

In the Sahel, West Africa and Cameroon

Results of the updated projected situation of acute food and nutritional insecurity

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Highlights

- It is estimated that more than 54.8 million people are facing acute food and nutritional insecurity (Phase 3 or higher) in the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon during the period from June to August 2026, including more than 3 million in an Emergency (Phase 4).
- More than 10,000 people are estimated to be in a Catastrophe situation (Phase 5) in Borno State, Nigeria.
- Insecurity, conflict, forced displacement, high food prices, and declining humanitarian funding remain the main aggravating factors.

Context

Final results of the 2025–2026 agricultural season show cereal production estimated at 80.4 million tonnes, an increase of 4% compared to the previous season and 7% compared to the five-year average. For roots and tubers, regional production stands at 280 million tonnes, up 2% from last year and 7% from the five-year average. Cash crop production is also slightly up, except coffee, groundnuts, cotton, bambara groundnut (voandzou), and cocoa, which recorded respective declines of approximately 13.5%, 11%, 10%, 2.5%, and 1.7% compared to last year.

As of June 2026, the pastoral situation remains generally satisfactory owing to residual availability of fodder and water. Livestock body condition is generally fair to satisfactory, though signs of fatigue are apparent in areas of deficit. However, bushfires - affecting more than 23.9 million hectares - along with the scarcity of water points in certain pastoral concentration areas, remain a source of 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 generally under control despite the persistence of localised outbreaks of animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease, pasteurellosis, and peste des petits ruminants (PPR). In this context, fodder production prospects remain uncertain in some areas according to seasonal forecasts.

On international markets, food prices declined slightly in May 2026 (-0.2% compared to April). This trend reflects an increase in cereal and sugar prices, offset by a decline in vegetable oil and dairy product prices. 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 have risen for the fourth consecutive month.

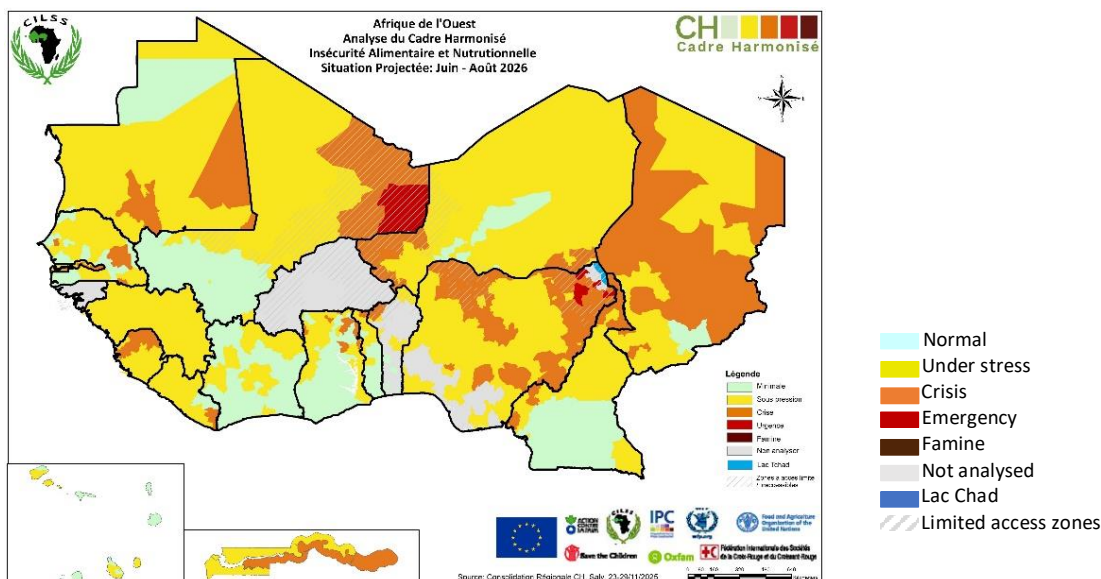
As the lean season begins, markets in West Africa and the Sahel remain generally well supplied thanks to good harvests from the last season and satisfactory stock levels. However, trade restrictions, particularly on livestock, along with persistent insecurity continue to disrupt trade flows and commercial corridors in several areas of the Sahel, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Overall, the functioning of agricultural markets is satisfactory, except in areas affected by civil insecurity, where supply levels are relatively lower and household demand higher than usual.

Local commodity prices generally remain lower than those of last year and close to the five-year average. This is due in particular to food availability from the last agricultural season, and measures implemented by certain countries, such as restrictions or controls on cereal exports (as in Niger), which have helped strengthen domestic market supply and limit price pressures. However, localised increases have been observed in deficit areas or those affected by insecurity. Livestock prices remain controlled, improving terms of trade in several agropastoral areas. Food prices are expected to peak during the lean season before declining with the arrival of new harvests. However, rising fuel, transport, and fertiliser costs, along with geopolitical uncertainties, could further heighten market tensions.

