

Sahel Lean Season Response Situation Report #04

31 May 2018

Highlights

- Since March, WFP began its pre-lean season assistance in:
 - Chad – distribution is ongoing for a planned 186,400 people
 - Mali – completed March to May distribution for 186,100 people
 - Mauritania – completed April distribution for 34,500 people and distribution is ongoing for a planned 64,500 people
- WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, advocated for Sahel lean season interventions during his visits to Senegal, Mali and Niger from 17-22 May. Read about his visit [here](#) and follow updates using the Twitter hashtag, [#SahelNOW](#).

In Numbers

5.8 million food insecure people (June-September)

3.5 million people targeted by WFP for lean season response

People in Need¹

Burkina Faso	954,300
Chad	990,700
Mali	932,700
Mauritania	538,400
Niger	1,624,000
Senegal	751,100

Situation Update

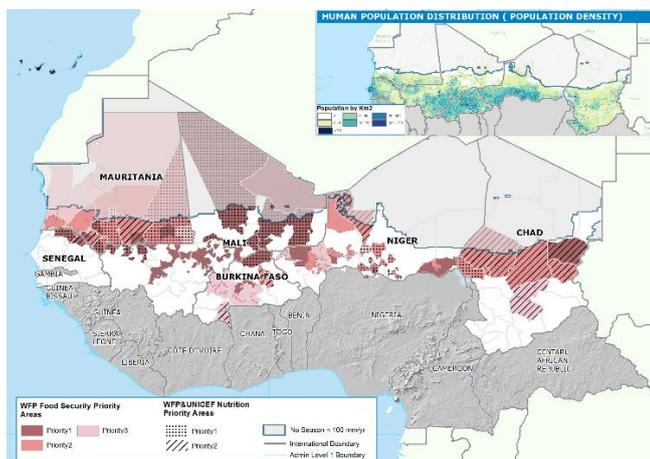
- The lean season began early in the Sahel, as the result of poor and erratic rainfall during last year's rainy season. Consequently, people in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal are facing significantly increased food insecurity as their resources depleted earlier than usual.
- 5.8 million people will be in food crisis during the lean season.
- Food insecurity in the region is exacerbated by limited job opportunities, high staple food prices, displacement, conflict and violent extremism. Fighting in particular is linked to high food insecurity in the Sahel and often hinders effective humanitarian and development interventions.
- Breaking the cycle of recurrent huge lean season needs and relapses into food crises will require that today's lean season support bridges the gap to tomorrow's essential resilience assistance.

WFP Response

The response to high food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel, developed within the framework of United Nations Sahel Initiative (UNISS) comprises:

1. Lean season interventions for the most vulnerable communities, through a combination of in-kind food, cash-based transfers, and malnutrition prevention and treatment activities
2. The Sahel Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in Action, using WFP's tools – food assistance for asset creation, school meals, nutrition support, and lean season safety nets – to build resilience to the recurrent shocks of dry spells and droughts in the medium to long term

Prepositioning is critical to WFP's response not just to ensure food is accessible for distribution during the rainy season but also to address the long procurement lead times. Funding is urgently needed to complete the last prepositioning arrangements before it is too late.



¹Based on the [March 2018 Cadre Harmonisé](#) (Integrated Food Security Phases 3 and 4, Crisis and Emergency) and Niger: *Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises Alimentaires*, 2018.

Burkina Faso

- People in need: 954,300
- Number of children with moderate acute malnutrition: 390,785 (6.6% of children)
- WFP planned beneficiaries: 725,700 people (in-kind food and cash-based transfers to begin in June), including 90,000 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)
- WFP also plans to implement blanket supplementary feeding assistance to 53,600 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women to prevent malnutrition.
- Northern Burkina Faso is facing both the highest level of food insecurity in the country and the worst insecurity, leading more people to move to urban centres. 473 schools are closed for security reasons. In May 2018, 16,800 internally displaced people have been registered, one out of two of these people is a child.
- WFP is confident of its ability to reach food insecure areas in the north with assistance, through thoughtful partner selection and cooperation with security actors like UNDSS.
- USD 11.1 million have been borrowed through WFP's internal mechanisms that has allowed the procurement of 10,964 mt of sorghum, beans, oil and assorted nutrition commodities.
- Prepositioning progress: Thus far, WFP has prepositioned 2,670 mt of food in the Sahel and eastern regions out of 12,000 mt required by 30 June. An ongoing strike of customs personnel has slowed the movement of food trucks at customs checkpoints. WFP is coordinating with food suppliers and commercial transporters to resolve the issue by increasing the quantity transported from suppliers' warehouses from 250 to 350 mt per day, thus reducing the number of trips to be made.

