



# URGENT APPEAL

## FAO's role in the 2014 Central African Republic revised Strategic Response Plan

Updated June 2014

### FAO FUNDING REQUIREMENTS: USD 45 MILLION



#### 2.5 million people

( *Nearly half* of the population) need humanitarian assistance



#### 1.7 million people

( *36 percent* of the population) are food insecure



#### USD 45 million

required under FAO's component of the Strategic Response Plan for the Central African Republic



As a result of the events in the Central African Republic (CAR), over 2.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and one out of five Central Africans have been displaced. The agriculture sector, backbone of the country's economy, is the most affected by the crisis. Ensuring that vital planting seasons aren't missed and resuming production activities is essential for rural communities, without which they cannot eat, generate income or even relocate.

### CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AGRICULTURE

The results of the FAO/WFP Markets and Food Security Assessment mission released in April indicate that the agriculture sector was the most affected by the crisis, which contracted by 37 percent and agriculture production declined by 38 percent. Since it represents 57 percent of the GDP, it is crucial to restore the agriculture sector. The joint FAO/WFP assessment mission warns that the humanitarian operation in CAR over the next 18 months will be long and expensive, especially if the planting seasons are missed.

- ❖ Despite efforts from FAO and its partners, large numbers of farmers do not have adequate inputs to ensure diversified sources of food and income for their households.
- ❖ Disruption of market linkages due to insecurity and bad road access particularly since the start of the rainy season.
- ❖ Insecurity and limited size of the market have increased procurement and logistics costs by 40 percent compared with previous interventions.
- ❖ Standing crops, stored seed/grain and productive assets have been widely lost since the start of the conflict in 2012, leaving the population food insecure and unable to resume crop production.
- ❖ Rural populations have been affected by the numerous Séléka and anti-Balaka clashes, yet their protection is key in order for FAO and its partners to access the areas where they are located to implement humanitarian and resilience programmes.
- ❖ Lack of immediate assistance will affect the resumption of activity and risks to trigger further losses and longer-term suffering.

### FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1. Provide life-saving assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other severely food insecure people by ensuring access to food.
2. Enhance social safety nets and ensure access to productive assets for returnees and other food insecure people affected by the conflict.
3. Assist affected communities in rebuilding their livelihoods and reinforce their resilience to further shocks, by strengthening their social and economic infrastructure and their agro-ecological capital. Support activities fostering social cohesion and local governance with the ultimate aim of contributing to building peace.

## FAO'S ROLE IN THE 2014 STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN

Under the 2014 Strategic Response Plan for CAR, FAO is appealing for USD 45 million to provide agricultural assistance to 150 000 farming families. With funding received thus far, FAO was able to procure seeds and small tools to assist 80 000 households for the current planting season in 14 of the 16 prefectures. However, additional funding is urgently required to provide livelihood support to the population immediately after the planting season. The objective is to build resilience through a comprehensive approach addressing social, technical and financial aspects. These activities will generate regular income before the first harvest, and enable families to purchase food from the market; as they do not depend on the rainy season, they provide opportunities to diversify and accumulate assets on a regular basis year round.

## PRIORITIES

### 1. Immediate support to production of staple food and vegetable

The short and long cycles production systems are complementary, which allow the farmers to access food throughout the year. Vegetable production is mainly carried out in urban and peri-urban areas such as Bangui and Bossangoa to generate food and income.

### 2. Build resilience through producer and women association

FAO is developing an approach that will help families to accumulate and diversify assets by building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial capacities and social protection at community level. This approach called *"Caisses de Résilience"* has been successfully implemented in crisis and post-crisis contexts in several countries in the region. Participating families will be engaged in contractual production of quality seeds and food, support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance, and cash transfer initiatives to boost their community managed savings and loans schemes. After the harvests, these activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines and the establishment of food and seed reserves.

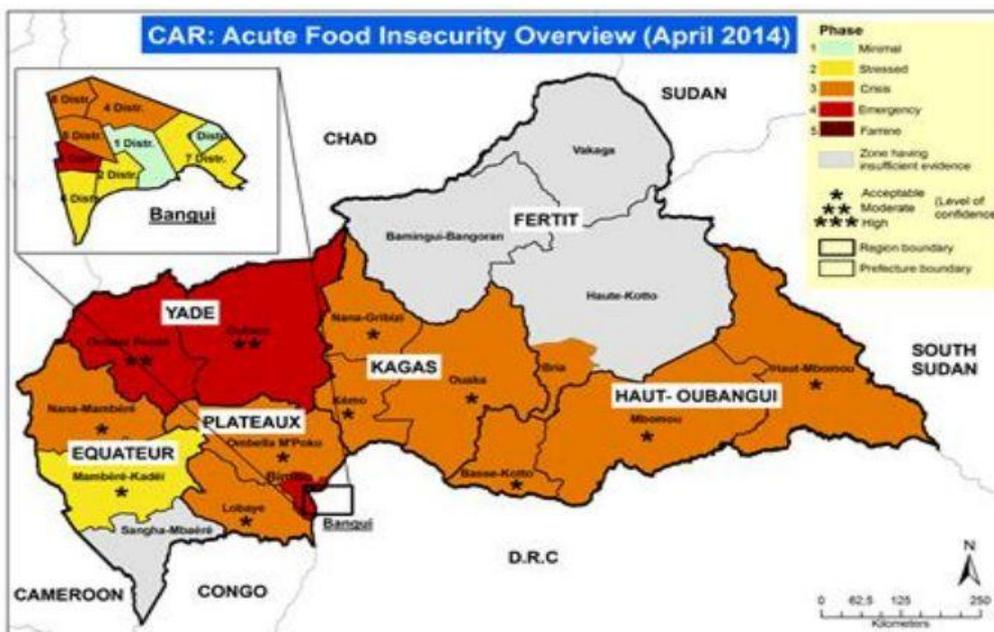
### 3. Social cohesion building

FAO is partnering with specialized institutions national and international to integrate concepts of Peace dialogue around social and productive activities such as agriculture and rural livelihoods.

### 4. Coordination

As co-lead of the Food Security Cluster, FAO works closely with partners to improve the food security and livelihood response. Strategic partnership between FAO and WFP is particularly important to ensure a complementary response by providing crop seeds and food rations to limit the risk of the consumption of planting material.

## INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC)



### Results of the latest IPC analysis in CAR

The IPC analysis carried out in late April 2014 indicates that 45 percent of the rural population (1.7 million people) is food insecure and has been classified in Crisis (26 percent) and Emergency (19 percent) Phases.

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