



### IN NUMBERS



**> 6 million**

people severely food insecure



**80-90 %**

of the population depend on agriculture, fisheries and livestock for their livelihoods



**2.6 million**

displaced people



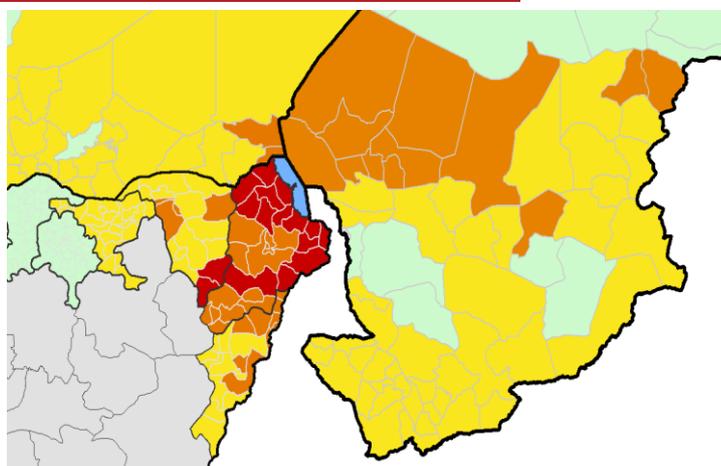
**USD 16 million**

needed for FAO's response until end of 2016

### KEY MESSAGES

- **Restoring agricultural livelihoods is a priority** to avoid a further deterioration of the food security situation of **displaced people and host communities** in the coming months.
- **Limited funding** received in 2016 for livelihood interventions is of major concern, especially in Northeast Nigeria where 4.5 million people face acute **food insecurity** according to latest analyses.
- Without agriculture and livestock support, many farmers and herders will resort to **negative coping mechanism** with **long-lasting impact** on their livelihoods. This may result in increasing for humanitarian needs in 2017 and beyond.
- Special attention to **women and youth** is given in all FAO interventions. This is crucial to offer livelihoods alternatives and income generation opportunities, and support women that are particularly vulnerable in conflict environment.

### MAPS



#### Legend

- Not analyzed
- Minimal
- Under pressure
- Crisis
- Emergency
- Famine
- Lake Chad

Source: Cadre harmonisé analysis - March 2016, including the August 2016 update for Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in Northeast Nigeria

**Food security situation**

### BACKGROUND

The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has intensified over the past years as Boko Haram attacks and suicide bombs have targeted civilians, causing widespread trauma, forcing millions from their homes, preventing people from accessing their fields and destroying essential infrastructure and services. The conflict has affected the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin – Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria – and has uprooted millions of people from their home across the four countries. The arrival of a large number of Nigerians in border areas of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, along with the ongoing cross-border attacks is also putting already impoverished host communities under extreme pressure. As a result, host communities are in urgent need of assistance for food production and livelihoods restoration and protection. Insecurity has so far limited humanitarian access to certain areas where the food security and nutrition situation is critical. However, in the last few months, significant territory has been rendered accessible to humanitarian assistance, opening a window of opportunity for a scale up of interventions in the area.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Unprecedented levels of population displacements, together with reduced access to farming activities have caused a sharp increase of food insecurity in affected areas. Most of displaced people rely on the scarce resources of host communities for their basic needs including for food. Host families themselves, as well as other crisis-hit households were unable to exploit their land because of fear of attacks, which resulted in the loss of productive assets, reduced incomes, and food shortages. Local agricultural systems at large have been disrupted following destructions of farming and irrigations facilities, and reduced access for extension services. With the expected return of IDPs to their place of origin in the coming months, the assistance for the preparation of the 2017 main agriculture campaign (May – September) should be strengthened.

The crisis is exacerbating the challenges faced by vulnerable farmers who were increasingly exposed to natural hazards including cyclical droughts and floods in the past decade. The concentration of herds due to changes in transhumance flows is putting pastoral resources under extreme pressure, and could threaten animal health. Special attention should be paid to the health condition of herds in the Niger and Chad following fodder deficits observed in the past months, as well as abundant rainfalls in some areas.

## FAO'S RESPONSE

**Cameroon:** FAO has provided seeds, fertilizers and small tools to returnees and vulnerable communities residing in affected areas, with focus on women and youth. Small animals were also distributed and facilities to store threshed grains and animal feed are being constructed. Capacity building support was provided as well to extension workers through technical trainings. A total of 33 500 people benefited from FAO's assistance. FAO has set up a suboffice in Maroua, as part of its increased capacity to respond.

**The Niger:** Insecurity and lack of funds have prevented FAO to provide agricultural and livestock support in the Diffa region in 2016. Farmers with depleted stocks of seeds and affected herders will resort to negative coping mechanism and suffer from lasting impact on their livelihoods. However, improved access offers new opportunities for agricultural support including during the upcoming irrigated dry season due to start in the coming weeks. FAO has a suboffice in Diffa to monitor support interventions on the ground.

**Chad:** About 19 000 IDPs, returnees and host populations have benefited from FAO's assistance. Activities included the provision of animal feed, destocking and related technical support to herders. Targeted farmers received cereal and vegetable seeds to plant in time for the main agricultural campaign, as well as irrigation kits and post-harvest equipment. FAO has set up a suboffice in Bol, in the Lake region.

**Nigeria:** FAO has provided agricultural kits comprising improved cereal and pulse seeds and fertilizers to crisis-hit farmers in the course of the ongoing rainy season. To date 160 000 people were reached including 3 000 households who received seeds of fast-growing local vegetable crop in high demand on local markets. In addition, food assistance was provided to 2 850 households that have exhausted their food stocks. FAO has launched in July 2016 a full-scale corporate surge response, and a dedicated multisectoral team is based in Maiduguri, Borno State.

### FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE (Dec. 2015–Aug. 2016)



**USD 8.7 million**

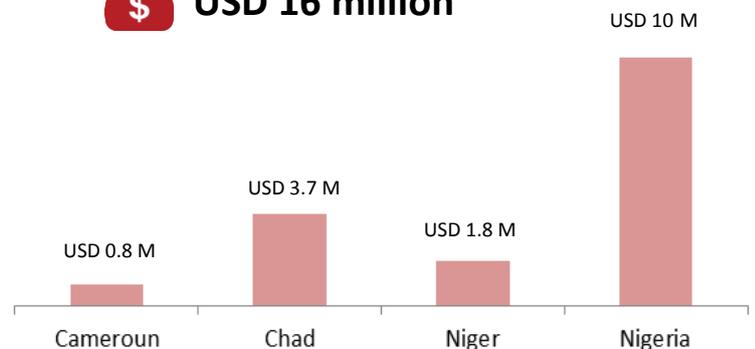
#### Resource partners:

- Belgium
- Ireland
- Japan
- the European Commission (ECHO)
- UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- Sweden
- FAO internal resources

### IMMEDIATE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (Sept.– Dec. 2016)



**USD 16 million**



## CONTACT

Patrick David | FAO Representative a.i in Senegal and Head of the Resilience Team a.i for West Africa/Sahel ( REOWA ) | Dakar, Senegal | Patrick.David@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience | Rome, Italy | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org