KEY MESSAGES

- Humanitarian actors have provided sustained food assistance delivery in 2018, reaching 2.5 million people in April 2018 across the three northeast states. In May, food assistance deliveries reached 15 percent fewer households, meeting targets closer to what was seen in March 2017. As of late June, the humanitarian response plan was only 45 percent funded, and it is expected current funding for operations will run out before the end of 2018.

- With the continuing military offensive, new arrivals continue to be identified in the northeast. As of May, IOM identified 1.8 million people displaced by conflict in northeast Nigeria. Between late November 2017 and April 2018 an estimated 100,000 new arrivals across Borno and northern Adamawa States were identified. The current weekly average for new arrivals is 4,500 individuals, many of who are fleeing to LGA headquarters from newly liberated areas.

- In most of Borno, eastern Yobe and northern Adamawa Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes prevail. Significant areas within these regions remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors, and outcomes are likely similar or worse than in adjoining accessible areas. Additionally, there is continued concern that in a worst-case scenario displaced population, who are often centered in urban areas, could become cutoff due to flooding and/or a shift in conflict, leading to more extreme outcomes.

- Outside of the northeast, the main agricultural season is progressing favorably in much of the rest of the country, and harvests are expected to be average to above-average. Most households will have seasonally typical access to food and income and remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity. However, areas worst-affected by farmer/pastoralist conflict are facing greater difficulty accessing basic needs and will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).
NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Progress of agricultural season: Rainfall performance to date has been near-average across most of the country. The onset of rains has been generally typical, with seasonal rains beginning in March in the south, and by May in the north. However, localized delays to the start of season (one to three weeks) was noted in some central and northern areas, which in turn delayed the start of agricultural activities in some areas (Figure 1).

Various stages of cultivation activities continue throughout the country. In the south and some central areas, they have begun harvesting early green maize and tubers. In other areas of central Nigeria, planting, weeding, and fertilizer application for maize, sorghum, and legumes is underway. Planting of staples such as millet, sorghum, and maize, as well as groundnut, cowpea, and sesame cash crops, is progressing in most northern areas. Government support through the Anchor Borrowers’ Program continues to contribute to farmers’ access to improved inputs.

Agricultural activities in northeast Nigeria continue to be disrupted by insecurity and displacement. Nearly two million people remained displaced in northeast Nigeria, and those who have returned often remain in larger cities in their local government areas. In displaced settlement areas and larger cities, affected populations have restricted access to land for cultivation. Additionally, ongoing insecurity is again in 2018 keeping many from engaging or participating fully in cultivation.

Pastoral conditions: Water and pasture availability are gradually increasing across the country as the rainy season becomes established. Livestock body conditions are generally good, and pastoralists are moving back from the southern areas to the north, as is typical. However, these movements are partly restricted by the communal conflict in the central states, cattle rustling activities in the northwest and by the insurgency in the northeast, limiting access to some important rangelands in the affected areas. Some pastoralists have chosen to remain in southern states due to the pastoral-linked violence in central and northern areas. Livestock prices are generally above average, resulting in increased incomes for pastoralists, but livestock to cereal terms of trade remain only generally average due to persistently high staple food prices.

Labor and income: In most parts of the country, agricultural wage labor is providing typical levels of income for poor households during the cultivation season. In rural areas, other households are engaging in other unskilled labor, petty trade, and generally typical levels of livestock sales. Most households across the country are dependent on market purchase this...
time of year as household stocks for even most agricultural households have become exhausted in advance of the next harvest in September/October. Even with typical access to income, households purchasing power remains lower than normal for this time of year due to the high costs of goods impacted by the depreciation of the naira. Food prices remain elevated and above average. However, the normal green harvests from southern and some central areas, gifts during Ramadan, and wild food collection have supplemented household food access. In conflict-affected areas in the northeast, access to income-earning opportunities remains very low. In Mubi in Adamawa State, for example, farm labor wages have reduced by about 33 percent relative to average and labor demand is well below average due to sharp reductions in area cultivated and the high availability of labor supply.

