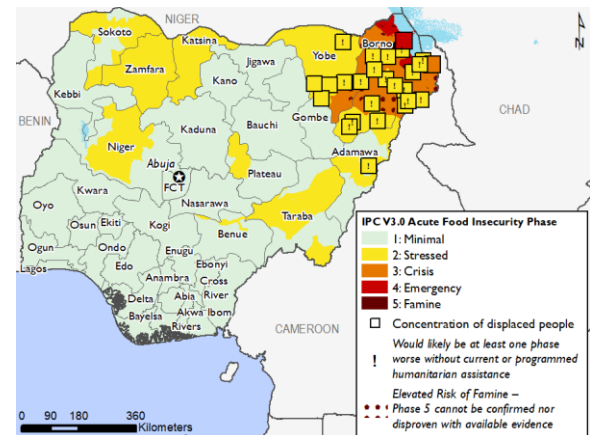


Persisting and escalating conflicts in the northeast and other northern areas increasing assistance needs

KEY MESSAGES

- Households that have been the worst affected by Boko Haram conflict in many parts of Borno, northern Adamawa, and southern Yobe states are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes. Households trapped in inaccessible areas are likely facing similar or worse outcomes relative to neighboring accessible areas. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity, including Famine (IPC Phase 5) are also possible in a worst-case scenario where conflict significantly restricts humanitarian access and household movement.
- Internally displaced persons in camps across the three northeast states remain accessible to humanitarian actors and are mainly dependent on humanitarian food assistance and are engaged in atypical livelihoods activities such as petty trading, crafts, domestic work and construction labor work, which earns them a restricted income. Thus, they are only able to meet their basic food needs but are unable to afford non-food needs and are facing Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes through at least May 2020.
- The worst conflict affected households in the northwest – Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina states, and in the central zone of Nigeria – Plateau, Kaduna, Taraba, Niger, Benue and Nasarawa states who remain displaced are dependent on atypical livelihood activities. At least 20 percent are minimally able to meet food needs only and will experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity through May 2020. As pastoralists return to their bases during the growing season and near the start of the lean season, these worst affected households in the northwest will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between June and September.
- Currently, households outside of conflict affected areas are consuming staple foods from their own production and are engaged in usual income earning opportunities and dry season cultivation. Pastoralists have normal access to pastoral resources and are selling livestock, that currently have good body conditions, normally to access food. Continued land border closures have led to favorable staple prices and market dependent households are accessing food normally. Thus, most households throughout the country will continue to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes through September 2020.

Current food security outcomes, February 2020



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

Agroclimatology: The main rainy season is starting normally in the southern part of the country as of late February and farming households are engaged in usual land preparation activities.

Labor and income sources: Dry season cultivation of vegetables, maize, and rice is underway along river floodplains providing labor opportunities for poor households across the country. Poor households are engaged in land clearing, as usual for this time of the year, to earn income, while agropastoralists are selling their livestock at favorable prices to earn income. The above average rainfall during the previous season will provide increased water access for dry season farming and fishing across the country. Meanwhile, the government is in the process of rolling out a targeted policy to support rice cultivation across the country which will lead to increased dry season harvests and as a result increased agricultural labor opportunities.

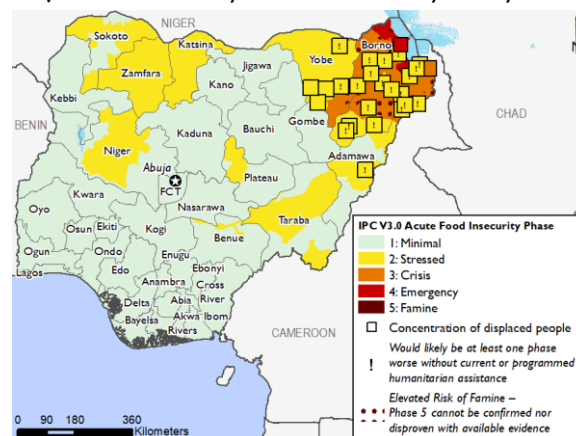
The Dangote tomato processing company in Kano has the capacity to process 1,200 tons of fresh tomato per day, though is currently only producing 200 tons daily due to limited supplies from out-growers who are unable to meet the requirements of the company. Similarly, Tomato Jos, another tomato farming and processing company based in Kaduna is also engaged in tomato production through an out-grower scheme, increasing production and income opportunities. This company has a daily processing capacity of 85 tons and local growers are able to meet the current capacity needs.

Motorcycle taxis which are a common income earning opportunity for poor households have been restricted in some major cities across the country and affected households are resorting to petty trading, construction work and other unskilled labor work to earn relatively lower income. Some vulnerable households are earning income through firewood sales, and sales of crafts, while others will remain indebted until the main harvest. Some vulnerable households are also turning to fishing and hunting as income opportunities.

Border closure and cross border trade activities: Since August 20, 2019 the Nigerian land border has remained closed with neighboring countries including Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and Benin, due to the threats of rice smuggling, and insecurity. The first phase of the border closure ended in January 2020 but has been renewed indefinitely. Informal cross border trade activities between Nigeria and these neighboring countries has continued, though at substantially below average levels. However, livestock flows into Nigeria remain normal at most points of entry.

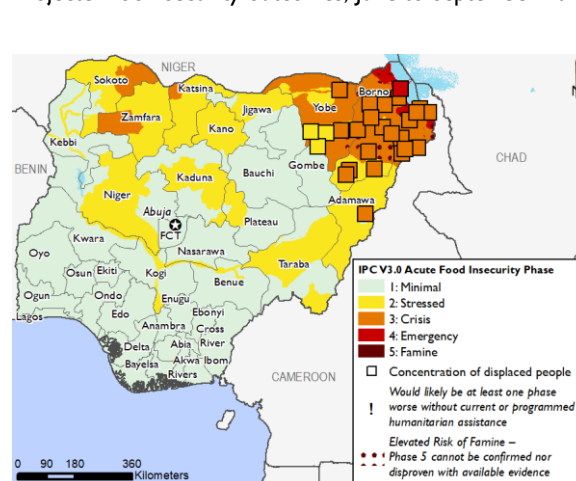
Market and household food stocks: Markets are well supplied across the country with staple cereal including maize, millet and sorghum. Carryover stocks from the previous season have increased market supplies, particularly for cowpea, groundnut and cereals - in order of magnitude. The cassava harvest is underway, which is increasing market supplies of *gari*, a major staple in southern areas of the country. Markets are also well supplied with yams, and potatoes. However, imported rice stocks are at their lowest levels since the land border closure began in August 20, 2019, restricting rice flows into the country.

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2020



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2020



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

Staple food prices: The cross-border closure, escalating conflict, and low household purchasing power have led to below average market purchases relative to previous years. Similarly, low institutional purchases, carryover stocks from the previous year and reduced trader demand during the recent consumption period resulted in increased market stocks for both staple foods and cash crops. As a result, staple cereal prices are lower than last year, though higher than the five-year average.

