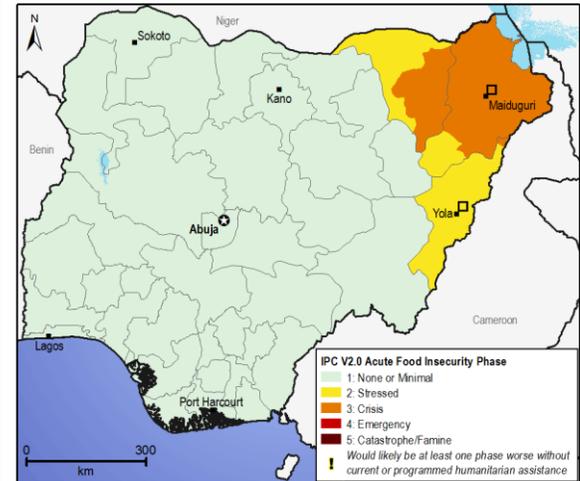


*Conflict in the Lake Chad region continues to impact livelihood activities and food access*

**KEY MESSAGES**

- The value of the Nigerian naira has depreciated by more than 30 percent between December 2015 and February 2016 due primarily to reductions in oil sector revenues in 2015. This depreciation will reduce Nigeria’s purchasing power for imported products, such as rice, wheat, and manufactured goods from international markets and livestock and cash crops from the Sahel.
- Agricultural households in most parts of the country are consuming their own food production and are engaging in income-generating activities, such as dry-season agriculture, land preparations, cash crop sales, and migration. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are also selling livestock to earn income and access food normally through market purchases. Between February and September, these households will continue to have seasonally normal food consumption and will face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity.
- Boko Haram conflict continues to negatively affect livelihood activities in the Lake Chad region. Affected households have had consecutive years of substantially below-average harvests, restricted income levels, and reduced food access. Poor households in these areas will continue to have difficulties meeting their minimal food needs through September 2016 and will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, depending on the zone.

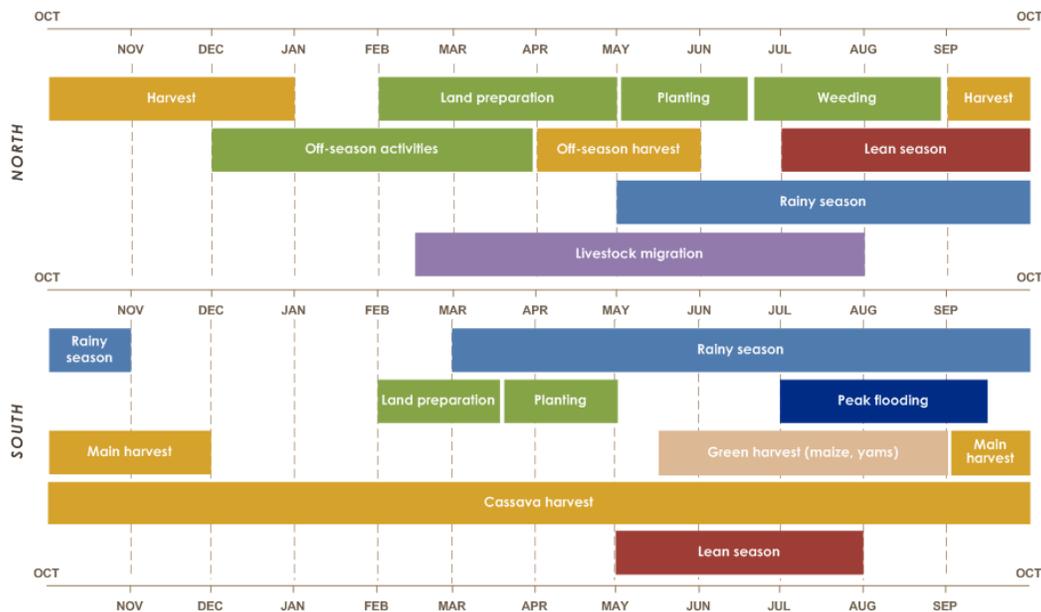
Current food security outcomes, February 2016



Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

**SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR**



Source: FEWS NET

**NATIONAL OVERVIEW**

*Current Situation*

**Civil insecurity:**

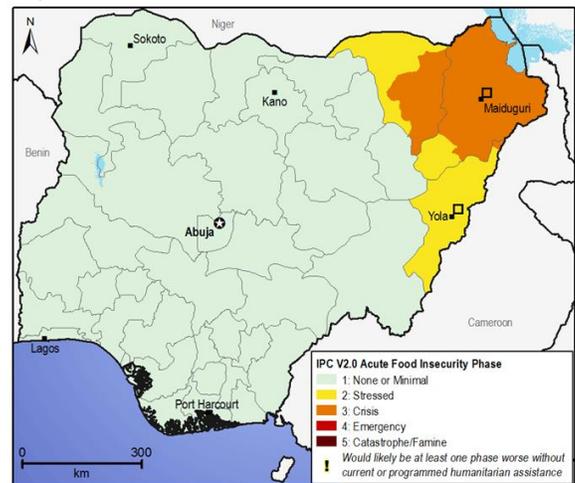
- Northeastern Nigeria:** The Boko Haram-related conflict in the northeast is persisting, though at reduced levels compared to previous months (Figure 1). [The most recent round of the IOM/NEMA displacement tracking matrix](#) revealed that the estimated IDP population fell from 2.2 million in October 2015 to slightly above 2.1 million in December 2015. This is mainly attributed to the return of some IDPs to their homes, particularly in Adamawa state. Communal conflict in the central states of Kaduna, Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue and Taraba also continues with about 13 percent of the total displacement captured by IOM/NEMA in December 2015 resulting from communal conflict. About 92 percent of IDPs in Nigeria surveyed by IOM/NEMA were identified as residing in host communities, while the rest resided in formal camps.

