

In the Sahel, West Africa and Cameroon

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

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Highlights

- Over 54.8 million people are projected to face acute food and nutrition insecurity (Phase 3 or higher) in the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon during the lean season June to August 2026. This includes more than 3 million classified in Emergency (Phase 4).
- An estimated 10,000 people will face Catastrophe situation (Phase 5) in Borno State, Nigeria.
- Insecurity, conflict, displacement, high food prices, and declining humanitarian funding remain the main drivers.

Context

Final results of the 2025–2026 agricultural season show regional cereal production estimated at 80.4 million tonnes, representing a 4% increase compared to the previous season and 7% above the five-year average. Roots and tubers production reached 280 million tonnes, up 2% from last year and 7% above the five-year average. While cash crop production shows a slight overall increase, significant declines were recorded for coffee (-13.5%), groundnuts (-11%), cotton (-10%), bambara groundnut (voandzou) (-2.5%), and cocoa (-1.7%) compared to last year.

As of June 2026, the pastoral situation remains generally acceptable due to the residual availability of fodder and water, supporting fair to satisfactory livestock body condition but showing signs of weakness in deficit areas. However, extensive bushfires affecting more than 23.9 million hectares and localized water scarcity in pastoral concentration areas, remain key risk factors. Insecurity, transhumance restrictions, border closures, and livestock theft continue to limit herd mobility, particularly across the Mali-Mauritania border corridor. Animal health situation remains generally under control, despite persistent localized outbreaks of epizootic diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease, pasteurellosis, and ovine rinderpest. In this context, seasonal forecast indicate that fodder production prospects remain uncertain in several areas.

On international markets, the FAO Food Price Index declined slightly in May 2026 (-0.2% compared to April), as decreases in vegetable oil and dairy prices offset price hikes for cereals and sugar. However, international cereal prices rose by 2.6% month-on-month and 4.9% year-on-year. This upward trend was driven primarily by a 2.7% increase in rice prices, and a fourth consecutive month rise in wheat price.

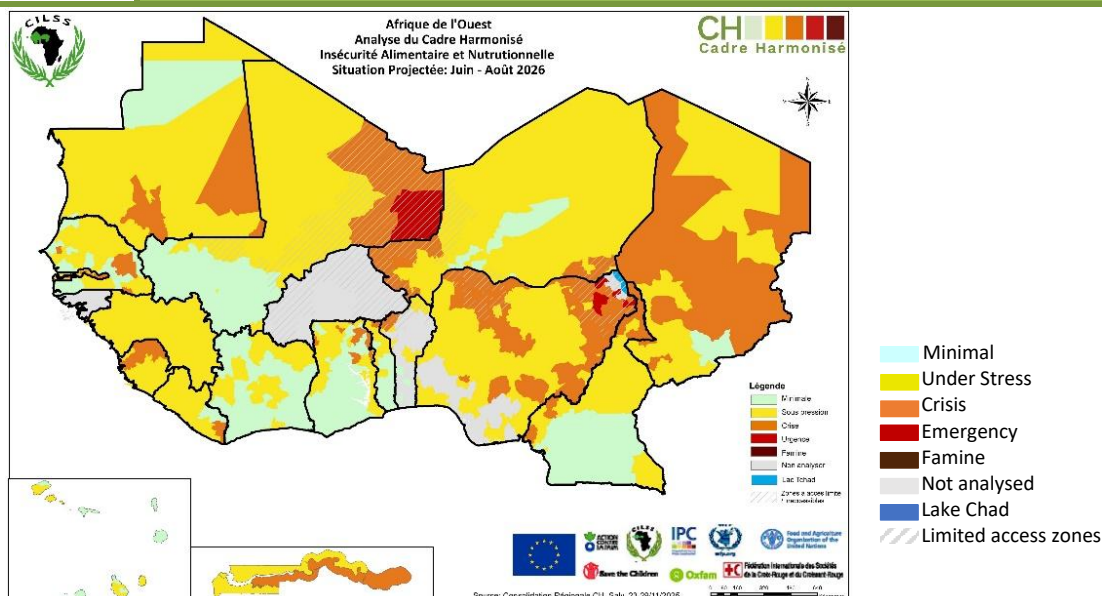
At the onset of the lean season, agricultural markets in West Africa and the Sahel remain generally well-supplied due to favorable harvests and adequate stock levels. However, trade restrictions on livestock and persistent civil insecurity continue to disrupt trade flows and commercial corridors across the Sahel, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Overall, the market functioning is satisfactory, except in conflict-affected areas where localized supply deficit and atypical spikes in household demand are observed.

