Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Response Plan 2024

The Central African Republic is one of the world's ten poorest countries, with around 7 in 10 Central Africans living below the poverty line on less than USD 2.15 per day. Armed conflict, violence linked to transhumance and floods are the main shocks triggering population displacements and increasing vulnerabilities in the country. **About half of the population is projected to be acutely food insecure in the coming months.** Most live in rural areas, relying on agriculture for their food and income. They urgently need support to restore their production and improve their food security.

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TO ASSIST
751 000 people

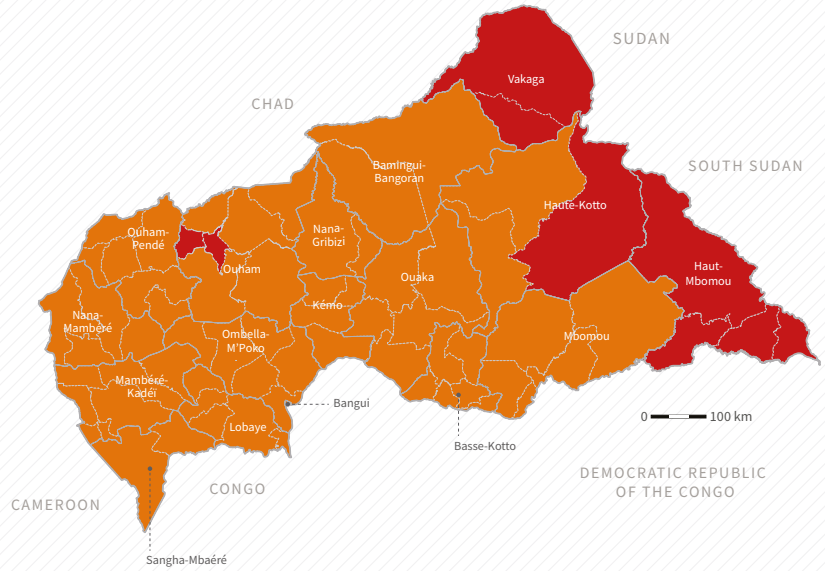
FAO REQUIRES
USD 35 million

JANUARY–DECEMBER
2024

What investments in agriculture can achieve

USD 200	=	With the seeds, fertilizers and tools provided, each household can cultivate 0.9 ha of land and produce an estimated 1.2 tonnes of food crops (groundnut, maize, rice and cassava), worth USD 700 on the local market.	=	**Supplies a family of 7 with a variety of staple food for at least 4 months**
USD 55	=	With a market-gardening package, each household can produce ten types of vegetables ready for consumption in 3-12 weeks, worth around USD 1 400 on the local market.	=	**Enables quick access to nutritious food as well as income to meet other essential needs**
USD 200	=	With a poultry-raising package (ten hens, one rooster, material for chicken coops and feed), a household can produce around 50 eggs per week worth USD 10 on the local market.	=	**Provides families with a continuous source of protein-rich food and income throughout the year**

Projected acute food insecurity situation (April–August 2024)



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

- 1 – Minimal
- 2 – Stressed
- 3 – Crisis
- 4 – Emergency
- 5 – Famine
- Inadequate evidence
- Not included in the analysis

Source: IPC. 2023. *Central African Republic: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot, September 2023–August 2024.* Bangui, Central African Republic. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_CAR_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Sep2023_Aug2024_snapshot_English.pdf

Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

For more than a decade, the Central African Republic has been affected by armed conflict. Violence against civilians and the effects of climate change, such as floods, continue to cause population displacements, with one in five Central Africans internally displaced or a refugee mainly in neighbouring countries. Lack of access to basic socioeconomic infrastructures and livelihood opportunities forces displaced and host communities to adopt negative coping mechanisms to meet their needs, making them more vulnerable to violence, including gender based. Instability in neighbouring countries, particularly on the borders with Chad, the Sudan and South Sudan (the main supply routes for basic products for some difficult-to-access areas) is strongly impacting local economies and triggering additional population displacements and influx of refugees towards the Central African Republic.

Transhumance – the seasonal movement of herders with their livestock for grazing – continues to cause challenges in the country. With nearly 16 million ha of pastures, the Central African Republic experiences significant transhumance movements between November and May in 33 of its 72 sub-prefectures, and nearly 2 million people live along transhumance corridors. Internal transhumance and cross-border movements coming from Cameroon, Chad, the Sudan and South Sudan, triggers tensions and violence between transhumant herders and farmers, as well as between armed groups and transhumant herders.

Food shortages due to years of conflict in the country lead to alarming levels of malnutrition and acute food insecurity. With the number of IDPs increasing, ongoing violence perpetrated by armed groups, as well as limited access to food, households' poor purchasing power and rising food prices, the situation in the country is expected to worsen. Almost three-quarters of Central Africans live below the poverty line and humanitarian needs remain significant in the country. Providing vulnerable households with the means to grow their own food is crucial to quickly improve food security and self-sufficiency.

Drivers of food insecurity

- Conflict
- Low agricultural production
- Rising food prices
- Climate shocks

Key facts

Country population: **5.8 million**

2.5 million people likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

1.2 million people in need of nutrition assistance

543 819 internally displaced people (IDPs), of whom **79%** live with host communities

USD 9.90 out of 100 in humanitarian assistance to food sectors went to support agriculture and livelihoods (2016-2022)

In 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reached 13 000 vulnerable households (91 000 people) with support for improved crop, vegetable and small livestock production. For example, vulnerable farming households were provided with a total of 1 114 tonnes of crop seeds, 1 435 tonnes of vegetable seeds and 113 500 tools. This enabled beneficiary households to cultivate around 15 980 ha of land and produce 25 513 tonnes of food. Furthermore, 9 830 households were provided with unconditional cash transfers (USD 100/household) to cover their food needs during the lean season and to invest in setting up income-generating activities. Overall, the support provided by FAO has enabled vulnerable households that had lost most of their productive assets to resume their livelihoods activities.

Coordination

As co-leads of the Food Security Cluster in the Central African Republic, FAO and the World Food Programme work closely with 62 local and international partners, in collaboration with institutional counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

FAO priorities

Priority	Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package	Cost per household (USD)	Number of beneficiary households	Total cost (USD)	Funds needed by	Planned implementation period
Improve agricultural production	**Crop production kit:** 50 kg of groundnut, 10 kg of rice and 10 kg of maize seed; 500 cassava cuttings; 25 kg of fertilizer; and two hoes	200	40 000	8 000 000	February	March–May
	Vegetable production kit: 100 g of seeds (aubergine, cabbage, carrot, cucumber, green pepper, green bean, okra, onion, spinach, tomato); 25 kg of fertilizers; two hoes and one watering can	55	60 000	3 300 000	August	September–December
Increase livestock production	Ten hens, one rooster, feed, material for building chicken coops	200	20 000	4 000 000		
	One male and two female goats	300	20 000	6 000 000		
Cash transfer	Unconditional cash transfer	450	30 000	13 500 000	Year-round	Year-round

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