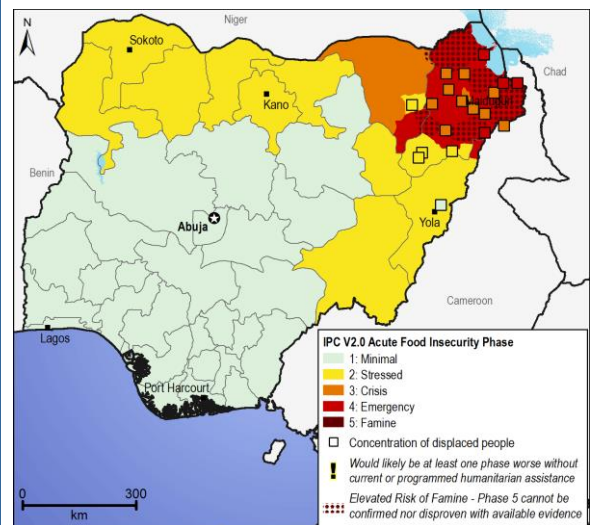


Populations in the northeast remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance

KEY MESSAGES

- Through September, poor households are facing a period of high market dependence for food access and high food prices. In much of the northeast, income-generating opportunities are extremely limited due to conflict-related disruptions to normal livelihoods patterns. Large populations in accessible areas are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance for food access. Large areas of the northeast are expected to continue face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes, although some moderate improvements in food security outcomes for some are expected after harvests in October.
- Despite some improvement in the security situation in areas near major towns in northeastern Nigeria, many areas remain inaccessible to humanitarian agencies. It is likely civilian populations remaining in these areas are experiencing similar or worse conditions to neighboring, accessible areas, and as such there is an ongoing risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in inaccessible areas of Borno State.
- Humanitarian agencies have scaled-up their response to the food security situation in the northeast, reaching over two million people with food assistance in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States in June 2017. However, the response plan elaborated by the food security sector for 2017 was only 24 percent funded as of May 2017, and humanitarian agencies have already reduced operations in some LGAs. As many households in accessible areas of the northeast have very few income-generating opportunities and face very high food prices, they will remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance throughout the outlook period.
- The rainy season has started with near-normal timing and cumulative rainfall across most of Nigeria. Outside of the northeast, staple harvests that begin as late as October in northern areas are likely to be greater than last year, due to increased access to inputs as well as strong production incentives for farmers due to very high staple food prices.

Estimated food security outcomes, June 2017



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Northeast Nigeria

Conflict related to the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast continues. Although the number of reported conflict events is similar as in previous months, the frequency of direct conflict deaths has decreased, as has the geographic extent of armed hostilities. However, sporadic attacks by the insurgents continue, particularly on “soft targets” such as checkpoints, markets, and centers of worship.

The May 2017 displacement tracking matrix from IOM/NEMA estimated that the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the six northeastern states (Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba) increased by three percent relative to March 2017, to 1,884,331 people. Large-scale displacement of people in the northeast has been ongoing since 2013. Borno State has the greatest number of displaced people, with approximately 79 percent of the total, or ~1,500,000 people. Most of the remaining IDPs are located in Adamawa (8 percent/~150,000 people) and Yobe States (6 percent/~115,000 people). Most of the IDPs (~65 percent) are residing in host communities, while the remaining 35 percent are in camps.

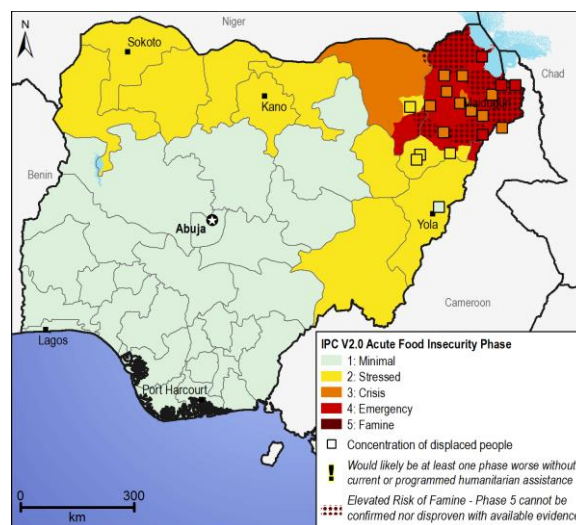
Reports continue of households returning to eastern Borno from Cameroon. There has also been an increase in rate at which previously internally displaced people are returning to their local governments of origin, although they most often are only able to reach the local government headquarters. Between March and May 2017, there was an increase of seven percent in the rate of return across the six states. Adamawa State recorded the highest rate of return, followed by Borno and Yobe States, respectively. About 74 percent of those returning had been internally displaced, while 26 percent were refugees returning to the country, mainly from Cameroon. The same survey revealed that in 70 percent of the IDP sites monitored, residents and representatives indicated that the most critical unmet need remained adequate food.

Humanitarian assistance

On June 8th 2017, the government of Nigeria initiated a Special Relief Intervention to distribute 30,000 metric tons (MT) of assorted food to 1.8 million people suffering food insecurity in the northeast. The distributions have been planned by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide each household with 50 kg of grains per month, with food supplies being replenished on a quarterly basis throughout the year. By June 16th, 12,691 households had been assisted across the three worst-affected states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa. The distribution process is supported by 636 police and 1,376 military personnel to provide security on transit and during the distribution process. Half of the food distributions in the Special Relief Intervention will be allocated to Borno State (15,000 MT). Adamawa and Yobe States will receive allocations of 6,000 MT each, while Bauchi, Gombe, and Taraba States, whose residents are less impacted by the insurgency, will receive 1,000 MT each for the current quarter.

