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HIGHLIGHTS 2013

- Despite good harvest in 2012, food insecurity across the Sahel persists.
- 10.3 million people remain food insecure.
- US\$1.66 billion required to respond to immediate needs and build resilience.

KEY FIGURES

Number of Malian refugees (as of 7/3/13)	167,186
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Number of Malian IDPs (as of 20/2/13)	260,665
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Funding requirements for Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger	US\$163 million
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FUNDING

2013:
US\$1.6 billion requested
US\$ 180 million received

2012:
US\$1.6 billion requested,
US\$1.57 billion received*

*CAP and non-CAP contributions

New priority needs appear in Mali as conflict continues

Renewed violence and military operations in central and northern Mali have exacerbated existing humanitarian needs, displaced over 35,000 people and severely disrupted access to food and other basic supplies.

Food security expected to decline in the north

Due to poor agricultural conditions, residents of northern Mali depend heavily on markets to meet their food needs (up 94 per cent in Kidal). In January, WFP estimated that 585,000 people in the north were food insecure, with 1.2 million at risk of food insecurity. Commercial supply routes have been heavily disrupted, and food aid is only beginning to come back online. According to FEWS NET, food security will decline throughout the first quarter of 2013, reaching crisis levels (IPC Level 3) in large swathes of the north and parts of Mopti region by April. Ultimately, safe commercial transport must be restored in order to ensure future food security. Besides food, crisis-affected people in the centre and north continue to identify shelter, NFIs and WASH among their top needs, in addition to infrastructure repair.

Access is improving in the centre and some northern areas, and assistance programmes are scaling up. However, conditions remain highly volatile, particularly in Kidal region.

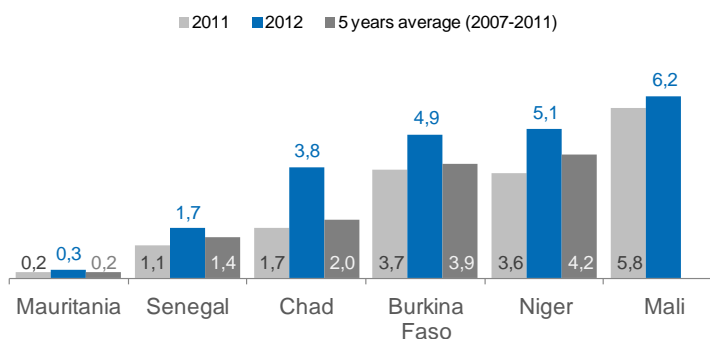
Partners have growing access to areas recently returned to Malian control. Domestic UNHAS flights have resumed to Mopti and Kayes, and regular flights to Timbuktu are likely to begin shortly. Assistance programmes are also scaling up wherever possible. WFP resumed food deliveries to the north in early February, targeting nearly 150,000 people in Timbuktu region with the first river convoys, and has delivered food to some 10,000 people in Gao by road. On 22 February, WFP opened a new land route from Niger to reach northern Mali and a first convoy of trucks departed from Niamey delivered 200 tons of food to Menaka. In addition, UNICEF has pre-positioned critical nutrition supplies in Gao and Douentza. Although mostly reduced, some NGO partners were able to maintain their most critical programmes without interruption.

CAP Mali launched

The CAP Mali 2013 was launched at the national level on 29 January. Humanitarian actors and the Government of Mali are seeking \$373 million to assist 4.3 million people. Affected populations include 747,000 people in need of immediate food assistance; 1.3 million at risk of food insecurity; 660,000 children under 5 years threatened by acute malnutrition and over 198,000 IDPs.

New assessments confirm good harvest but continued food security needs in the Sahel

Cereal production in Sahel countries (tons in million)



Source :

Burkina Faso : Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
 Senegal : DAPSA
 Other countries : PREGEC

“A single good agricultural campaign in 2012-2013 could not possibly remove all difficulties, especially when we know that malnutrition continues to persist in all its forms in the country.”
 Mali Early warning System, November 2012

Figures from Burkina Faso confirm the good 2012 harvest in the region

The figures published in January by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food security of Burkina Faso have confirmed the positive trend in the Sahel region. The 2012 cereal production of 4,898,544 tons represents a 33.6 per cent increase compared to the 2011-2012 campaign and is 26.9 per cent above the five-year average. According to the Ministry, this has resulted in an unprecedented surplus of nearly 990,000 tons of cereals. The final food balance, which includes additional products such as fruit, vegetables and meat, shows a 212 per cent surplus for vegetal products and a 183 per cent surplus for animal products¹.

