

Central African Republic

Background

Despite hopes for greater peace and stability in the Central African Republic, this year saw the breakdown of the inclusive dialogue for peace and an upsurge in violence, some of it linked to the likely delay of next year's Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

In 2009, the Central African Republic remained on the brink, with further splits within rebel groups and the slow pace of the disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion process exacerbated by ethnic conflict, continued banditry and incursions by the Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). An estimated 147 500 people have been displaced in the northeast and northwest of the country and a further 40 000 (including 1 500 refugees that have fled violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) in the southeast.

The country remains one of the poorest in the world, increasingly caught up in the conflicts affecting its neighbours in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan's Darfur Region and Uganda. The current international economic crisis increased unemployment and directly contributed to higher rates of malnutrition among children. Essential activities under the 2009 CAP for the Central African Republic were severely underfunded. Should this continue through 2010, there is a real risk of creating a regional humanitarian crisis.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

In 2009, the food security sector provided basic agricultural inputs and training in improved production to tens of thousands of vulnerable rural households in the country. Despite this, about one-third of the population (over 1.22 million people) remains food insecure according to the 2009 Comprehensive Food Security, Vulnerability and Nutrition Analysis conducted by the Government and the WFP. Over 10 percent of children suffer from global acute malnutrition and 38 percent from chronic malnutrition.

Continued violence has forced rural producers to flee their homes, abandoning their seeds, tools, livestock and food stores and rendering them unable to resume agricultural production. In Vakaga prefecture, three consecutive agricultural seasons have been lost to insecurity, while three-quarters of farmers in Markounda and Boguila regions are unable to access their fields due to attacks by armed groups.



FAO will work with WFP and UNICEF to improve children's nutrition and school attendance by establishing school gardens.

The impact of high food prices is still being felt by households in the north and centre of the country, who spend up to 75 percent of their incomes on food. This has been exacerbated by rising unemployment, which has diminished purchasing capacity, affecting farmers' incomes and reducing their access to essential agricultural inputs.

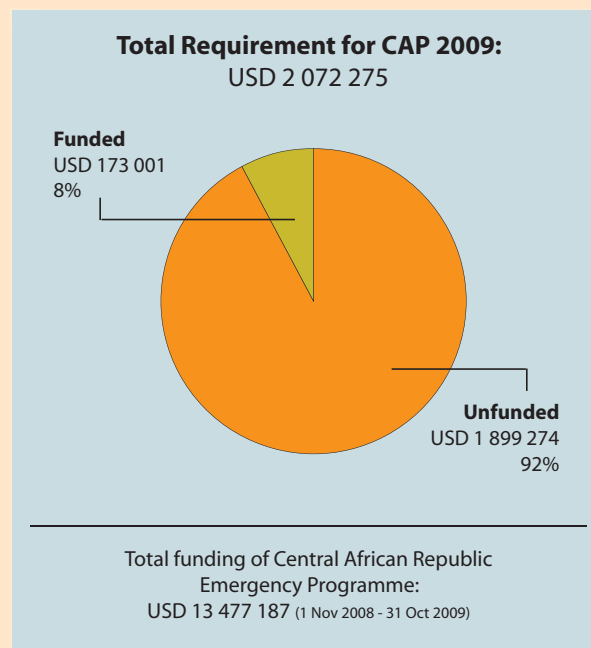
As part of the 2010 CAP, the members of the Food Security Cluster aim to facilitate access to food and markets, increase agricultural production and build the capacity of farmers' organizations and Government institutions.

FAO response

Small ruminants and poultry play an important role in the income, food security and nutrition of vulnerable households in the Central African Republic. In order to support families affected by the ongoing violence, FAO plans to distribute goats and poultry to over 9 000 households. The beneficiaries will also receive appropriate training on herd management and fodder production, as well as basic materials to build shelters for their livestock.

FAO will work closely with WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to improve children's nutrition and school attendance by supporting the establishment of school gardens. Parents' associations and teachers will receive vegetable seeds, tools and training in production techniques to enable them to manage the gardens and generate income. The Organization will also distribute vegetable seeds and tools to HIV/AIDS-affected households, that face diminished agricultural productivity, reduced nutritional status and worsened food security.

As the lead agency for the food security sector, FAO will continue its efforts to promote the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) tool in 2010 to enable the humanitarian community to better plan response. Support will be provided for the collection and analysis of data, publication and dissemination of a food security bulletin, creation of a subregional IPC working group and regular publication of IPC maps.



PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding requested: USD 2 092 558

Food security monitoring system	
Objectives:	To consolidate the national food security monitoring system and implement the IPC tool in the Central African Republic.
Activities:	Collect and analyse primary data from the entire country and publish information for partners; reinforce the national IPC working group and create IPC subregional working groups; and continue analysis based on food security data and information from other sectors.
Beneficiaries:	Government of the Central African Republic and the humanitarian community.
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development , Statistics Direction, IPC working group and local and international NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 213 814.

