



FINAL COMMUNIQUE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATION IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

29th Food Crisis Prevention Network Meeting (FCPN)

At the end of the 29th Food Crisis Prevention Network meeting (FCPN) in the Sahel and West Africa, held in Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire, from 25 to 27 November 2013, the regional food and nutrition security monitoring system addresses to stakeholders the message below.

1. The 2013-2014 agro-pastoral season was marked by a late onset of the rainy season. But, from mid-July, the rains were abundant, even exceptional, causing flooding in some places, which resulted in loss of human lives and damage to infrastructure. On the pest situation, it is noted a locust outbreak in northern Mauritania; which could pose a threat to crops in the oasis and pastures in the northern regions of the country.
2. Compared to the last five-year average, the changes in agricultural productions are as follows: the projected Sahel and West Africa cereal production is estimated at 57 million tonnes, up by 16%. The Sahel shows a production equivalent (+1%) to the last five-year average, which is not sufficient to cover the needs of the population which increases by 3% annually. The coastal zone registered a more favourable situation, with a total production of 38 million tonnes, up by 25%. Rice production experienced the largest increase of 31%, followed by maize, 19%, cassava 24% and cowpea 11%. On the other hand, millet production declined by 17%, that of yam is equivalent (+1%) to the average of the past five (5) years.
3. The pastoral situation is generally satisfactory. However, the livestock body conditions may deteriorate due to forage deficits in Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Senegal and Mali. Which could result in early transhumance of herds and conflicts.
4. On the market situation, the arrival of newly harvested crops in the markets has helped initiate the seasonal price declines in September, in the region. However, their level remains high compared to the last five-year average for millet and sorghum, in the eastern (Benin, Niger, Nigeria and Chad) and western (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea and Guinea Bissau) basins. This could limit access for the most vulnerable households. The terms of trade for livestock/cereals are favourable to pastoralists, with livestock prices generally on the rise in the region. However, possible local degradation of the terms of trade are expected at the end of the first quarter of 2014, due to localized deficiencies in pastures. In Guinea Bissau, the terms of trade for cashew nuts/rice are unfavourable to cashew producers, which decreases their purchasing power. At the international level, the export prices of major cereals imported (maize, rice, wheat) are declining as a result of the expected good productions. This will help to rebuild global stocks and implement the import of rice and wheat in the region satisfactorily.
5. The nutritional situation remains worrying in the Sahel and West Africa, with twenty areas in nutritional emergency situation in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad. In 2013, global acute malnutrition affected 4.5 million children under five years including 3.4 million for the moderate and



1.1 million for the severe form. From 2014, the nutritional situation could deteriorate mainly during the lean period in some parts of the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad.

6. The analysis of the food and nutrition situation, based on the Harmonised Framework (CH), shows that nearly 13 million people (Burkina Faso, Gambia, Niger, Senegal, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire and Chad) are currently food and nutrition insecure, including 2.1 million people that require emergency humanitarian assistance. The main reasons for this are: low stocks for poor households, limited food access and elevated acute malnutrition. Following the fragile and precarious socio-political situation in northern Mali, Nigeria and Central African Republic, the region also has, as at 12 November 2013, over 654 000 refugees and more than 373 000 internally displaced persons whose food situation always remains a concern.
7. In perspective, the good cereal productions expected in the region, especially in the coastal countries, could partially offset deficits in some countries of the Sahel, thus contributing to improving their food availability if markets function properly. However, the poorest households will continue to have difficulty accessing food as prices will remain above the five-year average levels.
8. Considering the foregoing, the FCPN **recommends** the following:

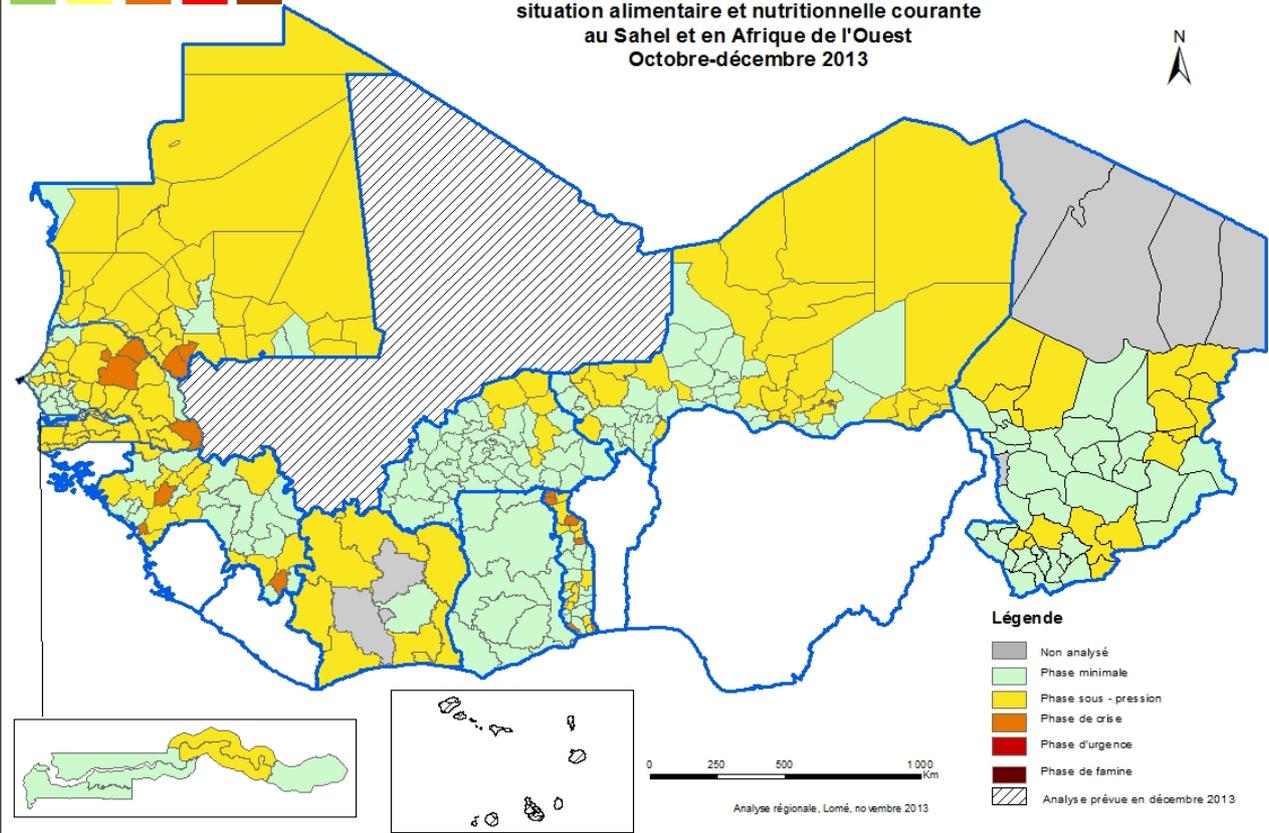
To the countries and their partners

- Prepare emergency response plans to assist food and nutrition insecure populations and flood victims;
- Maintain and develop actions of humanitarian assistance to displaced populations, refugees and host families;
- Support livelihoods diversification, particularly the development of dry season crops and income-generating activities such as processing of agricultural products;
- Strengthen nutrition surveillance, prevention and management of acute malnutrition;
- Strengthen the surveillance and fight against desert locusts, especially in Mauritania and Mali;
- Avoid restricting the smooth functioning of markets to ensure a free movement of production surpluses to the deficit areas;
- Facilitate cross-border transhumance to address forage deficit problems in some parts of the Sahel;
- Start securing the existing pastures to fight against bush fires;
- Accelerate national food security stock rebuilding;
- Initiate data collection for the next cycle on the harmonised framework in March 2014 for an update of the situation.

To the CILSS and its partners within the regional information system

- Strengthen the capacities of countries to collect, analyse and share reliable data;
- Accelerate the process of formalization and capacity building of analysis units on the Harmonised Framework in all countries of the Sahel and West Africa;
- Update human food consumption standards in all countries.

Analyse Régionale du Cadre Harmonisé
situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle courante
au Sahel et en Afrique de l'Ouest
Octobre-décembre 2013



- Légende**
- Non analysé
 - Phase minimale
 - Phase sous - pression
 - Phase de crise
 - Phase d'urgence
 - Phase de famine
 - Analyse prévue en décembre 2013

