



21 September 2015

## 2.7 million people

in need of humanitarian assistance

## 368 400 people

currently internally displaced  
(of a population of 4.6 million)

## 1.28 million people

in need of food assistance,  
classified in Phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (10<sup>th</sup> cycle, April 2015)

## 75 percent

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



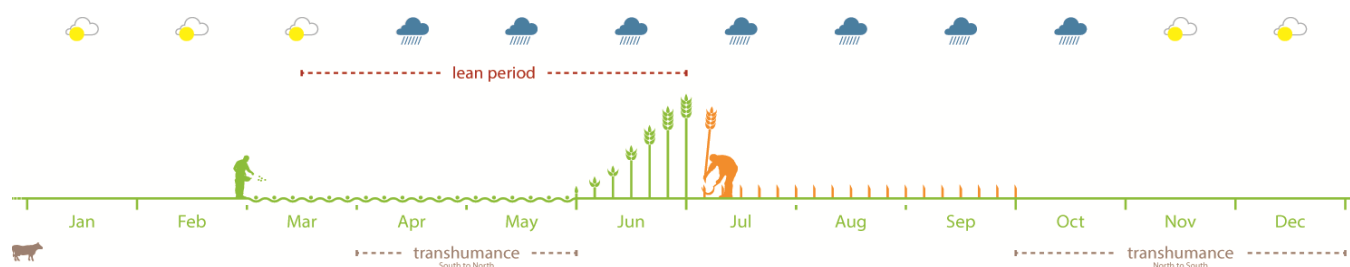
**\$** Of USD 42 million requested under the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) to support a total of 240 000 farming families, FAO has mobilized USD 11.5 million. The agriculture sector is fragile and ensuring production is crucial to avoid population movement, which will increase tensions across the country. Funds requested include USD 5 million for FAO's priority transhumance programme that aims to create the basis for improving dialogue between the *Peulh* community (livestock keepers) and farmers.

### CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- ❖ The ongoing crisis is still seriously affecting the agriculture sector - the backbone of the country's economy.
- ❖ The 2014 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) indicated that crop production is 58 percent lower than the pre-crisis average, but 11 percent higher than 2013.
- ❖ Despite efforts from FAO and partners, many farmers lacked adequate agricultural inputs to secure enough food and income.
- ❖ Insecurity and bad road access disrupted market linkages and presented serious constraints for humanitarian operations.
- ❖ Transhumance activities remain a serious threat to the fragile dynamics for peace reconciliation between the anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka, as it is as a source of income for both factions that are looting or illegally taxing the herds. The *Peulh* household situation in various areas remains of concern in terms of security, livelihood and food security.

### RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES

As the security situation gradually stabilizes, agriculture offers the most opportunities for economic growth, particularly among the youth and returnees who are seeking work and can engage in agricultural activities to rapidly generate an income, while contributing to rebuilding the country's economy.



Maize crop calendar

## FAO'S RESPONSE

For the 2015 main agricultural campaign, FAO partnered with over 25 international and national Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). During the first cycle of the agricultural campaign, FAO distributed about 2 900 tonnes of crop seeds to 96 200 crisis-affected households – of the 150 000 identified – to cultivate 0.5 ha of land. This contributes to meet their food needs for up to nine months, reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and stabilize their incomes. Each family received 31 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize, rice and sesame) and three hoes to plant in time and produce their own food. FAO is assisting 32 700 additional households with inputs for the second cycle of the agricultural campaign; 1 045 tonnes of seeds were distributed. FAO will also assist about 40 000 households with vegetable seeds and tools during the off season. The delivery of vaccines for the vaccination campaign starting in October 2015 is ongoing.

