



Information and Watch Newsletter

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food and Nutrition Security in the Sahel and West Africa



Issue No. 2: May 2020

Food and nutrition insecurity heavily compounded by COVID-19 management measures

Background

This newsletter is produced by the Cadre Harmonisé Technical Committee (CH-TC), which brings together experts from the following institutions and organisations: ACE, CILSS, FAO, FEWS NET, IFRC, GSU/IPC, JRC/EU, Oxfam, WFP, Save the Children International and UNICEF. The regional situation that is described in this newsletter has therefore been established on the basis of data analyses provided by 12 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo).

The close monitoring of the food and nutrition situation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was set up in April 2020, continued during the month of May 2020 and was extended to include three other countries, namely Cape Verde, Ghana and Mauritania. The newsletter discusses the impacts of the measures taken by the countries on the functioning of health infrastructures, markets, pastoral situation and household living conditions. It also reports on preparations for the implementation of the response plan to deal with the potentially imminent arrival of Desert Locust swarms in the region.

As at 31 May 2020, 31,070 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the twelve countries of the region with 13,125 cured and 690 deaths and 17,254 cases under treatment. Most countries have continued to implement, albeit with a slight easing, public health measures to limit the spread of the pandemic: ban on large gatherings, curfews, closure of schools and markets, border closures, complete or partial lockdown of the population, etc. Despite the relaxation of the measures in some countries (gradual opening of markets, reorganisation of curfew hours, partial authorisation of intra-urban traffic, etc.), the living conditions of vulnerable households and their food and nutrition security continue to deteriorate. Despite gradual resumption of normal functioning of health centres in most countries, their attendance is still limited by the fear of contracting the disease. Income-generating activities are significantly limited in the majority of countries.

Despite the relatively acceptable food availability on local markets, the continued closure of agricultural and livestock markets in some countries is leading to higher prices for basic foodstuffs but also to a slight recovery in the prices of livestock and certain cash crop products.

CONTENTS

Background	1
Health and nutrition situation	2
Market situation	4
Pastoral situation	5
Household living conditions in the Covid-19 context	6
Desert Locust monitoring in the Sahel and West Africa	8

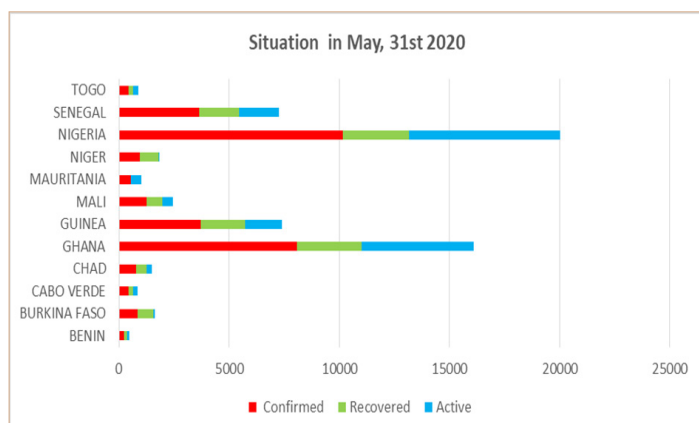
Methodological approach : On the methodological level, the RPCA-mandated Cadre Harmonisé Technical Committee (CH-TC) has set up a watch-keeping system covering the 17 countries of the region. Focusing on the impacts of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security, this monitoring exercise is regularly carried out with the States through a set of indicators covering the main relevant areas of food and nutrition security and is summarised in Table 1 below.

Five main areas are monitored: 1) health and nutrition; 2) market situation; 3) pastoral situation; 4) household living conditions; and 5) locust threat monitoring. Monitoring indicators have been validated by consensus with the countries. For each area, an alert threshold was defined in order to trigger a possible update of the March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé analyses; which helps to better assess the severity of the food and nutrition crisis and identify the most affected populations. This information is used to inform decision-making (by States, CSOs, NGOs and TFPs).



Health and Nutrition Situation

Pandemic Situation



As at May 31, 2020, the results of the Covid-19 pandemic in the twelve countries under review were: 31,070 people tested positive, 13,125 of whom were cured, i.e. an overall cure rate of 42%. The most affected countries, in terms of the number of confirmed positive cases, are Nigeria (10 162), Ghana (8 070), Guinea (3 706) and Senegal (3 645). However, the highest case-fatality rates are observed in Chad (8.4%), Niger (6.7%), Burkina Faso (6.3%) and Mali (6.1%). Overall, the lethality rate is 2.2%.

