



AWARNESS for Food and Nutrition Situation of Populations at the Onset of the Lean Season and on Preparations for the 2026–2027 Agropastoral Season

Restricted Meeting

REGIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD CRISES (PREGEC)

Held online on 22 June 2026, the restricted meeting of the Regional Project for Food and Nutrition Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC) for the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon assessed the food and nutrition situation at the onset of the lean season and the start of the 2026–2027 agropastoral campaign, and noted the following findings :

«A Persistent Deterioration of Food and Nutrition Security in West Africa, the Sahel, and Cameroon »

Organized by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, with support from its partners, the June PREGEC meeting launched the 2026–2027 agro-pastoral campaign. It also reviewed forecasts of the agro-hydro-climatic conditions for the rainy season and made preparations for monitoring its progress.

1. Market situation : At the onset of the lean season, markets in West Africa and the Sahel remain generally well-supplied, owing to good harvests from the previous campaign and satisfactory stock levels. However, trade restrictions, particularly on livestock, as well as persistent insecurity continue to disrupt trade flows and commercial corridors in several areas of the Sahel, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Prices of local commodities remain generally below those of last year and close to the five-year average, although localised price increases are being observed in deficit or conflict-affected areas. Livestock prices remain firm, supporting an improvement in terms of trade in several agropastoral zones. Food prices are expected to peak during the lean season before declining with new harvests. Nevertheless, rising fuel, transport, and fertiliser costs, coupled with geopolitical uncertainties, could exacerbate market pressures.

On international markets, food commodity prices edged down in May 2026 (-0.2% compared to April). Increases in cereal and sugar prices were offset by declines in vegetable oils and dairy products. Cereal prices rose by 2.6% month-on-month and 4.9% year-on-year, driven notably by higher rice prices (+2.7%) and wheat prices, which increased for the fourth consecutive month.

2. Food and Nutrition situation: The food and nutrition situation in West Africa and the Sahel remains of serious concern. According to updated Cadre Harmonisé analyses for the June–August

2026 reference period, more than 54.8 million people could be facing acute food insecurity (Phase 3 and above), including over 3 million in Emergency (Phase 4) and more than 10,000 in Catastrophe (Phase 5). This figure is slightly higher than the November 2025 projections of 52.8 million. This deterioration is attributed primarily to the persistence of insecurity, particularly in Nigeria, forced population displacement, the influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad, high food prices, and trade restrictions limiting access to food commodities in several countries of the region.

The nutrition situation remains deeply concerning across the region. According to recent IPC-AMN analyses conducted in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad, approximately 11.3 million children aged 6 to 59 months are estimated to be suffering from acute malnutrition, including 3.2 million severe cases. Nigeria alone has more than half of all cases (6.4 million children). Approximately 1.4 million pregnant and breastfeeding women could also be affected. This situation calls for urgent reinforcement of acute malnutrition prevention and treatment interventions, particularly in areas affected by insecurity, population displacement, and socioeconomic shocks.

3. Mitigation measures : The 2026 lean season is unfolding against a backdrop of climatic, economic, and security shocks that are compounding food insecurity. Five countries (Chad, Niger, Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania) already have validated National Response Plans in place, while

others, including Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Burkina Faso, have put in place mitigation measures focused on food assistance, malnutrition treatment, livelihoods support, and agropastoral sector interventions. Additionally, anticipatory action mechanisms have been activated in Niger, Chad, and Mauritania, mobilising USD 11.85 million to benefit more than 342,000 people exposed to flood and drought risks. Over the medium term, priorities will focus on implementing national response plans, scaling up interventions in the most vulnerable countries, mobilising funding, and strengthening regional coordination in support of resilience.

4. Fertiliser situation : The geopolitical crisis in the Middle East is causing significant disruptions to fertiliser supply chains, with sharp price increases and heightened risks to regional agricultural production. Assessments conducted by ECOWAS, the African Union, and their partners reveal supply deficits, particularly in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal. Many countries rely on subsidy mechanisms to support access to agricultural inputs. In Nigeria and Togo, despite relatively better availability, markets remain under pressure. In this context, the prospects for the 2026–2027 agricultural campaign remain contingent on securing supply chains, strengthening regional coordination, and promoting sustainable alternatives, including organic fertilisers and integrated soil fertility management..

5. Seasonal forecasts for the 2026–2027 agropastoral campaign : Updated agro-climatic forecasts for June 2026 project contrasted rainfall patterns across West Africa and the Sahel, with normal to below-normal cumulative rainfall in the western Sahel and most coastal countries, and normal to above-normal totals in the central and eastern Sahel. Seasonal onsets are expected to be early to normal in the central-eastern Sahel, but normal to late across the western Sahel. End-of-season dates are anticipated to be normal to late across the entire region. Dry spells of moderate to long duration could affect the early and second portions of the season in several Sahelian and Sudanian zones. Furthermore, the high probability of an El Niño event represents a significant risk factor, although its effects may be modulated by regional oceanic conditions. The campaign could thus be characterised by high spatio-temporal rainfall variability, with simultaneous risks of rainfall deficits and flooding, necessitating close climatic monitoring throughout the season..

6. Phytosanitary situation : With regard to phytosanitary conditions, the Desert Locust situation remains broadly calm across the Sahel. However, locust populations persist in certain areas of north-western Africa and the central Sahara, notably in Morocco, where larval groups, immature adults, and a few small swarms continue to be observed. As spring breeding areas dry out and the rainy season is settling in the Sahel, migratory movements toward summer breeding areas in the southern Sahara and northern Sahel remain possible. In this context, strengthening surveillance, the operational capacities of national locust control systems, and regional coordination remains essential to prevent any risk of resurgence that could affect agropastoral production during the 2026–2027 campaign.

7. Pastoral situation : The pastoral situation remains broadly satisfactory, due to residual availability of fodder and water. Animal body condition is generally fair to satisfactory, though signs of stress are evident in deficit areas. Nevertheless, bushfires, which have affected over 23.9 million hectares, and the drying up of water points in some pastoral concentration areas remain a concern. Insecurity, transhumance restrictions, border closures, and livestock theft continue to limit herd mobility, particularly between Mali and Mauritania. On the animal health front, the situation remains broadly under control, despite the persistence of localised outbreaks of animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease, pasteurellosis, and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). Against this backdrop, fodder production prospects remain uncertain in certain areas given the seasonal forecasts.

RECOMMANDATIONS

To Countries:

- Urgently mobilise the necessary resources to implement National Response Plans and provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations, particularly those in Phases 5, 4, and 3 of the Cadre Harmonisé, children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women suffering from acute malnutrition.
- Strengthen monitoring and early warning systems covering the agropastoral campaign, natural resources, transhumance movements, and phytosanitary risks, to anticipate crises.
- Scale up investments in integrated multisectoral responses combining anticipatory action, resilience-building, social protection, and access to basic services to durably reduce vulnerabilities.

To CILSS, ECOWAS, and UEMOA:

- Continue advocacy efforts to guarantee the free movement of persons and agropastoral products across the Sahel and West Africa.
- Strengthen structural and inclusive investments, particularly in agricultural inputs and irrigation, to durably improve food and nutrition resilience.
- Accelerate the implementation of National Response Plans and regional solidarity mechanisms to ensure rapid, coordinated assistance to vulnerable populations.

To Partners:

- Intensify Desert Locust surveillance and control operations in the Maghreb to reduce the risk of incursion into the Sahel.
- Increase resource mobilisation in support of food and nutrition security information systems, national response plans, and humanitarian assistance interventions.

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The Restricted Consultation Meeting



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