The spread of COVID-19 in the Sahel continues, with confirmed cases approaching 22,000 people and over 650 deaths. While restriction measures have widely been eased across the region, the impact of lockdowns, curfews, travel bans, and border closures (many of which remain in effect) on jobs, incomes, and in general the ability to engage in livelihood activities will linger for some time. While the easing of restrictions has on the one hand enable some return to livelihood activities, the continued spread of the disease brings with it its own challenges.

**Impact on Food Security**

The lean season has begun and the significant lingering impacts of response measures to COVID-19 risk exacerbating existing vulnerabilities in the form of delayed ability (or inability) to source sufficient inputs for the agricultural season, restrictions on movement of labour for agricultural but also for seasonal remittances, lost income for petty trade, food vending and other informal activities, restrictions on movement transhumant herds causing over-crowding and over-grazing, etc. According to new analyses integrating the impacts of COVID-19 on the food security situation, an estimated 18.8 million are estimated to be food insecure in the six Sahel countries covered in this brief, more than double that projected in the March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé analysis.

**Conflict and Displacement**

Conflict has deteriorating in several theatres in the region in recent months, notably Liptako Gourma and Lake Chad Basin. In Liptako Gourma, a spike in violent events was observed between February and May, declining slightly in June and July. In Lake Chad Basin, the violence increased steadily from the beginning of the year until June, and then dropped more significantly in July. The toll on the population is large and most visibly seen in the increase in displaced persons: according to most recent figures, there are 1.7 million people displaced across the Sahel, concentrated in the Central Sahel plus the Lac region of Chad.

**Weather & Climate**

The rainy season is underway and has generally started well with timely planting of crops. Long term forecasts suggest rainfall will be average to above average across the Sahel, however some heavy rainfall in the short-term could result in flooding along the length of the Senegal river between Senegal and Mauritania, along the Niger river (in Mali and Niger), and in parts of Chad. Pastoral monitoring highlights key improvements in body conditions as pastures and water points replenish, with some exceptions such as in southern Mauritania and eastern Chad.

**Markets**

In June 2020, prices of staple goods across the Sahel markets remained relatively stable compared to the previous month (May 2020). Compared to the same month last year (June 2019), prices were notably higher in Chad, Niger and Senegal. Compared to the 5 year average, both Senegal and Chad markets showed high increases.
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Summary of recent conflict and Displacement in the Sahel

In the last 3 months (May – July 2020), there have been cumulatively 331 violent events (that resulted in at least one fatality) and 1,548 deaths. By country, nearly 40% of the fatalities occurred in Mali (611 dead in these 3 months), followed by Burkina Faso (577 deaths, 37% of the total for the 3-month period). The events continue to concentrate in the 2 hotspot areas of Liptako Gourma and the Lake Chad Basin. In Liptako Gourma, the violence was at its highest point between February and May, before declining slightly in June and July. In contrast, the Lake Chad Basin saw a steady increase over the months up to June, before declining in July (Fig 1).

The conflicts’ most evident impact is on displacement of people, frequently cutting them off from entirely from their livelihoods and sources of income and food. In Burkina Faso, the number of displaced persons has increased the most dramatically, from 238k one year ago (July 2019) to 979k estimated as of 9 July 2020, an increase of 311 percent. The majority are concentrated in the North-eastern region. In Mali, the increase has been more moderate, rising from 168k in July 2019 to 261k (as of April 2020), an increase of 55 percent. In Niger, the increase has been from 182k in July 2019 to 266k (as of May 2020), or a 46 percent increase.

In addition to causing widespread displacement, the conflict erodes livelihoods of those who not displaced, as captured in a detailed analysis of satellite imagery comparing the area under agricultural activity in 2019 in the Liptako Gourma area with that of previous years (2016 and 2017). The results are available in the report here: “Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger - Conflits persistants, pertes de terres agricoles et insécurité alimentaire récurrente dans la région du liptako-gourma, July 2020.”