COUNTRY	DEATHS	LETHALITY RATES
Benin	3	1.3%
Burkina Faso	53	6.3%
Capo Verda	4	0.9%
Ghana	36	0.4%
Guinea	23	0.6%
Mali	77	6.1%
Mauritania	23	4.3%
Niger	64	6.7%
Nigeria	287	2.8%
Senegal	42	1.2%
Chad	65	8.4%
Togo	13	2.9%
TOTAL	690	2.2%

Source : : https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/blob/master/csse_covid_19_data/csse_covid_19_daily_reports/05-31-2020.csv

Restrictive measures : Measures to restrict the mobility of populations in order to limit the spread of the pandemic have continued, although these have been relaxed in some countries (e.g. Burkina Faso and Niger). In several countries (Mali, Chad, Togo, Senegal and some Nigerian States, the state of emergency introduced at the beginning of the pandemic is still currently in force.

Functioning of health facilities : In nine countries (Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Chad and Senegal) that provided information, there are overall disruptions in the functioning of health centres, particularly in Nigeria (Kaduna), where 10% to 100% of the centres are closed, and in Niger in the Tillabéry region, where the rate of health centre closure is between 20 and 40% in two départements (Ayorou and Bankilaré). Some centres operate at idle or minimal capacity, with rates of 60% in Nigeria; in Mali the proportion of centres operating at minimal capacity varies between 2% and 40%. In Burkina Faso, the closure rate varies between 2% and 28% in the Sahel region. These closures are mostly due to the civil insecurity prevailing in these areas.

Nutrition Situation

Preventive measures against COVID-19 and nutritional measures for children

In several countries (Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo) training was provided to caregivers of children under 2 years of age on early childhood nutrition in the context of COVID-19. In all the countries, a hand-washing facility has been set up in most health centres. However, the training of health and community workers on nutrition in the context of COVID-19 is not effective in all countries. Training is underway in Cape Verde, Chad, Togo and Senegal. Similarly, guidance and adaptation documents on ANJE and on the implementation of nutrition interventions in the context of Covid-19 have been developed (e.g. Niger).

Situation of the management of acute malnutrition (AM)

Management of AM continues with the normal protocol in almost all countries except Senegal, Niger, Chad and Nigeria in Borno, Adamaoua and Yobe States, where amended protocols have been adopted, without the countries providing details. In Niger, some community-based nutrition interventions have been suspended. In some countries, such as Togo, social distancing is adopted during SAM care activities.

Morbidity and admissions of malnourished children

As for admissions of malnourished children, recent data available show that 74,083 children have been admitted for severe acute malnutrition and 29,341 for moderate malnutrition since the beginning of 2020.

Country	New SAM admissions	New MAM admissions
Nigeria	38765	4455
Ghana	307	0
Mali	11598	10259
Mauritania	7200	NR
Senegal	1287	3318
Chad	2985	3562
Togo	1215	NR
Niger	13708	11897
Burkina Faso	7036	6109
Total	84 101	39 600

Source : Monitoring matrix filled by the countries

The data provided by the countries show a morbidity situation, from 1 to 26 May 2020, of a total of 291,499 children under 5 years of age affected by these diseases Fever, diarrhea, acute respiratory infectious in the region (excluding Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso).

Country	Morbidity
Nigeria	41580
Ghana	121132
Mali	NR
Mauritania	NR
Senegal	97426
Chad	NR
Togo	NR
Niger	31361
Burkina Faso	NR
Total	291 499

Recommendations

Continue, and above all increase, investments in strengthening the capacity of health systems in order to maintain the gains achieved in the past, but also to ensure better strengthened capacities for the future :

- Support state and non-state actors in the field to make the programmatic adaptations necessary to maintain the supply of preventive and curative nutritional services while limiting the spread of the epidemic;
- Ensure continuity of essential health and nutrition services and ensure that health facilities are safe places for health care providers, patients and communities. To achieve this, it is essential to strengthen equipment and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures at the health facility and community levels.



Market Situation

Market functioning and animation

Market situation in May 2020: Generally speaking, no country has maintained the closure of more than 60% of its agricultural markets while the livestock markets remain essentially closed. However, in some areas or regions of Nigeria, Chad and Senegal, 60% to 100% of markets remained closed in May 2020.

