Situation Update

- The security situation continues to deteriorate across the country. As a result, humanitarian access has deteriorated over the past few weeks, particularly in the Sahel region, specifically Djibo, and the Est region due to the activities of non-state armed groups. WFP will be working on sensitizing communities on humanitarian access and on the importance of humanitarian assistance, prioritizing community engagement through constructive dialogue with opinion leaders, and advocating with the authorities with respect for the human rights.

- As of 19 May 2020, 806 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Burkina Faso, with 52 deaths. Government of Burkina Faso eased some of its COVID-19 restriction measures, including gradually reopening markets. In the same period, CONASUR distributed 2,100 mt of food to the most vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 in Ouagadougou and in the Centre region, and Bobo-Dioulasso and Hauts-Bassins region. WFP supported the Government through its technical expertise in terms of targeting affected populations.

WFP Response

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In April, WFP assisted 504,310 IDPs via cash-based transfers (CBT) [71,866] or in-kind distributions [432,444]. Distributions were undertaken in the regions of Boucle Mouhoun (5,921), Centre-Nord (380,168); Est (33,327), Nord (22,085), and Sahel (62,809).

- To foster social cohesion, 22,260 members of host-families were also assisted in Dori (Sahel); Barsalogho and Pissila (Centre-Nord). Beneficiaries received an in-kind food basket.

- Prevention of malnutrition activities are continuing and being combined with general food distributions. During the reporting period, a total of 20,914 children aged 6-23 months and 11,703 pregnant and lactating women benefitted from blanket supplementary feeding activities.

- Due to COVID-19 and subsequent school closures, emergency school feeding activities have not been undertaken in April.

- During the lean season, WFP will be targeting assistance to IPC Phase 3 (in food insecurity) provinces in the regions of Est, Centre-Nord, Nord and Sahel. Selection of provinces will be based on whether a specific province is in IPC Phase 3 (in food insecurity crisis) and on the positioning of other actors responding during the lean season.

- While WFP is finalizing the partnership agreements for the upcoming lean season, targeting approach has been finalized. Targeting would rely on 3 approaches: (1) using the lists of vulnerable people produced by the SP-CNPS when they exist; (2) Re-using lists of last year vulnerable households in the targeted municipalities by the WFP in addition to consultations with beneficiaries; and 3) Application of a lighter form of Household Economic Assessment analysis due to COVID-19 and access limitations.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.2 million</th>
<th>people affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan – February 2020)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.15 million</th>
<th>people projected to be in need during the 2020 lean season (June- August)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Cadre Harmonisé – March 2020)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>848,329</th>
<th>internally displaced persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(CONASUR – 22 April 2020)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights

- In April, WFP assisted 504,310 IDPs and 22,260 host families through general distributions via an in-kind food basket or cash-based transfers.

- Preparations for the upcoming lean season are being finalised and soon partners will start with the targeting in selected provinces.

- Delays in arrival of commodities in the country are having an impact on WFP operations and it may have an impact on ongoing May distributions.

- Urgent contributions are needed to ensure that WFP can meet the totality of needs during the lean season, by assisting targeted populations with an in-kind or cash-based entitlement.

Supply Chain

- COVID-19 has had an impact on WFP supply chain with recurrent delays in the delivery of procured commodities. Delays are being observed on deliveries of vegetable oil from Togo and beans from local suppliers. WFP is assessing the situation as it may have a direct impact on the May distributions.

Assessments

- WFP conducted an assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on small traders in Kaya (Centre-Nord) highlighting that : i) COVID-19 prevention measures taken by the regional authorities affected regular functioning of the market and led to a slowdown in the economic activities of small business owners, thus negatively impacting their income; ii) significant decrease in sales figures and profits has been observed; iii) substantial drop in income due to the disruption of commercial activities has resulted in a decline in the food and non-food expenditures of...
households depending on the sale of agricultural products and small business; and iv) food and nutritional situation of households depending on the sale of agricultural products and small businesses may deteriorate if income continues to decline. As a result, WFP will be providing food assistance to over 300 small traders directly affected by the closures of markets in Kaya.