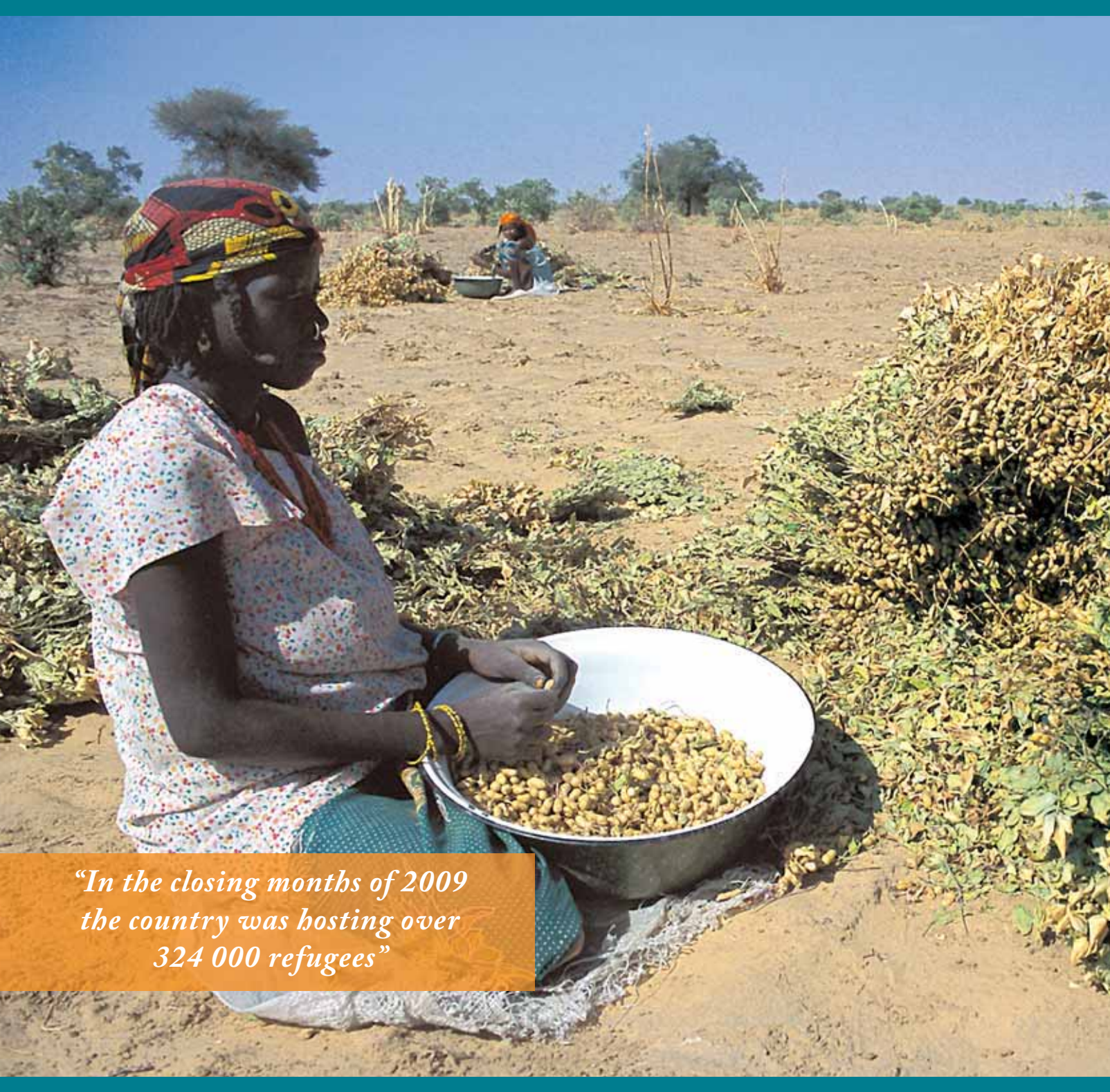
Promotion of school gardening

Objectives:	To improve the nutritional status of children at school in Ouham, Ouham Pendé, Nana Gribizi, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga.
Activities:	Identify schools and their needs in coordination with parents' associations; provide vegetable and other seeds and tools to the schools; train teachers and parents' associations in agricultural techniques; assist schools to establish school gardens; conduct monitoring and evaluation; and provide seeds and tools to parents' associations for food production and to generate incomes for the school.
Beneficiaries:	6 000 students and parents (3 000 children).
Implementing partners:	<i>Agence centrafricaine de développement agricole (ACDA).</i>
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 411 154.

Improving the food security of families affected by HIV/AIDS

Objectives:	To strengthen the food security of households affected by HIV/AIDS in Ouham, Ouham Pendé, Nana Gribizi, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga.
Activities:	Identify vulnerable households affected by HIV/AIDS; procure vegetable seeds and gardening tools and distribute them to families; provide training on agricultural techniques aimed at improving productivity and cultivation practices; provide technical assistance; and monitoring and evaluation.
Beneficiaries:	75 000 people.
Implementing partners:	<i>ACDA, Centre National de Lutte contre la Sida.</i>
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 663 494.

Improving food security and household income through small animal breeding	
Objectives:	To improve food security through small animal breeding.
Activities:	Provide 10 goats (8 female and 2 male) to groups of households; distribute animals bred during the initial phase to the remaining households in each group; provide households with poultry; ensure vaccination and veterinary follow up; training beneficiaries on herd management and local fodder production/conservation; distribute basic materials for shelter construction to beneficiaries; and reinforce the institutional and technical capacity of the Government counterpart.
Beneficiaries:	45 000 people (9 000 households).
Implementing partners:	<i>Agence nationale pour le développement de l'élevage</i> and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 804 096.



*“In the closing months of 2009
the country was hosting over
324 000 refugees”*