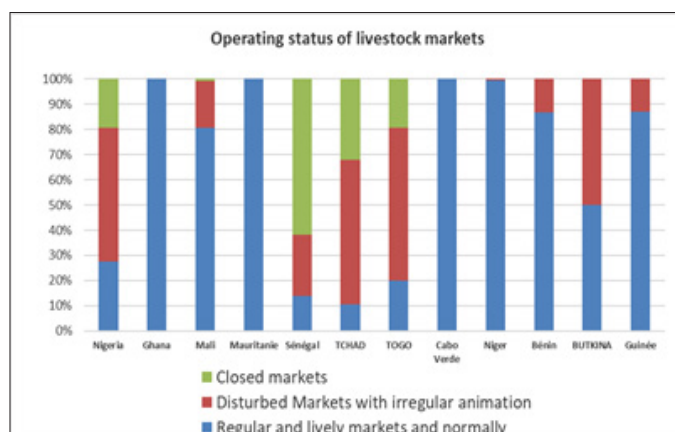
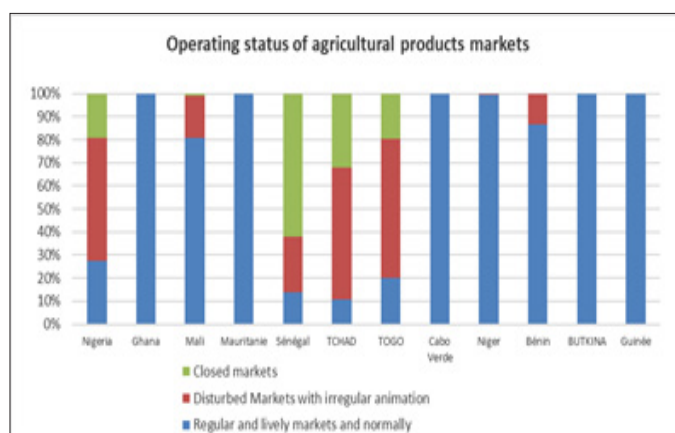
In Nigeria, 4 zones (Katsina Central, North Plateau, Central Plateau, Zamf Central) have a rate of closure of agricultural and livestock markets ranging from 60% to 80%.

In Chad, the total closure of livestock markets in May affected eight regions (Dababa, Haraze Al Biar, Lac Iro, Am Djaras, Wadi Hawar, Kimiti and Fada) compared to 29 in April. Two of these regions (Am Djaras and Wadi Hawar) also closed 80% of their agricultural markets.

In Senegal, eleven (11) regions (Bambey, Birkelane, Malem Hodar, Medina yoro foulah, Dagana, Saint Louis, Bakel, Koumpentoum, Tivaouane, Tambacounda) have completely closed their livestock markets while the rate of closure of agricultural markets in the same areas is 55%.

In the other countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo), although disruptions in the functioning of daily and weekly markets were reported, no region recorded a rate of disruption greater than 60% for agricultural and livestock markets.

The level of functioning of agricultural and livestock markets is illustrated in the charts below:



Availability

While generally satisfactory region-wide, food availability is down in most markets compared to the usual situation. This decline, which can reach 30 to 80 percent, is particularly significant in the department of Bilma, Bosso and Ayorou in Niger, and in Zamfara, Plateau, Katsina, Kano, Bauchi and Jigawa States in Nigeria and in the prefectures of Barh-El-Gazal (North, South and West), Mayo-Boneye, Ouara, Biltine, Lac Wey, Kabbia, Dodjé, Assoungba, Mont Illi and Abdi in Chad.

Agricultural commodity and food prices

Compared to April, prices of the main food staples showed an overall upward trend. The highest prices (more than 50% compared to the average) are still observed in Nigeria in Adamaoua, Jigawa and Kaduna States and in the département of Bilma in Niger. It should be noted that, in addition to the other Northern Nigerian States, significant increases in staple food prices (between 25 and 50% compared to the average) are also observed in the Banamba and Ménaka cercles in Mali, and in the prefectures of Mamdi, Wayi, Fouli and Kaya in Chad.

