



GIEWS Country Brief

The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 20-September-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Agricultural production in 2022 constrained by conflicts, displacements and high input prices**
- **Prices of imported food remain at high levels**
- **Over 2 million people estimated severely food insecure**

Agricultural production in 2022 constrained by conflicts, displacements and high input prices

In central and southern areas, harvesting of the 2022 maize crop is ongoing under favourable weather conditions, while harvesting of the 2022 millet and sorghum crops in northern areas is expected to take place between late September and November. Above-average precipitation amounts since July benefitted crop yields, but also caused localized flooding and damage to standing crops.

Persisting insecurity and population displacements continue to affect agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to crop growing areas and agricultural inputs. Elevated international prices of fuel and fertilizers, largely imported, have reportedly led to a lower use of agricultural inputs in 2022, especially among smallholder farmers, with a negative impact on yields.

Prices of imported food remain at high levels

During the third quarter of 2022, prices of most locally produced staple foods, including maize and cassava, were similar to the levels of a year before. By contrast, prices of imported food commodities, such as rice, white beans, wheat flour and vegetable oil, remained at high levels in the third quarter of 2022 compared to previous years. This reflects high international quotations of imported products and elevated transportation costs.

The export ban placed by Cameroon on wheat flour, rice and other food products also contributed to the upward pressure on food prices in the country, as it resulted in a drop in market availabilities ([FPMA Policy](#)).

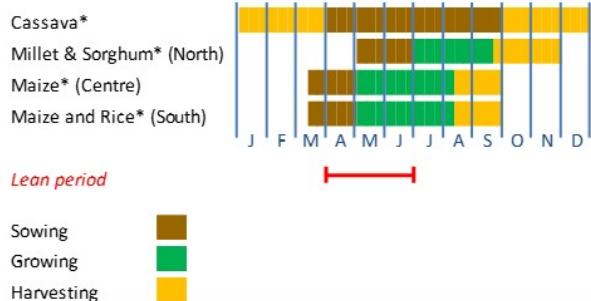
Over 2 million people acutely food insecure

According to the latest IPC Acute Food Insecurity projection update, published in April 2022, in the absence of humanitarian assistance, about 2.2 million people (over 40 percent of the total population) were expected to experience high levels of acute

Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

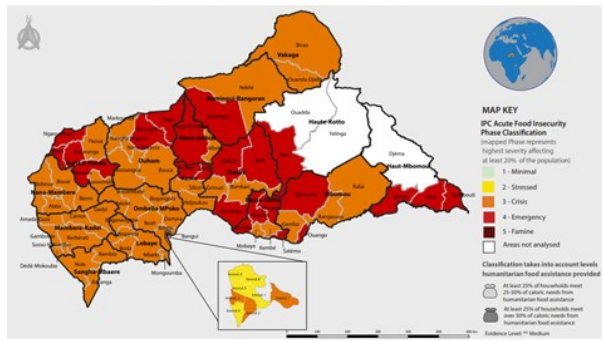
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic – Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC)

Food Insecurity Projection Update (April - August 2022)



food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) between April and August 2022, including 638 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

In most prefectures, civil insecurity in 2022 continues to cause population displacements and widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities with negative consequences on food availability and access. In addition, households' purchasing power was significantly reduced by the high prices of staple foods.

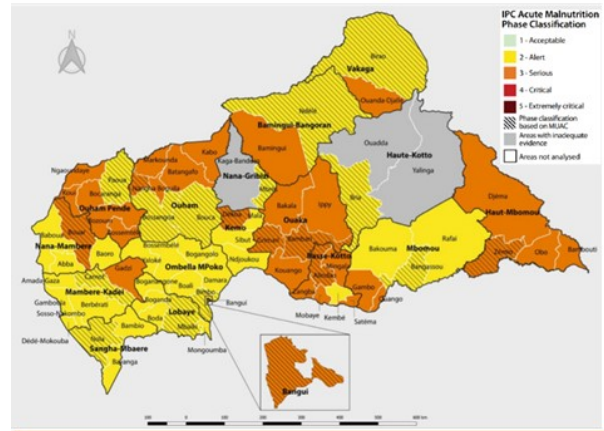
According to the latest [IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis](#), published in October 2021, about 214 000 children under the age of five were estimated to be Moderately Acutely Malnourished (MAM) between September 2021 and February 2022. Of these, nearly 67 000 were Severely Acutely Malnourished (SAM). In addition, about 98 000 pregnant or lactating women were estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition. This is mainly due to the high prevalence of acute food insecurity, inadequate quality of food intake, infectious diseases, such as malaria and diarrhoea, frequent outbreaks of measles, inaccessibility to adequate sanitation facilities and very limited access to safe drinking water.

Given the high levels of civil insecurity and the limited access to nutritious foods, coupled with high prevalence of infectious diseases, acute malnutrition could deteriorate particularly in conflict-affected areas.

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Central African Republic – IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis

Acute Malnutrition Situation (September 2021–February 2022)





GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 04-March-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Conflicts and displacements continue to hamper agricultural activities**
- **Imported rice prices remained high in urban areas in late 2021**
- **Over 2 million people estimated to be severely food insecure**

Conflicts and displacements continue to hamper agricultural activities

In northern areas, harvesting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops finalized last November, while in central and southern areas planting of the 2022 maize crop for harvest in August and September is expected to start in mid-March. Weather forecasts until May point to below-average rainfall amounts in southern parts of the country, which may negatively affect maize yields.

Persisting conflicts and displacements are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on 2022 crop production.

Imported rice prices remained high in urban areas in late 2021

During the last quarter of 2021, prices of most locally produced staple foods remained overall stable at levels near those of the year before. Prices of imported rice were elevated in urban areas due to the disruption of the global supply chain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures, which resulted in low imports.

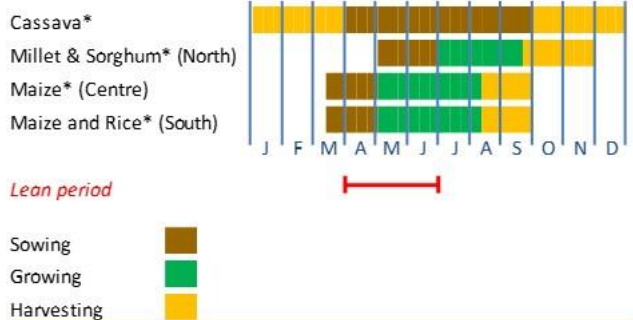
Over 2 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

According to the latest IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis, published in October 2021, about 2.1 million people (over 40 percent of the total population) were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above between September 2021 and March 2022, including 620 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The number of severely food insecure people, IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above, is projected to increase to almost 2.4 million in April-August 2022, including 689 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), corresponding to the lean season.

Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

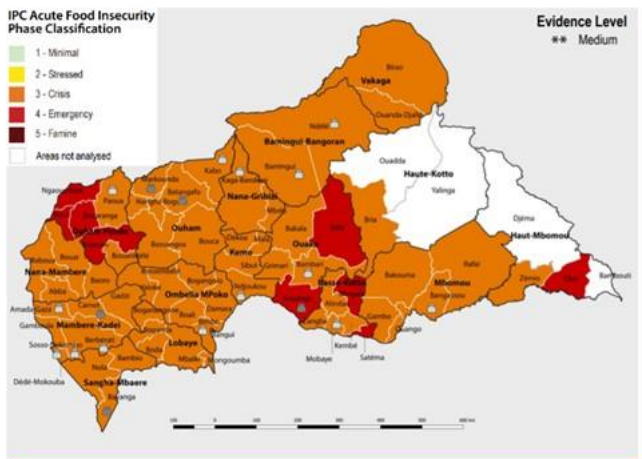
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC)

Food Insecurity Situation (September 2021-March 2022)



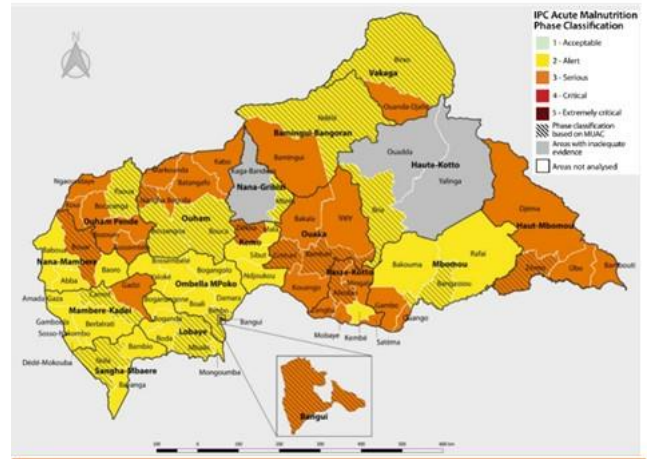
In most prefectures, civil insecurity in 2021 continued to cause population displacements and widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities with negative consequences on food availability and access. In addition, the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the high level of prices of some food staples, reduced substantially the households' purchasing power.

The [IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis](#) published in October 2021 estimated that about 214 000 children under the age of five were Moderately Acutely Malnourished (MAM) between September 2021 and February 2022. Of these, nearly 67 000 were Severely Acutely Malnourished (SAM). In addition, about 98 000 pregnant or lactating women were estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, in the reporting period. This is mainly due to the high prevalence of acute food insecurity, inadequate quality of food intake, infectious diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea, frequent outbreaks of measles, inaccessibility to adequate sanitation facilities and very limited access to safe drinking water.

