The 19 countries of West and Central Africa all fall into the categories of low or lower-middle income economies, within which they can be further broadly grouped into 3 clusters based on Gross Domestic Production. Most of the countries in the lowest group have been affected by conflict of one form or another, although not a causal analysis as several countries in the top two ranges have also faced conflict or political turmoil in the last decade. Ebola crisis affected three of them: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. For West Africa countries, crashing demand from China and the rest of the world will dry down major economic sectors, notably agriculture, extractive industry and tourism. Fragile economies, like Mali, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso are likely to suffer more.

This document provides practical recommendations for targeting and prioritization based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and should be read alongside the WFP’s Operational Plan “Global Response to COVID-19”, the VAM analysis “Economic and food security implications of the COVID-19 outbreak” and other available guidance related to the disease outbreak. Based on new emerging evidence, this document and links will be regularly updated.

Key Points: People in high-risk poorest countries with weak healthcare and social protection systems must be prioritized for assistance; Deteriorating economic forecast (although highly speculative at the moment); Global markets for basic cereals hold stable, but show some fragility, particularly to spread of anxiety around supply that could trigger price hikes, protectionism, panic buying, etc.
Assessments Progress

Published assessments are available on VAM Shop: http://vam.wfp.org/

Final Reports

January — December 2019

- **Burkina Faso**: EFSA Feb. 2019; ENA May 2019; EPA Sept. 2019; FSMS 2019; mVAM 2019
- **CAR**: CFSAM March 2019; mVAM 2019; ENSA Oct. 2019; Market Assessment August 2019
- **Chad**: EFSA N’Djamena Feb. 2019; ENSA Feb. 2019; ENSA Oct. 2019*
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: DISSA Jan. 2019; DISSA August 2019
- **Gambia**: Preharvest Assessment Oct. 2019; Mid-Season Crop Assessment August 2019
- **Guinea**: mVAM Feb. 2019
- **Guinea Bissau**: FSNMS Sept. 2019
- **Liberia**: Market Price Monitor—June and August 2019
- **Mauritania**: FSMS Feb. 2019; FSMS Sept. 2019
- **Nigeria**: EFSA April 2019; Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina Rapid Assessment August 2019; Borno and Yobe Market Bulletin 2019 (monthly); Joint Market Assessment Nov. 2019; EFSA Sept. 2019*; mVAM 2019
- **Sierra Leone**: Market Price Bulletin Jan.-March 2019; FSMS Feb. 2019; FSMS August 2019
- **Senegal**: ENA Nov. 2019; ENSANR Jan. 2019

January — March 2020

- **Burkina Faso**: Market Assessment Feb. 2020
- **CAR**: mVAM Bulletin February 2020
- **Chad**: Market Assessment Feb. 2020
- **Mauritania**: Market Assessment Feb. 2020
- **Nigeria**: Borno and Yobe Market Bulletin Feb. 2020

Ongoing

- **Burkina Faso**: ENSAN and Targeting Jan. 2020; FSMS March 2020; mVAM 2020
- **CAR**: mVAM 2020 (weekly)
- **Cameroon**: FSMS and Targeting Jan. 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Chad**: ENSAN Feb. 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: DISSA Jan. 2020; Evaluation rapide à Abidjan April 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Gambia**: Joint Food and Nutrition Survey Feb. 2020
- **Guinea**: FSMS January 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Libéria**: Joint Rapid Assessment March 2020
- **Mali**: ENSAN/ENA Feb. 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Mauritania**: FSMS Feb. 2020
- **Niger**: EVIAM/EFSA/mVAM Feb. 2020; Targeting Feb./March 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Nigeria**: EFSA Feb. 2020; Targeting Jan./Feb. 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Sénégal**: Food Security and Nutrition Assessment February 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Sierra Leone**: FSMS Jan. 2020; CFSVA May—June 2020; mVAM 2020

