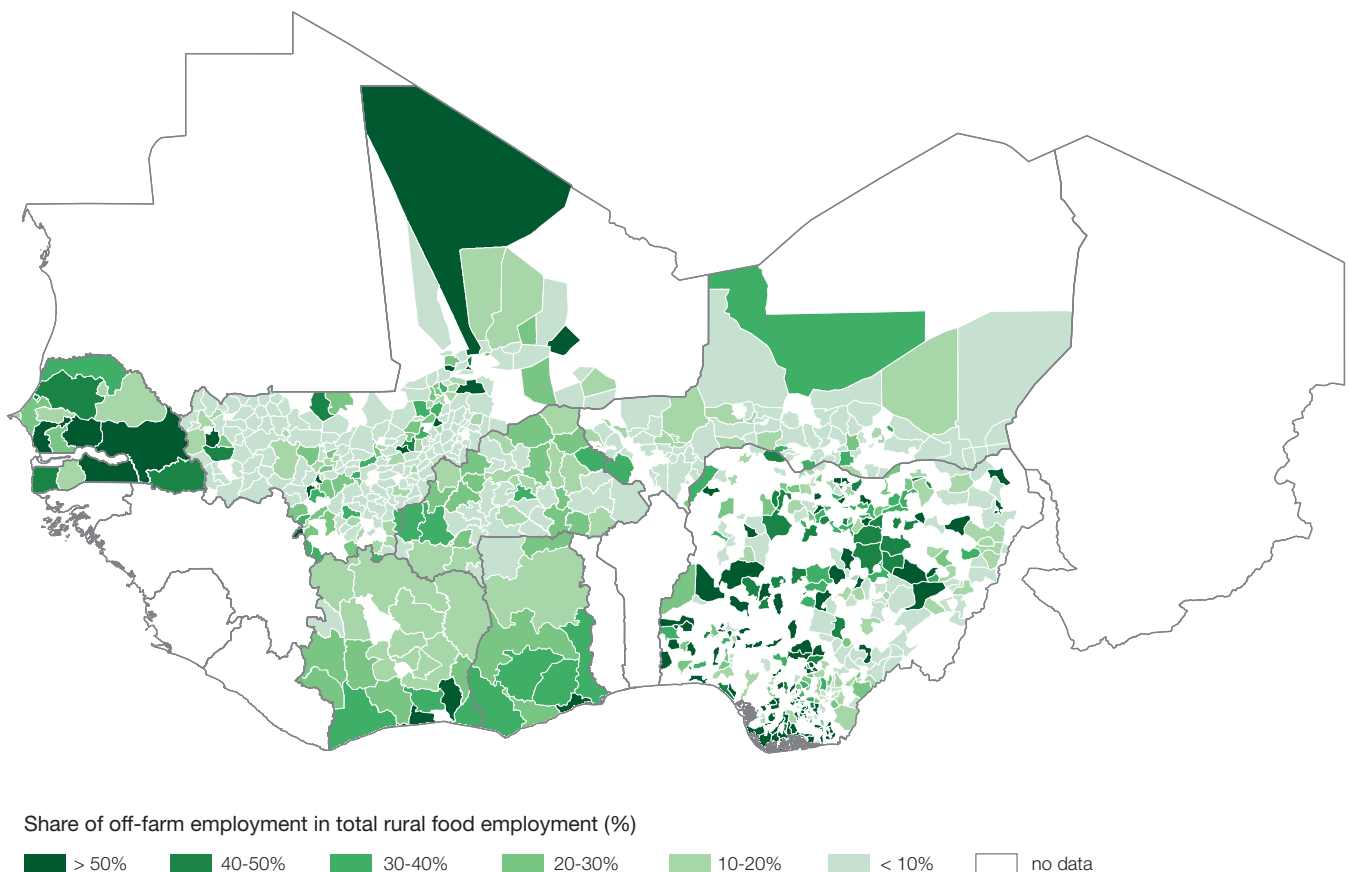
MUST READ: BOKO HARAM: THE HISTORY OF AN AFRICAN JIHADIST MOVEMENT



Why did Boko Haram emerge in the northeastern city of Maiduguri? How did the jihadist movement manage to control territories in northeastern Nigeria and beyond?

And how does Boko Haram adjust its strategies to local and external events? This is a must read for anyone who wants to understand Boko Haram's trajectory. The author focuses on how Boko Haram interacts dynamically with the community and adjusts its strategies in response to external events. He also stresses the localised aspect of its relationship with religion and politics. "After all, jihadist movements are diverse. Jihadist ideology is not a one size-fits-all package of bad ideas. Rather, organisations like Boko Haram – even if they are in dialogue with global jihadist trends – develop localised doctrines that evolve through interactions with their surroundings," the author explains.

MAPS & FACTS: RURAL EMPLOYMENT DIVERSIFICATION



Source: Authors' calculations based on ANSD (2015), World Bank (2017), INS (2012).

Extract from Allen, T., P. Heinrigs and I. Heo (2018), "Agriculture, Food and Jobs in West Africa", West African Papers, No. 14, OECD Publishing, Paris.

The level of rural employment diversification varies strongly within each country, which highlights the importance of territorial dimensions, in particular rural-urban linkages. The proximity to markets matters for the development of diversified rural economies. In southern Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, for instance, rural areas that are close to the main urban agglomerations have more diverse rural economies. In Mali, communes

along the Niger River show the highest employment diversification. In Nigeria, in 99 out of the 299 local government areas covered, agricultural employment accounts for less than 50% of total employment. More connected rural areas generally offer more productive off-farm opportunities in downstream segments of agricultural value chains. Local availability and accessibility to food value chain infrastructure and services affects local labour markets

and the demand for certain skills. Access to these off-farm employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns is especially important if countries want to create better and more inclusive jobs. By strengthening the links between the rural sector and small- and medium-sized cities, it will contribute to developing employment opportunities outside of major cities and building diversified and vibrant local economies.

WHO'S WHO: OUSSOUBY SACKO, PRESIDENT OF KYOTO SEIKA UNIVERSITY



The Malian Professor Oussouby Sacko is the first African to become a president of a Japanese University. He was nominated in October 2017 to head the Kyoto Seika University, which has about 4 400 students. Sacko started studying architecture in China and then moved to Kyoto to study in a master's programme. He says that architecture is not just about

aesthetics; it also helps us understand how a society is organised and how it works internally. Sacko has lived in Japan for nearly three decades and became a Japanese citizen in 2002. He intends to develop partnerships with African universities and to set-up an Africa department on contemporary spaces in order to increase Japanese people interest in the African continent.