The Ministry of Production, Irrigation and Agriculture on 12 June declared a crisis over diminishing pasture in eight regions of the central Sahel belt and in northern Chad. Recurrent rainfall deficits in recent years have accelerated desertification and reduction of pastureland and water, particularly in the Sahel belt. The situation has significantly worsened since February, leading to an early pastoral lean season and livestock deaths. Herders begun migrating earlier than usual. This has sparked tensions over access to water and grazing land and increased conflicts between the herders themselves and with farmers. The Food Security cluster is in contact with the ministry to jointly develop a plan to tackle the crisis.

Landslides triggered by heavy rains in recent weeks have killed 17 people and rendered some 250 families homeless in the commercial capital Abidjan. Flooding in the city is a usual occurrence during the rainy season. Storm drains are rarely cleared in time and despite the dismantling of illegal settlements, construction continues in flood-prone areas. The Ministry of Women, Child Protection and Solidarity is working on a plan to improve disaster response. The plan, which is to be finalised this week, includes compensation of victims as well as response to hazards such as drought and bush fires.

Cases of vaccine-derived polio have been confirmed in the eastern Haut Lomami and Maniema provinces, WHO reported on 13 June. They were detected in infections that emerged between February and May. Plans for improved surveillance, search for cases and supplementary immunization are being finalised.

Torrential rains in the capital Niamey and in the western Tillabéry region have killed 14 people and affected around 3,300 others. Eleven people were killed and 350 houses destroyed following heavy flooding in Niamey on the 13 and 14 June. In Tillabéry, three people died following a deluge that destroyed 45 houses and rendered 300 people homeless. Floods were also reported in the southern Zinder and Maradi regions. Relief efforts are underway. Around 157,000 could be affected by flooding this rainy season. Flooding last year affected some 146,000 people.

On 18 June, suspected Boko Haram attackers killed 16 people near Dalori camp for the displaced in Borno state. The National Emergency Agency said the attack was carried out by four female suicide bombers, two of whom tried to gain entrance to the camp where security agents intercepted them. An unspecified number of people were wounded in the Dalori Kofa village. Attacks targeting sites hosting the displaced in Borno’s capital Maiduguri have been on the rise.