



Central African Republic

Results of the analysis of the current acute food insecurity situation

April-May 2014

Deterioration of food insecurity following the flaring up of the conflict since December 2013 and the early arrival of the lean season. Humanitarian assistance is crucial to support the agricultural season starting now and to avoid a humanitarian disaster. Appeal to remedy the gaps in data in order to update and improve the analysis as fast as possible.

Main results for the most affected areas

Food consumption

The RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism) assessments carried out by ACF [Action against hunger], ACTED [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development] and *Solidarités* between February and April 2014 in different parts of the Yadé region (Ouham-Pendé and Ouham prefectures) show that the average scores of food consumption for poor and borderline are at 32% and 39% respectively, converging towards an emergency food situation (IPC phase 4). Weak food consumption scores of 17% (poor) and 30% (borderline) have already been recorded in the Ouham prefecture in October 2013 (post-harvest period) following the EFSA [Emergency Food Security Assessment] report (In depth assessment of food security carried out by the WFP in collaboration with FAO, UNICEF, OCHA and other partners of the food security cluster).

Evolution of livelihoods

The EFSA report of October 2013 already showed that the conflict had affected the livelihoods of the population in the whole country, in particular through the loss of assets due to looting, violence and destruction. More than half of homes surveyed in the Ouham-Pendé, Ouham, Basse-Kotto and Mbomou prefectures have declared the loss of all their animals. Economic activity is also halted or severely disturbed (commerce, mining, cash crops), which is limiting the opportunities for earning. Finally, the displaced populations (staying with a host family, in displaced persons camps, or taking refuge in the bush) have lost access to their livelihoods.

State of Nutrition

According to different RRM surveys, the state of nutrition seems to have worsened, following the deterioration of food consumption and of hygienic and sanitary conditions, the continuous displacements and the crowdedness in displaced persons camps.

Narrative summary of causes, context and principal problems

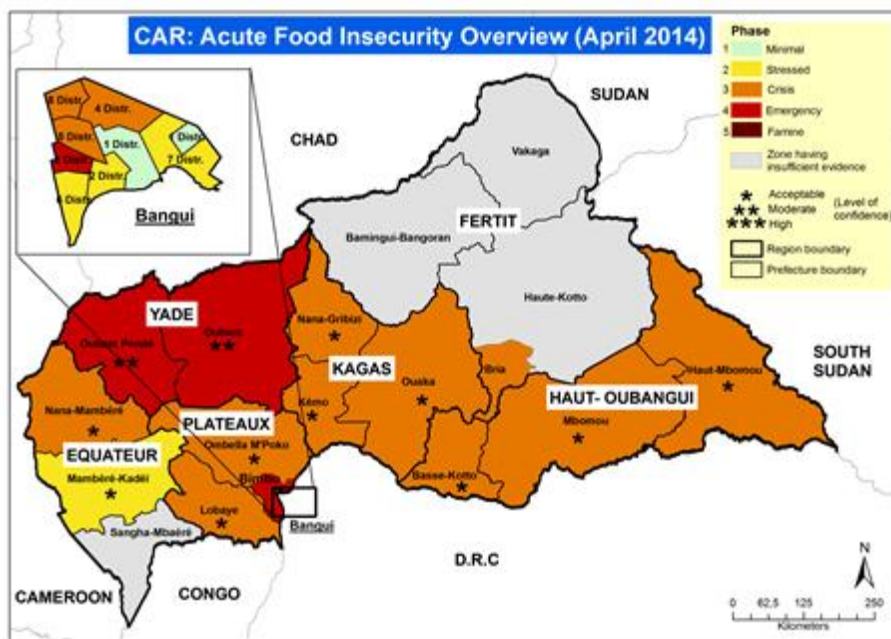
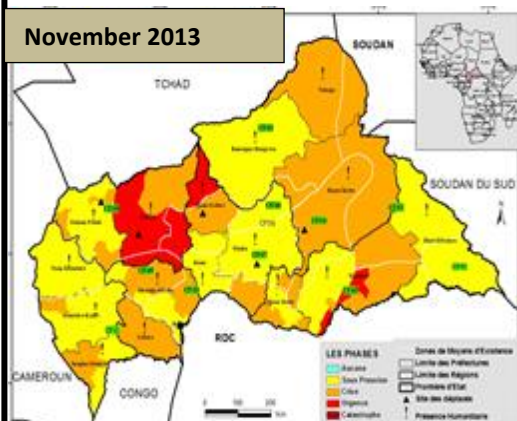
The political and security crisis that has been on going after 2012 emerged in an already difficult economic context. The Central African Republic is ranked among the poorest countries with a Human Development Index which places it 180th out of 186 countries (UNDP, 2013) and with a GDP per capita of USD\$446 for 2012. The spectrum of generalized violence maintained by the Séléka political-military coalition and the Anti-Balaka armed movement created to counteract Séléka's activism, affects directly or indirectly the whole country and also has repercussions on food insecurity. The armed conflict has caused many losses in human lives, burning and destruction of homes, of infrastructure, looting of public and private property, kidnappings and violations of human rights, resulting in a huge movement of internally displaced people and of refugees to the neighboring countries.

