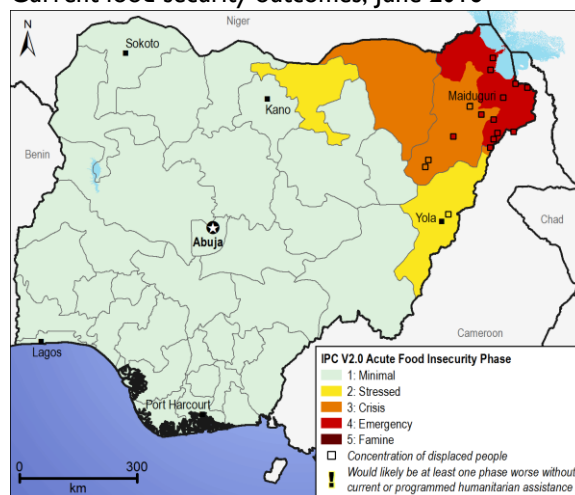


## *Restricted access to parts of the Northeast contribute to Emergency food insecurity*

### KEY MESSAGES

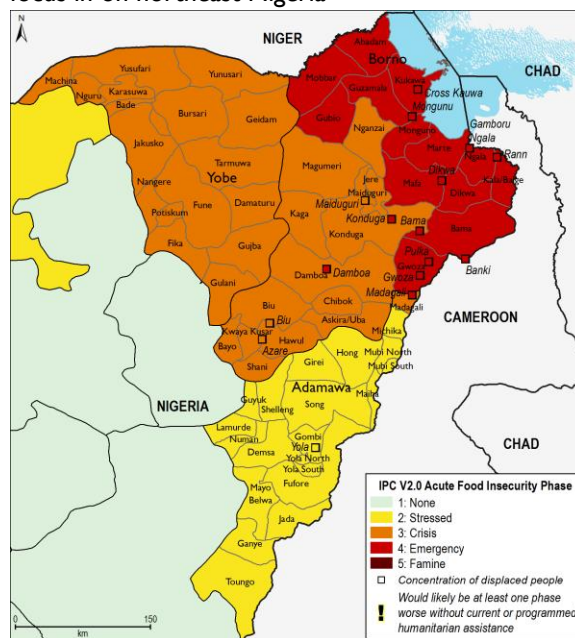
- Conflict in Northeast Nigeria has left a significant portion of the population without access to adequate food, water, and health services. A “nutrition emergency” has been declared in Borno State by the Nigerian Ministry of Health and information from recent rapid assessments, although limited and not statistically representative, also raises the possibility that a Famine (IPC Phase 5) could be occurring in the worst affected and less accessible pockets of the state.
- The Boko Haram conflict and atypically high staple food prices have substantially restricted food access for most households across large areas in the Lake Chad region. Diminishing community and humanitarian support, below average harvest stocks and restricted income earning opportunities will continue to limit food access in this region. Consequently, affected households will continue to have difficulties meeting their minimal food needs and will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, depending on the zone, through January 2017. Several LGAs with proportionally high IDP populations are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.
- The recent decision of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to float the naira against the US dollar will likely lead to further depreciation of the naira. The inflation rate increased from 13.7 percent to 15.6 percent between April and May. Consequently, prices of local and imported staples such as rice, millet, maize and sorghum will continue to rise beyond normal levels, limiting purchasing power and food access through the lean season period until harvests in October.
- Most households outside of the Northeast are engaging in normal income-generating activities, early green harvests as well as livestock and cash crop sales. Some market dependent poor households are unable to meet non-food needs as their food stocks diminish due to the depreciating naira, high food prices, flooding along major floodplains and low purchasing power. Most households will continue to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity, although some poor households will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through the end of the lean season.

Current food security outcomes, June 2016



Source: FEWS NET

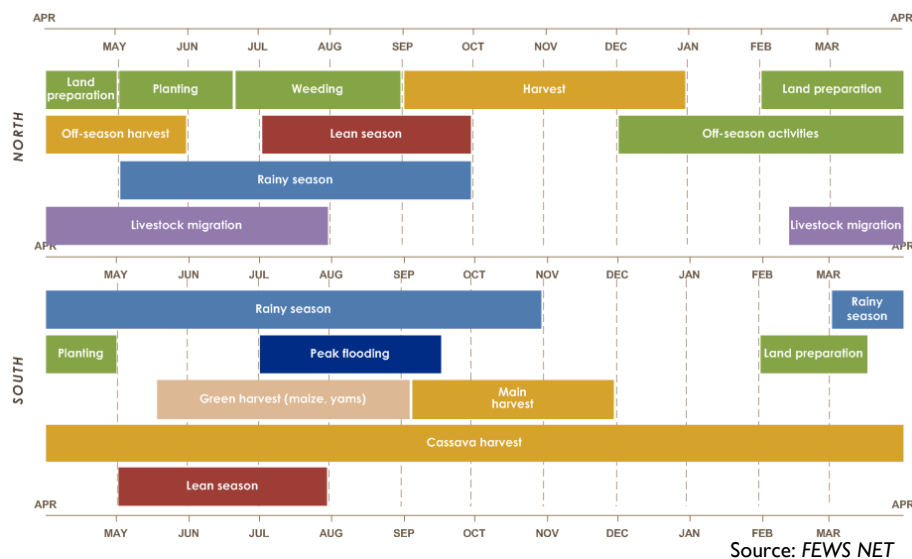
Current food security outcomes, June 2016 - focus in on northeast Nigeria



Source: FEWS NET

These map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

## SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



## NATIONAL OVERVIEW

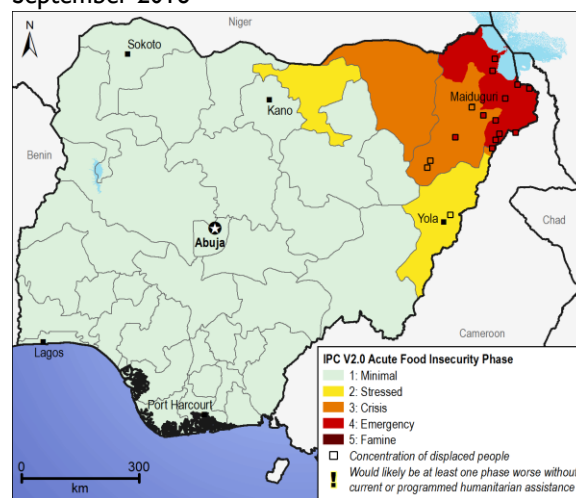
## Current Situation

The growing season has begun normally in the southern states in February/March and in the central states in April/May. In the northern areas, the onset of the season is in June/July and is also beginning normally. Parts of the frontline states in the North at the periphery of the Sahel region are still expecting the onset of the rainy season on time in July; this includes Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Katsina, Kano, Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Gombe, and Bauchi states. There are also areas where the season started earlier than normal by 10 to 20 days including localized parts of the northwest such as Kebbi, Niger, Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto and Kwara states.

