

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Central African Republic

May-August 2011

Key Messages

- Insecurity remains a major factor impeding improvements in food security conditions and agricultural production.
- Agencies agree on the alarming level of hunger and malnutrition.
- International agencies face major problems in delivering aid to conflict-affected population due to constrained access.
- FAO has been supporting agricultural production; however limited access to inputs by farmers due to insecurity affects levels of production.

Background

The country's total population is about 4,4 million with an annual growth rate of 1%; 62% of the population is estimated to be below the poverty line of \$1 PPP per day; and 40% of the population is reported as undernourished.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	4.401
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	1%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	780
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2003 (MDGI)	62%
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	61%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	55%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2006/2008(FAO)	40%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	25%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	8%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	34%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	48
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	67%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	4.7%

Prices

There is no price data available.

Food Security Situation Assessment

The food security situation is particularly affected by continued civil insecurity which not only restricts access to markets, where volatile prices also hamper food access, but also to agricultural land. Moreover humanitarian interventions are also very much constrained by armed groups' attacks. According to GIEWS the country is faced with severe localized food insecurity. FAO Hunger map reports very high undernourishment levels and IFPRI estimates alarming prevalence of hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011
---	---------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Central African Republic is not covered by FEWSNET. FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case. [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map
--------------------	---------------	--------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

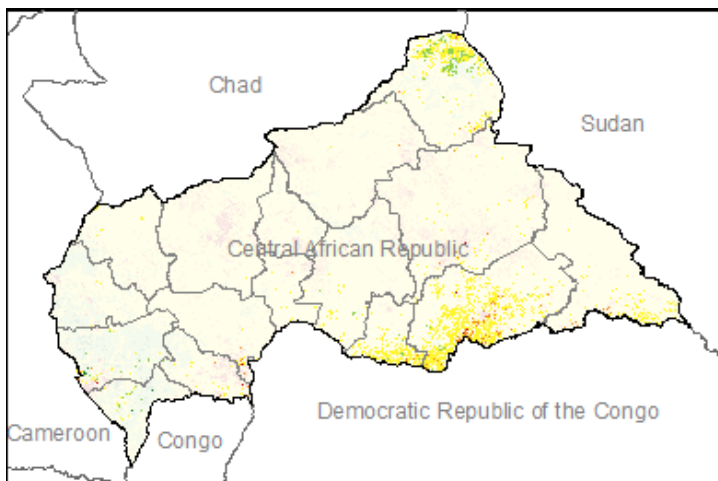
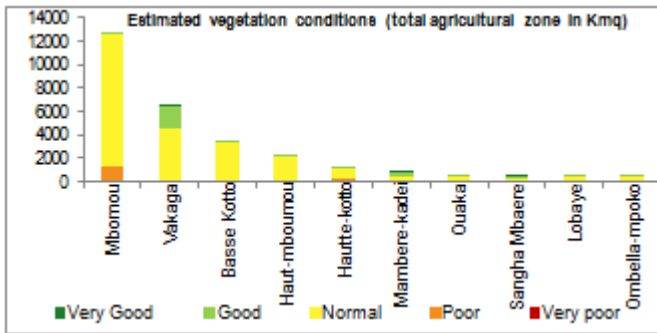
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2011 GHI
--------------------	----------	---------	----------	-----	--------------------------------

Information required to draw this chart is not available.

Central African Republic

Vegetation Condition

At the middle of the rainy season, normal conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for August 2011 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Maize (South/ second)- Millet - Cassava - Rice - Sorghum
Growing	Maize (South/main)- Millet - Cassava - Sorghum - Yams
Harvesting	Maize (South/main) - Yams

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

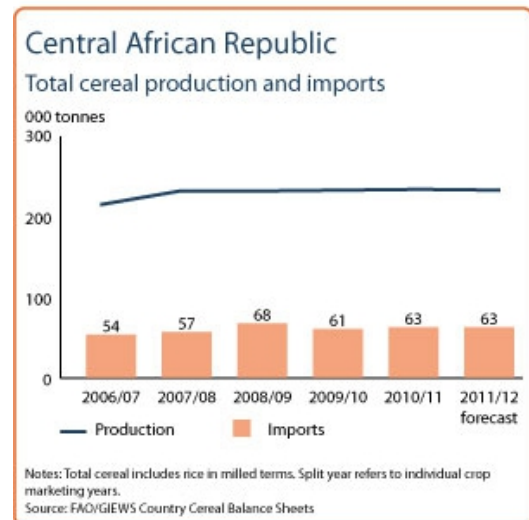
Although in June, the last major rebel movement active in the country, the CPJP, signed a ceasefire with the government, civil conflict and insecurity continue. Furthermore, insecurity in DRC, has led to an increase of refugees in CAR, putting additional pressure on already limited resources.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	n.a.
Total in the country	205901	225319	n.a.
Total outside the country	323357	357477	n.a.

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Food Balance Sheet

In the southern region, harvesting of the main maize crop is underway, while in the north planting of millet and sorghum was scheduled to conclude by July. Production and imports for 2011/12 are forecasted at the same levels as in 2010/11: around 213,000 tonnes for cereal output and 63,000 tonnes for imports.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

FAO has been providing agricultural tools, seeds and training for farmers, as well as providing technical assistance in the management of lowlands. Nevertheless, agricultural production is still constrained by limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	FAO input distribution

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[GIEWS Country Briefs: Chad 19-October-2011](#)
[IDP News Alert, 21 October 2011](#)
[Traque de la LRA: la mission des militaires américains...](#)
[Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced person...](#)
[INTERVIEW-Coordination needed to end Central African R...](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the **GIEWS Workstation**

The Programme on Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.