

Highlights :

• Covered countries :

- Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo;

• Rainfall:

- Low rainfall in Senegal, Mauritania, southern Mali, northern Niger and central Côte d'Ivoire ;
- Above-normal precipitation in some regions including Burkina Faso, in the South Mali and Chad, north of Togo;

• Drought :

- Drought conditions confirmed in central Côte d'Ivoire
- Delayed onset and sowing failure in Senegal, western Gambia and Mauritania;
- Uncertainties in Senegal, Mauritania, Niger, northern Mali and Chad due to low precipitations recorded during the sowing period;

• Potentially affected populations :

- According to ARV estimates, drought in central Côte d'Ivoire could affect 393,000 people;
- The rainfall over the coming decades up to August 20 will be decisive for more accuracy on the potential impact of the recorded rain deficits.

INTRODUCTION

The **Africa RiskView Bulletin** is a monthly publication published by the **African Risk Capacity (ARC)**. It discusses drought on the African continent as detected by the **Africa RiskView** software, and its **potential impact on vulnerable populations**. In addition, the bulletin provides estimates of the response cost to assist drought-affected populations, as well as potential compensation by ARC Ltd. for countries with insurance contracts .

This edition of the bulletin covers the period from **March 11 to July 20 for countries of West and Central Africa**. This period corresponds to the sowing period in most countries of this part of the continent. The analysis covers the countries that have signed an insurance policy for the 2019/2020 season namely **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad, and Togo**.

The bulletin focuses on the following aspects: **rainfall, drought, affected populations** for the countries mentioned above.

RAINFALL

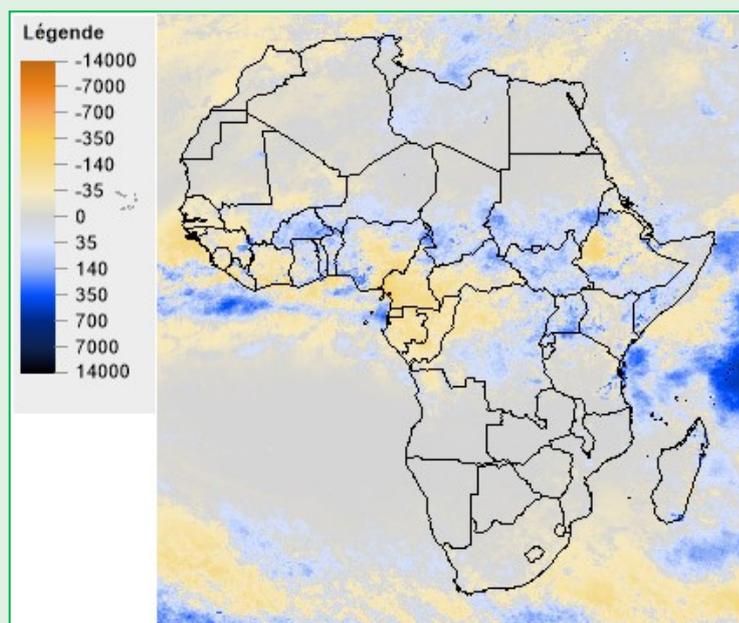
In West and Central Africa, the rainy season generally starts in March in the coastal countries (Côte d'Ivoire and Togo) and from May to June in the Sahelian and Central African countries .

Rainfall in West Africa was below the long-term average (1983 to 2018), especially in the southwestern parts, particularly along the coast from Côte d'Ivoire to Senegal with very severe drought pockets in Mali, Niger and Mauritania (MAP 1).

This rainfall deficit, which affects a large part of the sub-region, could have an adverse impact on the crop season in the region, as well as on the development of rangelands. If current trends continue, the subregion of West and Central Africa may suffer severe rainfall deficits.

In Burkina Faso, northern Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, rains were generally normal with pockets of deficits in northern Togo .

Rainfall should be closely monitored in *Africa RiskView* from July 20 to August 31, when most plantings will be completed .