Following the flaring up of insecurity from December 2013, the humanitarian response has centered mainly in the city of Bangui. UNOCHA indicates that 513 000 displaced persons were counted in Bangui in January, at the end of April 2014 there were 160 000 but another 425 000 outside Bangui.

This IPC analysis shows a worsening acute food insecurity situation in April when compared to the previous analysis of November 2013. This analysis takes place during a lean period, which carries through to July, whereas the previous analysis was made during a post-harvest period.

Warning: the borders and the names and descriptions shown in this map do not imply any official approval or acceptance on the part of the IPC collaborating organizations and global partners.

November 2013



*The EC in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

The IPC global partners

Part 2: Summary of Conclusions, Methods and Next Stages

Main conclusions and challenges

The Central African Republic is ranked among the poorest countries with a Human Development Index which places it 180th out of 186 countries (UNDP, 2013) and a GDP per capita of USD\$446 for 2012. The main livelihoods include agriculture (cassava, corn, groundnuts, sorghum and millet), cash crops (coffee, citrus fruit, cotton), livestock breeding, mining (diamonds and gold), hunting and gathering, depending on the localities. These livelihoods have been deeply affected by the violence which has run rampant after December 2012 and has caused massive displacements, and which has in different degrees extended to all the prefectures, including the capital from March 2013.

Using the EFSA results of October 2013, in a post-harvest period, the previous IPC analysis of November 2013 showed that 23% of the rural population was in humanitarian phases (phase 3, Crisis and phase 4, Emergency). The analysis of April 2014 has been confronted by a serious lack of quantitative data and has not been able to produce detailed figures, but the classification shows a net deterioration after the last analysis. The national TWG estimates that the number of people in humanitarian phases would be almost double compared to November 2013 with around 1 700 000 people in phases 3 and 4, that is about 45% of the rural population of the classified zones (see last page).

In the first place it is important to consider the difference in seasons between the two analyses, with that of November taking place just after the harvest period while the present was done in a lean period. Three other factors explain this deterioration:

(i) the livelihoods have been profoundly affected by the war, in certain cases totally lost through the sale of assets, lootings, destruction and displacements;

(ii) the lack of food availability, in the context of the lean period; especially severe with the depletion or destruction of stocks from the last harvest which had already been below average, and the loss of livestock;

(iii) the problems of access to food with the disruption of market supply, the difficulties of physical access due to civil insecurity, which sometimes targets certain ethnic groups according to the area, and the limited access to finance due to the loss of income and the increased price of food products (more than 30% on average for the period January-April 2014 compared to the same period the previous year).

On the other hand, the health situation and the conditions of hygiene have severely worsened due to the interruption of social services (destruction of health centers) and the displacement of the population, although it has not been possible to measure precisely the state of nutrition for lack of up-to-date inputs and without direct access to the field due to the volatility of the situation.

The prefectures in emergency phase (phase 4) are Ouham Pendé and Ouham, which are the most affected by insecurity, for which reason Ouham was already in phase 4 last November (see first page). All the other prefectures are on phase 3 *Crisis*, with the exception of the Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture which is classified in phase 2 *Stressed*. For the first time, a specific analysis has also been made for Bangui (see third part).

Four prefectures: Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, Sangha Mbaéré and Vakaga were not classified due to insufficient data. These prefectures were already affected by food insecurity according to the analysis of last November. It is recommended that the data for these areas should be collected so that they may be included in the next IPC analysis.

The most vulnerable people are the displaced, in particular those in the bush for whom very little information is available. Lastly, the host families and the households which have lost their means of production are also particularly vulnerable.

The lean period has started sooner due to the early exhaustion of food stocks after smaller harvests in 2013. Considering the volatility of the situation and the lack of field access due to the insecurity, this analysis is a snap shot of the situation in April-May 2014. Field surveys should be carried out in order to update the situation. Humanitarian assistance is also crucial both to cover the food needs as well as to prepare for the agricultural season.

