



IN NUMBERS



1.9 million

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



75%

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



USD 49.1 million

required by FAO for 2018 under the 2017–2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

USD 50 million

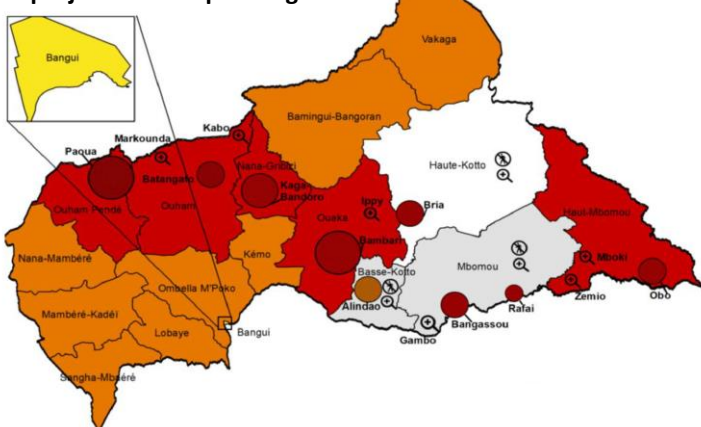
required by FAO under its five-year resilience strategy to strengthen agropastoralist livelihoods

KEY POINTS

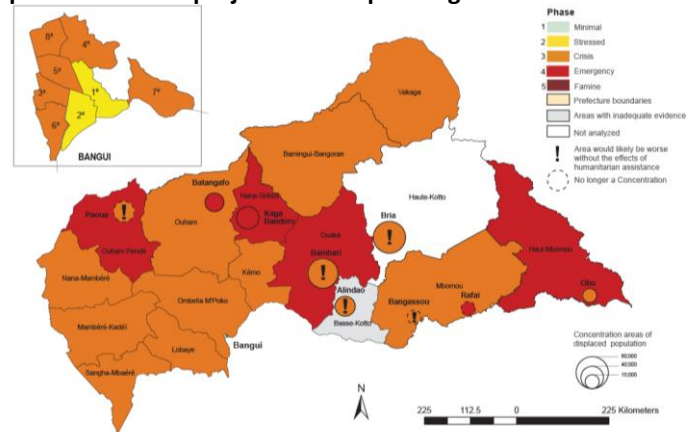
- The latest IPC analysis (September 2018) indicates that the number of people severely food insecure has increased compared with the previous analysis (March 2018) – from 1.6 to 1.9 million – but is slightly lower than the projection for August 2018 (2 million), showing that despite the assistance provided and a slight decrease in population movements, food insecurity continues to be of serious concern.
- Persisting 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 over half of their income on food, and up to 75 percent in some areas.
- Although the number of internally displaced people 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.

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 the major driver for food insecurity in the country and the chronic instability has continued to trigger forced population movements, with 621 035 people internally displaced. Peacebuilding efforts and the return of displaced people have been considerably undermined, significantly reducing the resilience of the population.

Intercommunal conflict between farmers and nomadic pastoralists during the transhumance season (October–May) in the border areas with Cameroon, Chad, South Sudan and the Sudan had disastrous consequences for the stabilization of these areas.

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 has prevented adequate supply to markets. In certain areas, nearly a quarter of the populations 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

PLANNED RESPONSE



1.1 million people targeted



25 000 households to receive vaccinations for their animals



110 000 households targeted for the main agricultural campaign and **25 000** for the vegetable seed distribution; and **10 000 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

RESPONSE TO DATE

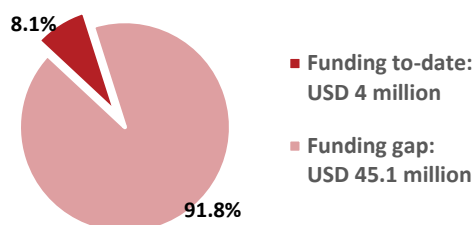


55 500 households are being assisted



55 500 households are being assisted for the main agricultural campaign, of which 35 600 were provided with a total of 1 103.65 tonnes of crop seeds and 106 800 hoes through direct distribution, and 13 900 households received 486.5 tonnes of crop seeds and 41 700 hoes through input trade fairs; **1 000 households** were provided with cash transfers; and **20 050 households** were selected for the vegetable production season as well as **5 000 households** for the second cycle of the cropping season

FUNDING



FAO requires: USD 49.1 million **To assist:** 1.1 million people

Resource partners: The Government of France, the European Union, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the common humanitarian fund and the Peacebuilding Fund

ASSESSMENTS

An update of the IPC projection for August 2018 was conducted in September 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 should be carried out by the end of 2018.

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