**Market supplies and household food stocks:** Market availability is generally good throughout most of the country. Traders and farmers who usually stock and sell during the cultivation period are releasing such stocks to earn income to hire labor and to purchase inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. Remaining trader stocks are expected to be released in late August through September in anticipation of a favorable harvests and to create space for restocking. Market supplies for cowpeas on major northern markets have increased due to higher trade from Niger. The traders are in turn procuring millet for resale in Niger during its ongoing lean season. Household stocks in Nigeria are low, which is typical for this time of year, as production stocks from the previous harvests become exhausted at the end of the consumption year. Households impacted by ongoing conflict and displacement in northeast Nigeria continue to experience severely restricted levels of production stocks.

**Economy:** Macroeconomic indicators in Nigeria continue to improve. Foreign exchange reserves continue to grow as global crude oil prices increase. After reaching a peak value in January 2017, the consumer price index has continued to decline for more than one year, reaching its lowest level since early 2016 by May 2018.
Staple food prices: Staple food prices still remain well above average in many places, attributable in part to the depreciation of the naira against regional and international currencies. However, prices for staple cereal declined by between 4 and 78 percent relative to previous year at the same time. At the same time, staple food prices in conflict-affected northeast Nigeria remain relatively higher than in other neighboring markets. For example, maize and millet at Monday market in Maiduguri sells for about 10 percent more than in neighboring Kano and Gombe. Staple food prices in central and southern areas are below last years' prices and closer to average in most cases.

Conflict: Conflict in northeast Nigeria continues to impact millions throughout the region as fatal attacks by Boko Haram continue. Direct attacks and joint military operations in the northeast continue to keep many from their typical livelihoods, leading to continued displacement and disruption in economic activity. While most of the northeast remains impacted, Mobbar, Kukawa, Monguno, Ngala, Kala Balge, Dikwa, Bama, Abadam, Guzamala, and Marte LGAs are among the worst-affected.

Displacement: As of May 2018, IOM identified over 1.8 million people in the northeast displaced due to ongoing conflict. Only about forty percent of displaced are in camps or camp-like settings. While the number of identified IDPs increased by two percent, however, the number of identified returnees was three times higher. While returns continue to be registered in the northeast, many continue to return to LGA headquarters or other larger cities, making resettlement difficult for the many who previously had agricultural-based livelihoods.

Cholera out-break: The Nigeria Center for Disease Control revealed a total of 13,009 suspected cholera cases with 116 deaths from twelve (12) States across the country between January and late June 2018. Bauchi State has reported 8,413 cases, which is the highest in the country so far, followed by Adamawa with 1,325 cases, and Borno with 1,212 cases. The overall Case Fatality Rate (CFR) for all cases is 0.89 percent. The most affected age groups are 1-4 years (29.2%) and 5-14 years (24.8%).

National Rapid Response Teams (RRT) have been deployed to support surveillance, case management, risk communication, WASH and laboratory testing in Bauchi, Zamfara and Plateau states. Surveillance, active case search and hygiene promotion are ongoing, and public health advisory notes and risk communications messages on cholera have been disseminated.

Humanitarian assistance: The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for the food security sector is 45 percent funded as of late June. Humanitarian actors provided food assistance to 2.5 million people and livelihood support to 1.2 million people in April 2018, reflecting targeting that is slightly higher than the previous month. In May, food assistance declined significantly and only about 1.9 million people received food assistance and 1.5 million received livelihood supports in the three northeast states.

Assumptions

The most likely scenario for June 2018 to January 2019 is based on the following national level assumptions:

- Conflict in the northeast: For the purpose of this scenario, it is assumed Boko Haram related conflict in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States will continue at levels similar to what has been seen in recent months. The high caseload of displaced populations is expected to remain very high, but household returns are also expected to continue, with most returning to local government area headquarters or other larger cities. With the continuation of the offensive targeting Boko Haram, more areas of the northeast are expected to continue to become accessible.
• **Conflict in central and northwestern areas:** Farmer/pastoralist conflict, particularly in central and northwestern states, will intensify as the growing season peaks. Adamawa State will continue to experience both Boko Haram related conflict as well as the farmer/herder conflict.