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Central African Republic – IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis

Acute Malnutrition Situation (September 2021-February 2022)





GIEWS Country Brief

The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 13-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue to hamper agricultural activities**
- **Food prices remained high in third quarter of 2021**
- **About 2.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in lean period**

Conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue to hamper agricultural activities

In northern areas, harvesting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops started in late September and, according to satellite based images, crop conditions were near the average levels just before the beginning of the harvest (ASI map). In central and southern areas, harvesting of the 2021 maize crop started in mid-August and finalized in September under overall favourable weather conditions.

Persisting conflicts and displacements, coupled with restrictive measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, continued affecting agricultural activities and limited farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on 2021 crop production.

Food prices remained high in third quarter of 2021

Prices of most locally produced products, such as maize, rice, sorghum, palm oil and peanuts, increased slightly between March and August 2021, reaching year-on-year higher levels. Prices of imported commodities, such as rice, white beans, wheat and fish, remained above the previous five-year average levels in the June to August 2021 period. In 2021, the impact of restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic on the global supply chain, including the closure of borders, the limitation to markets access and the disruption of the country's main supply route from Cameroon during the first quarter of the year, coupled with high prices in the international market, have curtailed import flows and exerted an upward pressure on food prices.

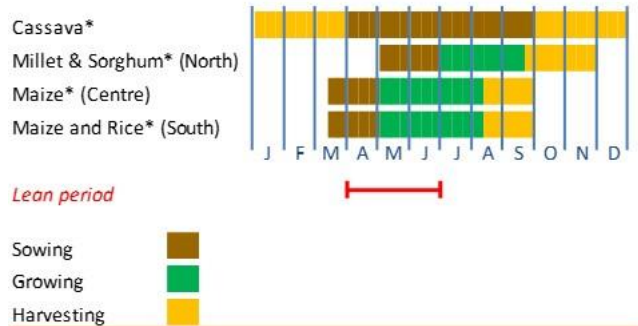
About 2.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in lean period

According to the latest IPC analysis, published in May 2021, about 2.3 million people (nearly half of the total population) are

Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

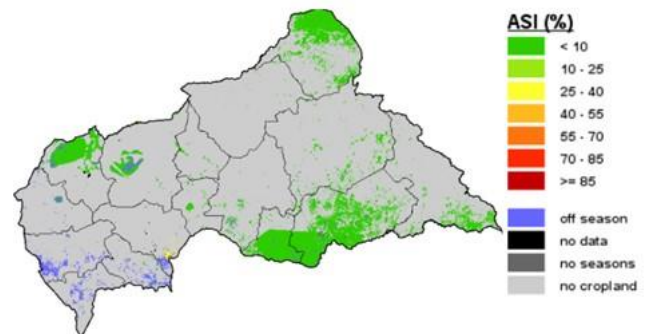
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, September 2021



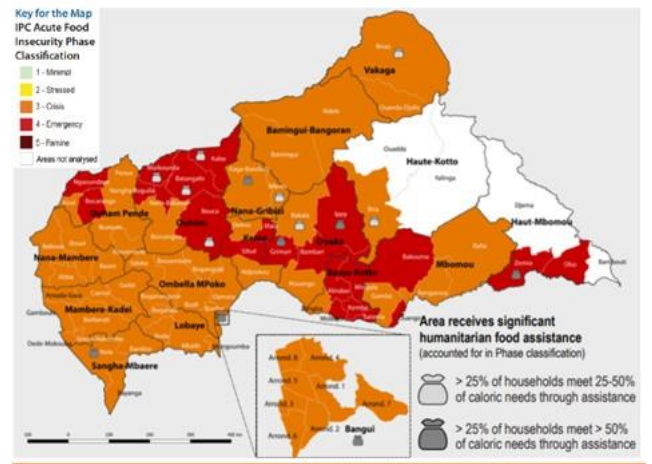
Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above during the April to August 2021 lean season, including 633 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The main drivers of the high food insecurity levels are high prices and continued civil insecurity. The situation has been aggravated by widespread violent events that followed the presidential and legislative elections held in December 2020, which triggered large population displacements. Currently, it is estimated that about 1.4 million people (almost one-third of the country's population) are either internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.

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Central African Republic - Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC)

Food Insecurity situation (April-August 2021 projection)





GIEWS Country Brief

The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 13-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue to hamper agricultural activities**
- **Food prices remained high in third quarter of 2021**
- **About 2.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in lean period**

Conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue to hamper agricultural activities

In northern areas, harvesting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops started in late September and, according to satellite based images, crop conditions were near the average levels just before the beginning of the harvest (ASI map). In central and southern areas, harvesting of the 2021 maize crop started in mid-August and finalized in September under overall favourable weather conditions.

Persisting conflicts and displacements, coupled with restrictive measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, continued affecting agricultural activities and limited farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on 2021 crop production.

Food prices remained high in third quarter of 2021

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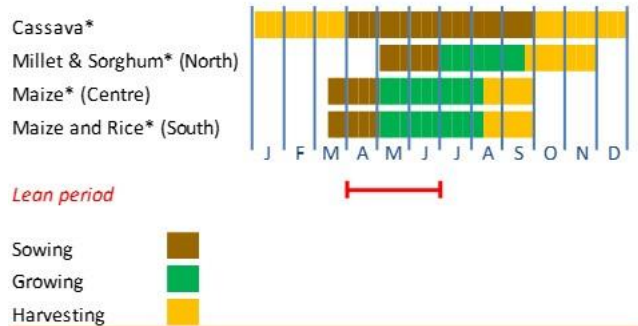
About 2.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in lean period

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Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

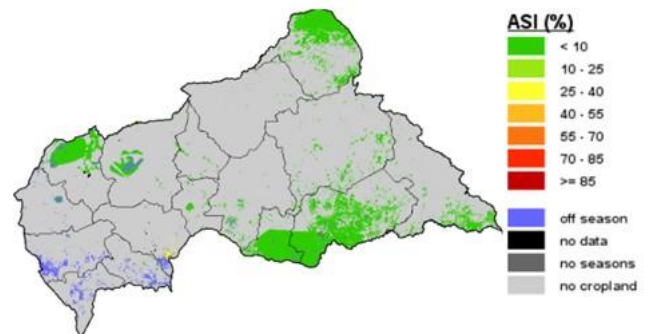
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, September 2021



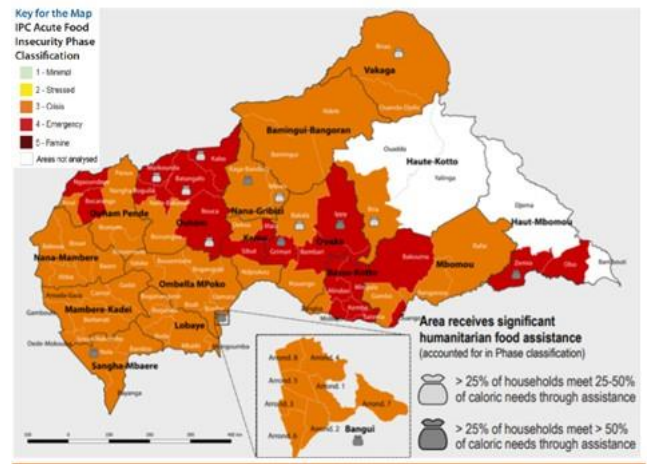
Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above during the April to August 2021 lean season, including 633 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The main drivers of the high food insecurity levels are high prices and continued civil insecurity. The situation has been aggravated by widespread violent events that followed the presidential and legislative elections held in December 2020, which triggered large population displacements. Currently, it is estimated that about 1.4 million people (almost one-third of the country's population) are either internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.

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Central African Republic - Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC)

Food Insecurity situation (April-August 2021 projection)





GIEWS Country Brief

The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 13-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue to hamper agricultural activities**
- **Food prices remained high in third quarter of 2021**
- **About 2.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in lean period**

Conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 prevention measures continue to hamper agricultural activities

In northern areas, harvesting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops started in late September and, according to satellite based images, crop conditions were near the average levels just before the beginning of the harvest (ASI map). In central and southern areas, harvesting of the 2021 maize crop started in mid-August and finalized in September under overall favourable weather conditions.

Persisting conflicts and displacements, coupled with restrictive measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, continued affecting agricultural activities and limited farmers' access to crop growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on 2021 crop production.

Food prices remained high in third quarter of 2021

Prices of most locally produced products, such as maize, rice, sorghum, palm oil and peanuts, increased slightly between March and August 2021, reaching year-on-year higher levels. Prices of imported commodities, such as rice, white beans, wheat and fish, remained above the previous five-year average levels in the June to August 2021 period. In 2021, the impact of restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic on the global supply chain, including the closure of borders, the limitation to markets access and the disruption of the country's main supply route from Cameroon during the first quarter of the year, coupled with high prices in the international market, have curtailed import flows and exerted an upward pressure on food prices.