The total cereal production of the CILSS countries² for 2012 is 22.4 million tons, compared to 16.36 million tons in 2011 and the five year average of 16.76 million tons.

¹ First 2013 session of the Comité de prévision de la situation alimentaire (CSPA), 18 January 2013

² CILSS - Comité Permanent Inter Etats de lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel : The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Chad, Cape Verde).

High prices will limit access to poorest households

Despite good harvest, prices remain high on several markets in the Sahel region. At the beginning of December 2012, prices of dry cereals decreased compared to November but remained much higher than the five-year average. This was particularly the case for Niger (from 2 to 41 per cent, depending on the cereal and the markets), Mali and Burkina Faso³.

High prices will limit the ability of poorest household to buy food goods once their own stocks are consumed. An analysis conducted in the Tessaoua district of Niger in December 2012 by Save the Children anticipates the weakening of livelihoods among very poor households during the 2013 lean season. In Mali, in addition to the impact the conflict has had on food security and nutrition, the food crisis of 2011-2012 will continue to have important consequences, including loss of livestock, loss of employment, reduction of economic activities, etc. The Mali Early Warning System warned that “a single good agricultural campaign in 2012-2013 could not possibly remove all these difficulties, especially when we know that malnutrition continues to persist in all its forms in the country.”

FEWS NET issues a food security Alert for Nigeria

FEWS NET has launched a Food security alert for Nigeria anticipating a crisis in food security (IPC Phase 3) during the upcoming lean season in a number of areas, including the northern Sahel states. The alert follows a recent joint assessment by FEWS NET, OCHA, WFP, CILSS and NEMA in various regions of Nigeria.

The assessment has highlighted higher crop damage than initially anticipated resulting from last year's flooding. In addition, the persistent insecurity and unrest linked to Boko Haram activities in northern areas, related security measures such as curfews or roadside security checkpoints and concerns by traders and residents about their safety at markets, have restricted food stocks, trade flows, and market functioning. FEWS NET expects staple food prices to reach or exceed last year's levels, thus restricting food access for poor, market-dependent households.

Insecurity in northern Nigeria threatens global polio eradication campaign

On 8 February, unidentified gunmen killed 10 polio health workers who were participating in a polio immunization campaign in Kano, northern Nigeria. On 9 February, three North Korean doctors were killed in Yobe state. Nigeria, alongside Pakistan and Afghanistan, is one of three countries still considered to have endemic polio. According to WHO, Nigeria accounted for 121 of the 222 polio cases recorded worldwide in 2012 (or 54 per cent of the cases worldwide), against 52 of the 650 cases

³ FAO-WFP Note, December 2012 - January 2013.

in 2011 (or 8 per cent). All polio case reported in neighbouring Niger in 2012 were “imported” from northern Nigeria⁴. Notwithstanding the on-going terror campaign against health workers, national Immunization Days are planned to continue into March.

A three-year Strategic Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria.

A Nigeria Strategic Humanitarian Response Plan for 2013 – 2015 is being developed. The Plan aims at creating a shared understanding of the key humanitarian issues facing Nigeria and the drivers of humanitarian needs in the country. In 2012, it was estimated that 210,000 children under-5 would suffer from severe acute malnutrition in northern Nigeria. In 2013, as a result of improved screening mechanisms, the figure has risen to 492,000.

Robert Piper takes over from David Gressly as Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel

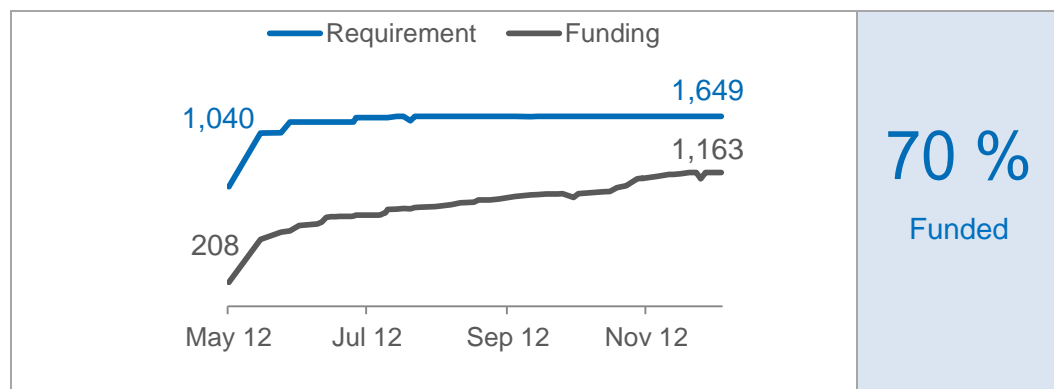
Robert Piper, the new Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, took up his assignment on 7 March in Dakar, taking over from David Gressly. Mr. Piper, an Australian national, brings 24 years of experience with the UN to his new role, including two Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator assignments in Kosovo and Nepal, two years as Chief of Staff to President Clinton when he led the international Tsunami recovery effort, a period as Senior Advisor on UN reform at UNDP Headquarters, a stint as Deputy of what is now UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and various long-term field assignments in Thailand, Cambodia and Fiji. His experience spans peace-building, risk reduction, development and humanitarian coordination, all of which are especially relevant for the complex challenges in front of us in the Sahel.

2012 Funding Status Overview

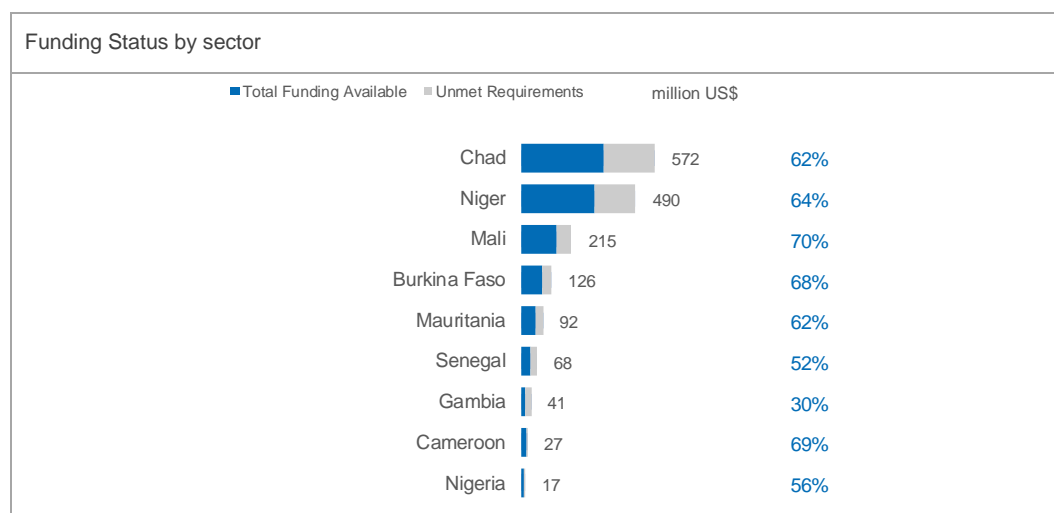
By the end of December 2012, the Sahel food security and nutrition crisis received a total of US\$1.163 million or 70 per cent of funding against its requirements. An additional \$387 million were also made available outside of the CAP. The United States of America (USA), ECHO and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), were the top three donors, having given an estimated \$549 million, \$287 and \$101 million to the Sahel food crisis, respectively.

Funding Status as of 31 December 2012 (figures in million \$US)