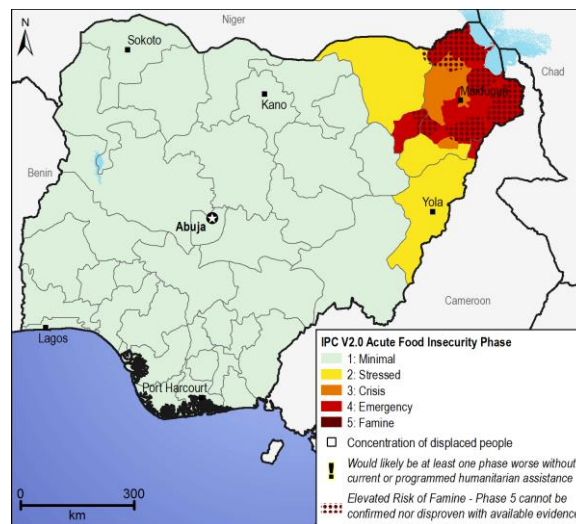
The response plan elaborated by the food security sector for 2017, which is part of the broader [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) for the northeast](#), is only 24 percent funded as of May 2017. Despite the shortfall in funding of the food security sector under the HRP, humanitarian actors did reach up to 3.1 million people with assistance between January and May 2017. During the month of May 2017, partners provided food assistance to 2.3 million people in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, including

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2017



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, October 2017 to January 2018

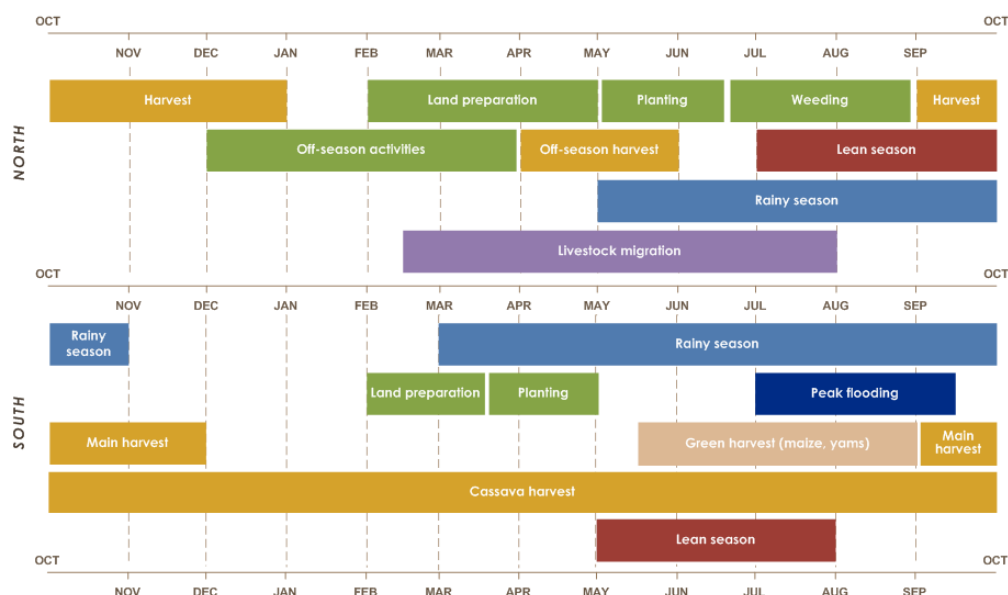


Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

2,098,932 IDPs, 172,238 people in host communities, and 17,780 returned refugees. The vast majority of these people (2,099,562) received in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers, while 189,388 were provided agricultural support. In collaboration with WFP and other partners, FAO has assisted over 141,000 IDPs in the northeast with agricultural inputs for the 2017 farming season. The program includes 67,000 participants in Borno, 41,000 in Yobe, and 32,000 in Adamawa. Under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria, the FAO is seeking USD 62 million to assist 1.9 million people. FAO has so far secured about USD 17.5 million, which it intends for various agricultural programs aimed at targeting 1.1 million farmers in the northeast as a means of revitalizing agrarian communities that have lost their livelihoods in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States.

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

Livelihoods

Onset of the rainy season: The rainfall that marks the beginning of the main agricultural season has begun normally, progressing from the southern areas towards the northern zones between February/March and June/July. Localized areas of the north, including the far northern parts of Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Katsina, Kano, Zamfara, and Sokoto States, are still expecting the onset of the rainy season on-time in July. However, there are localized areas with early or late onset of the season across the country, but within 1 to 3 weeks of normal.

Progress of main agricultural season: Land area under cultivation for staple crops is likely to be greater than last year across much of the country. This is in part attributable to the government’s Anchor Borrowers’ Program, where farmers have access to more inputs such as fertilizer, improved seeds, chemicals, and implements. Additionally, high staple food prices are expected to incentivize agricultural activities across the country. Similarly, restricted imports of major food staples including rice have also led to increased demand for domestically-produced food. In the southern areas, farmers are engaged in weeding and fertilizer application activities, as well as the harvest of early green maize and yams. Similarly, planting, weeding, and fertilizer application for maize, sorghum, and legumes is underway in the central states. The early green harvest of maize and potato is also underway in the central states. Planting of staples such as millet and maize as well as legumes (groundnut, cowpea) and sesame is underway in localized northern areas. Farmers in many states across the geo-political zones of the country are also facing increased expenditure on control of the African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) infestation, particularly on maize and horticultural crops.

Labor wages and income: Across most of the country, wage labor in agricultural activities is providing typical levels of income for poor households. Many poor households have exhausted their stocks of own-produced grains heading into the lean season, typically from July to September. This seasonal dependence on wage labor for food access is exacerbated by above-average staple food prices, which has limited household purchasing power. Poor households have been somewhat helped by the normal

early green harvests, gifts during Ramadan, labor opportunities, and wild food collection, which have contributed to improved household food access.

Livestock, poultry, and fishing: Pastoral resources are gradually increasing across the country as the rainy season becomes fully established. Livestock body conditions are generally reported as normal, and transhumant movements of pastoralists back from the southern areas to the north is also underway, as is typical. However, these movements are partly restricted by the communal conflict in the central states, and by the insurgency in the northeast, which have limited access to some important rangelands in the affected areas. Substantial livestock populations and pastoralists are moving towards the northwestern zone, while others are remaining in the southern areas.

Livestock prices are generally above average and last year’s levels, resulting in favorable incomes for pastoralists. However, livestock to cereal terms of trade remains relatively normal due to high staple food prices.