**Livelihoods:**

- Off-season agriculture:** Farming activities are proceeding normally with ongoing, average to above-average harvests of early planted crops (ex. onions, tomatoes, peppers and sugarcane) in many areas and an expected on-time main dry-season harvest beginning in April/May. This year, subsidized fertilizer distributions that usually occur through the growth enhancement scheme of the federal government did not take place and support from the state governments was limited and late. However, other government input support in the form of fertilizer, seeds, and credit for off-season rice and wheat is still boosting production. In northeast Nigeria, however, the conflict continues to limit agricultural activities. Recent FEWS NET assessments to Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states and information from FEWS NET monitors indicate that poor households remaining in areas highly affected by conflict are unable to participate fully in dry season activities. This is contributing to below-average dry season harvests and a decrease in seasonal incomes.

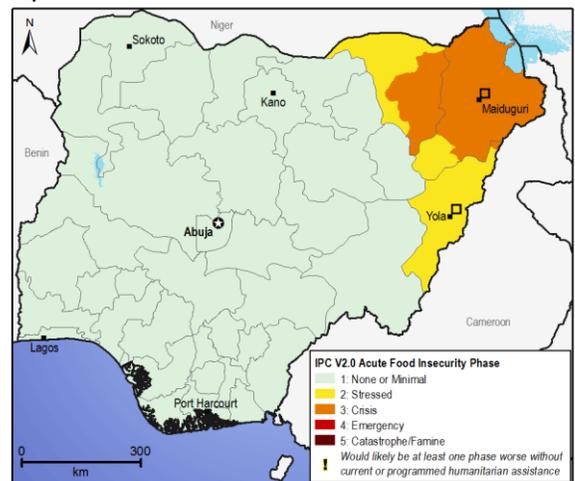
- Main season agriculture:** Households, particularly in the bimodal zone of southern Nigeria, are engaged in normal levels of land preparations for the upcoming season. These activities mostly use family labor although better-off families are also hiring some laborers at normal levels.
- Livestock, poultry, and fishing:** Pastoral resources and livestock body conditions generally remain within normal levels, and transhumant movements of pastoralists towards southern Nigeria have begun on time. Livestock prices are generally above the average and last year’s levels, resulting in favorable incomes for pastoralists. However, the outbreak of avian influenza across the country is expanding, negatively impacting the poultry sector. As of February 17<sup>th</sup>, the avian influenza had spread to 24 states and FCT-Abuja, leading to the depopulation of over 2.9 million birds and destruction of over 380,000 eggs. As a result, many poor households engaged as unskilled labor in the poultry industry have lost their jobs. Fishing in lowland areas is underway with average to above-average catches, depending on the area.

Projected food security outcomes, March to May 2016



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2016



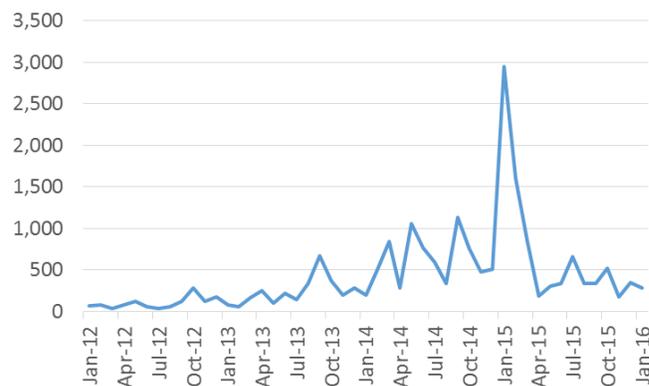
Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

**Markets and trade:**

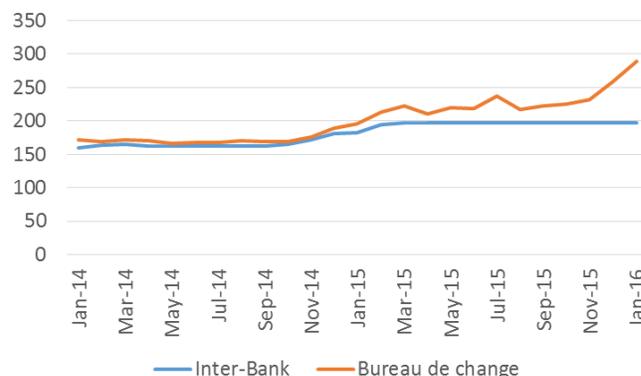
- Currency depreciation:** Currently, the Nigerian naira is depreciating against other foreign currencies (ex. US dollar and FCFA), on the parallel market due to a fall in international crude oil prices and the government’s declining foreign reserve. For example, the naira, which sold for about NGN196/\$ in January 2015 depreciated to NGN290/\$ in January 2016. A similar trend has also been observed for the naira to FCFA exchange rate at informal cross border markets during the same time period. This currency depreciation will reduce Nigeria’s purchasing power for imported products, such as rice, wheat, and manufactured goods from international markets and livestock and cash crops from the Sahel.
- Food prices:** Driven by the effects of the currency depreciation, cereal food prices have increased atypically in both surplus and deficit production areas across the country. For example, white maize prices in January increased by 22, 28, 17, and 10 percent compared to the previous month on Giwa, Dawanau, Maiduguri, and Mubi markets, respectively, in surplus production areas and by five percent on Ibadan market, an urban consumer market. Similar price trends have also been observed on most monitored markets and for most commodities across the country. Staple food prices are also generally above last year’s levels.
- Market functioning in the northeast:** Many markets continue to function at below-average levels in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states due to the effects of civil insecurity. While major markets in urban areas are open and have enough supplies to meet household demand, many others (ex. Baga, Banki, Damasak, Gamboru, Maiduguri livestock, Monguno and Ngala markets in Borno state, Babangida, Buniyadi, Damaturu, Geidam, Goniri, Gujba and Mbarero in Yobe state, and Madagali market in Adamawa state) are either not functioning or formally closed on market days, in most cases due to orders by the military.
- Prices in the northeast:** Staple food and livestock trade flows have been negatively impacted by the conflict. Additionally, market stocks have been further limited by localized below-average harvests, particularly in Borno state where recent production estimates suggest that for sorghum, millet and rice production was down 82, 55 and 67 percent, respectively, compared to the 5-year average. This is leading to prices that are relatively higher than neighboring areas and above last year’s levels. For example, the retail price of brown sorghum in Maiduguri was 76.3 NGN/kg, which was 34 percent higher than sorghum prices in Kano, Nigeria and 26 percent above the three-year average.

