

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A 5 to 17 per cent increase in cereal production foreseen; to be confirmed in November
- Poor nutritional indicators for children in Mauritania, Niger and Chad revealed through latest surveys
- UNHCR and IOM confirm reduced number of displaced Malians
- Regional Humanitarian Planning for the Sahel in 2013 ongoing

### KEY FIGURES

Nb. of children admitted in SAM facilities since beginning of year **576,750**

Nb. of people who received food assistance in August **4.2 M**

Nb. of people who received agriculture assistance since beginning of the year **5.2 M**

### FUNDING

**US\$1.6 billion**  
Requested

**59%**  
Received



IRIN/Nigeria

### In this issue

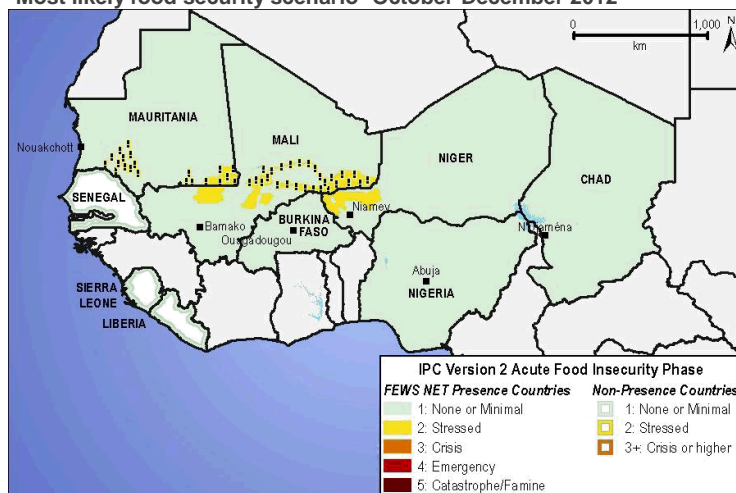
- Food and nutrition crisis P.1
- Displacement P.3
- 2013 Humanitarian Planning P.3-4
- Response overview P.5
- Funding status P.7

## Good outlook for crop production despite flooding of some cultivated areas

### Growing season progresses evenly as cereal prices drop

Good rainfall levels have meant a satisfactory progression of the agricultural season in the Sahel so far. This augurs well for a return to minimal food insecurity between October and November, according to FEWS NET. With the agricultural season drawing to a close, an evaluation of regional agricultural production was launched in September by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). The results will be available in October-November and are expected to corroborate preliminary information of a 5 to 17 per cent increase in cereal production. Cereal prices have also started their seasonal downward trend. However, current price levels still remain high even though, overall, the rise in international maize, wheat and soya prices has had a limited impact on the Sahel. The exception to this is Mauritania, due to the country's dependence on wheat imports. Pasture and grazing have also improved with the recent abundant rains. This has allowed cattle to gain weight, thus increasing their value on local markets, according to FAO and WFP data.

Most likely food security scenario- October-December 2012



Source FEWSNET

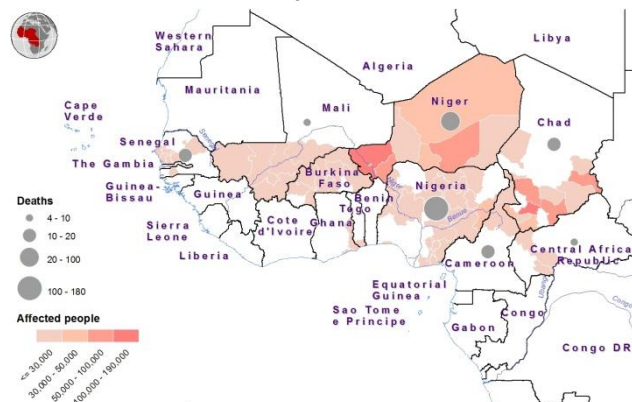
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### Flooding in Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon damages crops

Heavy rains and subsequent flooding have caused major damage to planted land, particularly in rice-growing fields along the Niger River, and in other areas in Nigeria and Cameroon. In Niger, nearly 10,000 hectares of rice in Tillabéri, Dosso and Niamey have been flooded. Production losses are estimated by the Fédération des unions des coopératives des producteurs de riz (FUCOPRI) at more than 27,000 tons, valued at more than US\$1 million, reports FEWS NET. This has affected both poor and very poor households, who have lost the employment opportunities on which they depend to buy food.