Prices of cash crops and livestock remained generally stable compared to April, with a slight upward trend in some areas of Mali (for livestock), Chad (for sesame and livestock) but especially in Nigeria (for cowpea, groundnut and local rice). On the other hand, in the cercles of Banamba and Kangaba in Mali, the prefectures of Am Djaras, Wadi Hawar, Fada and Mourtcha in Chad and the départements of Goudoumaria, Maïné Soroa, Tibiri, Aguié and Illéla in Niger, prices of the main cash crops and livestock are falling by more than 25%.

Overall, the terms of trade remained unfavourable to cash crop producers and livestock farmers in all countries, but with a slight improvement compared to April. The areas recording the largest declines (-50%) are Goudoumaria in Niger, Bauchi, Kaduna, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara States in Nigeria, and the Banamba and Kangaba circles in Mali; this results in a significant drop in purchasing power amongst producers and pastoralists in these localities.

The alert zones with prices of basic foodstuffs above 50% of normal and/or a drop of more than 50% in the prices of the major cash crops are mainly in Nigeria in the States of Bauchi, Kaduna, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara, and in the Banamba cercle in Mali. As for the risk zones with variations between 25-50%, they are located in Niger in the départements of Maïné Soroa, Aguié, Tibiri, Goudoumaria and Illéla, and in Mali in the circles of Sikasso, in Chad in the prefectures of Batha Ouest, Fitri, Mamdi, Wayi, Fouli, Kaya, Am Djaras, Wadi Hawar, Fada, Mourtcha, in Benin in the municipalities of Coufo and Plateau and in Nigeria in Borno, Jigawa and Taraba States.

The following table summarises, for the countries analysed, the average change in prices of the major commodities, the main cash crops and the changes in the terms of trade

Country	Changes in commodity prices	Changes in cash crop and livestock prices	Changes in the terms of trade
Benin	3%	8%	7%
Burkina	-7%		
Cabo Verde	2%		
Ghana	9%	12%	8%
Mali	11%	10%	4%
Mauritania	21%		
Niger	4%	-2%	-5%
Nigeria	31%	33%	4%
Senegal	-5%		
Chad	-1%	-3%	1%
Togo	-6%		

Levels of price change compared to the normal level for the period, per country



Pastoral Situation

Biomass availability, access to pastures, water points and transhumance

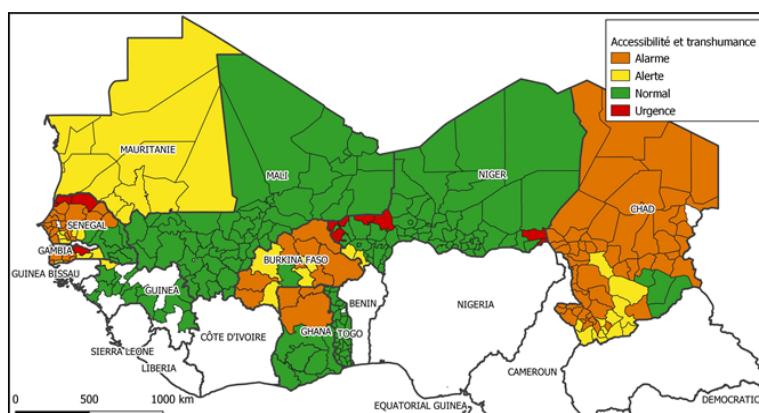
As mentioned in the first information and watch-keeping newsletter, well before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the security context and the consequences of the biomass deficits recorded in 2019 (especially in the western Sahel) had resulted in increased additional difficulties for pastoral populations. The data available in the CILSS zone countries indicate an alarming situation in Chad, Burkina Faso, northern Senegal and northern Ghana. The situation is considered an emergency in certain administrative areas of northern Senegal and in Tillabéry, Tahoua and Diffa in Niger (Liptako Gourma and Lake Chad Basin conflict areas).

In addition to the security crisis, the pastoral sectors and their actors are still heavily impacted by the additional COVID-19 crisis management measures.

some places. These high animal concentrations affect many herds whose survival depends on access to feed, which is unfortunately scarcely available (malfunctions in the supply of certain markets; low purchasing power of herders; limited movement between rural and urban areas).

In all Sahelian countries, alert thresholds on biomass availability have been reached, with critical levels in southern Mauritania, northern Senegal and Chad. Emergency cases are observed in Niger and Senegal. Availability remains generally satisfactory in coastal countries.