**Figure 1.** Number of conflict-related fatalities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states



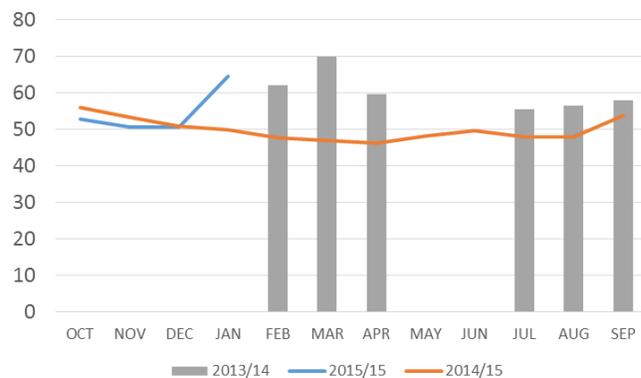
Source: ACLED

**Figure 2.** Inter-bank and bureau de change Naira to USD exchange rate



Source: Central Bank of Nigeria

**Figure 3.** Retail white maize prices on Dawanau market in Kano (NGN/kg)



Source: FEWS NET

**Food security outcomes in the northeast:**

- **Recent FEWS NET rapid assessment:** In December 2015, FEWS NET conducted a rapid food security assessment of 24 villages in three separate local governments (Askira Uba, Chibok, and Michika) in Borno and Adamawa states sequel to a September 2015 assessment. During this round, FEWS NET conducted 598 household surveys and collected 774 MUAC measurements of children aged 6 months to 59 months old. Key findings<sup>1</sup> from the survey were:

- *Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS):* More than 60 percent of the households had an HDDS in the range 5 to 12 (Figure 4). These results are similar to those found in FEWS NET's September 2015 rapid food security assessment.
- *Household Hunger Score (HHS):* Eighty percent of households had an HHS of 0 to 1 (little to no hunger) while less than 1 percent had an HHS of 4 to 6 (severe hunger) (Figure 5). This represents an improvement compared to results collected in September 2015 when 1 percent had an HHS of 4 to 6 and 40 percent had an HHS of 2 to 3.
- *Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM):* Amongst 774 screened children aged 6 – 59 months of age, 648 (84 percent) had a normal mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement of greater than 12.5 cm, 115 (15 percent) had a MUAC measurement of 11.5 to 12.4 cm (consistent with moderate acute malnutrition) and 11 (1 percent) had a MUAC measure of less than 11.5 cm (consistent with severe acute malnutrition) (Figure 6). This screening data suggests an improvement in global acute malnutrition in these areas compared to in September 2015 when FEWS NET's rapid food security assessment found that 32.4 percent of screened children had a MUAC measurement of less than 12.5 cm.

**Figure 4.** Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), December 2015

HDDS Score	# of Households	% of Households
0 - 2	20	3.34%
3 - 4	181	30.27%
5 - 12	397	66.39%

Source: FEWS NET

**Figure 5.** Household Hunger Score (HHS), December 2015

HHS Score	# of Households	% of Households
0 – 1 (Little/no hunger)	480	80.27%
2 – 3 (Moderate hunger)	116	19.40%
4 – 6 (Severe hunger)	2	0.33%

Source: FEWS NET

**Figure 6.** Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurements, December 2015

Measurement Threshold	Number of measurements in range
MUAC >= 12.5cm	648
MUAC >= 11.5cm and < 12.5cm	115
MUAC < 11.5cm	11

Source: FEWS NET

**Assumptions**

The most likely scenario for the February to September 2016 period is based on the following national level assumptions:

**Agro-climatology:**

- **Rainfall:** The rainy season will begin normally across the country (February/March in the bimodal zone, May/June in the central states, and June/July in the north). Based on seasonal forecasts by the [U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#), FEWS NET assumes that cumulative rainfall totals will be below average in the bimodal area and average to above average in other parts of the country (Figure 7)
- **2016 agricultural season:** The planting of major staples including cereals and legumes will begin typically as the rains become established in each region. The growing season will progress as usual with early green harvests of maize and yams in the bimodal zone and groundnut and potatoes in the central states beginning in May and August, respectively. The main harvests will start in September/October and are expected to be average in most areas, except for conflict-affected areas of the northeast.

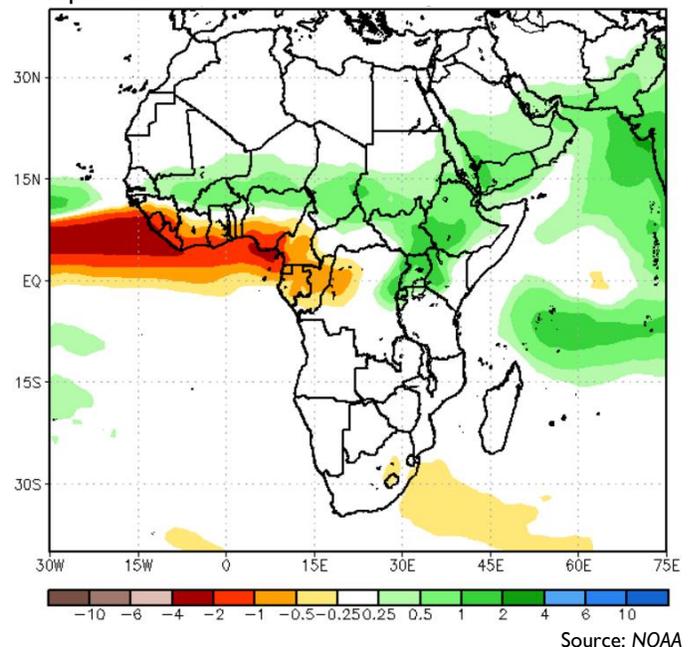
<sup>1</sup> While FEWS NET attempted to design a sampling framework that would minimize bias, this assessment was not a random, representative survey due to a lack of population data and the inaccessibility of some areas due to conflict.