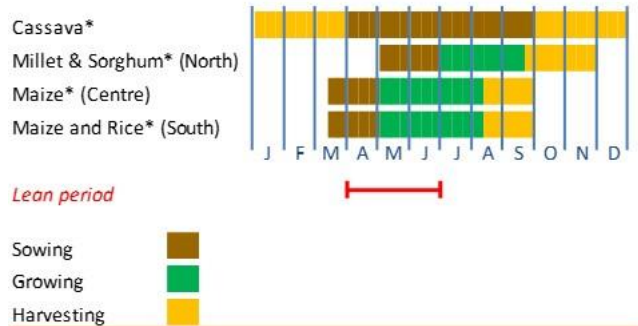
About 2.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure in lean period

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Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

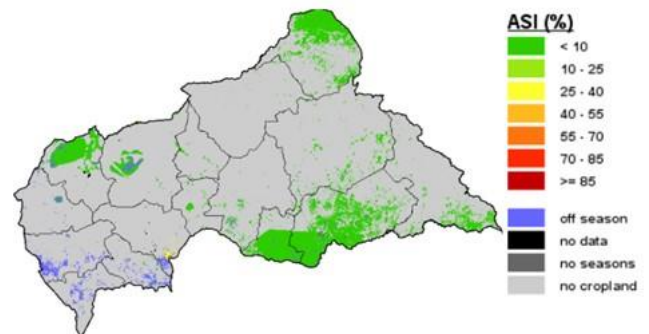
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, September 2021



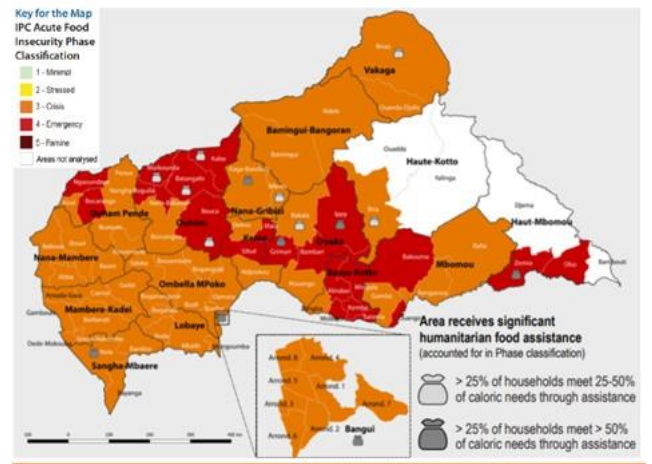
Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above during the April to August 2021 lean season, including 633 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The main drivers of the high food insecurity levels are high prices and continued civil insecurity. The situation has been aggravated by widespread violent events that followed the presidential and legislative elections held in December 2020, which triggered large population displacements. Currently, it is estimated that about 1.4 million people (almost one-third of the country's population) are either internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.

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Central African Republic - Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC)

Food Insecurity situation (April-August 2021 projection)





GIEWS Country Brief

The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 30-June-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Food production in 2021 expected to be affected by conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 pandemic restrictive measures
- Slow trade activity contributes to keeping food prices high
- About 2.3 million people estimated severely food insecure in lean period

Food production in 2021 expected to be affected by conflicts, displacements and COVID-19 pandemic restrictive measures

In northern areas, planting of the 2021 millet and sorghum crops is ongoing and harvesting is expected to begin in late September. Latest weather forecasts point to average precipitation amounts between July and September 2021, with likely positive effects on yields. In central and southern areas, harvesting of the 2021 early planted maize crop will begin in mid-August and, according to satellite-based images, crop conditions were near the average levels as of mid-June (ASI map).

Ongoing conflicts and displacements, coupled with restrictive measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to continue affecting agricultural activities and limit farmers' access to crop-growing areas and inputs, with a negative impact on 2021 crop production.

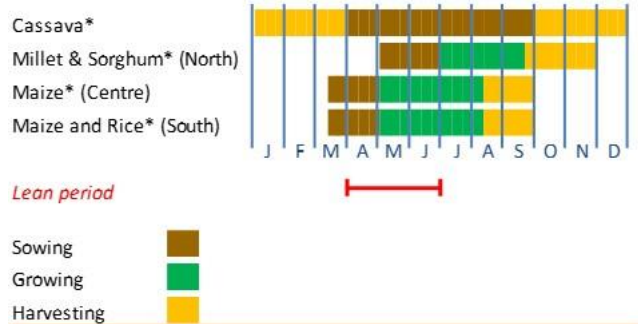
Slow trade activity contributes to keeping food prices high

Prices of locally produced cassava, maize, sorghum and peanuts increased slightly between March and May 2021, in line with seasonal trends. In May, prices were higher on a yearly basis due to insecurity, which hampered farmers' access to the markets, resulting in low supplies and due to increased transportation costs amid the COVID-19 pandemic containment measures. Prices of imported commodities, such as white beans, rice, wheat flour and fish, were also at high levels in May. This was mainly due to the implementation of movement restrictions used to avoid the spread of the virus, which disrupted transports at regional level and slowed down trade.

Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

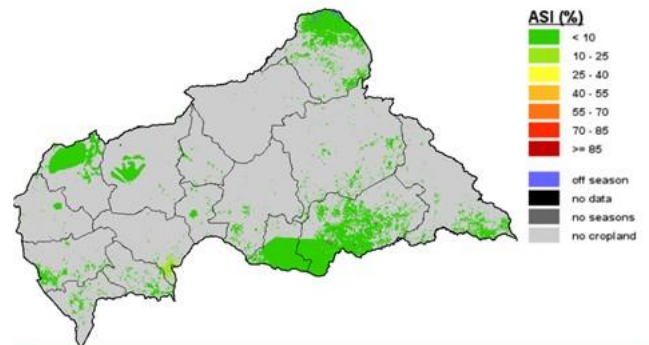
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, June 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

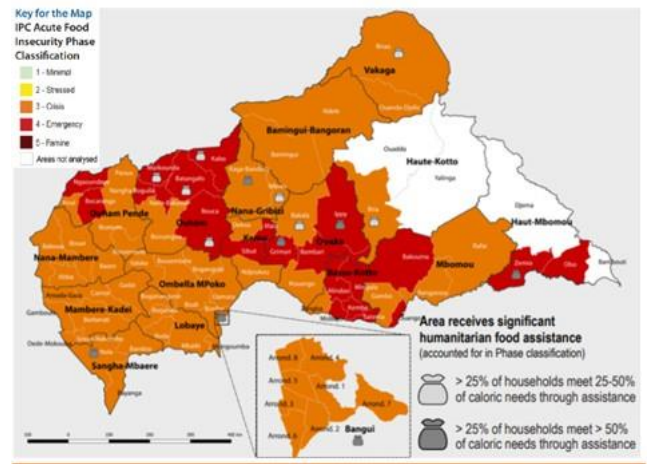
About 2.3 million people estimated severely food insecure in lean period

According to the latest IPC analysis, published in May 2021, about 2.3 million people (nearly half of the total population) are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and above during the April-August 2021 lean season, including 600 000 people classified in IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”. The main drivers of the high food insecurity levels are high prices and continued civil insecurity. The situation has been aggravated by the armed violence connected to the presidential and legislative elections held in December 2020, which triggered population displacements. It is estimated that about 1.4 million people (almost one-third of the country's population) are either internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.

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Central African Republic - Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC)

Food Insecurity situation (April-August 2021 projection)





GLEWS Country Brief

The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 02-December-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production in 2020 forecast slightly below-average level
- Most food prices in October well above year-earlier levels
- About 1.9 million people estimated severely food insecure in post-harvest period

Crop production in 2020 forecast slightly below-average level

In the uni-modal rainfall northern areas, harvesting of the 2020 millet and sorghum crops is about to be completed and the output is expected at below-average levels. The restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic hampered farmers' access to crop growing areas and agricultural inputs across the country. In addition, excessive cumulative precipitation amounts between May and July triggered floods in August in northern prefectures, damaging standing crops. In central and southern areas, the 2020 maize crops benefited from overall adequate and well distributed rainfall during the season and harvesting finalized in September. An outbreak of cassava mosaic disease, particularly in the southern prefecture of Kemo, reduced the output of cassava tubers that are grown throughout the year.

The 2020 aggregate crop production is forecast slightly below the average of the last five years, due to the impacts of floods and persisting civil insecurity, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

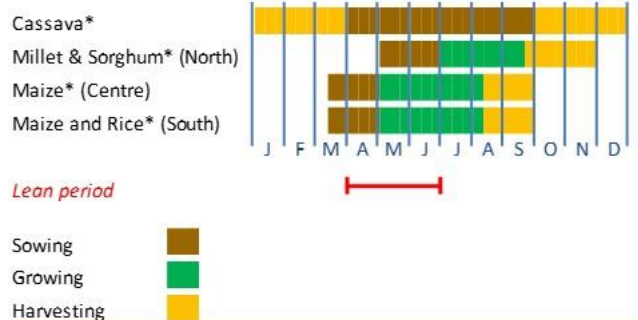
Most food prices in October well above year-earlier levels

Staple food prices, which reached atypically high levels in April 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic and increased further between May and August, remained overall stable or decreased slightly in September and October. In October, prices of important locally produced staples, such as cassava and maize, were similar to the levels of 12 months before. By contrast, sorghum prices were well above their levels in 2019, mainly due to low market supplies following the reduced output obtained in 2020. Prices of imported products also remained higher than their levels of a year before. For instance, the October prices of rice and beans were reported to be, on average, about 40 and 20 percent higher year on year, respectively.

Central African Republic

Crop Calendar

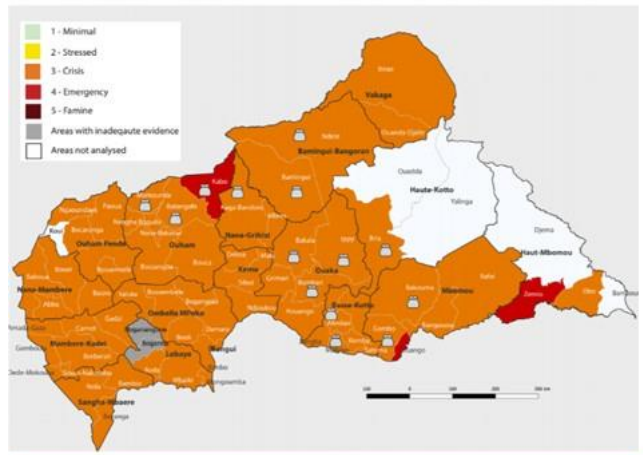
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Integrated Phase Classification

Food Insecurity Situation (September 2020 - April 2021)



About 1.9 million people estimated severely food insecure in post-harvest period

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, conducted in September 2020, the number of severely food insecure people (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”) is estimated at about 1.9 million (about 40 percent of the total population) during the post-harvest September 2020-April 2021 period. It represents a 20 percent increase compared to the same period a year before. The food security situation has worsened mainly due to the high level of food prices, which limits access to food for the most vulnerable households and the upsurge of violence between armed groups, which triggered new population displacements since January 2020, especially in the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadeï.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 04-June-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for 2020 maize, millet and sorghum crops
- Crop production in 2019 estimated at above-average level
- Food prices generally above year-earlier levels
- About 2.4 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

Favourable weather conditions for 2020 maize, millet and sorghum crops

Harvesting of the 2020 early-planted maize crops is expected to start by mid-June in the southern and central bi-modal rainfall areas. According to remote sensing data, crop conditions are favourable across most croplands (see ASI map) as beneficial weather conditions prevailed during the whole cropping season.

