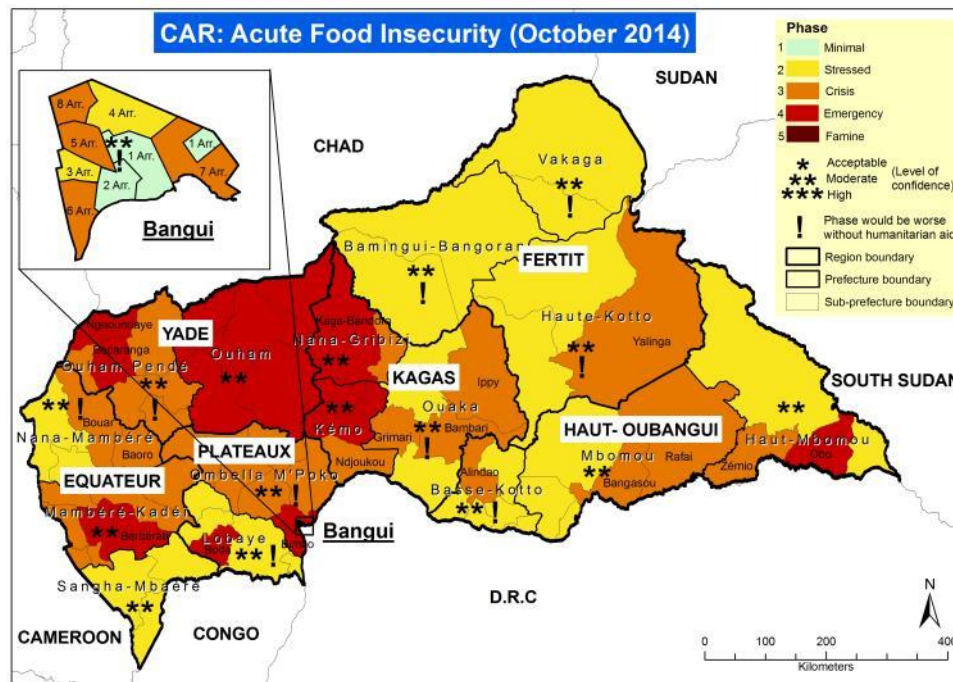




24 February 2015

**HIGHLIGHTS**



**2.5 million people** in need of humanitarian assistance

**430 000 people** currently internally displaced (out of a population of 4.8 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)



During 2014, FAO provided crop production support to 142 000 farming families. With funds received, FAO also supported 14 000 crisis-affected households through livelihood resilience activities (*caisses de résilience*), linked to vegetable, small livestock and fish production, to allow families to better cope with future shocks.



Of USD 42 million requested under the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) to support 240 000 farming families, FAO has mobilized USD 10.5 million; USD 31.5 million is URGENTLY needed, including USD 6 million before mid March for the upcoming agricultural campaign. The agriculture sector is fragile and ensuring production is crucial to avoid population movement, which will increase tensions across the country. Funds requested also include USD 5 million for the transhumance programme that aims to create the basis for improving dialogue between the *Peulh* community (livestock keepers) and farmers.

**CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

- ❖ The ongoing crisis is still seriously affecting 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.
- ❖ Transhumance activities remain a serious threat to the fragile dynamics for peace reconciliation between the Anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka, as it's as a source of income for both factions that are looting or illegally taxing the herds. The *Peulh* household situation in various areas remain of concern in terms of security, livelihood and food security.

**FAO'S RESPONSE**

A major food crisis has been contained in 2014 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.

FAO and Non-governmental Organization (NGO) partners have provided crop production support to 142 000 vulnerable families 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.

In order to strengthen household resilience, FAO developed a comprehensive approach called *caisses de résilience* that is enabling families to build their agriculture techniques, financial capacities and governance structures at community level. Participating families are contracted to produce quality seeds; and support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives will be provided to boost their communities' capacities. These activities are coupled 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. Throughout 2014, 14 000 households have been supported, and 120 national and international members of NGOs have been trained on the *caisses de résilience* approach, specifically on Saving and Loans schemes (S&L) and Farmer Field School techniques; 90 000 are planned for 2015.

As youth unemployment is a major concern usually resulting into banditism, criminal activities and social unrest in urban areas, FAO is supporting small livestock activities (20 000 chicks have been delivered to 40 young farmers' groups). Training has been provided to 250 young professionals to facilitate their reinsertion in professional life.

**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 objectives of the 2015 SRP 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.



#### 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.

A platform on transhumance has been set up at the national level. FAO and partners carried out a comprehensive assessment and mapped actual localization of livestock keepers and herds and their movement. The report will be released by the of February and will propose priority actions as well as elements for long-term strategy to support the restoration of the livestock sector and cohesion between the communities, as well as Government efforts to build national reconciliation.

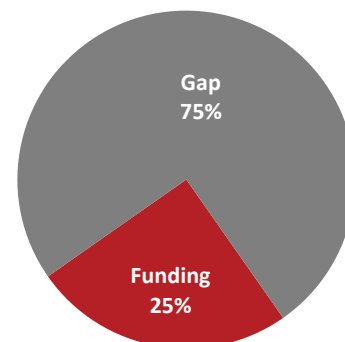
**NGO partners:** the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid, the Catholic Relief Services, *Cooperazione italiana*, the Danish Refugee Council, Mercy Corps, *Organizzazione Umanitaria per l'Emergenza* and local NGOs.

**Financial partners:** the Governments of Belgium and the United Kingdom, the European Union and ECHO, the *Banque africaine de développement*, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the Common Humanitarian Fund for the Central African Republic and the World Bank.

#### TOTAL FUNDING (2015)

FAO total funding needs (SRP):  
USD 42 million

Funding gap: USD 31.5 million (SRP)  
Needed for transhumance: USD 5 million



PLANNED BENEFICIARIES:  
240 000 FAMILIES

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