Access to grazing in pastoral areas is difficult in Sahelian countries. Inaccessible areas beyond the 75% alarm threshold are observed in Chad, Niger, Mauritania, Senegal and Nigeria.



Biomass availability and access to pastures

Fodder biomass availability is very limited in Sahelian countries. This situation, which is normal at this time of the year, is exacerbated in fodder deficit areas due to: i) livestock pressure resulting from the concentration of livestock in certain accessible areas; ii) degradation due to fires and the first rains recorded in

Transhumance Situation

Cross-border transhumance remains severely disrupted due to the closure of borders by a large part of West African countries. This border closure aggravates the abnormally high concentration of animals in cross-border areas with the zoo-sanitary risks of exacerbating conflicts.

Internal transhumance also remains disrupted, in particular by measures to control Covid-19 (curfews, limitation of inter-regional movements). It is totally prohibited in Niger, in certain regions of Senegal (Podor, Dagana, Tambacounda for example), Chad (Mamdi, Wayi, Fouli and Kaya), Ghana (Northern, North East and Savannah Regions in particular) and Nigeria (Taraba, Sokoto, etc.), as well as between the Wilayas in Mauritania.

The alarm threshold (transhumance prohibited at more than 90%) is reached in the majority of countries except Chad, Mali and Togo.



Conclusion/recommendations:

The pastoral situation is worrying overall. Alert thresholds for the indicators monitored (access to pasture, biomass availability and transhumance) are exceeded in most countries except Togo and Cape Verde. The fair-to-poor body conditions of the animals could aggravate the much feared zoo-sanitary risks due to the high animal concentrations in small areas, particularly at borders.

An early start of the rainy season, if confirmed, would alleviate the current tense situation. However, facilitating cross-border movements could facilitate the return of transhumant herds to their territories of origin and also facilitate better access to pasture, while at the same time limiting tensions between farmers and herders.



Household living conditions in the context of Covid-19

Income-generating activities, access to means of production (inputs and labour)

General situation in the 12 countries : Income-generating activities (petty trade, casual work, sale of labour, etc.) are disrupted in most countries, except in Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Mali and Niger where IGAs are carried out normally at 70-90%. Agricultural activities are taking place normally in the vast majority of countries. Overall, access to inputs and labour has not been negatively impacted by COVID-19 restrictive measures except in Nigeria, Senegal and Chad. On the pastoral level, persistent civil insecurity hinders access to pastoral resources (pastures and water points) in the Lake Chad Basin and the Liptako-Gourma area. Mobility is severely restricted along the Benin-Niger and Burkina-Benin borders.



Benin: With regard to the indicators on income-generating activities and agricultural activities, the country is in a situation which is classified as normal according to the threshold set for this indicator. However, some areas are in a more favourable situation (85% normal and 15% limited), notably the departments of Zou and Collines, while the situation is normal up to 90% in Atacora. The indicator on income-generating activities was not reported at the level of the areas but only at the national level, which limits the analysis.



Burkina Faso : Income-generating activities and agricultural activities normally take place in nearly 70% of the 13 regions monitored in Burkina Faso. However, approximately 15% of these regions (East and Sahel) have reached the alarm threshold and 15% (Centre-North and North) are on alert with regard to income-generating activities. With regard to agricultural activities and access to means of production, the situation is normal in all provinces. A considerable improvement in the conduct of income-generating and agricultural activities can be observed in May 2020 compared to April, which is explained by the gradual easing of quarantine measures at the beginning of May 2020.



Cabo Verde : The country did not provide figures. However, the country's qualitative assessment of the situation indicates that the conduct of income-generating activities (petty trade, sale of labour) is limited in the 9 regions of the country. The same is true of agricultural activities, which are assessed at a limited level in all regions of the country.



Ghana : Income-generating activities are taking place normally with the exception of 10% of the zones which have been disrupted following the restrictive measures taken by the authorities to contain the spread of the virus. 9% of the zones have reached the alert level against 1% alarm. As regards agricultural activities, the situation is normal in all zones and conditions of access to means of production are normal in all regions.



Guinea : Income-generating activities are considered to be limited or very limited in 50% of the 37 zones monitored, while conditions for agricultural activities are normal and conducted at over 80%. It should be noted that daily income-generating activities (petty trade, sale of labour) are normally carried out in 50% of the country's zones. On the other hand, the absence of IGAs and agricultural means of production in the prefectures of Boffa and Boke at 25% and 30% respectively indicate an emergency situation that deserves special attention.