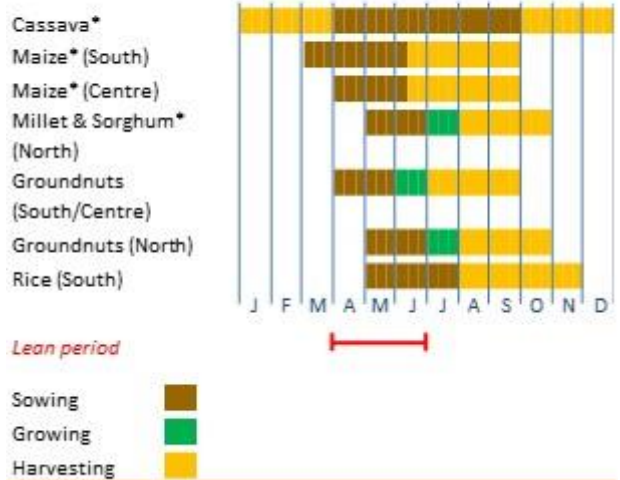
An outbreak of cassava mosaic disease, particularly in the southern prefecture of Kemo, reduced the output of cassava crops that are grown throughout the year. Furthermore, in southern areas, warmer and drier-than-average weather conditions in January and February 2020 have negatively affected cassava-harvesting operations.

In the uni-modal rainfall northern areas, planting of sorghum and millet crops is ongoing under favourable weather conditions and harvesting is expected to begin in August. In these areas, conflict and population movements continue to affect agricultural activities, including planting operations.

Latest weather forecasts point to average to above-average precipitation amounts between June and September 2020, with likely positive effects on yields. As the security situation has generally improved, except in northern prefectures, the 2020 national agricultural production is forecast to exceed the five-year average level. However, production is expected to remain below the pre-crisis level due to the persisting conflict in northern areas, which limits access to land and agricultural inputs as well as to the outbreak of the cassava mosaic disease.

Central African Republic

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Central African Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, May 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Crop production in 2019 estimated at above-average level

Harvesting of the 2019 crops was completed last November and the 2019 national crop production is estimated slightly above the recent five-year average level, although lower than the pre-crisis average. The result is due to overall favourable weather conditions and large plantings, following improvements of the security situation that led to better access to the fields and agricultural inputs, together with some voluntary returns of displaced farmers.

Food prices well above year-earlier levels

During the first months of 2020, prices of staple foods were well above their levels a year before as insecurity continues to cause disruptions in supply and trade. In April, with the implementation of COVID-19 containment measures (see box below), prices surged in most markets due to the slowdown of both local and international transports, amid the partial closure of borders with Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Prices of imported products, such as rice and beans, reached levels of up to 80 percent higher than a year before in most markets. Similarly, prices of locally-produced goods, such as maize, cassava and sorghum, were about 50 percent above those in April 2019. The upward pressure on cassava prices in southern areas was exerted also by reduced availabilities of the crop due to the outbreak of the cassava mosaic disease. In the markets of Bangui, food staple prices were particularly high due to strong consumer demand.

About 2.4 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 2.4 million people (51 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”) during the May-August 2020 period. Of these, about 753 000 are in IPC Phase 4: “Emergency” and are mainly located in the prefectures of Bangui, Ouaka and Ouham that host the highest number of IDPs. In Bangui, the number of food insecure people is estimated to be considerably higher than in previous years due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on movements and the high food prices.

Renewed violence between armed groups in northern prefectures resulted in an increase of security incidents and population movements between January and March 2020. According to the [UNHCR](#), the number of IDPs increased from 682 000 in January 2020 to about 697 000 in March.

Food Insecurity situation - May-August 2020



COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has implemented a number of measures, including the closing of the borders, except for trade of essential goods such as food, limiting movement within the country, closing schools and bars, banning gatherings of more than 15 people, also on public transport, and imposing quarantine and social distancing measures.

On 23 April 2020, the World Bank approved a [USD 7.5 million](#) grant from the International Development Association (IDA) to help the country respond to the emergency and to strengthen the national systems for public health preparedness.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 05-December-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production in 2019 estimated at above-average level
- Food prices generally above year-earlier levels
- About 1.6 million people estimated severely food insecure

Crop production in 2019 estimated at above-average level

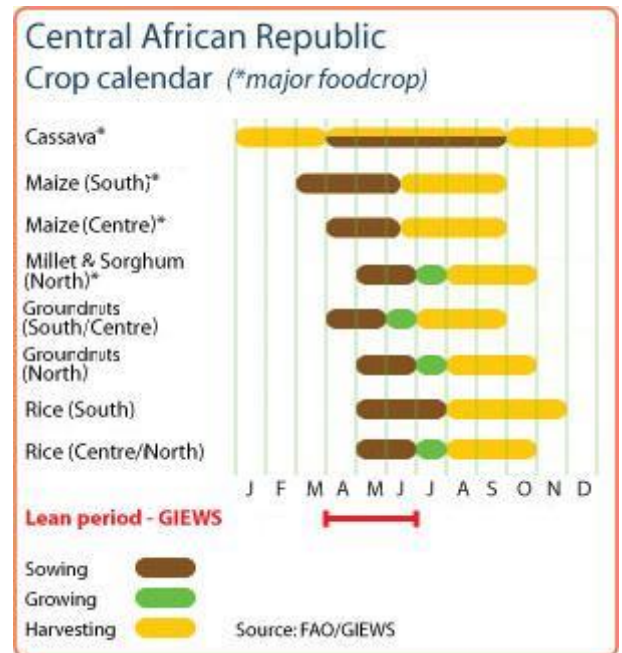
Harvesting of the 2019 main season maize crop was completed in September in central and southern bi-modal rainfall areas, while harvesting of millet and sorghum finished in October in northern uni-modal rainfall areas. Improvements of the security situation have led to better access to fields and agricultural inputs which, together with some voluntary returns of displaced farmers, triggered an increase in plantings in 2019. As rainfall has been overall adequate and well distributed throughout the cropping seasons, the 2019 national crop production is estimated above the recent five-year average level, although lower than the pre-crisis average. In particular, outputs of maize and cassava are estimated at about 20 and 15 percent above the average levels, respectively. Below-average outputs were obtained in the prefectures of Bangui, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouham, Ouaka and Basse-Kotto, along the Ubangi and Ouaka rivers, where excessive cumulative precipitation amounts in September and October caused flooding with damage to standing crops and harvested grains. In the prefectures of Basse-Kotto, Mbomou, Haut-Kotto and Ouaka, where armed groups remain active, the 2019 production of crops is still estimated below the recent five-year average level.

Food prices above year-earlier levels

In October and November 2019, in most markets, prices of maize, rice and cassava were reported up to 50 percent above their values in corresponding months a year before as insecurity continues to cause disruption in supply and trade. The average annual inflation rate in 2019 is expected to increase slightly above the 3 percent convergence rate set by the “Communauté économique et monétaire de l’Afrique centrale”.

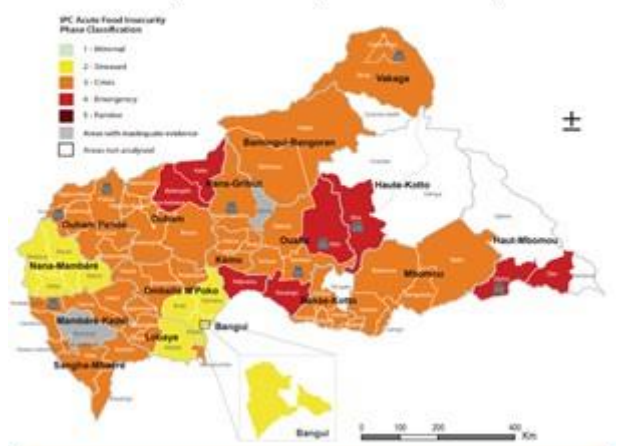
About 1.6 million people estimated severely food insecure

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, valid for the period from



Central Africa Republic - Integrated Phase Classification

Food Insecurity Situation September 2019-April 2020



September 2019 to April 2020, about 1.6 million people (35 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). Of these, about 373 400 people are in IPC Phase 4: “Emergency” and are mainly located in areas with high concentration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including the central and eastern sub-prefectures of Bria (Haute-Kotto Prefecture), Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Gribizi Prefecture), Obo and Zemio (Haut-Mbomou Prefecture) and Rafaï (Mbomou Prefecture).

In eastern and southeastern areas, armed conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity as it affects households’ livelihoods and access to food, significantly disrupting livestock, fishing and agricultural activities, particularly in the prefectures of Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou and Haute-Kotto. In addition to conflict, trade flows in these areas have been hampered by damage to road infrastructure due to heavy rainfall since July, with a consequent decrease of food supplies in the local markets.