• **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 to harvests in October (Figure 3).

• **Flooding and dry spells:** Seasonal flooding is expected along major floodplains across the eight hydrological areas across the country. The 2018 annual flood outlook forecast by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) indicated a high probability of flooding in 318 local government areas across 35 states in Nigeria. Water releases from local ponds and rivers from neighboring countries such as Cameroon will likely aggravate flooding in some affected areas. Blocked and limited drainage will aggravate urban flooding. Thus, there will be 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. The short dry spells during late July to early August will occur normally, particularly in the southern areas.

• **Cessation of the rainy season:** The Nigeria meteorological agency and other international forecast agencies revealed the normal end of the rainy season in October in the northern areas and December in the southern areas. Localized areas across the country will experience early and late cessation of the rainy season as is typical, with minimal impact on crop performance.

• **Main agricultural season:** The agricultural season is expected to progress normally. The main season harvests will start normally in September/October across the country. Harvests are expected to be average to above average in most areas. Exceptions are in northeast areas affected by the insurgency and localized areas across the country where conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are disrupting cultivation. Main harvests will be substantially below average in the northeast and likely below average in areas impacted by the farmer/pastoralists conflict mainly in the central states such as Kaduna, Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba as well as in Zamfara. As with most years, it is also likely that there will be some crop loss due to excessive flooding along major floodplains.

• **Transhumance and pastoral resources:** Pasture conditions and water availability will continue to improve normally across the country as the rainy season progresses. Livestock movement back to the northern areas from the southern areas through the central states will continue as water and pasture availability increase in the northern areas. Pastoralists...
will evade areas prone to conflict in the northeast and central states and converge more in areas towards the northwest of Nigeria.

- **Dry season activities:** Off-season activities will begin normally in December as the water recedes along major floodplains. Restrictions on the importation of rice will likely lead to increased local rice production in many 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 both land and water bodies. Affected, dry season farmers along Benue river in Adamawa and Benue States will likely engage in below average farming activities due to the farmer/herder conflict in the area.

- **Market supplies and household food stocks:** Between June and September, household and market stocks will continue to deplete normally. However, the lean season will be prolonged and more severe for households in the northeast affected by the conflict. Traders and farmers who usually stock and sell during the cultivation period will release such stocks to earn income to hire labor, purchase inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. Remaining trader stocks will be released in late August to September in anticipation of favorable harvests and creating space for restocking with new harvest. Household stocks will increase normally in October when main harvest begins. The exception will be households in conflict-affected areas of the northeast where household and market stocks will remain below average as the conflict persist in the area.

- **Food prices:** Staple food prices will continue to rise through the lean season, which ends in September 2018, as market demand increases, and trader stocks decrease. However, while prices will remain above average, they are likely to be below levels observed last year throughout much of the country. Main harvests in October will increase household stocks and consumption of own production, and lead to a decline market dependence and decrease in market prices through at least January 2019.

- **Livestock supply, demand, prices:** Livestock supply from Niger, Chad and Cameroon will increase as the Tabaski holiday in August approaches. However, market supplies will likely be below average due to limited purchasing power from Nigerian traders. Prices will likely be average...
to above average due to limited market supplies. Intermittent livestock market closures in the northeast, particularly in Borno and Yobe states will further reduce market supplies and livestock trade across the country.

- **Humanitarian assistance**: The food security sector response plan was only 45 percent funded in late June. Funding constrain will likely persist through the end of the year, at the same time food security needs remain high and new displacement continues. As current funding for assistance delivery will likely run out in September, no assistance deliveries are assumed for the last quarter of the year and early 2019 for the purpose of this scenario.

