

# The people of West Africa are facing an unprecedented food and nutrition crisis

6.24  
MILLION

people in a situation of food insecurity in the Lake Chad basin

3.39  
MILLION

people in a situation of food insecurity in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger



Evolution of the number of people in a situation of food insecurity

This year in the Lake Chad basin, 6.24 million people will not be able to access the food they need, while 1.2 million children under five years will suffer from acute malnutrition, of which 416,000 from its most severe form. In the cross-border area of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, 3.39 million people will find themselves in a crisis situation and almost one million children under five years will be affected by acute malnutrition. In addition to this, Liberia and Sierra Leone have been facing increasing food security risks for over a year. There has been a concerning deterioration of the local context due in particular to galloping inflation and depreciation of their currencies against the U.S. dollar.

The current situation is the direct consequence of a further deterioration in the security context. Vulnerable populations face an additional challenge

for their survival as a result of negative impact on production as well as atypical and abnormally high food prices.

The members of the food and nutrition security working group (FSNWG) call for quick action to deploy preventive responses whilst ensuring access to populations, including to those who are the most vulnerable and living in remote areas. They also recall the importance of setting up structural responses to break the cycle of recurrent food and nutrition insecurity crises in West Africa. It is essential that sustainable political solutions and intersectoral action plans for crisis prevention are put in place to maintain continuity of basic services, including preventive and treatment services for acute malnutrition.