The nutritional situation in the region remains a major concern. According to recent IPC-AMN (Acute Malnutrition) 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 accounts for more than half of all acute malnutrition cases among children aged 6 to 59 months (6.4 million children). In addition, nearly 1.4 million pregnant and breastfeeding women could also be affected by acute malnutrition.



Map of the current situation of acute food and nutritional insecurity for the period June–August 2026



Partitioning of areas by phase in the updated projected situation of acute food and nutritional insecurity for the period June–August 2026

The updated projected situation (June–August 2026) covers 1,151 areas across 16 countries in the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon. It shows that 10 areas are classified as Emergency (Phase 4), 296 as Crisis (Phase 3), 669 as Under Stress (Phase 2), and 176 as Minimal (Phase 1). None has been classified as Famine (Phase 5). Note that there is no valid analysis of the projected situation (June–August 2026) for Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau.

Table 1: Areas analysed per country and severity level

Country	Updated projected situation : June – August 2026					
	Total areas analysed	Number of areas per Phase				
		Ph 1	Ph 2	Ph 3	Ph 4	Ph 5
Benin	21	11	8	2	0	0
Cabo Verde	22	14	8	0	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	31	20	11	0	0	0
Gambia	8	0	5	3	0	0
Ghana	66	26	27	13	0	0
Guinea	7	0	7	0	0	0
Liberia	16	1	13	2	0	0
Mali	56	22	27	6	1	0
Mauritania	55	3	42	10	0	0
Niger	79	7	54	18	0	0
Nigeria	564	0	369	186	9	0
Sierra Leone	16	0	11	5	0	0
Senegal	46	22	21	3	0	0
Chad	69	2	30	37	0	0
Togo	37	21	14	2	0	0
Cameroon	58	27	22	9	0	0
TOTAL	1 151	176	669	296	10	0



Populations' repartition by phase for the updated projected situation of acute food and nutritional insecurity for the period June–August 2026

Updated projected situation (June–August 2026)

The updated projected situation (June–August 2026) reveals that, out of a total analysed population of nearly 442.6 million people, more than 54.8 million (12.4%) are classified in Crisis phase or worse. Food insecurity remains heavily concentrated in a few countries. Nigeria alone accounts for nearly 66% of people in Phase 3 or above, with 36.3 million, followed by Chad (3.2 million), Cameroon (2.8 million), and Niger (2.4 million). The analysis also shows that more than 3 million people are in Emergency (Phase 4), including approximately 2 million in Nigeria. Furthermore, the number of people in Catastrophe (Phase 5) is estimated at more than 10,000 in Borno State, in northeastern Nigeria. The table below provides further detail on the estimated populations by severity phase of acute food and nutrition insecurity.

Table 2: Repartition of estimated populations by country and severity level, for the projected situation (June–August 2026)

Country	Analysed Population	Population in Phase 1	Population in Phase 2	Population in Phase 3	Population in Phase 4	Population in Phase 5	Total Population in Phase 3 to 5	Percent age of population in phase 3 to 5
Benin	2,771,518	2,099,442	470,850	191,775	9,451	-	201,226	7.3%
Cabo Verde	513,997	405,061	75,398	33,538	-	-	33,538	6.5%
Côte d'Ivoire	24,801,516	19,574,253	3,900,351	1,312,364	14,548	-	1,326,912	5.4%
Gambia	2,422,712	1,537,073	623,472	257,628	4,539	-	262,167	10.8%
Ghana	34,378,759	27,978,332	4,898,284	1,414,143	88,000	-	1,502,143	4.4%
Guinea	12,414,765	7,622,875	3,123,857	1,576,303	91,730	-	1,668,033	13.4%
Liberia	5,625,874	3,702,358	1,417,227	503,550	2,738	-	506,289	9.0%
Mali	25,568,962	19,878,962	4,129,811	1,503,535	56,654	-	1,560,189	6.1%
Mauritania	5,323,969	3,487,372	1,336,508	486,196	13,893	-	500,089	9.4%
Niger	28,095,487	18,790,150	6,884,457	2,402,269	18,611	-	2,420,879	8.6%
Nigeria	217,933,705	81,346,297	100,297,469	34,207,553	2,072,109	10,277	36,289,939	16.7%
Sierra Leone	9,077,691	4,551,579	3,192,640	1,198,899	134,572	-	1,333,472	14.7%
Senegal	19,575,062	15,299,341	3,438,934	811,852	24,934	-	836,786	4.3%
Chad	18,171,281	10,153,964	4,840,432	2,936,284	240,601	-	3,176,885	17.5%
Togo	6,469,612	4,910,826	1,226,638	332,147	-	-	332,147	5.1%
Cameroon	29,414,763	20,345,243	6,212,280	2,607,682	249,559	-	2,857,241	9.7%
Total	442,559,674	241,683,130	146,068,610	51,775,720	3,021,938	10,277	54,807,935	12.4%

Specific analysis of refugees

The situation of refugees was analysed in two countries, namely Chad and Mauritania.