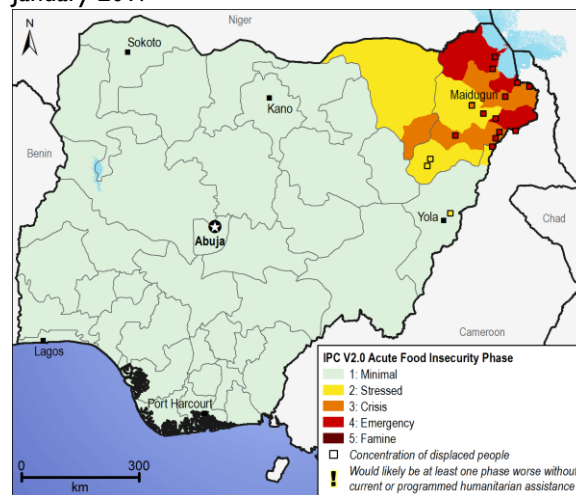
In the southern areas farmers are engaged in weeding and fertilizer application activities as well as the early green harvest of maize and yams. Similarly, early green harvest of groundnut, maize and potato is also underway in the central states and the rice harvest is underway along major floodplains. Planting of staples such as millet and maize as well as legumes (groundnut, cowpea) is underway in localized areas in the north. Agricultural wage labor activities are providing typical levels of income for poor households during the cultivation season in most parts of the country.

Poor households across the country are experiencing a somewhat more severe lean season at this time of the consumption year. Although normal activities including early green harvests, Ramadan gifts, labor opportunities, and wild food gathering are contributing to household food access, restrictions on rice imports, above average staple cereal food prices, and reduced household purchasing power have worsened household food access, particularly for urban poor households. Additionally, many poor households have exhausted their own production stocks heading into the lean season which will go normally from July to September.

## Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2016



## Projected food security outcomes, October 2016 to January 2017



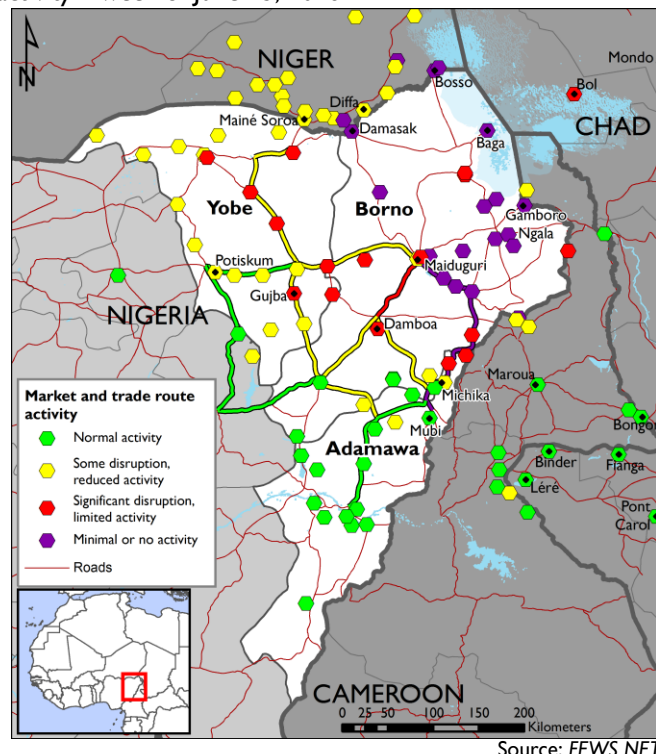
Seasonal price increases have been observed for most cereals on surplus and deficit markets across the country ([FEWS NET](#)). These seasonal increases are on top of price increases driven by the depreciating Naira (Figure 2). Millet, a major staple in surplus production areas in the north has increased by about 56, 97, 66 and 83 percent on Damaturu, Dawanau, Maiduguri and Potiskum markets, respectively, in May compared to 2015. The price of maize, an important staple food and raw material for poultry feeds increased by about 107, 59, 83, 102 and 119 percent on Biu, Bodija, Kaura, Mubi and Potiskum markets, respectively since 2015. Similarly, the price of gari, a major staple in the southern areas is also rising; white gari increased by about 117, 54, 127 and 233 percent on Aba, Dandume, Bodija, and Maiduguri, respectively relative to same time last year. The prices of major staple cereals – millet, maize and sorghum-recorded price increases between 43 to 83 percent when compared to both two and five year averages across monitored markets.

Boko Haram related civil insecurity persists in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in the Northeast. The [June IOM/NEMA displacement tracking matrix](#) (DTM) reports that over 87 percent of IDPs are displaced due to the insurgency accounting for 1.8 million people. Over 77 percent of all IDPs come from Borno state where many local government areas (LGAs) have limited or no accessibility due to military campaigns. Reports from inaccessible LGAs indicate there could be extreme food security outcomes. The number of attacks and bombings has declined in Adamawa and Yobe states relative to Borno and the total IDP population has declined from April to June, mostly due to the return of IDPs to newly accessible LGAs within Borno, including Damboa, Magumeri, Askira, Uba and Chibok. Additional returns to Damaturu and Gujba LGAs in Yobe state have also been ongoing. Localized and sporadic attacks still persist in Borno and Yobe states with recent attacks carried out in Yunusari, Gulani, Bama, Gwoza and Jere LGAs. Suicide attacks resulting in casualties happened in both June and July in Maiduguri and Damboa.

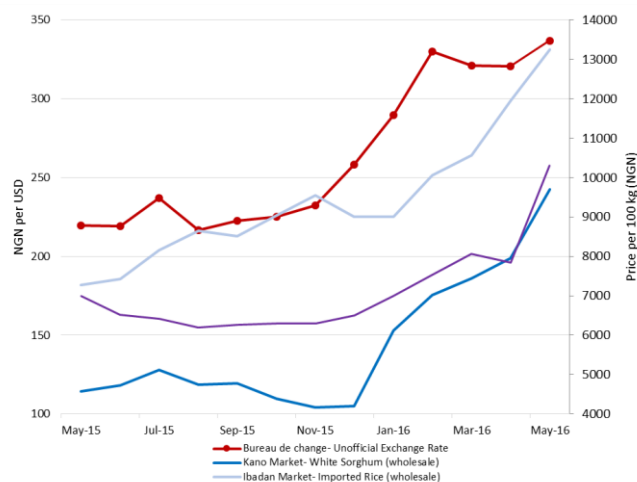
Market and trade routes are becoming relatively more accessible in much of the Northeast region. Roads from Maiduguri to Damaturu and to Biu are now accessible with only some disruptions and checkpoints. This includes a major trucking route in the region (Maiduguri- Damaturu). The road from Maiduguri to Damboa has also re-opened, although it remains accessible only with military escort. Maiduguri to Gamboru through Dikwa is also recently opened up and is more accessible. Similarly, major urban markets including Maiduguri, Biu, Potiskum, Damaturu, Mubi, and Yola are more functional relative to previous months and are adequately supplied. Most semi-urban markets are functioning at below-average levels, while rural markets continue to be significantly impacted. Cross border trade activities along Yobe, Adamawa and Borno state borders with Niger, Chad and Cameroon remain disrupted.