Sources: Map 1, Fig 1 – ACLED 1 August 2020; Map 2, Fig 2 – IOM, CONUSAR, CMP most recent figures
Compared to last month, the prices of the key staples per country (millet in Niger, Chad, Senegal, Mali; Sorghum in Burkina Faso; and local rice in Mauritania) remained mostly stable across the Sahel. However, compared to the same time last year (June 2019), significant increases are being seen in Chad, Niger, and parts of Senegal. Decreases in production in Niger during the 2019-2020 season as well as border closures mostly explain these price increases relatively to last year. In Chad, the high increase compared to last year is largely a reflection of the particularly low prices seen in 2019, while in Senegal, the high increase compared to last year are due to low stock from last season and rising demand.

Compared to the five-year average, the highest increases were seen across Senegal, in western Chad and in Kidal region of Mali and Hodh El Gharbi in Mauritania. In Mauritania, the government suspension of weekly market activities in Twil, Hodh El Gharbi, greatly reduced availability causing an increase in prices.
The number of food insecure this lean season is estimated at 3.28 million people, with 11,394 people in disaster conditions (phase 5) and 507,503 people severely food insecure (phase 4).

- The crisis in the northeast is deteriorating with ripple effects across the country. By the end of June, the number of internally displaced had reached 978,744 people.
- Prices are rising as stocks decline and households become more dependent on markets for food.

After 2 deadly months in April (45 events, 311 fatalities) and May (53 events and 292 fatalities), the incidence of violent events declined to 34 events with 186 fatalities in June and 25 events and 99 fatalities in July (ACLED 1 Aug 2020). When aggregated up, the violence declined only slight from the first quarter (January-March; 893 deaths) to the second quarter (April-June, 850 deaths). While Sahel region continues to bear the burden of the violence (on average 60% of total fatalities each month), Est region is rising as a new front, with on average 20% of the fatalities each month since May. Nord and Centre-Nord also important areas of the conflict. The deadliest event in the last month was an airstrike by French Barkhane forces that killed 20 militants in Tin-Akoff, Oudalan on 16 July (ACLED 1 Aug 2020).

Population displacement rose yet again, from 848,329 in April to 978,744 people by the end of June 2020, an increase of 15% (CONASUR, 9 Jul 2020). The biggest increases were noted in Boucle du Mouhoun (nearly doubling, from 15,979 to 36,834 displaced) and in Est (increasing from 20,283 to 65,348 displaced).

Map 1. Violent events in last 3 months (to 25 July 2020)  Map 2. IDP distribution as of 9 July 2020

In Burkina Faso, the estimated number of food insecure this lean season rose by 52 percent, from 2.15 million as projected in the March 2020 CH analysis to 3.28 million per the July 2020 CH revision. Two provinces in the north-east, Oudalan and Sahel, are in the emergency phase (phase 4) with 11,394 of their inhabitants in phase 5 (disaster phase). This represents the first time people have fallen into disaster conditions in Burkina Faso, a grave marker of the extent of the deterioration in the situation. An additional 507,503 people are estimated to be severely food insecure (phase 4). Conditions worsened particularly in Boucle du Mouhoun, with the number of food insecure increasing from about 73,000 to over 280,000 people.

The primary driver of this deterioration in Burkina Faso is the escalating conflict that is destabilizing the north-eastern region with ripple effects across the country. At this cyclical period of heightened vulnerability (the lean season), violence is interrupting key livelihood activities and access to markets, disrupting market flows, and understicking household coping mechanisms. The health crisis is compounding the vulnerabilities and exacerbating the fragility of vulnerable households, reflected in worsening food consumption, nutritional status and coping ability, as well as in the rising number of displaced persons.

Sources: Map 1 – ACLED 1 Aug 2020; Map 2 – CONUSAR 9 Jul 2020; Map 3 – CILSS Mar 2020; Map 4 – CILSS Jul 2020
The rainfall began on time across much of Burkina Faso (mid-May), providing sufficient conditions to start planting, particularly in the southern and western parts of the country. Comparing total rainfall for the last 2 months to normal, slight deficits are noted in the south-east and south-west corners of the country (map 4). In the north-east, the conflict continues to severely restrict household access to fields and limit the ability to engage in farming activities (WFP RBD VAM).

The short-term forecasts indicate above averages rainfall over much of Burkina Faso except over the north-western border region with Mali. Longer-term forecast for the season predict above average rainfall through September and a late to normal end of season.

