



WFP

Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

# FOOD SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

West Africa  
Issue 2, May 2021

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## Context

Over **31 million people are projected to be in acute need of food** assistance this coming season (June to August 2021), a 28 per cent increase from the same period last year.[1] Of this, over 5.4 million are children suffering from acute malnutrition within the Sahel. This is a 20 per cent increase in a year, or since before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Child malnutrition is likely to increase as food insecurity rises in the upcoming lean season this year.[2]

The key drivers of acute food insecurity are a complex **mixture of chronic poverty, worsening violence and conflict fuelling displacement and hikes in food prices, and an overall weakened regional macro-economic foundation due to the COVID-19** restrictions from last year. Within this context, a second wave of COVID-19 has hit the region, further hindering recovering.

Despite this seemingly dire picture, **there are positive projections for 2021.** Especially with the development of vaccines, many countries are beginning to ease restrictions, which will benefit the region through the resumption of trade and tourism. Forecasts point towards an economic recovery, with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for West Africa expected to grow by 2.8 per cent in 2021 and 3.9 per cent in 2022, as lockdowns cease and prices stabilise.[3] In addition, West Africa had ample rain last year and normal to above-average rainfall is projected for 2021. There are even projections for a surplus of food for the region this year.[4] Yet the availability of sufficient food doesn't always equate to food security; access is equally critical, both economically and physical. This document analyzes these patterns of food supply and access and highlights the nature and drivers that underpin rising food insecurity trends in the region.

As economies begin to recover, the most vulnerable - those who have been pushed further into poverty and food insecurity due to the pandemic - will need sustained and concentrated support. World Food Programme's Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM)[5] Unit has developed new tools and analyses to inform operational and policy decision-making within this new context where needs are increasing, resources are limited, and conflict is making access more difficult.

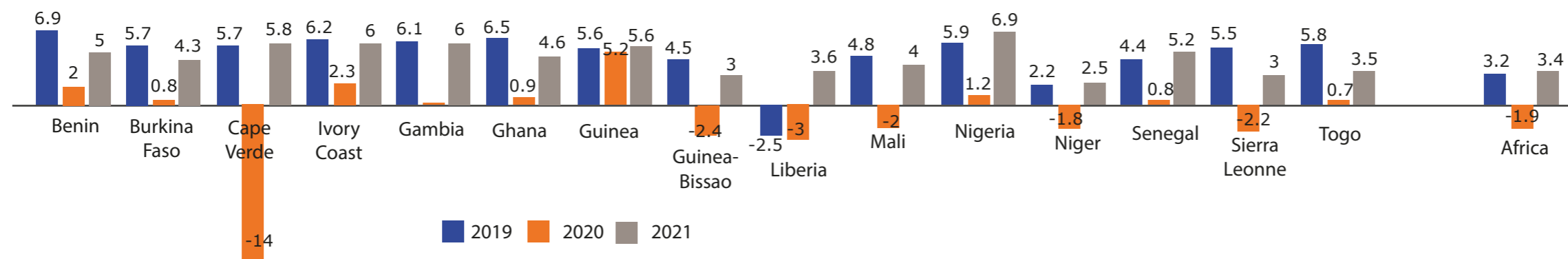
In conflict-affected areas, where physical access is constrained, analysis of satellite imagery helps WFP and partners to get a more accurate picture of the impact of insecurity on agricultural production. These analyses help inform needs assessments done by governments and humanitarian partners in the region - see page 9 for more details.

Similarly, a hotspot analysis undertaken by WFP and UNICEF has identified priority areas for food security and nutrition interventions based on the Cadre Harmonise (CH)/Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, as well as other information such as nutrition surveys and numbers of food insecure populations (i.e. populations in CH Phase 3 or higher), as well as the number of internally displaced populations (IDPs) and conflict data - see page 12 for more details.

# COVID-19 has weakened the macro-economic foundations of the region

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions that followed, preceded by the **worst global recession experienced in over a century**, has left the economic foundations of West Africa weakened. The region is expected to begin recovery in 2021 (Figure 1), albeit slowly, hindered by low vaccine access [6] and limited fiscal buffers in the current high-risk debt distress context.[7] With export and commodity prices rising, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that real GDP growth in West Africa slowed to 0.7 percent in 2020, down from 3.5 percent in 2019. The worst economic downturns in West Africa are noted in Cape Verde, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Mali, and Nigeria (Figure 1).[8]

**Figure 1: Economic Growths across West Africa, 2019–2021 (In %)**



Many countries (such as Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger) were already experiencing price hikes and high food insecurity levels in 2020, when COVID-19 sent shockwaves on price surges, largely stemming from the restrictions imposed in the region on movement of people and goods and border closures.[9]

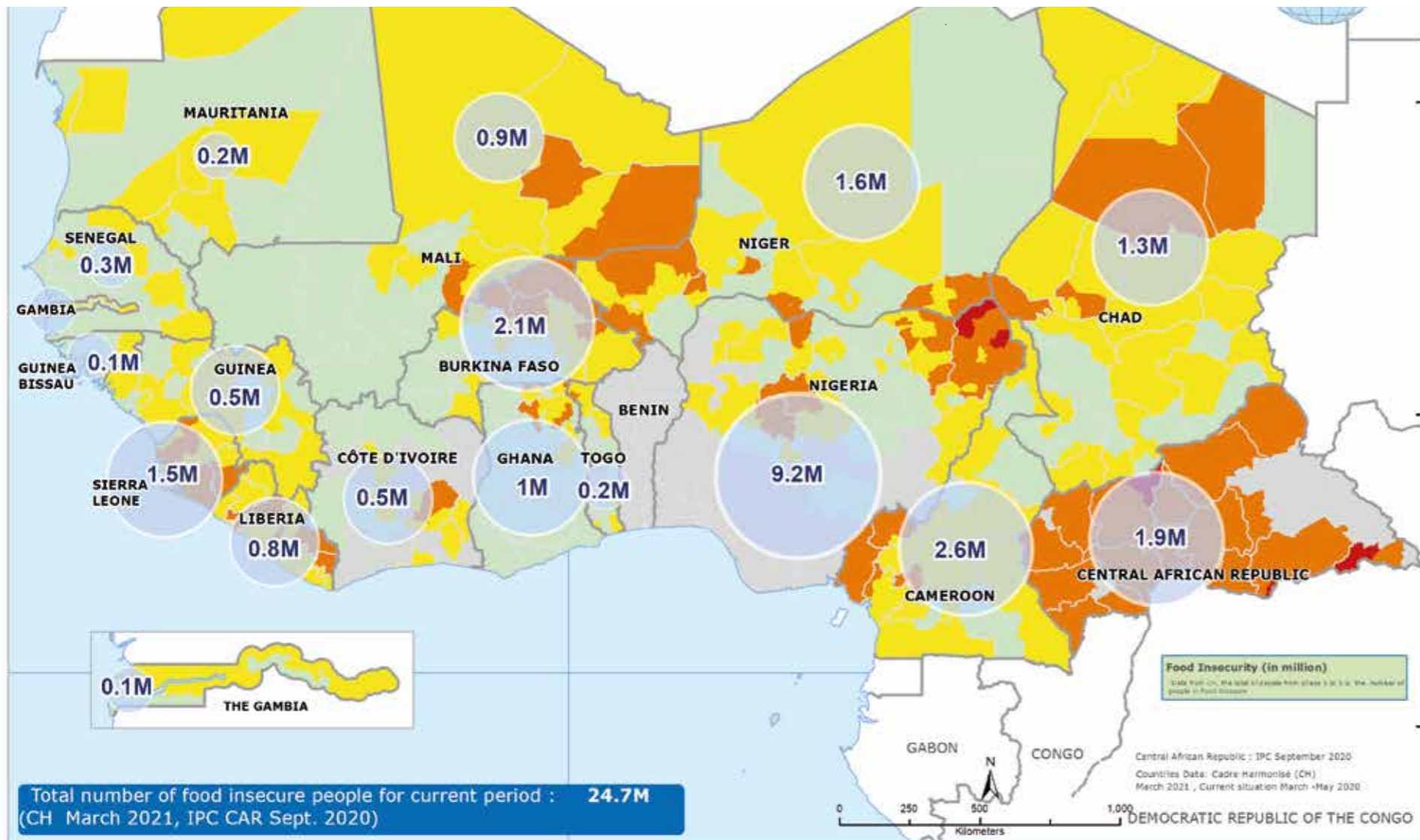
By 2021, inflation has skyrocketed in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, at 91 percent and 133 percent, respectively, compared to 2015. Similar peaks in the prices of basic cereals have also been observed in parts of Benin, Ghana and Chad. On average, prices have risen in almost all countries in West Africa. The most impacted countries that have seen a drastic price surges include Nigeria (73 percent), Ghana (44 percent), Senegal (23 percent), Mauritania (20 percent) and Burkina Faso (17 percent) [10] - (see Figure 8). This trend is making food less affordable, especially for those already struggling to cope, and the upcoming lean season (June to August) will further strain local resources as unskilled jobs will become more scarce.