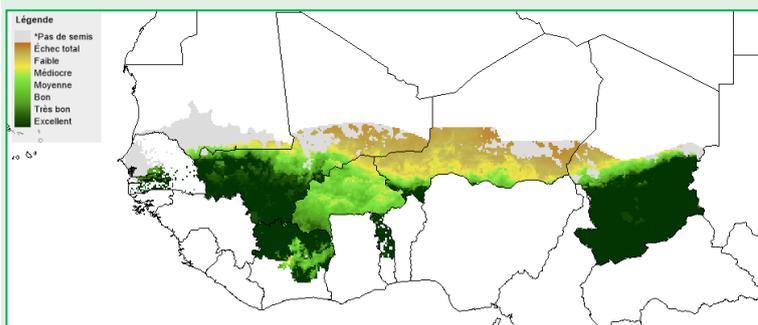


MAP 1: Rainfall (March 11 to July 1) compared to normal (1983-2018 average) (ARC 2)

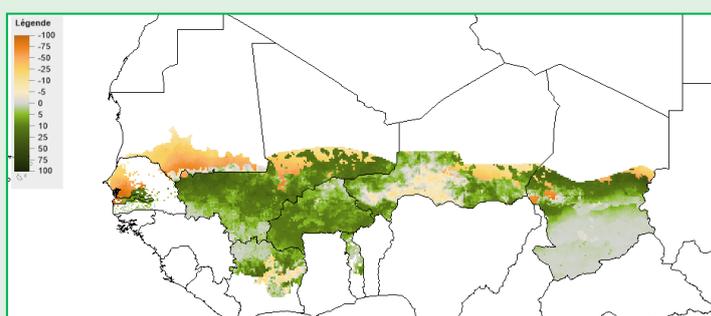
DROUGHT

Africa RiskView uses the **Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI)**, developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to estimate drought risk. The WRSI index uses satellite rainfall estimates to calculate whether the **water requirements of a crop** were met **during each phase of the development of the chosen reference crop**. The WRSI parameters are defined by each country through a **national process led by a Technical Working Group**. This edition of the bulletin analyses the WRSI for in-season countries in West and Central Africa.

Compared to the 2001 to 2018 average (MAP 2 and 3), the projected values of the WRSI index are lower in much of Senegal, Mauritania, Niger and central Côte d'Ivoire and higher in the south of Mali, Burkina Faso, North Togo and Chad.

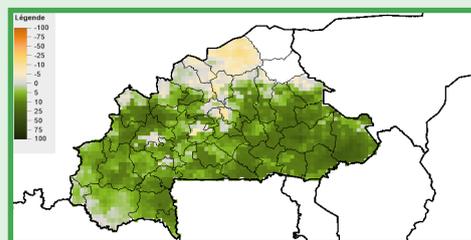


MAP 2: Projected 2019 WRSI for the West and Central Africa group of countries (2019 agricultural season)



MAP 3: Projected 2019 WRSI for the West and Central African group of countries (2019 agricultural season) compared to normal (average 2001 to 2018)

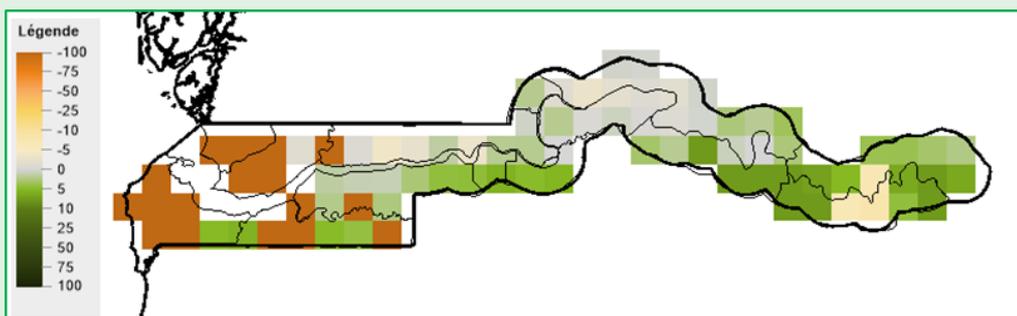
Burkina Faso : The agricultural season in Burkina Faso lasts usually from early May to early December. The Burkina Faso drought index from May to the mid-July shows that the predefined conditions for successful seeding by the Technical Working have been met in general, and that planting is likely to succeed, but with delays in the north centre and the Sahel region. Compare the benchmark value, average of the previous 5 years (MAP 4), the projected values of the WRSI index for the current year were generally higher save for the northern regions.