Planned

- **Benin**: mVAM 2020
- **Burkina Faso**: ENSAN and CFSAM Sept. 2020; VAMU 2020; Market Assessment August 2020; FSMS (Quarterly)
- **CAR**: CFSAM 2020; ENSA Oct. 2020
- **Cameroon**: JAM May 2020
- **Chad**: ENSA Oct. 2020; Targeting 2020
- **Gambia**: ENA 2020; Pre-Mid Season July 2020; Preharvest Assessment Oct. 2020; CFSVA 2021; mVAM 2020
- **Ghana**: CFSVA 2020; Market Assessment 2020; mVAM 2020
- **Guinea Bissau**: FSNMS August 2020; FSNMS Light
- **Libéria**: mVAM 2020
- **Mali**: ENSAN Sept. 2020; Targeting 2020
- **Niger**: JAM Sept. 2020; Targeting 2020

*Final report or Online publication still pending*
Data Visualizations

West Africa Food Security Trends 2014—2020 (CH Countries only)

Two visualizations that explore food insecurity figures from Cadre Harmonisé across time and space, down to the lowest geographic unit available per country (department/circle/etc.) - one for all 18 countries (left) and one for the 5 Sahelian countries (right).

https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/WestAfricaFoodSecurityTrends_Adm2/NatlFoodSecTrends

https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/SahelFoodSecurityTrends_Adm2/SahelCHFoodSecurityTrendsv2

West Africa Food Security Trends 2014—2020 (CH Countries + C.A.R.)

Combines 18 Cadre Harmonisé countries and Central African Republic and explores food insecurity figures at national level over time.

https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/WestAfricaFoodSecurityTrends_Adm0/RBDFoodSecurityTrends

Drivers of Food Insecurity in the Sahel, 2014—2020

Explores the relationships between food insecurity (CH figures) and climate, conflict, prices and nutrition in the Sahel. The user can explore down to the lowest geographic unit available per country (department/circle/etc.) and explore transboundary sub-regions.

https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/SahelFoodSecurityTrendsDrivers/Story1

Violence, migration and food insecurity in West Africa, 2014—2020

Explores the relationships between food insecurity (CH figures), conflict and migration (IDPs) in West Africa, including hotspot areas such as Liptako Gourma.

https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/FoodInsec_Violence_IDPs/FoodIns_ViolentEvents_IDPs

Niger Price Monitoring, February 2020 (ALL SAHEL COUNTRIES COMING SOON)

Provides market price trends and analysis for the current situation in Niger, allowing exploration by commodity and market using drop down menus and hover functionality. The price data per commodity is collected monthly by WFP staff across 68 markets, and the dashboard integrates the Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) system for all 4 key commodities.

https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/NERPriceMonitor/NER_PriceMonitor_FR
**Analytical Tools & Resources**

**Economic Explorer**
http://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/prices

Explores latest economic indicators including food prices, currency exchange rates, inflation rates, etc. Time-series food price data available for download by administrative areas (country, province) and markets for most countries where WFP operates.

**Market Monitor**
https://www.wfp.org/content/market-monitor

Provides information on price changes for the most commonly consumed staples and their potential impacts on the cost of the basic food basket.

**Seasonal Explorer**
http://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/seasonal_explorer/

Assesses performance of current and past rainfall seasons, its timing/intensity compared to average, and the impact on vegetation at the subnational level for most countries. Time series datasets available for download for most sub-regions, going back to 1981 for rainfall and 2002 for vegetation.

**VAM Shop Homepage**
Provides access to all country assessment reports and other reports of interest
http://vam.wfp.org

**Conducting Mobile Surveys Responsibly: A Field Book for WFP Staff**

**The 72-hour Assessment Approach**

**Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)**

**Essential Needs Guidelines**
https://www.wfp.org/content/essential-needs-guidelines-july-2018

---

**Central and Western Africa—Food Insecurity, Projected Situation (June - August 2020)**

For more information, please contact us at

VAM UNIT, WFP REGIONAL BUREAU DAKAR (RBD.VAM@WFP.ORG)