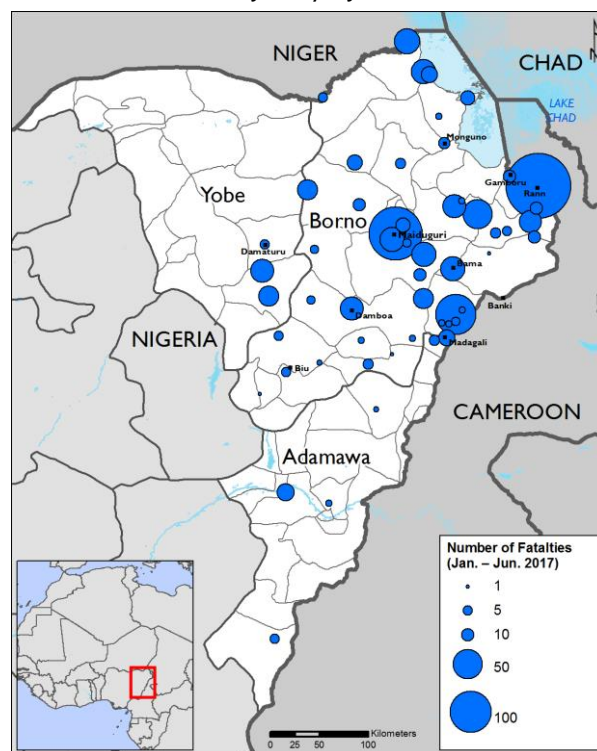
Markets and trade

Macroeconomic indicators: The rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has declined for four consecutive months, but remains high at 16.25 percent in May 2017. Foreign exchange reserves increased by about eight percent between January and April 2017, reaching their highest level since January 2016. The naira traded for NGN 384.48/USD in May 2017, reflecting a strengthening in value of 28 percent between January and May 2017. This has narrowed the gap between the official inter-bank exchange rate and the parallel Bureau-De-Change (BD

Food prices: Staple food prices are well above average and last year’s level across the country, primarily attributable to the depreciation of the naira (NGN) against regional and international currencies since June 2016. Prices for primary staples are between 40 and 100 percent above last year and the long-term average. Prices of major staples such as maize, sorghum and millet increased by about 10 to 15 percent on monitored markets relative to April. Similar price trends are also observed on most monitored markets and for most commodities across the country.

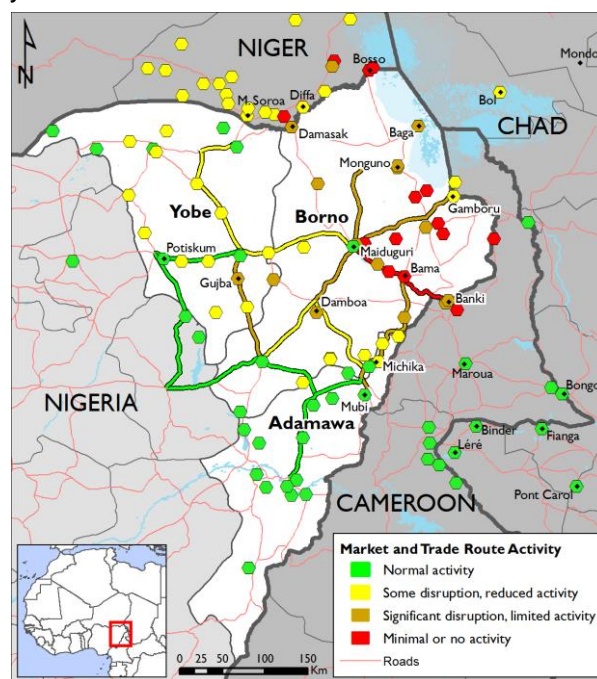
Market functioning in the northeast: Major urban markets such as Biu, Monday markets (Borno State), Damaturu, Potiskum (Yobe State) and Yola, Mubi markets (Adamawa State) are functioning. Most semi-urban and rural markets are either functioning below average or not functioning due to threats from the insurgents or military operations in the area. Markets in Marte, Abadam, and Guzamala LGAs in Borno State are not functioning. Other markets across the three states are functioning at below average levels (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Number of conflict-related fatalities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states, January – June 2017



Source: ACLED

Figure 2. Lake Chad region market and trade route activity, June 2017



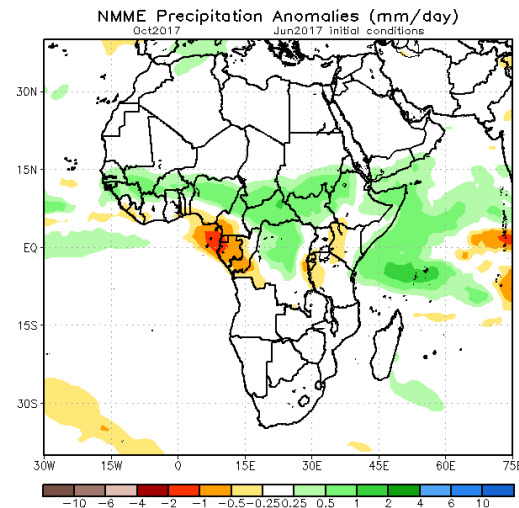
Source: FEWS NET

Assumptions

The most likely scenario for June 2017 to January 2018 is based on the following national level assumptions:

- Rainfall:** The rainy season is expected to progress normally in most parts of the country. Seasonal forecasts from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicate a likelihood for average to above-average cumulative rainfall through the beginning of the main season harvests in October, with the exception of coastal areas, which are expected to receive average to below average rainfall (Figure 3).
- Main agricultural season:** The growing season is expected to progress normally. Producers will engage in weeding, fertilization and pesticides applications during June to July and early green harvests of groundnut, maize and potatoes in August. In central/northern zones, the main harvests will start in September/October and are expected to be average to above average in most areas. However, harvests are expected to be well below average in areas of the northeast affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, and below average in localized areas across the country where conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are disrupting cultivation.
- Cessation of the rainy season:** The rainy season is expected to end normally, in October in the northern areas and December in the south. Localized areas across the country will experience early and late cessation of the rainy season as is typical, with minimal impact on crop performance.
- Flooding and dry spells:** Flooding is expected along major floodplains across the eight hydrological areas across the country. The recent annual flood outlook forecast by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) in June 2017 indicated a high probability of flooding in 95 LGAs in 29 states. Water releases from local ponds and rivers from neighboring countries such as Cameroon will likely aggravate flooding in some affected areas. Urban flooding will be aggravated by blocked and limited drainage. Thus, there will more detours as roads become waterlogged and impassable. Intermittent dry spells are expected normally in localized areas across the country with limited impact on crop development.
- Conflict in the northeast, central, and northwestern areas (Boko Haram, communal, cattle rustling):** For the purpose of this scenario, it is assumed conflict related to the Boko Haram insurgency will continue in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States at similar levels. Persisting communal conflict in the central states, including Kaduna, Nasarawa, Taraba, Benue, and Plateau, will intensify as the growing season peaks. In the northwest and central states, cattle rustlers will continue to restrict the movement of pastoralists and limit access to pastoral resources.
- Dry season activities:** Good water availability in local ponds and increased government support for dry season activities with inputs such as fertilizer and seeds will lead to increased dry season activities during December to May. Rice and wheat production will likely be above average in most areas. Off-season activities will be below average in conflict areas along the Komadugu-Yobe River and Lake Chad basin, due to restricted access to land and the bodies of water.
- Labor demand, supply, and wages:** Labor demand will increase compared to last year in areas outside of the northeast. This is attributable to the anticipated increase in cultivation across the country resulting from strong producer incentives. These incentives are due to high staple food prices, as well and improved access to inputs such as fertilizer and improved seeds and “single-digit” loans through the government’s Anchor Borrowers Program. High staple food prices will lead to increased production, both for household consumption and for selling on the market. Labor supply is expected to be average to above average, depending on the area. However, labor incomes are expected to remain very limited in conflict affected areas due to the limitation of opportunities.

Figure 3. NMME Precipitation Anomalies (mm/day) for June to October 2017



Source: NOAA

- **Transhumance, pasture, and water availability:** Pasture conditions and water availability will continue to improve across the country as the rainy season progresses. Pastoralists' movement back north from the southern areas through the central states will continue through August as water and pasture availability increase in the northern areas. However, pastoralists are likely to evade areas prone to conflict and converge more in areas towards the northwest of Nigeria, leading to increased conflict and cattle rustling activities in the northwest.
- **Food prices:** Staple food prices will continue to rise through September 2017 as the lean season progresses and market and household food stocks are depleted. Main season harvests in October will lead to an increase in household stocks and consumption of own production, reducing market dependence and leading to a decline in prices for staples through at least January 2018.
- **Livestock supply, demand, and prices:** Livestock supply from Niger, Chad, and Cameroon will increase towards the Tabaski feast in September. However, supplies will likely be below average due to the limited purchasing power of Nigerian traders with the weakened value of the naira (NGN) against the CFA franc (XOF). Livestock-to-staples terms of trade will also be unfavorable for pastoralists, due to limited purchasing power in the market and high cereal prices.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Despite limited availability of own-produced foods and the seasonally high degree of market dependence, most poor households outside of the conflict-affected areas of the northeast will support their food needs through labor income during the growing season, livestock sales, the collection of wild foods, and the sale of firewood and charcoal. Agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households will sell livestock normally to earn income and access food. Beginning in October, most households will consume their own food from main season harvests, which are likely to be greater than last year. Thus, most areas of the country are expected to experience Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between June 2017 and January 2018. Some poor households in northern states will continue to be impacted by the high staple food prices through the end of the lean season when they are more market dependent. These households are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes through October.

A severe food security emergency continues in areas of the northeast affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. The impact of the conflict, which has severely limited the agricultural livelihoods in the northeast for several consecutive years, has been exacerbated by atypically high food prices, restricted commodity flows into the area, and below-average income opportunities. Consequently, many poor households in the worst-affected areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States continue to experience large gaps in their basic food needs and are expected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity between June 2017 and January 2018. Additionally, less accessible areas, likely experiencing similar or worse conditions to neighboring, accessible areas, face an elevated risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in 2017. Households in other areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States, where conflict-related disruptions to livelihoods and markets have been less severe, will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity through the lean season. With harvests beginning in October, seasonal improvements in food security are expected in some of these less-affected areas of the northeast where household are able to engage to an extent in typical agricultural livelihood activities.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Displaced populations in Greater Maiduguri (Maiduguri MMC, Jere, and northern Konduga), Borno State

Current Situation

- **Conflict, displacement:** The level of conflict within the city center has declined relative to previous months. However, sporadic attacks on soft targets such as security checkpoints, the university, religious centers, IDP camps, and markets are still occurring. Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) remains the area with the greatest IDP population (384,964) in Borno State, though a slight decline of around three percent was observed between March and May 2017, due to the relocation of IDPs to other LGAs within the state, including to Damboa, Gwoza, Kukawa, Konduga, Ngala, Mobbar, and Monguno. A report from NEMA in early June also indicated that 142,743 displaced people are living in the 12 official camps within MMC, while the remaining IDPs are living amongst the local communities.

A significant number of IDPs in the area are returning to either the main town/headquarters of their LGA of origin, or to their original homesteads to cultivate during the main, rainfed season. Borno State is also participating in the Anchor Borrowers Program, which is providing improved access to inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides in areas where the program can operate. Extension services are available for participating farmers who produce rice in both Jere and Maiduguri. Similarly, IITA and ICRISAT are providing about 36 tons of seeds, including cowpea, groundnut, maize, millet, sorghum, rice, and soybeans, targeting farmers in 16 LGAs across the state, including Jere and MMC. FAO, in collaboration with WFP, Social Welfare Network Initiative (a local NGO) and the Borno State Ministry of Agriculture, have distributed agricultural inputs to 1,500 IDPs in Maiduguri. These beneficiaries, from both MMC and Jere, received a variety of seeds, including cowpea, millet, sorghum, maize, vegetables, and fertilizers.

- **Humanitarian assistance:** Multiple humanitarian agencies are operating within Greater Maiduguri, and have been scaling-up assistance. In April 2017, approximately 400,000 people within Maiduguri received food assistance, while this number increased to ~480,000 people in May 2017. During Ramadan in June, communities have increased their support to people in need through food and non-food gifts. Similarly, the Nigerian government through SEMA and NEMA has increased assistance provided during Ramadan. The government's special relief intervention of 30,000 tons of assorted staple foods, previously mentioned in this report, is expected to begin distribution in June 2017, targeting 1.8 million people in the northeastern states with 50 kg of grains per household monthly.

