



IN NUMBERS



2 million

people projected to be severely food insecure during the lean season (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, March 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

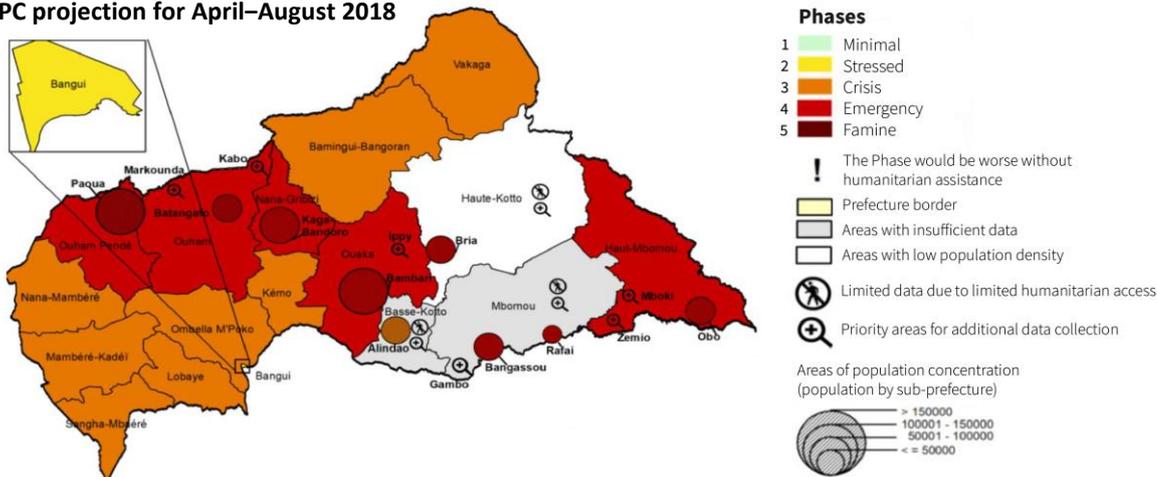
required by FAO under its five-year resilience strategy to strengthen agropastoralist livelihoods

KEY POINTS

- The latest IPC analysis (March 2018) indicated that 1.6 million people are severely food insecure, and if no assistance is provided 2 million – 43 percent of the population – will be severely food insecure during the lean season (April–August 2018), of which nearly 690 000 in IPC Phase 4 (emergency).
- Insecurity in the country is still the main cause affecting households' access to food and livelihoods, significantly disrupting agricultural and livestock activities.
- Five consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by market disruptions and declining purchasing power, led to the depletion of food stocks, reduced production, the adoption of negative coping mechanisms and increased dependency on food aid.
- The number of displaced people has doubled in just over a year bringing the current caseload to nearly 700 000 IDPs, which is putting pressure on host communities' already limited resources.
- The implementation of agricultural activities and rehabilitation of value chains are key activities that contribute to reducing food insecurity, generating socio-economic development, building resilience and stabilizing peace.
- FAO urgently requires USD 11 million by June 2018 to support 66 000 households through direct distributions and seed fairs for the second cycle of the agricultural campaign. It is critical to support the Government in its effort to restore the agriculture sector to allow farming families to improve their capacity to produce, secure access to food and generate sufficient income to strengthen their livelihoods.

MAPS

IPC projection for April–August 2018



BACKGROUND

The Central African Republic is currently one of the world's most serious humanitarian crises, whereby the magnitude and severity of needs reached in 2017 recall those of the 2013-2014 crisis. The resurgence of armed conflict across the country has considerably undermined peacebuilding efforts and the return of displaced people, significantly reducing the resilience of the population. More than one in two people need humanitarian aid to survive, and one in four people are either internally displaced or refugees.

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 have disastrous consequences for the stabilization of these areas.

Increased population displacements as a result of the conflict brought the IDP caseload to double in just one year since 2014. 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

Forced population displacements and the collapse of basic socio-economic structures have prevented families from engaging in agricultural activities, with five consecutive years of reduced harvests and a 58 percent decrease in agricultural production compared with pre-crisis levels. As a result, the food security situation across the country is alarming, with 2 million people – 43 percent of the population – estimated to be severely food insecure during the lean season (April–August 2018) if food assistance is not provided (IPC analysis, March 2018). Compared with the previous IPC analysis (February 2017), the food security situation has deteriorated with the prefectures of Mambere Kadei, Nana Mambere and Kemo now in Phase 3, and an increased number of people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 – from 1.1 to 1.6 million. This is mainly due to the increased number of displaced people – from 450 000 IDPs in January 2017 to nearly 700 000 in March 2018 – and the fact that the prefectures of Bangui and Nana Gribizi had not been included in the previous analysis.

In a context where nearly half of the population relies 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.

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

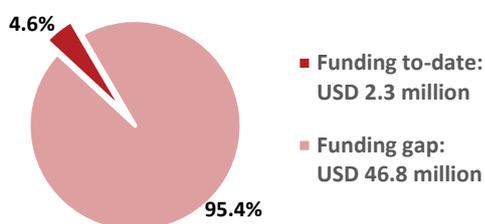


44 000 households are being assisted



44 000 households are being assisted for the main agricultural campaign, of which 28 500 were provided with a total of 883.5 tonnes of crop seeds and 85 500 hoes through direct distribution, and 14 500 households received 449.5 tonnes of crop seeds and 43 500 hoes through input trade fairs; **1 000 households** were provided with cash transfers

FUNDING



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

Resource partners: the Government of France, the European Union and the Peacebuilding Fund (*Ezingo*)

ASSESSMENTS

The latest IPC analysis was conducted in March 2018 and the next one should be carried out in September 2018. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission should be carried out by the end of 2018.

CONTACT

Jean Alexandre Scaglia | FAO Representative | Bangui, Central African Republic | JeanAlexandre.Scaglia@fao.org

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