Chad

- People in need: 990,700
- Number of children with moderate acute malnutrition: 543,167 (10% of children)
- WFP planned beneficiaries: 700,000 people (in-kind food and cash-based transfers)
- Malnutrition is widespread in Chad and has deteriorated compared to recent crisis years. According to the 2017 SMART survey, the average prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is estimated at 13.9% compared to 11.9% in 2016.
- In 12 out of 23 regions of the country, the GAM prevalence is over the WHO emergency threshold of 15%. This is the highest number of regions in emergency compared to recent crisis years of 2012 and 2015, where 9 and 7 regions, respectively, had prevalence above WHO emergency threshold. More than 610,000 children suffer from GAM, with 200,000 among severe cases.
- Locations in southern and eastern Chad, such as Wadi Fira region, become essentially inaccessible once the rainy season begins. WFP plans to preposition 22,410 mt of food by the end of June for the lean season response. Thus far 14,145 mt (63%) is in country, procured in part using loans from WFP's internal mechanisms. The gap for cereals is worrying, with 7,185 mt still needed.
- Distribution progress: In the second week of May, WFP began its lean season distributions in Wadi Fira, for a planned 186,400 people with half-ration

in-kind food assistance, due to insufficient funding. From June onwards, WFP plans to continue its assistance there and expand to other locations (Batha, Barh El Gazal, Kanem, Lac, Guéra and Ouaddai), for a total of 700,000 people planned.

Mali

- People in need: 932,700
- Number of children with moderate acute malnutrition: 473,194 (8.1% of children)
- WFP planned beneficiaries: 559,000 people (in-kind food and cash-based transfers)
- The number of food insecure people is 55 percent more than during the 2017 lean season. Food Security Cluster analysis has identified as many as 1.6 million people in need.
- WFP also plans to implement blanket supplementary feeding assistance to 197,000 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women to prevent malnutrition.
- Persistent insecurity in northern and central Mali has had a direct impact on normal agricultural and pastoral livelihoods. Competition between farmers and pastoralists for limited natural resources (pasture, water, etc.) has led to localized conflict in central Mali, specifically parts of Mopti and Segou regions.
- Due to security concerns, WFP has adjusted its assistance delivery modalities and partner selection. Engagement with local NGOs is key to ensuring humanitarian access in certain locations. In May, WFP provided emergency food assistance to 3,000 people in the Gao region newly displaced by conflict.
- Distribution progress: From March to May, WFP carried out pre-lean season distributions to 186,100 people through unconditional, cash-based transfers, though the rations were reduced due to insufficient resourcing.

From June to September, WFP plans to carry out lean season distributions for 504,000 people. During the response, the unconditional assistance is planned for 75% cash-based transfers, 25% in-kind food. Transfer values for the cash-based transfers have been adjusted to keep up with the increased food prices, to maintain the purchasing power of an adequate food basket.

Mauritania

- People in need: 538,400
- Number of children with moderate acute malnutrition: 86,503 (8.6% of children)
- WFP planned beneficiaries: 427,000 people (in-kind food and cash-based transfers)
- The post-harvest prevalence of food insecurity indicated by the February 2018 Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) was extremely close to lean-season levels, marking the severity of the situation. Compared with the same situation in January 2017, WFP observed a 60% increase in the prevalence of food insecurity this year.
- Through a concerted and integrated food security and nutrition response approach, WFP, the Government of Mauritania and partners will intervene in 21 high priority departments in the regions presenting the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The strong coordination of the response in Mauritania will also ensure support to smallholder livestock farmers.
- Distribution progress: WFP assistance is planned in two phases, in high-priority departments. Already during Phase I, 34,500 people were reached with WFP in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers in April. May distributions are ongoing for a planned 64,500 people. Based on the Cadre Harmonisé results and in coordination with humanitarian partners positioning in highly vulnerable departments, WFP is prioritizing assistance for 385,000 people in food crisis under Phase II, from June to September. Based on current funding and advances received through internal lending mechanisms, WFP foresees reaching some 220,000 people.