- **Flooding:** Average level of flooding along major floodplains will occur across the country, peaking between July and September. This will lead to normal levels of population displacements and damage to infrastructure and crops.

**Livelihoods:**

- **Conflict in the northeast, central, and northwestern areas (Boko Haram, communal, cattle rustling):** Boko Haram related conflict in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states will continue to decline during the second quarter of the year as the military intensifies its operations and recovers more areas. As a result, some IDPs will return to their homes. Communal conflict in the central states, such as Kaduna, Nasarawa, Taraba, Benue and Plateau, will intensify during the growing season as grazing lands becomes more restricted. In the northwest and central states, cattle rustlers will continue to restrict the movement of pastoralists and limit access to pastoral resources.
- **Dry season activities:** Harvests and fish catch will be average to above average between April and June, except for areas worst affected by the Boko Haram conflict, particularly along the Komadugu-Yobe River and Lake Chad, due to restricted access to land and the bodies of water.
- **Labor work:** Labor opportunities will continue to increase throughout the dry season and will peak between April and June when dry season harvests and main season land preparations and planting activities begin. With the exception of the northeast, labor wages will be average.
- **Transhumant movements:** Migrant pastoral movements from neighboring Chad, Niger and Cameroon will be below average as pastoralists avoid the Boko Haram conflict, cattle rustling and communal conflicts. Internally, pastoralists will move southwards at slightly above-normal levels to avoid cattle rustling and conflict in the north and central states.
- **Livestock conditions:** Similar to a typical year, livestock body conditions will remain good until the start of the pastoral lean season in April and will then decline seasonally until the start of the rainy season. The rains will replenish pastoral resources and improve livestock body conditions between July and September.
- **Poultry industry:** Poultry production will continue to be below average as the avian influenza outbreak continues to spread. More people will engage in poultry production in the months prior to Ramadan (June/July) and Tabaski (September), increasing market demand for maize during these time periods.
- **Lean season:** In most areas, the lean season will be normal (July to September in the north, May to August in the south). However, in Borno state and localized areas of Adamawa and Yobe, below-average 2015/16 harvests will cause most households to resort to market purchases three to four months earlier than usual. In these areas, the lean season will begin early in March/April and will be more difficult than usual.

**Figure 7.** NMME Precipitation Anomalies (mm/day) for July to September 2016

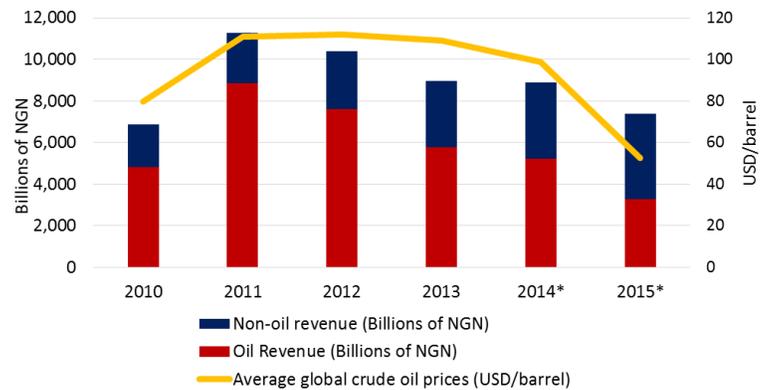


**Market and Trade:**

- **Exchange rate:** The value of the Nigerian naira compared to other foreign currencies, including both the CFA and USD, will continue to depreciate between now and the end of the scenario period in September. The depreciation will lead to 1) a decline in importation levels of rice and substitution towards local rice consumption and 2) increased prices for food commodities at most markets.
- **Cross-border trade:** Cross-border trade in the Lake Chad region will remain below average and at informal levels only. Imports from Benin will also be below average due to the depreciating value of the naira.
- **Internal trade flows:** Food flow will follow normal seasonal trends, except in the northeast as conflict-related detours persist.
- **Institutional purchases:** Purchases in February/March are expected to be below average due to reduced government revenues generated through crude oil sales (Figure 8).

- Food prices:** Staple food prices are expected to rise atypically to levels that are above last year's levels and the five-year average by September 2016, due to the effects of the depreciating naira on local markets. From one month to another, cereal prices will continue to rise until May/June when dry season harvests and the release of food stocks by traders in preparation for the next season will cause marginal price declines. Between July and September, prices will increase again due to reduced stock levels and atypically high demand relating to the lean season and Ramadan.
- Livestock supply, demand, prices:** Livestock prices will likely be above last year's levels due to the unfavorable naira to FCFA exchange rate. During the scenario period, prices will decline until the start of the rainy season when improved pastoral conditions will lead to better livestock body conditions and favorable prices. Livestock prices will peak during the month of September due to Tabaski.

**Figure 8. Nigerian oil revenue compared to global crude oil prices**



Source: Nigeria IMF Article IV Consultation report (2013, 2015); IMF Article IV Consultation Press Release (2016); World Bank (2016)

\* 2014 and 2015 revenue data is provisional

*Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

Outside of conflict-prone areas, households will continue to have access to normal income levels through petty trade, cash crop sales, and labor work relating to both dry-season harvests and main season activities (land preparation, planting, and weeding activities). Additionally, improved pastoral resources and livestock body conditions after the start of the rainy season will contribute to favorable livestock prices and incomes during the second half of the scenario period, particularly during the Tabaski holidays. Therefore, most poor households are expected to have relatively normal food access despite rising food prices and seasonally typical food consumption. **Thus, most areas will experience Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between February and September 2016.**