MAP 4: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the average of the last five years (Burkina Faso)

Gambia : The agricultural season started on June 11 and farmers have until the end of July to sow the last seeds. While the situation seems generally satisfactory in most parts of the country, there are serious concerns about the western part of the country where planting has failed based on Africa RiskView.

Since the end of planting, according to the customization of Africa RiskView by the National Technical Working Group, corresponds to the third decade of July, there is little chance that farmers will have other planting opportunities during this season, which would increase drought risk in this part of the country. This part of the country is worth monitoring in the decades to come.

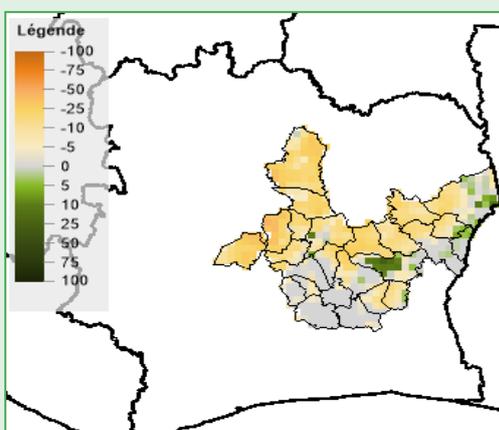


MAP 5: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the absolute reference value of 93 (Gambia)

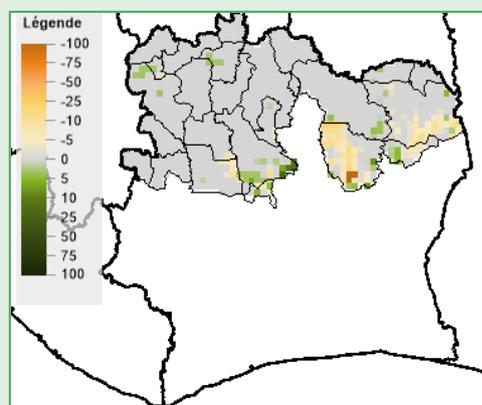
Cote d'Ivoire : As the agricultural season started on 11 March in central Côte d'Ivoire, it is possible to have global trends to date. In this part of the country, rainfall estimates were generally in deficit throughout the season . WRSI estimates show that the water requirements of the reference crop, maize, are poorly met throughout this part of the country with higher deficits in the Bandama Valley, Marahoué and northern Zanzan regions. If deficit trends are sustained over the next two decades, this part of the country is likely to experience one of the most severe droughts in the past 15 years.

The rains must be closely monitored from 20 July to 31 July to have more precision on the extent of this drought and prepare the country for a rapid response to the potential impact of the drought in this part of the country.

In the northern part of the country, where the season began on 1 May, the overall rainfall situation seems to be better. Currently, the value of the projected index is at its normal value with the exception of Dabakala department where the water requirements of the reference crop appear to be unsatisfied.

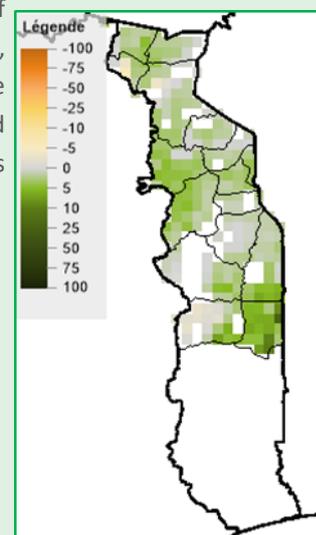


MAP 6: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the median of the last 5 years (Côte d'Ivoire-Central Regions)