Analysis of Sudanese refugees living in Chad

It is important to note that, during the CH analysis session in Chad, in addition to the country's general population, an analysis was also conducted of Sudanese refugees living in eight departments of Chad: Dar Tama and Iriba (Wadi Fira), Wadi Hawar (Ennedi Est), Nya Pende (Logone Oriental), Assoungba and Ouara (Ouaddai), Haraze Mangueigne (Salamat), and Kimiti (Sila). The results of this analysis for the projected situation (June–August 2026) are presented in the following table (Table 3).

Table 3: Refugee estimation breakdown by severity level, projected situation (June–August 2026) in Chad

Refugees	Total population analysed	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 3 to 5
Dar-Tama-Refugees	145,839	39,377	43,752	36,460	26,251	-	62,711
Wadi hawar-Refugees	82,828	23,192	26,505	20,707	12,424	-	33,131
Iriba-Refugees	57,327	20,638	20,064	14,332	2,293	-	16,625
Nya Pende-Refugees	77,650	20,966	27,178	21,742	7,765	-	29,507
Assoungba-Refugees	427,757	145,437	149,715	111,217	21,388	-	132,605
Ouara-Refugees	80,051	34,422	28,818	14,409	2,402	-	16,811
Haraze Mangueigne-Refugees	10,599	3,180	3,286	2,968	1,166	-	4,134
Kimiti-Refugees	105,093	29,426	38,884	28,375	8,407	-	36,783
TOTAL	987,144	316,637	338,202	250,209	82,096	-	332,305

Analysis of Malian refugees living in Mauritania

In Mauritania, the October/November 2025 cycle analysis had included Malian refugees living in the Mberra camp in the Moughataa of Bassikounou, as well as those settled within host communities. The results of this analysis for the projected situation (June–August 2026) are recalled in the following table (Table 4).

Table 4 : Refugee estimation breakdown by severity level, projected situation (June–August 2026) in Mauritania

Refugees	Total population analysed	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 3 to 5
Camp Mbera Refugees	121,759	29,222	46,268	30,440	15,829	-	46,268
Outside camp refugees	161,068	38,656	59,595	43,488	22,550	-	66,038
TOTAL	282,827	67,878	105,864	73,928	38,378	-	112,306

Note: The population estimates presented in Table 2 do not include refugees surveyed in Chad and Mauritania.



Key determinants

The main drivers of acute food and nutrition insecurity are:

Conflict and insecurity: Persistent armed conflicts in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin are disrupting production, reducing cultivated areas, destroying and looting livestock and undermining health and nutrition services.

Forced population displacement: Insecurity has forced the displacement of nearly 3 million people, placing significant strain on host communities and limiting access to water, health care, and adequate food.

High food prices: Elevated food prices continue to erode household purchasing power, putting nutritious food out of reach for the poorest, a situation worsened by declining humanitarian funding.

In addition, tensions around the Strait of Hormuz continue to fuel volatility in global energy prices, which rapidly reverberate to fuel, fertiliser, and staple food prices in several import-dependent countries in the region.



Methodology and challenges in updating the projected situation

The results presented in this brief cover all CH countries, except Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, in the context of the new policy to streamline the CH mechanism, combined with budgetary restrictions that have limited resources available for CH analyses in the region, it is important to note that only four countries conducted CH analyses during the February/March 2026 cycle: three countries carried out a new analysis covering both a current and a projected situation (Gambia, Senegal, and Chad), and Nigeria, which updated the projected situation from the October/November 2025 cycle for nine of its states (Adamawa, Borno, Kaduna, Katsina, Kwara, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara). For the remaining countries, the projected situation from the October/November 2025 cycle was carried forward (Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo). The national analyses for Gambia, Senegal, Nigeria, and Chad benefited from the support of the CH Technical Committee. The results of these analyses were also reviewed, validated, and consolidated by the CH Technical Committee, in accordance with the CH quality assurance policy.



Recommendations for action and future analysis

In light of the results of the updated projected situation of acute food and nutrition insecurity in the countries of the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon, the following recommendations are made to the various stakeholders, in particular States, Intergovernmental Organisations (CILSS, UEMOA, ECOWAS), and Technical and Financial Partners:

1. **In the short term**, strengthen emergency programs to provide immediate food assistance to populations facing acute food and nutrition insecurity (Phases 3 to 5), and immediate nutritional assistance to children aged 6–59 months and to pregnant and breastfeeding women suffering from acute malnutrition.
2. **In the medium term** :
 - a. Support livelihoods and resilience by scaling up support for agriculture, livestock, and income-generating activities to reduce the vulnerability of affected households.
 - b. Strengthen the financial resources mobilisation for food and nutrition security information systems, while providing financial support for capacity-building targeting members of the National Cadre Harmonisé Analysis Units, to improve mastery of the CH tool.



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