Partners in the region indicated most displaced households remain highly reliant on humanitarian assistance for their food access. Under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the food security sector has developed a Lean Season Response Plan to reach out to additional populations across the northeast. The plan targets 2.8 million people across the northeast, with plan to target 1.9 million with food assistance, 1.4 million with livelihood and agriculture support, and 500,000 others for both food assistance and livelihood support during the months of June through September. About 1.9 million of these vulnerable populations are targeted in Borno state.

- **Labor opportunities and wages:** The Save the Children study on urban livelihoods in Maiduguri indicates IDPs rely on a variety of strategies to earn income and access food. The common strategies employed include wage labor, petty trading, firewood/charcoal sales, and domestic labor work. Others are engaged in water vending, cap knitting, and begging to earn income.
- **Food prices, supply, and access:** Staple food prices remained at more than twice the historical average on Monday market in Maiduguri. Prices for maize, millet, and sorghum continued to increase slightly from April to May 2017. Demand is high as most households are heavily dependent on markets for food access. However, market supplies on Monday market in Maiduguri remain adequate to meet local demand for food, due to inflows of food from neighboring states, such as Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Adamawa and Yobe. The joint FEWS NET/WFP/CILSS/Government stock assessment in April revealed that cereal stocks on Monday market in Maiduguri have increased by about 20 percent compared to last year, attributable to increased stability in the area and increased demand. The WFP market monitoring report for Borno State in April 2017 indicates that the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (calculated for 2,100 kcal/per person) for a family of five people increased by 9.1 percent between March and April, from NGN 24,814 to NGN 27,101.
- **Nutrition:** Results from UNICEF-led nutrition and food security surveillance conducted in February and March 2017 indicated that GAM prevalence for the population in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs was 6.4 percent (4.6 - 8.9, 95% CI; WHZ). A higher GAM prevalence of 9.8 per cent (8.0-11.9, 95% CI; WHZ) was also reported in the small areas surveyed in Old Maiduguri. The same survey conducted in February/March indicates a CDR of 0.85/10,000 persons/day, and U5MR of 1.45/10,000 children under 5 years/day in MMC/Jere during the same period.

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions above, the most likely scenario for the June 2017 to January 2018 period for this area is based on the following assumptions:

- **Main season agricultural production:** There will likely be better access to land throughout the period, as compared to last year, due to the improved security environment in and around MMC. Farmlands within the radius of 10 to 20 kilometers around the city center may be accessible, whereas last year accessible areas were mainly within a five kilometer radius.

Similarly, farmers will also be incentivized by increased access to inputs, including improved seeds, tools, and fertilizer. Area cultivated will, however, remain below average due to security and input constraints. Cultivation of tall growing crops such as millet, sorghum, and maize will also increase slightly due to the reduced level of restriction by the military. It is likely to be higher than last year due to improved access to inputs and land.

- **Flooding:** Localized flooding is likely to occur during the peak of the rainy season period, between July and September. According to the NIHSA flood outlook report released in June, Maiduguri is at high risk for flooding during the season. Some IDP camps in Maiduguri are located in floodplains, and could be affected.
- **Market supply and stocks:** Trade flows into the area will remain below normal throughout the scenario period due to high transaction costs. Between October and January, trade flows will increase due to the main harvests and improved road conditions.
- **Humanitarian assistance and community support:** The lean season response plan elaborated by humanitarian partners in the food security sector aims to reach 2.8 million people through September. Similarly, the government through PCNI, NEMA, and SEMA, as well as other actors, are also scaling-up their response during the lean season through in-kind food assistance targeting 1.8 million people in the northeast. However, the spontaneous return of refugees from neighboring countries and limited funding for humanitarian interventions will limit the capacity of humanitarian agencies to fully implement the response plan and reach all populations in great need of assistance.
- **Income and wages:** Labor income will remain limited due to high competition for limited labor opportunities in the area. Thus, wages will also be below average. Agricultural labor wages have declined by about 40 percent compared to average, but will likely improve slightly as the growing season peaks due to increased labor demand. Agriculture labor work in activities such as planting, weeding, and harvesting will increase throughout the scenario period, including during dry season cultivation beginning in December. However, labor opportunities and wages will remain below average throughout the period.
- **Food prices and access:** Very high staple food prices are expected to persist throughout the period, with an increasing trend through the lean season, followed by a gradual, relative decline with harvests starting in October as household food stocks increase and market demand is reduced. However, food prices will remain high compared to major markets in neighboring states, due to high transaction costs.
- **Displaced population in Maiduguri:** The recent IOM displacement tracking matrix from March 2017 indicated a decline of over 78,000 IDPs from Jere and MMC relative to February 2017. These IDPs are largely returning to their LGA headquarters with some to their homesteads as the security situation improves. Most IDPs are also anxious to engage in agricultural activities beginning in June/July across the northeast region. Most IDPs are living in host communities, and will have some access to land around the outskirts of Maiduguri, along with some access to agricultural inputs.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

The majority of the displaced households in greater Maiduguri remain heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance and community support for food access. At the same time, households in host communities that cultivate have exhausted their food stocks, and are primarily dependent on market purchases for food access. Access to income-earning opportunities for displaced households remains difficult in greater Maiduguri with the large numbers of displaced households seeking income-earning opportunities in and around the city. High food purchase prices and limited incomes are severely restricting food access for displaced households. Many displaced households will continue to face significant difficulty meeting their basic food needs as IDP settlement areas in greater Maiduguri continue to face crisis (IPC Phase 3!) acute food insecurity with the support of continued humanitarian assistance. Although food access will improve in October for those able to cultivate and as market access improves somewhat with the seasonal decline in prices, most displaced households will continue to face very significant difficulty meeting their basic food needs in the absence of continued assistance.