Following the signing of the peace agreement between the Government and several armed groups in February 2019, the security situation has improved considerably, allowing some IDPs to return to their place of origin. According to the UNHCR, the number of IDPs declined from 656 000 in February 2019 to about 600 000 in September 2019.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 21-March-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production in 2018 estimated at above-average level due to larger cassava production
- Food access continues to be severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods and sharply-curtailed market activities
- Food prices above year-earlier levels
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

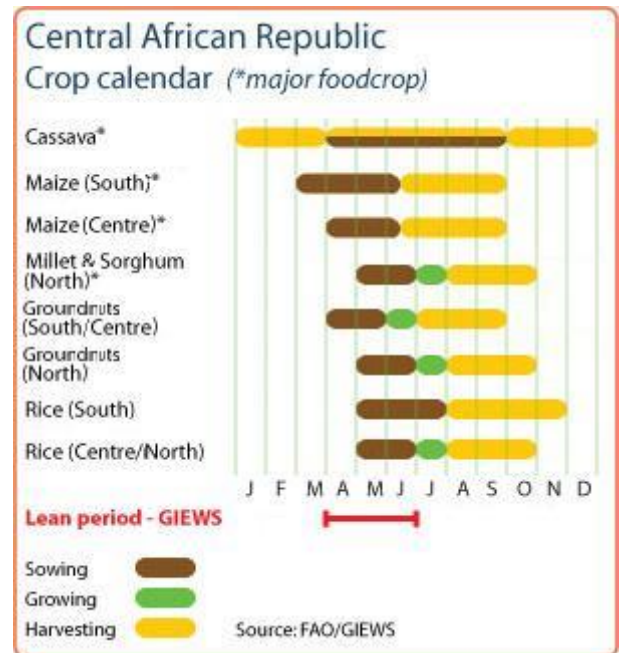
Cropping season in 2019 started following above-average 2018 output

Planting of the 2019 maize crop began in March in some areas of the south under favourable weather conditions. Sowing of the other main cereal crops is expected to start in other parts of the country in April and May and continue until June. Persisting civil insecurity continues to hamper crop production as the area planted is significantly constrained by the abandonment of a substantial number of farms.

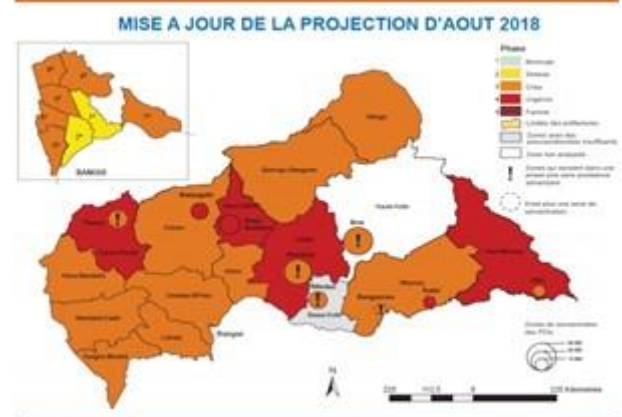
The 2018 aggregate food production was estimated to be about 1 million tonnes, about 3 percent below the good 2017 output. Production in 2018 was 18 percent above the last five-year average (2013-2017), but still lower than the pre-crisis levels. In recent years (2016-2018), cassava production has returned to pre-crisis levels following an increase in cultivation during the ongoing conflict as the crop requires less maintenance and physical presence in the fields compared to other crops.

Food prices above their year-earlier levels

Staple food prices in December 2018 were above their year-earlier levels. Price of rice in December 2018 rose by 10 percent from the previous year despite a slight increase in domestic production. The increase in the prices of rice was mainly due to a significant decrease in imports resulting from the disruption of cross-border markets. The average annual inflation rate in 2018 increased to 6 percent from 4.1 percent in 2017 due to a deterioration of security causing disruption in supply and trade.



Central Africa Republic - Integrated Phase Classification



Acute food security persists due to civil insecurity

Violent clashes and inter-communal tensions that began in December 2012 have persisted to date and resulted in significant population movements within the country and in neighbouring countries. The conflict has progressively increased since June 2018 leading to widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, as of end-December 2018, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 641 000 people compared to about 608 000 in June 2018. The majority of the displaced population live in host families (more than 412 000), while the rest reside in IDP sites and centres. The conflicts are also restricting the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disrupting agricultural activities.

Since late 2017, the quantity of the food in-take for large segments of the population has been reportedly reduced and the dietary diversity has also drastically worsened through the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins in-take. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), conducted in September 2018, approximately 1.9 million people (about 100 000 less than in March 2018) are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”) of which more than 550 000 people face IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”. Armed conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity affecting households’ livelihoods and access to food, making it difficult to conduct agricultural and livestock activities.

To help avert a full scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO and NGO partners have provided, crop production support to more than 100 000 vulnerable households across the country, distributing food, seeds and tools.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 21-March-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production in 2018 estimated at above-average level due to larger cassava production
- Food access continues to be severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods and sharply-curtailed market activities
- Food prices above year-earlier levels
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

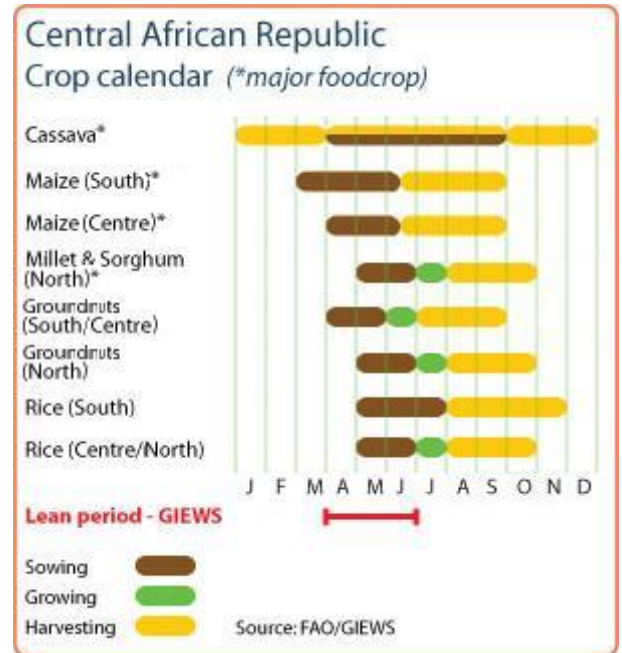
Cropping season in 2019 started following above-average 2018 output

Planting of the 2019 maize crop began in March in some areas of the south under favourable weather conditions. Sowing of the other main cereal crops is expected to start in other parts of the country in April and May and continue until June. Persisting civil insecurity continues to hamper crop production as the area planted is significantly constrained by the abandonment of a substantial number of farms.

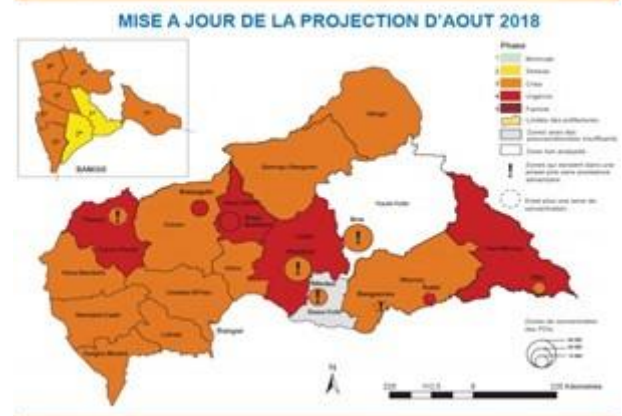
The 2018 aggregate food production was estimated to be about 1 million tonnes, about 3 percent below the good 2017 output. Production in 2018 was 18 percent above the last five-year average (2013-2017), but still lower than the pre-crisis levels. In recent years (2016-2018), cassava production has returned to pre-crisis levels following an increase in cultivation during the ongoing conflict as the crop requires less maintenance and physical presence in the fields compared to other crops.

Food prices above their year-earlier levels

Staple food prices in December 2018 were above their year-earlier levels. Price of rice in December 2018 rose by 10 percent from the previous year despite a slight increase in domestic production. The increase in the prices of rice was mainly due to a significant decrease in imports resulting from the disruption of cross-border markets. The average annual inflation rate in 2018 increased to 6 percent from 4.1 percent in 2017 due to a deterioration of security causing disruption in supply and trade.



Central Africa Republic - Integrated Phase Classification



Acute food security persists due to civil insecurity

Violent clashes and inter-communal tensions that began in December 2012 have persisted to date and resulted in significant population movements within the country and in neighbouring countries. The conflict has progressively increased since June 2018 leading to widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, as of end-December 2018, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 641 000 people compared to about 608 000 in June 2018. The majority of the displaced population live in host families (more than 412 000), while the rest reside in IDP sites and centres. The conflicts are also restricting the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disrupting agricultural activities.

Since late 2017, the quantity of the food in-take for large segments of the population has been reportedly reduced and the dietary diversity has also drastically worsened through the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins in-take. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), conducted in September 2018, approximately 1.9 million people (about 100 000 less than in March 2018) are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”) of which more than 550 000 people face IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”. Armed conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity affecting households’ livelihoods and access to food, making it difficult to conduct agricultural and livestock activities.

