Sahel Drought Situation Report No. 6
Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Niger

June 2012

AT A GLANCE – MALI FOCUS

- The African Development Bank (AfDB) has emphasized the need for the crisis in Mali to be resolved quickly. West African Governments and the international community have been called upon to support peace efforts.
- Almost 147,000 internally displaced people are facing food insecurity due to the rebellion in the Northern regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu. Another 160,000 have fled to neighboring countries.
- Humanitarian access to the North is limited.
- After power was handed back to civilian control, Mali’s ex-junta is reportedly still refusing to fully cooperate. An additional attempted counter-coup also recently occurred with fighting in Bamako killing 22. The North remains firmly in the control of the rebel and Islamic fighters.
- Concern remains that the conflict in Northern Nigeria led by Boko Haram will spill into Mali and Niger as links exist with Ansar Dine.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is currently facilitating talks on the future transition of the interim government and has approved an ECOWAS “Standing Force” for later deployment.

LATEST DROUGHT SITUATION

- Early warning systems and international organizations are reporting that more than 17 million people are now at risk of food insecurity in West Africa’s Sahel region due to a combination of drought, poor accessibility to food, high grain prices, environmental degradation and displacement due to conflict. From that number, 1 million children under the age of five are at risk for acute malnutrition, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
- Per country: the drought is affecting 1 million people in Mauritania; 6.4 million in Niger; 3.6 million in Chad; 3.6 million in Mali; 2.85 million in Burkina Faso.
- UN officials have launched a new appeal for urgent funds for the Sahel following a recent high profile visit to Niger. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) along with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is stressing the critical nature of the crisis in an effort to create support.
- UN OCHA reports that US$923.8 million is required for humanitarian assistance. US$706.1 million has been raised so far. However, assistance for agriculture is funded at only 15 percent which could have longer-reaching negative effects on food production.

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1 The March 22 coup led by a military Junta in Bamako, Mali, left the north of the country open to Tuareg rebels of the Azawad National Liberation Movement (MNLA), battling alongside Islamist militants (known as Ansar Dine and backed by Al Queda) who want to impose Islamic law in the country, who took over much of the region. The national army was unable to respond. The MLNA have since declared the North “independent.”
• Acute food insecurity has reached Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 (crisis)\(^3\) in the agro-pastoral areas of Mauritania. Areas in Mali, Niger, and Chad have also reached the crisis phase.

• Most regions are not expected to surpass IPC 3 however, a disruption in humanitarian aid (whether from lack of funding or restricted access in conflict zones) could significantly alter the situation. Areas unable to be reached could reach IPC 4 (emergency) or higher.

• Due to the conflict in Mali, seasonal migration of pastoralists is being disrupted between Mauritania and Niger. This situation, combined with the increase in refugees, could create pockets of IPC 4.

• It would be prudent for Governments and humanitarian agencies to retain a certain amount of flexibility in their approach when accounting for the varying food security scenarios in the region.

### COUNTRY SITUATION

#### Burkina Faso:

• The Government of Burkina Faso has estimated that around 2.85 million people are in acute food insecurity. The Government has provisioned 88,000 tons of emergency food assistance to respond to the current crisis.

• High grain prices and a steady influx of refugees from Mali (approximately 46,000) will aggravate the current food security crisis in the north and eastern parts of the country through September 2012. A sudden increase in food demand combined with lower production of cereals is said to be fueling the higher than normal prices (50-80 percent higher compared to December 2011\(^4\)).

• For the rest of the country, good rains should allow for decent crop production through to October. The most affected areas are not expected to surpass IPC 2 (stressed) throughout the rest of 2012.

#### Chad:

• Currently, 3.6 million people are estimated to be food insecure as a result of the drought. WFP is conducting a “blanket feeding” program which will reach 1.2 million people with emergency food assistance. WFP leads the food security cluster efforts in the region in cooperation with local authorities. Overall, 37 percent of the entire population is considered undernourished.

• Reported cases of malnutrition across the country have doubled compared to the same period in 2011. This includes both drought and non-drought affected areas. Children less than five years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers are most impacted.

• A meningitis epidemic is affecting 7 districts, compounding the already tenuous food security situation.

• The lean season will run from April to September instead of June to September (the latter being the normal lean period), as a result of poor rain distribution in 2011.

• With trade from Libya restricted, current grain inventories are low and reserve stocks normally used for coping with drought are also not expected to last through the lean period in the central part of the country.

• Other trade is being severely restricted due to the ongoing border closures with Nigeria caused by violence by Islamist group Boko Haram. Many Chadians are taking refuge in Ngouboua (border region of Lake Chad).

