



## IN NUMBERS



**7.1 million**

people severely food insecure during the 2017 lean season



**80-90%**

of the population depend on agriculture, fisheries and livestock for their livelihoods



**2.6 million**

displaced people



**USD 70.2 million**

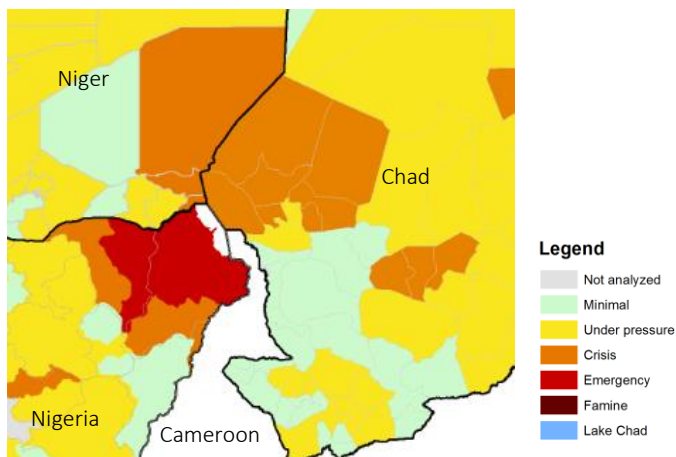
urgently needed for the implementation of FAO's response

## KEY MESSAGES

- **Restoring agricultural livelihoods is a priority** to avoid a further deterioration of the food security situation of **displaced people and host communities** in the coming months.
- **Limited funding received** in 2016 for livelihood interventions is a major concern, especially in northeastern Nigeria where 5.1 million people will suffer from food insecurity in 2017 (*Cadre Harmonisé*, June–August 2017).
- Without agriculture and livestock support, many farmers and herders will resort to **negative and sometimes irreversible coping mechanisms** with **long-lasting impact** on their livelihoods. This may result in an increase of humanitarian needs in 2017 and beyond.
- Special attention to **women and youth** is given in all FAO interventions. This is crucial to offer livelihoods alternatives and income generation opportunities, and support women that are particularly vulnerable during conflict.

## MAP

Projected food security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, *Cadre Harmonisé*, June – August 2017



## BACKGROUND

The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has intensified over the past years as Boko Haram attacks and suicide bombs have targeted civilians, causing widespread trauma, forcing millions from their homes, preventing people from accessing their fields and destroying essential infrastructure and services. The conflict has affected the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin – Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria – and has uprooted millions of people from their homes across the four countries. The arrival of a large number of Nigerians in border areas of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, along with the ongoing cross-border attacks is also putting already impoverished host communities under extreme pressure. As a result, host communities are in urgent need of assistance for food production and livelihoods restoration and protection. Insecurity has so far limited humanitarian access to certain areas where the food security and nutrition situation is critical. However, in the last few months, significant territory has been rendered accessible to humanitarian assistance, opening a window of opportunity to scale up interventions in the area.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Unprecedented levels of population displacements, together with reduced access to farming activities have caused a sharp increase of food insecurity in affected areas. Most of displaced people rely on the scarce resources of host communities for their basic needs including for food. Host families themselves, as well as other crisis-hit households, were unable to exploit their land because of fear of attacks, which resulted in the loss of productive assets, reduced incomes and food shortages. In addition, staple food crops prices

are extremely high due to inflation.

Insecurity and related movement restrictions have disrupted transhumance flows and cross-border livestock trade. Local agricultural systems at large have been disrupted following destructions of farming and irrigations facilities, and reduced access for extension services. The number of returnees is expected to grow in 2017, thus increasing the need to restore improved livelihoods and revive the agriculture sector.

The crisis is exacerbating the challenges faced by vulnerable farmers who were increasingly exposed to natural hazards including cyclical droughts and floods in the past decade. The concentration of herds due to changes in transhumance flows is putting pastoral resources under extreme pressure, and could threaten animal health. Special attention should be given to the health conditions of herds in the Niger and Chad following fodder deficits observed in the past months, as well as abundant rainfalls in some areas.

## FAO'S RESPONSE

**Cameroon:** FAO plans to assist 105 000 crisis-hit farmers, mainly IDPs and host populations, in improving their food security and nutrition through small ruminant, local poultry and pig production. Support to agricultural activities will also be provided through distribution of rice, maize, sorghum and cowpea seeds, fertilizers and small farming equipment. Improved cattle production through pasture regeneration, construction of water points and vaccination baths will also be supported.

**FAO achievements in 2016:** provided crisis-hit farmers with rice, maize, sorghum and cowpea seeds, fertilizers and small tools during the 2016 rainfed season; supported improved post-production processing and started building storage facilities; distributed small ruminants, poultry, animal feed and shelters; carried out capacity building trainings for extension workers in affected areas; and set up a FAO suboffice in Maroua to increase response capacity. In total, 33 500 people benefited from FAO's assistance in 2016.

**The Niger:** For the 2017 campaign, FAO plans to assist about 161 000 people with cereal seeds to kick-start the 2016 crop production deficit due to floods and droughts. The provision of animal feed and animal health care is also needed for returnees, refugees and host populations whose access to the Lake Chad area for livestock watering is compromised by insecurity.

**FAO achievements in 2016:** provided over 75 000 people hosting IDPs with vegetable seeds to plant during the dry season; actively participated in the food security working group set up in Diffa under the leadership of the decentralized services; closely monitored interventions on the ground through FAO's suboffice in Diffa.

**Chad:** FAO is targeting about 15 000 people for 2017. Proposed interventions include the provision of high-quality cereal seeds for the rainy season, as well as support to irrigated production. Activities to facilitate post-production processing and the marketing of agricultural products are also envisaged. Restocking activities will help compensate animal losses in the past year.

**FAO achievements in 2016:** provided cereal, pulse and vegetable seeds to plant during the main agricultural campaign; provided related technical trainings, irrigation kits and post-harvest equipment; implemented destocking of weak animals, enabling the provision of meat for vulnerable families with malnourished children; set up a suboffice in Bol, Lake region. About 31 000 IDPs, returnees and host populations benefited from FAO's assistance in 2016.

**Nigeria:** For the 2017 main season (distribution to take place in May-June 2017), FAO is targeting 1.9 million people to be assisted through the distribution of fast growing, nutrient-rich cereal and pulse seeds, fertilizers, seed multiplication assistance, post-harvest storage, vegetable and fruit production, food processing and agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation. Funding for the main season is yet to be secured.

**FAO achievements in 2016:** assisted 320 400 people with agricultural inputs, fertilizers and food to meet their immediate agriculture and livelihoods needs year round; benefited 174 400 people through the provision of vegetable kits, infrastructure rehabilitation and related technical assistance during the ongoing 2016/17 dry season; launched a full-scale corporate surge response in July 2016 (extended until 21 July 2017), with a dedicated multisectoral team based in Maiduguri, Borno State.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Under the **2017 Humanitarian Response Plans** for Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, FAO is seeking **USD 70.2 million to assist 2.2 million people** affected by the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. The breakdown per country is as follows:



- Cameroon: USD 4.6 million
- Chad: USD 1.8 million
- Niger: USD 1.8 million
- Nigeria: USD 62 million

## CONTACT

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