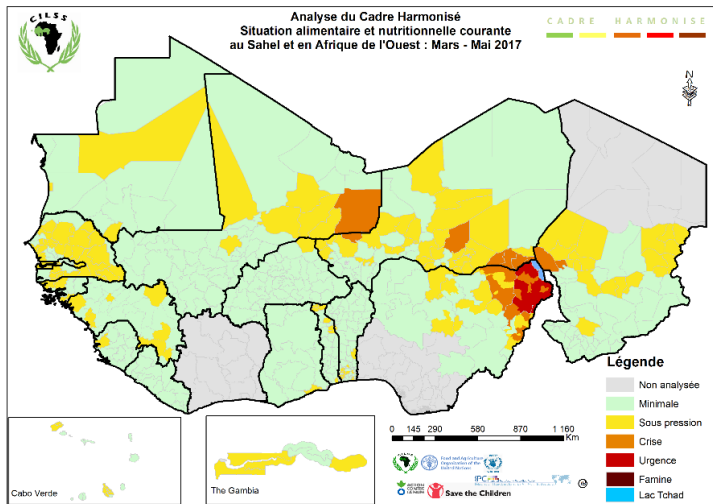


Food Security Outlook

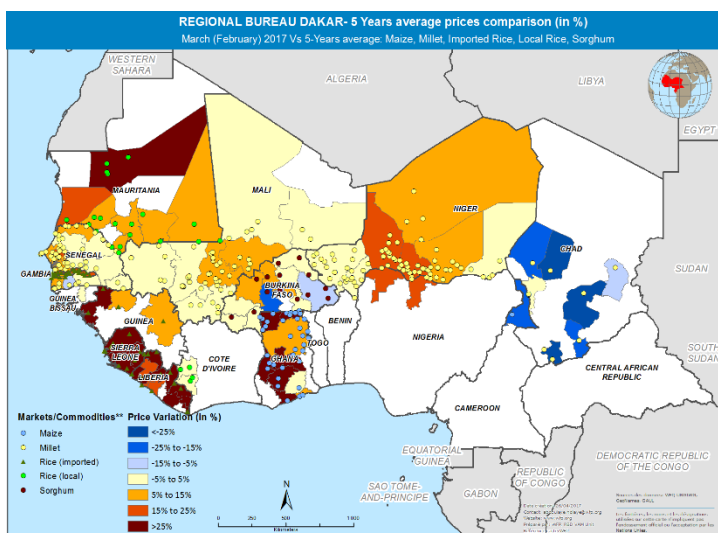


The 2016-2017 agricultural campaign was globally satisfactory, with a cereal production superior to the five year average by 17.5%. However, slight decreases were registered in Liberia (-7.5%) and in Mauritania (-1.2%). Tubers production increased by 10% compared to five year average. The off-season and gardening production ran in a usual fashion supported by an overall good surface water availability for the season. These crops will complement the households' food stocks.

The pastoral situation, pasture and watering conditions of livestock are average to satisfactory despite fodder deficits registered in a large part of the Sahelian belt notably in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad. Transhumance movements remain normal except in the fodder-deficit areas and conflict zones, especially in the Lake Chad basin, northern Mali and northwest Niger. The significant decrease in terms of trade for herders is having a seriously impact on access to food for pastoral populations in Niger, Tchad and Nigeria.

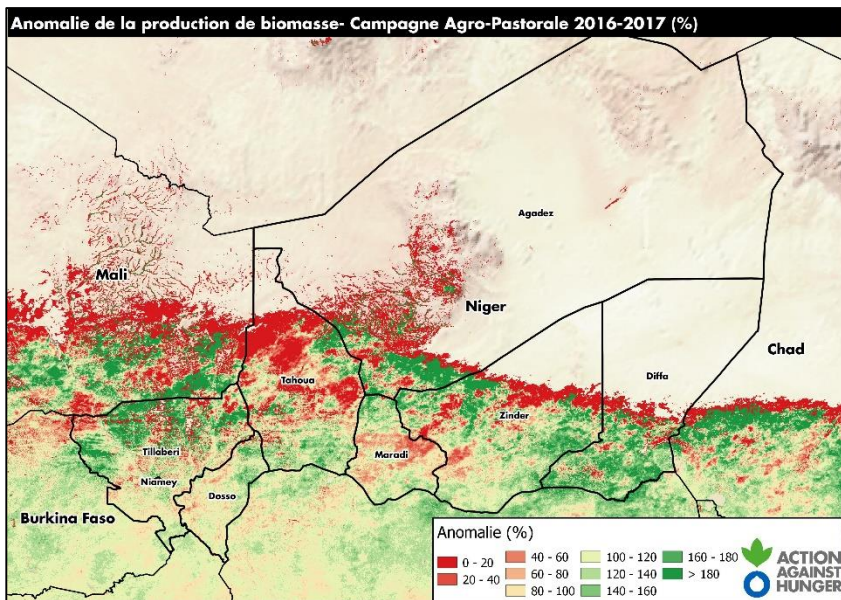
According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis around **9.6 million** people need humanitarian assistance, among whom **8.2 million** are in crisis, **1.4 million** are in emergency and **44.000** are in famine.

