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The *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) for the identification and analysis of areas at risk and food and nutrition insecure populations

What is it?

CH is a unifying tool for classifying the nature and severity of current and projected acute food and nutrition insecurity in 17 countries of West and Central Africa. It answers the basic questions facing decision-makers in case of food and/or nutrition crisis :

Where to allocate the resources? For whom?

How many people to assist as part of the mitigation actions?

Directions for use : The CH consists of six steps

Complying with these steps helps to have an analysis based on the convergence of evidence, technical consensus and the correlation between information and intervention. These points contribute each to strengthening the integrity and technical relevance of the *Cadre Harmonisé*.

1 Setting up of a national analysis unit

2 Training for national officials

3 Data collection and compilation

4 CH situational analysis, at country level

5 Consolidation and validation at regional level by the CH-TC

6 Communicating CH analysis

Data sources : surveys, food security, nutrition, household economy analysis outcomes, market monitoring, health and socio-economic data, other rapid surveys and evaluations, expert knowledge, etc.

The CH value addition : Better comparability of results in space (between countries) and time (depending on periods) because of the analytical rigour, transparency, technical consensus, data quality and reliability.

The CH consists of two rounds of analysis per year (in March and October)
each round has four phases :

- training-recycling of national analysts;
- data collection and compilation by the CH analysis unit;
- a national analysis, during which data is analyzed; a vulnerability map is drawn up for the country;
- regional consolidation for the compilation and analysis of national results and the establishment of the regional map.

The Steering bodies of *Cadre Harmonisé*
The National Units, the Technical Committee
and the Steering Committee



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Description of the severity classification phases

Phase	Description	Objectives of the priority interventions
Phase 1 : minimal	At least four out of five households are able to meet their food and non-food requirements without resorting to unusual coping strategies or being dependent on humanitarian assistance.	Action required to build resilience and reduce disaster risk
Phase 2 : Under pressure	Even with humanitarian assistance, at least one out of five households in the area is in the following situation or worse: reduced food consumption and minimal adequacy, but unable to afford certain essential non-food expenses without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.	Action required to reduce disaster risk and protect livelihoods
Phase 3 : Crisis	Even with humanitarian assistance, at least one out of five households in the area is in the following situation or worse: severe food shortages and acute malnutrition at high or above normal levels; or marginally able to cover the minimum of its food needs by exhausting livelihood assets, leading to food consumption deficits.	Protect livelihoods, prevent malnutrition and prevent deaths
Phase 4 : urgency	Even with humanitarian aid, at least one out of five households in the area is in the following situation or worse: extreme food deficits, which results in very high acute malnutrition or excessive mortality; or extreme loss of livelihood assets, resulting in food consumption deficits in the short term.	Save lives and livelihoods
Phase 5 : famine	Even with humanitarian aid, at least one out of five households in the area has a complete deficit in food and/or other basic needs and is clearly exposed to starvation, death and destitution. (Note that the evidence for the three criteria for food consumption, wasting and TBM are required to classify as famine).	Prevent large-scale deaths and avoid total collapse of livelihoods

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The Regional Mechanism for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC) in the Sahel / West Africa

The Sahel was hard hit by food crises in the 1970s and 80s, as a result of poor prevention and management systems, at both national and regional levels, including :

- 1.Late and unreliable information;
- 2.Lack of precision and inadequacy in targeting affected areas and populations;
- 3.Lack of coordination and synergy in the interventions between actors, etc.

The political authorities of the countries concerned are working together to tackle the effects of drought/desertification and act for sustainable food security.

SOME REFERENCE POINTS TO REMEMBER :

- 1985 : Creation of the Food Crisis Prevention Network in the Sahel (RPCA), a forum for exchanging, comparing and analyzing food security information;
- 1995 : Birth of the Regional Food Crisis Prevention and Management in the Sahel Project (PREGEC);
- 2006 : Extension of PREGEC activities to cover all ECOWAS Member States.

THE REGIONAL PREGEC MEMBERS :

- Regional food security and early warning systems (CILSS, FAO, FEWS NET);
- International and sub-regional institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA, SWAC/ OECD, ACMAD);
- Technical and Financial Partners (USAID/WA, WB, ADB, IDB, EU, AFD),
- Humanitarian agencies (ECHO, WFP, OFDA/USAID, ACF, etc.);
- International NGOs (OXFAM GB, Save the Children, CRS, IFRC, etc.);
- Civil society and private sector organizations (ROPPA, APES, RBM, ROAC, RECAO, etc.).

OPERATION :

- Facilitated by CILSS and its national, regional and international partners, PREGEC's main role is to monitor food and nutrition security in the countries of the Sahel and West Africa.
It is based on three pillars :
- Information;
- Coordination and consultation;
- Crisis management including food risk mitigation measures, mobilization of security stocks, food and non-food assistance.



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Crisis prevention and management tools available

They are deployed at three levels :

NATIONAL :

- **Information** : Food security and early warning information system (permanent agricultural sample survey, GTP, MIS, EWS);
- **Dialogue-coordination** : Government/Donor arrangements (joint committees, etc.) possibly involving NGOs;
- **Crisis management** : crisis management units (CASACCE, CONASUR, CCA/GC, companies and agencies for the management of physical and financial security stocks often co-managed with the donors who support them (OPVN, OPAM, SONAGESS, etc).

REGIONAL :

- **Information** : CILSS/CRA, FEWS-NET, RESIMAO, IEWS;
- **Dialogue-coordination** : Regional PREGEC mechanism led by CILSS with all stakeholders (national systems, international organizations, humanitarian aid agencies, etc) and based on five annual consultations in June, September, November, December and March.

INTERNATIONAL :

- **Information** : GIEWS/FAO, WFP, FEWSNET;
- **Coordination-dialogue** : The annual meeting (in December) and the restricted meeting (in April) of the RPCA.

Major achievements and strengths

- The existence of food security and early warning systems (EWS, MIS, GTP, EPA., etc) in (most) countries and of a mechanism (PREGEC), at the regional level, capable of anticipating and warning about the risks of food crisis;
- Managing responses to food crises is more effective now than in the past, through the adoption of the PREGEC Charter;
- All countries have defined policies and strategies that combine the management of food crises with long-term food security;
- The region has powerful tools (EPA, ZAR, CH, MESA, ENSAN, etc) and high-level human resources to prevent and manage crises;
- Regular consultations in the PREGEC cycle.

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