Disease outbreaks: Lassa fever (LF), an acute viral illness and the more severe version of the disease, viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) caused by the Lassa virus are associated with high morbidity and mortality and has both economic and health security consequences. In Nigeria the disease is increasingly recognized to be endemic. In 2018, Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reported the largest ever number of cases in Nigeria, with over 600 confirmed cases and over 170 deaths. According to the NCDC, between January 1 and February 2, 2020 there were 1226 suspected cases of LF, and 365 confirmed cases with 47 deaths and a case fatality rate of 12.7 percent. These occurred in 23 states and 74 LGAs - Ondo and Edo states are the worst affected, while only a few cases have been reported in Ebonyi and Taraba states. In Benue state in north central Nigeria there is an outbreak of a strange and undiagnosed disease in localized areas that has resulted in 15 fatalities. The government is struggling to identify the cause and remedy the situation. These have led to reduced expenditure by government in food security related areas. Additionally, households' expenditures on food have also reduced and household time spent as a caregiver to those ill has reduced their ability to participate in income earning opportunities.

Conflict and displacement:

National overview:

Incidents and fatalities: Conflict related to insurgency, armed banditry, communal, pastoralist/farmer, kidnapping, and cattle rustling persist across the country. The worst affected areas are in the northeast, closely followed by the northwest and north central parts of the country. An increase in attacks has been reported across the affected areas in the northeast, northwest and central states since late 2019. A report by Global Rights, an international non-governmental organization shows that 3,188 Nigerians, including 2,707 civilians and 481 security operatives, were reportedly killed in 2019 across the country. According to the report, Borno state recorded the highest casualty figure list with 728 persons; while Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina and Taraba recorded 450, 280, 254 and 181 respectively. The six next most affected states by the number of deaths recorded include Rivers – 176, Benue – 167, Niger – 100, Sokoto – 90, and Kogi – 88 persons. In January 2020 ACLED reported 507 fatalities throughout Nigeria, which is similar to the 510 fatalities recorded in January 2019. Borno state, the epicenter of the conflict in the Northeast had an average of over 288 fatalities per month between January 2018 and January 2020.

Displacement: Based on the recent IOM-DTM assessment conducted between August and October 2019 there are over 2 million people displaced in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states in the northeast. A similar assessment conducted from August to September 2019 in eight northwest and north central states of Nigeria recorded over 540,000 displaced people.

The IOM-ETT report covering 27 January – 2 February 2020, recorded 3,104 population movements with 2,072 arrivals and 1,032 departures across Borno and Adamawa states. Most arrivals were recorded in Konduga, Ngala and Hawul LGAs in Borno state, while most of the population departed from Askira Uba and Kala Balge LGAs. These movement are mainly due to poor living conditions and fear of attacks. Over 200 refugees arrived from Cameroon and Niger within the same period and they are located in either host communities or camps.

On 31 December 2019 UNHCR, in collaboration with the governments of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger reported that Niger is hosting 120,619 refugees from Nigeria, while 111,670 refugees are in Cameroon and 12,723 others are staying in Chad. In Nigeria, UNHCR has reported 50,163 Cameroonian refugees residing mainly in host communities across Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba states by November 2019. Recently, about 8,000 Cameroonian refugees who are in need of emergency food, shelter and medical care are crossing into Nigeria due to the escalating Ambazonian conflict in parts of Cameroon. In total, almost 60,000 refugees were presently in Nigeria at the end of 2019.

Northeast Nigeria – (Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba and Yobe states):

Insurgents have escalated their attacks in the northeast of Nigeria and the military counter insurgency operations have also intensified leading to increased population displacement and restricted livelihood activities in the area, where over 2 million

people remain displaced. Most of the affected population are living in host communities while others are residing in camps and are dependent on humanitarian assistance and community support. Borno state, the epicenter of the insurgency hosts about 1.5 million IDPs, followed by Adamawa and Yobe states.

In February, insurgents attacked Konduga (Auno) where around 30 people were killed, and houses and vehicles were burnt by the insurgents. Similar attacks were also reported in Kala balge, Ngala, Dikwa, Damboa, Tungushe (Magumeri LGA), Mbalala (Chibok LGA), Maiduguri, and Babangida, Yobe state. Despite continued population displacement and livelihood restrictions, humanitarian food assistance is declining. In November 2019 over 1,577 million people received food assistance across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states but in December 2019, the level of assistance declined to 1.397 million people across the three states.

Northwest and central states of Nigeria impacted by the farmer/herder, banditry and communal conflict:

Conflict related to communal differences, farmer versus pastoralist, and kidnappings persist in the north central states including Plateau, Nasarawa, Niger, Kogi, Kaduna, Taraba and Benue where recent attacks have led to population displacements. Most displaced populations are in host communities while some are residing in camps where they are partly dependent on humanitarian actors and community support for food and income. Similarly, communities in north-west Nigeria face critical livelihood conditions due to the increase in attacks in 2019 from armed bandits that drove 42,000 Nigerians to seek refuge in Niger, while 200,000 people were internally displaced within Nigeria. On February 15, 2020 bandits laid siege to Tsauwa and Dankar villages in Batsari LGA (Katsina state) where 21 and 9 people were killed, respectively, and houses and foodstuffs were burnt by the bandits. In Niger state eight LGAs including Shiroro, Rafi, Munya, Tafa, Lapai, Borgu, Marisa and Paikoro are currently under siege by bandits who kidnap and kill members of the local populations, burn houses, and rustle livestock. Displaced households are living in host communities, while others are in camps and are in need of food, shelter and medical care. In Kuta, Shiroro local government headquarters, Niger state, there are about 100,000 IDPs. Similarly, between late January to mid-February 2020 about 18 communities were invaded by the bandits in Shiroro LGA, including Gurmana, old Gurmana and Ashirika in Shiroro LGA. Over 200 cattle were rustled in Shiroro LGA. Also, at least 47 people in Beni, Munya LGA were kidnapped by bandits who are demanding NGN 49 million from the captives' relations for their freedom. Similarly, the captors of 15 people from Kukoki in Shiroro LGA are demanding N22.5million in ransom. In neighboring Kaduna state, bandits' attacks and kidnapping are also common in Birnin Gwari, Kachia, Kajuru, Giwa, and Igabi LGAs where several fatalities occurred recently, and population displaced. Counter attacks by the security forces have left 250 bandits dead in Birnin Gwari LGA, Kaduna state.

FEWS NET field informants indicated that the worst conflict impacted LGAs are currently in Zamfara state include Gummi, Bukkuyum, and Anka, while the situation remains calm in Tsafe, Maru, Maradun, and Birnin Magaji LGAs. However, there are improvements in Zurmi, Gusau and Shinkafi LGAs which were critically impacted by the conflict during mid-2019 as security forces have forced the bandits to leave these areas. Most of the IDPs in Zamfara state remain integrated into the host communities. It was reported that an official IDP camp exists in Anka (Emir's Palace), with about 415 tents where MSF provides support. Most of these affected populations are unable to cultivate, and some that cultivated during the previous season are unable to harvest their crops due to the continuing insecurity.