Market functionality is satisfactory except in the Lake Chad basin due to civil insecurity. Cereal prices have started to increase significantly in Niger, Mali and Mauritania compared to the 5 year average. Livestock prices for cattle and small ruminants are generally decreasing in the region due to the decrease in demand from Nigeria which affects herders purchasing power. The depreciation of currencies in Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and in Ghana, as well as the civil insecurity around the Lake Chad basin, constitute the principal factors affecting prices and flows between countries. In the East basin, this situation has caused a reversal of flows of cattle, poultry, onions and other cash crops between Nigeria and Niger.



*Cereal prices' variations compared to the 5y average
February - March 2017*

Agro-Pastoral Campaign- Niger Alert



The 2016/2017 Agro-Pastoral campaign marks a considerable deterioration from last year's favorable situation.

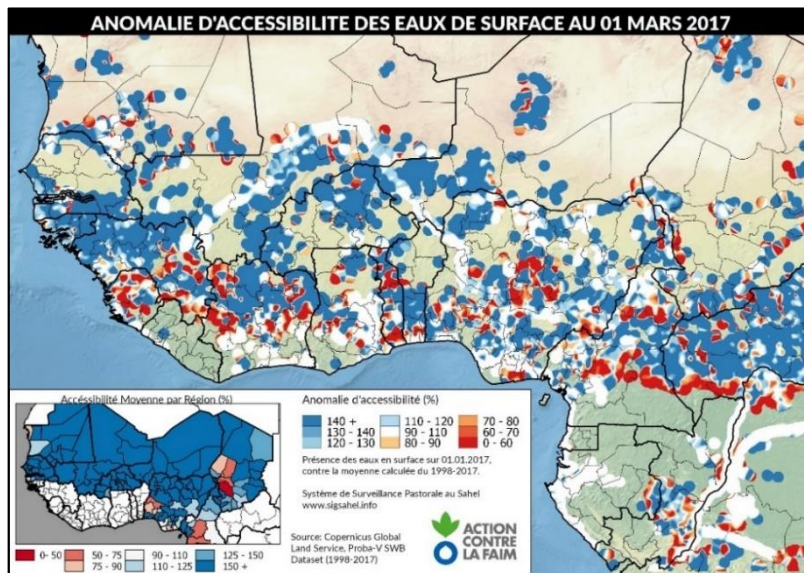
The onset of the dry season in Niger has been met with an acute forage deficit. Predictions made in October have been confirmed by reports from the Nigerien Ministry of Livestock, OCHA and ACF field data.

The lack of available pasture land is putting significant pressure on pastoral communities and there is an urgent need for animal fodder distribution.