Most IDPs and their host communities are vulnerable to food insecurity headed into the lean season. There is both limited and untargeted humanitarian support in the region and limited ability for host communities to continue supporting IDPs through the lean season. The federal government's Food and Strategic Reserve Department released 10,000 metric tons of

**Figure 1.** Northeast Nigeria market and trade route activity – week of June 13, 2016



**Figure 2.** Staple food prices and value of Naira (NGN)



Source: FEWS NET

maize to NEMA in April for onward distribution to IDPs in the 6 Northeastern states based on the level of vulnerability of populations across the states. The breakdown of grains allocation is: 3,390 metric tons for Borno, 2,100 metric tons each for Yobe and Adamawa, 900 metric tons for Taraba, and 750 metric tons each for Bauchi and Gombe. This will provide some relief from the current high food prices that are expected to keep rising through the lean season. State governments in the northern areas are also providing daily feeding centers for the vulnerable households during the Ramadan period. Similarly, Dufil Prima Foods is targeting 3 million vulnerable Muslims across the country during Ramadan with a meal each day.

### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the June 2016 to January 2017 period is based on the following national-level assumptions:

- Onset and evolution of the rainy season in 2016:** The rainy season has started normally in the south (March/April) and central states (April /May) and will likely be fully established in June/July as usual in the northern areas. The growing season is expected to progress as usual with average rainfall levels and normal spatial and temporal distribution across the country ([IRI](#), [ECMWF](#), [NOAA](#)). Some dry spells as well as above-average rainfall are expected in localized areas across the country. The rainy season will peak normally during July to September and will likely end normally during October in the north and November/December in the south.
- Main 2016 harvests:** With the expected normal start and end of the growing season in most areas, the main harvest is expected to begin normally in October in most parts of the country. Harvest will be average to above average, with the exception of some areas of the Northeast.
- Main Harvest in Conflict- Affected Areas:** Below-average harvests are expected due to on-going conflict and flooding in accessible areas of the Northeast. In areas where populations remain displaced there will be no cultivation for the 2016 main harvest.
- Flooding:** Rainfall will peak as usual from July to September across the country resulting in normal level of flooding in localized areas in the coastal states and along major floodplains of Rivers Niger and Benue. The collapse of and releases from local and regional dams that regularly occurs during the rainy season will cause further floods resulting in damage to infrastructure, farmlands and displacement of populations across the country.
- Pasture and water availability:** Pasture and water resources will deplete faster than usual in most areas across the country, particularly in the south due to increased livestock populations moving earlier than normal to avoid conflict in the north. Many areas in the grazing lands of the central states including Kaduna, Plateau, Benue, Taraba states are inaccessible due to farmer/pastoralists conflict. Pasture and water resources in the south and accessible areas in central states will be exhausted earlier than usual, even as pastoral resources improve as the rainy season begins across the country through July.
- Inputs access for main and dry season activities:** Inputs such as fertilizer and improved seeds will be accessed through government and market sources for both main and dry season activities. The government plans to support food production with programs for improved input subsidies and supply through financing programs targeted to production areas. This support, however, will likely be delayed as usual during the growing season and most farmers will access inputs through the open market at high prices. The depreciation of the naira and reduced purchasing power of households will further limit inputs access, particularly for imported fertilizer.
- Dry season activities:** Dry season production will begin normally in December and will likely be average to above average. In most areas, the expected normal onset of the season as well as normal rainfall will lead to water availability in local ponds and rivers allowing fish yields to be normal. Households affected by the conflict and able to access land in the Northeast will likely engage in off-season activities at below average levels.
- Labor wages, supply, and demand:** Labor demand will increase normally during the growing season across the country for land preparation and planting in the north and weeding and fertilizer application in the south. This will follow normal seasonal trends and will peak during the harvest beginning in October across the country. Wages will be within normal levels in most areas, except the Northeast where the on-going conflict will cause displaced populations to provide an above-average labor supply causing wages to be below average.



- **Food prices:** Staple food prices including cereals and tubers will continue to increase and will peak during the lean season between July and September. Prices will decline but will remain above average during the harvest from October to at least January due to continued inflation. Food prices will also increase during Ramadan, Tabaski and Christmas, in June, September and December, respectively.
- **Livestock supply, demand, prices:** Livestock supply and demand is within normal levels in most areas across the country. There will be a slight increase in demand during Ramadan in June/July, with other peaks during Tabaski in September and Christmas in December. Livestock prices will thus remain favorable for most pastoralists during the scenario period with the exception of those in the Lake Chad region. Conflict and restricted access in the North has limited market functioning and diminished livestock body conditions as the military restricts the sale of livestock as well as access to pasture and water resources. Decline in household purchasing power will also impact demand for livestock in the region.
- **Exchange rate (against FCFA and against USD):** The value of the naira relative to other foreign currencies will continue to depreciate. The devaluation of the Naira on June 20<sup>th</sup> will most likely worsen the trend in scenario period. Increased demand for foreign currency (USD; CFA) will put further pressure on the Naira as livestock imports increase for Tabaski in September and as there are more international expenditures related to performing the Hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca during August/September.
- **Cross-border trade:** Trade activities will improve during the consumption year as conflict within the Lake Chad region declines and as trade routes between the states become accessible. There will be increased regional demand for staples and cash crops due to export parity prices although trade activities within the region is mainly informal.
- **Boko Haram conflict and displacement:** For the purpose of this scenario, it is assumed Boko Haram related conflict in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in the Northeast will continue to decline throughout the scenario period, particularly in Adamawa and Yobe states, given the ongoing counter insurgency activities by the Multinational Joint Taskforce. Many IDPs are returning to their homesteads in these two states. However, for Borno state, the epicenter of the Boko Haram conflict, there may be an influx of IDPs from newly liberated areas and from neighboring countries and many IDPs returning to LGA headquarters with limited resources.
- **Areas of limited accessibility:** In areas where there is extremely limited or no access due to on-going operations between the military and Boko Haram fighters, food security outcomes are expected to be similar to areas that have been recently liberated. Limited reports from these areas indicate that there is active fighting and almost complete displacement or capture of local populations.
- **Pastoralist conflict and transhumant movement:** As the growing season peaks from June to September, farmer/pastoralists resource based conflict in the south and in central states including Kaduna, Nasarawa, Benue, Taraba and Plateau will persist. Similarly, cattle rustling activities in the northwest and central states will continue to restrict pastoral movement. Conflict and restriction will lead to loss of livestock and diminishing body conditions thus reducing income sources for pastoralists. Regional livestock movement towards Nigeria will also be limited due to the persisting conflict and reduced Nigerian purchasing power.
- **Bird flu:** The outbreak of avian influenza will persist across the affected states, particularly in the central states. More people will engage in ad-hoc poultry production towards Ramadan from June/July, Tabaski in September and Christmas in December which will increase bird and egg movement across the country. This will increase the risk of the flu spreading more widely potentially impacting commercial poultry production and households doing labor in poultry value chains will likely earn less income.
- **Poultry demand (national and regional) and impacts on maize markets:** Poultry demand will continue to increase towards Ramadan in June leading to increased demand for Nigerian maize both within and out of the country. Maize demand towards the neighboring countries will also increase during the Ramadan period. The demand by poultry industry will persist through September during the holidays. Household demand will also follow similar

trend within and out of the country. In October, demand and price of maize will normally decline due to the harvest.