Due to the persisting level of attacks and kidnappings, several markets are either not functioning or functioning at below average levels. For example, markets such as Gyari market in Gummi LGA is functioning at 40 percent, while Wuya, Bagaga and Rafin Gero markets in Anka LGA are functioning at 50 percent, 70 percent and 80 percent, respectively. Similarly, Dankurmi, Dangulbi, Bindin and Matunji markets in Maru LGA are functioning at 30 percent, 30 percent, 50 percent and 50 percent, respectively. These limitations also constrain livelihoods activities and food access since most traders avoid these areas due to fear of attacks.

In Katsina state the worst affected LGAs include Jibia, Batsari, Kankara, Danmusa, Safana and Dutsinma – all along or near the border with Zamfara state. The bandits are understood to have moved into Katsina state from Zamfara state and from Niger through the Rugu forest. Restricted information is, however, available on population and size of IDPs in camps across the northwest of Nigeria, which limits our understanding of the total population in need of assistance.

Some IDPs were reported in Kankara, Batsari and Danmusa LGAs, in Katsina state. Displaced population in Jibia were said to have relocated to Katsina, the state capital and are staying with the host community while others are in camps have been supported by the state Government. Markets are functioning slightly below normal in all affected LGAs as traders leave the

market premises earlier than usual due to fear of attacks. A curfew also has been imposed on motorcycle riders from 7pm to 6am across the state which limits movements of goods and labor.

Assumptions

The most likely scenario for February to September 2020 is based on the following national level assumptions:

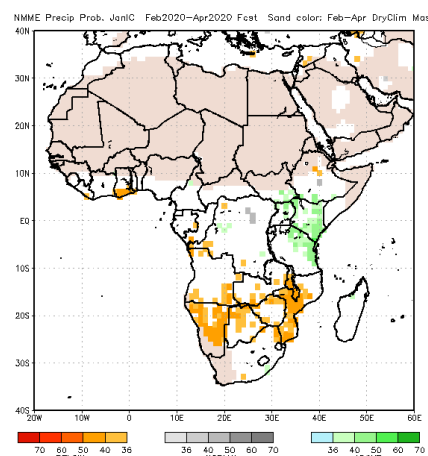
Agroclimatology:

- **2020 rainy season:** Preliminary results from the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NIMET) presented in December 2019 revealed that the rainy season is expected to start normally in late February 2020 in the southern part of the country and reach the northern region by June 2020. Rainfall amounts will range normally between 400 to 500 mm in the extreme northern areas to above 1,400 to 3000mm in the central and southern parts of the country. Similarly, the length of the growing period will vary from 110 days in the extreme north to 300 days in the extreme south as is usual. A normal end of season is also expected from late September to early October in the north and early December in the south.
- **Flooding and dry spells:** A short dry spell is expected sometime in June or July in the north and August or September in the southern areas, as usual. Populations along the major floodplains of the Niger and Benue rivers and other tributaries will likely be impacted by normal levels of flooding leading to population displacement for three to five months. Rainwater from upstream areas of the Niger River in Niger and the release of water from Lagdo and other local dams in Cameroon during the peak of the rainy season from July to September will compound the level of flooding along the Niger and Benue Rivers in Nigeria. Infrastructure, homes, livestock and farmland are all expected be affected by flooding.
- **Main harvest prospects:** In anticipation of the normal onset of the season, normal duration of the growing period, and typical spatio-temporal distribution of the rainy season coupled with the inputs provided by government to vulnerable population will lead to a substantial portion of the population engaging in cultivation of major staple crops. Incentives to produce staples and the restrictions on rice imports will lead to increased cultivation and harvests will be average to above average except in conflict affected areas and flood prone areas where harvests will be lower than average.

Livelihoods:

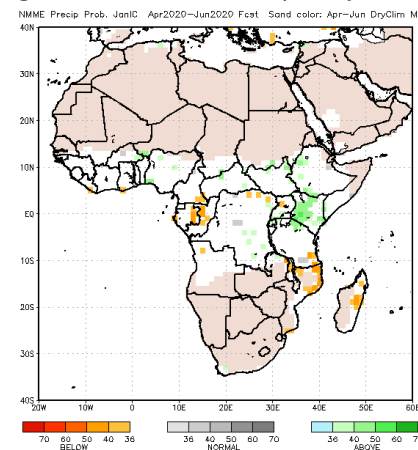
- **Pastoral resources and transhumance:** Persisting cattle rustling, insurgency and kidnapping within the Sahel region of West Africa will continue to restrict livestock movement towards the coastal areas of Nigeria. Similarly, domestic livestock movement from the northern to the southern region transiting through the central states will remain restricted due to the persisting farmer/pastoralist conflict, cattle rustling, and kidnapping. The access to the vast grazing lands within the central parts of Nigeria including in Kaduna, Nasarawa, Benue, Niger, Kogi, Plateau, Taraba and Kwara states will remain restricted due to the persisting conflict and cattle rustling activities, limiting access to pastoral resources. Conflict in northeast and northwestern regions will similarly restrict access to pastoral resources and transhumance. The farmer and pastoralist conflict will intensify during the growing season from June to September across the country as pastoralists have less access to land on which to keep their livestock, forcing them closer to agricultural settlements.

Figure 1. NMME Forecast February to April 2020



Source: NOAA/NMME

Figure 2. NMME Forecast April to June 2020



Source: NOAA/NMME

- **Off-season activities, dry season harvest:** Increased government support with inputs – fertilizer, improved seeds and pesticides coupled with adequate water availability in local ponds across the country will lead to above average dry season cultivation for rice, vegetables, and maize. The persisting border closure – limiting rice imports and increase patronage for local rice consumption will also increase rice cultivation. Thus, the dry season harvest in April and May will be average to above average in most areas. Similarly, fishing catches will be average in most rivers and ponds due to high water levels. Restricted access to the Lake Chad basin will lead to increase fishing activities in other local ponds and rivers as water recedes, starting in December.
- **Income earning opportunities:** Poor households will continue to engage in normal income earning opportunities across the country including petty trading, agricultural labor, wild food collection, and local crafts sales. Pastoralists will sell their livestock normally to earn income as livestock/cereal terms of trade are favorable to the pastoralists. Households will sell their own-produced cash crops, and others will sell staple crops to meet expenditure needs as usual. However, households impacted by conflict, flooding and dry spells or prolonged rainfall will engage in atypical labor work such as land preparation, weeding, fertilizer application, construction work and other menial jobs to earn income, particularly towards the lean season period.
- **Labor availability and wages:** Labor work during the dry season period spanning January to May will likely be average to above average as the government provides more support to dry season farming activities, particularly rice cultivation. With the beginning of the growing season from February to June across the country agriculture related labor work will increase. Poor households will engage in land preparation, planting, weeding, fertilizer application, and harvest of the early green harvest and early maturing crops through September. Similarly, during the off-season period poor households will engage in unskilled labor work including construction work, petty trading, and motorcycle taxi driving. Women will engage in domestic labor work to earn income. Thus, labor rates will be average across most parts of the country. However, labor availability and rates will be lower than average in conflict affected areas in the northeast, northwest and central parts of the country due to increased competition.

