



IN NUMBERS



1.81 million

people severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, June 2019)



75%

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



USD 16.7 million

still required by FAO for 2019 under the 2017–2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

USD 65 million

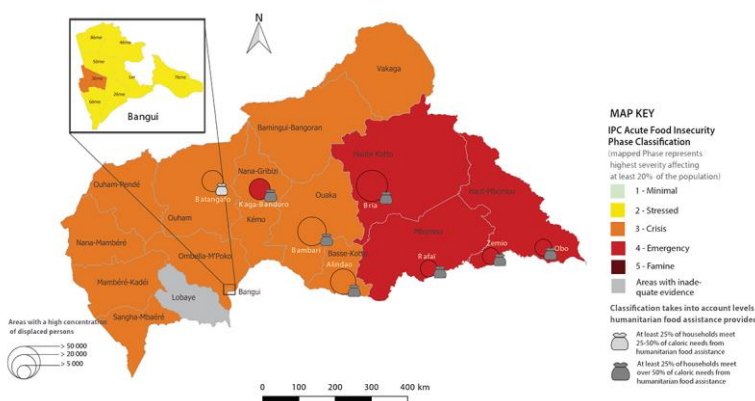
required by FAO under its five-year resilience strategy to strengthen agropastoralists' livelihoods

KEY POINTS

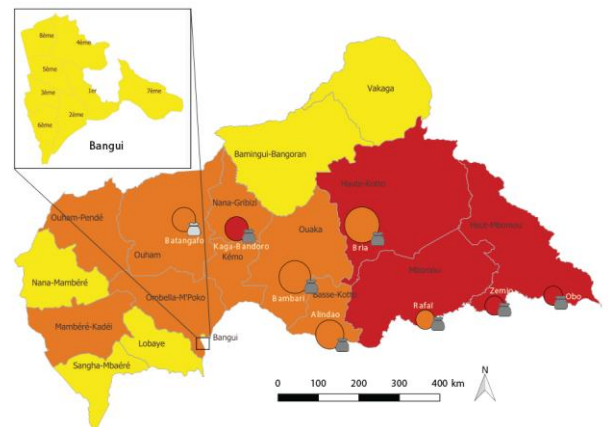
- The latest IPC analysis (June 2019) indicates that the number of people projected to be severely food insecure in June–August 2019 has decreased compared with the previous analysis (October 2018) – from 1.9 to 1.81 million – as well as with the projection for August 2018 (2 million). Of the 1.81 million people, nearly 466 000 are projected to be in emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4) during the lean season, while 1.35 million will be severely food insecure during the harvest period (September–October 2019).
- Despite the signing of the peace agreement between the Government and 14 armed groups (Khartoum, February 2019), the Central African Republic continues to experience a highly complex and precarious humanitarian situation where persistent insecurity is still the main cause affecting households' access to food and livelihoods, significantly disrupting livestock, fishing and agricultural activities.
- The current caseload of internally displaced people (IDP) is of 612 000 (Commission on Population Movement, June 2019) the majority of whom (66 percent) live with host families while the rest in IDP sites. Implementing agricultural activities and rehabilitating value chains are key to contribute to reducing food insecurity, generating socio-economic development, building resilience and stabilizing peace.
- For 2019, FAO requires a total of USD 30.5 million to assist 900 000 people, of which USD 13.8 million has been received. USD 7.5 million is urgently needed by mid-August to provide 62 500 households with essential agricultural inputs for the campaign starting in September.

MAPS

IPC map for June–August 2019 (October 2018)



IPC projection for September–October 2019



BACKGROUND

Although a peace agreement has been signed between the Government and 14 armed groups (Khartoum, February 2019), violence has continued in the Central African Republic, with recent attacks in various villages and new sources of tensions. Armed conflict remains a major driver for food insecurity in the country, and the chronic instability has continued to trigger forced population movements both internally and to neighbouring countries, with a current caseload of 612 000 IDPs. Basic services are dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas of the country, and the disruption of already limited services further hinders people's access to livelihood opportunities. Peacebuilding efforts and the return of displaced people have been considerably undermined, significantly reducing the resilience of the population.