The second wave of COVID-19 has not led to as many restrictions as the first wave, predominantly because governments recognise that the impact of the restrictions came at the expense of economic activity, and the fact that infection rates have been lower in West Africa, compared to global averages. Nonetheless, the second wave will hinder recovery, as COVID-19 will continue to hamper economic growth in West Africa, **with rates of vaccinations well below 2 percent, compared to almost 32 percent in Europe**. Within the Sahel region and where data is available, the share of the total population that received at least one vaccine dose varies from 0.24 percent in Cameroon to around 3 percent in Senegal.[11]

During the upcoming lean season (June-August 2021), the follow areas are of the most concern:

- Nigeria** – Northern Nigeria is one step away from famine and is projected to almost double CH Phase 4 population in coming months. Almost **13 million people are projected to face food insecurity** during the lean season, 48 percent increase since 2020.
- Central Sahel** – **6.5 million people are projected to face food insecurity** during the lean season, which is close to 10 percent of the population. Violence and access challenges are likely to continue.
- CAR** – September 2020 IPC already projected close to half of the population to be at IPC phase 3 and above during 2021 lean season. Since then, violence has led to new displacements and affected markets and supply corridors, likely further worsening the food security status. There may be further tension during upcoming legislative elections.
- Chad** – The **number of food insecurity increased by over 40 percent compared to last year**, driven by low availability and pasture for livestock. Ongoing political situation may further exacerbate the food insecurity.
- Liberia and Sierra Leone** – food insecurity is projected to increase drastically due to price hikes and economic difficulties; **15% of the population in Liberia and 23 percent in Sierra Leone will be food insecure this summer**, versus 1-2 percent in 2019.

Figure 3: Map of CH Food Insecurity Levels (Jan-May 2021)



Date Created: 01/04/2021  
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 Website: www.wfp.org  
 Prepared by: VAN, RDD  
 Map Reference: WFP, CH March 2021, IPC Sept. 2020, WFP/AC

CH/IPC Food Security Phase classification

- Not Analyzed
- Minimal
- Crisis
- Under Pressure
- Emergency
- Famine

Number of people in Food insecure (M : million)

- International Boundary
- Admin Level 1 Boundary

Data source: WFP (UNZWC), GeoName, CIA.

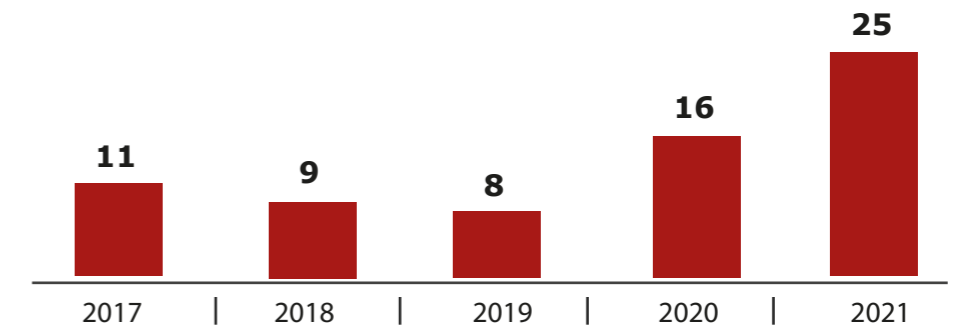
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

# Food needs are on the rise

Food Insecurity in 2020:[12]

The largest increase in food insecurity was seen in the region last year, increasing by 100 percent in one year; largely fuelled by the shock of COVID-19. For a detailed overview of the impact of the first wave of COVID-19, see issue 1 of the Food Security Highlights. By May 2021, the needs have risen further to 24 million food insecure people, up from 16 million people (or an increase of over 50 percent) from the same period last year - see Figure 2.

Figure 2: CH Food Insecurity Trend (Jan-May) in million



Current Levels of Food Insecurity (Jan-May 2021): [13]

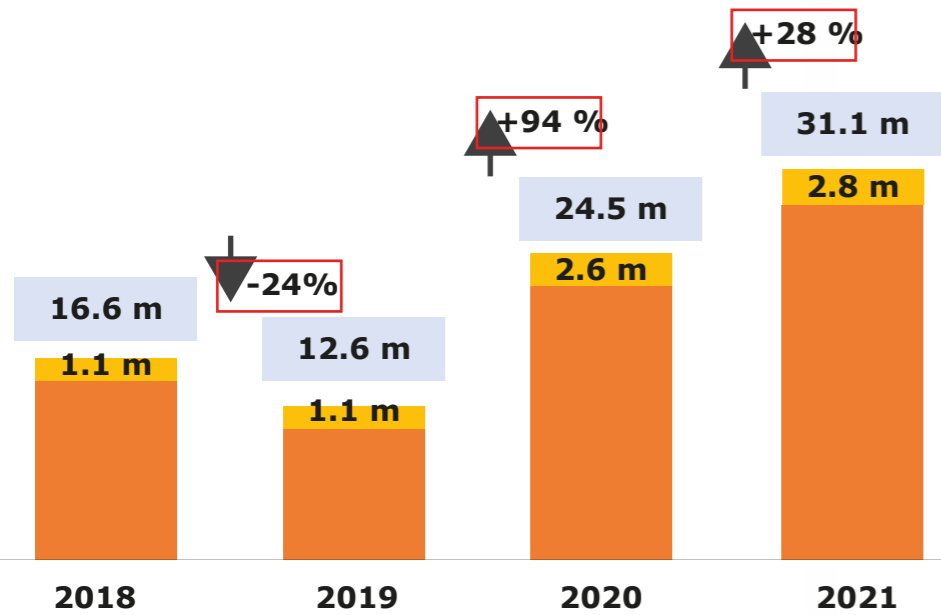
The current continued upward trend of food needs is indicative that the weakened foundations from the COVID-19 shock continue to hinder recovery and undermine food insecurity. The **highest number of needs are in countries grappling with multiple shocks**; of COVID-19 coupled with high inflation rates and prices (see Figure 7) and active and escalating conflict, such as in Nigeria, which currently has over 9 million people in need of urgent food. Similar trends are seen in other conflict-inflicted countries such as Cameroon (2.6 million), Central African Republic (CAR) (1.9 million), Burkina Faso (2.1 million), Niger (1.6 million) and Sierra Leone (1.5 million) - See Figure 3.

**Projected Levels of Food Insecurity in the Lean Season (June-August 2021):** [14]

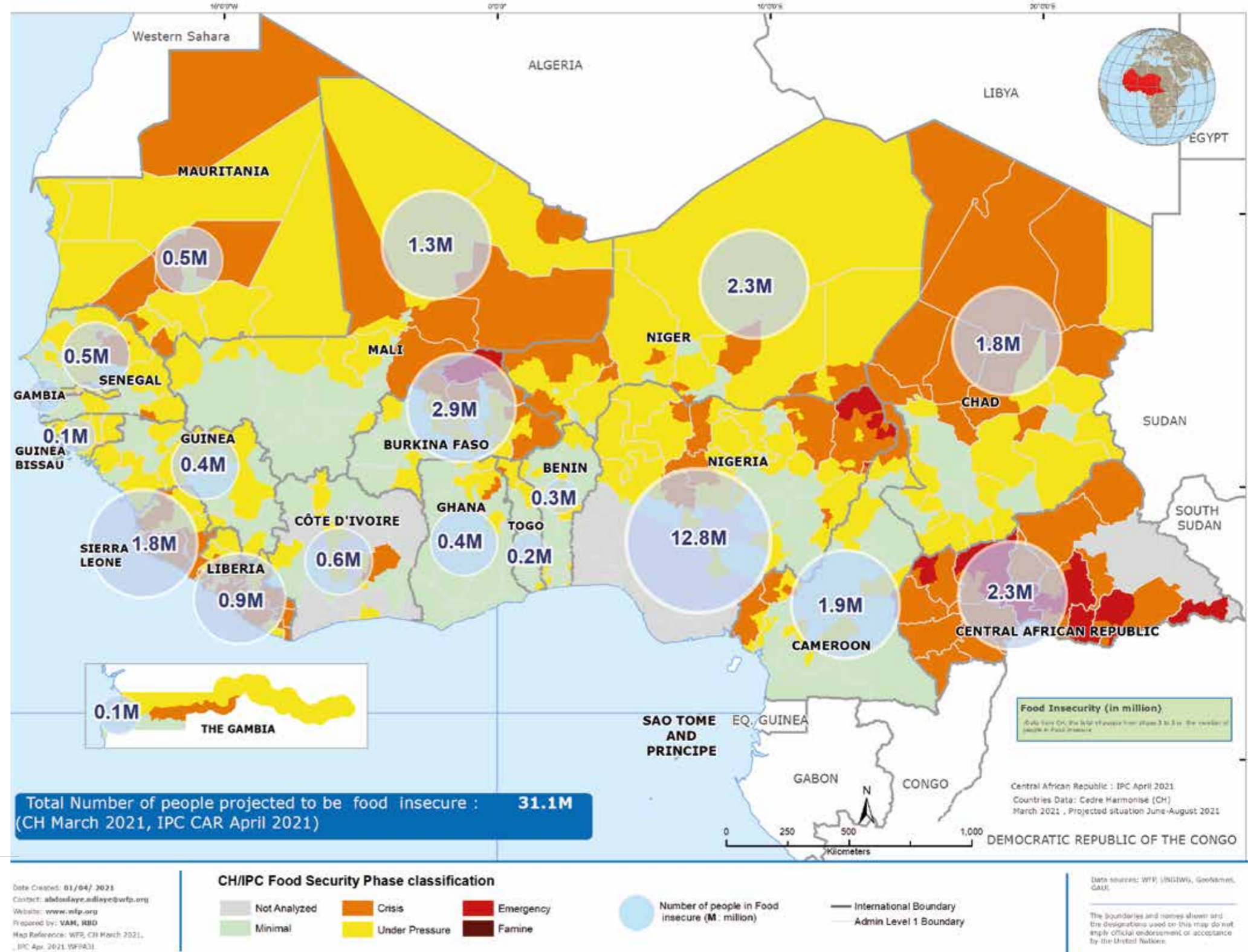
Without concentrated and increased support, **the number of food insecurity is projected to shoot up to 31 million during the upcoming lean season (June to Aug); which is a 28 percent increase compared to the same period from 2020.**[13] It is important to note that the lean season is a critically vulnerable time for agriculture and pastoral-based economies, as the period precedes the main harvest in most countries, when food prices tend to be high, and unskilled jobs are more scarce due to no harvesting work. This year, most vulnerable communities in the region will be facing food price hikes well above 15 percent - See Figure 8.