Methods, processes and main challenges

The present report is the result of the 8th cycle of IPC analysis conducted in Bangui from 22 to 26 April, and which was preceded by an IPC training Level 1 for the analysts of the Technical Working Group (TWG). Around 41% of the participants came from governmental institutions (Agriculture, Environment, Town planning, Social Affairs, Planning and Economy, ICASEES, ACDA, ANDE, ICRA, Mines and Energy), 18% from research institutions, 34% from international and national NGOs (ACF, COHEB, JUPEDDEC, COHEB, CARITAS, IRAD, SOLIDARITE, ACDES, CREDAC, CADAPI, ACADBS) and 7% from United Nations agencies (FAO, WFP).

Access to data has been a great challenge for this analysis. Given the security context no survey at national level was carried out after the resurgence of violence in December 2013. The main data used has been MIRA of January 2014, the RRM located in different locations and the multi-sectoral surveillance (ACF and partners) between February and April, as well as follow-up by OCHA and UNHCR. These data inputs were matched with the EFSA data of October 2013 to be able to compare and infer the evolution of the situation. Recent nutrition data was not available, the latest being from 2012.

As a result of these data deficiencies, the analysis contains the following limitations: (i) the general level of confidence in the analysis is minimum, except for Ouham and Ouham-Pendé for which more data is available, and four prefectures which lacked the minimum data were not classified; (ii) the analysis was not able to provide numbers of population in crisis or emergency phases, unlike the last cycle, due to the lack of representative indicators for the whole country; and (iii) the analysis did not go below prefecture, probably masking local situations.


Seasonal calendar and national overview

	Préparation du sol		Semis des cultures		Récolte des cultures								
zones	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Climat Sahélo-Soudanien (Nord du pays)													
Climat soudano-guinéen (Centre du pays)													
Guinéen-forestier (Sud-Ouest et Sud-Est)													

Recommendations for the next stages

- 1- Collect the data necessary to update the IPC analysis and provide detailed estimations of population in the different phases, prepare forecasts and make routine alerts.
- 2- Proceed to an update of the IPC analysis when the new data is available.
- 3- Pursue the formation of a competent and responsive team of analysts, while the updating is taking place. It is also desirable to include representatives of the different prefectures with the object of improving the understanding of the local situation and overcome the insufficient circulation of data.
- 4- Lastly, the Government is encouraged to accelerate the process of appropriation of the methodology, nominate a new director for TWG and confirm the TWG members to ensure the continuity of the process and the technical rigor of the next analyses

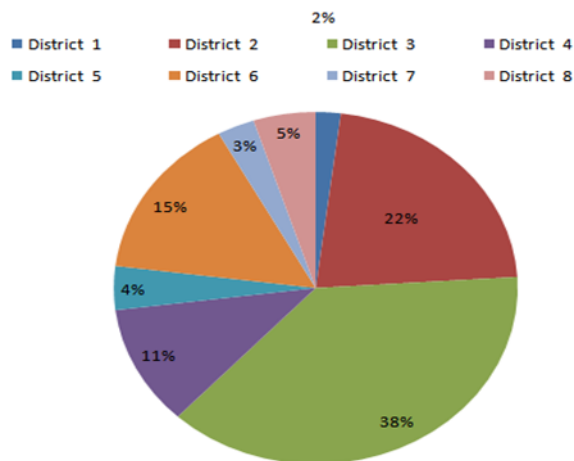
Description of IPC phases and corresponding priority objectives of intervention

	Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Famine
Phase Name and Description	More than four in five households (HHs) are able to meet essential food and nonfood needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non food expenditures without engaging in irreversible	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition OR Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR Extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps in the short term.	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, death, and destitution are evident. (Evidence for all three criteria of food consumption, wasting, and CDR is required to classify Famine.)
Priority Response Objectives	Action required to Build Resilience and for Disaster Risk Reduction	Action required for Disaster Risk Reduction and to Protect Livelihoods	Urgent Action Required to: 		
			Protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps, and reduce acute malnutrition	Save lives and livelihoods	Prevent widespread mortality and total collapse of livelihood

Part 3: Insight on the analysis of food security for the Capital Bangui

The armed attacks carried out after December 2013 in the city of Bangui have caused much loss of life, homes and livelihood assets. According to UNOCHA among the 935 000 displaced persons in the Central African Republic in January 2014, 513 000 were counted in the capital. The number of displaced in Bangui has been reduced to a third after January but the number was still around 160 000 at the end of April 2014, of whom 36% were in the sub-prefecture of Bimbo in the outskirts of Bangui (including those housed at the airport). In the Bangui Districts 2 and 3 look after more than half of the displaced in camps (see graphic). Other displaced people have been housed with host families, which constitute an additional load on their resources.