In order to strengthen household resilience, FAO developed a comprehensive approach called *caisses de résilience* that enables families to build their agriculture techniques, financial capacities and governance structures at community level. Participating families are contracted to produce quality seeds; to boost their communities' capacities support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives will be provided. These activities are coupled with the distribution of small processing machines, allowing for food and seed reserves to be established. As they are not dependent on the rainy season, resilience measures provide opportunities for households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets on a regular basis year round as well as increase knowledge. About 150 national and international NGO staff members, as well as FAO staff members and government technical officers, have been trained on the *caisses de résilience* approach, specifically on savings and loan schemes (S&L) and farmer field school techniques; of the 90 000 household identified, 35 450 will receive support throughout 2015. FAO has signed Letters of Agreement (LoAs) with 29 national and four national identified NGOs (four LoAs remain to be signed).

As youth unemployment is a major concern, usually resulting into criminal activities and social unrest, supporting youth is one of the Organization's main priorities. FAO has already assisted 2 100 youths through labour intensive work initiatives, garden schools, peri-urban agriculture, cash for work and development of agribusiness. Moreover, through the Youth Initiative, FAO is currently supporting the Government, NGOs and other partners in formulating a youth programme specifically aimed to reduce unemployment and boost agricultural production.

**Food Security Cluster:** the Cluster, co-led by FAO and WFP, provided coordination support to implementing partners and the Government from the early stage of the crisis (December 2013). The Cluster was instrumental during the planting season by promoting joint FAO/WFP/NGO interventions. FAO provided agricultural inputs, WFP provided food protection rations, while partner NGOs were in charge of distributing both food and seed commodities to the same households to limit the risk of planting material consumption. The objectives of the 2015 SRP focus on: providing life-saving food assistance; supporting agricultural and gardening activities by ensuring that households have access to productive assets (especially during the lean season); strengthening households' resilience through agricultural income-generating activities and capacity building; promoting natural resource management through approaches fostering social cohesion; and coordinating partners' food security interventions and information management and sharing.

## FOOD SECURITY MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS

In order to evaluate the outcome of the agricultural campaign and the food security situation in the country, FAO will carry out a CFSAM in collaboration with WFP and partners (October 2015), which will also cover issues related to transhumance.

The latest IPC analysis (April 2015) has been released and shows a slight improvement compared with the previous one (October 2014).

A platform on transhumance has been set up at the national level. FAO and partners carried out a comprehensive assessment and mapped the actual location of livestock keepers and herds and their movement. The joint mission report Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/Danish Refugee Council (DRC)/FAO has been released and proposes priority actions as well as elements for long-term strategy to support the restoration of the livestock sector and cohesion between the communities, as well as Government efforts to build national reconciliation.

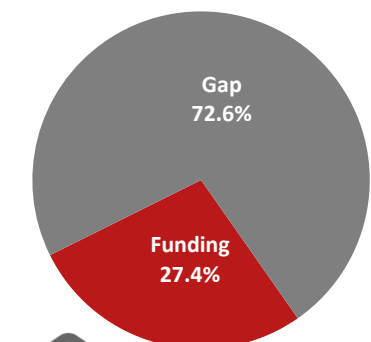
**NGO partners:** *Action contre la faim*, Africa Humanitarian Action, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid, CRS, the Community Humanitarian Emergency Board, *Cooperazione italiana*, *Croix rouge*, DRC, *Première urgence-aide médicale internationale* and *Triangle*.

**Resource partners:** the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy and the United Kingdom, the European Union and ECHO, the *Banque africaine de développement*, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the Common Humanitarian Fund for the Central African Republic and the World Bank.

## TOTAL FUNDING (2015)

FAO total funding needs (SRP):  
USD 42 million

Funding gap: USD 30.5 million (SRP)  
Needed for transhumance: USD 3.3 million



PLANNED BENEFICIARIES:  
240 000 FAMILIES

## CONTACT

Jean-Alexandre Scaglia | FAO Representative | Bangui, Central African Republic | Tel. +236 7203 2511 | JeanAlexandre.Scaglia@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience | Rome, Italy | Tel. +39 06 570 53803 | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org