- **Evolution of Nutrition during outlook period:** During the outlook period the prevalence of malnutrition will remain at seasonally normal levels in most areas across the country. Malnutrition will peak due to the rainy and lean seasons between July and September and will begin to decline at the beginning of harvest in October. Exceptions are in the Northeast where conflict will contribute to consistently elevated prevalence GAM rates. UNICEF, MSF and ALIMA MUAC screening data in several IDP camps and LGAs in Borno State meet WHO thresholds for critical levels of malnutrition while surveys from WFP, ACF and UNICEF around Maiduguri and in Yobe State show serious levels. Areas of limited accessibility with no available data are expected to have similar or worse rates of acute malnutrition, especially as the lean season progresses.

## Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Most households in the country will access food during the scenario period with the early green harvests of yams, maize, potatoes and groundnut through September, normal lean season reliance on wild foods, and the main harvest (cereals, tubers, legumes) in October. These households will be able to use normal livelihood strategies such as cash crop sales, casual labor work, livestock sales, consumption of their own stocks and market purchase to access income and food normally. Outside of the Northeast, **most poor households will continue to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity through January 2017.** Above-average staple cereal food prices and low household purchasing power are limiting food access for some households, particularly poor households that are more reliant on market purchase during the lean season, across the country. **During the lean season these households will resort to atypical coping to meet non-food expenditure and will be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity until the harvest in October.**

Insurgency related to Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region continues to decline relative to previous months as the multinational joint task force intensify their operations and continue to liberate more areas that were previously inaccessible ([Council on Foreign Relations](#)). Some liberated communities have moved to urban areas to access humanitarian support and protection while others are returning to their homesteads, particularly in Adamawa and Yobe states. However, the negative impacts of the insurgency persist and disrupted trade routes, restricted food flow, atypically high food prices, limited humanitarian access and restricted market activity continue to limit household food availability and access. The lean season will be prolonged and more difficult for the conflict affected households in the Northeast. **From June to September, most areas in the Lake Chad region will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity** as households are only marginally able to meet their food needs with irreversible coping strategies including sale of productive assets such as farmland and female livestock. Some IDP households, in parts of Borno state worst affected by the conflict where there is limited accessibility and restricted movement, are facing larger food consumption gaps in their diet and these areas **will face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) within the same period.** Recent assessment data and monitoring reports, though limited and not statistically representative, indicate that **a Famine (IPC Phase 5) could be occurring in the worst affected and less accessible pockets of Borno State.**

During October, the main harvest will begin across the country and food prices will decline seasonally which will increase access to food. Although prices will remain above-average due to the Naira devaluation, **most areas will experience Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity from October to January 2017.** Households in other parts of southern Borno, southern Adamawa and western Yobe less affected by the conflict and engaged in closer to normal livelihood activities will have access to their own production and will minimally meet food needs only and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity through January 2017. Displaced populations and households in conflict areas in parts of Borno, Yobe and northern Adamawa states, however, will continue to experience significant difficulty meeting their basic food needs as they are unable to engage in normal livelihoods activities. **These households will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through January 2017. IDP populations in areas of limited accessibility movements will likely continue to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity** as the conflict continues to force displacement and security restrictions.

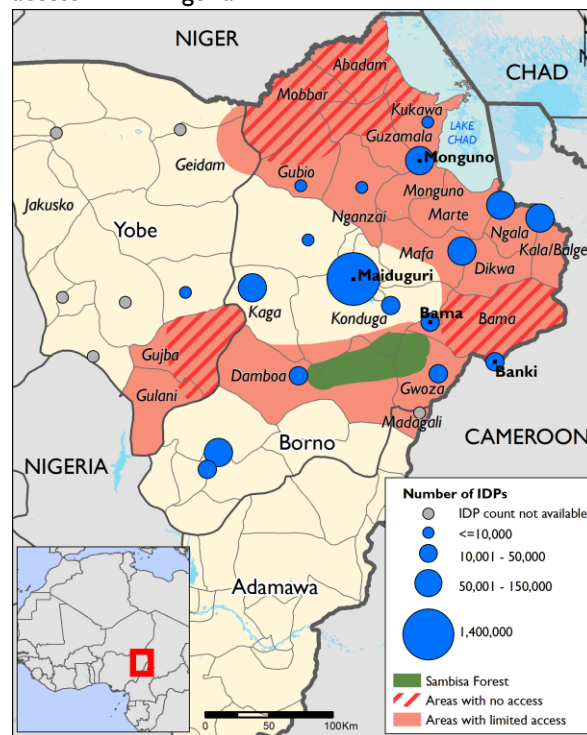
## AREAS OF CONCERN

### IDP Settlement Areas of Limited Access in the Northeast

IDP settlement areas across the Northeast (Figure 2) remain vulnerable to food insecurity and violence related to the on-going conflict between Boko Haram and government forces. Livelihood and movement restrictions are in place to address security concerns and IDPs in these areas remain dependent on limited humanitarian assistance.

Although the security situation has been generally improving in many areas of Southern Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, LGAs adjacent to the Sambisa Forest and in northern Borno remain difficult to access. Areas of concern near the Sambisa forest include Bama, Damboa, and Gwozo, and parts of Kaga and Konduga in eastern Borno State and Madagali LGA in northern Adamawa State. Between June 15 and 21, five rapid assessment missions (Government of Nigeria, WFP, IOM, joint UN, and MSF) visited the town of Bama, where approximately 25,000 displaced people have concentrated after being liberated from Boko Haram controlled areas. These visits confirmed visible malnutrition among adults and children, an extreme scarcity of food and water, very limited health facilities, and no functioning market. Among the 2,531 children that have been screened for malnutrition by either UNICEF or MSF, 15 percent had severe acute malnutrition (SAM) according to Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC). Excess mortality, mostly from malnutrition or diarrhea, was also reported, suggesting that the crude death rate (CDR) may have surpassed 2/10,000/day from May to June. Although only limited information is available, partners have raised concerns that conditions within other IDP concentrations in these areas, like Banki camp near the Cameroon border, and the Pulka camp in Gwoza, could be similarly dire.

**Figure 2.** IDP concentrations and areas with limited access in NE Nigeria



Source: UN OCHA, IOM DTM, FEWS NET

In northern Borno State, Abadam, Gubio, Guzamala, Kukawa, Mobbar, Nganzai, and parts of Dikwa, Marte, Mafa, Ngala, and Kala/Balge LGAs remain largely inaccessible to humanitarian agencies. The severity of food insecurity is unknown, but could be at critical levels given the impact of movement restrictions and ongoing conflict. Populations from these areas are streaming into Monguno LGA where a measles outbreak is ongoing and a June screening of 12,190 children by The Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA) indicated that 32 percent of children were acutely malnourished (GAM) with 13 percent severely malnourished (SAM) based on MUAC. In nearby Dikwa, an April screening of 9,113 children indicated that 59 percent of children were acutely malnourished (GAM) with 21 percent severely malnourished (SAM) based on MUAC.

