



IN NUMBERS



2.36 million

People facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, May 2020)



75%

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



USD 42.3 million

required by FAO under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 (12.6 million) and the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (29.7 million)

USD 71.8 million

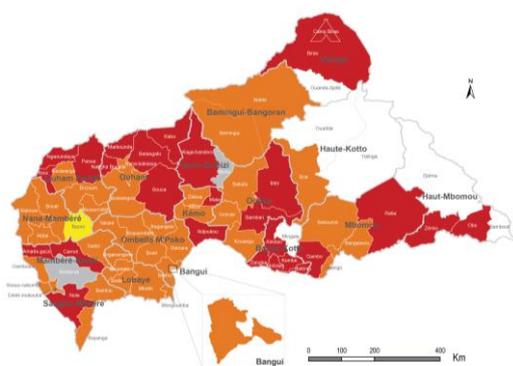
required by FAO under its five-year resilience strategy to strengthen agropastoralists' livelihoods

KEY POINTS

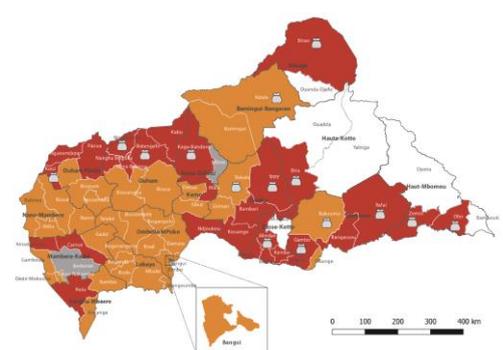
- According to results of the latest IPC analysis (May 2020), the number of projected people facing acute food insecurity in May–August 2020 has increased compared with the previous analysis – from 1.6 to 2.36 million people, of whom 753 000 in IPC Phase 4. Without urgent food assistance, an estimated 29 out of 65 sub-prefectures analysed will be in IPC Phase 4 during the lean season (May–August 2020), while most of the remaining sub-prefectures in IPC Phase 3.
- The resurgence of intercommunity conflict, the subsequent population displacement that it generates, a below-average agricultural season, as well as difficulties in supplying markets as a result of COVID-19, are the main causes of the deterioration of the situation in the country. Furthermore, since the beginning of the crisis, staple food prices are increasing in most of the markets due to limited supply, especially in Bangui where the cost of the daily food basket has doubled since the onset of the pandemic. As of 24 August 2020, 4 690 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, including 61 deaths.
- The current caseload of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is of 658 928 (*Commission mouvement de populations, July 2020*), the majority of whom live with host families (422 700 people) while the rest in IDP sites (236 228 people).
- For 2020, FAO requires a total of USD 42.3 million to assist 1.2 million people. Of this amount, USD 7.5 million is required before the start of the agricultural season (October 2020) to implement market-gardening activities and rehabilitate value chains that are key to contribute to reducing food insecurity, generating socio-economic development, building resilience and stabilizing peace.

MAPS

Previous projected acute food insecurity situation for May–August 2020 (IPC, March 2020)



Current projection for May–August 2020 (IPC, May 2020)



IPC phase classification

- 1 – Minimal
- 2 – Stressed
- 3 – Crisis
- 4 – Emergency
- 5 – Famine
- Not analysed
- Inadequate evidence
- IDPs / other settlements classification
- Border of prefecture
- Border of sub-prefecture
- At least 25% of households meet 25–50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance
- At least 25% of households meet over 50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

BACKGROUND

The Central African Republic continues to experience a highly complex and precarious humanitarian situation. The country is among the world's top five humanitarian crises considering the proportion of people in need of assistance. Although the Government had signed a peace agreement with armed groups in February 2019, insecurity persists, adding to an already fragile context. Armed conflict and isolated hostilities remain a major driver of food insecurity, and ongoing instability continues to trigger forced population movements both internally and to neighbouring countries. The disruption of basic services, which are dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas of the country, further hinders people's access to livelihood opportunities. Transhumance movements remain difficult in certain northwestern areas, generating tensions between pastoralists and farmers. This exacerbates existing intercommunal tensions, leading to armed conflict. As families have been unable to engage in agricultural 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. The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to limit its spread will continue to amplify needs, particularly in urban areas such as Bangui. Scaling up humanitarian response is key to protecting lives in the Central African Republic.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Armed conflict continues to force many families to abandon their fields in the Central African Republic. Limited rainfall was also recorded between January and February 2020, along with seasonal attacks of pests such as fall armyworm and locusts. Therefore, 2019/20 agricultural season outcomes show low production levels for food crops, especially cassava, which also suffered from phytosanitary problem, as well as for cash crops such as groundnuts and sesame. This deficit was compounded by the effects of floods and other seasonal hazards that led to a deterioration in production conditions in most of the lowland areas that supply rice and maize, and destroyed crops at an advanced stage of ripening. This reduces populations' harvests, incomes and access to livelihood opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic represents far more than a health crisis, placing immense socio-economic strains on countries such as the Central African Republic that is already experiencing a multidimensional crisis, with persistent insecurity, limited basic public services, and extreme poverty. The effects of essential and urgent measures put in place to contain the spread of the disease have led to increased market prices (10 to 30 percent) and a shortage of supply of the main food commodities (cassava, maize, rice). Price increases are likely to accelerate, further reducing access to markets and household's purchasing power, affecting significantly the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Moreover, 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.

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 inputs and productive assets to restore production activities and diversify the livelihoods of crisis-affected populations. Sustained agricultural support is crucial to enable vulnerable households to produce their own food and generate income.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2020 PLANNED RESPONSE



240 000 households targeted (1.2 million people), taking into account the impact of COVID-19.



92 200 households to receive inputs for the main agricultural campaign and **51 900 households** for market-gardening. Agricultural support will be provided through direct seed and tool distributions, as well as input trade fairs.



82 200 pastoral households to receive small-scale livestock production (41 100 households) and vaccination campaigns (41 100 households).



13 700 households to benefit from cash-based transfers in five locations to relaunch income-generating activities.

RESPONSE TO DATE



46 063 households (230 315 people) reached (19 percent of the total target).



31 450 households received crop production support through direct seed and tool distributions (11 350 households) and through input trade fairs (20 100 households); and **5 313 households** received market-gardening kits.

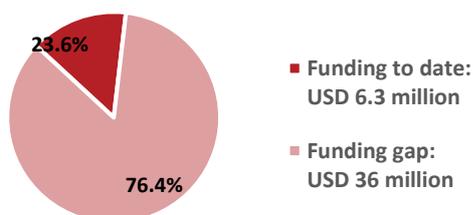


65 000 heads of cattle vaccinated, benefiting 1 050 pastoral households and **400 households** received small livestock kits (local chickens and goats).



7 850 households benefited from cash-based transfers.

FUNDING



FAO requires: USD 42.3 million **To assist:** 1.2 million people

Resource partners: The European Union, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the Government of the United Kingdom

CONTACT

FAO Representation in the Central African Republic | Bangui, Central African Republic | FAO-CF@fao.org

Office of Emergencies and Resilience | Rome, Italy | OER-Director@fao.org