



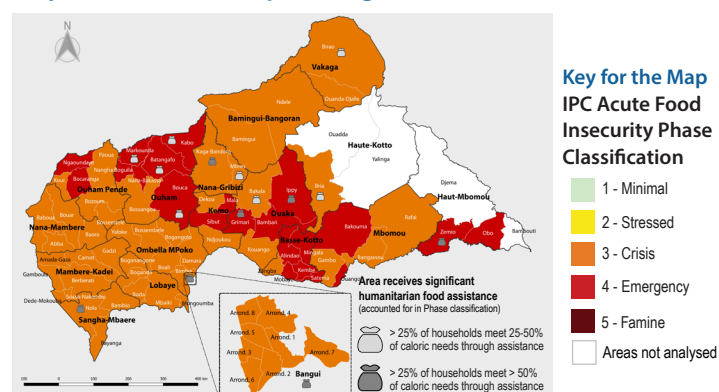
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

PROJECTION UPDATE APRIL TO AUGUST 2021

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS APRIL - AUGUST 2021 Issued April 2021

PROJECTION UPDATE (APRIL - AUGUST 2021) LEAN SEASON	
2.29M 47% of the population analysed People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5 0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4 633 000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3 1 657 000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2 1 591 000 People Stressed
	Phase 1 998 000 People in food security

Projected Situation April - August 2021



Overview

The updated IPC analysis conducted in March 2021 indicates that, for the period of April - August 2021, 2.29 million people will be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Based on the analysis made in September 2020, the food security situation was projected to deteriorate between September 2020 - April 2021 and April - August 2021, due to a deterioration of the security situation throughout the country between October 2020 and January 2021. The initial projection for the period April - August 2021 also did not take into account food assistance. However, humanitarian organisations have implemented significant assistance in response to the crisis, which has prevented a further deterioration of the situation.

This update of the April - August 2021 period therefore indicates a more critical situation, as it includes food assistance at the same level as that which helped to mitigate the classification in some of the areas analysed.

For this period, however, humanitarian funding is not yet fully mobilised to ensure an adequate food response that takes into account the significant increase in needs. Thus, the food response could be confronted with financial limitations, as well as logistical constraints linked to the degradation of infrastructures in the rainy season, impacting the regularity of assistance.

In areas with varying degrees of security stability, immediate food assistance to the most vulnerable, as well as support to maintain and restore livelihoods, will be needed to strengthen the capacity of households to better prepare for the next growing season, and thus ensure a positive harvest outlook. This will improve food availability and help limit the rise in national food prices.

Key Drivers



Conflict and displacement

The main factor determining food insecurity during this period is the violence suffered by the population following the conflicts that occurred on the fringes of the presidential and legislative elections in December 2020. This violence has added to the civil insecurity that has affected the main sources of food and income for Central African households for almost a decade. According to the latest report by the Movement of Populations Commission (CMP), as of 28 February 2021, some 741,879 people were internally displaced, an increase of 8.7% compared to December 2020, with 32% of the displaced population living in informal sites and 68% in host families.