In northeastern Nigeria, the persisting Boko Haram conflict continues to limit food production, income-generating opportunities, market activities, food flows, and humanitarian assistance into the region. Below-average 2015 production in many areas, along with atypically high food prices, particularly between July and September, will continue to limit food availability and access for many poor households. Though conflict levels are expected to decline during the April to September period, improving trade flows and incomes slightly during the growing season, this will not completely offset the negative impacts that conflict has already had on household food and income sources during the 2015/16 consumption year. **As a result, poor households in worst-affected areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states will be unable to sufficiently cover their basic food needs through market purchases, community support, indebtedness, and wild food consumption and will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity between February and September 2016. Households in other areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States where conflict-related disruptions to livelihoods and markets have been less severe will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.**

**AREAS OF CONCERN**

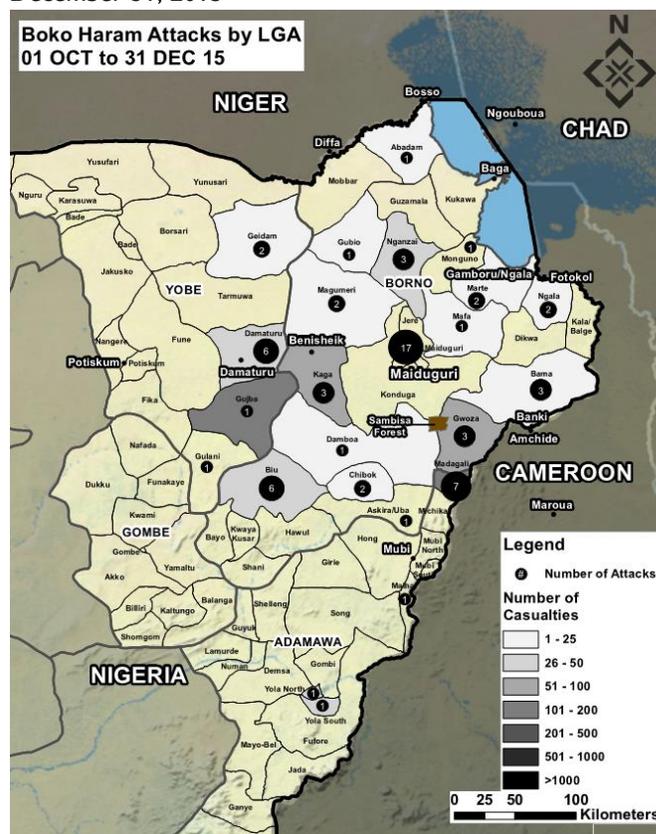
**Northeast Millet, Cowpea and Sesame Zone – Livelihood Zone 12 in Borno and Yobe States**

This is the largest livelihood zone in Borno and Yobe states with typical rainfall amounts ranging between 300 and 800 mm per year. The zone is known for rainfed millet, sesame and cowpea production, as well as small ruminants. Sorghum, maize, and cattle are also produced to a lesser extent. Cross-border trade, particularly for livestock, is also well established with neighboring Niger and Chad. Destination markets for cereals and livestock in the zone are mainly southern markets, including Lagos, Ibadan and Onitsha.

*Current Situation*

- Local populations:** Most of the households within this livelihood zone have been impacted by the Boko Haram conflict and many have been displaced to major urban centers within and out of the zone, due to either fear or directions from the military. Those left behind are mainly the elderly, sick, children and women and most have lost their main livelihood activities. Recently, IDPs are also starting to return due to improved security conditions and interest to start up land preparations for the upcoming growing season that starts in June/July.
- IDPs:** Both a January 2016 FEWS NET field assessment in January 2016 and field informant reports suggest that there are over 50,000 IDPs in Dikwa town, mainly from four different local government areas (Marte, Ngala, Kalabalge and Dikwa). These IDPs have limited access to food, income, and medical care, and markets in the area are also not functioning. Similarly, there are IDPs in makeshift camps in Kukareta, close to Damaturu, relocated from the surrounding areas. In general, IDP households are unable to engage in their normal livelihood activities (ex. dry-season cultivation, labor work, firewood/charcoal sales, and petty trading), although some are relying on debts and remittances to access food. Humanitarian support is also limited due to restricted access.

**Figure 9. Boko Haram Attacks in Nigeria, October 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: FEWS NET

- Agricultural activities:** Dry-season agricultural activities through irrigation (ex. vegetables, rice, and wheat) and fishing activities are underway in localized areas, though they are at below-average levels as most households have limited access to land and inputs due mainly to the persisting Boko Haram conflict. In Yobe state, the government is currently providing 50 to 100 bags of fertilizer to each local government at a subsidized rate of NGN2,500/bag for households to engage in irrigation activities. In Borno state, the government through its agricultural development program, is also engaged in seed multiplication activities to support irrigation farmers. Seeds developed for this purpose include sesame, groundnut and Irish potatoes along the Alau dam at the outskirts of Maiduguri, though the beneficiary population is below previous year's levels across the two states.
- Market functioning:** Most markets within the zone are either not functioning or functioning at below-average levels. In many cases, the market closures are due to directives from the military to reduce attacks, casualties and access to food for Boko Haram fighters. However, based on FEWS NET's most recent assessment to the zone in January 2016, markets in Maiduguri are operating at improved levels with the exception of the livestock market which was closed February 11<sup>th</sup> by the military. Many markets in Yobe state including Damaturu, Geidam, Ngelzarma, Babangida are not functioning on normal market days, but do operate on other days of the week at below-average levels. Due to continued market disruptions and the depreciation of the naira, food prices of major staples are generally up compared to both last month and last year's levels (Table 1).