The **population projected to be at the emergency level food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), has more than doubled since 2019 (from 1 million to 2.7 million).**

**Figure 4: CH Food Insecurity Projected Trend (June-Aug)**



**Figure 5: Map of CH Food Insecurity Projections (June-Aug 2021)**

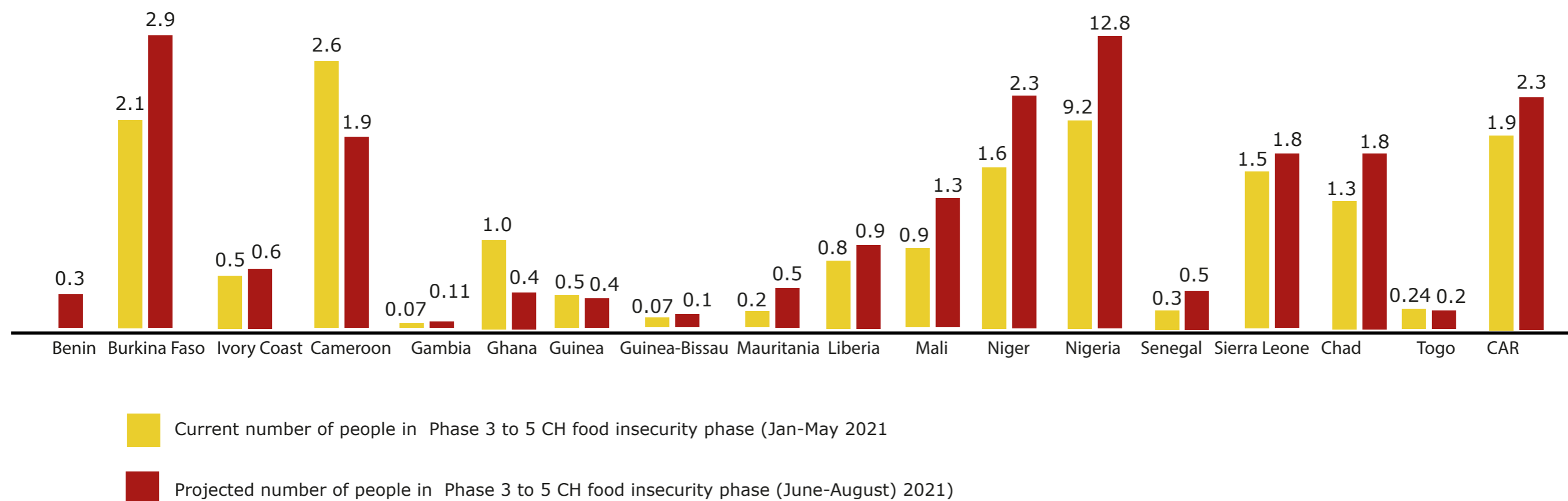


**Nigeria will see an increase of over 40 percent to almost 13 million people during the lean season.** Similarly, the same countries with the highest needs currently are expected to have high projected needs by the end of this year, such as Burkina Faso (2.9 million), CAR (2.3 million), Niger (2.3 million), Sierra Leone (1.8 million) and Chad (1.8 million). It should be noted that this group of countries are those impacted by high negative growth in 2020 (Figure 1), high inflation and food prices (Figure 7) and high concentration of IDPs and refugees (Figure 9) thus have deeper economic scars, that would logically take longer to bounce back from.

Whereas, Cameroon and Ghana are expected to see a decrease in food insecurity levels, albeit slightly, which in part could be due to the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions, which is seeing businesses opening again and incomes recovering. In Cameroon, much of the needs are driven by the conflict in North-western and South-western West, which is predominantly a commerce-dominant area, and thus less impacted by the agriculture seasons.

Despite the overall numbers remaining low compared to the other countries in the region, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau are expected to see an almost doubling of the number of food insecure people during the upcoming lean season (June-August 2021) to 0.5, 0.5, 0.1 and 0.1 million respectively.

**Figure 6. Current and Projected Changes in Food Insecurity Levels by Country in 2021 (in million & % of change)**





**What is driving food insecurity?**

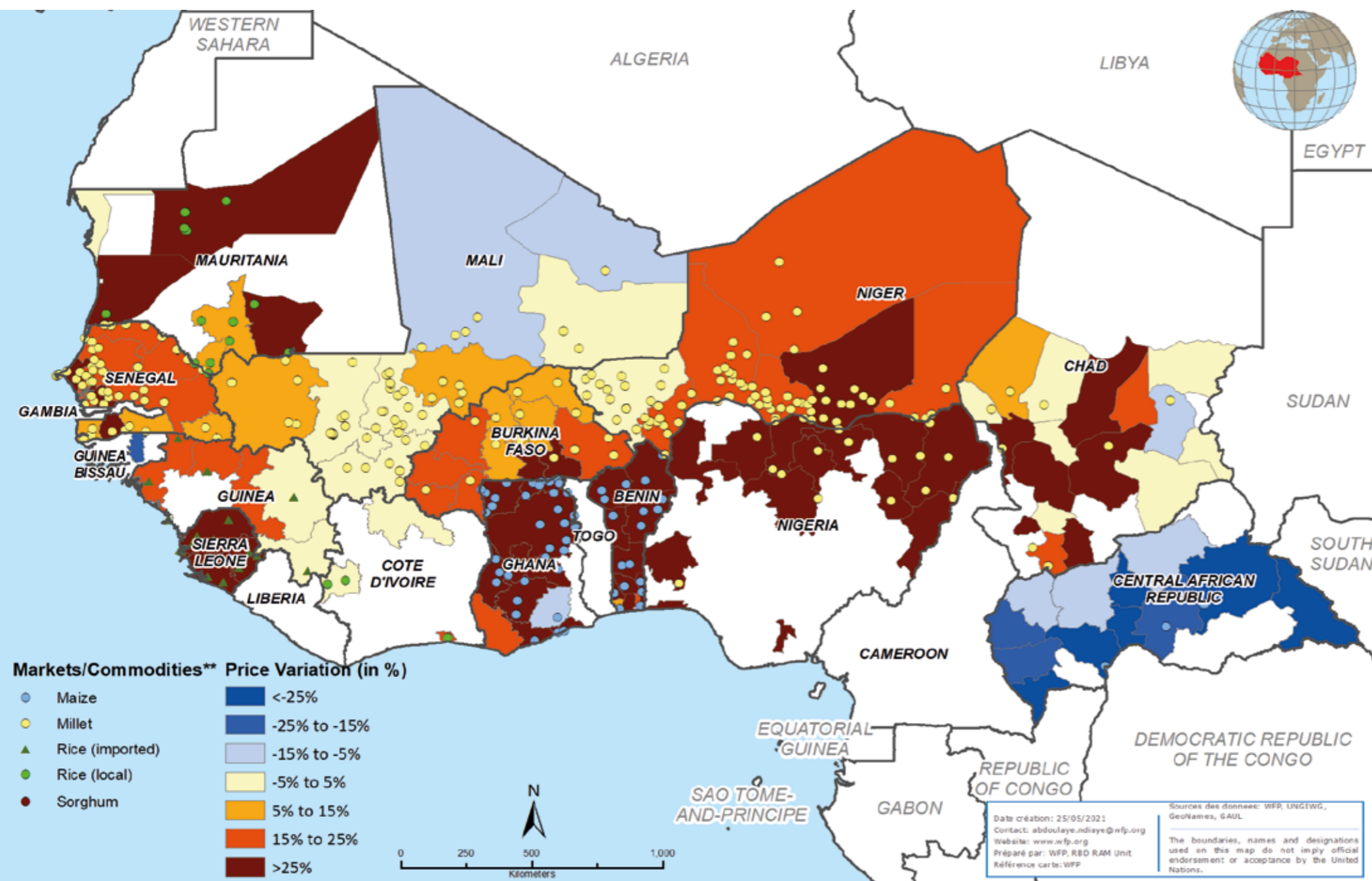


To understand the current rise in food insecurity levels, it is important to note that at baseline, West Africa (pre-COVID) was already dealing with significant challenges of chronic poverty, and man-made and natural disasters. The COVID-19 restrictions in the region, coupled with the domino effect of global economics dealing with the pandemic, has led to incomes being reduced, and prices rising, thus pushing more people into food insecurity levels. Exacerbating the fragile situation, is the continuation and worsening of conflict and displacement.

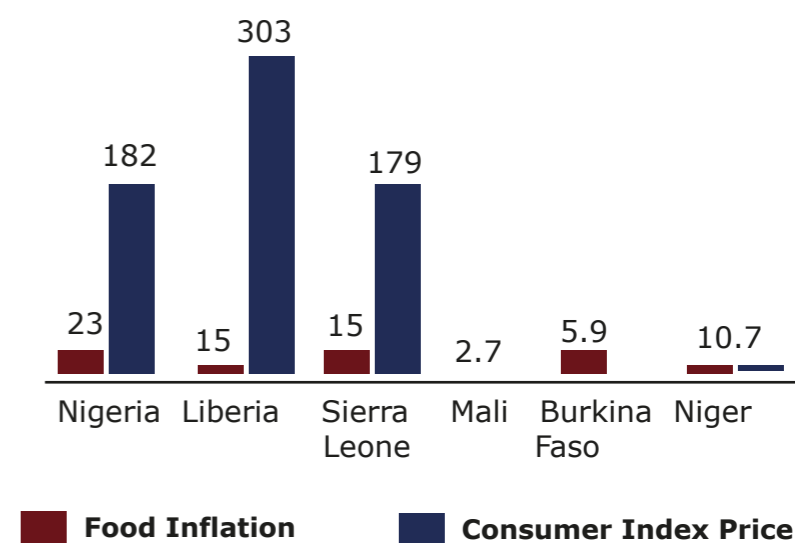
Ample rains in the latter part of 2020 have meant that the West Africa region had an impressive agriculture and pastoral year. Cereal production increased by 9 percent to around 74 million tonnes in 2021 (compared to a five-year average). Yet, this overall increase is an average that also includes deficits in production in the main food belts of the region, namely of -8 percent in both Ivory Coast and Nigeria and Guinea (-2 percent), which would impact production deficit areas in the Sahel. [15-17]

Despite higher overall local food production, West Africa still relies on food imports to meet the full demand, which accounts for 30 percent of the local cereal needs. This makes the region vulnerable to international price changes, and even more vulnerable, considering many currencies in the region have seen a large depreciation against the US dollar in 2021. Nigerian Naira was the most impacted at 5.4 percent; after devaluing twice in 2020.[18]

**Figure 8: March 2021 vs. Five-Year Average Price Comparison (in %)**



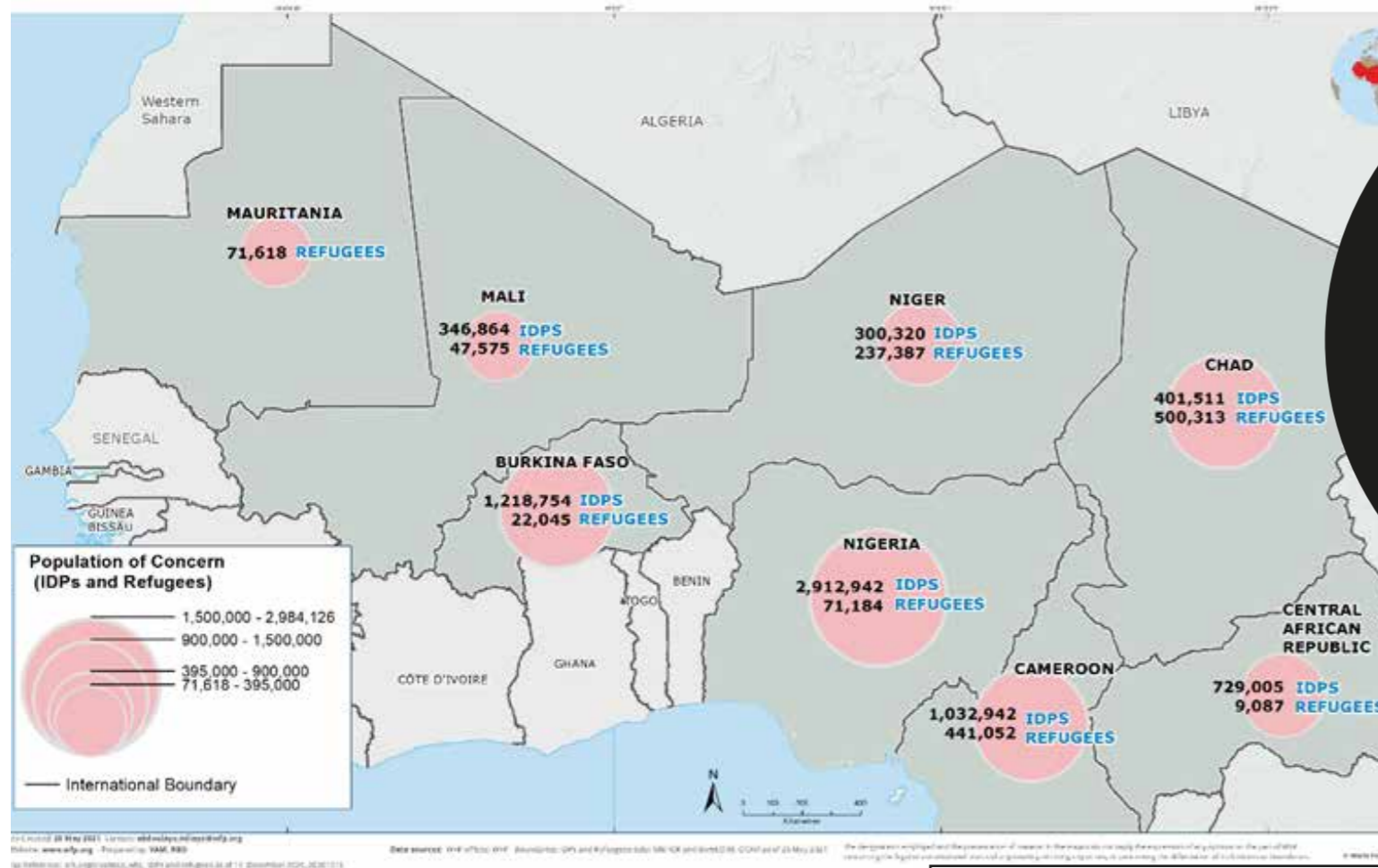
**Figure 7: Consumer Index Price & Food Inflation (%)**



Measurably high inflation rates make access to food even more difficult. **Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria are the most impacted countries in the region, with inflation rates of 303, 179 and 182 percent** respectively. Similar trends are noted along “food” inflation rates too. WFP, for example has reported alert or crisis level price hikes in over half of the 1,000 + markets monitored in the region.[19] Food prices are well above 15 percent higher than the five-year average in April 2021 – see Figure 8. This is alarming, given even a slight price hike of 5 percent can have far-reaching consequences for those living hand-to-mouth. [20]

One potential cause of rising food prices is instability in the region, with market and trade disruptions noted in areas with active conflict such as the Greater Lake Chad basin, the Liptako Gourma region, northwest and north-central Nigeria, and the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.[21] Non-state armed group’s control over major trade routes, lakes and rivers included, strain the movement of food goods leading to disjointed or inflated prices. In addition, conflict means people have to abandon their lands (see Figure 11 for a before and after analysis of crop-surface change and damage in areas of conflict), thus growing less food. More critically, conflict areas create bottlenecks for how efficiently food can move around, further limiting food access and pushing prices up.

Figure 9: IDPs and Refugees in West and Central Africa, May 2021 (UNHCR & OCHA)