**Most Likely Food Security Outcomes**

Most households across the country are engaging in typical livelihood activities for the time of the year as the 2018 rainy season becomes established. While market dependence is seasonally high, most households are able to access income normally from agricultural activities, livestock sales, and other petty trade. Others are engaged in other unskilled labor activities or are accessing seasonal loans to access markets. Given the likely good progression of the 2018 rainfall season, household food stocks from harvests will begin to be replenished by September/October, with average to above-average production expected in most areas. Similarly, pasture and water conditions for pastoral households are also expected to improve throughout the growing season. As such, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity is expected for most areas of the country between June 2018 and January 2019. However, many households affected by herder/farmer conflict in the northwest and central parts of Nigeria and who remain displaced in Plateau, Benue, Zamfara, Taraba, Adamawa and Katsina states are facing more difficult access to food and will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) during the lean season period through September 2018.

In Boko Haram conflict-affected areas of the northeast, livelihoods for most households remain heavily disrupted. Agricultural and other income-earning opportunities remain restricted due to the direct impacts of the conflict and by the high levels of displacement. This is exacerbated by atypical market functioning and high prices. In many cases, households remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic food needs. Much of the northeast is likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until at least early 2019. Worst-affected areas, where there is the highest restrictions on agriculture, other livelihoods activities, access to markets, and assistance provision, are expected to face larger food consumption gaps. As such, poor households in worst-affected areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states will face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. Areas where populations are affected by complete loss of livelihoods activities and who remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors are likely facing similar or worse food security outcomes as neighboring, accessible areas. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity are possible in a worst-case scenario where displaced populations become cutoff due to a shift in conflict and emergency assistance provision is halted, a situation similar to what occurred in Bama LGA during the first half of 2016.

**AREAS OF CONCERN**

**IDP settlement areas in northern and central Borno State**

Populations in this area of concern are among the most vulnerable in the northeast of Nigeria, particularly in Kala Balge, Mafa, Kukawa, Dikwa and Ngala. The area was previously known for dry season activities that brought in large harvests of sorghum, rice, wheat, and vegetables. Similarly, pastoralism and fishing were also major activities prior to the conflict. Wet season cultivation includes cowpea, millet, maize, and rice. Currently, both wet season and off-season activities are substantially below average in the area and most herders have left the area.

**Current Situation**

- The security situation remains fluid, particularly around Lake Chad (Abadam, Marte, Ngala, Kukawa and Monguno) where military operations are intensified. Movements with military escort remain the only option in the area, and some sporadic attacks continue to be recorded.

- A recent rapid market and livelihood assessment conducted by CARE International in May 2018 revealed that traders continue to be limited in their ability to expand their business in the zone and are forced to reinvest most of their earnings in simply maintaining current levels of trade. There was also a noted increase in the proportion of women engaged in market trade activities, attributed to the increase in the number of female-headed households in the zone.
The assessment across the five LGAs indicated that petty trade and transportation are major income-earning activities in the zone. However, incomes still remain largely insufficient to meet market purchase needs. Purchase is often made on credit, and traders note a high rate of default, which in turn restricts their own income. Most markets are operating, but at below-average levels and in many cases intermittently. Two larger markets, Maiduguri Livestock market and Baga fish market, were closed in mid-April by the military.

Access to land for cultivation remains limited for most. Movement restrictions are in place that limit traveling far distances from city centers, and early curfews are in place in many areas. While most households would have typically been involved in off-season farming activities during the dry season in the first half of the year, again in 2018 these activities were severely restricted. In some instance, in Ngala and Kukawa for example, access to land and fishing is better than in others, but there is speculation by partners and key informants that insurgents collect cash payments for the ability to access these areas.

New arrivals of displaced populations continue throughout the zone as joint military operations coordinated through the Multi-National Joint Task Force carry out Operation Last Hold and more areas of the northeast become newly liberated. The security situation remains fluid, particularly around Lake Chad (Abadam, Marte, Ngala, Kukawa and Monguno) where military operations are intensified. Based on weekly IOM DTM data, from late November 2017 to April 2018, there has been an estimated 100,000 new arrivals across Borno State and northern Adamawa State for reasons including heightened insecurity and military operations. The current weekly average is 4,500 individuals who are largely fleeing to LGA Headquarters from areas considered hard-to-reach. The capacity for many areas (including Rann, Pulka, Bama, and Banki) is already stretched in being able to accept new arrivals.