Mali : Income-generating activities are being carried out normally in 81% of the 47 zones monitored in May (out of 55 planned). Thirteen per cent of the zones were reported to be in an alert situation, and 6% in alarm.



Mauritania : The country did not provide figures. However, a qualitative assessment of the situation shows that the conduct of income-generating activities (petty trade, sale of labour) is limited in the 3 wilayas (Hodh El Charghi, Gorgol and Guidimakha) which reported data during May.



Niger : out of the 75 departments and municipalities monitored, the results indicate that at the national level, 71% of income-generating activities are carried out under normal conditions. However, 11% and 20% of the zones are respectively at an alert and alarm level and no zone is in an emergency situation. Alarm zones are those with limited access (Ayorou, Banibangou, Bankilare, Nguiguimi, Torodi) and the urban municipalities of Zinder and Niamey. 78% of agricultural activities are in normal conditions. However, 3%, 18% and 1% of the zones are in alert, alarm and emergency situations respectively. These zones are located mainly in the region of Tahoua. Considering both income-generating and agricultural activities, 71% of the zones are in normal conditions, 11% in alert, 17% in alarm and 1% in emergency situation.



Nigeria : Pandemic management measures continue to have a negative impact on economic activities, especially those that enable the poor to generate daily income in the Northern and Central States of Nigeria. The hardest hit people are low-income people and small traders in the formal and informal sector, due to the inability of the poorest households to meet their food and non-food needs. Across the 17 States monitored, it was observed that in 36% of the zones, income-generating activities are very limited (21%) or have come to a complete stop (15%). In addition, 31% of the zones in these different States have limited activities. Negative impacts on agricultural activities were reported to be limited in 30% of the areas with greater difficulties in accessing inputs and local labour in 16% of the zones monitored, particularly in Adamawa, Borno, Benue, Zamfara, and Plateau States



Senegal : the situation is monitored in only three départements (Mbake, Diourbel and Bambey). Income-generating activities are at 48% at limited and very limited levels of conduct. The same trend is also observed with the conduct of agricultural activities, particularly access to inputs and labour.



Chad : At the national level, the situation regarding IGAs is as follows: 17 zones are in an emergency situation, 16 in an alarm situation, 6 in alert and no zones in a normal situation. It should be noted that out of the 70 zones identified, the data collected on IGAs concerned only 39. In terms of agricultural activities, the situation is as follows: 20 zones are in an emergency situation, 18 in an alarm situation, no zones in an alert situation and 6 zones in normal conditions. At this level, the data collected concerned 43 out of 70 départements.



Togo : Togo is in an emergency situation this month of May with regard to the livelihoods of the population. 20% of households have seen their income-generating activities completely stopped, 20% have very limited activities, 50% have limited activities and 10% have carried out normal activities. Only 10% of households managed to have a normal level of income-generating activities for the period. At the level of agricultural activities, 20% of households face difficulties in accessing inputs, labour or land.

	Income Generating Activities				Agricultural activities		
	Normal	Limited	Very limited	None	Normal	Limited access to inputs	Very limited or no access to inputs
Benin	75%	10%	10%	5%	85%	10%	5%
Burkina Faso	69%	15	15%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Cabo Verde	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ghana	90%	9%	1%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Guinea	50%	30%	20%	0%	90%	10%	0
Mali	91%	7%	2%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mauritania	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Niger	80%	14%	2%	0%	80%	11%	1%
Nigeria	33%	31%	21%	15%	54%	30%	16%
Senegal	52%	35%	17%	0%	53%	42%	5%
Chad	31%	33%	18%	16%	54%	27%	18%
Togo	10%	50%	20%	20%	80%	20%	0%



Desert Locust monitoring

The Desert Locust situation remains calm in the Sahel and West Africa. However, in view of the current evolution of the locust invasion in East Africa, the risk of receiving swarms from this region from June onwards is becoming more and more likely. The Sahelian countries concerned (Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal) are already working with their FAO and CLCPRO partners to mobilize the necessary resources to strengthen the monitoring and response capacities recommended for the Desert Locust control. To this end, the frontline countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad) and the region have locust contingency plans that are awaiting implementation.