More than half of pastoral sites (21 of 39) across eastern Burkina Faso report high concentrations of animals as of 23 July 2020, and 64% report tension at water points (ACF 23 Jul 2020). However, animal body conditions have improved with all sites reporting sufficient to good conditions. Conflict continues to restrict access and movement and pose a persistent deadly threat as pastoral groups are often targeted.

**Special COVID-19 updates**

As of the time of writing, there were 1,150 confirmed cases and 53 deaths, for a case fatality ratio of 4.6%. Starting in May, the government began lifting or easing the mitigation measures, including domestic travel bans, city lockdowns, and market closures. However, the loss of jobs, income and livelihoods as a result of mitigation measures has contributed to worsening food security outcomes this lean season. As a result, the government has initiated several short-term relief activities, including subsidized grain sales, free food distributions, control of prices throughout the country, provision of agricultural inputs and livestock feed in support of food and pastoral production, and establishment of a fund to benefit informal sector actors (particularly women) to revive fruit and vegetable trading activities.

**WFP VAM**

- mVAM ongoing since July 2019
- Market monitoring bulletin Jun 2020
- Remote ENSAN impact COVID Jul 2020
- Revised CH July 2020

**Upcoming Assessments:**

- ENSAN, CFSAM Sep 2020
- Market monitoring bulletin Aug 2020

As of June 2020, there remained relatively good availability of cereals in the markets due to commercial stocks and lifting of mitigation measures that were restricting flow, except in the northeast where conflict is disrupting market supply and forcing closure or intermittent functioning of many secondary markets (WFP VAM). At national level, cereal prices continue an upward trend reflecting rising demand as households rely increasingly on markets for food, a trend exaggerated in northeastern markets. With preparations for Tabaski underway, the demand for small livestock is up as are the prices. The terms of trade have improved significantly this month, up >20% in favor of pastoralists (WFP & SONAGESS Jun 2020).
Situation Analysis: Chad
July 2020

KEY FOCUS: Conflict/ Migration

In March, the government launched Operation Bohoma Anger aimed at neutralizing Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin, resulting in a significant increase in fatalities and displacement – while the numbers are uncertain, the government reported that more than 1,000 militants across the LCB region were killed as well as 52 soldiers (CFR Jun 2020). For the LCB region, this spike represents the largest since the 2014-2015 according to data from the Nigeria Security Tracker (Fig 1). In late April, IOM data collection revealed a large increase (+13%) in displaced persons, for a total of 236,426 people (map 1) (IOM April 2020).

According to ACLED data for just the Lac region, there appeared to be a lull in violence in May when compared to earlier months this year (following the offensive), but by June, violence was ticking up again. Community conflict in Ouaddai, Wadi Fira and Sila has subsided for now, but several incidents were recorded between Fulani pastoralists and farmers in Tandjile, while in Tibesti, large violent clashes between robbers and gold miners between 17-19 June resulted in high fatalities (estimated at 24 people killed) (ACLED 1 August 2020).

Impact on Food Security

Prior to the spread of COVID-19, the March 2020 Cadre Harmonise exercise projected an estimated 1 million people would be food insecure this lean season, representing an increase of 59% compared to last lean season. Taking into consideration the impact of the pandemic, a government-led analysis estimated that an additional 1.1 million could fall into food insecurity, of which 528,250 are in N’Djamena. With this additional burden, the total projected number of food insecure this lean season is 2,145,666 people.

Production deficits in the eastern part of the Sahelian band, notably Barh El Gazal and Kanem, caused household stocks to decline earlier than usual (in February as opposed to March/April) and increased reliance on markets purchases at the same time that prices for staple goods were rising. Mitigation measures, particularly border closures, continue to disrupt supply and the conflict and rising displacement in Lac region adds pressure on host communities and disrupts livelihoods and markets.