With the influx of new arrivals, MSF revealed that facility admissions are strongly increasing in Maiduguri. This is also corroborated by MUAC screenings of new arrivals by UNICEF between October 2017 and April 2018 across eight LGAs in Borno State including Kala Balge, Kukawa, Dikwa and Ngala with very concerning levels of proxy Global Acute Malnutrition Reported. Levels of malnutrition are considerably higher among new arrivals than among registered displaced populations, with new arrivals in Dikwa, Mobbar, Kala Balge, and Maiduguri registering the highest rates of malnutrition.

Surveillance operations in the northeast have noted localized cases of acute diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria. A cholera outbreak is confirmed in Kukawa, Baga, Doro (Kukawa LGA), with suspected cholera cases also reported in Dikwa, Dikwa LGA.

The provision of humanitarian food assistance declined by 15 percent between April and May 2018. In Dikwa LGA alone, the provision of food assistance declined by about 45 percent over the same period.

Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the June 2018 to January 2019 period is based on the following area-level assumptions:

**Conflict:** For the purpose of this scenario, it is assumed Boko Haram conflict will continue at the current levels in Borno relative to previous months and to the previous year. Attacks on soft targets by insurgents will persist in the area. Military operations will likely decline during the dry season and more households are also expected to return to their local government areas of origin. During the scenario period, locations that are likely to see the highest levels of displacement are Damasak (Mobbar LGA), Baga (Kukawa LGA), Monguno (Monguno LGA), Ngala/Gamboru (Ngala LGA), Rann (Kala Balge LGA), Dikwa (Dikwa LGA), and Banki (Bama LGA). Humanitarian actors are anticipating a further 61,500 people to become displaced between May through August.

**Onset of the rainy season and flooding:** Normal onset of rainfall is expected in June as forecasted by the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (Nimet). As the rainy season peaks there is likelihood of flooding along the flood prone areas, particularly in Kaal-Balge and some parts of Kukawa, Ngala, Mafa and Dikwa LGAs during the first half of the outlook period. Agrhymet forecast for June to August 2018 indicates that this area will likely have above average rainfall. However, there is likelihood of localized dry spells at the beginning of the rainy season in June/July, with less impact on crop development and growth. Rainfall duration will be within normal level and rainfall amount will be about 400 mm in
the area. The rainy season is expected to end normally in October 2018. There is likelihood of urban flooding due to poor drainage facilities.

- **Main season harvest, labor demand, supply and wages:** The joint military operations between May and August will lead to reduced access to farmland, and increased population displacement. Consequently, less area will be cultivated leading to reduced labor demand, despite high labor supply. Therefore, labor wages will be below average in the area during the growing season. Similarly, the main harvest in October will be substantially below the pre-conflict period. Labor demand will likely increase, though slightly, during the main harvest starting in October.

- **Level of cultivation and harvest:** The land area expected to be under cultivation will remain substantially below normal throughout the 5 LGAs due to limited access to land. The joint military operation “Last Hold” during May to August will also impact negatively on access to land and level of cultivation in the area. Farmers will evade going to farm due to intense military operations. Unexploded ordinances and other explosives will also limit land access in the area. Thus, less area will likely be cultivated this upcoming growing season leading to substantially below average main harvest.

- **Lean season period and stock availability:** As with recent years, the poor harvests recorded during the previous 2017/18 main and dry season, leave households with little harvest stocks during the summer lean season. Similarly, food prices are atypically high, restricting food access considering the low household purchasing power. The increasing influx of anticipated returnees due to intense military operations will further stretch food access in the area. Most households will continue to depend on humanitarian assistance, when available, to meet their food needs.

- **Humanitarian assistance:** The humanitarian response plan is funded through likely September 2018, and assistance provision is likely to be similar to or somewhat less than the levels seen in early 2018.

*Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

As staple food prices continue to increase during the lean season period and household incomes remain limited, food access will remain restricted for most displaced households throughout the area. The ongoing joint military operations in the area will further lead to a further influx of displaced populations, increasing the food assistance burden. No improvement in food access is expected between June and September, and most areas will continue to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) acute food insecurity as large populations of displaced households in central and northern Borno State remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance for food access.

With main season harvests in October, food access will improve for those households who were able to access land during the cultivation season. However, as access to land and livelihood activities will still remain limited for many throughout the main cultivation season, and harvest stocks for others are likely to be limited, there is likely to be a significant, worst-affected population that continues to face very significant difficulty meeting basic food needs even in the harvest period. While humanitarian agencies intend to continue humanitarian operations, the provision of assistance is not planned, funded, and likely for the October 2018 to January 2019 period. As such, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity is likely for many areas between October 2018 and January 2019.

**AREAS OF CONCERN**

*Samis axis covering parts of Borno State (Damboa, Gwoza LGAs); Adamawa State (Madagali LGA) and Yobe State (Gujba LGA)*

**Current Situation**

- **Level of conflict and displacement:** The situation remains fluid in and around the Sambisa Forest, where military operations have intensified. Movement is restricted to military escort, and sporadic attacks continue to be recorded. On June 17, 2018 there was a suicide attack in Damboa, resulting in fatalities and injuries of several others. Similarly, on June 11, 2018 there was an attack on Kaya village in Madagali LGA of Adamawa where several households were displaced to Gulak, the LGA headquarter. Similar conditions are noted in Ngurguu village about 5 kilometers away from Gulak. A recent DRC assessment in the area revealed that this is the fourth attack on the village in 2018.
Since recent military operations began in October 2017, the trend of new arrivals coming to accessible locations across Borno State has increased significantly. From late November 2017 to April 2018, there has been an estimated 103,000 newly arrived individuals across Borno State and northern Adamawa State for reasons including heightened insecurity and military operations, with a weekly average of 4,500 individuals who are largely coming to LGA Headquarters from areas considered hard-to-reach. Prior to November 2017, the weekly average of new arrivals was 1,400. At the same time, the rate of household returns has increased as more areas have become liberated.

**Dry season harvest:** Dry season harvests remain substantially below average in the zone due to the persisting conflict, restricting access to land. Most irrigable areas are outside the military confinements. While most households would have typically been involved in off-season farming activities during the dry season in the first half of the year, again in 2018 these activities were severely restricted.

**Main season cultivation:** Land access varied according to locations and is estimated to be around Gwoza (30%), and Damboa (50%) compared to pre-insurgency period. However, in Madagali LGA, land access varies across the local government. In Gulak, the local government headquarter, over 90 percent of the households are able to cultivate the previous year and are currently engaged in land preparation for the main season planting. However, in Madagali and surrounding wards, land access is substantially constrained due to insecurity and most households are unable to cultivate. Households in Madagali are allowed to access land within 10 kilometers radius only. In Kaya and Ngurguu villages, households relocated to Gulak and access their farmlands during the day due to fear of attack. Similarly, the vast cultivable land around Malakwaya in Madagali LGA remains inaccessible, restricting access to land for most population in the area.

**Income sources:** As with other affected areas of northeast Nigeria, most households in the Sambisa axis have very limited opportunity to earn income. When available, they rely mainly on wage labor, petty trading, and humanitarian assistance. Some also rely on livestock sales, firewood sales and crafts to earn income.

A rapid FEWS NET survey in April and May to accessible areas of Madagali LGA found that food access remains severely constrained. The only humanitarian assistance reported in the previous three months was in Gulak town. 525 households were surveyed by two-stage cluster sample, and 22 percent of households reported a Household Hunger Scale of four to six, and 21 percent of households had a Household Dietary Diversity Score of less than four. It is likely similar conditions are present in other accessible areas of the Sambisa axis.

**Humanitarian assistance:** Humanitarian operations continue in accessible areas of the Sambisa axis. Approximately 250,000 people were reached with food assistance and 40,000 with livelihoods assistance in April and May.

