Weather extremes

Pockets of drought were reported during August in some of the main crop-producing areas such as Boucle du Mouhoun, Sud-Ouest and Hauts-Bassins, leading to a 5 percent decline in cereal output compared to 2018 (PREGEC, November 2019). Fodder deficits were estimated at between 1,320 and 1,350 tonnes in all regions except for the Sud-Ouest (FSC, November 2019). Reports of restricted mobility of animal herds and concentration of animals in more secure regions could increase the risk of conflict between pastoralists and other livelihood groups (RPCA, November 2019). In areas least-affected by insecurity, the growing season was favourable and the late 2019 harvests were expected to be above the five-year average (FEWS NET, December 2019).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

Nationally in 2018, 8.5 percent of children aged 6–59 months were wasted, 1.7 percent severely so, reaching 13 percent (‘high’) in the Sahel region. The national prevalence of stunting was ‘medium’ at 25 percent (MoH, December 2018).

Preliminary results of the national SMART survey carried out in 2019 show high levels of acute malnutrition in Sangué (Centre Ouest region), Boulgou (Centre Est region) and Sénou (Sahel region). Out of the 33 provinces analysed, 27 showed a ‘high’ or ‘very high’ prevalence of stunting, with Sénou and Yagha provinces (Sahel region) reporting a prevalence above 40 percent (45 percent and 48 percent respectively). An estimated 465,800 children aged 6–59 months were acutely malnourished, 133,100 severely so and in need of nutrition prevention and treatment programmes (OCHA, July 2019).

Results from a rapid SMART survey conducted in November 2019 in areas most affected by violence and insecurity (Sahel, Nord, Centre Nord and Est regions) found a deteriorating nutrition situation among children and women in communities with high concentrations of displaced people. The acute malnutrition prevalence in children aged 6–59 months was above 10 percent in most municipalities surveyed. The prevalence was ‘very high’ in Barsalogho and Djibo at around 17 percent. A ‘high’ prevalence exceeding 10 percent was observed among pregnant and breastfeeding women in the communes of Matiacoali and Kaya, as well as at the Barsalogho host site. Overall, the situation was most concerning among IDPs (FEWS NET, December 2019).

By November 2019, 71 health centres had been closed, while services in 75 others had been impaired by insecurity and armed attacks. This left some 881,000 people with limited or no access to health care (OCHA, November 2019).

Acute malnutrition in Mentao and Goudebo camps was below 10 percent (8.5 percent and 7 percent respectively). Chronic malnutrition ranged from 32–36 percent in the two camps while anaemia was of significant public health concern, at over 63 percent in both camps (SENS 2017).