For the implementation of these plans, a virtual meeting held during this month by the CLCPRO, brought together the Directors of the National Locust Control Units (NLCUs) of the six CILSS and CLCPRO member countries to define the essential actions to be urgently implemented from the beginning of June. Discussions focused on :

- the activation of the National Locust Emergency Plans (NLEP);
- advocacy with national financial partners;
- the training of prospectors;
- the mobilization of prospecting teams as of 1 June;
- the rapid mobilization of Test-mate Cholinesterase (ChE) kits for monitoring of applicators;
- the availability of pesticides (in particular the triangulation of pesticides from Algeria and Morocco to Chad and Niger); and
- the repair of national aerial systems with a view to mobilizing aircraft from early June.

In addition, CLCPRO is in regular contact with FAO headquarters and the FAO sub-regional office for West Africa to seek their support for the launch of calls for tenders for the acquisition of survey equipment, treatment equipment and pesticides.

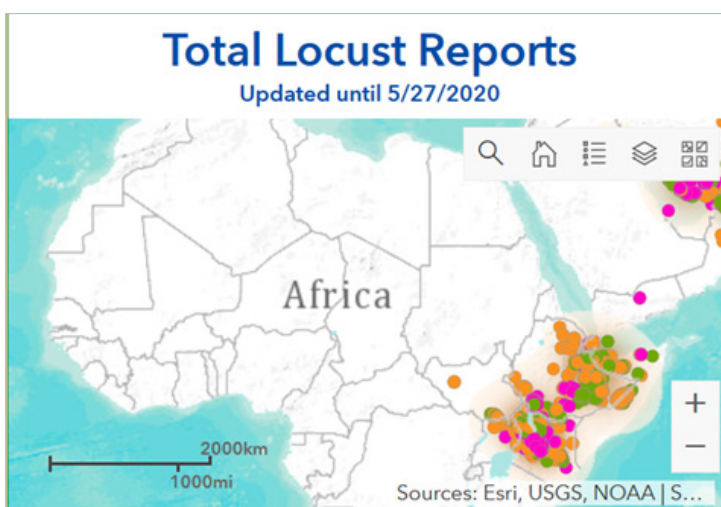
Moreover, CILSS, through the AGRHYMET Regional Centre, is working on the development of weather and climate information products in order to support the operational teams of member states in monitoring and control.



Recommendations

In view of the high risk of intrusion of Desert Locust swarms in the region, the following recommendations are made:

- Strengthen surveillance in frontline countries;
- Rapidly deploy the resources mobilized to implement the recommended locust control operations;
- Accelerate capacity building of national and regional surveillance and response systems;
- continue advocacy with technical and financial partners to mobilize more resources;
- Strengthen regional coordination of Desert Locust control.



All Locust Report

- mature swarm
- immature swarm
- hopper

Mitigation measures for the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic management on food and nutrition security

In addition to social measures (reduction of water and electricity bills for vulnerable households until the end of June), the governments of the region are busy implementing the operations provided for in the response plans for vulnerable populations. Several areas are covered :

- **Food assistance** : amongst other interventions, free food distribution, food-for-work or cash-for-work actions and the sale of food, which concerned Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad;
- **Protection or strengthening of livelihoods** : the actions implemented include the distribution of rainfed seed kits (case of Niger), the supply and sale of feed for livestock and poultry in Burkina Faso, Cape-Verde, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. In addition, as part of the preparations for the cropping season, agricultural inputs and equipment are being put in place to support agricultural production;
- **Fight against malnutrition** : Interventions focus on the distribution of food supplements to children and pregnant and nursing women as well as the care of acutely malnourished children in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad.



Recommendations

Food aid operations security remains a real challenge in view of the frequent attacks on humanitarian convoys with loss of human lives, such as the one that occurred in north central Burkina Faso. Faced with the resurgence of these isolated terrorist attacks, the governments of the affected countries (Burkina, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad) are invited to strengthen security arrangements in conflict zones where the food situation is already worrying. They are particularly urged to ensure maximum security for food and humanitarian assistance operations. The same security measures for interventions in the locust outbreak areas are also required from governments and their partners in favour of the teams in charge of fighting the locust threat in these same conflict zones.

Contact : Dr Issoufou Baoua, Expert Cadre Harmonisé, issoufou.baoua@cilss.int
CILSS/AGRHYMET, administration.agrhymet@cilss.int

Layout: Boubacar Mainassara Abdoul Aziz