Others:

- **Conflict and displacement:** The recent escalation of conflict in the northeast and northwest parts of the country will lead to increased casualties and increased population displacement and elevated assistance needs. During the dry season period in the northern areas through May, the level of attacks by the insurgents will likely increase due to ease of movement. However, during the rainy season most seasonal roads are unpassable and attacks by insurgents will likely decrease. As a result, the current intensity of attacks by the insurgents will likely persist through at least May and subsequently with the onset of the rainy season in June and July the rate of insurgent attacks will likely decline through at least September. However, attacks in the northwest will likely be more intense during the growing season as pastoralists stray into farmland leading to conflicts with farmers. The level of attacks by armed bandits, kidnapping and cattle rustling activities will likely escalate to other northern areas through September 2020.

Markets and Trade

- **Cross border trade activities:** Cross border trade activities with Niger, Chad, Benin and Cameroon are mainly at informal levels due to the ongoing border closure since August 2019. It is expected that the volume of trade will continue to substantially decline in coming months as the border remains closed. Food flows into the Sahelian countries will remain at below average levels as smaller vehicles and motorcycles will continue to be used to convey such items through illegal routes, limiting flow. Livestock flows from the Sahel into Nigeria will, however, remain elevated as most are usually conveyed by foot to neighboring cross border markets in Nigeria.
- **Staple food and livestock prices:** Staple cereal (maize, millet, sorghum and rice) prices will remain elevated above the five-year average across the country. This is attributable to persisting conflict in the northeast, northwest and central states where staple demand will remain elevated, particularly towards the lean season. Increased demand during the Ramadan period in April and May will increase millet and maize prices as consumption increases. Similarly, demand in the Sahel states and institutional purchases will lead to increased prices. Rice prices will continue to increase as the import restriction is expected to remain enforced as it has been since August 2019.

Livestock prices will remain elevated as the flows from neighboring countries remain restricted relative to prior to the border closure. Prices will peak towards the end of the Tabaski period in July and August.

- **Household stocks and market food supplies:** Staple and cash crop market stocks remain elevated due to carryover stocks from the previous year. Substantial trader stocks remain unsold from the previous consumption year particularly for cowpea, maize and millet due to a glut during the previous consumption period. Thus, major traders and farmers decided to keep their stocks and markets remain well supplied. Traders will continue to release their stocks particularly millet and maize as prices becomes favorable to traders. As prices continue to increase traders will continue to release their stocks through the lean season. However, household stocks are lower than the previous year since many farmers could not cultivate as usual and had below average harvests. This is further compounded by the ongoing conflict that limits the level of cultivation and household stocks. Thus, poor households will resort to market purchases earlier than usual in conflict affected and flood prone areas. Similarly, the prolonged growing season during the recent season limited harvests in affected areas, which in turn has limited household stocks.
- **Exchange rates and inflation rate:** The year on year inflation rate will remain elevated at double digits through at least September 2020. This will be compounded by the persisting border closure and restricted food imports. Food imports such as rice through informal routes will increase transaction costs, including illegal taxes, leading to elevated rice prices and high inflation rates. Similarly, the implementation of the new minimum wage for Nigerian workers at the state and national levels will increase liquidity in the system leading to an increase in the inflation rate in the coming months.

The naira exchange rates to the dollar and other foreign currencies will likely remain elevated. The dual exchange rate of the naira by the central bank of Nigeria will likely continue and the government will continue to intervene through direct interjection of foreign currencies into the market to prop up the naira monthly. Thus, the naira will likely remain stable, though at higher exchange rate levels through at least September 2020.

- **Crude oil prices:** Continuing tensions in the middle east will likely persist and crude oil supplies in the international markets will be negatively impacted, particularly if Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz where over one fifth of the world's oil shipments pass through, restricting crude oil flows amidst high demand. The continued conflict in Libya will also limit crude oil flows into the international market, leading to hikes in crude oil prices. Increased demand during the winter period will sustain high crude oil prices. However, the recent outbreak of coronavirus in China and other parts of the world will lead to slight decline in crude oil demand, particularly from China and crude oil price will likely be impacted. Consequently, overall, the elevated crude oil price at the international market will lead to increased revenue earnings for Nigeria.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Most households across the country are engaged in typical livelihoods activities earning typical incomes and consuming their own-produced foods. Staple prices are favorable to market dependent households as labor opportunities and incomes are typical and livestock prices are also favorable. Thus, **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)** acute food insecurity is expected for most areas of the country through September 2020.

The worst conflict-affected households in the northwest, including Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina states, remain displaced and are unable to engage in normal livelihood activities and are now dependent on atypical livelihood activities. Only a few of these households are able to cultivate and consume their own produced foods. Over 20 percent of this affected population are minimally able to access food but unable to meet non-food needs and will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes through May 2020. Similarly, conflict affected households in Plateau, Kaduna, Taraba, Niger, Benue and Nasarawa states remain displaced and unable to engage in typical livelihood activities and will also experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** through May 2020. As the conflict in the northwest escalates towards the lean season period, worst-affected households in Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina states will likely face food consumption gaps and will experience **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** from June to September 2020.

In areas worst affected by the Boko Haram conflict in the northeast, livelihoods for most households remain heavily disrupted. The main harvests remain substantially below the pre-conflict period and other income-earning opportunities will remain restricted and substantial populations remain displaced. Households will remain highly dependent on humanitarian

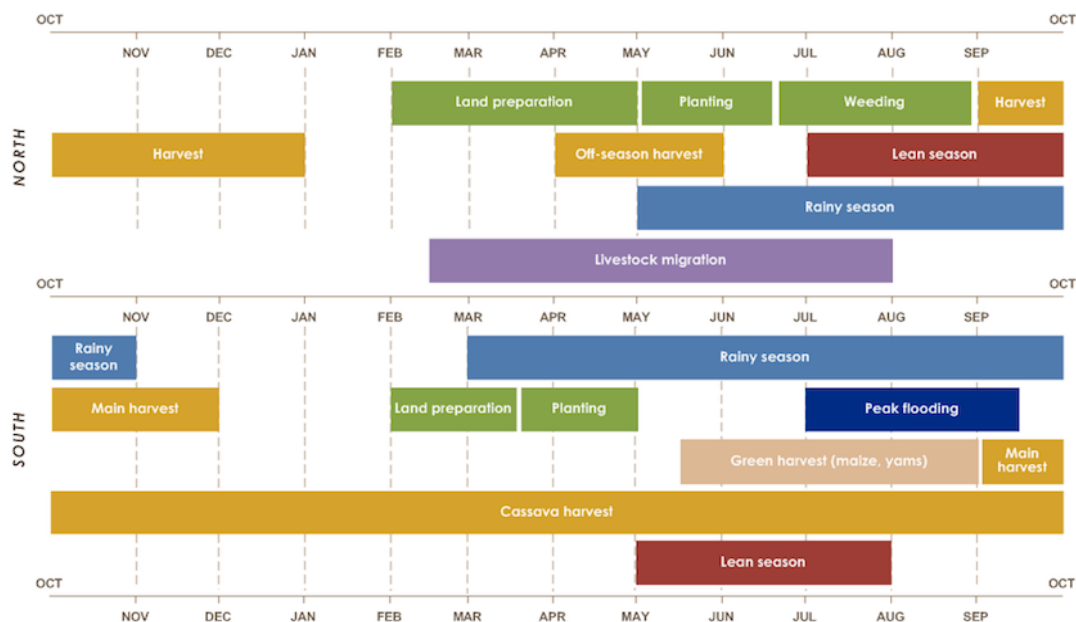
assistance to meet their basic food needs, particularly the IDPs in major urban areas and those who reside in camps and are expected to continue facing **Stressed (IPC Phase 2!)** outcomes. Communities outside of the IDP settlements within the Sambisa axis, northern and central Borno, northern Adamawa, and southern Yobe, and who mainly remain outside of the main urban centers in the northeast will continue to receive constrained or no humanitarian assistance and are dependent on their own limited harvests and market purchases for food. These population will likely remain in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)**. Households in partly accessible or difficult to access areas and those worst-affected by the conflict who are unable to engage in normal livelihood activities, and who face constrained access to markets and assistance provisions, will continue to face larger food consumption gaps and will continue to face **Emergency (IPC Phase 4)** outcomes. Areas where populations are affected by significant losses of livelihoods activities and who remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors are likely facing similar or worse food security outcomes as adjacent, accessible areas. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity, including **Famine (IPC Phase 5)** are possible in a worst-case scenario shift in which conflict would significantly restrict humanitarian access and household movements.

