

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Central African Republic

September-December 2010

Key Messages

- High and volatile prices constrain food access exacerbating food insecurity conditions.
- Civil conflict and insecurity remain a major factor impeding improvements in food security conditions and agriculture production.
- A rise in armed incursions is increasing food security concerns in several districts.
- The government cannot undertake food and agriculture policies and programmes due to continued fighting.

Background

The country's total population is about 4,4 million with an annual growth rate of 1%; 62% of the population is estimated to be below the poverty line of \$1 PPP per day; and 40% of the population is reported as undernourished.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	4.422
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	1%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2009 (WB)	750
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2003 (MDGI)	62%
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	61%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	55%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	40%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	25%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	8%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	34%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	48
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	67%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	4.7%

Prices

There is no price data available.

Food Security Situation Assessment

Civil insecurity restricts access to agricultural land, hampering farming activities while high and volatile prices impede food access, aggravating the food insecurity situation. GIEWS included CAR in the list of countries in crisis requiring external assistance for food, estimating severe localized food insecurity throughout the country. The food security situation has further deteriorated following renewed attacks in the south-east, in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou, and in the north-east. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) started a huge distribution of food to 55,000 residents, IDPs and refugees in the eastern districts of Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou. FAO hunger map estimates very high undernourishment, while IFPRI reports an alarming hunger problem.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT



Central African Republic is not covered by FEWSNET.

[FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)



FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

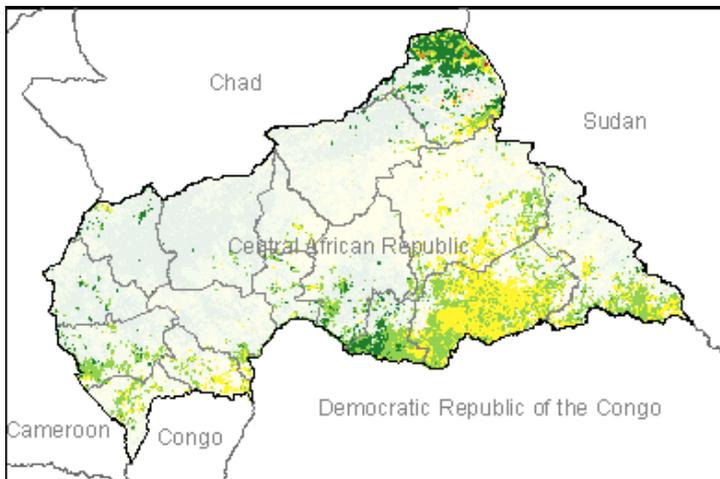
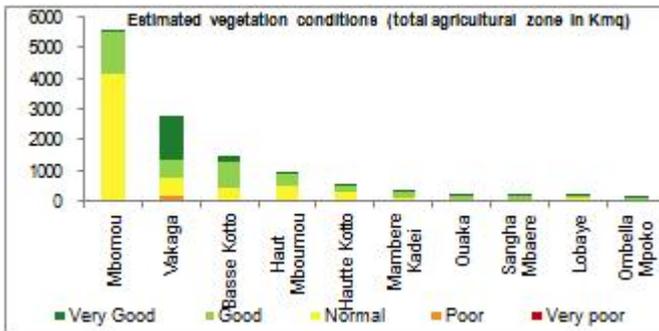


Information required to draw this chart is not available.

Central African Republic

Vegetation Condition

At the middle of the dry season, normal to very good conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for December 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	No crops are sowed during the reference period
Growing	No crops are growing during the reference period
Harvesting	Sorghum (Long Cycle) - Maize (South/Second) - Potatoes (Second) - Rice - Taro - Yam

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

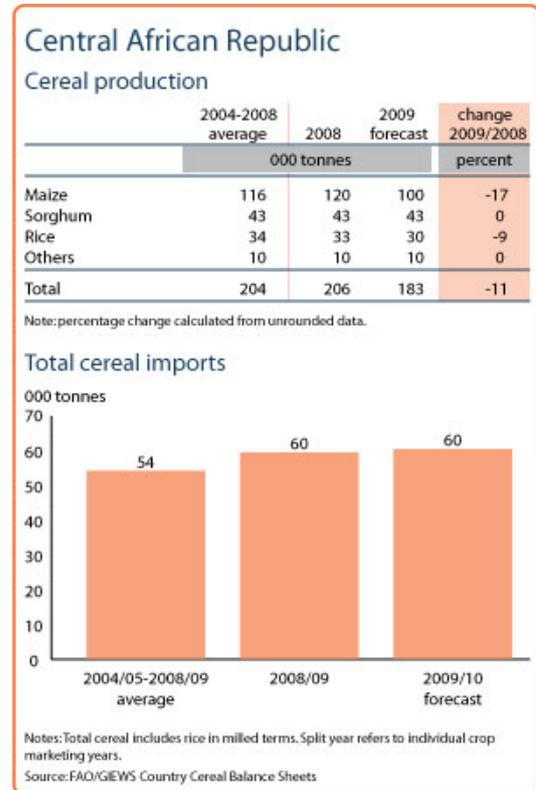
Civil conflict and violence are intensifying, and have been concentrated in the north-east of the country, Vakaga and the Haute-Kotto districts and in the Bamingui-Bangoran (North). Attacks were reported also in the south east, Rafai, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou districts. UNHCR provides protection and assistance to nearly 25,000 refugees and about 192,000 IDPs.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	2009
Total in the country	211523	205901	225319
Total outside the country	301458	323357	357477

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Food Balance Sheet

Harvesting of the millet and sorghum crops was concluded in Nov, while the second season's maize crop was harvested in Dec. Although no official estimates are available, gross cereal production for the 2009/10 season was estimated to be below the previous year output and the five year average. Imports requirements are estimated at 60,000 tonnes.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country continues to constrain agricultural activities hence production. The government is engaged in fighting rebel groups.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food aid.

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[WFP News - Special Nutrition Edition January 2011](#)
[Les conflits, crises et points de tension en Afrique](#)
[Vote counting begins in Central African Republic](#)
[Central African Republic: thousands of families still ...](#)
[L'ONU appelle à financer l'action humanitaire en 2011](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

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