**Assumptions**

The most likely scenario for the June 2018 to January 2019 period is based on the following area-level assumptions:

**Conflict:** For the purpose of this scenario, it is assumed Boko Haram conflict will continue at the current levels in Borno state relative to previous months and to previous year. Attacks on soft targets by insurgents will persist in the area. As the military intensify their operations in difficult to access areas, more population in these areas will be displaced to urban areas throughout the scenario period, particularly between June and August 2018. Military operations will likely decline during the dry season and more households are also expected to return to their local government areas of origin. In most parts of Madagali, Damboa, Gwoza and Gujba LGAs, sporadic attacks will persist during the scenario period. Remote parts of these LGAs will remain inaccessible.

**Onset of the rainy season:** The rainy season will begin normally in June spanning through October. With normal onset of the season in June and forecast for a normal rainfall amount of 400 to 800 mm for the growing season, the rainy season will progress normally and end in October. However, there is likelihood of localized dry spells at the beginning of the rainy season in June/July, with limited impact on crop development and growth.

**Main season harvests:** The main harvest will begin normally in October across the Sambisa axis. With normal onset and end of growing season, main harvest will begin normally in October for households who are able to cultivate. Access to
land will remain a major constrain in the area as the conflict persist. Thus, most households will have limited access to land, inputs, and harvests will once again be well below average.

- **Dry season activities:** The commencement of dry season activities in the Sambisa axis will happen as normal in the area. Dry season activities normally begin in December when water recedes from rivers and ponds. However, given the restricted access to land and cultivation activities, harvests in April/May will once again be well below average.

- **Lean season period and stock availability:** As with recent years, the poor harvests recorded during the previous 2017/18 main and dry season leave households with little harvest stocks during the summer lean season. Similarly, food prices are atypically high, restricting food access considering the low household purchasing power. The increasing influx of anticipated returnees due to intense military operations will further stretch food access in the area. Most households will continue to depend on humanitarian assistance, when available, to meet their food needs. The main harvest in October 2018 will slightly increase both household stocks for those that are able to cultivate and market supplies through at least January 2019 when the main harvest concludes.

- **Humanitarian assistance:** Humanitarian assistance is planned and funded for most actors through likely September 2018, and assistance provision is likely to be similar to levels seen in early 2018.

**Most Likely Food Security Outcomes**

Markets and health infrastructures and livelihood activities remain restricted within the Sambisa axis. Most households rely on atypical and erratic labor work or petty trading to access income. Similarly, humanitarian assistance also remains constrain in some locations. As staple food prices continue to increase during the lean season period and household incomes remain limited, food access will remain restricted for most displaced households throughout the area. The ongoing joint military operations in the area will further lead to a further influx of displaced populations, increasing the food assistance burden. No improvement in food access is expected between June and September, and most areas will continue to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) acute food insecurity as large populations in the Sambisa axis remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance for food access.

With main season harvests in October, food access will improve for those households who were able to access land during the cultivation season. However, as access to land and livelihood activities will still remain limited for many throughout the scenario period, and harvest stocks for others are likely to be limited, there is likely to be a significant, worst-affected population that continues to face very significant difficulty meeting basic food needs even in the harvest period. While humanitarian agencies intend to continue humanitarian operations, the provision of assistance is not planned, funded, and likely for the October 2018 to January 2019 period. As such, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity is likely for many areas between October 2018 and January 2019. Areas where populations are affected by complete loss of livelihoods activities and who remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors are likely facing similar or worse food security outcomes as neighboring, accessible areas.
EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Impact on food security outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Escalation of farmer/pastoralist conflict in the central states</td>
<td>• Constrain level of main season cultivation leading to below average harvest</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Atypically high Increase livestock prices</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Substantial improvement in value of the naira</td>
<td>• Improved household purchasing power</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased access to farming inputs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Atypical flooding, pest infestations and prolonged dry spells</td>
<td>• Substantially below average harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Atypical increase in staple food prices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Successful military operation that liberates the northeast</td>
<td>• Significant increase in the displaced population of IDPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Improvement in food access for many</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.