Events that Might Change the Outlook

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 rainy season in most areas across the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early depletion of pastoral resources and increased level of herder/farmer conflict during the growing season which may decrease food availability from own production. • Increased population displacement in affected areas which would likely limit livelihood opportunities and agriculture. • Increased trader speculation and staple food prices which would limit households' ability to purchase food at markets.
National	Opening of the Nigerian land border in February/March.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased staple food demand and elevated food prices which could limit households' access to food at markets. • Increased level of cross border trade activities and income opportunities.
National	Military being proactive to counter the operations of the insurgents and armed bandits in their enclaves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of cultivation and main season harvest • Increased level of population movement and trade activities • Increased level of population returns to homesteads

SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



Source: FEWS NET

AREAS OF CONCERN

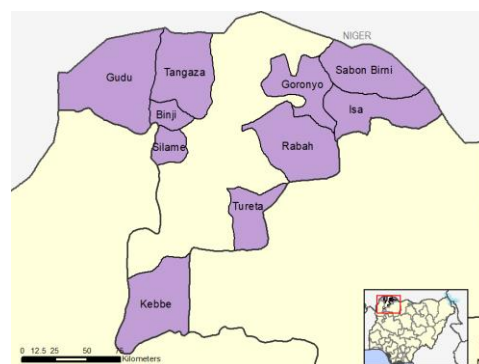
Displaced households affected by armed banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling in Rabah, Goronyo, Sabon Birni, Isa, Tureta, Tangaza, Gudu, and Kebbe; parts of Silame and Binji LGAs, Sokoto state.

Current Situation

Conflict and displacement: Over 86,500 people have been affected by the conflict across 5 LGAs (Rabah, Isa, Sabon Birni, Goronyo and Tureta) and over 230 fatalities were recorded in these areas, along with over 21,000 hectares of farmland that have been left uncultivated and 4,928 livestock were rustled. Thus, herd sizes are depleted relative to the normal holdings of 5 to 30 cattle and 25 to 50 shoats per household. The conflict has been escalating across the state and most-affected LGAs include Gudu, Kebbe and Tangaza, while less affected LGAs include Binji and Silame.

Armed banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling attacks have dislodged many towns and villages in the affected areas where 8 towns were displaced in Goronyo, 37 in Sabon Birni, 8 in Rabah, and 31 in Isa LGAs. 25 villages migrated to Niger from Isa LGA and 18 from Sabon Birni LGA during May to July 2019. While 4,672 persons have been displaced, 24 deaths have occurred, and 398 cattle have been rustled in Tureta LGA. This negatively impacted livelihoods activities in the affected communities.

Figure 3. Map of area of concern, displaced households in Sokoto State



Source: FEWS NET

Attacks by bandits from May 10th to July 10th, 2019 during the peak of the growing season killed 48 people in Goronyo LGA and many others were displaced. Within the same period 25 people were killed in Rabah LGA, 21 people in Isa and 24 others in Sabon Birni LGAs. The worst affected localities include Malafaru, Rakomni, Satiru, and Garin Kigo in Goronyo, Rabah, Isa and Sabon Birni LGAs, respectively. All affected communities were requested by bandits to pay a ransom of at least one million naira per community. The ransom is to allow the affected communities to engage in their normal farming/livelihood

activities or to be spared from attack by the bandits. Most communities are unable to pay such an amount and have to relocate to other areas where safety and security are guaranteed. Consequently, the affected populations abandoned their farms and other livelihood activities.

Substantial populations have migrated to Gidan Rounghi local government area in Maradi state, Niger and the refugees are currently dispersed throughout 18 towns and villages, with the largest populations in Dankano, Basira and Chadi.

Humanitarian assistance: Few humanitarian actors are operating in Sokoto state. Thus, most assistance is provided by the government through the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally displaced persons (NCFRMI), Nigeria Customs Services, and other donor agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, PLAN International, MSF, IOM, that are providing limited assistance to the victims since the conflict started. Since middle of 2019, most of these actors are no longer providing any assistance to the affected households. Individuals and communities are also providing limited food, shelter and non-food items to the displaced population.

There have been some returns to homesteads in localized areas, though most have decided to remain in areas of displacement and are not interested in returning to homesteads due to the fear of continued attacks.

Malnutrition situation: A rapid MUAC screening by UNICEF conducted in Rabah, Goronyo, and Sabon Birni from October to November 2019 revealed that over 1,840 children with SAM and over 4,000 others with MAM. The proxy GAM for MUAC rates range from 16 to 38 percent. Sokoto state normally has had a high prevalence of GAM during the postharvest periods as is indicated by the available data from SMART surveys led by UNICEF that indicate 11.9 (95 percent CI 9.4 - 15) GAM in February 2011, and 9.8 (95 percent CI 7.4 - 12.8) GAM in February 2014.

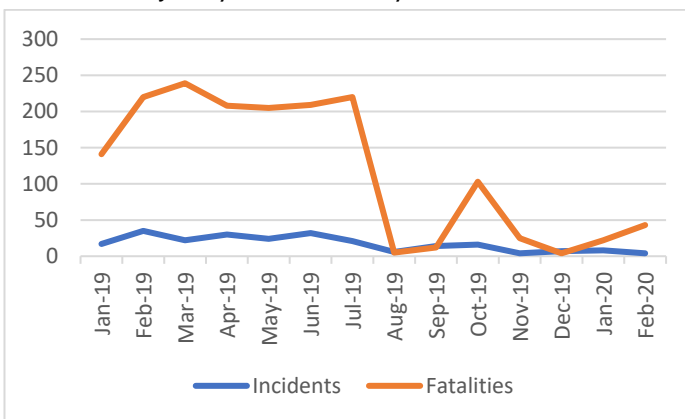
Coping strategies: Affected households are unable to engage in normal livelihood activities – including farming in the recent season. Similarly, few are engaged in restricted dry season cultivation. Goronyo LGA was affected by both conflict and flooding during the recent season and impacted households have relocated to urban areas and are either in camps or living with host communities. Most affected households are engaged in atypical labour work, and petty trading to earn minimal income and access food, while some are indebted. Women and girls are engaged in domestic work to earn limited income. Some girls and boys are also engaged in hawking and begging to support their families.