Sambisa axis: Borno State (Damboa, Gwoza, and Konduga LGAs); Adamawa State (Madagali and Michika LGAs), and Yobe State (Gujuba and Gulani LGAs)

Current Situation

- In areas within the Sambisa axis where dry season cultivation is typical (Damboa, Konduga, Gujuba, Gulani and Michika LGAs), 2016/17 harvests were far below normal, or in many cases non-existent. Most of the plots usually cultivated during the dry-season were not accessible due to the risk of insurgent attacks. Areas that typically produce vegetables, including Azir, Kubwa 1, and Kubwa 2 in Damboa LGA, were abandoned due to insecurity. Localized areas usually cultivated in Madagali and Michika LGAs of Adamawa State were also left fallow or with limited cultivation. In Adamawa State, although some dry season cultivation was conducted (approximately 10 – 15 percent of the normal area), insurgents destroyed and/or stole crops in Madagali LGA. There was no dry-season cultivation reported in Gwoza LGA. Similarly, areas that are suitable for dry season cultivation and typically planted in the eastern part of Gujba LGA, Yobe State were inaccessible.
- The rainy season has begun normally in the zone, and land preparation and planting are underway. However, area cultivated remains far below normal, particularly in Damboa, Konduga, and Gwoza LGAs in Borno State, and in Michika and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa State. This is due to an increase in the level of attacks in rural areas. Furthermore, most of the IDPs who have returned to their LGAs of origin have remained in the central town/LGA headquarters, and have not been able to cultivate beyond a few kilometer radius from the LGA headquarters: ~5 km in Damboa, and 2 – 5 km in Madagali and Gwoza LGAs.
- In parts of Konduga LGA along the Maiduguri-Damaturu road where there is no security restriction on tall crops such as millet and sorghum, farmers are already planting millet or are engaged in land preparation activities. Dry planting of millet is common in Konduga LGA, and IDPs have increased their access to land this year as more areas become accessible. However, IDPs usually pay NGN 5,000/year to the landowner, or pay in-kind after the harvest.
- The season is underway in Gujba and Gulani LGAs, Yobe State. Returnees are engaged in land preparation, planting, and weeding of sorghum, maize, millet, and sesame. However, due to the security situation and late return of some IDPs, as well as limited access to usual plots, farmers are clearing previously fallow land along major roads in Gujba LGA, making it likely that there will be greater area cultivated as compared to last year. However, most farmers have limited access to inputs and tools.
- Household food stocks within the Sambisa axis have been depleted earlier than normal after poor main season and dry season harvests, leading to a lean season that started at least 3 months early in April. According to a rapid rural appraisal (RRA) conducted by WFP in April 2017, households in Madagali and Michika LGAs were consuming just one or two meals per day, with some adults forgoing meals to allow two meals for the children. Most households in this area are dependent on food assistance, intense labor work, firewood sales, and water vending for their limited access to food. Begging is also common among women and children. Food prices have increased relative to the previous year by about 166% for rice; 100% for brown beans and 220% for palm oil. This is attributable to the ongoing military operations, which have limited the availability of military escorts and reduced food stocks on Michika market.
- Some markets at the LGA headquarters and adjoining towns are functioning, though mostly at below-normal levels. Several markets in the interior parts of the LGAs are not functioning at all due to very high risks along transport routes. For markets that are functioning, market supply and the participation of market actors (traders, sellers, etc.) are significantly below normal. Insurgents have been attacking convoys along major trade routes in the area, including along the Damboa – Biu road as well as the Michika – Gwoza road. As a result, the supply of staples is less than 50 percent of the pre-insurgency period. Buni Yadi market in Yobe State is functioning and has experienced a constant increase in patronage, though the route between Buni Yadi and Damaturu, as well as the route through Biu, remain susceptible to attacks
- Supply of livestock to major markets around the Sambisa axis (Miringa, Damboa) is well below normal due to the risks posed by insurgent attacks along the routes. Similarly, most pastoral households have lost their livestock to the insurgency or have been constrained by very limited market access. Incidences of cattle rustling are also occurring daily in Konduga LGA, where pastoralists are losing their livestock to insurgents. Pastoralists are currently rearing their livestock close to urban areas to

evade insurgent attacks. A substantial number of livestock herders have relocated out of the area due to security concerns. During a typical lean season, many households sell animals to buy food, with almost 90 percent of households owning animals. However, as livestock has been a repeated target of the insurgents, it is estimated that only 20 percent of households currently own a few animals. Consequently, this important source of lean season income has been eroded, reducing the ability of many households to make typical food purchases.

- Due to the increase in the level of returns to some communities within the Sambisa axis, there is an abundance of labor supply, but weak demand. Where available, the returnees participate in agricultural-related labor, water-hawking, and firewood sales. The daily wage for unskilled labor has dropped 40 to 50 percent below normal, substantially reducing the purchasing power of households dependent on casual labor opportunities.
- In general, various humanitarian and government agencies operating in the area have indicated that the scale of conflict and insecurity has reduced considerably compared to recent months, as the Nigerian military has taken over most of the insurgent camps within the Sambisa forest. However, while the security situation has improved at LGA headquarters and some of the adjoining towns, the situation in most rural areas remain critical and inaccessible. Several remote villages still remain inaccessible, with populations trapped. These communities in Damboa LGA include: Ajigin, Talala, Korede, and Duksa. Some people from these communities have been able to escape to the LGA headquarter in Damboa LGA. The number of people remaining trapped in this area is unknown. However, there are indications the military is evacuating people from most of the newly-liberated areas. It is estimated that those who are able to escape to LGA headquarters constitute less than 10 percent of the population in the area. Although the LGA headquarters and major urban areas are accessible, security threats remain heightened beyond a few kilometers' vicinity.
- The sense of insecurity still pervades the major rural areas, where cultivation and main livelihood activities usually occur. Settlements along major roads are easily accessible as the military have driven away the insurgents. However, sporadic attacks persist, resulting in casualties, instances of attacks on farmers preparing their farmlands, and cattle rustling, particularly within Konduga LGA. Attacks along major trade routes have fueled a high level of insecurity along Biu-Damboa road and also along Gulak-Gwoza road.
- According to IOM as of May 23, 2017, there is significant ongoing population movement within the area, both voluntary and spontaneous, leading to a dynamic environment in terms of estimating the volume of need within the area. The table below provides a snapshot of the IDP population in some of the towns and LGAs around the Sambisa axis as at May 2017:

S/No	LGAs or Towns	IDPs population
1	Chibok LGA	13,023
2	Damboa LGA	56,353
3	Gwoza LGA	61,420
4	Konduga LGA	13,098

- Humanitarian actors have continued to provide assistance within the Sambisa axis, including ICRC, OXFAM, and Mercy Corps, who have maintained their presence in Damboa and Chibok LGAs. WFP is active in Gwoza, Konduga, and Damboa LGAs in Borno State, Michika and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa State, and Gujba and Gulani LGAs in Yobe State. WFP provided support to about 12,000 and 18,000 people in Michika and Madagali LGAs, respectively in June 2017. Similarly, ACF, SCI, ICRC and WFP are active in Konduga LGA, reaching up to 76,195, 9,373, 12,301 and 115,116 vulnerable people respectively in June. WFP reached 28,000 people with food assistance in Damboa in June. OXFAM and WFP also provided assistance in Gwoza LGA to 1,700 and 110,811 people, with food assistance, respectively within the same period. Similarly, in June WFP supported 44,258 and 34,491 people in Gujba and Gulani respectively. Many humanitarian agencies have indicated plans to either reduce ration sizes or the number of beneficiaries due to a lack of funding. It remains unclear whether WFP will proceed with its plan to increase the number of beneficiaries in Michika and Madagali LGAs.

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions above, the most likely scenario for the June 2017 to January 2018 period for this area is based on the following assumptions:

- **Displacement:** It is expected further populations will be displaced to cities throughout the scenario period, as the military intensifies its operations in currently inaccessible areas. Many displaced households are expected to return to their LGAs of origin, with the anticipation of cultivating during the coming season.
- **Main season cultivation:** Main season cultivation, which began in June 2017, is expected to again be well below normal, as most IDPs around the Sambisa axis still lack access to land, even after returning to their LGAs of origin. As a result, main season harvests are expected to be very poor.
- **Labor:** Based on discussions with community leaders, Agricultural Development Project (ADP) officials, and farmers, it is expected that land area under cultivation will be far below normal, leading to very weak agricultural labor demand throughout the outlook period. Non-agricultural labor demand will slightly increase during the dry season period, as returnees and government will begin to reconstruct.
- **Livestock:** FEWS NET field assessments indicated an increase in the rearing of small ruminants and cattle fattening by households across the Sambisa axis, except in Madagali, Gujba, Gulani, and parts of Gwoza LGAs. However, herd sizes are expected to remain well below average. Income levels for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists will remain limited throughout the outlook period.
- **Market functioning and trade routes:** Traders within the Sambisa axis expect markets in and around these areas to continue functioning at below-normal levels throughout the outlook period. However, according to discussion with traders, markets in Konduga LGA and some towns in Michika and Madagali LGAs will record some improvement during the second part of the outlook period, but will continue to function at below-normal levels. Some markets, such as Buni Yadi, are improving faster relative to other markets as the security situation is also improving at a faster rate with increased rate of return.
- **Prices for staple foods:** Prices of major staples such as maize, millet, and sorghum will continue to increase in the first part of the scenario period due to Ramadan festivities, the low level of supplies and stocks during the lean season, and persistent insecurity. Prices will likely remain elevated and higher than both last year and the average throughout the entire period of the analysis. Due to the availability of early maturing millet in September and increased wild food availability and collection within the same period, food prices will decline slightly relative to previous months.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Households in this area have had limited recourse to livelihood activities for consecutive years. Additionally, displaced and returnee households remain highly dependent on assistance to meet their basic needs. Limited production and sporadic attacks on market routes has significantly constrained food access in the area. Market purchase is made further difficult by limited household purchasing power. Worst-affected households will remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as they face large gaps in their basic food needs. Some seasonal improvement in food access is expected with harvests beginning in September/October, but the extent of the improvement will be limited to the relatively few households cultivating or who have access to income for purchase. For areas that remain inaccessible, households remaining in these areas are expected to face similar or worse conditions to neighboring areas facing extreme food security outcomes – these inaccessible areas face an elevated risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in 2017.

Eastern Borno State: Bama, Kala Balge, Ngala, Marte, Monguno, Mafa, Kukaw, and Dikwa LGAs

Current Situation

- **Agriculture:** Prior to the conflict, dry season activities such as the cultivation of sorghum, rice, wheat, and vegetables, as well as fishing activities, were prominent in the area, with most households typically engaged in such activities. As with recent years, this year most households were unable to participate in dry season activities due to security challenges. The Anchor Borrower Program for Borno State, which intended to increase area cultivated and production in states across Nigeria, is not operating in these areas because of security concerns. Preparation for the upcoming main season in these LGAs is also extremely low.