In Nigeria, the prospects for good crops have vanished for communities along the River Niger and in the states affected by the sudden release of water from a dam in Cameroon. According to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), more than 134,000 people have been affected. In Cameroon itself, UNICEF and IFRC warn that widespread flooding in the North and far North districts are causing extreme hardship for the local population. Some 25,000 people have been left homeless and almost all the crops and granaries of affected families have been destroyed

Flood Affected Areas as of 15 September 2012

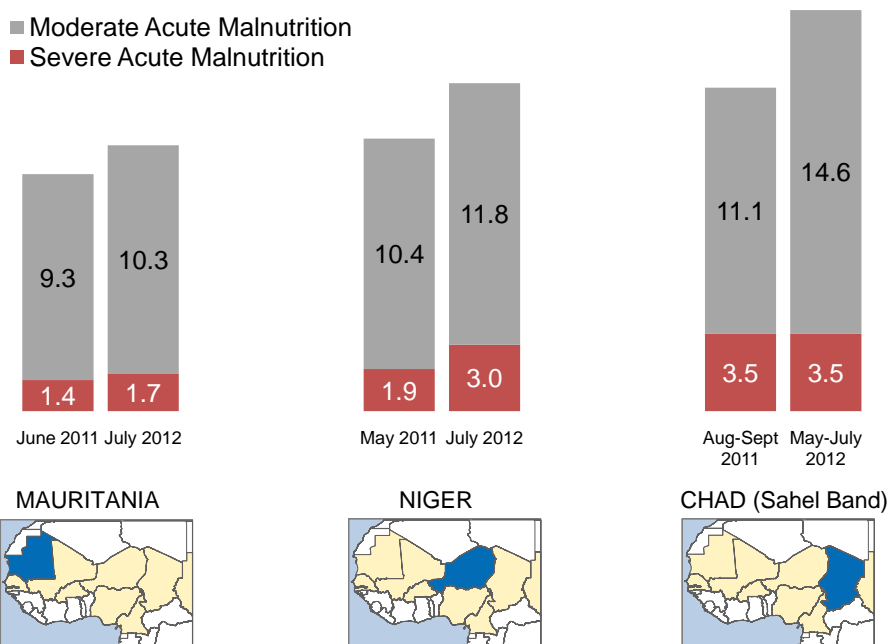


Source: UNOCHA, Regional Office for West and Central Africa

### Nutritional status of children deteriorates in Mauritania, Niger and Chad

The first analysis of nutrition surveys conducted by nutrition partners from June to August 2012 shows a deterioration of the nutritional status of children under 5 years in Mauritania, Niger and Chad compared to the previous year. In Niger, levels of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rose from 1.9% to 3.0 per cent. However, at the same time, rates of chronic malnutrition decreased from 51% to 42%. In Chad, the prevalence of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) climbed from 16.6 per cent to 18.1 per cent, exceeding the critical threshold of 15 per cent. In Mauritania, MAM increased by 1.3 per cent. It is now clear that Governments, as well as technical and financial partners, need to take urgent action to strengthen and diversify prevention methods. These strategies can be based both on direct nutritional interventions, such as blanket feeding distribution and free targeted cash transfers, as well as through widespread awareness campaigns for behavioural change, according to partners.

Comparison of Global Acute Malnutrition and Severe Acute Malnutrition in Chad, Mauritania and Niger in a crisis year (2012) versus a non-crisis year (2011) (in %)



Children 6-59 months of age, assessed by WHO 2006 Growth Standards  
 Source: « Point sur la situation nutritionnelle dans la sous-région », Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 4 October 2012, ACF and UNICEF

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## Second generation of locusts may still threaten Sahel crops

A second generation of Desert Locusts is still expected to start fledging by mid-October and will continue until November in Mali, Niger and Chad, warns FAO. As vegetation dries out, hopper bands and swarms are likely to form and move out to Northwest Africa, north-west of Mauritania, as well as to Mali and Niger cropping areas, threatening to destroy the 2012 Sahel crop in November. FAO recommends that all countries remain on high alert as ecological conditions remain extremely favourable to breeding. Since July, countries have increased their control and surveillance activities and updated the Regional Action plan accordingly. This has not been possible, however, in North Mali. If conditions remain favourable for the locusts, there could be a third generation in January-February.