Sources: Fig 1 – Nigeria Security Tracker, Council on Foreign Relations; Map 1 – IOM DTM 30 April 2020

- Taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19, an estimated 2.1m people, plus about 480,000 refugees, are projected to be food insecure this lean season.
- The military offensive launched in March 2020 led to the largest spike in fatalities since 2014-2015 period in Lac region and contributed to increased displacement in the region (+13%).
- Cereal prices continue to climb as the lean season progresses and are significantly higher than last year.
The agricultural season began as usual, despite predictions of an earlier than normal start to the rains. Planting has proceeded well to date in both Sahelian and Sudanian zones. By the second dekad of July, the rainfall had been very favorable across the country and had boosted the agricultural situation, even in Salamat where there was a considerable delay in rainfall and planting (GTP-Chad 20 July 2020). In the short-term, heavy rains is expected to cause moderate flooding in N’Djamena, Bokoro and Ngama in Dababa province (WFP). A few solitary locusts have been observed in the country, but “the threat of invasion by swarms is declining” (FAO 21 July 2020). Nonetheless, close monitoring of climate and vegetative conditions continues.

While the rains in July were average to above average in most of Chad (map 4) contributing to recovery of pasture in the Sudanian zone, they were below average in pockets in the NW, NE, and over Chari-Baguirmi and N’Djamen. The pastures have yet to fully recover across the Sahel band (map 5).

In eastern pastoral sites of Abeche (Wardi Fira) and Goz Beida (Ouaddai), animal body condition was still poor or critical by the end of July, while other sites in the west reported sufficient/good body conditions (map 6).

By June 2020, stocks of key staple foods are low. For households, the economic impact of the mitigation measures pushed many to sell stocks at low prices in search of income (FEWS NET June 2020). As a result, households are ever more dependent on the markets for food and prices are rising sharply. In the last 3 months (April – June), the prices of millet and sorghum have risen 11-12% and maize prices have risen by 7% (WFP RBD VAM). Compared to the 5 year average, millet prices are up 17%, maize prices are up 21%, while sorghum prices are about the same. The increase is even larger in comparison to the same month last year (June 2019) when prices were at their lowest point after a long period of low demand due to low household purchasing power and low local institutional purchases (WFP RBD VAM).

### Special COVID-19 updates

Chad’s economy relies heavily on export of oil. The drop in 2016 of oil prices began what has been a 4 year economic crisis. The timid recovery of the price of oil and the persistent conflict in the Lac region have not allowed the Chadian economy to regain its pre-crisis performance. The mitigation measures put in place due to COVID-19 have further contributed to weakening the economy, particularly as trade and revenue fell and demand declined. In addition, the restrictions on movement and business operation may adversely affect the agricultural season via reduced access to seeds and agricultural labour. As of the time of writing, Chad had 936 confirmed cases and 75 deaths, for a case fatality rate of 8%. Commercial flights have recommenced as of 1 August 2020, but with conditions.

### WFP VAM
- ENSAM (M = Market component) February 2020
- mVAM ongoing since Oct 2019

### Upcoming Assessments:
- ENSA October 2020
- JAM 2020
- Targeting 2020
More than 3 million people are estimated to be food insecure this lean season as a result of the poor agricultural season last year and the conflict, and compounded by COVID-19.

The current rainy season is unfolding well allowing for the timely start of planting. However, there has already been some flooding recorded.

Prices of key staples have risen slightly in recent months, but generally remain below the 5-year average.

In March 2020, the Cadre Harmonise analysis projected 1.3 million people to be food insecure this lean season, an increase of 142% compared to the previous lean season. This increase was mainly due to poor agricultural conditions last lean season that reduced output (late onset of rains, drought and flooding in localized areas) and increased the likelihood of a gap in household stocks for vulnerable households, as well as the persistent violence disrupting livelihoods in all capacities in the Liptako Gourma area.

Taking into account the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19, food insecurity this lean season was further estimated to increase by 1.7 million over the projection of the March 2020 Cadre Harmonise analysis. In total, 3,075,481 people are food insecure, of which 251,041 are in Bamako. The mitigation measures put in place by the government in response to the pandemic have resulted in lost income (particularly from daily work, casual labour, petty trade, food vending), and increased the vulnerabilities of the poorest households dependent on such income.
To-date the rainy season has started well in Mali (map 5), except in Gao, Menaka and Kidal where there remains a deficit. The start of the planting season has been normal to early by 1-2 weeks. However, the increased rainfall has already caused flooding, especially in Yelimane and Bamako (WFP VAM; FEWS NET Aug 2020). Short-term predictions indicate continued good rain and longer term predictions suggest a good agricultural season overall (WFP VAM).