Markets functioning: Markets in affected areas are either not functioning or functioning below average. For example, Bachaka Dingima market in Gudu LGA is not functioning due to the conflict, while markets in locations prone to attacks are also functioning less (e.g. Malafaru, Rakomni, Satiru, and Garin Kigo in Goronyo, Rabah, Isa and Sabon Birni LGAs).

Assumptions

- **Stock levels:** Substantial populations in the area were unable to cultivate or harvest in October 2019 and have limited or no staple stocks and household stocks will deplete faster than usual due to this. Market food supplies will be constrained as the conflict persists and traders evade affected areas due to fear of attacks. The dry season harvest will slightly increase household stocks, though will remain below normal due to restricted access to irrigated areas,

Figure 4. Conflict events and fatalities in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara States January 2019 to February 2020



Source: ACLED data /FEWS NET

inputs, and machinery. Poor agropastoralists who own between 2 to 15 livestock will continue to sale to earn income and access food and will be exhausted. Similarly, pastoral households who usually own between 20 to 30 head of cattle, and 25 to 50 shoats will either migrate to maintain their herds or lose most of these livestock as the conflict escalates.

- **Staple food prices:** During February and March household stocks will decline leading to increased market demand and a slight increase in staple prices. Institutional purchases and trader demand will begin as usual, leading to staple price increases throughout February and March in neighboring accessible markets. The fasting period of Ramadan beginning in April and continuing through May will lead to slightly increased staple demand and greater price increases, particularly for maize and millet. However, the below average dry season harvest in April and May will slightly increase household stocks, which will slightly temper staple food prices, particularly for rice and maize. By June most households will mainly depend on markets for food. This will persist through at least September leading to elevated market demand and a hike in staple prices.
- **Sources of income:** Vulnerable households will atypically engage in off-season labor work including irrigation activities, firewood sales, petty trading, brick molding, construction, and migratory labor to urban areas within and outside of the region to earn income. Others will engage in motorcycle taxi and vehicle loading for their income. Limited livestock sales by some households will also be observed. Others will receive support from relations and friends, while others will be indebted, and a few others will resort to begging to earn limited income.
- **Coping strategies:** Displaced households will continue to compete for unskilled labor work such as water vending, petty trading, and transportation. Others will engage in loading and off-loading, working as security guards, and other unskilled jobs to earn income and access food. Limited humanitarian assistance and community support will also provide food and income sources. The government will provide food at the various feeding centers, particularly during Ramadan from April through May. Domestic labor work and begging may also be used.
- **Conflict and displacement:** The armed bandits, kidnappers and cattle rustlers will continue to be based in forested areas in neighboring states, particularly in Zamfara state, and may continue to enter neighboring areas to demand their ransoms. With limited security presence in the region there is a likelihood that the conflict will continue to escalate and cover more areas in Sokoto state unless drastic measures to curb the situation are employed by the government. Attacks by bandits will likely escalate during the rainy season when farmers will engage in the sowing of their crops, which limits grazing areas and enhances conflict between farmers and pastoralists. Similarly, kidnappers will also demand ransom from farming communities to access their farmlands. Consequently, more population will likely be displaced to urban areas.
- **Humanitarian assistance:** In Sokoto state and in the northwest region generally there is a limited presence of humanitarian actors to provide support to vulnerable populations in the area. The government through SEMA, NEMA and NCFRMI will continue to provide limited assistance to the vulnerable populations in the area. Support through the state government is unsustainable as the IDP population continues to expand. Thus, the state government will continue to solicit support from corporate organizations, wealthy individuals and donor agencies to provide limited support to the vulnerable population through SEMA. Affected population will receive limited food, income and shelter as well as non-food items.
- **Market functioning levels:** Kidnappers' demands for ransom on individuals and communities will continue to limit markets functionality in the area and more markets will likely be impacted during the scenario period. Thus, market dependent households will face more constraints to food access.
- **Cross border trade:** Cross border activities, mainly with Niger, will remain at informal levels and lower than pre-conflict levels. The land border closure across the country will further reduce trade activities across the border during the period. Livestock flows will likely continue at the current level. However, the flow of staple foods – maize, millet and sorghum into Niger will continue at below-average levels as smaller vehicles are used to convey such commodities. This will be more constrained as the government will intensify surveillance at the border, strictly enforcing the border closure and restricting trade activities. following the continuation of the border closure from March 2020.
- **Off-season activities:** Atypical off-season activities including petty trade, firewood sales, unskilled labor work and labor migration will provide income opportunities for poor households. Affected households will travel within and outside the state to earn income. Irrigation farming for vegetables such as onions, cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes,

and pepper cultivation will continue, though at below average levels. Fishing will also provide job opportunities for some affected households.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Worst conflict affected households in Sokoto state are unable to engage in normal livelihood activities and are dependent on atypical livelihood activities such as construction work, petty trading, hawking, and operating motorcycle taxis. Others rely on community support and indebtedness to access food. Few households are able to cultivate and consume from their own production. Over 20 percent of the affected population are minimally able to access food but unable to meet non-food needs and will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes through May 2020. Towards the lean season, households will deplete their food supplies and will resort to markets- at this same time staple food prices will seasonally increase at markets. Community assistance will similarly be restricted as most households have exhausted their own food stocks. Income from labor wages will also be limited due to intense competition for labor opportunities and wages will decline. Livestock prices will be favorable towards the Tabaski holiday, though livestock herd sizes have been depleted as the conflict intensifies and food access will be further constrained. Consequently, worst affected households will face food consumption gaps during the lean season and will experience **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** outcomes from June to September.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 2. Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Northwest	Increased humanitarian support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased levels of assistance that will provide households with additional access to food Improved food access for vulnerable households
	Reduced levels of conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most IDPs return to their homesteads. Improved livelihood activities and income access. Improved food flows into the area as markets become more accessible and functional, which will reduce food prices.
	Re-opening of the land border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased cross border trade activities and income. Increased food exports to neighboring countries and an increase in local food prices.

Sambisa Axis, partially accessible and totally inaccessible LGAs in east and northern Borno state, eastern Yobe and northern Adamawa states

Current situation

Recent 2019/2020 harvest: The main season harvest for the 2019/2020 consumption period is substantially below average across the area relative to the pre-conflict period due to limited access to farmland. The restriction on tall growing crops such as staple cereals within the garrison towns by the security agencies has been maintained. As a result, only very few populations were able to produce staple crops such as millet, maize and sorghum. As a result, a greater percentage of households continue to rely on market purchases and partly on humanitarian assistance for food. Populations who were able to cultivate meet less than 10 percent of their food needs from their own production.

Conflict and displacement: IOM DTM round 29 (November 2019) indicated a general increase in the IDP population across Dikwa, Gwoza, Mafa, Monguno, Ngala and Gujba LGAs compared to the previous round. This is attributable to intense attacks by the insurgents coupled with counterinsurgency by the military. An insurgent attack on January 9, 2020 in Monguno rendered an estimated 2,728 IDPs homeless and over 300 shelters and properties destroyed with four casualties recorded. Several others were displaced to neighboring LGAs and communities.