Niger

- People in need: 802,900
- Number of children with moderate acute malnutrition: 922,656 (8.4% of children)
- WFP planned beneficiaries: 945,000 people (in-kind food and cash-based transfers)
- Planned assistance: WFP's lean season assistance will address the needs identified by the Government of Niger's National Response Plan, which targets 1.6 million people with unconditional food and cash distributions. This will include blanket malnutrition prevention supplementary feeding for children 6-23 months in the same assisted households. Malnutrition treatment activities will be carried out for children 6-23 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), pregnant and lactating women and caretakers.
- Most recent Food Security Cluster plans estimate an assistance coverage of over 80 percent of the lean season needs between WFP, Government and NGO plans.
- Despite the erosion of Boko Haram's capacity owing to counter-insurgency operations by the regional Multi-National Joint-Task Force (MNJTF), the Lake Chad Basin region continues to be affected by conflict. The first months of 2018 saw a spike-up of attacks in Niger's Diffa region, where WFP is responding to the needs of 187,000 people including refugees who fled violence in Nigeria, IDPs and vulnerable host communities. A large-scale counter-insurgency military operation by the MNJTF, Operation Amni Farkhat, started in April 2018 and is planned to last for three months. This

may cause additional displacements, with WFP creating a contingency plan for an estimated 15,000 affected people.

- The threats of armed opposition groups at the Mali-Niger border triggered Operation Barkhane by the French army and Nigerian troops, which supports counter-insurgent efforts in the Sahel. The fighting, compounded by ethnic tensions, is generating displacements on both sides of the Niger-Chad border, with over 11,000 people displaced recorded thus far between January and April 2018. The State of Emergency in parts of Tillabéri region has been extended for another three months to the end of May. Population movements, market access and humanitarian organizations' access to those populations have been affected. Discussions with national authorities are under way on securing a humanitarian corridor in order to provide necessary assistance.
- This year's fodder deficit in pastoral areas of Niger – estimated at 11 million mt – has resulted in early transhumance and, in some areas, created tensions between pastoralists and farmers. Internal displacement has put enormous pressure on natural resources in the area, potentially further fuelling intercommunal conflict.
- In-kind food delivery progress: WFP requires 31,500 mt for its lean season response. Of the 19,880 mt (63% of the total needs) total in-kind food stocks procured for the lean season response, 550 mt of oil and pulses have arrived and been dispatched in April/May. 6,260 mt are expected to arrive in June/July and the remainder 13,070 mt is expected in August/September. This means that a large portion of the in-kind commodities will not arrive in time for the lean season distributions.

Some 12,300 mt has been prepositioned in the Global Commodity Management Facility and an additional 13,700 mt will be delivered there soon. The commodities thus prepositioned will be available for purchase were new funding to materialize.

Senegal

- People in need: 751,100
- Number of children with moderate acute malnutrition: 345,000 (6.9% of children)
- WFP planned beneficiaries: 139,500 people (in-kind food and cash-based transfers)
- In northern Senegal, Podor and Matam departments are the worst affected by the deteriorating food security situation.
- Local populations, who are heavily dependent on livestock and farming, have reported employing negative coping strategies – like reduction to one meal per day, taking children out of school – much earlier than normal, and some as early as March.
- Distribution progress: May was dedicated to operational planning, which included beneficiary targeting, partner trainings and awareness raising. Cash-based transfers will begin in the first week of June for a planned 130,000 people. 36,500 pregnant and lactating women and children 6-59 months with nutrition interventions.

Progress on Resilience

- WFP has been successfully working on an integrated approach of activities at scale in geographically concentrated areas, in support of national government plans, aiming to create jobs for the youth, build livelihoods with women and youth at the center, rehabilitate lands and restore ecosystems, invest in health, nutrition and education, and build cohesion at the community-level.
- In these geographically concentrated areas in Niger, 60% of the very poor migrate less, and 10-20% stopped migrating altogether. 50-70% of the very poor have moved into higher categories. It has been reported that agriculture and pasture lands have been restored through soil and water conservation, more livestock have been fattened for sale, more water is available for cash crops, and inter-communal tensions

have lessened. Households have reported more money saved and more food to eat.

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- For further information, visit:

[WFP Burkina Faso](#) page

[WFP Chad](#) page

[WFP Mali](#) page

[WFP Mauritania](#) page

[WFP Niger](#) page

[WFP Senegal](#) page

WFP Sahel Lean Season Funding Situation (as of 30 May 2018)			
	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Estimated Shortfall May to September (in USD)
Burkina Faso	42 million	5.3 million	36.8 million
Chad	69 million	22.7 million	48.7 million
Mali	58 million	30.1 million	28.1 million
Mauritania	32.8 million	5.6 million	25.1 million
Niger	67.8 million	17.7 million	24.8 million
Senegal	6.8 million	1.8 million	3.8 million