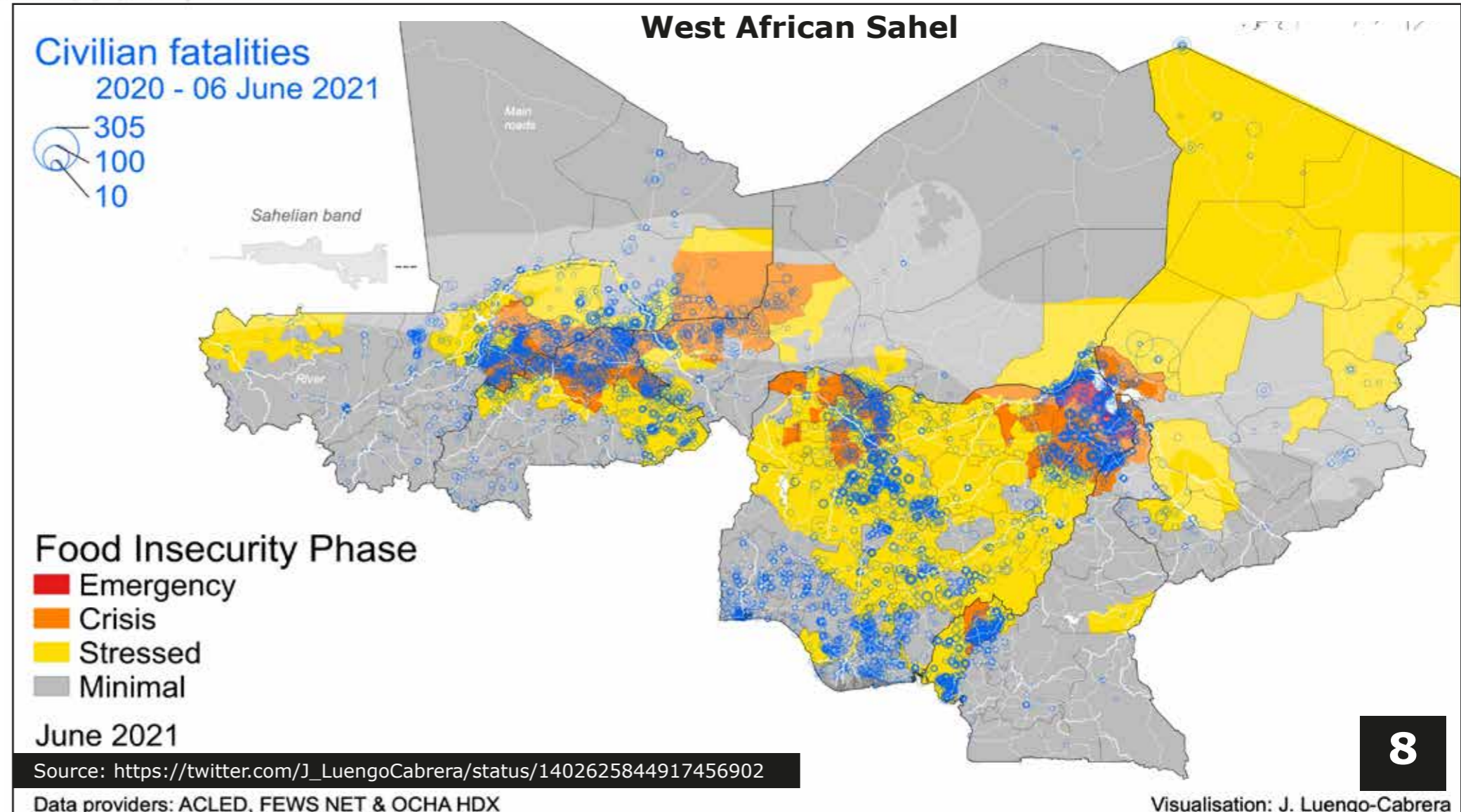


**8.3 million people of concern**  
**(7 million IDPs and 1.3 refugees)**

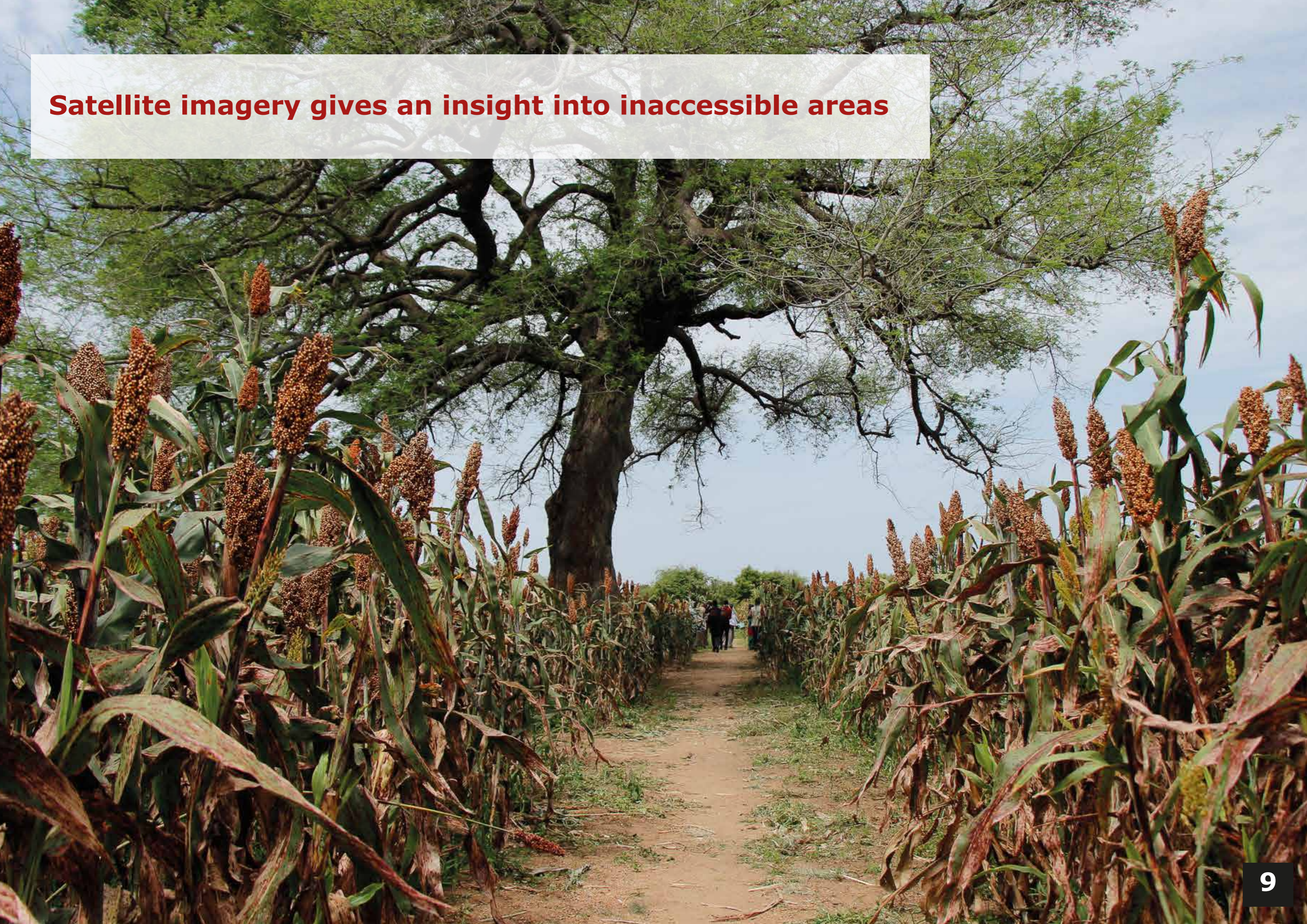
Conflict continues to underpin vulnerability and food insecurity, as around 8.3 million people have had to flee their homes or countries. Almost 7 million of these are IDPs, and 1.3 are refugees. Nigeria and Burkina Faso have the highest number of IDPs, mostly due to the chronic conflict in both countries (see Figure 9). In 2021, in Sahelian countries, there has been an increase of over 40 percent in the number of displaced persons and over 10 percent among the number of refugees in just one year.[22]

Figure 10: Civilian fatalities vs food insecurity in west Africa (WFP)

Pastoralists movements and migration patterns often get disrupted by conflict and insecurity, especially in the Liptako Gourma and Lake Chad regions, which makes pastoralists households more vulnerable to food insecurity. Further demonstrating the positive correlation between conflict and food insecurity is Figure 10, which shows a clear relationship between the concentration of civilian fatalities and the areas under "food" crisis phases.



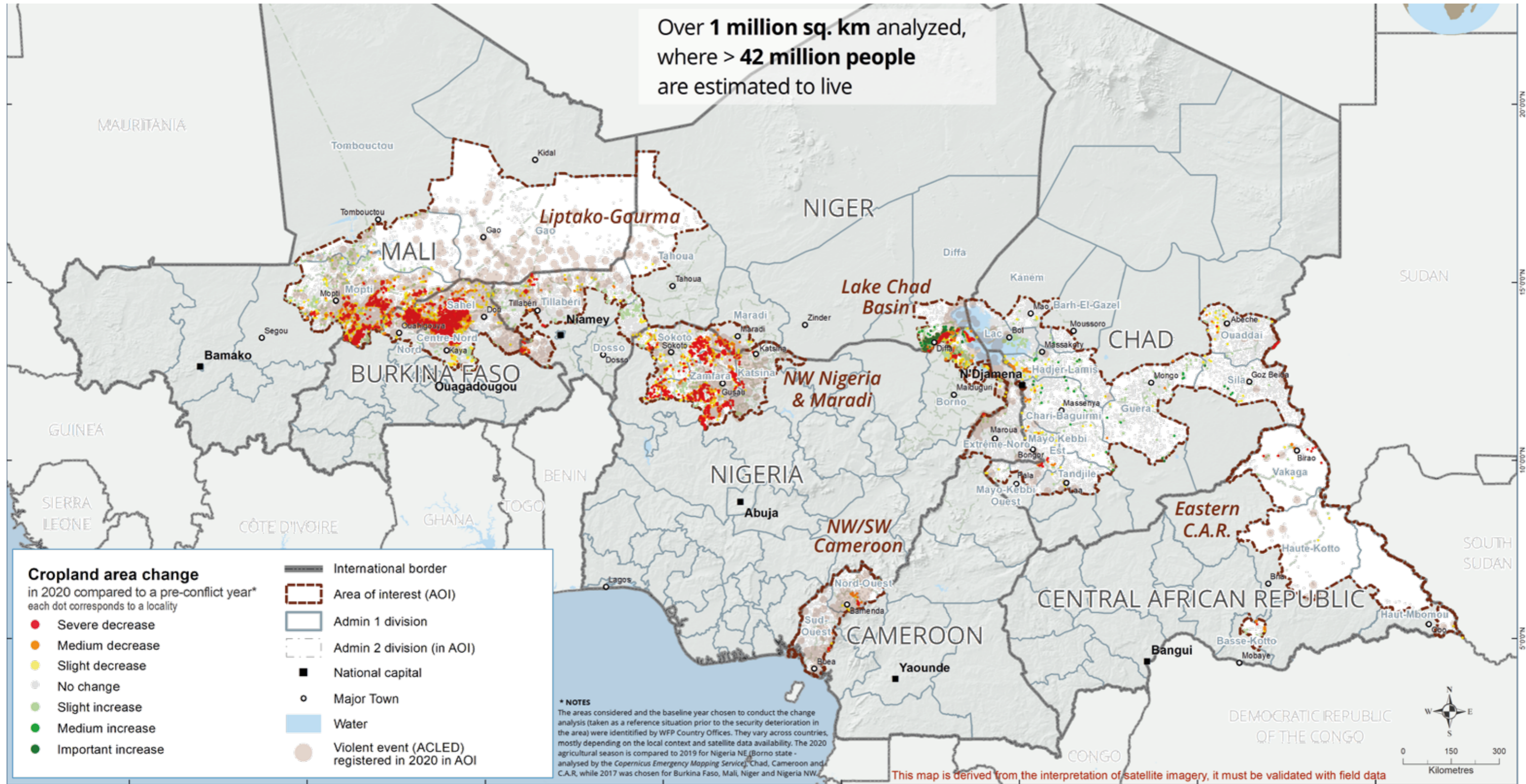
**Satellite imagery gives an insight into inaccessible areas**



The context of the security crisis in the Sahel is hampering the monitoring of the agricultural season and national food security analyses. Increasingly, some areas are hard to access due to high levels of insecurity and information gaps are ever-growing. The deteriorating security situation particularly affects the three-border area between Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, as well as the Lake Chad region but also parts of Nigeria, Chad and C.A.R.