To help avert a full scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO and NGO partners have provided, crop production support to more than 100 000 vulnerable households across the country, distributing food, seeds and tools.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 05-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable production prospects for 2018 crops due to generalized decline in cropping area as a result of deteriorating civil security situation
- Food access continues to be severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced production and sharply-curtailed market activities
- Food prices expected to seasonally decline as a result of ongoing harvests
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

Below-average production prospects for 2018 crops

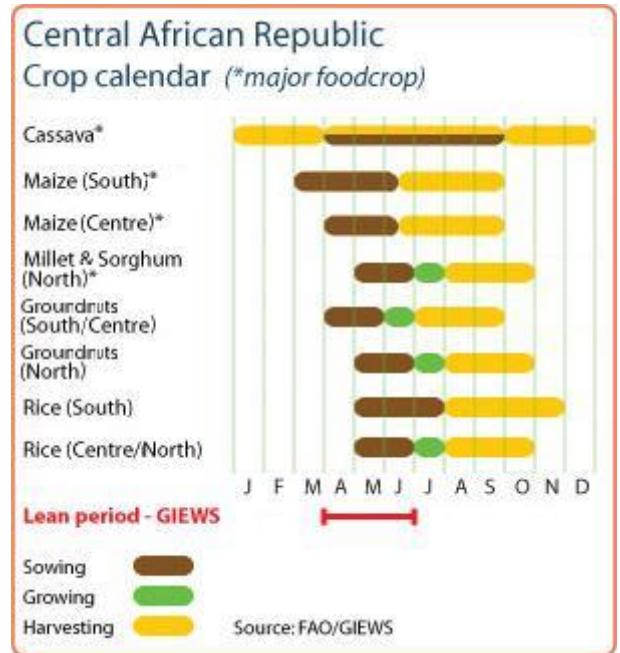
The 2018 cereal crop harvest will be concluded by late November or early December, while in some areas of the south the harvest of the secondary season crops is expected to start in December.

Satellite-based rainfall estimates indicate that, in the southern maize-producing areas, above average amounts were received across the country since the beginning of the cropping season in February until the third dekad of October. However, despite adequate weather conditions, persisting civil insecurity continues to negatively constrain crop production as the area planted significantly declined due to the abandonment of a substantial number of farms. Moreover, the reduced aggregate output in the past five consecutive years has led to the depletion of the already inadequate households' productive assets, particularly seeds and farming tools. As a result, the 2018 aggregate output is preliminarily estimated to be below average and significantly reduced compared to the pre-crisis levels in 2013.

Food prices expected to seasonally decline

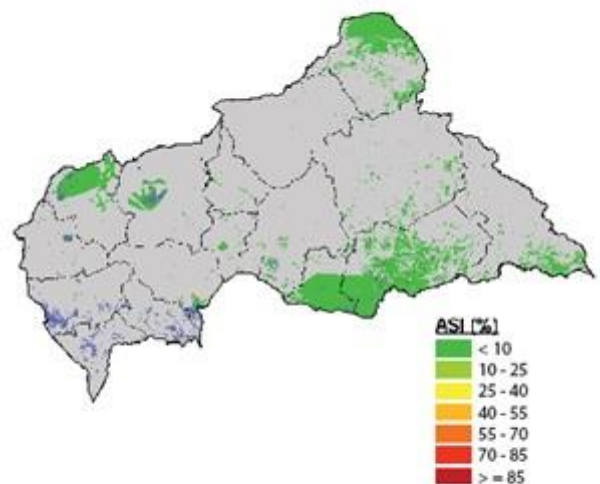
Food prices remained high in September in most northwest, southeast and central conflict-affected areas as food and livestock markets continued to be disrupted by the conflict. In these areas, market activity and market supplies were also below average. Prices are expected to seasonally decline in the coming months due to availability of production of the ongoing harvests.

The average annual inflation rate declined in recent years and fell to 4.1 percent in 2017 compared to 4.6 percent in 2016. The general decline in prices was mostly demand-driven as disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited availability have severely curtailed households' purchasing



Central Africa Republic - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, October 2018



¹ASI measures the percent of cropland affected by drought per GAUL 2 region. The index calculation is based on METOP-AVHRR data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

power. In 2018, the average annual inflation rate is expected to fall slightly below the 2017 levels.

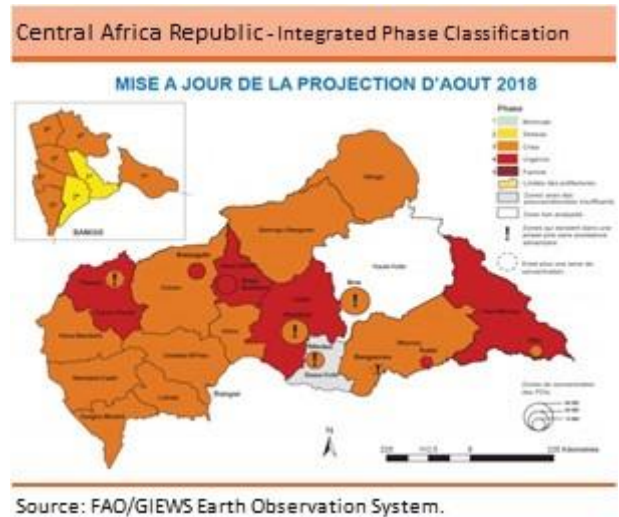
Acute food security situation for large segments of population due to persisting conflict

Violent clashes and inter-communal tensions have persisted since 2013 with new outbreaks of violence erupting in various regions. The conflict has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, as of end-August 2018, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 621 000 people. The conflicts that led to the displacement of the populations is also restricting humanitarian access and disrupting agricultural activities.

Five consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, result in an alarming food security situation across the country. Furthermore, due to civil insecurity, it remains difficult to provide humanitarian assistance in many areas thus raising the concern of food insecurity. Since late 2017, the quantity of the food in-take for large segments of the population has been reportedly reduced and the dietary diversity has also drastically worsened through the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins in-take. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), conducted in September 2018, about 1.9 million people (31 percent of the total population) are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") of which more than 550 000 people face IPC Phase 4: "Emergency".

Armed conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity affecting households' livelihoods and access to food, making it difficult to conduct agricultural and livestock activities. During the lean season, ongoing humanitarian food assistance has been able to slightly mitigate the alarming gap between food production and food needs in some host communities and displaced populations. However, additional livelihood support is required to help avert the situation and reduce the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 03-August-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable production prospects for 2018 crops due to generalized decline in cropping area as a result of deteriorating civil security situation
- Food access continues to be severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced production and sharply-curtailed market activities
- Food prices have risen in recent months
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

Unfavourable production prospects for 2018 crops

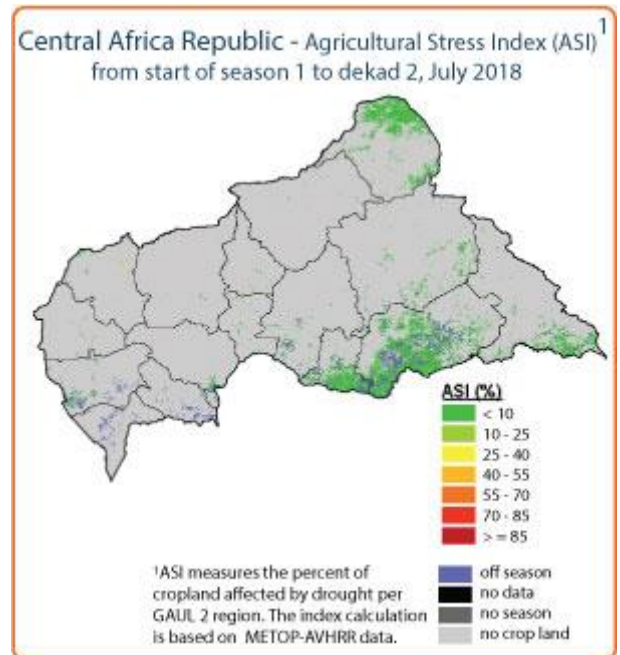
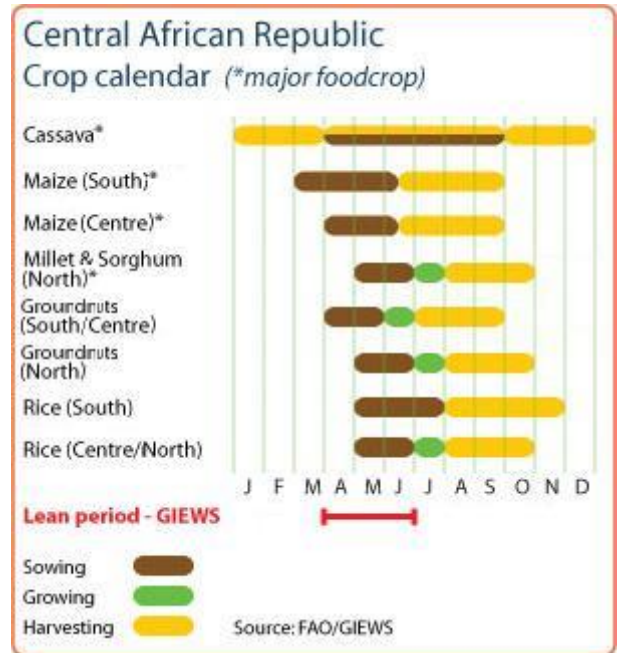
The 2018 main maize harvest is currently underway in the southern bi-modal rainfall areas, while in the uni-modal northern provinces, sorghum and millet crops are being sown for harvest in October.

According to satellite-based information, favourable weather conditions prevailed from March during the cropping season in the southern maize-producing areas. However, persisting civil insecurity has negatively affected crop production following a significant reduction in area planted due to the abandonment of a substantial number of farms. Furthermore, the reduced aggregate output for five consecutive years has led to the depletion of the already inadequate household productive assets, particularly seeds and farming tools. As a result, the 2018 aggregate output is preliminarily estimated to be below average and significantly reduced compared to the pre-crisis levels in 2013.