- The second price monitoring bulletin was prepared, and its results outlined that: (i) the situation on the agricultural markets remains dominated by a generally satisfactory and stable supply compared to the month of March. Demand fell sharply compared to the previous month due to the drop in exports of agricultural products such as cowpea and groundnuts and the weakness of monetary income of households and therefore their purchasing power; (ii) Prices are slightly lower thus strengthening generic economic accessibility to food, but not the purchasing power of individuals; (iii) Due to the closure of certain markets and borders in the context of the fight against COVID-19, the livestock markets experienced a general decline this month due to a decrease in the presence of livestock exporters and therefore a decrease in the sales volume for all the animal species monitored. This situation has led to a depreciation of the market value of the animals and thereby a deterioration in the terms of trade in animals for sorghum; and (iv) availability of non-food products (soap, hand-washing kettles, etc.) for the COVID-19 response is good but prices are gradually increasing.

- Since 2018, WFP has a complaint feedback mechanism accessible to all its beneficiaries. In April 2020, 313 calls were received predominantly from IDPs and linked to general food distributions information. Beneficiaries generally requested more clarifications on the assistance, thanked WFP and its partners for the support, and/or requested additional support to respond to the ongoing situation. While WFP treated the majority of the calls (83 percent), ongoing action is taken to respond to withholding requests, addressing the remaining calls are being addressed by WFP.

COVID-19

- WFP is developing an integrated social protection programme aiming to complement and strengthen the Government of Burkina Faso COVID-19 pandemic response and mitigate socio-economic impact. The WFP scale-up plan foresees to: (i) continue and adapt critical emergency operation response; (ii) provide assistance to emerging vulnerable groups due to COVID-19 socio-economic impact; (iii) support the Government social protection scale-up in response to COVID-19 socio-economic impact; (iv) strengthening livelihoods recovery to mitigate socioeconomic impact; and (v) increasing evidence generation, targeting and digitalization of beneficiaries.

- Through a dedicated WFP flight, 16 mt of PPE and other medical supplies, procured by UNICEF and ICRC, were delivered in country on 1 May.

- Through the global aviation service, a regional air-flight service will be introduced connecting Accra (Ghana) with Ouagadougou from 27 May. The service would be available for staff of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes; World Bank and other Financial Institutions; NGOs; and Representatives from Embassies/Donor community. For further information, please contact covid19.aviationglobal@wfp.org.

Response Strategy

- On 13 May 2019, WFP’s emergency response in Burkina Faso was categorised as a Level 2 Emergency response. On 9 September 2019, WFP scaled up its response in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger by introducing a Level 3 Emergency initially until March 2020 and extended till 31 December 2020. Scale-up was necessary to ensure that urgent needs are met.

- WFP plans to assist the majority of the IDPs, whereas the remaining would be taken care of by other actors, including the Government. This will be complemented by general food assistance to communities hosting IDPs (one in-kind distribution every three months); prevention of malnutrition support to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women among IDPs; and emergency school feeding (including take-home rations for IDPs and host-community girls), where security conditions allow. During the upcoming lean season, WFP will provide a monthly assistance via CBT or an in-kind ration to food insecure households residing in IPC Phase 3 provinces.

Humanitarian Coordination

Food Security Cluster

- In April, the food security cluster (FSC) partners have assisted some 608,000 IDPs out of some 838,000 IDPs originally registered at the beginning of April 2020. 81 percent of the assistance was provided via in-kind food rations, and the remaining via cash-based transfers. WFP represented 82 percent of the assistance.

- Based on the first consolidated plan, FSC partners and observers plan to assist 1.4 million vulnerable people, including IDPs, out of the 2.15 million people identified by the Cadre Harmonisé during the upcoming lean season. Foreseen response would cover only 65 percent of the needs during the lean season. WFP’s response would account for approximately 80 percent of the overall response.

- Burkina Faso consolidated its needs for the global COVID-19 humanitarian response plan outlining that additional USD 60 million, of which USD 11.8 million for the FSC, are needed to adapt the response to the revised operational context.

Funding outlook

- WFP is facing a substantial funding shortfall for its response during the upcoming lean season. Current funding outlook would allow to cover assistance only for two months out of the three foreseen. Urgent contributions are needed to ensure that WFP can meet the totality of those needs, by assisting targeted populations with an in-kind or cash-based entitlement.

Contacts

- David Bulman, Country Director.
- Peter Schaller, Emergency Coordinator, peter.schaller@wfp.org
- Gon Myers, Head of Programme, gon.myers@wfp.org
- Enrico Piano, Operational Information Management and Reports Officer, enrico.piano@wfp.org
- Flavio Signore, Food security sector coordinator, flavio.signore@wfp.org

For further information, visit the Burkina Faso country page on http://www1.wfp.org/countries/burkina-faso