



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**FAO in the 2016 humanitarian appeal for
the Central African Republic
Saving livelihoods saves lives**

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Extract from **FAO in the 2016 humanitarian appeals**

Cover photo: Farmer in Bossangoa - Central African Republic ©FAO

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The crop calendars are indicative, as there are some subnational differences.

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Foreword

As 2015 draws to a close, we look back on a year where world agriculture and food security still face serious challenges. We saw a rising number of people affected by crises and disasters, often depending on humanitarian assistance to protect and rebuild their livelihoods. From Syria to Yemen and Nigeria to the Central African Republic, an unprecedented amount of people have been forced to flee, often losing a lifetime of assets and sometimes the hope to rebuild their lives at home.

In 2016 the number of humanitarian crises is unlikely to go down. Climate-related disasters, droughts, floods and storms are on the rise and now account for over 80 percent of all disasters. Agriculture is strongly impacted, with at least 25 percent of economic damage and losses caused by climatic shocks. In the case of droughts, agriculture absorbs up to 84 percent of total damage. Already we are starting to see the aggravating effects of climate change on the El Niño events in East Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In Papua New Guinea, 2.4 million people, one-third of the country's total population, are affected by drought and frost and in the Dry Corridor of Central America, a drought-prone region shared by El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, up to 80 percent of crops have been lost.

In a world where humanitarian crises seem to be ever increasing, we need to invest in resilience. Humanitarian appeals have gone up by 550 percent over the past ten years, reaching a record USD 20 billion in 2015. A significant share of these humanitarian resources is being invested in addressing the symptoms of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, but not enough is done to address underlying root causes. Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods while responding to emergencies when they occur means implementing simultaneous short- and long-term interventions. We need to strengthen countries' capacities to prevent and absorb shocks, adapt to new conditions and undertake longer-term transformational changes while we continue to support countries to respond to overwhelming crises affecting the agriculture sector. Resilience is one of the key topics emerging from the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit preparatory process.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) experience confirms that resilience brings together humanitarian and development activities for sustainable development. From day one, addressing the immediate needs of agricultural livelihoods while enhancing prevention, preparedness and impact mitigation, is at the core of the Organization's emergency and resilience support. We are working closely with our partners by acting before, during and after crises occur.

For example, in South Sudan, FAO is distributing life-saving livelihood kits in areas most affected by the ongoing crisis while expanding its development portfolio in less affected areas. In the Central African Republic, FAO plays a key role in providing the necessary agricultural inputs to help farmers produce their own food and earn income while in the meantime building the resilience of women's groups.

In the past year alone, FAO responded to several simultaneous large-scale system-wide Level 3 emergencies in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen and continued to support the response to Ebola in West Africa. FAO was also part of the humanitarian response to rapidly restore agricultural livelihoods and food production in Nepal after the April/May 2015 earthquakes, the devastating floods in Myanmar and the Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu.

Despite these efforts, millions of people remain severely food insecure.

In 2016, FAO seeks USD 787 million to assist more than 21 million crisis-affected people in 29 countries. With your support, we can continue to enable vulnerable and affected families to protect and rebuild their agricultural livelihoods with dignity, ensuring that food and nutrition security remains an essential foundation for peace, political stability and well-being for sustainable development.

Laurent Thomas
Assistant Director-General
Technical Cooperation and Programme Management

FAO in the 2016 humanitarian appeal for the Central African Republic

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Response Plan

1.3 million severely food insecure

The scale of the crisis in the Central African Republic is unprecedented, with nearly half of the population – 2.3 million people – in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity and outbreaks of violence are still seriously affecting the agriculture sector – the backbone of the country’s economy. As 75 percent of the population relies on agricultural activities as their main source of food and income, farmers’ vulnerability continues to rise and their livelihoods are still at risk. Despite the support provided for the 2014 and 2015 main agricultural campaigns – which helped to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and stabilize incomes – 1.3 million people continue to be severely food insecure.

A quarter of the population remains displaced, both internally and in neighbouring countries, increasing pressure on host communities and their already limited resources. After a period of relative calm, the recent wave of violence has generated additional humanitarian needs. Given the upcoming elections, the situation is expected to further deteriorate. In 2016, protecting and restoring livelihoods through the provision of productive assets and the development of food security and market data collection is crucial to ensure the availability of and access to food.