Food prices have risen in recent months

Food prices have risen in recent months in most northwest, southeast and central conflict-affected areas as food and livestock markets continue to be disrupted by the ongoing conflict. In these areas, market activity and market supplies remain below average.

The average annual inflation rate declined in recent years and fell to 3.7 percent in 2017 compared to 4.6 percent in 2016. The general decline in prices was mostly demand-driven as disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited availability have severely curtailed households' purchasing power. In 2018, the average annual inflation rate is expected to fall slightly below the 2017 levels.



Alarming food security situation for large segments of population due to persisting conflict

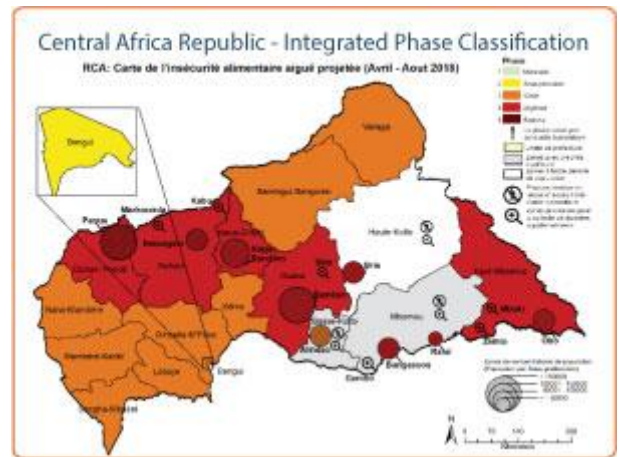
Violent clashes and inter-communal tensions have continuously increased since 2017 resulting in the widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, as of end-June 2018, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 608 000 people. The conflicts that led to the displacement of the populations is also restricting humanitarian access and disrupting agricultural activities.

Five consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, result in an alarming food security situation across the country. Furthermore, due to civil insecurity, it remains difficult to provide humanitarian assistance in many areas thus raising the concern of food insecurity. Since late 2017, the quantity of the food in-take for large segments of the population has been reportedly reduced and the dietary diversity has also drastically worsened through the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins in-take. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from March to August 2018, about 2 million people (34 percent of the total population) are estimated to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") of which more than 686 000 people face IPC Phase 4: "Emergency".

Insecurity remains the leading cause affecting the households' access to food and their livelihoods, making it difficult to conduct agricultural and livestock activities. A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis, FAO plans to assist 1.1 million severely food insecure people through the distribution of seeds and farming tools as well as providing cash transfers and income-generating activities.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 06-February-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Reduced production for 2017 crops due to generalized decline in planted area as consequence of persisting civil insecurity
- Food access continues to be severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced production and sharply-curtailed market activity
- Food prices have risen sharply in conflict-ridden areas
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

Reduced production for 2017 crops

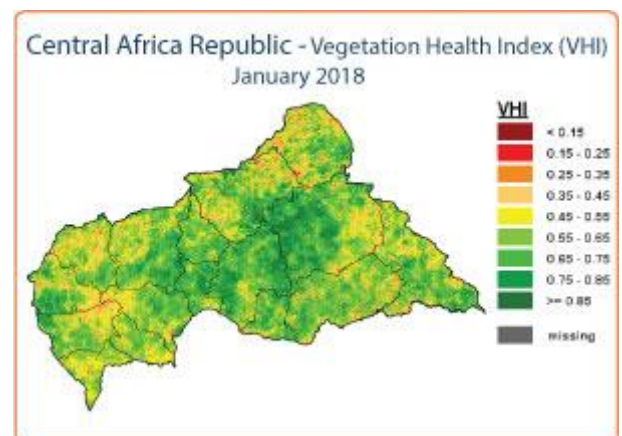
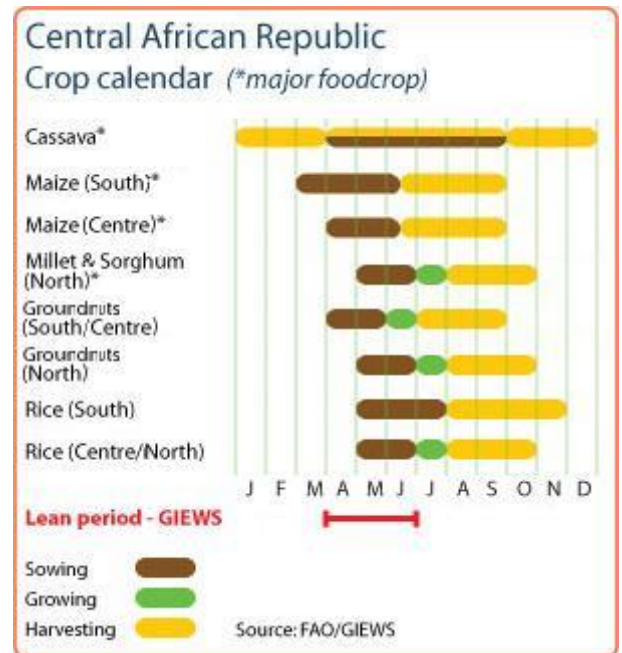
Harvesting of the main 2017 cereal crops was completed in December 2017, while the harvest of the secondary crops is still underway in some southern bi-modal rainfall areas.

According to satellite-based information, vegetation conditions during the cropping season were generally favourable. Average to below-average rainfall prevailed from March until the first dekad of June 2017 in both the southern maize-producing areas and in northern millet/sorghum-growing areas. However, persisting civil insecurity continued to disrupt agricultural activities and limited the available crop-growing areas thus having a negative impact on the final outcome of the cropping season. In fact, it is reported that smaller areas were planted particularly in conflict areas due to the limited access to cropland and seeds. In 2017, a slightly reduced aggregate output was recorded for the fifth consecutive year.

In conflict-affected areas, food prices increased sharply in recent months

Food prices have increased sharply in recent months in the northwest, southeast and central conflict-affected areas mostly due to below-average market supplies, sharply-curtailed market activity as well as the degraded state of roads and road harassment (illegal check-points, ambushes).

The average annual inflation rate declined in recent years and fell to 3.7 percent in 2017 compared to 4.6 percent in 2016. The general decline in prices was mostly demand-driven as disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited availability have severely curtailed households' purchasing power. In 2018, the average annual inflation rate is expected to remain similar to the 2017 levels.

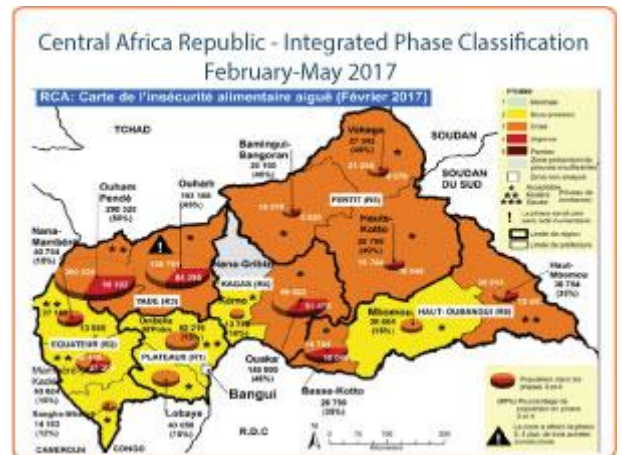
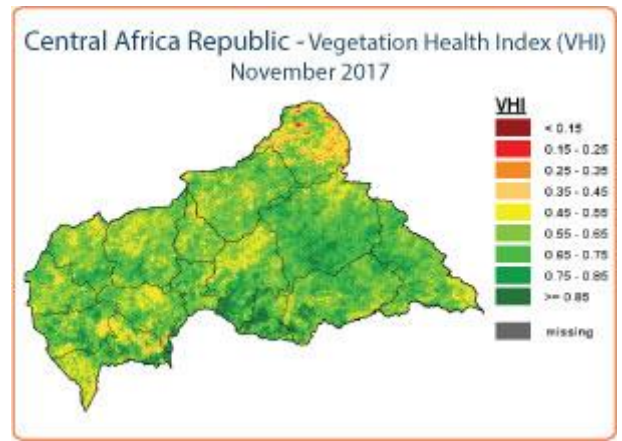


Food security situation remains dire, strong livelihood support continues to be required

Violent clashes and inter-communal tensions have continuously increased since 2017 resulting in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, as of end-December 2017, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 689 000 people, with a nearly 15 percent increase since the end of October 2017 in the Ouham-Pendé and Haute-Kotto regions. The conflicts that led to the displacement of the populations is also restricting humanitarian access and disrupting agricultural activities.