WFP has piloted the use of high-resolution satellite imagery since late 2018 in the Sahel zone, to detect cropland changes in conflict-affected areas. The map below summarizes information derived from satellite-based analysis, showing cropland changes in hard-to-access areas of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, for the 2020 agricultural season (compared to a pre-crisis year), overlaid with ACLED data on violent events. It shall be noted that the choice of the pre-crisis year depends on the area of interest, as the local security context varies across and within countries, as well as satellite imagery availability (e.g., if the conflict started too long ago). On this map, the 2020 agricultural season is compared to 2019 for northeast Nigeria (Borno state - analysed via the JRC's Copernicus Emergency Mapping Service), Chad, Cameroon and C.A.R., while 2017 was chosen as baseline year for Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and northwest Nigeria.

**Figure 11: Cropland change and violent events in 2020, in hard-to-reach areas in West and Central Africa, WFP**



In total, over 1 million square kilometres were analysed, where more than 42 million people are estimated to live, according to georeferenced population datasets. [23]

The three-border areas between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso (Liptako-Gourma) and northwest Nigeria are the most affected areas. The security context deteriorated very abruptly in the past few years in those areas, while other areas endure older longstanding conflicts that may have a less neat impact on recent cropland patterns. Furthermore, areas such as eastern C.A.R. or northwest/southwest Cameroon generally have little agricultural activities, making change detection less relevant to interpret. Where there is red or orange on the map (severe, medium cropland losses), there are significant cropland abandonment in 2020, a likely consequence of rising levels of violence in the area; but note that the opposite is not necessarily true.

The analysis shows that the areas most affected by the cropland abandonment highly depends on the country and its specific context (security, livelihoods, geography, etc.):

**Burkina Faso** – in the provinces of Soum, Loroum and Sanmatenga, and to a lesser extent in the province of Bam, a sharp decline in agricultural activity in 2020 is visible over a very large area straddling these four provinces - this mostly corresponds to a total abandonment of croplands (and in many cases, of villages too), due to the security crisis that hit this region in 2019.

**Mali** – the most affected areas are located in the cercles of Bankass and Koro, as well as in the south of Bandiagara and east of Douentza; intercommunal tensions leading to population displacements but also movement restrictions imposed on communities in their villages are the main cause of such significant reductions in cultivated areas. Settlement damage was also detected in more than 120 villages located east of Mopti.

**Niger** – a total abandonment of cultivated fields and villages was detected in the Diffa region between the National Road 1 and Komadugu river, at the border with Nigeria. Concurrently, new cultivated areas are visible on the other side of the road, to which many communities have moved because it is considered safer. A few localised areas in western Niger were also impacted by cropland reductions, more specifically in Maradi at the border with NW Nigeria and in the three-border area, close to Mali and Burkina Faso.

**Nigeria** – For northeast Nigeria, few changes were observed in most of the area of interest, and they are predominantly cropland increases; however, some cropland loss could be detected in localised areas. The conflict having started more than ten years ago, most of cropland abandonment occurred before in that area. In northwest Nigeria, on the contrary, several LGAs of Zamfara and Sokoto states were heavily affected by cropland abandonment in 2020, in comparison to 2017, most probably due to population displacements or movement restrictions. Most localities impacted by severe cropland loss are situated far from urbanized areas and more specifically concentrated close to forests. In addition to cropland losses, important settlement damage was detected in more than 80 villages, most of which occurred between 2019 and 2020.

**Chad** – few significant changes in terms of cultivated areas were detected in the provinces analysed. In the Lac region, where the security context is of particular concern, the impact on land use appears to be minimal between 2019 and 2020. This can be partly explained by the fact that this region cultivates relatively little. In the southern part of the Lac region, new cultivated lands could be detected in many localities. In the regions of Mayo-Kebbi Est (provinces of Mont Illi and Mayo Boneye), Ouaddai (province of Ouara) and Hadjer-Lamis (province of Haraze-Al-Biar), significant losses of cropland were observed in a few localities.

**Cameroon** – overall, there is little agricultural change, except for a few localised areas affected by significant reductions south of Kupe-Manenguba (South West), Boyo and Ngo-Ketunjia (North West) and Mayo-Sava, at the Nigerian border (Far North). Such reductions are located in areas where violent events were recorded in 2020 (source: ACLED). That being said, the NWSW regions show little to no cultivated areas on satellite images, either recent or archive ones.

**CAR** – few major changes in terms of cropland could be detected in 2020 compared to the previous year, except for Birao sous-préfecture, where neat cropland abandonment could be observed in proximity to the Sudanese border. It shall be noted that the scarcity of cultivated lands in CAR as well as the very low population density in the eastern part of the country lead to less visible results compared to other countries.

Indicators derived from those results were calculated at administrative levels 2 or 3, from which recommendations were proposed under the form of contributing factors (light, medium, strong), for use in the national CH analyses. Such indicators include ratios of affected localities and affected population per administrative division, by cropland change category.



**Hotspot analysis identifies prioritized areas of focus**

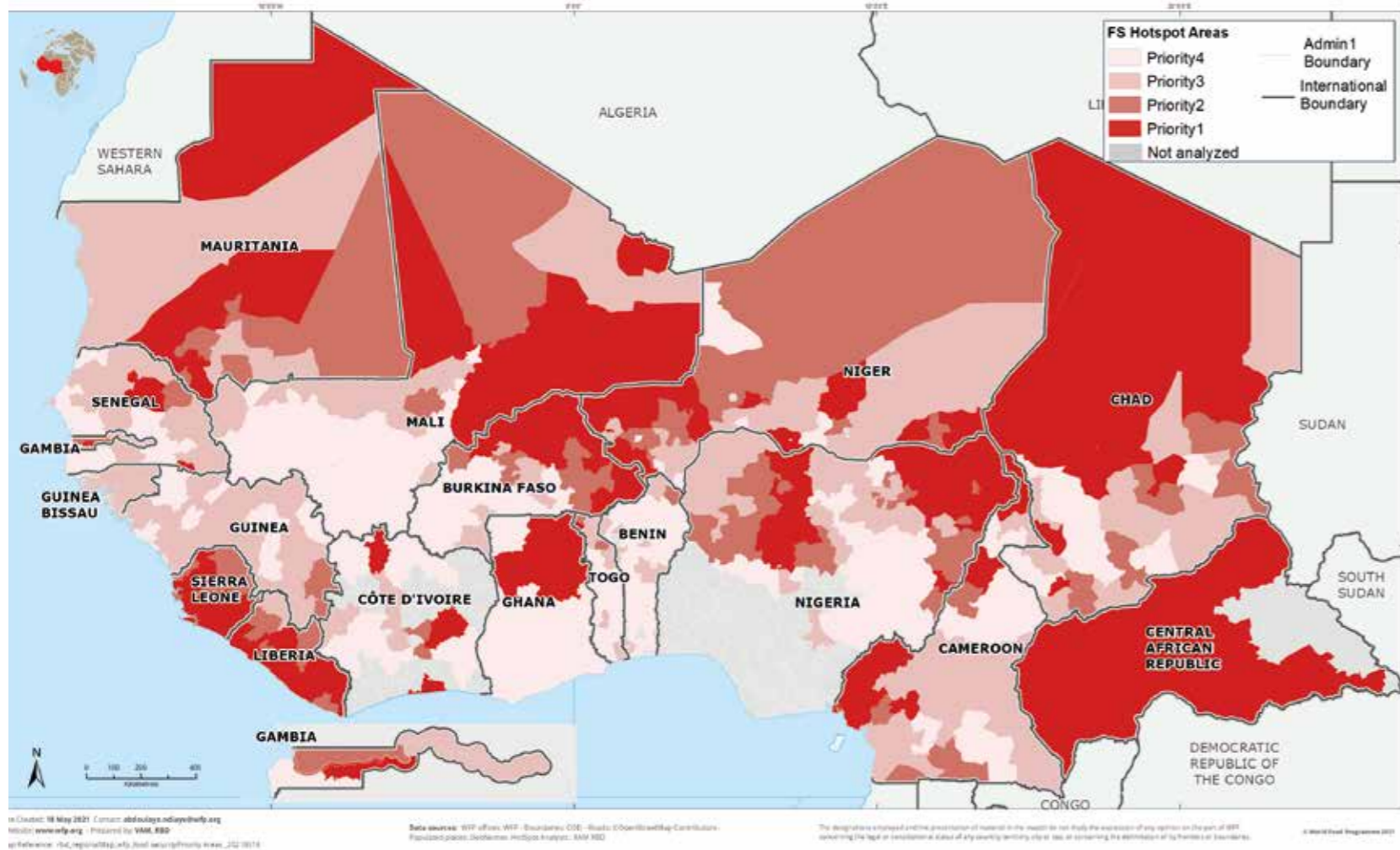
WFP, UNICEF and partners are conducting a prioritisation exercise, aimed to inform targeting of limited resources to the most vulnerable areas. These exercises aim at identifying priority areas for food security and nutrition interventions based on the CH/IPC numbers on food insecure populations (i.e. populations in CH Phase 3 or higher [24]), nutrition surveys, as well as the number of internally displaced populations (IDPs) and conflict data. Hotspots for nutrition interventions were identified based on a variety of indicators (e.g. stunting prevalence, Global Acute Malnutrition [GAM] rates etc.). Building on past exercises, the current analysis aims at identifying both priority areas and 'clusters' of food and nutrition insecurity hotspots which share similar characteristics in terms of food insecurity and nutrition trends, as well as underlying factors.[25]