Famine (IPC Phase 5) is defined as when three conditions are met: at least 20 percent of an area's population faces an extreme lack of food, at least 30 percent of children are acutely malnourished, and the crude death rate exceeds 2/10,000/day. Information from Northeast Nigeria is limited and the data that is available is not statistically representative. Nonetheless, available evidence, and the fact that many of the worst affected areas have not been reached, indicate that an Emergency (CH/IPC Phase 4) is occurring. It is also possible that a Famine (CH/IPC Phase 5) is ongoing in the worst affected areas. However, this cannot be confirmed unless additional information is collected.

### Livelihood Zone 12 in Borno and Yobe States- Northeast Millet, Cowpea and Sesame Zone

This area includes the LGAs of Damaturu, Gulani, Gujba, (Yobe state) and Damboa, Gwozo, Bama, Konduga, Marte, Mafa (Borno state).

#### Current Situation

**Market functioning in conflict zone:** Most major markets within the zone are functioning, though at below-average levels. Transactions and commodity flows in the three major markets within this zone (Maiduguri, Damaturu, and Potiskum) are improving compared to previous years. Most of the food stocks are currently from other parts of the country including Bauchi, Kano, Gombe, Biu, Askira-Uba, and Mubi which supply maize, sorghum, millet, cowpea and livestock. Damaturu market in Yobe state is functioning at about 75% of its normal level on Mondays instead of Sunday. The markets in eastern

Borno and Yobe (Bama, Mafa, Marte, Gamboru, Gujba, Gulani) are not yet functioning, while Damboa in southern Borno state is functioning at below average levels.

The main cowpea market in the Lake Chad region (Muna market in Maiduguri) is gradually becoming active. Apart from the domestic sources, cowpea is now flowing in from Cameroon through Fotokol/Gamboru border. Traders and informants in Maiduguri reported that 30 trucks of cowpea and 7 trucks of hides and skin were brought in from Cameroon in May with 20 additional trucks arriving in the first week of June. There is increased hope that trade activities will fully resume after the harvest period allowing more income opportunities for traders and unskilled labor.

The Maiduguri livestock market has recently opened for business after 6 months of a military ordered shut down for security reason. Livestock supply remains limited, although loading to the southern areas has begun with 30 trucks load of livestock on the first day of market operations. Livestock body conditions are generally poor due to limited availability and access to pasture within the outskirts of Maiduguri. Prices of livestock on Maiduguri and Damaturu markets are slightly increasing as demand is also increasing gradually compared to previous months. This is attributable to poor livestock body conditions and restricted demand due to security challenges in the area.

Staple food prices such as millet, maize and sorghum remain elevated compared to neighboring markets and compared to last year and 3 year average price levels. The price of a kilogram of millet, the major staple in the zone, sold for NGN116 on the Maiduguri Monday market in May 2016 as compared to NGN 70 in May 2015 and NGN101 and NGN94 on Dawanau and Gombe markets, respectively within the same period. Prices are increasing due to limited main and off-season harvests, diminished food flows related to conflict, the depreciation of the Naira with respect to US Dollar and CFA franc, and increased domestic and regional demand pressure. Food prices are also exacerbated by increased fuel pump prices leading to further increased transportation costs.

**Humanitarian Assistance:** The Government of Nigeria (GoN) through NEMA/SEMA continues to provide food and non-food support to the IDPs in the official camps. The ration and quality of food support in the camps, however, remain inadequate. Recently, in May the Nigerian government through the Food and Strategic Reserve Department released 10,000 metric tons of maize for distribution to the 6 Northeastern states targeting the IDPs in the benefitting states, affected by the insurgency and communal conflict.

Humanitarian actors are operating mainly in the host communities and in camps. ICRC is providing food support to Dalori-FTC and Bakassi camps on biweekly basis and is providing monthly rations to host communities in Damboa (30,000 people in May) and Monguno (27,000 people in May). Similarly, UNICEF have also provided support to the malnourished population in Damboa by providing about 300 cartons of RuTF in May. Humanitarian support is substantially inadequate and has declined relative to pre-election period. Most households are only able to access two meals per day. There is wide gap for food needs across most camps and host communities.

There are also IDPs living in areas inaccessible to most humanitarian actors such as in Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Monguno, Gamboru, Banki, and Baga among others. The situation in camps in these areas remains critical and IDPs need urgent humanitarian support. Self-settled camps around Maiduguri (ex. Muna garage camp) and Damaturu (ex. Kukareta, Kasaisa and YBC) are also in dire need of food and non-food support.

The recent FEWS NET field visit to Damboa found that the IDPs population is increasing in the four camps, including Hausari, Central primary school, General hospital and Sabon-Gari camps. Over 2,600 IDPs in Hausari camp are sleeping in the open space due to limited shelter and food, health and WASH remain serious challenges to these IDPs. This is due to sporadic attacks by the insurgents displacing more population and also because the military is rescuing more people from the Sambisa Forest. Affected communities include: Kubwa, Wajirko, Ajiki, Azil B., Modube, Mulai-Lawanti, Affa, Kukawa, Firhaona, Bale, and Dusula among others. There are currently outbreaks of malaria, measles, pneumonia, and whooping cough and most of the hospitals within the zone have been destroyed by the insurgents.

In Buni Yadi, the headquarters of Gujba local government in Yobe state, IDPs are returning back to their homes, though three quarters of the town has been devastated by the insurgents and most returnees no longer have homes still standing. Many households are also struggling to rebuild their houses, using local materials such as neem wood and shrubs to roof their houses. Miniature shops are springing up across the town after most of the market stalls had been razed by the insurgents. Returnees are in critical need of support, but there is no consistent presence of humanitarian actors in the



town. Yobe State SEMA and other actors have visited the area on alternative days, but have not delivered regular support. Most households are dependent on relations and indebtedness to access food in addition to limited humanitarian aid including a July distribution from the Wife of the President which provided both food and non-food materials. Along the Damaturu-Buni Yadi-Biu road lies deserted and destroyed villages with only the local vigilante and military presence.

In, Damaturu, the Yobe state capital, the main self-settled camp of Kukareta is now hosting over 10,000 IDPs who are in need of urgent humanitarian support. This number is down from 34,000 at the beginning of the year mostly due to IDPs from Gujba LGA returning home. Kukareta IDPs are mainly supported by ICRC, receiving the last monthly food ration delivery from them in April and expecting that delivery for subsequent months would follow normally. Bukar Ali camp, which had been hosting about 400 IDPs mainly from Kurnari village in Damaturu has been closed with the IDPs returning home with cash token and food support from SEMA.