**Table 1. Prices of select staple foods at markets in livelihood zone 12 (NGN/kg)**

	Maize			Millet		
	Jan. 2016 price	One-month change	One-year change	Jan. 2016 price	One-month change	One-year change
Damaturu market, Yobe state	67	8%	13%	55	4%	19%
Mubi market, Adamawa state	52	10%	31%	86	6%	-1%
Monday market, Maiduguri	76	17%	25%	73	13%	20%

Source: FEWS NET

### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the February to September 2016 period is based on the following zone-level assumptions:

- **Boko Haram conflict:** Conflict will continue to decline gradually as the joint military task force dislodges Boko Haram fighters from the region. However, sporadic attacks in both rural and urban areas will continue. Returnee movements will persist in advance of the upcoming growing season.
- **Off-season activities:** Dry season harvests in April/June will be below average. Along the Komadugu-Yobe floodplains in Yobe state, production levels will be higher relative to Borno state, though still lower than usual, due to a better security situation compared to Borno state.
- **Agricultural labor demand:** Due to increased IDP populations and current low cultivation levels in the zone, agricultural labor work will be severely limited, affecting household income levels for both the dry-season harvest (April/May) and the main season cultivation activities (June to September).
- **Food flows:** Trade flows into the zone will slightly improve as security conditions improve. Markets will be more operational, routes access will improve, and detours will be reduced. Cross border markets activity will also increase income-generating opportunities.
- **Food prices:** Many households will resort to market purchases three to four months earlier than normal, due to below-average 2015/16 crop production, contributing to atypically strong market demand and rising prices for maize, millet, and sorghum. Prices will peak during the July to September lean season and will remain above both last year's levels and the average throughout the scenario period.

### Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Between March and May, restricted income opportunities, high food prices, and the early depletion of own food stocks will limit food availability and access for poor households. Though the below-average dry season harvest will slightly increase food access in April/June, these harvests will not completely cover household food consumption requirements. **Despite atypical labor work, indebtedness and firewood/charcoal sales, poor households will likely continue to experience food consumption gaps during this time.**

Between June and September, security conditions are expected to improve, causing local market activities to increase. Additionally, labor demand will strength for land preparation, planting and weeding activities, contributing to a slight increase in incomes. However, due to rising food prices and continued below-average incomes levels, household purchasing power will remain atypically weak. Households will likely continue to consume less preferred foods and skip meals during this period, which could contribute to a rise in global acute malnutrition during the lean season. **Most poor households, consequently, will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity until the new harvest in October.**

### North-Central Maize, Sorghum and Cotton Zone: Livelihood Zone 10

The geographical landscape (undulating savannahs) of this zone is favorable for both staple food (maize, sorghum, and rice) and cash crop (soybean and cowpea) production, though poor households continue to use manual labor for cultivation, resulting in lower crop yields. Most households in this zone rely on their own crop production to meet food needs immediately after the harvests but resort to market purchase during the lean season (July to September). Poor households obtain about 90 percent of their income through labor, non-farm enterprises/petty trade, and sale of cash crops, vegetables, livestock, and animal products.

### Current situation

#### Conflict and displacements:

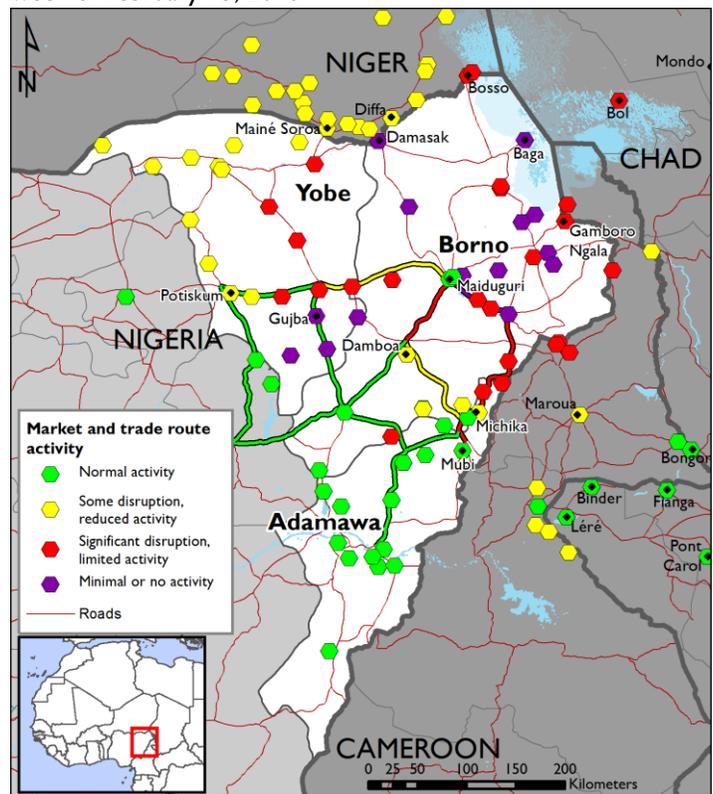
- **Northern Adamawa:** Community groups report that conflict levels have reduced significantly compared to the last couple of years. Except for areas that are close to the Sambisa forest, coordinated attacks are now very limited. [The most recent round of the IOM/NEMA displacement tracking matrix](#) showed an IDP population of about 136,010 individuals in Adamawa state.
- **Southern Borno:** Displacement levels continue to rise, due in part to the military instructing residents in some parts of Biu and Damboa to leave their communities to prevent loss of lives during military operations. At the IDP camps in Biu

Zonal Education Office and Vocational Training Center, the IDP population has increased from about 2,047 to around 7,100 individuals within about 40 days. Many recently displaced IDPs are also living within host communities in the Biu area where, prior to the recent military-induced displacement, records from the Red-Cross Society of Nigeria showed that almost 24,017 IDPs were already within the host community.

**Humanitarian assistance:**

- Northern Adamawa:** Findings from a January 2016 FEWS NET field assessment indicate that assistance from the federal and state governments (NEMA, ADSEMA and BOSEMA) has dwindled recently due to a drop in government revenue and austerity measures. However, international organizations (ex. ADRA International, OXFAM/CISCOPE, UN-FAO and the International Rescue Committee (IRC)) have been providing food and livelihood support to IDPs, returnees, and host families.
- Southern Borno:** Compared to northern Adamawa, the humanitarian situation in southern Borno state is significantly worse. For example, the recent increase in IDPs due to military operations have overstretched food and water resources at the IDP camp in Biu and has resulted in a reduced frequency of food distributions being provided by the Nigerian Red-Cross Society with support from the International Committee of Red Cross and Crescent – ICRC.