## New registration confirms lower number of Malian displaced

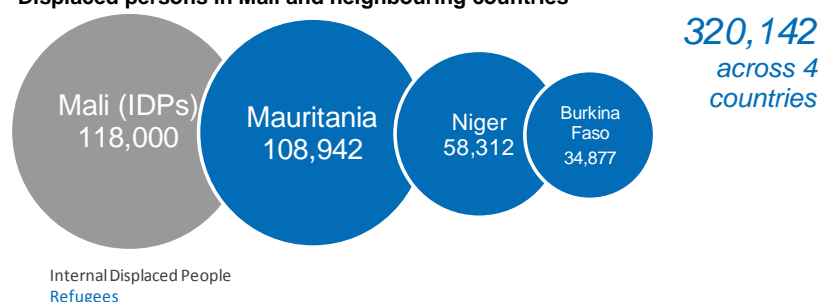
*In Burkina Faso, the sharpest reduction in figures was seen in spontaneous refugee settlements where aid agencies had been unable to gain consistent access due to the difficult terrain and the rainy season (UNHCR)*

### Sharp drop in number of displaced Malian inside Mali and Burkina Faso

New registration and verification processes of refugee and displaced numbers were carried out in September. The results of the rigorous individual and physical processing show a drop in the number of Malians displaced both within and outside Mali. The number of displaced Malians now totals 320,000, against previous estimates of 450,000 in August. In Burkina Faso, a new complete 'Level 2' registration exercise carried by UNHCR, the Government and several humanitarian partners confirmed a total of 34,877 Malian refugees; a reduction from an estimated 107,000 people. According to UNHCR, the sharpest reduction in figures was seen in the spontaneous refugee settlements of the North of the country where, because of the difficult terrain and the rainy season, UNHCR

and other aid agencies had been unable to gain consistent access or to establish a constant and sustainable operational presence.

Displaced persons in Mali and neighbouring countries



UNHCR is also carrying out 'Level 2' registration in

Mauritania refugee camps. Results from this are expected to be validated in October. A similar exercise will also be launched in Niger in the coming weeks. Updated refugee statistics for the whole region should be available by the end of November

### Full evaluation of IDP sites in Mali still needed

In Mali, the outcome of the recent assessment activities undertaken by IOM partner, TEMED, also reflected a much smaller number of internally displaced people, down from some 185,000 to 118,000 people. The northern regions of Kidal, Gao and Timbukou currently host 35,300 IDPs. IOM has stressed, however, that these results do not necessarily reflect full coverage of IDP settlement areas in the North and the rest of the country, notably in Sikasso, Segou, Koulikoro and Kayes.

### Ensuring shared goals and objectives in the 2013 Sahel Humanitarian Plan

Regional organisations are working with their national counterparts to support a more coordinated and harmonized approach for the humanitarian response in 2013. On 9 to 10 October, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators from the Region agreed on the guidelines for the 2013 Humanitarian Plan for the Sahel. These reinforce a common approach that includes a shared regional context and situation analysis; common regional

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*The humanitarian community supports a more coordinated and harmonized approach to planning across the Sahel*

strategic objectives; coordinated and harmonized needs assessments with agreed key performance indicators for delivery, and more systematic monitoring of the response. The guidance will serve as a document of reference for the development of humanitarian strategies in the nine Sahel countries and guide the elaboration of sector objectives at the national level based on common key performance indicators. It also seeks to back up advocacy activities for adequate funding with evidence-based information.

Strategic objectives at the regional level for the people affected by the 2012 crisis aim to ensure the restoration of their livelihoods through support to agriculture, income-generating activities, and provision of food and cash. It also includes improved access to basic social services and social protection coverage of the most vulnerable and improved nutritional status of the most vulnerable, including children. Addressing chronic level of food insecurity and malnutrition should result in the adoption of positive behaviour practice, the strengthening of preparedness activities as well as the implementation of early warning and disaster risk reduction measures. Responding effectively to the needs of the refugees and displaced people should translate into the delivery of basic assistance packages, reduction morbidity and mortality, unlimited access to and protection of people and efficient coordination of the humanitarian response across the region.

#### Guidelines for the 2013 Sahel Humanitarian Plan

Regional Goal 1	Regional Goal 2	Regional Goal 3
Households are appropriately supported to rebuild after the 2012 crisis	Chronic levels of food insecurity and malnutrition are addressed through integrated programming to build resilience	The needs of refugee, displaced people and host communities resulting from both the complex emergency in Mali and other emergencies are effectively addressed

#### UN Secretary General appoints Special Envoy for Sahel region

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed Romano Prodi as the Special Envoy for the Sahel region on 9 October. Mr Prodi is to undertake broad consultations with countries of the region and international partners on the development of a United Nations Integrated Strategy and the modalities for its implementation. The Strategy is geared towards strengthening regional and national capacities to address the underlying causes of instability in the Sahel, taking into account governance, security, human rights, development and humanitarian challenges. The Secretary General announced his intention of appointing a Special Envoy during high level event on the Sahel organised on the margins of the General Assembly in New York on 26 September. He stressed that the Sahel was at a critical juncture with combined political turmoil, extreme climatic conditions and fragile economies creating a perfect storm of vulnerability.

