



## IN NUMBERS



**6.9 million**

people are food insecure during the 2017 lean season (June–August 2017)



**80-90%**

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



**2.4 million**

people are displaced



**USD 49 million**

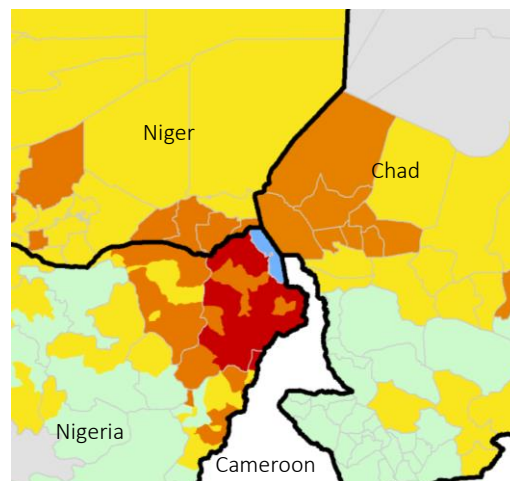
are still needed for the implementation of FAO's Response strategy in 2017

## 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.
- **Funds received** thus far will be key to support crisis-hit farmers and herders during the rainy season; however, additional resources are needed to continue assisting vulnerable populations in 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 during and after 2017.
- In addition to providing an immediate response to the acute needs of affected populations, it is crucial to promote and support longer-term sustainable agriculture practices and policies to adapt to climate change and the increasing scarcity of natural resources.

## MAP

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



### Legend

- Not analyzed (grey)
- Minimal (light green)
- Under pressure (yellow)
- Crisis (orange)
- Emergency (red)
- Famine (dark red)
- Lake Chad (blue)

## 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 crop 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, 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 extreme pressure on pastoral resources, and could threaten animal health. Special attention should be given to the health conditions of herds following the pastoral lean season.

## FAO'S RESPONSE

**Cameroon:** FAO plans to assist 45 750 crisis-hit farmers, mainly IDPs and host populations, in improving their food security and nutrition in the coming months. Specific focus is given to support crisis-affected herders through destocking activities that will enable the distribution of dried meat to families with malnourished children. The distribution of vouchers, together with the organization of livestock fairs, will facilitate the recapitalization process.

**Niger:** In the Diffa region, FAO is assisting about 133 000 people with agriculture and livestock support during the rainy season. Cereal seeds will be provided to farmers in need to ensure planting during the main agricultural campaign. Herders that are particularly affected by the crisis will benefit from the provision of animal feed and animal health services, including returnees, refugees and host populations whose access to the Lake Chad area for livestock watering is compromised by insecurity.

**Chad:** FAO is assisting about 96 700 people to protect their livelihoods. Key activities include the provision of high-quality cereal seeds for the rainy season, as well as support for post-harvest processing. Restocking activities will help compensate for animal losses. Cash transfers and cash+ will help beneficiaries to protect their livelihoods and generate essential income. Destocking activities will allow for the provision of meat for vulnerable families with malnourished children.

**Nigeria:** In Adamawa, Borno and Yobe – the three most states in northeastern Nigeria – 1.12 million people are receiving support during the current rainy season through the provision of cereal seeds and fertilizers as well as small-scale livelihood starter kits. Furthermore, 6 500 households will benefit from a restocking programme and 200 000 animals will be vaccinated against infectious diseases and dewormed, benefiting 80 000 people.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Of the USD 232 million requested to assist 3 million people in need under FAO's 2017–2019 Response Strategy, **USD 73.6 million is required for 2017** to support beneficiaries through life-saving activities in the four countries. The breakdown per country for 2017 is as follows:



- Cameroon: USD 4.6 million, of which USD 1.4 million has been received.
- Chad: USD 5.1 million, of which USD 3.4 million has been received.
- Niger: USD 2 million, of which USD 1.4 million has been received.
- Nigeria: USD 62 million, of which USD 18.6 million has been received.

## CONTACT

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