- **Market functioning and food prices:** Market functioning is very limited among major markets monitored by FEWS NET in the area. The only market that has improved functioning significantly is Gamboru-Ngala market in Ngala LGA, though it is still functioning below the normal level of activities and trading. The road continuing from Ngala to Rann in Kala Balge is not accessible without armed escorts. Food into this area is mainly sourced from Maiduguri and border markets in Cameroon. Thus, staple prices are higher than prices in Maiduguri market, by between 20 and 30 percent depending on the area.
- **Food access:** A WFP and UN-OCHA mission to Ngala LGA in April 2017 observed that several areas were not reached during the most recent food distribution, and that 45 per cent of the people in Gamboru were not assisted. ICRC/NRCS have reached up to 12,340 households in Kukawa and 9,662 households in Kala Balge with food distributions in March, but over 4,500 new arrivals in Kala-Balge LGA since March 21st had not received any support. Similarly, most people in neighboring Dikwa LGA are highly dependent on limited food assistance. The flow of food from Maiduguri to Dikwa is constrained, as it is only conducted with military escort, and as most households have limited income earning opportunities to procure food. Some returnees and IDPs in Dikwa received a one-off distribution in December 2016 (18,000HH/150,000 persons) from the Nigerian Red Cross and ICRC, and new arrivals had to rely on sharing or other coping strategies. More recently, ICRC, SEMA, and MSF are providing wet feeding upon arrival. WFP partners planned for general food distribution during late April. One of the typical coping strategies, the collection and sale of firewood, was largely constrained due to insecurity and fear of attack or IEDs. Others had resorted to begging to access food and income.
- **Nutritional outcomes:** In April 2017, a screening of 11,887 people conducted by MSF in Ngala indicated that 2,000 were malnourished, with 1,152 admitted into a program to treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Furthermore, 153 people were admitted into a stabilization center. In the government clinic, 180 children were being treated for malnutrition. The LGA Desk Officer reported 11,000 cases of malnutrition in the camp and that there is no stock of treatment drugs from the government and no kits distributed. Similarly, in Rann (Kala Balge LGA) 953 children aged 6-59 months were screened at triage, with 3 percent experiencing SAM and 13.5 percent GAM, 129 children being admitted for nutritional care. An ISWG report in Kala-Balge stated that during focus group discussions, it was evident that RUTF was shared with the whole family in the absence of food distribution for new arrivals. Most of these LGAs were, however, excluded during the recent joint nutrition cluster surveillance in February/March 2017. A smaller, accessible part of Ngala LGA was assessed, with results indicating GAM prevalence (WHZ) of 5.6 percent.
- **Water, sanitation, and hygiene:** Water access is substantially constrained in most LGAs in the area. In Ngala and Dikwa, the quantity of accessible water ranges from 5 to 15 liters/day/person. Distances traveled to water points are up to 6 kilometers. Some people resort to collecting spillage water from the water point, adopting only the sedimentation system to treat the water. There are no water management committees established.
- **Security situation:** LGAs in this zone are seeing an increased rate of population movement from villages to urban areas due to a combination of intense military operations, access to newly liberated areas, and refugees returning from Cameroon in anticipation of engaging in the main agricultural season. Some refugees are also returning in anticipation of greater access to assistance. The ongoing military operations are liberating more populations in difficult to access areas. Field reports indicated most households in these LGAs live either in LGA headquarters or larger cities, and do not travel far outside of cities or major roads.

As of June 6th 2017, NEMA records of IDP and population per LGA are as follows:

LGA/Towns	IDP population	Returnee population
Dikwa LGA	67,042	10,936
Bama LGA	9,434	
Banki town	17,220	2,011
Ngala LGA	164,122	73,996
Kala Balge LGA	70,012	
Monguno town	67,779	
Mafa LGA	12,517	12,517

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions above, the most likely scenario for the June 2017 to January 2018 period for this area is based on the following assumptions:

- **Displacement:** It is expected further populations will be displaced to cities throughout the scenario period, as the military intensifies its operations in currently inaccessible areas. Many displaced households, including those returning from neighboring countries, are expected to return to their LGAs of origin, with the anticipation of cultivating during the coming season.
- **Main season cultivation:** Although area under cultivation will be far below normal, households are likely to engage in cultivation of main season crops in localized parts of these LGAs. Cultivated farmlands will be closer to the urban areas, mainly within radius of 5 to 10 kilometers in order to evade attack by the insurgents as well as buried explosives in areas far from the city center. However, the lack of inputs will remain a major constraint, for which households will depend mainly on government and the humanitarian actors. It is expected that land cultivation during the season will be higher than last season, but below normal. This is attributable to the increased level of returns, as well as improved access to land and markets, though at below average levels. Tall growing crops will also be restricted in the area for security concerns. Farmers will likely engage in cultivation of legumes such as cowpea and groundnut and limited hectares of sorghum, maize, and millet.
- **Household food stocks and market supply:** Most IDPs and returnees have limited food stocks, and depend mainly on food assistance through social networks and humanitarian support. Household food stocks are expected to increase marginally during the harvest beginning in October, coupled with limited humanitarian support. However, food access and availability will remain below normal throughout the period. This will be further compounded by limited market functioning in the area, as most areas are accessible mainly through military escort.
- **Labor and Wages:** Labor opportunities in agriculture, markets, domestic labor and construction work are all likely to be substantially below average while labor supply will be above normal, leading to below average wages. Market-related labor opportunities will be about 50 percent less than normal
- **Prices for staple foods:** Prices of major staples such as maize, millet, and sorghum will continue to increase in the first part of the scenario period due to Ramadan festivities, the low level of supplies and stocks during the lean season, and persistent insecurity. Prices will likely remain elevated and higher than both last year and the average throughout the entire period of the analysis. Due to the availability of early maturing millet in September and increased wild food availability and collection within the same period, food prices will decline slightly relative to previous months.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Military operations, sporadic attacks by insurgents, and restricted humanitarian access in this zone will contribute to very restricted food access as households continue to face significant difficulty maintaining livelihoods. Many households in eastern Borno State affected by the conflict will remain in **Emergency (IPC Phase 4)**, as they face large gaps in their basic food needs. Some improvement in food access are expected in October for those with access to farming, but large populations will still face more significant gaps in their basic needs. Information on inaccessible areas remains extremely limited, but it is expected that households remaining in these areas face similar or worse conditions as neighboring accessible areas as they remain cutoff from essential trade and humanitarian access. Households in these inaccessible areas likely face an **elevated risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5)**.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1. Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
National	Prolonged dry spells and early cessation of the growing season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below average harvest in affected areas • Atypical increase in food prices • Below average pastoral resources • Below average water levels in rivers and ponds
	Above-average flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to infrastructures including roads and market • Displacement of population and damage to houses • Below average harvest of most staples in affected areas
	Substantial improvement in value of the naira relative to other currencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved households purchasing power • Increased international trade
	Decline in crude oil price at the international market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted government revenues • Further depreciation of the naira • Limited implementation of food security-related programs
Northeast	Intensifying Boko Haram conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased population displacements • Further reduction in agricultural production • Increased emergency food assistance needs
	Substantial reduction in Boko Haram conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant return of IDPs to their homes and increased dry season harvest • Increased domestic and cross border trade and market activities • Increased food flow into the area
	Increased donor funding and humanitarian support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased food availability and access • Increased agricultural inputs and harvest • Increased rate of refugee returning to Nigeria
	Prolonged dry spells in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially below-average harvests • Atypical increase in food prices in the area • Below average water levels and pasture for livestock

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. [Learn more here.](#)