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\(^2\) This includes Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal

\(^3\) IPC uses a scale of 1-5, 1 is normal, 2 is stress, 3 is crisis, 4 is emergency and 5 is famine

\(^4\) Joint assessment by Burkina Faso Government/CILSS/FAO/FEWSNET/WFP
Mali:

- 3.6 million Malians are said to be at risk of food insecurity due to the combination of drought conditions, internal displacement and local food shortages.
- The food security situation is rapidly worsening due to the ongoing conflict. The northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal remain under rebel control and the impact of the conflict is heavily stressing livelihoods, markets and humanitarian assistance in the region.
- An estimated 147,000 people are internally displaced in the North of Mali, while another 160,000 are seeking refuge in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Algeria.
- With no immediate solution for the crisis foreseen, it is expected that market disruptions and limited access to food by households will continue. Famine Early Warning Network (FEWSNET) is reporting trade at 20 percent of typical levels and that many weekly markets have closed. 45-65 percent of annual food needs of households in the North come from purchases at local markets.
- With most formal and informal financing mechanism not functioning, access to cash and credit is also severely limited.
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that nomadic people and pastoralists in the across the Northern regions are being most affected and that the possibility of a famine situation cannot be excluded.
- For the Southern regions of the country under control of the transitional government, the outlook is slightly better with most areas not expected to surpass IPC 2.

Mauritania:

- The National Food Security Commission is listing 1 million people as currently food insecure in the country and in need of assistance, mostly due to drought.
- More than 60,000 refugees from Mali have entered the country via Bassikounou in the South. UNHCR and the Mauritanian Government are reporting that so far, the influx has not had a major effect on local markets.
- FEWSNET is reporting that the Government drought food assistance program is underway but lacks funding. WFP is also seeking additional funding for its food assistance program which covers basic food needs for 510,000 Mauritians for 5 months.
- Despite the drought conditions, the IMF recently reported Mauritania’s economic growth has remained “sustained” and resisted a slowdown. This is partly due to the strong performance of mining exports.

Niger:

- 6.4 million people are now either in IPC 2 or 3, mostly due to drought.
- WFP launched emergency food assistance operations to support 3.3 million people.
- The Southern Tessaoua regions and agro-pastoral areas in the West are most affected. Many families in these regions have not yet fully recovered from the drought from the two previous years.
- The Northern region of Tillabéry is experiencing a continued influx of refugees from Mali who are in need of emergency food assistance. The Niger Red Cross is currently handling the situation with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- The UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) provided a grant of US$20 million to Niger to assist the incoming refugees, returnees from Libya and those suffering from food insecurity. The funds will be managed by UN agencies.
The World Bank is taking early action in ensuring institutional preparedness to address short term food security needs and long term drought resilience measures in the Sahel region. The approach keeps a regional perspective and builds on already existing response mechanisms and operations.

To assist with monitoring of the evolving drought situation, the World Bank participates in the regional Security and Nutrition Working Group platform in Dakar, Senegal and follows up on response and coordination efforts that are being undertaken.

The World Bank Executive Board was briefed on the Mali situation, Horn of Africa and Sahel drought situations by the Vice President for the Africa Region on Tuesday May 8 and a corresponding press release was issued.

Regional:

- The Fragile States Team, with support from the Nairobi Hub, is leading analytical work on the structural issues in the Sahel including security development issues around Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Libya spill-over etc. with the objective of helping the respective country teams shape their country programs accordingly.
- A partnership with NASA SERVIR, WFP, USAID and ITHACA to share regional data and improve regional monitoring has begun with the first product being a central data and mapping depository: http://sahelresponse.org/
- The Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS or Permanent Inter-State Committee for the Fight Against Drought) would need to be strengthened in its information sharing and drought monitoring capacities.
- Close cooperation is underway with the European Union and other international partners to coordinate strategy and response mechanisms, based on each institution’s comparative advantage.

Burkina Faso:

- National capacities to address drought risk are being strengthened through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and recovery (GFDRR) financed national DRM Program.

Chad:

- The Agriculture Production Support Project (PAPA) pipeline project is being reviewed to help improve food security in the short- to medium term through financing of seed and fertilizer and tools; small-scale productive infrastructure, including micro-irrigation, processing facilities, storage facilities and support to the livestock sector.

Mauritania:

- Additional financing will be issued for the second phase of the Integrated Development Program for Irrigated Agriculture (PDIAIM II) including agricultural development and food crisis response activities.

Mali:

- The World Bank will not approve new development projects or programs until the crisis in Mali is resolved.

Niger:

- US$15 million in supplemental budget support was provided to the Government to address the fiscal shortfall caused by the food crisis and the Libyan crisis. In addition, four active investment lending
operations were retrofitted to provide cash transfers, micro-projects and cash-for-work opportunities to the returnees with a focus on agriculture and irrigation schemes to contribute to the counter-season agriculture campaign to assist to the food deficit for about 400,000 metric tons of cereals.

- Continuous guidance and support to the 3N Initiative (Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens) proved to be very useful in ensuring that the Government contingency plan is successfully implemented, ensuring that a 700,000 metric ton food deficit does not degenerate into famine, thanks to the proactive and concerted measures taken by the Government and supported by the Developments Partners including the Bank.

- The US$63 million Niger Community Action Project for Climate Resilience includes a US$35 million grant and a US$28 million concessional loan, with the objective of improving the resilience of the populations and of production systems to climate change and variability, in order to increase food security in the project area.

- The US$70 million Safety Net Project was launched in May 2011 is also a well-adapted tool to respond to the situation.

**Disaster Risk Management Team Contact:**
Doekle Wielinga, AFR DRM Coordinator, AFTWR, WB Washington DC, AfricaDRM@worldbank.org

**Disaster Risk Management Website**

**Sources:** OCHA, WFP, ECHO, FEWS-Net, press releases from various media sources, WB Staff