**Figure 10.** Northeast Nigeria market and trade route activity – week of February 15, 2016



Source: FEWS NET

**Livelihoods:**

- Agricultural work:** The recent FEWS NET field assessment conducted in January 2016 found that in conflict-prone areas of Adamawa state (ex. Hong, Michika and Madagali local governments), there has been a substantial reduction in land area being cultivated for dry season farming as population displacements reduced IDPs’ land access. Though certain displaced farming households have received access to land in some villages (Kwaransa, Holma, Sagal, Wuro-lade and Gilang) and are benefiting from state subsidized fertilizer, these households are still cultivating less than they typically would in their home communities. Similarly in southern Borno state, dry season activities have increased compared to the previous year, though they still remain at below-normal levels.
- Labor work:** The return of IDPs has increased labour supply, although demand levels remain below average as returning IDPs have no money to hire labor. In northern Adamawa state, for example, labor wages are currently around NGN 500/day for weeding and land preparation, which compares to NGN 700 to NGN 1000/day normally.

**Markets and trade:**

- Market functioning:** Both the recent FEWS NET field mission and field enumerators report that most markets within the zone are functioning at normal levels, although the number of traders on market days is relatively low. In Adamawa state, Gulak and Maye wado markets in Madagali local government are currently the lowest functioning markets due to continuous attacks on market days. In southern Borno, Miringa market in Shani LGA has been closed for security reasons, which has resulted in boosted activities at nearby Bargu market. Also the market structure in Damboa has now changed as traders conduct activities on streets, instead of at the market square, to avoid high casualties during explosions. At other markets that are functioning (ex. Lassa, Uba and Askira), restrictions (ex. bans on trucks and other vehicles in the market center) are making trader operations more difficult than usual.

- **Trade routes:** As of January 2016, security conditions along major trade routes have improved. Exceptions, however, are the road linking Michika to Gwoza through Madagali and the road linking Askira-Uba to Chibok in Borno state. On these roads, occasional attacks are reducing the frequency of transporters.
- **Prices:** Markets are being supplied with sufficient levels of food staples. However, as peace gradually returns to the zone and households begin to partake in typical off-season livelihood activities, such as petty trading and wage labor, household purchasing power, demand, and prices for staple food commodities have increased. For example in Mubi market (Adamawa North), the price of white maize and brown sorghum in January increased by 10 and 14 percent, respectively, compared to December 2015 levels and were 31 percent and 9 percent, respectively, above last year's levels. Likewise in Biu (Southern Borno), the January price of white maize increased by 32 percent compared to last year.
- **Livestock markets:** Livestock supplies on local markets have increased, largely due to improved security conditions, with supplies now come from both local and cross-border sources (Central African Republic, Gabon, Chad, Sudan and Cameroon). Aggregate demand has also increased compared to last year but at a lower rate than supply. On Mubi market, a key livestock market in the zone, the weakened naira to CFA exchange rate have contributed to increased livestock prices. For example, a cow that last year sold for around NGN90,000 is now selling for between NGN 130,000 to NGN 140,000.

#### Food and income sources:

- **Household food stocks:** Returnee households, making up less than 20 percent of the population in the zone, currently have substantially below-normal food stocks as they either did not cultivate or cultivated significantly less land than in a typical year, and are reliant on either humanitarian assistance, community support, or markets to access food. Food stocks for local, non-displaced households are also low.
- **Household incomes:** Though incomes for most households are improving gradually compared to last year, they still remain below pre-conflict levels. Households, particularly returnees, who are dependent on labor wages are currently facing reduced incomes from this source due to the effects of abundant labor supply. As a result, many households have taken to petty trade activities while they work on rebuilding their productive assets. In areas such as Biu, Hawul, Chibok, Damboa, Mubi North, Mubi South and Michika LGAs, reports indicate that petty trading has increased by about 50 percent to 100 percent compared to pre-crisis levels.

#### Food security outcome indicators:

- **Recent FEWS NET rapid assessment:** As discussed in the national overview section, FEWS NET's December 2015 rapid food security assessment of Askira Uba, Chibok, and Michika LGAs in Borno and Adamawa states found an improvement in both household hunger scores (HHS) and global acute malnutrition (GAM) compared to data collected during FEWS NET's September 2015 assessment of the same areas. Meanwhile, household dietary diversity scores (HDDS) were relatively similar to the results reported in September.

#### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the February to September 2016 period is based on the following specific zonal level assumptions:

- **Conflict/displacement:** While it is expected that the government will continue fighting Boko Haram in the northeast, Boko Haram attacks will not likely completely disappear during the scenario period, with continued guerrilla-style attacks on soft targets like market places and bus stations. Fewer attacks in rural areas, however, will enable households to engage in more agricultural production during the 2016 agricultural season.
- **Seasonal production:** In view of the recent improved security situation in the zone, returning households will participate in normal seasonal agricultural production. This, along with input support from the state ADPs, is expected to boost food availability in the zone when the 2016 main season harvest begins in October. Seasonal forecasts also indicate relatively normal rainfall in the zone during the rainy season, which will aid seasonal production.

- **Labor demand/supply/wages:** Labor wages will continue to decline as the government closes IDP camps and household return to their communities. This will create excess labor availability and will drive the wages lower than current levels until the start of the main season agricultural in July. Then, increased demand will contribute to an increase in wages to near average levels.
- **Transhumance movements:** Nomadic households will start their transhumance movements towards the south earlier than normal in order due to constrained access to some grazing areas.
- **Market functioning and trade in conflict zones:** Market functioning is expected to improve during the outlook period, although the cost of transportation and security risks for traders at markets will remain high.
- **Household market cereal demand:** Household food demand in the zone will continue to increase during March to June and will peak during the lean season in July to September. Demand will likely be above average due to limited household stocks.
- **Sorghum and millet prices:** The price of maize, sorghum and millet in the zone will increase earlier than usual due to increased household demand, industrial demand from Cameroon, and the weakening exchange rate. Prices will be higher than last year's levels and the average.
- **Gifts:** Poor households will receive gifts during the Easter and Ramadan celebrations, which will supplement food from other sources.
- **Humanitarian assistance:** The level of humanitarian assistance and support in worst affected areas will increase during the outlook period, as the government and international communities help support IDPs and rebuild destroyed infrastructure within the communities.
- **Nutritional situation:** The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) will rise slightly with the approach of the peak of the lean season (July to September) due to difficulties accessing food. However, GAM levels will not likely exceed seasonally normal levels for the lean season (5 to 15 percent).