Transhumance movements remain difficult in certain northwestern areas, generating tensions between pastoralists and farmers. This exacerbates existing intercommunal tensions, leading to armed conflict.

As families were unable to engage in agricultural and livestock activities, this led to the depletion of food stocks, rising prices, the adoption of negative coping mechanisms by nearly half of the population and increased dependency on food aid.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Persisting insecurity has negatively affected crop production due to a significant reduction in planted area as many farms were abandoned. Forced population displacements and the collapse of basic socio-economic structures have prevented families from engaging in agricultural activities. Most vulnerable people are faced with challenges in accessing their lands and engaging in agricultural activities, as well as lootings and human rights violations. This in turn reduces their incomes, access to livelihood opportunities and threatens their harvests. According to the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM, 2019), there has been a significant decline in access to fields in 2018 (71 percent) compared with 2015 (81 percent). Five consecutive years of reduced aggregate output has also led to the depletion of farming families' already inadequate productive assets, particularly seeds and tools. About 37 percent of households had to adopt asset-depleting coping mechanisms (emergency or crisis), while one-third of the households had to sell part of their productive assets to purchase food (CFSAM, 2019).

In December 2018, most food prices in the country were above their levels earlier in the year, mainly due to insufficient availability. Significant security constraints continue to hamper crop production and disrupt food-marketing channels. Widespread dietary deterioration intake, due to reduced consumption of nutritious cereal and vegetable staples and animal protein in-take, raises serious concerns in terms of nutrition and health.

In a context in which over half of the population depends on their own production to access food, it is essential to provide vulnerable households with the necessary seeds, tools and productive assets to restore agricultural production and livelihood activities, as well as to distribute small ruminants to support the diversification of livelihoods among conflict-affected populations.

The outbreak of the crisis has exacerbated tensions between farmers and pastoralists, resulting in increasingly violent intercommunal conflict. Livestock production, in particular transhumant livestock herding, was severely affected. As resuming regular transhumance movement is linked to the restoration of security in the country, actions promoting intercommunity dialogue and social cohesion are necessary to reduce the risks of transhumance-related conflict.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2019 PLANNED RESPONSE



180 000 households (900 000 people) targeted



73 000 households targeted for the main agricultural campaign and **7 000 households** for vegetable production. Agricultural support will be provided through direct seed and tool distributions, as well as input trade fairs



50 000 animals to be vaccinated and small livestock support to be provided benefiting 1 000 households



4 000 households to benefit from cash-based transfers in five locations to relaunch income-generating activities

RESPONSE TO DATE



55 300 households (276 500 people) targeted

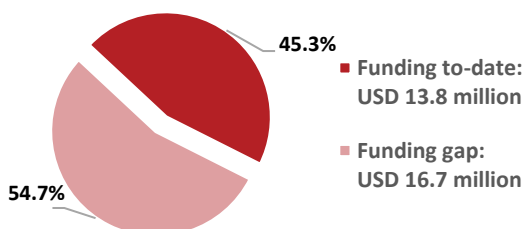


51 550 households received agricultural support through direct seed and tool distributions, as well as input trade fairs



3 750 households benefited from cash-based transfers

FUNDING



FAO requires: USD 30.5 million **To assist:** 900 000 people

Resource partners: The European Union, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the Common Humanitarian Fund in the Central African Republic, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Governments of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom

CONTACT

Alain Constant | FAO Representative a.i. | Bangui, Central African Republic | FAO-CF@fao.org

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

ASSESSMENTS

The latest IPC analysis has been issued, with results indicating a decrease in the number of people severely food insecure compared with the previous analysis (October 2018) – from 1.9 to 1.81 million – as well as with the projection of August 2018 (2 million).

The FAO/WFP CFSAM report has been published.