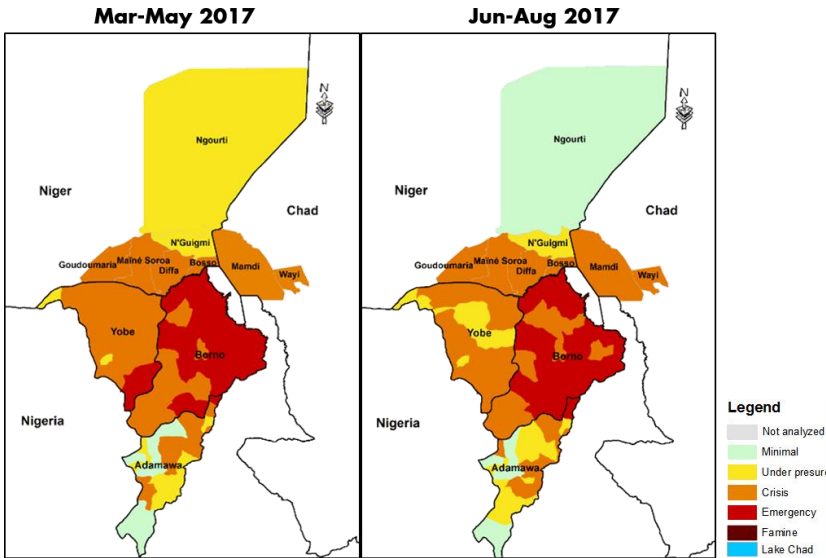
Moreover, the strong decrease in livestock's prices and the rise of cereals' prices has greatly deteriorated the terms of trade for herders in already fragile areas and is causing strong concerns regarding the ability for the affected population to assure their food and nutritional security. The key areas which have been identified as the most affected are Tahoua (Tchintabaradene), Maradi (Mayahi), Zinder (Tanout).

Surface Water Update

Surface water occurrence remains normal or favorable across the Sahel. The distribution of current lakes with a surface over 1km² is above the long-term average. That said, conditions remain less favorable than last year's agropastoral campaign.



Lake Chad Basin Update



Conflicts and violence have caused the displacement of more than 4.9 million people, out of which 2.4 million are in the LCB areas (source: OCHA). Despite a massive scale-up of humanitarian interventions in North-East Nigeria and the liberation of some LGAs the situation remains critical and current efforts should be maintained in order to support severely food and nutrition insecure populations.

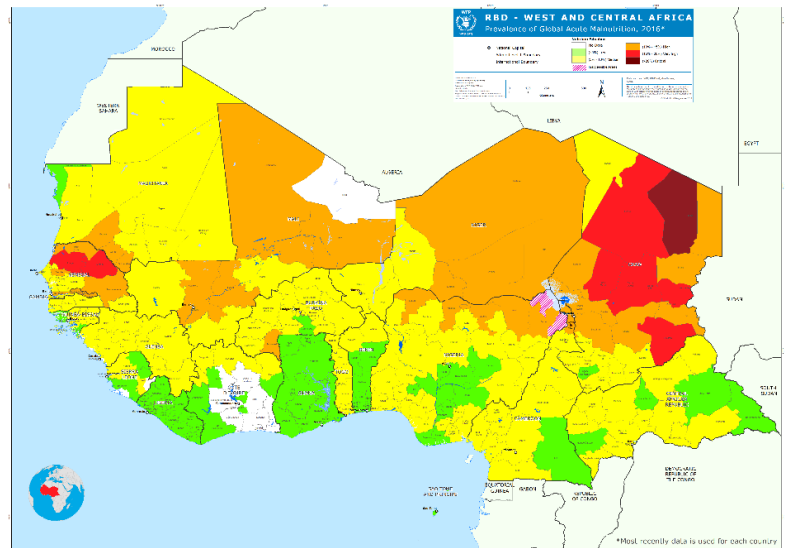
It is estimated that around **43,000 people** are currently in famine and this figure will most probably increase during the lean season. According to UNICEF, **1.2 million children** under 5 years will suffer from acute malnutrition in the LCB area over 2017 and more than 540,000 will need immediate treatment.

Nutrition Outlook

The nutritional situation during this post-harvest period remains worrying to critical in the Lake Chad basin, the north of Mali and in the three northeastern Nigeria States due to the deterioration of living conditions and persistent civil insecurity.

In refugee and IDP areas, as well as host communities' areas, the situation is much more alarming with prevalence above the emergency threshold. The nutritional situation could deteriorate during the lean season in most of the Sahel countries.

According to UNICEF, **8.6 million** children will suffer from acute malnutrition in the Sahel in 2017 and **3.3 million** from its most severe form.



Recommendations for Action

- Provide **immediate animal feed** for herders in the areas of Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder in Niger.
- Closely **follow price fluctuation** in Niger, Mali and Chad and prepare for early response if needed.
- Closely follow the **RUTF pipeline** versus the admission in Niger and Mali where the forecasted caseload of SAM children seems fairly underestimated.
- Continue to **actively advocate** for funding to meet the enormous needs in North-East Nigeria based on the Oslo conference engagements.