#### *Most likely food security outcomes*

Below-average harvests from the main and dry-season agricultural seasons, limited food flows into the area, elevated food prices and restricted income-earning opportunities have constrained food availability, access and dietary diversity for many poor, conflict-affected households. **While most households will be able to meet their basic food needs through intense labor work at below-average wages, wild food, indebtedness and sale of firewood, they will be unable to afford essential non-food expenditures. Consequently, they will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity until the new harvest in October.**

### **Informal Settlements in Greater Maiduguri, Borno State**

#### *Current Situation*

- **Civil insecurity and population estimates:** A FEWS NET rapid field assessment in January and field informant reports indicate that the level of conflict in Maiduguri has declined substantially and the town has been relatively calm since the end of 2015. However, in surrounding rural areas, there are sporadic attacks, resulting in casualties, population displacements and the destruction of houses, food stocks, and livestock. Military operations have also led to relocation of some affected communities. Most of these population, as well as returnees from Cameroon, are resettled in Maiduguri, increasing the area's population. The actual number of IDPs in Borno state or Maiduguri is difficult to ascertain, but the VII IOM/NEMA displacement tracking matrix released in December 2015 estimated that over 1.4 million IDPs are living in Borno state, with most IDPs residing in host communities, rather than in formal camps.
- **Humanitarian assistance:** The government and humanitarian actors are mainly supporting IDPs in formal camps, though this assistance has been inadequate and has declined compared to to pre-election period. IDPs outside of formal camps are receiving community support although host communities have been overstretched and require assistance.
- **Livelihood activities:** Most displaced households are unable to cultivate for a third consecutive agricultural season due to limited land access. Though some IDPs are earning normal salaries, many are engaged in petty trade, construction work, firewood sales, water hawking and knitting of caps and gowns to access income and food. Increased indebtedness to meet essential non-food expenditures is also common.

- **Markets:** Market supplies on Monday market in Maiduguri remains adequate to meet local demand for food, due to inflows of food from neighboring states, such as Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa, and Yobe. Detours along some major trade corridors in the area, however, are increasing travel time and transportation costs. Major staple cereals, such as millet, maize and sorghum, currently sell for NGN7,100/100kg, NGN7,500/100kg and NGN7,840/100kg, respectively on Monday market, Maiduguri, which is relatively higher than last year's levels and the average.
- **Nutrition:** Although details are limited, the World Food Programme (WFP) is reporting that MUAC screening data, collected by the Ministry of Health/UNICEF in official IDP camps in Maiduguri, found that the percentage of acutely malnourished children (GAM) exceeded WHO's critical threshold of 15 percent.

### *Assumptions*

The most likely scenario for the February to September 2016 period is based on the following assumptions:

- **Boko Haram conflict:** Conflict will decline substantially and some IDPs will begin returning to homesteads during April to June period to be able to participate in the upcoming growing season. However, an increased number of IDPs is anticipated in Maiduguri as more areas are liberated by the military. The majority of IDPs will remain outside of camps and within the local community.
- **Community assistance:** Assistance for displaced households in informal settlements will continue but host communities will be overstretched, particularly towards the lean season.
- **Wild food gathering:** Households will resort to atypical wild food collection, particularly during the July to September lean season.
- **Cross border trade:** As security conditions improve, informal cross border trade and market food demand from the neighboring areas will increase, providing additional opportunities for IDPs to participate in labor work or petty trade.
- **Staple food prices:** The price of major staples, such as millet and sorghum, will remain higher than in neighboring markets located in surplus producing areas. Prices are expected to follow normal seasonal trends, peaking during the July to September lean season, and will be higher than both last year's levels and the average due to the effects of the depreciating naira.
- **Onset of the season:** The rainy season will begin normally in June/July, increasing the incidence of water-related diseases, such as malaria, diarrhea, and cholera. Cumulative rainfall totals will be average to above average in the area.
- **Nutritional situation:** The prevalence of malnutrition will be remain similar to current GAM levels (approximately 11 percent) between February and May. With the onset of the rainy season in June/July, the prevalence of GAM will increase, aggravated by the limited food access during the lean season.

### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

The security situation is improving, though gradually, and will contribute to increased market activities and income-generating opportunities. While many IDPs will engage in petty trade, labor work, handicrafts, wild food collection, and indebtedness to generate food and income to supplement the community and humanitarian support that they are receiving, **they will still be unable to fully meet essential food and nonfood needs between now and September and will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes.**

## EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

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

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
National	Delayed onset of the season or prolonged dry spells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below average harvest in affected areas</li> <li>• Atypical hike in food prices during the lean season</li> <li>• Below average pastoral resources</li> <li>• Below average water levels in rivers and ponds</li> </ul>
	Above average pest infestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below average yields in affected areas</li> <li>• Below average harvest of early maturing crops in September</li> </ul>
	Fuel subsidy removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased fuel prices</li> <li>• Increased transportation costs</li> <li>• Increase food prices</li> </ul>
	Continuous decline in oil price at the international market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced revenue accruable to the government</li> <li>• Further depreciation of the naira</li> <li>• Limited implementation of food security-related programs</li> </ul>
Northeast	Increased levels of Boko Haram conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased population displacements</li> <li>• Increased emergency food needs</li> </ul>
	Substantial reduction in Boko Haram conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant return of IDPs to their homes and increase in crop production levels during the 2016 agricultural season</li> </ul>
	Increased humanitarian support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased food availability and access</li> </ul>
	Widespread flooding in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below-average harvests</li> <li>• Increased displacement of additional households in the area and increased food needs</li> </ul>

## 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 six months. Learn more [here](#).