Several local and international NGOs are also scaling up their activities in the zone with interventions in many sectors across Borno and Yobe. Organizations include ACF, CRS, INTERSOS, COOPI, MSF, ICRC, NRC, and UN organizations including UNICEF, FAO, WFP, UNHCR, and UNOCHA. They are involved in cash transfer, food assistance, nutrition, WASH, protection, camp management and livelihood supports. Despite these efforts, however, there are still huge gaps for humanitarian support with the most vulnerable households still needing food, water, shelter, protection and health.

Food availability and access is restricted in most areas within the zone. Households are dependent on limited community support will continue to be the major source of food and non-food for the vulnerable households in the area. Recent malnutrition screening in Maiduguri and Jere by UNICEF and in Monguno by ALIMMA respectively during April and June indicates a GAM prevalence above the WHO critical level. For example in Bama which is in this area and Monguno which is hosting many IDP from LGAs in the Northern part of the area, the GAM levels were at 39.1 and 32 percent, respectively in April and June.

### *Assumptions*

The most likely scenario for the June 2016 to January 2017 period is based on the following zone-level assumptions:

- **Boko Haram conflict:** Conflict will continue to decline gradually as the joint military task force dislodges Boko Haram fighters from the region. However, sporadic attacks in localized areas will continue and the insurgents will remain a major threat in some areas within the zone, particularly areas around the Sambisa forest. IDP returns will slow down during the growing season as they will be unable to cultivate and will gradually increase after the main harvest starts in October when there is more food availability.
- **Areas of Limited Accessibility:** In areas where there is extremely limited or no accessibility due to on-going operations between the military and Boko Haram fighters, food security outcomes are expected to be similar to areas that have been recently liberated. In this zone the areas include those LGAs around the Sambisa Forest in Eastern Damboa, Gwoza, Bama, and Konodugu. Limited reports from these areas indicate that there is active fighting and almost complete displacement or capture of local populations.
- **Off-season activities:** Dry season cropping and fishing activities will begin in December normally and at higher levels relative to 2015, but will likely be below average also in the zone. Along the Komadugu-Yobe floodplains in Yobe state production levels will improve, though still be lower than usual and in Borno production will remain limited due to continued security threats.
- **Agricultural labor and wage:** Due to displacement and low levels of cultivation, agricultural labor demand will be below average, affecting household income levels. Labor supply will be above average, leading to lower wages and income.
- **Agricultural production/harvest:** Substantial populations within the zone will be unable to cultivate during the upcoming growing season. Some households will remain displaced and both returnees and host communities will have limited capacity to cultivate normally. Restrictions on tall crop cultivation, bans on motor bike riding and restricted cultivation areas will also limit harvests which will remain below average within this zone.
- **Trade flows:** Food flow into the zone will remain below average as the military intensifies their activities against localized attacks by the insurgents. Traders will continue to avoid the area through October although during November the military will likely dislodge the insurgents and security conditions will substantially improve allowing domestic and regional trade flow to increase as routes become more accessible.
- **Market supply and demand; food and livestock:** Market food demand will increase, relative to previous months due to the Ramadan fast, particularly for millet in June/July. This will persist through the lean season as more households

become market dependent. Food prices will continue to increase through September and become more stable in October as harvests come in and demand declines. Prices will remain elevated as compared to previous years. Livestock supply and prices will peak in September during the Tabaski holiday and in December for the Christmas.

- **Sorghum and millet prices:** Staple food prices such as millet, maize and sorghum remained elevated compared to neighboring markets and compared to previous years. Prices are expected to remain above-average due to below-average harvests, limited food flow, on-going conflict, increasing fuel prices and depreciation of the Naira.
- **Onset/End of the rainy season:** The rainy season will begin on time as usual during June in most areas within the zone. The season will likely end normally in late September to early October. Water levels in streams and ponds will be normal in most areas and will be elevated along major floodplains. Normal levels of floods will be expected in the area usually during July to September and there may be normal, intermittent dry spells during the growing season in localized areas leading to replanting of millet, maize and legumes.

### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

During June to September, the level of conflict within the zone is expected to further decline, leading to increased trade route access, and improved local market activities. The onset of the growing season during June/July will increase labor demand for land preparation, planting and weeding activities, contributing to a slight increase in incomes. However, security restrictions will still be elevated reducing economic and humanitarian access. Food prices will remain above average and household purchasing power will remain atypically weak. Households will likely continue to consume less preferred foods and skip meals during this period, which could contribute to a rise in global acute malnutrition during the lean season. **Most poor households in Yobe and parts of Borno close to Maiduguri, will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity through September. IDP settlements noted in the Area of Concern above will face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity.**

Between October 2016 and January 2017 food availability and access for conflict affected households will be limited by below average harvests, limited humanitarian access, restricted income opportunities, and sustained high food prices. Harvests, which will be below average, will not completely cover household food consumption needs. Consequently, many poor households within the zone will rely on atypically high levels of coping and community support to access food and rebuild household assets. **Areas will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through January 2017.**

### **North-Central Maize, Sorghum and Cotton Zone: Livelihood Zone 10**

This area includes the LGAs of Mubi North, Mubi South, Maiha, Michika and Madagali in Adamawa state and Askira-Uba, Biu, Hawul, Kwaya-Kusar and Chibok in Southern Borno state.

### *Current situation*

The LGAs in this zone have shown substantial improvement in the security situation both in rate of attacks and increased returnees, particularly in Adamawa state where higher rates of return has been recorded. Very high levels of returns have been recorded in Mubi North, Mubi South as well as Maiha LGAs in Adamawa, where IDPs have returned to their communities to rebuild their livelihoods. About 90 and 70 percent of IDPs have returned to Michika and Madagali LGAs respectively, however most of these returnees remain in urban centers where they are still displaced from their original homesteads. The northern area of Madagali, on the border of Borno state and close to the Sambisa forest, is still under threat of attack by Boko Haram insurgents. The conflict situation in the southern part of Borno state has also improved considerably leading to substantial return of IDPs including 75 percent of Chibok's population. Biu Camp has seen a reduction of about 43 percent of IDPs within the past two months while IDPs from Askira-Uba LGA, who were in a self-settled camp in Biu, have fully returned home.

Across the zone some government support has been decreasing due to diminished government revenue and restricted access in some areas. In accessible areas like Maiha, Mubi north and Mubi South, however, humanitarian actors have scaled up their activities. In some communities in northern Adamawa state, both OXFAM and ICRC are reconstructing shelters and aiding in the recovery of livelihood activities as well as providing some direct food and farm input distribution. Additionally, the Adamawa state government has requested support from INGOs and humanitarian organizations for the estimated 60 to 80,000 (ADSEMA) Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon who are ready to return home. In Southern Borno state ICRC remains a main provider of food, WASH inputs and shelter in Biu camps, while SCI, UNICEF and Mercy Corps also are planning to provide assistance. In May, Mercy Corps began to register to returnees in Biu, Kwaya-Kusar and Hawul for assistance.