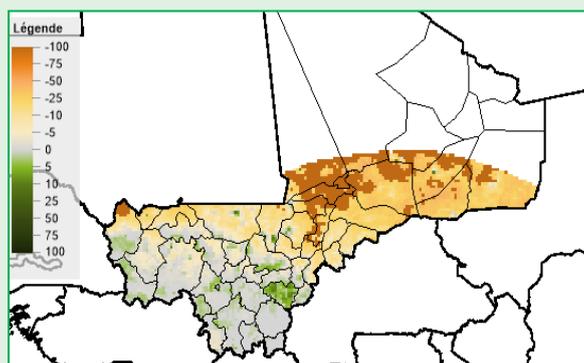
MAP 7: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the median of the last 5 years (Côte d'Ivoire-Northern Regions)

Togo : The rainfall situation and seasonal pattern in northern Togo is similar to that of Burkina Faso. The recorded rainfall amounts are generally higher than normal in the regions: Maritime, Plateaux & Kara. On the other hand, pockets of deficits have been noted in the Savannah and central regions. In the north, which covers the Savannah, Kara and Northern Plateau regions, the value of the WRSI drought index is broadly comparable to the reference value, the average of the last 5 years (see MAP 8). In the south, the peak season has started indeed but is not covered by the country's insurance policy. The short season covered by the policy is yet to start. This season begins in August and it will take until the end of August to follow this season.



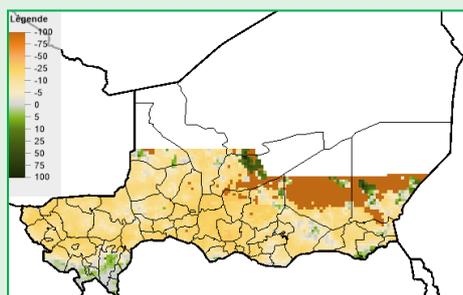
MAP 8: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the average of 5 previous years (Togo-Northern Regions)

Mali : In Mali the season started on May 21st as customized in Africa RiskView. In the south of the country, drought index values are at or above normal. In the north of the country after some sowing failures, sowing resumed only slightly with the last rains on 11 July to 20 July, but the index predictions remain well below the average for the last 3 years (MAP 9).



MAP 9: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the median of the last 3 years (Mali)

Niger : Planting has just started very tentatively with mixed conditions: drought index values are low and below the baseline (median of the last 10 years) especially in the Tahoua and Maradi regions (MAP 11). In the north, plantings have failed because of the low rainfall recorded, but farmers will have until 11 August for the last sowing. Trends remain tentative and leave much concern for the rest of the season; close monitoring of the season is essential .

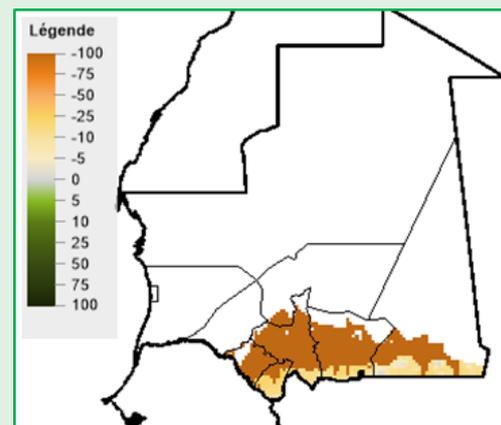


MAP 11: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the average of the last 10 years (Niger)

Senegal : The 2019 agricultural season in Senegal started in mid-May in the south of the country and planting could continue until the end of July. The season is marked by a slightly delayed start in the north-western part of the country where, based on the customisation of Africa RiskView defined by the National Technical Working Group, the recorded rainfall amounts

Mauritania : The agro-pastoral season in Mauritania begins on June 11, later than in the other Sahelian countries.

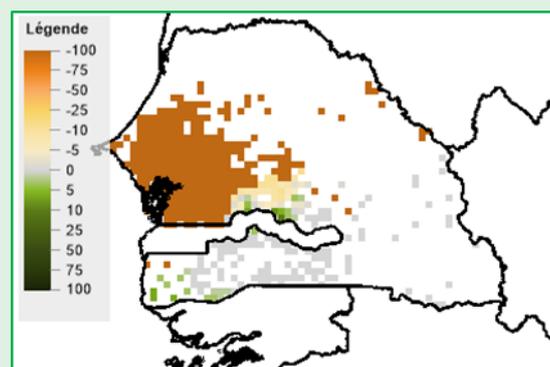
In the second decade of July, only the rain-fed area, the border strip to Mali, benefited from favourable planting conditions. Under the customization of Africa RiskView set by the National Technical Working Group, the season begins on 1 July 2019 in the agro-pastoral areas and the part of the pastoral area covered by the insurance. It will therefore take until mid-August to gauge the main trends of the season for Mauritania.