With above average rainfall conditions at the beginning of the rainy season, pasture and water conditions have improved in the central region of Mali (Fig 1). According to ACF’s relay system, concentration is mostly average (map 6) and animal body condition is sufficient or good in 85% of sites (ACF 23 Jul 2020). However, movement continues to be restricted in some areas due to conflict.

Special update: COVID-19

As of the time of writing, there were 2,543 confirmed cases in Mali and 124 deaths, for a case fatality rate of 4.9%. Nearly half of the cases (1,200) were found in Bamako, but new epicentres are appearing in Tombocottou and Mopti. The government has eased many of the restrictions and joint monitoring with mVAM reveals many people are also relaxing their behaviour (WFP Jun 2020).

In June 2020, the supply of staple cereals such as millet and sorghum continue their seasonal decline. The change from last month was mostly stable: for millet and sorghum, it was <1%, although the variation from March to June was +6%. Local rice prices actually fell between May and June due to the harvesting of off-season rice. Imported rice also saw a drop in price (-3%) due to tax breaks granted to imported by the government as part of the COVID-19 response (WFP VAM).

In general, cereal prices in June remained below last year’s and the 5 year average prices (Fig 2, 3, WFP VAM).

Figs 2&3. price trends for (a) millet and (b) sorghum

Source: WFP RBD VAM June 2020

WFP VAM

- ENSAN February 2020
- Market assessment April 2020
- mVAM ongoing since Aug 2019
- Bulletin conjoint (mVAM) for SAN during COVID-19, since April 2020
- Bulletin conjoint mensuel de suivi des marches - Juin 2020

Upcoming Assessments:

- ENSAN September 2020
The months of June and July marked the first months of relative calm with 12 violent events each month resulting in 55 and 32 fatalities, respectively, compared to 5 months of more than 100 fatalities a month, peaking at 224 deaths in March alone. Two-thirds of the deadly violence occurred in Tillaberi with one quarter occurring in Diffa (ACLED 1 August 2020). In Tillaberi, the majority of clashes are between government and militant forces backed by the Islamic State as the government returns to a predominantly military response to the crisis. Displacement has continued to rise with the ongoing violence. Between Dec 2019 and May 2020, the number of displaced rose by 23%. In the western region, IDPs are concentrated in Abala & Tillia, while in the east, the most IDPs are found in Diffa & N’Guigmi. The largest increases were in Guidan Roumdji (+581%, 18k), Tillaberi (172%, 12k), and Ouallam (137%, 6.5k) since the beginning of the year (UNHCR).

In April 2020, the Government with support from WFP and partners, conducted an analysis to assess the potential impact of COVID-19 crisis on food security and livelihoods. The results of the analysis suggest that up to 5.6 million people could be affected, including 2.7 million acutely food insecure people (which includes the 2 million people classified in crisis or above by the March 2020 Cadre Harmonise). The analysis took into account mitigation measures such as the extended closure of land borders that restricts movement of people (notably migrant agricultural labourers) and goods, the lockdown of cities and imposition of a curfew resulting in loss of income in key socio-economic sectors and in the informal sector, a decrease in remittances, and restrictions on domestic movement which disrupts the flow of goods and people.

In addition to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the worsening conflict in the western areas and in Diffa, and the variable rainfall experienced in the early months are further contributing to a deterioriation of food insecurity and a difficult lean season in both pastoral and agricultural areas. High burdens of food insecure are anticipated in the across the western regions, in parts of Maradi and Zinder region, and in the lake chad basin (Map 4).
Situation Analysis – Niger – continued

Since the beginning of July, the rains have picked up significantly, which has led to improvement in the sowing rates to 94% of villages, up from 60% in late June (WFP VAM; GTP-Niger Jul 2020). However, the delayed and/or failed sowing at the beginning of the season, the result of high variability in rainfall in May, is an issue that needs to be closely monitored. The short-term forecasts predict wetter than average conditions across most of the country for the month of July (WFP July 2020). So far, locusts do not present an issue in the country.

After some initially good rains in early June, rainfall has become more erratic over pastoral areas and consequently vegetation cover has fallen below normal in late June and early July, extending the pastoral lean season. Herds are concentrating in many sites (~80% of sites are medium to high concentration) and feed is in short supply (60% of sites report shortage of feed) (ACF 23 July 2020). Indeed, the northern strip of Niger is in critical situation and conditions are poor in the western regions with reports of serious food shortages and high livestock mortality rates. (WFP VAM; ACF July 2020).