Maiduguri and Gwoza reported an increase of 2 percent and 5 percent in their IDP populations respectively following an influx of newly displaced persons from parts of Gubio, Magumeri, and Nanzai LGAs while Gubio has seen a 38 percent decrease in its IDP population due to several attacks by the insurgents which has caused the IDPs to flee for safety in Maiduguri.

Humanitarian situation: According to the 2019 to 2021 Humanitarian Response Strategy, \$848 million is needed to meet the needs of affected persons in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. In October 2019, only 59.5 percent of required funds had been received, indicating a funding gap of about 40 percent. This is compounded by the recent upsurge in population displacement following persistent attacks by the insurgents.

MSF reported providing services in Bama towards the treatment of severe malaria from July to December 2019, while also providing four rounds of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention between July and November 2019 covering over 85,400 patients in Bama, Kala balge, Ngala and Gwoza LGAs.

Figures from the Food Security Sector (5Ws) further show a decline in the number of food assistance beneficiaries from 953,477 in November 2019 to 889,009 in December 2019 within the areas of concern, despite an increase in population displacement. Similarly, the food security sector dashboard for the northeast highlighted a decrease in the total number of persons assisted with either in-kind or cash/voucher from 1.5 million in August 2019 to 1.2 million in October 2019.

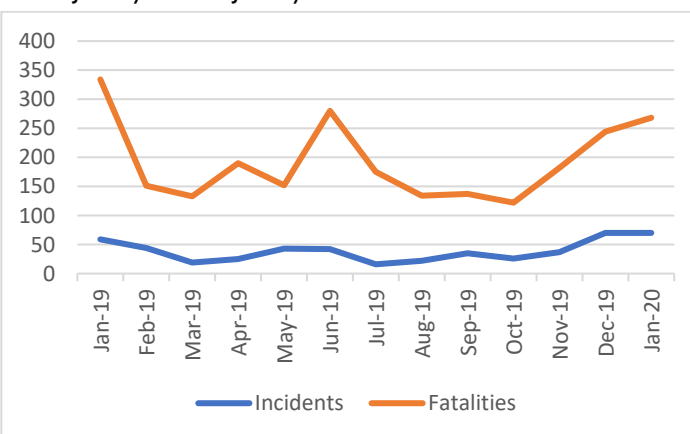
FEWS NET field informant from Abadam LGA in January 2020 revealed the presence of some populations in difficult to access settlements including Burrara, Kaliliya, Limberi, Yewo communities all in Arge ward and Malumti community in Manuwo ward. These populations do not have access to humanitarian aid but rely on their own limited production and neighboring communities in Niger for food. This is line with UN OCHA's declaration that over 823,000 people are still trapped or living in hard to reach areas where essential services are sorely lacking.

Figure 5. Map of area of concern, Sambisa axis and other totally or partially inaccessible LGAs



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 6. Conflict events and fatalities in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States January 2019 to January 2020



Source: ACLED data /FEWS NET

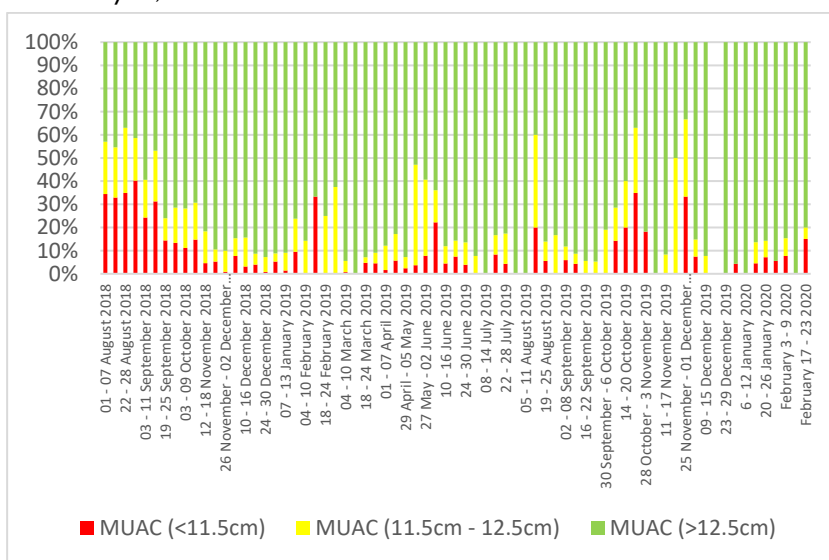
Livelihood opportunities, off-season activities, dry season harvest, and wage rates: FEWS NET discussions with ADP officials, farmers, and key informants in January 2020 highlighted that labor availability remains limited, both for agricultural and non-agricultural labor following reduced economic activities in the northeast. Agricultural labor remains the most significant income generating option for most IDP households. Off season agricultural activities are ongoing, however, availability of agricultural labor remains below normal as very few households have access to irrigation sites either along the riverine areas or facilities such as pumping machines, etc. which reduce the dry season farming population. Demand for labor decreases as displacement continues, further increasing pressure within the host communities. The increase in competition has resulted in lower wages compared to the pre conflict period. As a result, households are not able to generate enough income to meet their basic food needs through purchases.

Household food stocks, market supplies, and staple food prices: Household food stock levels remain well below average in parts of Borno state and are estimated to last only through March 2020. However, in other areas of Adamawa and Yobe, household food stocks would last for about 2 to 3 months, up until March or April 2020. Accessible markets, however, are well supplied with food commodities following the main harvest as more goods were made available by farmers and traders who seek to increase their cash income from the sales of farm produce. As a result, staple food prices remained

below average. Many markets remain closed or with minimal activity due to the continued insecurity in the region. Many road connecting markets and main towns also continue to have limited accessibility, which negatively affects the flow of good to these markets and consequently affects households' abilities to access food at markets (Figure 9).

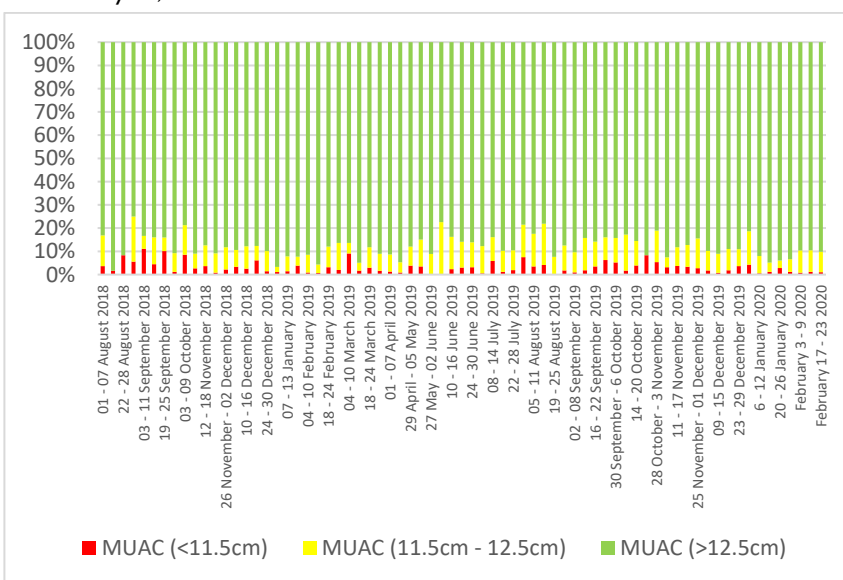
Nutrition level and Health situation: The Nutrition and Food Security surveillance report released in November 2019 covering Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states revealed the GAM prevalence (WHZ) for children 0-59 months to be 9.4 percent in Mobbar, and 10.1 percent in Nganzai. GAM prevalence for WHZ of 9.8 percent was recorded for Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, Kala balge, and Ngala. Similarly, 9.8 percent was also recorded in Gubio, Mafa, Magumeri, and Mungono. A higher GAM prevalence of 11.1 percent was reported in Gujba and Gulani, and 7.4 percent in Michika, and Madagali. The report also indicated that the prevalence of GAM exceeded the WHO Crisis