⁴ Source : WHO - Polio this week, 9 January



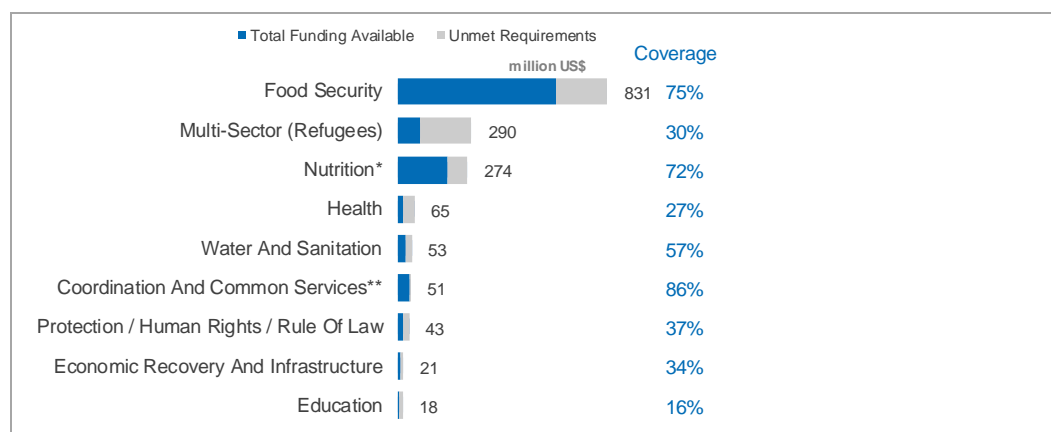
The Mali CAP was the best funded, with 70 per cent of its funding requirements met, followed by Cameroon (69 per cent), Burkina Faso (68 per cent), Niger (64 per cent), Chad and Mauritania (62 per cent), Nigeria (56 per cent), Senegal (52 per cent), and The Gambia (30 per cent).



Across the Sahel Countries, the Food Security Sector/Cluster was the best funded with 75 per cent of its requirements met, followed by Nutrition with 72 per cent. Education, Health and the Multi-Sector (Refugees) were the least funded with 16, 27 and 30 per cent respectively. It is worth mentioning, that while the Food Security sector is the best funded across the Sahel countries, the level of Agriculture funding was only at 41 per cent of its total requirements. The unbalanced level of funding across sectors severely hindered the ability of partners to provide an integrated response.

In 2012, the food security sector received 77% of its funding requirements. However, the level of funding for agriculture was only 41%.





2012 Sahel Response: Performance Indicators

Food Assistance

November and December 2012

Indicator	Population targeted	Population Assisted	% Assisted vs Targeted	
Conditional transfers (Food based)	703,321	818,140	116%	(Monthly Target)
Unconditional transfers (Food based)	1,376,167	1,297,255	94%	(Monthly Target)
Unconditional transfers (Cash/Voucher based)	266,992	145,500	54%	(Monthly Target)

In November and December, in line with WFP's Sahel strategy, focus of assistance has shifted to longer term activities to support weakened communities in the Sahel. Over the course of the month, 1.8 million people were supported through asset creating activities, school feeding and nutrition assistance, alongside relief support to people affected by the Mali crisis.

While the harvest is overall favorable, communities in the affected areas continue to remain vulnerable after months of hardship. Food security and nutrition in the Sahel is conditioned by a number of factors. Households have had little time to recover from past crises and are left with limited coping strategies. Vulnerable groups – children under 5 years, pregnant women and nursing mothers – are particularly at risk due to their special nutrition needs.

Communities in the Sahel were supported through unconditional and conditional activities, based on assessed needs. Conditional activities include asset creating activities (some 225,000 people in Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal in November, and 131,000 people in December), replenishment of community managed cereal banks (some 75,000 people in Mauritania and Senegal in November) and emergency school feeding in Mali and Senegal, reaching nearly 80,000 school children in November and 308,000 in December.

Unconditional activities reaching nearly 1 million people in November and 500,000 in December were carried out through targeted food rations and cash transfers. A number

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of factors contributed to the achievement of the plans, including availability of food commodities and availability of communities to participate in all activities depending on their involvement in agricultural activities for example.

With the harvest season, blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) activities in response to the food and nutrition crisis across the Sahel had ended in all countries, except in Mauritania and Northern Cameroon. Throughout the BSF response, WFP, together with partners, conducted systematic screening for malnutrition at distribution sites. Children identified with moderate or severe acute malnutrition were referred for treatment.

Nutrition

January - December 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Dec)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
# children 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for therapeutic care	1,094,986	1,094,867	913,843	83%	(Annual Target)
Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme - malnourished women		182,947	167,548	92%	(Dec 2012 - Monthly Target)
Blanket Feeding in high risk areas (preventative)*		221,065	70,502	32%	(Dec 2012 - Monthly Target)
Number of health centres with nutrition programmes		2,564	4,772	186%	(Annual Target)

* WFP Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme for children and pregnant and nursing women

In December 2012, over 66,600 severe acute malnourished children were admitted for therapeutic care in health facilities across the Sahel. Over 343,000 children aged 6-59 months, and more than 171,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers were supported under the Targeted Supplementary Feeding activities. Furthermore, in close collaboration with UNICEF, WFP also supported some 6,420 caretakers of children admitted to rehabilitation centers for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in November. This support helps to increase adherence to treatment and eases the burden of households with children suffering from SAM. Over 97,000 children and pregnant women and nursing mothers were also assisted through BSF distributions in November in Mauritania and Mali.