Distribution of displaced Bangui, end of April 2014



The classification of food insecurity in Bangui has taken into account the level of access to livelihood assets (established in December 2013 by the HEA, ACF report), the recent losses, the insecurity situation, the evolution of prices and the changing situation of the admissions at nutritional centers.

District 3 and the sub-prefecture of Bimbo, the most affected, are classified in phase 4 Emergency. The insecurity there is still very high (especially for District 3) and a great part of the population has still not recovered their means of existence, 36% for whom a virtual paralysis of activities was observed in District 3 at the end of April. Malnutrition is increasing judging by the rate of admissions to nutritional centers, (392 admission cases at CNT in Bimbo and 258 cases of severe malnutrition were admitted in the last 3 months in District 3). The districts in phase 3 recorded numerous cases of acute malnutrition.

In the districts classified in phase 2, security has been re-established little by little, the number of displaced was reduced and people are

progressively recovering their livelihoods. District 1, with minimum level of food insecurity (phase 1) where the more well-off people live is the area least affected by the current crisis.

Need for humanitarian assistance to avoid a worst food crisis

The IPC analysis of November 2013 established that almost 900 000 people, that is 23% of the rural population were classified in IPC humanitarian phase 3 *Crisis* and 4 *Emergency*. The present analysis was not able to provide the detailed data for the population in humanitarian phases according to the IPC protocols for lack of the necessary representative quantitative data. Nevertheless, the national TWG has made an estimate of population in phases 3 and 4 in the different regions, indicating a total of 1.7 million people in humanitarian phases, that is, 45% of the rural population of the classified zones (see the following page).

The MIRA report of January 2014 established that nearly 50% of the rural homes needed emergency assistance (food and non-food), and around 80% of the homes in Bangui. Since then, the need for emergency assistance has decreased in Bangui with the reduction of the displaced people to less than a third, but on the other hand it is higher in the rural areas.

According to UNOCHA, more than 560 000 people are still internally displaced, whereas there were 930 000 in January, but a total of 2.5 million people of a population of 4.6 million need humanitarian assistance, considering all sectors.

Humanitarian assistance is crucial in this period to enable the preparatory works for the agricultural season which have already started, and to avoid a disaster if the agricultural season should fail. In particular, FAO and its partners have launched distribution of basic agricultural inputs while WFP accompanies these inputs with a food ration in order to protect the seeds.

It is imperative to collect the data necessary to update the IPC analysis and provide detailed estimations of population in the different phases, prepare forecasts and make routine alerts.

Part 4: Estimate by the national TWG of population in humanitarian phases

The data available for analysis was insufficient to provide a detailed estimate of the population in the different phases according to the IPC protocols. Nevertheless, the partial estimates are presented here with a limited level of reliability.

This population estimation in humanitarian phase is based on the results of the October 2013 EFSA report and the partial information collected after January 2014.

Region	Prefectures (outside Bangui)	IPC Classification	Estimates by the IPC Technical Working Group				
			Estimated Population in phase 3	Estimated Population in phase 4	Total regional Population	Estimated population in humanitarian phases (total phases 3 and 4)	Estimate of % of the population in humanitarian phase
I	Ombella M'Poko	3	210,000	130,000	712,000	340,000	48%
	Lobaye	3					
II	Mambéré Kadéi	2	120,000	60,000	593,000	180,000	30%
	Nana Mambéré	3					
	Sangha Mbaéré	Non classified			119,000	-	-
III	Ouham Péndé	4	170,000	360,000	1,197,000	530,000	44%
	Ouham	4					
IV	Kémo	3	250,000	100,000	641,000	350,000	55%
	Nana Gribizi	3					
	Ouaka	3					
V	Bamingui Bangoran	Non classified	-	-	181,000	-	-
	Haute Kotto	Non classified					
	Vakaga	Non classified					
VI	Basse-Kotto	3	210,000	60,000	600,000	270,000	45%
	Mbomou	3					
	Haut Mbomou	3					
Total (only of the population classified, excluding populations in un-classified prefectures and Bangui)					3,743,000	1,670,000	45%

The analysis is related to almost 90% of the rural population and the whole population of Bangui (for the latter, an estimate of the population in humanitarian phase has not been given although it has been classified). The population in humanitarian phase was estimated at around 1.7 million people for the classified regions (outside Bangui), that is 45% of the total population in the affected areas, where 26% is in phase 3 Crisis and 19% in phase 4 Emergency. The population of Bangui in humanitarian phase has not been quantified for lack of disaggregated data.