Land preparation for the coming season (2016/2017) are underway in secure areas of the zone. Generally, across the LGAs in northern Adamawa state (Mubi North, Mubi South and Maiha), the levels are higher than what was observed last year, though below average; it is up to 80% in Michika LGA and about 50% in Madagali LGA (FEWS NET). Military clearance operations are still underway in Madagali LGA where farmers are still restricted from growing tall crops like sorghum, millet and maize due to security concerns. Likewise in Southern parts of Borno state, the level of land clearing and cultivation, varies across LGAs with Biu, Kwaya-Kusar, Askira Uba, Chibok and Bayo all cultivating at near average levels, while Hawul LGA is cultivating at about 75 percent level this year.

The last phase of dry season farming is happening across the zone with farmers rounding up harvests of vegetables including pepper and onion. It was generally reported that yield and harvests from the last dry season farming actually exceeded typical yields in Southern Borno areas as returnee IDPs effectively tried to compensate for their losses in the last main season. Residents have also increased their level of petty trading across the zone comparable to last year and also to an average year. Due to the improved dry-season harvest of vegetables as compared to the last 2 years of insurgency, most households still have some food stocks, though at depleted levels. Returning households, however, who could not cultivate due to displacement, have limited or no food stocks.

The levels of labour availability is in surplus in Mubi North, Mubi South, Maiha and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa state and similar southern Borno state. As a result, labor wages has reduced considerably compared to a typical year. For example, farm activities that usually cost about NGN1000/day has currently reduced by 40 percent. Such labour requirement in building and construction of houses that usually costs NGN1500 per day now goes for about NGN1000 per day.

Most markets within the livelihood zone are functioning at near normal levels (Figure 1). Exceptions include 1, Maye Wado, Lassa, Uba and Askira markets which are functioning at below average levels. Most of the trade routes are now safe for the traders as the majority of previously inaccessible routes have been opened, including roads from Biu to Damaturu and to Damboa. Traders now sell goods in both Adamawa North and Borno south from the eastern part of the country and also from international cereal market in Kano which reflects a much safer road condition. Most functioning markets are supplied to meet the needs population who rely on market food purchases.

Households in the zone have limited food stocks and are mostly market dependent. Atypical food prices are further limiting household food access. Mubi, in Adamawa state, has seen increases of about 21, 38 and 11 percent in white maize, yellow maize and brown sorghum respectively between May and April 2016 and 102, 89 and 73 percent when compared to prices in May 2015 for the same commodities, respectively. Similarly, in Biu market the same products had price increases of about 29, 26 and 33 percent from May to April 2016 and 107, 80 and 80, respectively, when compared to May 2015. These increased price level were ascribed to increased demand, reduced market stocks due to the peak of the lean season and general increase in transaction and transportation costs due to increased fuel prices across the country.

Livestock body conditions and prices are unfavorable to pastoralists. Market supply is relatively high and feed prices are also above average. This led to increase in the supply of livestock to markets and subsequently impacted on their prices negatively. A medium sized cattle which usually sells for between NGN150,000 to NGN 200,000.00 is now selling for about NGN120,000, while sheep and goat that respectively sell for NGN15,000 and NGN12,000 now sells for NGN10,000 and NGN8,000 in the zone.

### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the June 2016 to January 2017 outlook period is based on the following specific zonal level assumptions:

- **Level of IDPs return:** The recent IOM/NEMA displacement tracking matrix (Round IX) released in late April revealed that seven LGAs in Adamawa state and one LGA in Borno state were accessible for IDP returns, with substantial returnee numbers already seen in Adamawa State. It is expected that complete return will be achieved in this zone by the beginning of dry season farming in December.
- **Inputs availability:** Access to main inputs – improved seeds and fertilizer will be below average due to limited government revenue and reduced purchasing power for imported inputs. Adamawa, however, has begun distribution of subsidized fertilizer to farmers while donors and humanitarian agencies are also planning to provide improved seed. The uncertainties faced by IDPs for returning to their homesteads and being able to access land will restrict the distribution of inputs to farmers in areas within Borno state.
- **Evolution of the growing season and end of season:** Planting, weeding and fertilizer application will occur as normal between June and September. Cereals and legumes will be planted in most areas. The area cultivated will

be greater than last year and near average as most areas are now relatively peaceful. Cultivation of tall growing crops such as maize and sorghum close to settlements will likely be limited due to security concern. The season will likely end in late September to early October as usual in most areas.

- **Flooding and dry spells:** Flooding and dry spells are expected to be normal during the growing season. While the dry spell is anticipated occasionally at mid-season, flooding will only occur along major floodplains in localized areas within the zone, particularly during August to September. The likelihood of release of water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon will also affect farmlands and infrastructure within Adamawa state.
- **Harvest and cultivation levels:** The level of crop cultivation for staple cereals (sorghum, maize and rice) and cash crops such as cowpea, soybean and cotton in this zone will be higher than last year but will be below average in most areas of the zone. Farmers will likely shift to cash crops cultivation and rice due to security concerns around tall growing crops such as maize and sorghum. The main harvest of cereal staples and legumes will be higher than last year and near average in the zone.
- **Off-season activities:** The off-season activities beginning in December normally will most-likely be average to above average in the zone as most returning households will be more inclined to cover up for losses incurred during the crisis by engaging more in dry season activities.
- **Labor demand and wages:** Demand for agricultural labor work will increase substantially towards the growing season in the zone compared to last year. Labor supply will also increase as additional migrant labor from the neighboring areas migrate to engage in labor work to earn income. Labor wages will thus likely be below average compared to pre-crisis levels.
- **Food and income sources:** Most poor households in this zone will continue to depend on market purchase for food through the lean season period as they have exhausted their own stocks. Community support will remain an important source of food for the vulnerable populations. Most households will continue to engage in unskilled labor work such as land preparation, weeding and harvesting to earn income and access food. Others will engage in firewood sale, petty trade and wild food collection to access food. However, for IDPs within camps in the zone, they largely rely on limited food support by humanitarian actors, philanthropists and government.
- **Nutritional situation:** The prevalence of malnutrition will continue and will peak during the lean season period as usual. Elevated rates of acute malnutrition seen in areas of Borno with limited access are not expected to be as severe in this area, but may remain above average until the harvest season. Malnutrition levels will decline normally during harvest in October through at least January.

### *Most likely food security outcomes*

The impending lean season through September coupled with limited household income and above-average food prices will reduce food availability and access for most affected households in the zone as they resort to market for food. This will be slightly tempered by the Ramadan food gifts and early green harvest, but this will not offset the food needs of most households. Affected households will resort to atypical labor work, petty trading, wild food collection and indebtedness. **Consequently, such households will be able to meet their food needs but will forgo expenditures for non-food needs and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through September. Areas worst affected by the conflict including Madagali and Southern Borno will rely on atypically high levels of coping and community support to access food and rebuild their assets; they will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September.**

A significant proportion of the population affected by the conflict will be unable to cultivate and will have below average or no agricultural production. These households will continue to depend on market purchase for food and will resort to consumption of less preferred foods, small craft sales and atypical labor work during the harvest period to access income and food. Most of these households in **Southern Borno will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through January 2017.** Most households in Southern Adamawa state will recover fully following the harvest in October and this are will be in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity through the end of the Outlook period.