The main results from this exercise highlight the following situation:

- Of the over 31 million food insecure people in the region, **close to 18 million live in Priority 1 areas**, i.e. districts or regions that are classified in Phase 3 or above, or where at least 20% of the population is in Phase 3 or higher, and/or with at least 5,000 people in Phase 4 or above. These Priority 1 areas are found primarily in the Central Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and North-Western Nigeria, as well as in northern Senegal and central Mauritania, in the Central African Republic, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and in parts of Cameroon (see Map 11).
- Within these Priority 1 areas, the clustering exercise described above allows to distinguish four main types of crisis (see Map 12):
  - First, areas that are experiencing by an abnormal shock and have not been affected by recurrent food insecurity over the past few years (Cluster 1). Around 2.9 million people live in these Cluster 1 areas, where a one-off seasonal distribution might be required.
  - Second, areas that have been affected by recurrent, but non-protracted, food insecurity over the past seasons (Cluster 2). In these Cluster 2 areas, food insecurity is recurrent, highlighting the need for a longer-term intervention to address immediate needs and tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity. These areas are primarily found in northern Chad, Mauritania, and parts of Sierra Leone, Liberia, central Niger, as well as in the Central Sahel. In total, around 2.6 million food insecure people live in Cluster 2 areas.
  - Third, areas that are experiencing a deterioration of food insecurity, coupled with conflict events and/or population displacements (Cluster 3). These Cluster 3 areas include a total of over 5.3 million food insecure people, and are found mainly in the Central Sahel, North-Western Nigeria, as well as in parts of northern Chad.
  - Fourth, areas that are affected by a prolonged complex crisis, with a combination of high levels of food insecurity, conflict and population displacements (Cluster 4). These areas, in which over 7 million people are currently food insecure, can be found mainly in the Central Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, as well as in CAR.



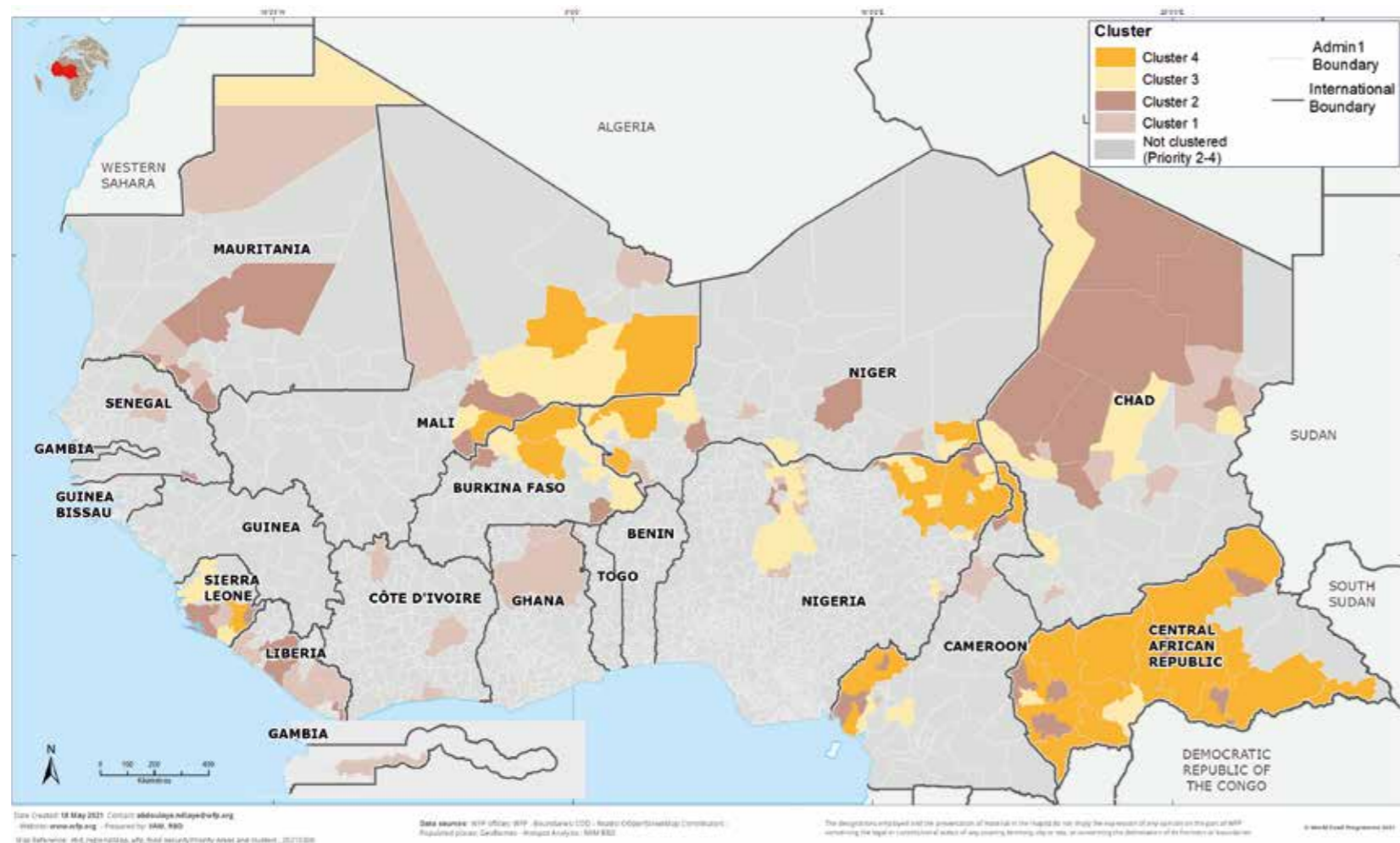
**Figure 12: Hotspot Analysis, Food Security Priority Areas in West and Central Africa**



**Table 1: Hotspot Analysis, Food Security Priority Areas in West and Central Africa**

Priority	Characteristics	Number of areas	Percentage of areas	Number of people in Phase 3-5 (Mar-May 2021)	Number of people in Phase 3-5 (Jun-Aug 2021)
Priority 1	All administrative 2 areas classified in CH Phase 3; or with $\geq 20\%$ of the population are in CH Phase 3-5; or with $\geq 5,000$ people in Phase 4 or above	280	27%	14,518,965	17,811,362
Priority 2	All remaining administrative 2 areas classified in CH Phase 2 and with 10-19.99% of the population in CH Phase 3-5	126	12%	3,512,429	4,517,713
Priority 3	All remaining CH Phase 2 admin2 areas	332	32%	4,269,402	5,811,880
Priority 4	Remaining administrative 2 areas (i.e. areas not meeting above criteria)	288	28%	2,283,830	2,866,140
<b>Total</b>		<b>1026</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24,584,626</b>	<b>31,007,095</b>

**Figure 13: Hotspot Analysis, Food Security Clusters in West and Central Africa**



**Table 2: Hotspot Analysis, Food Security Clusters in West and Central Africa**

Cluster	Characteristics	Number of areas	Percentage of areas	Number of people in Phase 3-5 (Mar-May 2021)	Number of people in Phase 3-5 (Jun-Aug 2021)
Cluster 1	Areas grouped in this cluster are expected to be primarily be affected by an abnormal seasonal shock.	49	18%	2,402,747	2,883,519
Cluster 2	Areas grouped in this cluster are expected to be primarily be affected by a recurrent seasonal shock	50	18%	2,085,700	2,604,801
Cluster 3	Areas grouped in this cluster are expected to be emerging or deteriorating insecurity hotspots.	72	26%	4,408,018	5,314,717
Cluster 4	Areas grouped in this cluster are expected to be affected by prolonged complex crises (generally linked with insecurity).	109	39%	5,622,500	7,008,325
<b>Total</b>		<b>280</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,518,965</b>	<b>17,811,362</b>