Special update: COVID-19

The number of confirmed cases at the time of writing was 1,124 with a case fatality rate of 6%. The government has loosened some mitigation measures, allowing inter-city travel and ending the lock-down of Niamey. However, international borders remain closed which could have important consequences on the availability of migrant labour for the agricultural season. In addition, the strict measures in place earlier in the season (March-May) negatively impacted access to seeds, which may also disrupt the agricultural season.

WFP VAM

- EVIAM/EFSA/mVAM Feb/Mar 2020
- Targeting Feb/Mar 2020
- mVAM household ongoing since Aug 2020

Upcoming Assessments:

- EVIAM October 2020
- Evaluation Sites Sentinelles Oct 2020
- JAM 2020

Markets

As of June 2020, most markets remain relatively well-supplied with local and imported staple products, and garden products are increasingly available. After relative stability in prices between April and May, prices have begun to rise again. At national level, the prices of millet and sorghum in June were up 4% compared to May and >20% higher than last year, although only 3-5% higher than the 5 year average. The high annual variation is linked to border closures with Nigeria, particularly in the Maradi region, response measures taken due to COVID-19 that disrupt external and internal flows, a generally poor crop year last year, and the ongoing insecurity in the west and east that continue to adversely affect local economies and market functionality. For example, the prices of millet and sorghum are +30-45% compared to last year in Tahoua and Maradi regions (WFP VAM).

Figs 2&3. price trends for (a) millet and (b) sorghum

Source: WFP RBD VAM June 2020
The pastoral lean season is on-going in Mauritania, marked by heavy concentration of herds in some sites along the southern border with Senegal and poor animal body condition in others. Following the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the governments of Mauritania, Mali and Senegal all closed their borders and Mauritania restricted movement between Wilayas, measures that took a serious toll on pastoral resources and livestock health. Tensions around water points was particularly high in May and June, but has registered a decline July as the onset of timely rainfall has replenished water sources. Similarly, it is expected that vegetative cover will continue to improve following recent strong rains (Fig 1) and under predictions of a good rainy season to come (WFP RBD VAM). However, at present the concentration of animals along the border with Senegal remains excessive for the available pasture resulting in a worrisome pasture gap (ACF July 2020). The government has intervened to subsiude livestock feed in support of pastoral households, setting the price of 50 kg sack of 310 MRU. As of 23 July 2020, one-third of sites reported high or very high concentration (7 out of 21) and 38% (8 of the 21 sites) reported poor body condition (ACF July 2020).

According to the Cadre Harmonise analysis conducted in November 2019, 609,180 people were projected to be food insecure this lean season (Jul-Aug 2020), the highest level of food insecurity ever observed in Mauritania and about 9% more than what the country experienced last lean season (Jun-Aug 2019). With the onset of COVID-19, WFP analysis projected an additional 227,870 people could fall into food insecure, of which 136,398 (60%) were expected to be living in urban areas (WFP RBD VAM). The analysis relied primarily on 2 drivers, the potential loss of jobs and the loss of remittance incomes as a result of covid-19 mitigation measures. Indeed in parts of Mauritania, it is estimated that more than one-third of incomes amongst poor farming households comes from seasonal or permanent remittances (FEWS NET Jun 2020).

**Sources:** Maps 1&2 – WFP Seasonal Bulletin #9 D2 July 2020; Fig 1 – dataviz.wfp.org Map 3 – CILSS Nov 2019; Map 3 – WFP RBD VAM
Harvesting of off-season rice and low-lying area “Walo” crops was completed by end of April. The off-season harvest will finish out the 2019/2020 agricultural year, which proved to be a record year with strong output of maize and paddy rice. Rain-fed sorghum and millet production saw a decline in production due to unevenly distributed rainfall.

Despite COVID-19 measures, the government hopes to maintain growth in agricultural output through provisioning of improved seeds. The predictions of a strong rainy season also portend well for agricultural production this year. In the short-term, heavy rainfall (in August) could lead to potential flooding in Guidimakha, Assaba and south Hodh El Gharbi (WFP).

As of 30 June 2020, there are a total of 64,404 refugees, an increase of nearly 4k since March 2019 (60,453), plus 1,395 asylum seekers. Of these, 60,456 (93.8%) are Malian refugees in the M’bera camp in Hodh Ech Chargui.

Following violence, hostilities, human rights violations and a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the northern part of Mali since January 2012, large numbers of Malians have been seeking refuge in Mauritania.

By June 2020, prices were stable or slightly rising; the price of wheat had changed little since April while the price of local rice was up 2.1% since April. For local rice, the price increase started earlier than usual due to a combination of poor agricultural harvest last year and the border closures due to COVID-19. However, the government intervention to stabilize prices following the policy measures related to the pandemic, as well as harvest of off-season rice helped moderate the increases. In addition, the brief relaxation of restrictive measures in May allowed re-stocking of many imported products be restocked and stabilized these prices. Compared to last year, prices are generally higher, notably in Hodh El Gharbi (local rice +7.5% compared to last year and +9.4% compared to the 5-year average) due to border closures and closure of weekly markets. Imported rice and oil recorded +9% and +4% increases compared to the 5-year average (WFP VAM).

As of the time of writing, there were 6,382 confirmed cases in Mauritania and 157 deaths for a case fatality rate of 2.5%. The government exonerated customs taxes on imports of wheat, oil, milk powder, vegetables and fruit in order to support the national food supply which is heavily dependent on imports.
**Situation Analysis: Senegal**  
*July 2020*

**Markets**

Between April and May, prices rose significantly for many staple products across Senegal. For example, the price of millet rose by 28%, local maize by 18% and local rice by 11%. But in June, the prices dropped by between 8 and 9 percentage points despite continued declines in availability, a reflection of the impact of government easing of mitigation measures. Indeed, in May, the government officially reopened markets under pressure from traders and the population, although the return to full functionality was slow out of fear of contamination and continued movement restrictions that limited participation of people from other parts of the country.

Despite this relative improvement in June in month-on-month price increases, the overall trend for cereals since November 2019 has been of higher than normal prices when compared to last year and to the five year average, with the exception of sorghum and imported maize which had more variable trends with respect to annual and 5-year average variations.

**Impact on Food Security**

According to the March CH exercise, 766,725 people were projected to be food insecure in this lean season, an increase of 125% compared to the last lean season (Jun-Aug 2019). Two departments were expected to be in crisis (Salamata and Matam). The primary reasons for the worsening food insecurity are declining stocks in households and on the market, as well as deteriorating pastures and declining fodder availability. For the pastoral populations in the north, it is anticipated to be an early-starting and difficult lean season.

In light of the mitigation measures put in place due to COVID-19, new analysis for the whole region of West Africa was conducted that anticipated impact through two primary channels, loss of jobs and loss of remittances. The number projected to fall into food insecurity due to the pandemic was estimated at 1,657,513, with more than half (832,173 people) expected to be in urban areas (*WFP RBD VAM*). This brings the total up to 2,424,240 food insecure until the end of the year, an increase of 216% over the CH projection. The government, in planning assistance, has estimated 4,237,013 people food insecure, which includes people in phase 2.

**Sources:** Fig 1 – *WFP RBD VAM*; Map 1 – CILSS March 2020; Map 2 – *WFP RBD VAM*
Cereal production

Total cereal production from the 2019/20 season was estimated at 2,768,405 tonnes, 4% lower than that of 2018/2019, and 27% higher than the five-year average (CH Mar 2020). Production varied locally with some areas having less output due to droughts during the 2019/20 growing season. Households in areas such as Podor and Bakel face declining stocks earlier than in other areas.

In the early months of the rainy season, most of Senegal was characterized by rainfall deficits compared to normal. However, increased rainfall in mid- to late-July and short-term forecasts predicting more above-average rainfall bodies well for the agricultural season. Potential heavy rainfall during the first week of August (estimated at almost the average for the peak rainfall month of August) is expected in southern and eastern Senegal, likely to cause flooding in Ziguinchor, Sedhiou, Kolda, Matam, Tambacounda and Kedougou. The government has invested heavily this season (budget est. 60 billion CFA) to encourage increased production, including subsidies on seeds, fertilizers and additional agricultural production programmes.