Figure 7. MUAC screening results of arrivals from inaccessible areas, August 1, 2018 to February 23, 2020



Source: UN IOM

Figure 8. MUAC screening results of arrivals from accessible areas, August 1, 2018 to February 23, 2020



Source: UN IOM

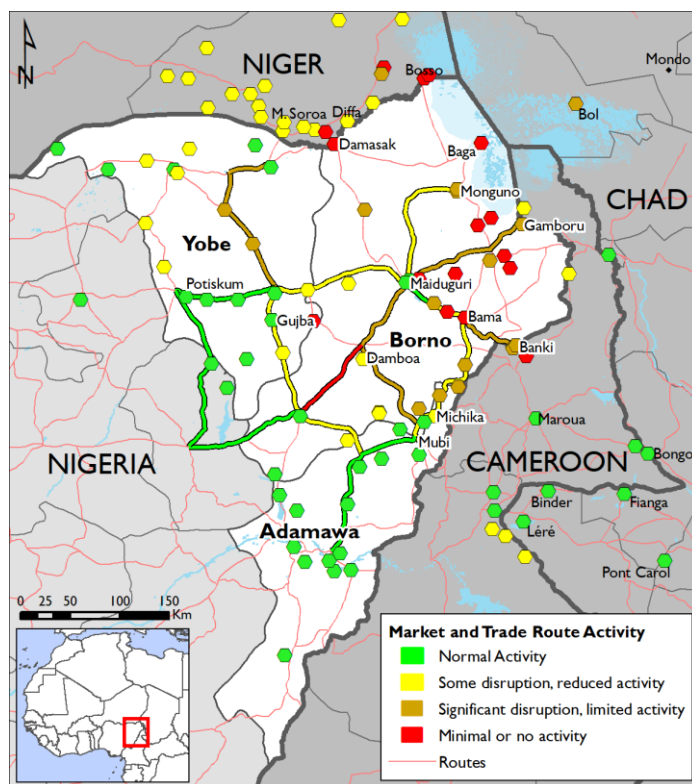
Classification threshold for serious (10 percent) in Southern, and Eastern Borno state. Save the Children's Nutrition program covering Magumeri, Mafa, Konduga, and Kaga reported a total of 874 under 5 children admitted for care between October and November 2019 compared to 669 admissions between October and November 2018. MUAC screenings completed by

UN IOM of recent arrivals to camps continue to show higher levels of acute malnutrition among those arriving from inaccessible areas compared to those arriving from accessible areas (Figures 7 and 8).

Assumptions

- Dry Season Harvest:** The off/dry season is ongoing, and the harvest is expected to begin normally around April and May 2020, with mostly production of vegetables like carrots, peppers, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, onions, tomatoes, and irrigated rice. However, a below normal harvest is expected due to limited access to irrigated land and water caused by the ongoing attacks. The dry/off season farming period is also expected to provide income earning opportunities, although this also will remain below normal.
- Main season cultivation/harvest:** The cultivation of main season crops will start normally around June and July 2020 and is expected to be similar to last year but below average compared to the pre conflict era as most households will remain displaced due to continued attacks and military operations reducing their access to farmland, and farm inputs.
- Household and market stock levels:** Household food stock levels from harvests of own household production will barely cover 1 to 2 months of their food needs in areas within Borno state. In other areas of Adamawa and Yobe states, household food stocks will last for about 2 to 3 months. Households will generally rely on market purchases access to staple foods. Markets stock levels, however, will drop in the June to September period and will remain below average.
- Staple food prices:** Increases in staple cereal prices including millet, sorghum and maize are expected much earlier than usual, and most significantly between June and September 2020. However, it is expected to remain higher than both the 5-year average and 2019 levels. Household stock depletion is expected to commence in February and March 2020, leading to increased market demand. Similarly, institutional and trader demand will begin in February and March, leading to staple price increases at least through September.
- Sources of income:** FEWS NET discussions with ADP officials and key informants highlighted that labor availability remains below average, although a slight improvement is expected from May 2020 as land preparation begins for the main planting season. Wet season farming population is expected to increase compared to the current irrigation farming population, with a slight increase in wage rates. Notwithstanding, main season agricultural labor availability will remain below average across the Sambisi Axis through at least September, as access to farmland will remain restricted and farmland outside of government-controlled areas will not be cultivated due to fear of attacks.
- Conflict and displacement:** Attacks will persist as they have been, along with the corresponding military operations, which will continue to result in population displacement from areas within the Sambisa axis, including inaccessible and partially accessible areas.
- Humanitarian assistance:** Humanitarian assistance is constrained by both funding and the security situation as certain areas remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors. The constrained access to humanitarian assistance to these vulnerable

Figure 9. Market functioning map of northeast Nigeria



Source: FEWS NET

population will likely remain the same throughout the outlook period, however an improvement either in the security situation and or in funding would likely increase coverage.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Communities outside of IDP settlements within the Sambisa axis, northern and central Borno, northern Adamawa and southern Yobe and who remain outside of the main urban centers in the northeast will continue to receive constrained or no humanitarian assistance and are dependent on their own limited agricultural production and market purchases for food. These population will likely continue to face **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** outcomes through September 2020. Households in partly accessible or difficult to access areas and those worst-affected by the conflict who are unable to engage in normal livelihood activities, face constrained access to markets and assistance provisions, will continue to face larger food consumption gaps and will continue to face **Emergency (IPC Phase 4)** outcomes. Areas where populations are affected by significant losses of livelihoods activities and who remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors are likely facing similar or worse food security outcomes as adjacent, accessible areas. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity, including **Famine (IPC Phase 5)** are possible in a worst-case scenario shift in which conflict would significantly restrict humanitarian access and household movements.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 3. Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Northeast	Increased humanitarian support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased levels of assistance that will provide households with additional access to food Improved food access for vulnerable households
	Increased levels of conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease livelihood activities and income access. Increased population displacement. Restricted food flows into the area and increased staple food prices.
	Re-opening of the land border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased cross border trade activities and income opportunities. Increased food exports to neighboring countries and an increase in food prices.

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. [Learn more here.](#)