Market disruption by the COVID-19 pandemic

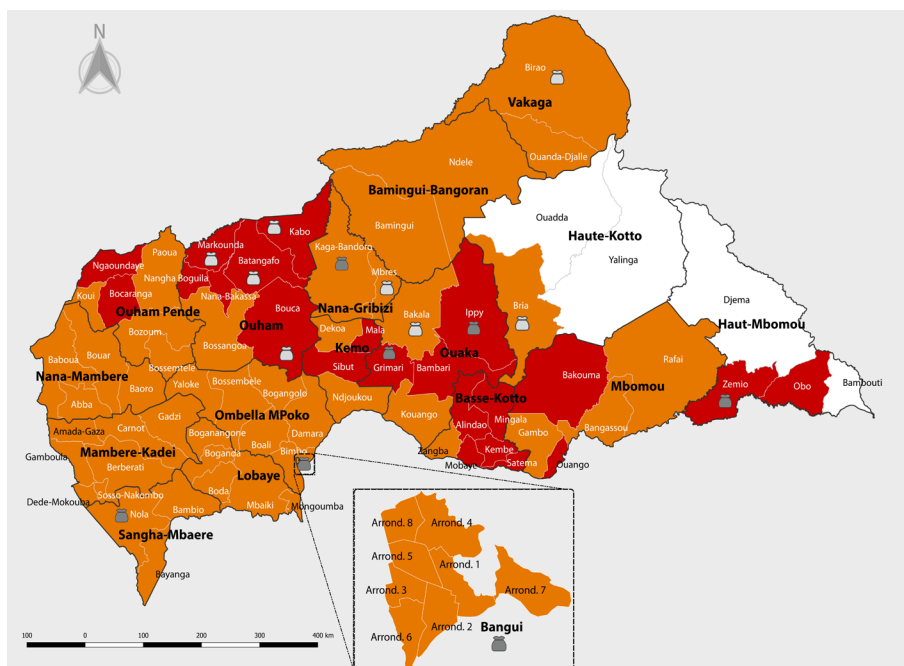
The second wave of COVID-19 in sub-Saharan countries threatens the Central African Republic. It contributes to keeping market prices high and the population's fear of contracting the disease. This continues to negatively affect household incomes through loss of jobs and restricted movement, increasing vulnerability to food insecurity. The slowdown in trade flows caused by the COVID-19 measures has been exacerbated by the blocking of the Bouar-Garoua Boulai corridor by armed groups, causing unprecedented disruption to the supply of goods and humanitarian assistance.



Low agricultural production

The 2020 harvests were disrupted by the deteriorating security situation, resulting in limited production and low food stock levels, which affected the populations who are heavily dependent on their own production. This low production is also due to limited access to seeds, farming tools and basic infrastructure.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL APRIL - AUGUST 2021



Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed

Area receives significant
humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50%
of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50%
of caloric needs through assistance

Prefecture	Analysed Population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%
Bamingui-Bangoran	59 632	8 945	15	14 908	25	26 834	45	8 945	15	0	0	35 779	60
Bangui	858 205	176 754	21	354 418	41	263 173	31	63 860	7	0	0	327 033	38
Basse-Kotto	323 522	58 999	18	80 455	25	114 197	35	69 872	22	0	0	184 069	57
Haut-Mbomou	68 070	6 807	10	15 507	23	28 738	42	17 018	25	0	0	45 756	67
Haute-Kotto	91 639	18 328	20	32 074	35	27 492	30	13 746	15	0	0	41 238	45
Kémo	154 992	31 004	20	40 611	26	55 664	36	27 713	18	0	0	83 377	54
Lobaye	320 195	107 872	34	91 434	29	97 355	30	23 534	7	0	0	120 889	37
Mambéré-Kadéï	463 525	86 183	19	170 918	37	151 955	33	54 469	12	0	0	206 424	45
Mbomou	214 965	29 858	14	46 713	22	101 927	47	36 467	17	0	0	138 394	64
Nana-Gribizi	151 062	22 659	15	51 517	34	54 227	36	22 659	15	0	0	76 886	51
Nana-Mambéré	270 966	67 665	25	84 071	31	92 134	34	27 097	10	0	0	119 230	44
Ombella M'Poko	440 850	141 232	32	194 065	44	81 511	18	24 042	5	0	0	105 554	23
Ouaka	363 811	66 045	18	94 199	26	136 045	37	67 523	19	0	0	203 568	56
Ouham	419 024	73 720	18	118 916	28	143 329	34	83 059	20	0	0	226 388	54
Ouham Pendé	500 974	67 562	13	137 796	28	223 216	45	72 400	14	0	0	295 616	59
Sangha-Mbaéré	131 441	25 516	19	54 121	41	38 660	29	13 144	10	0	0	51 804	39
Vakaga	46 512	9 302	20	9 478	20	20 755	45	6 977	15	0	0	27 732	60
Grand Total	4 879 385	998 450	20	1 591 200	33	1 657 212	34	632 524	13	0	0	2 289 736	47

Note: The population in IPC Phase 3 or above does not necessarily reflect the entire population in need of urgent action. Indeed, some households may be in IPC Phase 2 or even IPC Phase 1 only because of the assistance they have received and may, therefore, need continued action.