Pastoral Situation

The pastoral lean season has progressed normally thus far, with fairly average availability across the pastoral areas. Out of 24 sites, 8 (33%) have reported high or very high concentration and 6 (25%) have reported poor or critical (1) animal body condition (ACF 23 Jul 2020). There is very little reported tension at water points. Approximately half of the sites report reduction in movement, which has been the case since late June, as compare dto May and early June when between 65-80% of sites reported reduction of movement.

Fig 1. NDVI time series for Linguere, Matam, Dagana, Podor departments

Map. Current rainfall status at early/mid season (2 month rainfall anomaly, ending 20 Jul 2020)

Special update: COVID-19

As of the time of writing, Senegal had 9,764 officially confirmed cases and 194 deaths, for a case fatality ratio of 2%. However, testing has declined and it is expected that the case load is higher. Following strict mitigation measures implemented in March 2020, the government gradually relaxed them and by 29 June 2020, nearly all restrictive measures were lifted, except for the ban on most commercial international flights.

WFP VAM

- Food Security and Nutrition Assessment February 2020
- Monthly market and price monitoring

Upcoming Assessments:

- mVAM market 2020
- EFSA Nov 2020

Conflict/Migration

On 15 June 2020, a landmine targeting a military vehicle exploded in Ziguinchor killing 2 soldiers and wounding 4 others (ACLED updated 18 July 2020). This represents the first major incident of violence in the this low-level conflict in the southern region of the Casamance since October 2019.

As of 31 December 2019, there are 14,469 refugees in Senegal, mostly from Mauritania (98%) (data2. unhcr.org). Additionally, there are 1,864 people seeking asylum as of 30 April 2020.

Source: WFP Seasonal Monitor, Bulletin 9, D2 July 2020
Data Sources

Climate, Pastoral situation & locusts
http://sigsahel.info/index.php/2020/07/14/bulletin-mensuel-de-suivi-de-limpact-de-la-covid19-sur-les-menages-pastoraux-et-agropastoraux-juin-2020/
ACF. Pastoral Monitoring Dashboard, as of 23 Jul 2020.

Covid 19
WFP. Global Response Plan. Available by request.
Coronavirus country data on confirmed cases, deaths, recovered. https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

Markets

Displacement/Migration and Conflict
Armed Conflict Location and Events Dataset (ACLED), Africa Dataset, updated 1 August 2020, visualized by WFP RBD VAM and available at https://analytics.wfp.org/#/views/SahelFoodSecurityTrendsDrivers/Story1
WFP “Visualizing Food Insecurity, Violent Events and Internal Displacement”
https://analytics.wfp.org/#/views/FoodInsec_Violence_IDPs/FoodIns_ViolentEvents_IDPs

Food Security
Cadre Harmonisé http://www.cilss.int/, compiled and visualized by WFP RBD VAM and available at https://analytics.wfp.org/#/views/WestAfricaFoodSecurityTrends_Adm2/NatlFoodSecTrends?iid=1

WFP Upcoming Assessments
WFP Regional Bureau Dakar VAM. VAM Newsletter. Available by request at RBD.VAM@WFP.org

For questions and comments, please contact: RBD.VAM@WFP.org
Maps Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WFP concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
### Burkina Faso


- CILSS. *Cadre Harmonise Fiche de Communication.* Revised July 2020.
- FEWSNET. *Burkina Faso: Remote Monitoring Update.* June 2020

### Chad

**FEWSNET.** *Perspectives sur la securite alimentaire.* Juin 2020.

- IOM. *Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Chad,* Lac Province. [https://displacement.iom.int/](https://displacement.iom.int/)
- Tchad Cluster securite alimentaire, 8 Juillet 2020

### Mali


- CMP. *Displacement in Mali.* April 2020
- FEWSNET *Mali: Food Security Outlook.* June 2020
- FEWSNET *Mali: La saison selon les images.* 4 aout 2020

### Mauritania

**ACF.** *Bulletin de surveillance pastorale en Mauritanie Avril – Mai 2020.* May 2020

- FSNWG. *Compte-Rendu de la Reunion du 20 Juillet 2020.*

### Senegal

**ACF.** *Bulletin de surveillance multisectorielle dans la region de L’Est, Burkina Faso Octobre-Janvier 2020.* Fevrier 2020


### Niger