FAO requires
USD 86 million

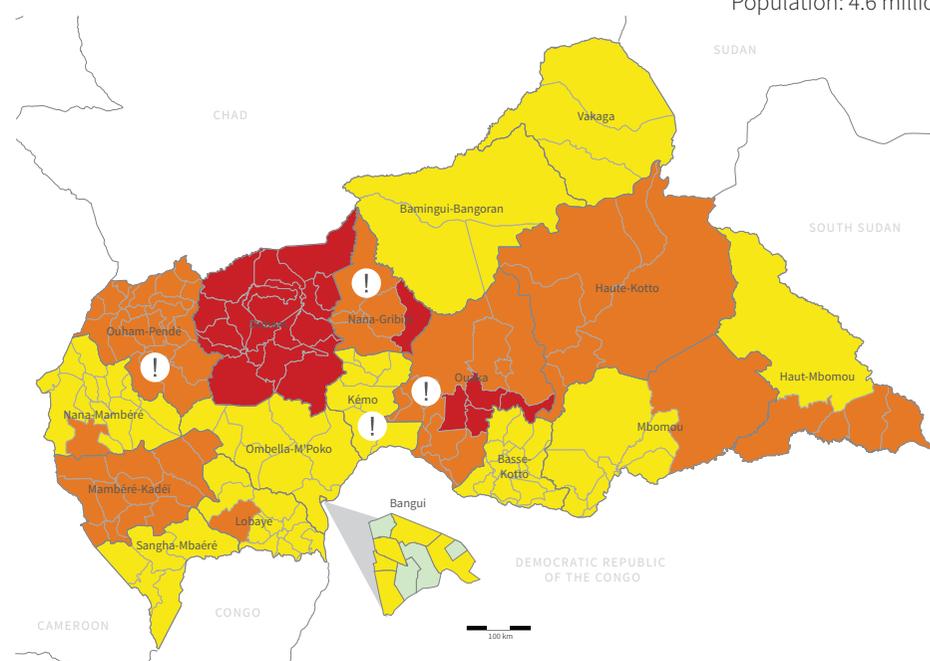


to assist
1.55 million people

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION

(April 2015)

Population: 4.6 million



DID YOU KNOW?

- 31 kg of crop seeds and three hoes can allow one family to access food for nine months.
- 41 percent of children under five are chronically malnourished.
- A quarter of the population is displaced.
- The Central African Republic ranks 178 on the Global Adaptation Index, which rates 180 countries according to vulnerability and ability to cope with climate change.

IPC phase classification

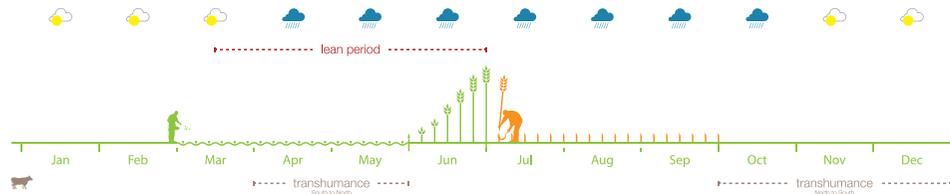
Famine	Minimal
Emergency	Not analysed
Crisis	Insufficient data
Stressed	

- ! Area would likely be at least 1 phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance
- Displaced population in camps (Colour depicts phase classification)
- △ Urban poor (Colour depicts phase classification)

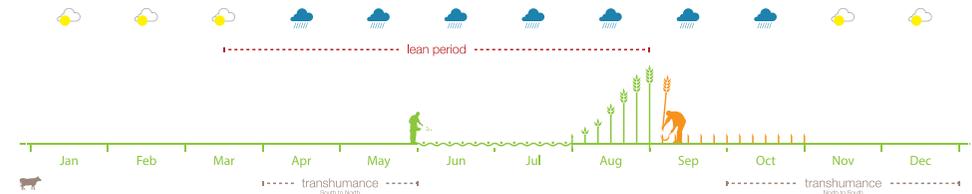
Source: Central African Republic IPC Technical Working Group, April 2015

AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR (cassava is grown year round)

Maize (south)



Sorghum (north)



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Through its Youth Programme, FAO contracted local youth associations through the cash-for-work approach to clean water channels in Bangui prior to the rainy season. A total of 2 400 youths from selected communities helped to increase water flow by digging 2 652 m of ditches, installing 55 087 m of gutters and removing 1 260 m³ of waste. The work also contributed to backyard gardening activities. Mud removed from the channels was cleaned of waste, hard dirt and plastic, and used as compost – a valuable fertilizing material for vegetable production. Furthermore, 41 500 m of water infrastructure was built in three districts of Bangui, and training sessions were conducted on solid biodegradable composting techniques, benefiting 104 young gardeners who also received biodegradable waste processing machines. FAO's cash-for-work activities have helped reduce vulnerability to flooding and food insecurity, and enhanced the availability of gainful employment – a critical factor in reducing temptation among youths to join militia groups.

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- provide life-saving assistance and immediate livelihoods options
- restore access and availability of quality food by protecting livelihoods
- strengthen local capacities to increase community resilience

FAO seeks funding to:



Restore livelihoods and build local resilience

caisses de résilience activities • good agricultural practices • community savings and loan mechanisms • cash-for-work • income-generating activities



Ensure access to agricultural inputs and productive inputs

seeds and tools • vouchers • seed stocks • training • seed multiplier groups • short-cycle production (market gardening)



Support livestock production

vaccination of transhumant herds • income-generating activities • fish farming • livestock and small fish farming processing machines



Boost local and national food security capacities

food security monitoring and analysis • strengthen information on markets and production factors • cluster coordination • joint programming with the Nutrition, Protection and Water Sanitation and Hygiene clusters

Guide to giving

1. Contribute to Strategic and Thematic Response Plans

Resource partners can contribute directly to country Strategic or Thematic Response Plans. Persons to contact are provided in the Contacts section.

2. Donate to SFERA

The Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) provides FAO with the financial means and flexibility to react promptly to humanitarian crises, reducing the time between a funding decision and action on the ground.

Resource partners can choose to:

- Contribute unearmarked support to **SFERA's revolving fund**, which FAO can rapidly and flexibly allocate for needs assessments, programme formulation, preparedness and Level 3 emergency response.
- Provide funding to **SFERA's Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity** for the urgent distribution of farming, livestock, fisheries and forestry supplies required to protect or restart agricultural production.
- Allocate grants to **SFERA's programme fund** in support of large-scale FAO programmes in response to shocks such as conflicts, typhoons, drought, locust outbreaks and avian influenza pandemics.

To enable early response to the catastrophes induced by El Niño (e.g. animal disease outbreaks, severe winter, drought, floods, locust swarms, etc.), a dedicated window has been established under SFERA's programme component. This new **El Niño window** will enable FAO to develop a programmatic approach that supports the implementation of a set of time-critical actions based on the evolution of the needs on the ground. This window provides the flexibility to adjust activities according to the geographical and thematic areas with the greatest needs. This mechanism enables operations to adapt as the situation evolves, streamlining activities in order to ensure that the most appropriate assistance reaches affected populations in a timely manner.

3. Contribute through Programmatic Agreements

Under this funding modality, resource partners or financing institutions entrust funds to FAO through an umbrella agreement, to assist crisis-affected countries or a group of countries. This mechanism reduces administrative work load for all parties and ensures fast track implementation of essential activities. Examples include: United States Agency for International Development Global Grant for the Control and Prevention of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and other Pandemic Threats, Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance Macrogrant and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency Macrogrant.

4. Contribute through Partnership Agreements

FAO has several agreements with stand-by partners which manage and operate large rosters of humanitarian personnel to be deployed to United Nations agencies on an in-kind basis. Through stand-by partnerships, FAO is able to quickly reinforce its country teams in response to complex emergencies. Stand-by partners also cover other functions not readily available in FAO, such as logistics or monitoring and evaluation.

FAO's stand-by partners include: Canada's Civilian Reserve, the Danish Refugee Council, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, the Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines, the Norwegian Refugee Council and RedR Australia.

Contacts

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