#### Security Council demands cessation of violation of humanitarian law in Mali

Unanimously adopting resolution 2071 on 12 October, the Security Council demanded that all armed groups in Mali cease human rights abuses and violations of humanitarian law, including targeted attacks against civilians, sexual violence, the recruitment of child soldiers and forced displacements. The 15-member body also declared its readiness to respond to Mali's request for an international military force, pending receipt of the Secretary-General's report and recommendations on the situation. It also took note of the country's requests to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for military assistance, and requested the Secretary-General immediately to provide military and security planners to assist joint ECOWAS and African Union planning efforts. It also encouraged the international community to provide support to resolve the crisis in Mali through coordinated actions for immediate and long-term needs, encompassing security, development and humanitarian issues,

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## Humanitarian partnership mission to Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso from 14-21 October

From 14 - 21 October a high level delegation of 18 members <sup>1</sup> of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), including representatives of regional organizations, financial institutions and Red Crescent Societies, is visiting Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. The Mission will help raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region and the role of the humanitarian multilateral system in support of national efforts. Organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office for the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, David Gressly, together with the OIC, the Mission includes field visits to refugee camps, food security projects, health centres for cholera treatment and flooded areas, as well as discussion with local authorities and beneficiaries. Members of the delegation will also meet with Government officials, UN representatives, and civil society in the three countries.

## Sahel response: performance indicators

### Food Assistance

August 2012

Indicator	Population targeted	Population Assisted	% Assisted vs Targeted
Conditional transfers (Food based)	282,000	53,308	(Monthly Target)
Unconditional transfers (Food based)	4,200,000	2,663,428	(Monthly Target)
Conditional transfers (Cash / Voucher based)	-	-	(Monthly Target)

### Food assistance

WFP general food and unconditional cash and voucher distributions to vulnerable households continued at the same pace during the month of August as the end of the lean season was approaching. Food assistance reached some 4.2 million people across all affected countries. This is compared to close to 4.4 million in July. In Mali, 53,000 people were reached through food-for-work activities, which will be scaled up after the harvest.

Despite a sustained response between July and August, general food distributions only reached 63 per cent of people targeted. As in July, heavy rains in August posed a logistical challenge and made certain sites difficult to reach or inaccessible in countries such as Burkina Faso and Chad. There were also delays in the arrival of certain food commodities in Niger, and pipeline breaks in food commodities in The Gambia. Where possible WFP and partners mitigated the impact of flooding through pre-positioning of stocks at alternative warehouses, setting up mobile storage units and establishing alternate access routes.

Assessments to determine levels of food insecurity are now being conducted in close collaboration with governments and partners in all the Sahel countries. This will help shape the upcoming pre-harvest response. Many of these assessments will examine the impact of the drought, prospects for the harvests, the functioning of markets and the impact of the Mali crisis. Post-distribution monitoring assessments (PDMs) are also being conducted to evaluate various activities that have been implemented so far. In Niger, PDMs on blanket feeding and cash and food-for-work activities are being finalized.

<sup>1</sup>OIC Member States: Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.  
Regional/ Inter-Governmental/ Non-Governmental Organizations and financial institutions: African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Direct Aid, International Islamic Charity Organization and OIC.  
Red Crescent Societies: United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Qatar Red Crescent, Turkish Red Crescent

## Nutrition

January - August 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Aug)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
# children 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for therapeutic care	1,094,986	1,094,867	576,750	53%	(Annual Target)
# and % of children 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition admitted for	3,006,339	-	-		(Annual Target)
Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme - malnourished women		213,284	190,554	89%	(July 2012 - Monthly Target)
Blanket Feeding in high risk areas (preventative)*		1,848,997	943,523	51%	(July 2012 - Monthly Target)
Number of health centres with nutrition programmes		2,564	4,696	183%	(Annual Target)

\* WFP Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme for children and pregnant and nursing women

## Nutrition

By the end of August, 576,750<sup>2</sup> children across the Sahel have been admitted in SAM treatment facilities supported by UNICEF (52.7% of annual target of 1.1 million). At this stage, considering SAM children admissions trends from January to August, UNICEF expects to be able to reach around 75% of the projected caseload until the end of the year. Most countries are on track with their nutrition response with the exception of Mali, Senegal, Cameroon and the Gambia, where significant efforts need to be made to improve coverage and quality of services. As in the last reporting period, there remain issues with the quality of the management of severe acute malnutrition which are being addressed through the technical assistance of international NGOs.

For its part, WFP maintained the same level of nutrition activities between August and July. It assisted around 1.4 million children and women in August for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, compared to 1.5 million in July. As in the previous month, WFP assisted more beneficiaries though blanket supplementary feeding to offset the poor availability of food on the market during the lean season.

Post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted in Niger revealed that Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates observed among beneficiaries indicates a significant improvement in their nutritional status, decreasing from 20.8% in June to 14.0% at the time of the second PDM exercise in August. Rates among assisted children no longer surpass the WHO emergency threshold of 15%. The regions of Maradi and Zinder remain of concern with rates of 16.4% and 19.8% respectively.

All countries have experienced some constraints, which have limited full implementation of activities, namely pipeline breaks of specialized nutrition products and impassable roads caused by rains.

## Agriculture

January - August 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Aug)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
Agriculture and Livestock	18,740,123	9,965,556	5,257,462	53%	(Annual Target)

## Agriculture

As of August, FAO assisted 4.6 million people<sup>3</sup>, or 53 per cent of the 9.9 million target for the year. This translates into a two per cent increase compared to July. Indicators remained relatively stable from July to August with the remaining distributions of seeds,

<sup>2</sup> Cumulative data from Jan-August 2012

<sup>3</sup> FAO data only not taking into account the Mali response of FAO and partners

fertilizes and farming tools taking place as the main planting season was drawing to a close. FAO and partners have focused on the purchase of seeds and fertilizers to prepare for the next agriculture campaign next year and the off season in October. The month of August also saw the implementation of technical training activities and agricultural monitoring programs, including culture development. Restricted access to northern Mali has limited FAO ability to monitor agriculture, livestock and food assistance activities. With only 32 per cent of the 125 million funding requirement met, some programs were limited in scope and time. For example, animal fodder distributions in Burkina Faso covered only one to two months instead of four to five months.

## WASH

January - August 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Aug)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
# of nutritional centers delivering the WASH minimum package (safe drank water with residual chlorine, disinfecting hand washing and food utensils, hygienic and secure)	3 986	3 042	811	27%	(Annual Target)
# of affected population provided with the WASH minimum package (safe water, hygiene supplies and key messages)	2 886 209	2 709 450	883 757	33%	(Annual Target)

## WASH

The 2 strategic qualitative indicators to track the implementation of the WASH minimum package in humanitarian response in the Sahel increased sensibly since the last reporting period, following some progress and nutrition data adjustments:

- 33 % of affected population were provided with the WASH minimum package (safe water, hygiene supplies and awareness messages);
- 27 % of nutritional centres were able to offer WASH minimum package (safe potable water with residual chlorine, disinfecting products for hand washing and food utensils, hygienic and secure defecation).

The regional “WASH in Nut.” strategy is a concrete integrated and equity focus tool targeting the couple “mother and malnourished child” from the health structure to the community level. The complexity of the chronic crises in the Sahel reinforces the importance of an integrated cross-sectoral response to address common humanitarian concerns in the Sahel and to ensure programmatic interventions are more strategic at country level. This approach seeks to improve the impact of the humanitarian response to cholera, floods, malnutrition, food insecurity and population displacements.

## Health

January - August 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Aug)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
Number and % of children under 5 years of age vaccinated against measles in areas with high GAM (> 10%) since January 1, 2012	1 290 074	799 866	758 391	95%	(Annual Target)
Number and % of children under 5 severely malnourished (SAM) with medical complications admitted to the hospital for appropriated care	2 132 749	577 727	110 706	19%	(Annual Target)

## Health

Countries affected by the food and nutrition crisis are reporting an increasing number of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Assessments also show that the

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prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in food insecure districts is often above 15%. Between 5 to 10% of these children are expected to suffer from medical complications.

Poor living conditions, high malnutrition prevalence and low immunization coverage in a context of fragile health systems increase the risk of transmission of on-going disease outbreaks of measles, cholera, meningitis and Lassa fever in displacement areas in Mali and neighbouring countries. Health partners, NGOs and volunteers coordinated by WHO, are providing health services through the Mali medical Association and MoH.

## Funding status

The Sahel food security and nutrition crisis has received an additional \$47 million compared to the last reporting period, bringing its overall funding to \$971, or 59% of funding requirement. Approximately US\$277 million of non-appeal funding remain potentially available. Current pledges amount to \$11.6 million.

REQUIREMENT	1 651 million
FUNDING	971 million
UNMET REQUIREMENT	679 million

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