### **Informal Settlements in Greater Maiduguri, Borno State**

Greater Maiduguri presently is host to substantial IDPs population. Most IDPs are moving into the city center to access communal support, humanitarian support and protection.

#### *Current Situation*

Boko Haram attacks within the greater Maiduguri area are declining along with the number of IDPs in the city. The military has intensified their activities to recover more areas and all local government headquarters have been liberated, which has



allowed the military to keep IDPs in LGA headquarters instead of moving them to Maiduguri. The state government has accelerated plans to reopen institutions in Maiduguri hosting IDPs while moving populations to other camps and settlements around the city. This has led to overcrowding of LGA headquarters and remaining camps such as Bakassi and Dalori-FCT. The recent (IX IOM/NEMA) displacement tracking matrix released in April 2016 covering 15 accessible local government areas across the state revealed that 1, 427,999 IDPs are in the state with about 91 percent in informal settlements around Maiduguri.

There is an increased return of IDPs from Maiduguri to the southern part of the state including Damboa, Askira-Uba and Chibok local government areas where there is improved security situation, market functioning, cropping activities, and humanitarian support which is increasing food access. While these population are moving out of Maiduguri, households with health challenges are being moved to Maiduguri to access health facilities and treatment. Similarly, IDPs from the northern areas of the state are yet to return to homestead due to persisting conflict and military operations in the area.

The recent support from humanitarian actors in April for food assistance and livelihood support reached only 145, 509 people within Maiduguri. Humanitarian actors include: ACF, NRC, WFP, INTERSOS, ICRC, NRCS, Government and others. Food support need to be more targeted and scaled up to increase access. Some IDPs rely on market through credit purchase and others access food from various sources such as host communities, gifts/charity and friends. Unskilled labor work such as water hawking, construction work, loading and off-loading and petty trade is also common among the IDPs to access income and food. Cap and gown knitting is also practiced by the IDPs to earn income for food. Similarly, the FAO, through JNI has registered 950 vulnerable host community and IDP households and distributed food to 273 households in MMC and 277 others in Jere during May and June. The food basket composed of 20kg rice and 5kg cowpea/household. Next distribution will occur in mid-July for the period of 6 months. Many organizations are in the planning stages of providing expanded support to households in this area.

Staple food prices such as millet, maize and sorghum remained elevated compared to domestic neighboring markets, compared to last year and the 3 year average price levels. This is due to increased demand, limited main and off-season harvests, and low food flows due to insurgency and military operations, and the depreciation of Naira with respect to US Dollar and CFA. This is also exacerbated by the recent increased fuel pump price by about 67 percent leading to further increased transportation costs and elevated food prices. Markets in Maiduguri remain well stocked with major staples, adequate to meet current demand. Sources of food are mainly from neighboring areas such as southern Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa and Kano. Stocks are continuing to improve as detours are gradually disappearing and more trade routes are becoming accessible.

### *Assumptions*

The most likely scenario for the June 2016 to January 2017 period is based on the following assumptions:

- **Levels of Return and Conflict:** As conflict gradually declines, some IDPs will be able to return to their homesteads to participate in the upcoming growing season. Households are returning home on a near daily basis to semi-urban areas such as Damboa, Biu, and Askira Uba, reducing IDPs populations in Maiduguri, a trend which will likely continue through September and will increase further after the harvest from October to January 2017.
- **Market Functioning and Prices:** Most markets within the area are functioning at near normal levels and are expected to recover with the harvests in October. Food prices such as staple cereals including millet, maize and sorghum will continue to increase during the Ramadan in June and through the lean season period in July to September, limiting food access. Prices and demand will continue to increase beyond both the last year's levels and the 5 year average peaking during the upcoming lean season through September. Prices will decline normally during the harvest but remain elevated due to currency depreciation.
- **Income Sources:** Demand for agricultural labor work will increase substantially towards the growing season in the zone. Similarly, labor supply will also increase as additional migrant labor from the neighboring areas experiencing conflict come into the area. Thus, labor wages will likely be below average. Most households will continue to engage in unskilled labor work such as land preparation, weeding and harvesting, firewood sales, and petty trade to earn income. IDPs within camps will have limited livelihood and income opportunities.
- **Disease outbreak:** There is elevated risk of water related disease outbreak during the rainy season including diarrhea and cholera. Poor hygiene practices and limited water access will persist among the households, particularly in informal settlement with limited WASH infrastructure.
- **Level of cultivation:** Most IDPs will have limited access to land and inputs to engage in crop cultivation.

- **Community assistance:** Assistance for displaced households in informal settlements will continue although support will be limited during the lean season period, it will increase after the harvest from October through January.

#### Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Atypical staple food prices will persist through the end of the lean season in September. This, coupled with restricted community and humanitarian support will limit food access for most conflict affected households. Thus, these households will reduce expenditures on non-food items, indebtedness and wild food gathering. Others will resort to petty trade, selling household assets and pulling children from school to earn income and access food. These activities, however, will not fully meet their essential food and non-food needs **and IDP households in Greater Maiduguri will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity through September**. A smaller proportion of insurgency affected households in Greater Maiduguri who are resorting to more extreme levels of coping and **have substantially limited access to food will face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity through at least September**.

The main harvest will begin in October across the country leading to decline in food prices, improved market functioning and increased food availability and access. However, prices will remain elevated due to depreciation and households affected by the insurgents will be rebuilding livelihoods and assets. Most households will continue to access food through atypical coping strategies such as indebtedness and reduced non-food expenditures and will face **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity through January 2017**. A smaller proportion of worst affected IDP households will continue to have food consumption gaps and face **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity**.

#### EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

**Table 1:** Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

| Area      | Event   | Impact on food security outcomes   |
|-----------|---|--|
| National  | Delayed onset of the season or prolonged dry spells           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below average harvest in affected areas</li> <li>• Atypical hike in food prices during the lean season</li> <li>• Below average pastoral resources</li> <li>• Below average water levels in rivers and ponds</li> </ul> |
|           | Above average pest infestation                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below average yields in affected areas</li> <li>• Below average harvest of early maturing crops in September</li> </ul>   |
|           | Further sharp reduction in oil price on international markets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline in government revenue</li> <li>• Reduced government capacity to implement food security related programs across the country</li> <li>• Reduced households purchasing power</li> </ul>                           |
|           | Persisting tomatoes disease outbreak                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below average harvest of tomatoes</li> </ul>  |
| Northeast | Increased levels of Boko Haram conflict                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased population displacements</li> <li>• Increased emergency food needs</li> </ul>   |
|           | Substantial reduction in Boko Haram conflict                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant return of IDPs to their homes and increase in off-season activities</li> </ul>  |
|           | Increased humanitarian access and support                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased food availability and access</li> <li>• Facilitate livelihood recovery and resettlement of insurgency affected households</li> </ul>  |
|           | Atypically high levels of flooding                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional displacement of households in the area substantially below-average harvests in affected areas</li> </ul>   |

#### ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. Learn more [here](#).