



IN NUMBERS



1.6 million

people severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phases 3 and 4, October 2019)



75%

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



USD 14.7 million

still required by FAO for 2019 under the 2017–2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

USD 65 million

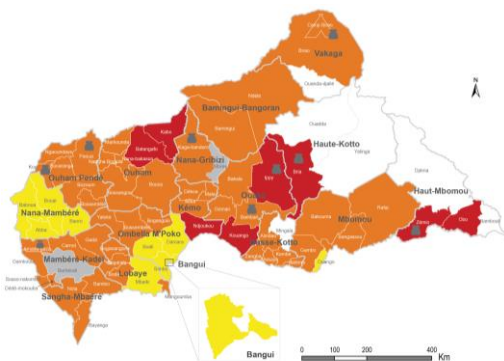
required by FAO under its five-year resilience strategy to strengthen agropastoralists' livelihoods

KEY POINTS

- According to preliminary results of the latest IPC analysis (October 2019), which have yet to be endorsed by the Government, the number of people severely food insecure for September 2019–April 2020 has slightly decreased compared with the previous analysis (June 2019) – from 1.81 to 1.6 million people, of whom nearly 375 000 people in IPC Phase 4. However, 2.1 million people are projected to be severely food insecure during May–August 2020, of whom over 675 000 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 current caseload of internally displaced people (IDP) is of over 600 135 (Commission on Population Movement, 30 September 2019), the majority of whom (377 957 people) live with host families while the rest in IDP sites.
- For 2019, FAO requires a total of USD 30.5 million to assist 900 000 people, of which only USD 15.8 million has been received. Implementing agricultural activities and rehabilitating value chains are key to contribute to reducing food insecurity, generating socio-economic development, building resilience and stabilizing peace.

MAPS

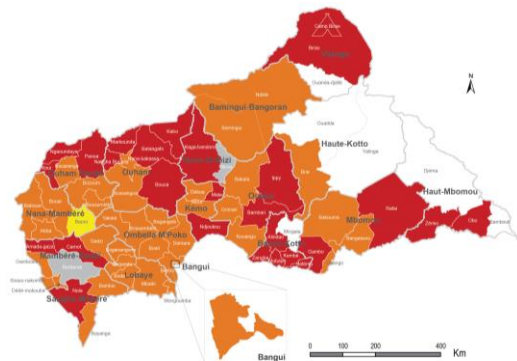
IPC map for September 2019–April 2020*



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

IPC projection for May–August 2020*



* IPC maps and results have yet to be endorsed by the Government

BACKGROUND

The Central African Republic continues to experience a highly complex and precarious humanitarian situation. Although a peace agreement had been signed between the Government and 14 armed groups (Khartoum, February 2019), persistent insecurity and violence continued, with recent attacks in various villages and new sources of tensions. Armed conflict and isolated hostilities remain a major driver for food insecurity in the country, and the chronic instability has continued to trigger forced population movements both internally and to neighbouring countries, with a current caseload of over 600 135 IDPs. Basic services are dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas of the country, and the disruption of already limited services further hinders people's access to livelihood opportunities. Peacebuilding efforts and the return of displaced people have been considerably undermined, significantly reducing the resilience of the population. 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 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. About 63 percent of the population – 2.9 million people – depend on humanitarian aid and protection, while nearly one in five people are forced to live outside their homes.

Despite political progress, humanitarian activities remain underfunded, with nearly 50 percent of the HRP funding still needed. Scaling up the humanitarian response is key to avoid losing achievements to save and protect lives in the Central African Republic.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Persisting insecurity has negatively affected crop production due to a significant reduction in planted area as many farms were abandoned. Forced population displacements and the collapse of basic socio-economic structures have prevented vulnerable families from accessing their lands and engaging in agricultural activities. This in turn reduces their incomes, access to livelihood opportunities and threatens their harvests. According to the FAO/World Food Programme (WFP) Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), 2019, there has been a significant decline in access to fields in 2018 (71 percent) compared with 2015 (81 percent). Five consecutive years of reduced aggregate output has also led to the depletion of farming families' already inadequate productive assets, particularly seeds and tools. About 37 percent of households had to adopt asset-depleting coping mechanisms, while one-third of the households had to sell part of their productive assets to purchase food (CFSAM, 2019).

Due to supply constraints and reduced production of certain goods (e.g. cassava, groundnut and sesame), the average prices of commodities have increased – compared with 2017 and 2018 – by 20 percent for maize, 26 percent for rice and 29 percent for cassava.

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 seeds, tools and productive assets, such as small ruminants, to restore agricultural production and livelihood activities, as well as to support the diversification of livelihoods among conflict-affected populations.

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

2019 PLANNED RESPONSE



180 000 households (900 000 people) targeted



73 000 households targeted for the main agricultural campaign and **7 000 households** for vegetable production. Agricultural support will be provided through direct seed and tool distributions, as well as input trade fairs



50 000 animals to be vaccinated and small livestock support to be provided benefiting 1 000 households



4 000 households to benefit from cash-based transfers in five locations to relaunch income-generating activities

RESPONSE TO DATE



64 300 households (321 500 people) targeted

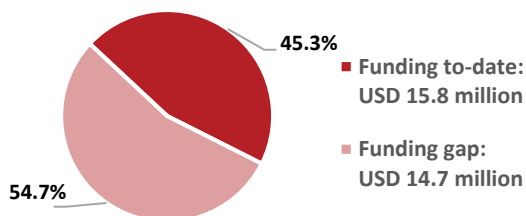


60 550 households received agricultural support through direct seed and tool distributions, as well as input trade fairs



3 750 households benefited from cash-based transfers

FUNDING



FAO requires: USD 30.5 million **To assist:** 900 000 people

Resource partners: The European Union, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the Common Humanitarian Fund in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Governments of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom

ASSESSMENTS

Preliminary results of the latest IPC analysis (October 2019) indicate a slight decrease in the number of people severely food insecure compared with the previous analysis (October 2018) – from 1.81 to 1.6 million. However, 2.1 million people are projected to be severely food insecure during May-August 2020.

The next FAO/WFP CFSAM mission is scheduled for October–November 2019.

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