## Footnotes

- [1] The Cadre Harmonisé (CH) and IPC analysis uses 5 phases to classify food insecurity: Phase 1 (Minimal), Phase 2 (Stressed), Phase 3 (Crisis), Phase 4 (Emergency) and Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine). Food Insecurity here refers to the people who fall within Phase 3 to 5 classification, as per the CH/IPC thresholds, from 2021, CILLS. Source: Annual findings by phase and by year can be found here: [https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/WestAfricaFoodSecurityTrends\\_Adm0/RBDFoodSecurityTrends?:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/WestAfricaFoodSecurityTrends_Adm0/RBDFoodSecurityTrends?:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y)
- [2] In the Sahel region across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, which were already stricken with food insecurity and malnutrition. UNICEF. Source: [https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/west-and-central-africa-more-15-million-cases-acute-malnutrition-expected-2020#\\_ftn1](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/west-and-central-africa-more-15-million-cases-acute-malnutrition-expected-2020#_ftn1)
- [3] Growth is projected to recover to 3.2 percent in 2021 and 4 percent in 2022 in Central Africa. Source: Africa's Growth Performance and Outlook amid COVID-19 Pandemic. Link: [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2021/03/09/aeo\\_2021\\_-\\_chap1\\_-\\_en.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2021/03/09/aeo_2021_-_chap1_-_en.pdf)
- [4] Concertation technique du DISPOSITIF RÉGIONAL DE PRÉVENTION ET DE GESTION DES CRISES ALIMENTAIRES (PREGEC). 1st April 2021.
- [5] The RAM Unit is a result of a merger between the previously known Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) and the Monitoring Units, which took place in January 2021.
- [6] Within the ECOWAS Region, including in the Sahel, the percentage of people with at least one dose is under 5.0%. Source: Source: ECA SRO-WA using data from Our World in Data at end-May 2021.
- [7] The latest IMF-World Bank debt sustainability framework for low-income countries reports a risk of overall debt distress in Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, and Mauritania whereas the risk is moderate in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. <https://www.imf.org/en/publications/reo?sortBy=Date&series=Sub-Saharan%20Africa&year=2021>
- [8] Source: ECA SRO-WA using IMF April 2021 SSA REO data.
- [9] International Monetary Fund (IMF). 2020."Food Markets During COVID-19," IMF Special Series on COVID-19, Washington, DC, June
- [10] CAR, Chad and Guinea-Bissau saw a decrease in prices in April 2021, compared to five-year averages of -18, -10 and - 6 percent respectively. Data as of April 2021, compared to five-year average. Source: Dataviz, WFP price monitoring.
- [11] Source: ECA SRO-WA using data from Our World in Data at end-May 2021.
- [12] Ibid 1.
- [13] Ibid 1.
- [14] Ibid 1.
- [15] Estimates from : CILSS. Production agricole de la campagne 2020/2021, situation définitive.
- [16] WFP, FAO and FEWSNET, March 2021. West and Central Africa. Market situation in 2020 and 2021 outlooks
- [17] FEWSNET, April 2021. Price Watch - March 2021 Prices
- [18] According to the DataViz Currency Changes & Hotspots16, in April 2021 the Ghanaian Cedi depreciated by 0.8%, the Nigerian Naira by 5.4% and the Leone of Sierra Leone by 5% year on year against the US dollar.
- [19] Other two levels are stress and normal.
- [20] Prices increase compared to five-year average by April 2021: Nigeria (73 %), Ghana (44 %), Senegal (23 %), Benin (36%), Mauritania (20 %), Burkina Faso (17 %), Guinea (15 %), Gambia (12 %) and Ivory Coast (2 %). Countries that have seen a decrease in prices for the same period include: CAR (-18 %), Chad (-10 %) and Guinea-Bissau (-6 %). Source: Dataviz, WFP price monitoring.
- [21] FEWSNET, April 2021. Price Watch - March 2021 Prices
- [22] IDPs increased from 1.6 to 2.3 million and refugees increased from 0.808 to 0.895 million between May 2020 and May 2021 in the Sahel (Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania (just for refugees)). UNHCR and IOM. Source: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/sahelcrisis>
- [23] Source: High Resolution Population Density maps, © CIESIN/Facebook.
- [24] Ibid 1.
- [25] Prioritisation of hotspot areas: To ensure consistency with previous exercises, the following methodology was used to determine the priority of each analysed area:
- Priority 1: all administrative 2 areas classified in CH Phase 3; or with  $\geq 20\%$  of the population are in CH Phase 3-5; or with  $\geq 5,000$  people in Phase 4 or above.
  - Priority 2: all remaining administrative 2 areas classified in CH Phase 2 and with 10-19.99% of the population in CH Phase 3-5.
  - Priority 3: all remaining CH Phase 2 admin2 areas.
  - Priority 4: remaining administrative 2 areas (i.e. areas not meeting above criteria).

# Annex 1

Current Situation: March to May 2021							
Countries	Total Population Analysed	Percentage of households in each phase					Total Population in Phase 3 to 5
		Period: March - May 2021					
		Population in Phase 1	Population in Phase 2	Population in Phase 3	Population in Phase 4	Population in Phase 5	
Benin							
Burkina Faso	21,706,163	15,884,068	3,745,776	1,898,955	177,364	-	2,076,319
Cape Verde							
Ivory Coast	12,757,736	10,101,534	2,168,912	443,749	43,542	-	487,290
Cameroon	25,931,268	17,458,393	5,847,403	2,364,914	260,558	-	2,625,472
Gambia	2,455,839	2,025,124	365,305	65,410	-	-	65,410
Ghana	30,955,204	26,542,200	3,450,102	935,221	27,681	-	962,902
Guinée	11,115,573	8,235,004	2,426,628	453,942	-	-	453,942
Guinée Bissau	1,319,425	1,085,967	165,331	68,127	-	-	68,127
Mauritanie	4,271,197	3,333,129	721,234	216,834	-	-	216,834
Liberia	4,714,178	2,541,792	1,399,513	672,602	100,272	-	772,873
Mali	21,112,001	16,988,771	3,256,239	837,144	29,847	-	866,990
Niger	22,752,775	16,695,949	4,435,613	1,519,342	101,871	-	1,621,213
Nigeria	99,161,438	66,919,551	23,045,764	8,702,777	493,345	-	9,196,122
Senega	17,215,426	14,514,144	2,403,220	294,266	3,797	-	298,063
Sierra Leone	8,100,318	4,195,687	2,403,510	1,501,121	-	-	1,501,121
Chad	15,375,866	11,416,303	2,683,372	1,180,175	96,016	-	1,276,191
Togo	5,932,378	4,684,375	1,010,070	236,420	1,514	-	237,934
<b>Total Regiona (CH)</b>	<b>304,876,785</b>	<b>222,621,992</b>	<b>59,527,990</b>	<b>21,390,998</b>	<b>1,335,806</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,726,804</b>
C.A.R (IPC - not CH)	4,744,003	1,058,611	1,756,783	1,520,734	407,877	-	1,928,608
<b>Total Region (RBD)</b>	<b>309,620,788</b>	<b>223,680,603</b>	<b>61,284,773</b>	<b>22,911,732</b>	<b>1,743,683</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,655,412</b>

Projected Situation: June to August 2021							
Countries	Total Population Analysed	Percentage of households in each phase					Total Population in Phase 3 to 5
		Period: June - August 2021					
		Population in Phase 1	Population in Phase 2	Population in Phase 3	Population in Phase 4	Population in Phase 5	
Benin	9,003,837	7,285,823	1,436,375	281,638	-	-	281,638
Burkina Faso	21,706,163	14,074,879	4,764,223	2,522,691	344,370	-	2,867,061
Cape Verde							
Ivory Coast	12,757,736	9,688,098	2,489,010	521,857	58,771	-	580,628
Cameroon	25,931,268	19,493,119	4,517,348	1,700,201	220,601	-	1,920,802
Gambia	2,455,839	1,855,578	486,542	113,720	-	-	113,720
Ghana	30,955,204	28,231,433	2,314,703	407,746	1,323	-	409,069
Guinée	11,115,573	8,124,709	2,572,410	418,453	-	-	418,453
Guinée Bissau	1,319,425	933,275	285,567	100,582	-	-	100,582
Mauritanie	4,271,197	2,895,722	891,325	462,342	21,808	-	484,151
Liberia	4,714,178	2,264,674	1,510,122	776,050	163,331	-	939,381
Mali	21,112,001	15,720,652	4,084,276	1,245,569	61,504	-	1,307,073
Niger	22,752,775	14,707,745	5,735,892	2,091,192	217,945	-	2,309,137
Nigeria	107,585,705	64,070,814	30,698,269	12,018,140	798,482	-	12,816,622
Senega	17,215,426	13,594,874	3,130,040	484,018	6,494	-	490,512
Sierra Leone	8,100,318	3,512,039	2,825,745	1,672,544	89,991	-	1,762,534
Chad	15,375,866	10,294,234	3,303,003	1,613,220	165,410	-	1,778,630
Togo	5,932,378	4,769,694	958,550	202,621	1,514	-	204,135
<b>Total Regiona (CH)</b>	<b>322,304,889</b>	<b>221,517,361</b>	<b>72,003,400</b>	<b>26,632,584</b>	<b>2,151,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,784,128</b>
C.A.R (IPC - not CH)	4,879,385	998,450	1,591,200	1,657,212	632,524	-	2,289,736
<b>Total Region (RBD)</b>	<b>327,184,274</b>	<b>222,515,811</b>	<b>73,594,600</b>	<b>28,289,796</b>	<b>2,784,068</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,073,864</b>