MAP 10: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the median of the last 10 years (Mauritania)

Senegal (continued): remain below the planting criteria, leading to repetitive planting failures in this part of the country. Nevertheless, depending on the parameters chosen by the country, farmers may have some chance of planting until the end of July. This margin remains very low and the chances are low considering the current rainfall .

In addition, in the regions of Ziguinchor, Sédhiou, Kolda and Tambacounda, planting appear to have been successful, and the WRSI index projections are comparable to the reference value, i.e. the median of the last 10 years (MAP 12). It is important to continue monitoring the season's progress in the rest of the planting window (July 20 to July 31).

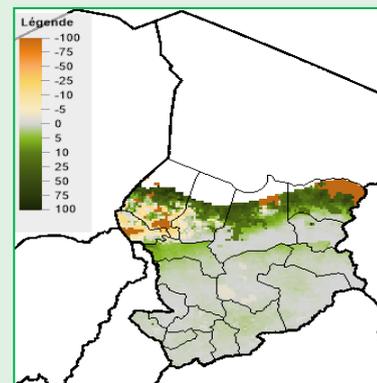


MAP 12: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the median last 10 years (Senegal)

About ARC :

- **African Risk Capacity (ARC)** is a specialized agency of the African Union, whose purpose is to improve the capacity of AU Member States to manage risks related to natural disasters, adapt to climate change and assist populations at risk of food insecurity .
- The **Africa RiskView (ARV)** is ARC's technical platform. It uses satellite rainfall data to assess the costs of a drought response. The estimation of these costs then triggers the payment of the corresponding insurance benefits .
- **ARC Ltd.** is the financial arm of ARC Agency, which is responsible for pooling risks across the continent

Tchad : In Chad, rains started globally in the second decade of May as customized in Africa RiskView. The rainfall amounts recorded according to satellite data seem to be broadly sufficient to guarantee the success of the planting done during this period, despite significant planting failures in the northern regions. However, there are still three decades left during which farmers can sow, if the conditions are met. It is important to closely monitor rainfall in these areas in the coming decades. Although planting conditions are met in most of the country, the water requirements of the various reference crops namely maize, millet and sorghum are poorly met during this vital phase of plants growth. This resulted in a deficit of the projected index in relation to its baseline value (average past 10 years). Since the season has just started and planting still remains possible, it is too early to predict the outcome of the season.



FMAP13: Projected 2019 WRSI compared to the average of the last 10 years (Chad)

AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Based on the WRSI calculations presented above, Africa RiskView estimates the number of people directly affected by drought in each country that customized the model with a view to be part in the Pool. As part of the customization process by the National Technical Working Group, vulnerability profiles are determined at a subnational level for each country, thus defining the potential impact of drought on the population in each area. With the exception of Côte d'Ivoire, where the season in the centre is far more advanced with clear-cut trends, in the other countries the prospects of drought-hit populations are still very elusive with the possibility of an improvement or deterioration in the situation. Nevertheless, the situation remains worrying in some countries such as Niger, Chad, Senegal, and Mauritania due to the late start of planting in most localities.

With regard to Côte d'Ivoire, due to rainfall abnormalities since early May and it's worsening in the second decade of July 2019, the number of drought-affected people in the current season is estimated at about 393,000. Projections are moving towards 410,000 people affected if current trends continue with the possibility of an increase of up to 433,000 people if the rest of the season is similar to 1983, the worst year in the past. Monitoring the season in the coming decades will provide more details on the impact of this drought and allow the country to take the necessary steps to provide assistance to those affected.

In summary, the 2019/2020 agropastoral season is marked by a late start in most Sahelian countries (Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad) with low rainfall amounts and a generalized rainfall deficit in coastal countries such as central Côte d'Ivoire. Although it is too early to be able to draw conclusions, if current trends continue, the season would be similar to 2014.

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