



### IN NUMBERS



**1.9 million**

people severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, October 2018)



**75%**

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



**USD 30.5 million**

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

**USD 65 million**

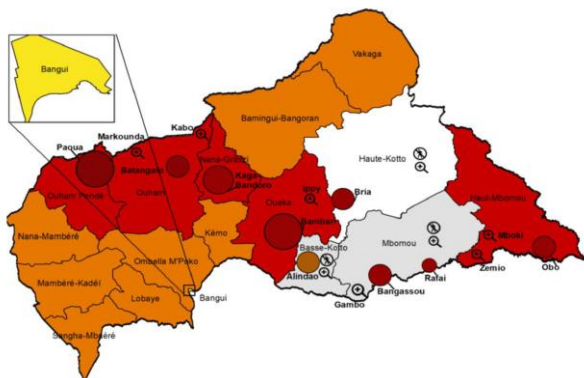
required by FAO under its five-year resilience strategy to strengthen agropastoralists' livelihoods

### KEY POINTS

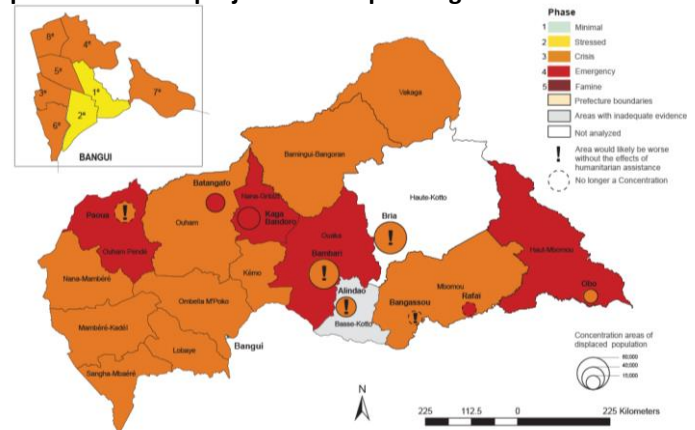
- The latest IPC analysis (October 2018) indicates that the number of people severely food insecure has increased compared with the previous analysis (March 2018) – from 1.6 to 1.9 million – but is slightly lower than the projection for August 2018 (2 million), showing that despite the assistance provided and a slight decrease in population movements, food insecurity continues to be of serious concern.
- Persistent insecurity in the country continues to be the main cause affecting households' access to food and livelihoods, significantly disrupting livestock, fishing and agricultural activities.
- Since November 2017, cereal prices have progressively increased mainly as a result of multiple years of reduced harvests and insecurity that have, in turn, caused stagnation in agricultural production, preventing adequate and regular market supply. This is deeply concerning when about half of Central African families spend the majority of their income on food, and up to 75 percent in some areas.
- Although the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has slightly decreased in the last few months, the current caseload is still high at 621 035, of which over 60 percent live with host communities putting pressure on already limited resources.
- The implementation of agricultural activities and rehabilitation of value chains are key activities 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 this, USD 13 million is urgently needed by mid-March to provide 73 000 households with essential agricultural inputs for the main campaign starting in April, as well as vaccinations benefiting 21 000 households during the ongoing transhumance season and support for small livestock.

### MAPS

IPC projection for April–August 2018



Update of the IPC projection for April–August 2018



### BACKGROUND

The situation in the Central African Republic has continued to deteriorate in 2018, marked by the resurgence of violence 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, with 621 035 IDPs. 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 as a result of 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. Five consecutive years of reduced aggregate output has also led to the depletion of farming families' already inadequate productive assets, particularly seeds and tools.

Despite a gradual increase in agricultural production since 2014, production levels are still globally between 10 and 20 percent below pre-crisis levels. Since November 2017, cereal prices have progressively increased – 37 percent for rice, 25 percent for sorghum and 18 percent for maize – mainly as a result of multiple years of reduced harvests and insecurity that have prevented adequate supply to markets. In certain areas, nearly a quarter of the population spends more than 75 percent of their income on food needs. 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 activities and livelihoods.

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

### 2018 ACHIEVEMENTS



**70 550 households** (352 750 people) assisted



**1 600 tonnes of crop seeds** distributed to 50 500 households and produced **20 200 tonnes of food**; **1 005 kg of vegetable seeds** distributed to 20 250 people and produced **6 000 tonnes of vegetables**; **151 500 hoes** distributed to 70 550 households; and **225 people** (staff from implementing partners and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) trained on good agricultural practices



**100 boars** and **500 sows** provided to 1 000 households; **35 staff** from the Ministry of Livestock trained on livestock management



**1 000 households** supported through cash-based transfers in two pilot locations to relaunch income-generating activities

### 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

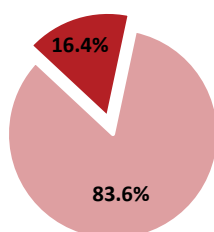


**50 000 animals** to be vaccinated and small livestock support to be provided benefiting 1 000 households



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

### FUNDING



■ Funding to-date:  
USD 5 million

■ Funding gap:  
USD 25.5 million

### ASSESSMENTS

An update of the IPC projection for August 2018 was issued in October 2018, with results indicating an increase in the number of people severely food insecure compared with the previous analysis (March 2018) – from 1.6 to 1.9 million – but the figure is slightly lower than the projection (2 million) which still confirms the deterioration of the food security situation throughout the year.

An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission was undertaken and preliminary results are expected to be available in the coming weeks.

**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 and the Peacebuilding Fund

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