Throughout community based nutrition activities and mass activities, UNICEF, WFP and partners strengthened screening for malnutrition. Children identified with moderate or severe acute malnutrition were referred for treatment. This helps to ensure that malnourished children receive treatment at an early stage and reduce as much as possible the impact on child's development.

From January to December 2012, 913,843 children under 5 year of age received treatment for severe acute malnutrition in 4838 nutrition and health facilities across Sahel countries. This represents an incredible commitment of all partners and governments allowing to implement the biggest nutrition response ever done in this region.

Although results of recent post-harvest nutrition survey using SMART methods indicated that Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence has generally improved, prevalence remain above the "serious" level in all countries. Results shows persistently high acute malnutrition rates, emphasizing the

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need for a continued, comprehensive nutrition response integrated with other sectors as WASH, Health, Education, Agriculture, etc.

While the most difficult period of the year may now be over, communities in the affected areas continue to remain vulnerable after months of hardship. Households have had little time to recover and are left with limited coping strategies. Vulnerable groups – children under 5 years, pregnant women and nursing mothers – are particularly at risk because they have special nutrition needs. Therefore, UNICEF, WFP and partners continues to implement activities for treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition.

Agriculture

January - December 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Dec)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
Agriculture and Livestock	18,740,123	9,965,556	6,536,902	66%	(Annual Target)

As of November 2012, more than 6.2 million people were assisted across the Sahel. FAO supported 4.9 million individuals through its priority response interventions in the Sahel which focus on protecting, restoring and building resilient livelihoods of crisis-affected vulnerable farmers, agro pastoralist and herders. The proposed interventions, linking action in a continuum from emergency to recovery and development are presented in the Regional Response Programme to the Food and Nutrition Security Crisis in the Sahel.

The vegetable production campaign is ongoing in countries in the Sahel, with the distribution of agricultural inputs and the introduction of drought resistant vegetable varieties; the strengthening of the food chain and marketing sector (storage, processing and transportation of agricultural goods) and integrated food nutrition activities. FAO also continued its support to domestic animal protection and production with the protection of livestock, the provision of veterinary multi-vitamin and mineral food complements and vaccination campaigns. Activities also include technical support for livestock management and animal health; and restocking of herds through the distribution of vaccinated small ruminants and poultry.

WASH

January - December 2012

Indicator	Affected or at Risk (Jan - Dec)	Target (Jan - Dec)	Assisted (Jan - Sept)	% Assisted vs Targeted	
# of nutritional centers delivering the WASH minimum package (safe drank water with residual chlorine, disinfecting hand washing and food utensils, hygienic and secure defecation)	4,219	4,219	2,539	60%	(Annual Target)
# of affected population provided with the WASH minimum package (safe water, hygiene supplies and key messages)	1,328,028	1,328,028	727,881	55%	(Annual Target)

The two tracking indicators of the WASH minimum package in humanitarian response in the Sahel have slightly exceeded half of the ideal “full components” minimum package: 55 per cent of affected population were provided with the WASH minimum package (safe water, hygiene supplies and key messages); and 60 per cent of nutritional centres delivered the WASH minimum package (safe drank water with residual chlorine, disinfecting hand washing and food utensils, hygienic and secure defecation).

A study from MSF done in Niger and published in December 2012 demonstrates the importance of water and sanitation in therapeutic feeding programs. It highlights the high proportion of water-related infections (69 per cent) in secondary infections amongst malnourished children, suggesting a major role for waterborne diseases in the overall health status of the population. It shows a strong correlation between the adequacy of the water supply in villages with malnourished children in an ambulatory feeding program/prevalence of secondary water related infections and their length of stay in that program.

More generally, countries best reactive to the Sahel crisis in 2012 were those best prepared to face a cholera outbreak at a decentralized level, with WASH items available in contingency stocks and a direct partnership with the Ministry of Health.