



IN NUMBERS



> 1.1 million people severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, February 2017)¹



75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



USD 40.8 million still needed for the implementation of FAO's 2017 emergency programme

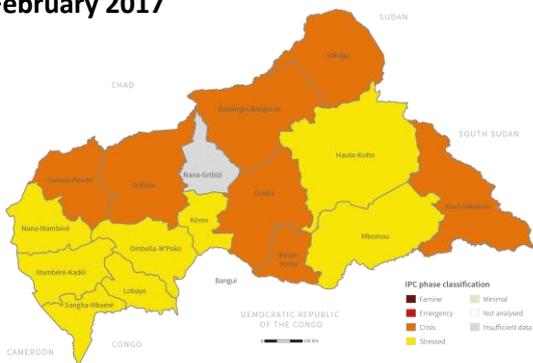
USD 10 million needed before February 2018 to provide immediate humanitarian assistance

KEY POINTS

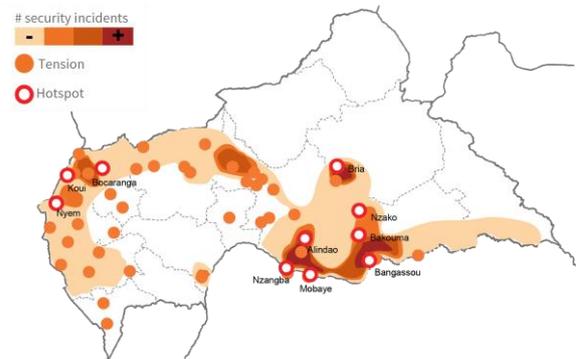
- Insecurity in the country has worsened. Clashes among various armed groups continue, particularly affecting the southeastern and northwestern areas, caused additional population displacements which bring the total number of IDPs to nearly 600 000. This has significantly increased humanitarian needs.
- Three consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by the disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as a result of the crisis, caused an alarming food security situation, with households facing serious food access constraints.
- The implementation of agricultural activities and rehabilitation of value chains are key activities that contribute to reducing food insecurity, generating socio-economic development, building resilience and stabilizing peace.
- FAO urgently requires USD 10 million by February 2018 to support 237 000 people during the next cropping cycle (March–April 2018), 90 000 people for vegetable production and 42 000 people for livestock protection. It is critical to support the Government in its effort to restore the agriculture sector to allow farming families to improve their capacity to produce, secure access to food and generate sufficient income to strengthen their livelihoods.

MAPS

IPC February 2017



Progression of hotspots (OCHA)



BACKGROUND KEY POINTS

Despite the establishment of the new Government (March 2016), the security situation has recently worsened in several regions of the country (14 out of 16 administrative regions were affected by violence since the beginning of the year) as a result of violent clashes between the armed groups, particularly affecting southeastern and northwestern areas. This has caused the deterioration of humanitarian needs that have almost reached the levels of 2014, with nearly 600 000 IDPs. The insecurity has also threatened humanitarian interventions, with the relocation of 241 workers (January–September 2017) from ten villages due to peaks of violence. Reduced presence of humanitarian organizations deprives families of vital assistance.

As the agriculture sector is the driving force of the economy and a key element to stabilizing peace, the Government has developed a five-year National Plan for Recovery and Peace-Building following the 2014 crisis, requiring a total of USD 3.2 billion. Focusing on livelihoods resilience, youth employment and sustainable natural resource management is crucial to prevent and mitigate future crises. FAO has developed a five-year Resilience Programme requesting USD 593 million support 2 million people by restoring agricultural production and strengthening resilience.

¹ The analysis doesn't take into account the population of Bangui and of the prefecture of Nana-Gribizi, and it doesn't reflect the worsening of the food security situation as a result of the latest wave of violence (May 2017).

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Even if the latest IPC (February 2017) doesn't reflect the situation as a result of latest wave of violence (May 2017), trends indicate a deterioration in household food security. Limited and poor food consumption remains above 50 percent. The prefecture of Ouham has been classified as IPC Phases 3 and 4 for over three consecutive years and the households' food security survey indicated that poor, limited and unacceptable food consumption scores are 46 percent, 42 percent and 29 percent, respectively. The number of meals per day is 1.4 and the average Coping Strategy Index is 19.3 reflecting a more precarious food security situation than in the rest of the country. Vulnerable households living in crisis areas face difficult access to food as the majority has not been able to resume income generating activities. The cumulative effects of the crisis have greatly affected the livelihoods of populations, even of returnees. Since the military-political events of 2013, the country is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis increasing the vulnerability of already chronically vulnerable households. While 481 600 Central African refugees are still in Chad, Cameroon, Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nearly 600 000 people are internally displaced (in camps or with host families). There is high variability of commodity prices across the country mainly due to difficult and costly transportation. In general, the persistence of insecurity and displacements have become recurring issues that continue to cause the deterioration of food security in certain areas. To address the worsening of the situation, it is essential to contribute to the development of small businesses based on agriculture to improve the employment of vulnerable youth, and allow for post-conflict economic reintegration.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2017 PLANNED RESPONSE



890 000 people (178 000 households) targeted



20 000 households to receive vaccinations for their animals



120 000 households targeted for the first two cycles of the agricultural campaign and **25 000** for the vegetable seed distribution during the irrigated season; **13 000 displaced households** will be supported through emergency horticulture.

Agricultural support will be provided through direct seed and tool distributions, as well as input trade fairs

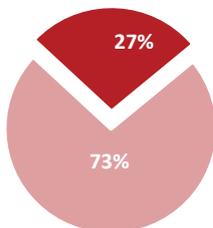


To restore livelihoods and build local resilience, *caisses de résilience* activities will be implemented, as well as good agricultural practices (farmer field schools [FFS] and livestock FFS), community savings and loan mechanisms (*tontines améliorées*), income-generating activities and cash-for-work



To boost local and national food security capacities through monitoring and analysis, ensuring Cluster coordination

FUNDING



- **Funding to-date:**
USD 15.1 million
- **Funding gap:**
USD 40.6 million

FAO requires: USD 55.7 million **To assist:** 890 000 people

Resource partners: the Governments of Belgium, the United Kingdom and of the United States of America, the European Union, the Central Emergency Respond Fund, *Fonds Békou* and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission

RESPONSE TO DATE



436 000 people (87 200 households) assisted



11 800 households were supported through the vaccination of 837 509 animals (bovine, caprine and ovine)



72 600 households were assisted for the first cropping cycle, of which 61 600 households were provided with a total of 1 909.6 tonnes of crop seeds and 184 800 hoes, and 11 000 households received 385 tonnes of crop seeds and 33 000 hoes through input trade fairs; **3 000 households** were provided with 180 kg of vegetable seeds and 15 000 tools; and an additional **17 000 households** were identified to receive vegetable production support

ASSESSMENTS

The latest FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (February 2017) has been released. Results confirmed that: an estimated 1 million tonnes of food were produced in 2016, about 35 percent more than in 2015 and close to the pre-crisis average (2008-2012); cassava production was above-average; although cereal production increased by 13 percent compared with 2015, it remains 27 percent below the pre-crisis average; livestock, fisheries and aquaculture sectors indicate growth rates ranging from 3 to 6.5 percent in 2015 and 2016; and a mere 4 000 tonnes of cotton was produced in 2016/17, 75 percent below the pre-crisis average. FAO is also working with WFP in collaboration with the Central African Institute for Economic and Social Statistics in conducting the emergency food security assessment.

CONTACT

Jean Alexandre Scaglia | FAO Representative | Bangui, Central African Republic | JeanAlexandre.Scaglia@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience | Rome, Italy | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org