Local staple food prices are mostly lower than last year and close to the five-year average. This stability is driven by good regional crop availability from the previous harvest and national export bans (such as Niger) that protected domestic supplies and limited inflation. However, localised increases have been observed in food-deficit or conflict-affected areas. Livestock prices remain stable, improving the terms of trade in several agropastoral areas. Food prices are expected to peak during the lean season before declining with the upcoming harvests, rising cost for fuel, transport, and fertiliser, alongside geopolitical risks could trigger further market volatility.

The regional nutrition situation remains critical. According to the latest IPC-AMN (Acute Malnutrition) analyses conducted in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad, approximately 11.3 million children aged 6 to 59 months are acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million severe cases. Nigeria remains the epicentre of the crisis, accounting for more than half of the regional burden with 6.4 million children affected. In addition, nearly 1.4 million pregnant and breastfeeding women could also be affected by acute malnutrition.



Map of the acute food and nutrition insecurity (June–August 2026)



Classification of areas by CH Phase: Updated projection for June–August 2026

The updated projected situation (June–August 2026) covers 1,151 areas across 16 countries in the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon. This analysis indicates that 10 areas are classified in Emergency (Phase 4), 296 in Crisis (Phase 3), 669 in Under Stress (Phase 2), and 176 in Minimal (Phase 1). No areas are classified in Famine (Phase 5). Please note that projection analyses for June–August 2026 are not available 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				
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 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



Population breakdown by CH Phase: Updated acute food and nutrition insecurity projection (June–August 2026)

Updated projected situation (June–August 2026)

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. Acute food insecurity remains highly concentrated within specific countries in the region. 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 classified in Emergency (Phase 4), including approximately 2 million in Nigeria. Furthermore, an estimated 10,000 people face Catastrophe (Phase 5) situation in Borno State, northeastern Nigeria. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the estimated populations by acute food and nutrition insecurity phase.

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

Country	Analysed Population	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	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 food security situation of refugees was analysed in two countries (Chad and Mauritania).

Analysis of Sudanese refugees in Chad

During the CH analysis session in Chad, a specific analysis was conducted for Sudanese refugees across eight departments, in addition to the general population analysis. The analyses areas include Dar Tama and Iriba (Wadi Fira), Wadi Hawar (Ennedi Est), Nya Pende (Logone Oriental), Assounga and Ouara (Ouaddaï), 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	Phase3 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
Assounga-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 in Mauritania

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



Key Drivers

The main drivers of acute food and nutrition insecurity are:

- **Conflict and insecurity:** Persistent armed conflicts in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin continue to disrupt agricultural production, reduce cultivated areas, lead to the destruction and looting of livestock assets. These shocks severely undermine health and nutrition services.
- **Forced population displacement:** Escalating insecurity has forced the displacement of nearly 3 million people across the region. This massive displacement places a critical strain on host community's resources and limits access to water, healthcare services, and adequate food.
- **High food prices:** Elevated food prices continue to erode household purchasing power, restricting access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable populations. This situation worsened by declining humanitarian funding.
- In addition, tensions around the Strait of Hormuz are driving global energy volatility, resulting in increased costs for fuel, fertiliser, and staple food prices in several import-dependent countries in the region.



Methodology and challenges of the analysis

The results presented in this brief cover all CH countries, except Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, in line with the ongoing efforts to streamline the CH process and given the budget constraints 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 current and projected situation (Gambia, Senegal, and Chad), and Nigeria, which updated the projected situation from the October/November 2025 cycle for nine 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. In accordance with the CH Quality Assurance Policy, all analysis results were reviewed, validated, and consolidated by the CH Technical Committee.



Recommendations for action and future analysis

In light of the updated projected acute food and nutrition insecurity situation across the Sahel, West Africa, and Cameroon, the following recommendations are addressed to Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations (CILSS, UEMOA, ECOWAS), and Technical and Financial Partners:

1. **In the short term,** strengthen and scale up life-saving food and nutrition assistance for populations projected to face Crisis, Emergency, and Catastrophe/Famine situation (CH Phases 3-5), while ensuring timely treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
2. **In the medium term:**
 - a. Scale up livelihood and resilience-building support, particularly in agriculture, livestock, and income-generating activities, to reduce household vulnerability.
 - b. Strengthen food and nutrition security information systems through increased resource mobilization and sustained capacity strengthening of National Cadre Harmonisé technical teams to improve the quality and ownership of CH analyses.



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