This IPC analysis used the most recent information provided by OCHA-ICASEES (2021 projections from the 2003 census) as the reference population for the areas studied. The IDP figures take into account all displacement, including within the same prefecture or sub-prefecture, as well as within the same city (between neighbourhoods and sites). As a result, decision-makers should interpret the figures in a more or less dynamic way.

COMPARISON OF PREVIOUS ANALYSES

The projection assumptions made in September 2020 for the period of April to August 2021 were based on growing insecurity and massive population displacement. With the organisation of legislative and presidential elections, the period of November 2020 to January 2021 was characterised by armed clashes between the regular army and armed groups, resulting in the displacement of thousands of households, with an immediate impact on their food security and livelihoods. Prices of basic foodstuffs remained higher, and the flow of goods continued to be slowed down as a result of the blockage of the Bouar-Garoua Boulai corridor, due to insecurity and the activism of armed groups. The COVID-19 pandemic also continues to impact on economic performance at the national level. The poor state of roads continues to make trade between production and consumption areas more difficult. This has affected household access to markets on certain routes. The return of displaced populations has been slowed down due to the security context. The Movement of Populations Commission (CMP) indicates that 30,270 people returned in February 2021. More than 235,000 people continue to live in displacement situations on the sites, while more than 506,000 are living with host families.

The update for the period of May to August 2021 shows that in the coming months, 47% of the population will be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing around 2.29 million people, including 1.66 million in a Crisis situation (IPC Phase 3), i.e. 34% of the population analysed, and nearly 633,000 people (13% of the population analysed) in an Emergency situation (IPC Phase 4). Compared to the last analysis, for the same period of May to August 2021, the prevalences have therefore been revised upwards for populations in IPC Phase 4 (from 11% to 13%) and downwards for populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), from 37% to 34%. The analyses are not completely comparable, however, as this new analysis includes three new sub-prefectures (Koui, Boganangone, Boganda). In addition, for this round of analysis, the arrondissements of the city of Bangui have been analysed separately, excluding arrondissement 1, which was included in the previous analysis.

Considering the same areas analysed for both cycles, a deterioration of the situation is observed in rural areas, where 49% of the population appears to be in Crisis or Emergency, of which 34% are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 15% are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In particular, the update led to an increase in the percentage of the population in Emergency and a downward re-evaluation of the percentage of the population in Crisis (34% compared to 35% in Phase 3 for the same areas covered by the two analyses). In this new round of analysis, the security situation in some sub-prefectures has been updated, as this assumption was already considered in the last analysis. Difficulties in accessing certain areas for humanitarian actors to deliver assistance, as well as the mitigating effects in other areas, have also been taken into consideration for the projection period (April - August 2021) but also for previous months.

It should be noted that the previous analysis of the same period did not include the effects of food assistance, as this was an analysis conducted before the formulation of the HNO and the HRP. Thus, taking this into account, it can be concluded that the overall situation has deteriorated, given that the current situation with the inclusion of food assistance is broadly similar to the situation that was expected in the absence of food assistance.

The historical evolution of the IPC results in the Central African Republic shows that the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above has been on an upward trend in recent years, apart from the seasonal increase expected during the lean season. A drop is particularly visible from May to August 2020, when nearly 2.4 million people appear to be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) - compared to an average of 1.7 million in previous analyses - with 754,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This deterioration can be partly explained by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on household food security. However, it seems to slow down over the last two periods analysed, from September 2020 to April 2021 and April to August 2021, during which between 1.9 and 2.29 million people appear to be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Assumptions used to update the projection:

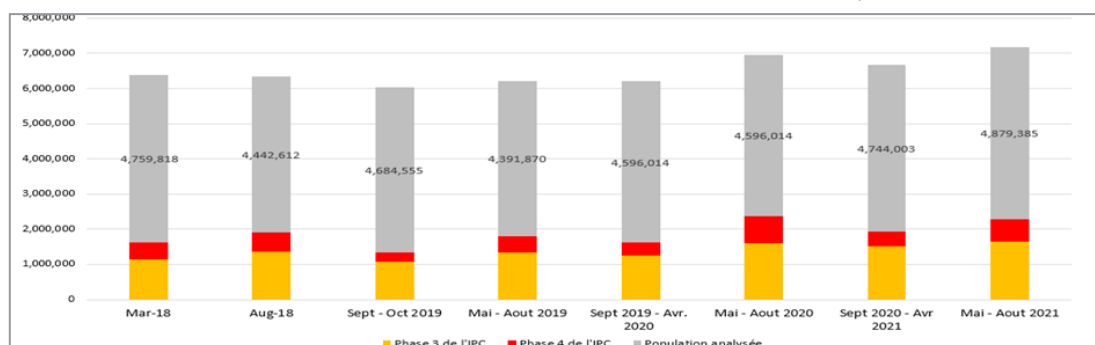
Political and security situation: Armed groups may continue to be active in the areas under their control. In addition, the sweep operations initiated by the FACA could lead to some pendulum movements of the population over a relatively short period. In areas under the control of armed groups, the security situation will remain unstable. The delivery of humanitarian assistance could be limited in some areas, due to access difficulties. Insecurity could affect access to fields and markets, thus affecting household livelihoods.

COVID-19 pandemic: The number of cases remains high in the country. The risk of contamination within the country with movements between different prefectures persists as well as imported cases through trade with neighbouring countries. Borders with the DRC, Congo and Cameroon are likely to remain closed in the coming months, limiting the flow of foodstuffs.

Food prices: In addition to the increase linked to the lean season, the prices of certain foodstuffs could rise as a result of the difficulty of transporting foodstuffs within the country, due to the COVID-19 situation and the insecurity that would restrict movements on the main supply corridors.

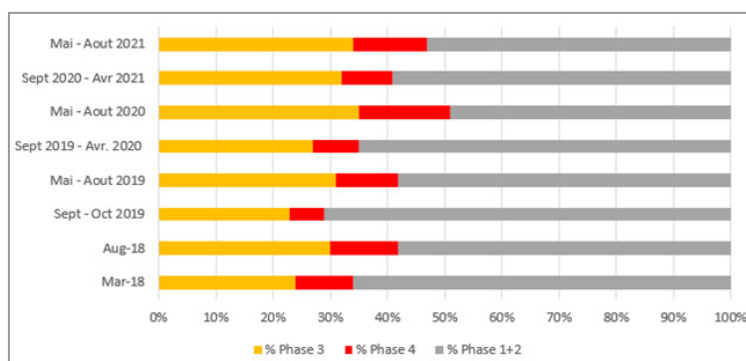
Degradation of basic infrastructure: Due to heavy rains, increased difficulties in supplying markets and physical access would be expected. In some cases, this would result in higher food prices during the lean season.

Number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above compared with the analysed population



As the number of areas included in the analysis may vary from one analysis to another, depending on the information available and in accordance with the IPC protocols, it is also important to consider the evolution of prevalences over time. Thus, historical analysis of the percentages of the population in IPC Phase 3 or above confirms that from the second half of 2020 onwards, the proportion of the population in IPC Phase 3 or above tends to be higher, independently of the seasonal effect induced by the lean season. This increase is more marked for populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) situations but seems to be slowing down.

Prevalence of population in IPC Phase 3 and 4



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

There is a need to provide assistance to affected populations, particularly those in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4). It is recommended to :

- Provide immediate and targeted food assistance to the most vulnerable populations, in particular displaced persons, returnees and host families, prioritising people with specific needs (poor and very poor households, elderly people, people with chronic illnesses, HIV, etc.);
- Prioritise actions to strengthen livelihoods, access to productive assets (agricultural and livestock) and community resilience in the most affected sub-prefectures, so that they can withstand recurrent shocks (security, socio-economic, health, environmental, etc.);
- Continue to raise awareness to enforce measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the most affected areas while ensuring that households are able to maintain their livelihoods and access to food;
- Continue interventions to prevent and treat acute malnutrition for children under five and pregnant and lactating women;
- Improve food utilization and its impact on nutrition by facilitating people's access to safe water sources through the rehabilitation and development of boreholes in areas where access to safe water remains low, while increasing hygiene and sanitation awareness among households in hard-to-reach areas.

Analysis partners participant in this analysis:

