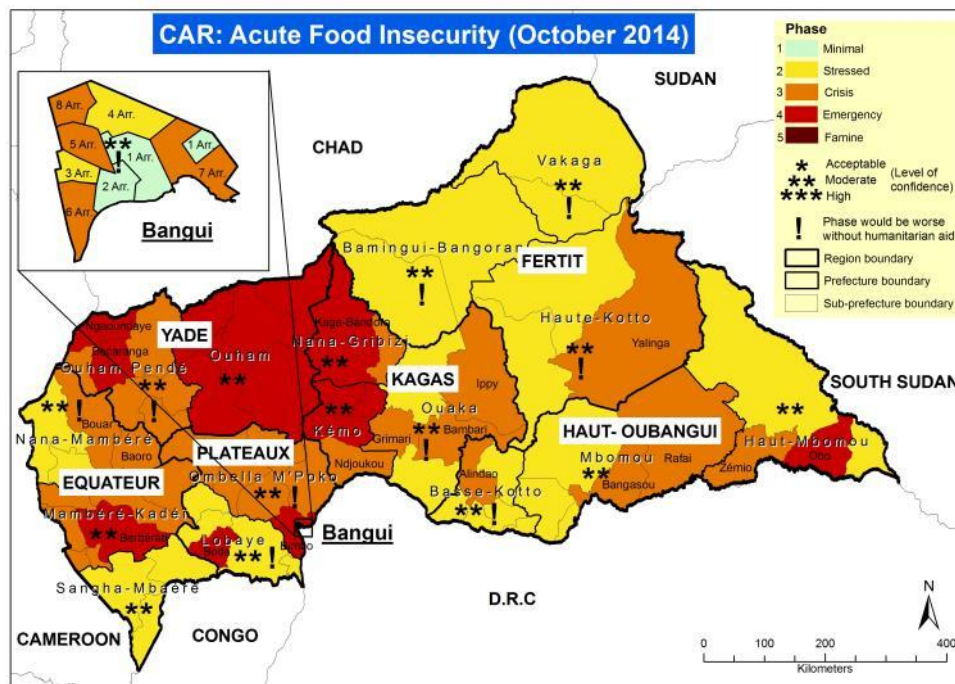




15 December 2014

HIGHLIGHTS



2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

430 000 people currently internally displaced (out of a population of 4.6 million)

1.5 million people in need of food assistance (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC], October 2014), of which 19 percent of the rural population is in IPC phase 3 (Crisis) and 12 percent in phase 4 (Emergency)



To date, FAO has provided crop production support to 111 750 farming families. With funds received, FAO is also able to assist 27 000 households through resilience activities, as well as 30 000 farming families with off-season agricultural activities that do not depend on the rainy season (vegetable production, fishery, livestock, etc.).



Of USD 45 million requested under the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) to support 300 000 farming families, FAO has received USD 34 million¹; USD 11 million is URGENTLY needed to meet the SRP objectives and implement the activities of the *caisses de résilience* approach before the next early lean season (March instead of May 2015); this will help them build their financial capacities, agriculture techniques and social protection to improve food and nutrition security. An additional USD 6 million is needed for the transhumance programme.

CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- ❖ The ongoing crisis seriously affected the agriculture sector - the backbone of the country's economy.
- ❖ The Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) indicated that crop production is 58 percent lower than the pre-crisis average, but 11 percent higher than 2013.
- ❖ Despite efforts from FAO and partners, many farmers lacked adequate agricultural inputs to secure enough food and income.
- ❖ Insecurity and bad road access disrupted market linkages and presented serious constraints for humanitarian operations, increasing logistics costs.
- ❖ Despite the signing of the ceasefire agreement (Brazzaville, 23 July 2014), ongoing disarmament operations and continued clashes between armed factions are resulting in increased tensions across the country, hindering FAO's response.

FAO'S RESPONSE

A major food crisis has been contained thanks to timely donor support that has allowed emergency crop production support, saving families from a domino effect of continued losses, as well as preventing farmers from adopting negative coping strategies with long-term effects.

¹USD 3 million are committed for activities that are not covered by the SRP: aquaculture, cluster coordination, training, rice irrigation, etc.

FAO and Non-governmental Organization (NGO) partners have provided crop production support to 111 750 vulnerable families and 100 seed multiplier groups across the country. Each family received 25 kg of crop seeds (beans, groundnut, maize, millet, niébé, rice, sesame and sorghum) and two hoes to plant in time and produce their own food. Results from post-distribution assessments indicate that 92 percent of distributed seeds were planted; in addition, seeds were shared among community members.

Furthermore, vegetable producers received immediate assistance before the start and during the crop season. Over 795 farmers' groups, including women's associations and 1 400 households, received vegetable seeds and tools. Strategic vegetable seed stocks were also prepositioned in FAO's field offices for rapid response capacity to support 30 000 internally displaced people and affected populations until the early lean season (March 2015). Thus far, 7 000 families received vegetable seeds that will contribute to produce enough food for five months. As small livestock is also a major concern, 20 000 chicks are being delivered to 40 farmers' groups by the end of December.

While providing relief and rehabilitation assistance, FAO has forcefully promoted its dual resilience agenda. FAO developed a comprehensive approach called *caisses de résilience* that will enable families to build their agriculture techniques, financial capacities and governance structures at community level. Participating families will be contracted to produce of quality seeds, and support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives to boost their communities' capacities. These activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines allowing for food and seed reserves to be established. As they are not dependent on the rainy season, resilience measures provide opportunities for households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets on a regular basis year round as well as increase knowledge.

Training has been provided to 250 young professionals and 120 national and international members of NGOs on the *caisses de résilience* approach, specifically on Saving and Loans schemes and Farmer Field School techniques. Various NGO partners have started to work with 300 farmers' groups and 100 youth in Bangui, distribute processing units to 105 farmers' groups in Bozoum and support 160 farmers' groups through Saving and Loans schemes and trainings.

Food Security Cluster: the Cluster, co-led by FAO and WFP, provided coordination support to implementing partners and the Government from the early stage of the crisis (December 2013). The Cluster was instrumental during the planting season by promoting joint FAO/WFP/NGO partner interventions. FAO provided agricultural inputs, WFP provided food protection rations, while NGO partners were in charge of distributing both food and seed commodities to the same households to limit the risk of planting material consumption. The 2015 SRP has been finalized by the Cluster and its partners. Its objectives focus on: providing life-saving food assistance; providing support to agricultural and gardening activities by ensuring that households have access to productive assets (especially during the lean season); strengthening households' resilience through agricultural income generating activities and capacity building; promoting natural resource management through approaches fostering social cohesion; and coordinating partners' food security interventions and information management and sharing. The amount of the appeal for food security is USD 195 million (32 percent of the global appeal), which includes USD 1 million for coordination, to assist 1.2 million people.



FOOD SECURITY MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS

An Emergency Food Security Assessment and CFSAM, in collaboration with WFP and food security partners, have been conducted in August-September to assess the outcome of the 2014 cropping season and evaluate the food security situation in the country.

The latest IPC analysis carried out in October 2014 shows a slight improvement compared with the previous one (April 2014), however it indicates a worsening of the situation compared with that of November 2013.

As a platform on transhumance has been set up at the national level, FAO and partners will carry out a comprehensive assessment on transhumance corridors in order to develop a long-term strategy to support the Government in its effort to restore the livestock sector and cohesion between the communities, as well as build national reconciliation.

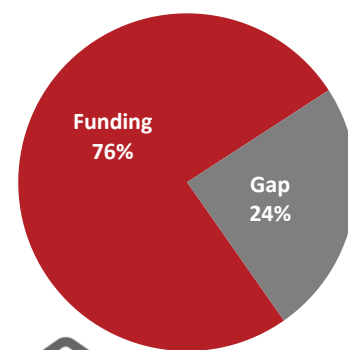
NGO partners: the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid, the Catholic Relief Services, Cooperazione italiana and the Danish Refugee Council.

Funds received from: the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America; Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, the European Commission, FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the Common Humanitarian Fund for the Central African Republic, the United Nations Peace Building Fund and the World Bank.

TOTAL FUNDING(2014)

FAO total funding needs (SRP):
USD 45 million

Funding gap: USD 11 million (SRP)
Needed for transhumance: USD 6 million



PLANNED BENEFICIARIES:
300 000 FAMILIES

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