Five consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, result in an alarming food security situation across the country. The 2017 lean season (from April to July) was particularly harsh and extended with most households facing serious food constraints. In addition, not only the quantity of food in-take was reduced but the dietary diversity was also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from February to May 2017, about 1.1 million people (30 percent of the total population) were in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency") of which more than 315 000 people who faced IPC Phase 4: "Emergency". Eight out of the 15 prefectures were in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis". A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 13-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable production prospects for 2017 crops due to generalized decline in planted area as consequence of persisting civil insecurity
- Food access continues to be severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced production and sharply-curtailed market activity
- Prices of imported foods and livestock have risen sharply in conflict-ridden areas
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

Below average production prospects for 2017 cropping season

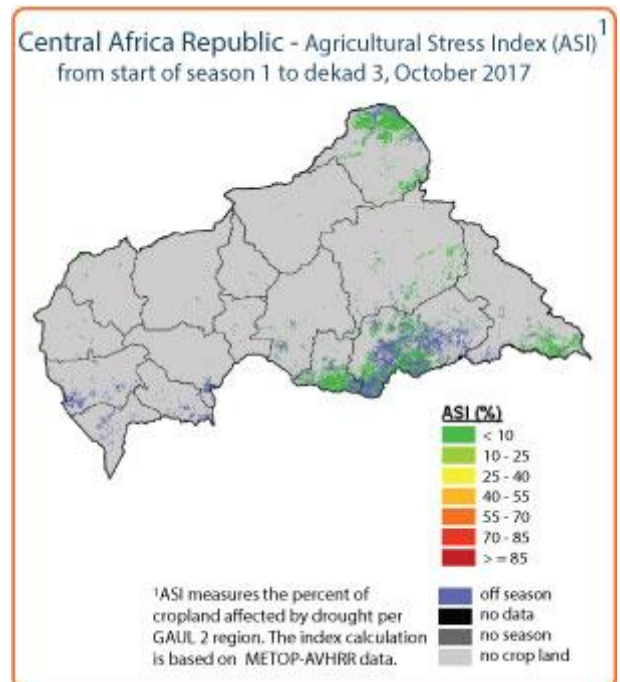
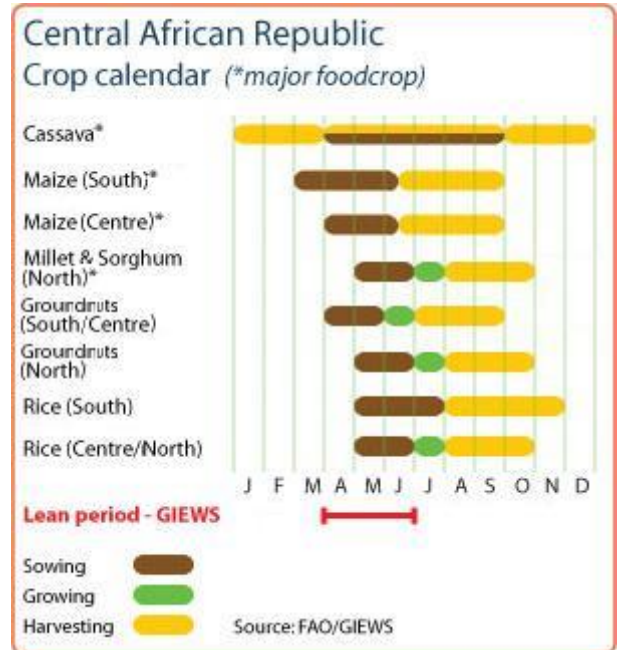
Harvesting of the main 2017 cereal crops will be concluded by late November or early December, while in some areas of the south, the harvest of the secondary crops is expected to start in December.

Favourable weather conditions prevailed during the cropping season in most provinces. Adequate rainfall was received between the months of March until the third dekad of October in southern maize-producing areas and in northern millet/sorghum-growing areas. However, persisting civil insecurity continued to disrupt agricultural activities with a likely negative impact on the final outcome of the cropping season. In fact, there was an overall decline in the area planted due to the poor access to cropland and seeds. As a result, the 2017 aggregate output is preliminarily estimated at below average levels as during the last four years.

In conflict-ridden areas, sharp rise in prices of imported foods and livestock in recent months

In the northwest, southeast and central conflict-affected areas, increased demand of imported foods and livestock, exacerbated by poor market access and below-average local supplies, have resulted in a sharp rise in their respective prices in recent months.

The average annual inflation rate has declined in recent years and is forecast to fall to 3.5 percent in 2017 compared to 4 percent in 2016. The general decline in prices is essentially demand-driven as disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited availability have severely curtailed households' purchasing power.



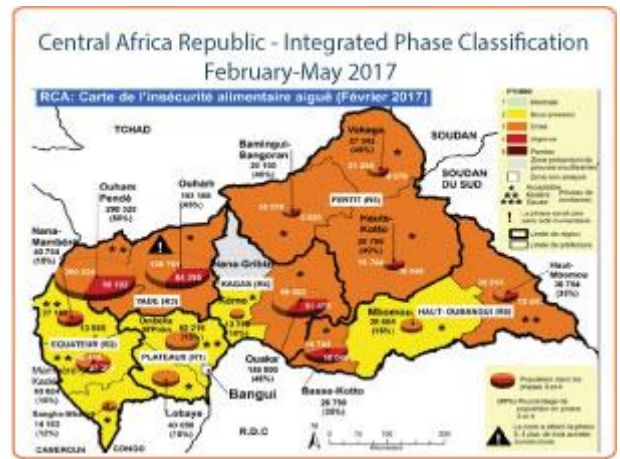
Food security situation continues to deteriorate, strong livelihood support continues to be required

Violent clashes and inter-communal tensions have continuously increased since last year resulting in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities as well as exacerbated the massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, due to increased violence, the IDP caseload as of the end of September 2017 is estimated at about 600 000, a 12 percent increase since the end of June and almost 50 percent since January 2017.

Four consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, result in an alarming food security situation across the country. Most households are facing serious food access constraints. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from February to May 2017, about 1.1 million people (30 percent of the total population) were in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). Eight out of the 15 prefectures were in IPC Phase 3: “Crisis”. The situation has recently deteriorated due to the increasing displacement and recurring conflict. A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO has provided crop production support to more than 150 000 vulnerable households across the country, distributing seeds and tools.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.





GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 11-October-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below average production prospects for 2017 crops due to overall decline in cropping area under cultivation because of deteriorating civil security situation
- Food access severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced own production and sharply-curtailed market activity
- Prices of imported foods and livestock have risen sharply in conflict-ridden areas
- Dire food security situation for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

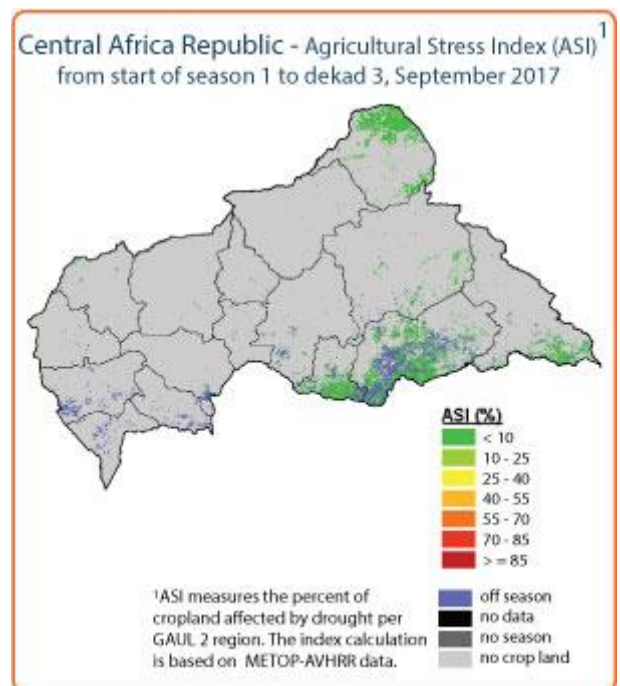
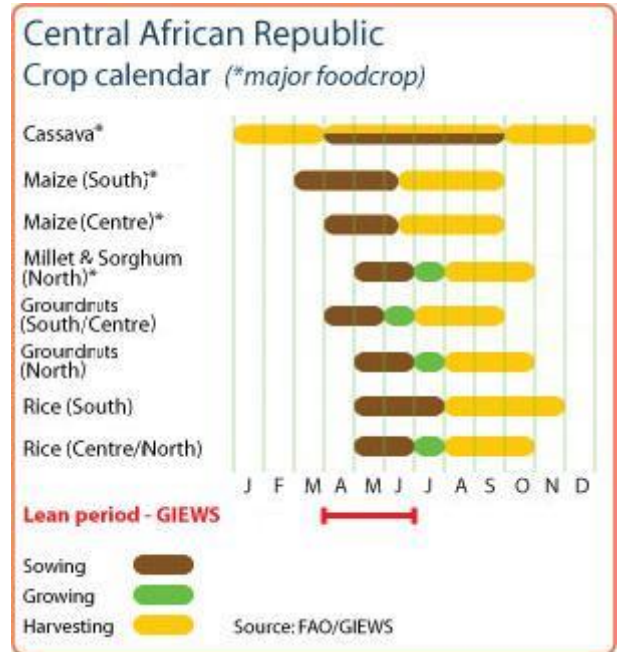
Below average production prospects for 2017 crops

Harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop in the southern bi-modal rainfall areas is ongoing and will be completed in November. In the uni-modal northern areas, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, harvesting of crops will be concluded in late November or early December.

According to remote sensing analysis, favourable weather conditions prevailed during the cropping season in most provinces. The FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) data indicates that adequate rainfall was received between the months of March until the first dekad of September in southern maize-producing areas and in northern millet/sorghum-growing areas. However, despite favourable weather conditions, civil insecurity continues to disrupt agricultural activities and have a negative impact on the final outcome of the cropping season. As a result of the poor access to cropland and overall decline in cropping area under cultivation, the 2017 aggregate output is preliminarily estimated at below average levels as during the last four years.

In conflict-ridden areas, sharp rise in prices of imported foods and livestock in recent months

The average inflation rate declined in recent years and is expected to continue this downward trend in 2017. The average inflation rate is forecast to fall to 3.5 percent in 2017 compared to 4 percent in 2016. The decline in prices is essentially due to the decreasing purchasing power of households, caused by disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited availability of income.



In the northwest, southeast and central conflict-affected areas, increased demand of imported foods and livestock, exacerbated by tight local supplies from a reduced 2016 output, have resulted in a sharp rise in their prices in recent months.

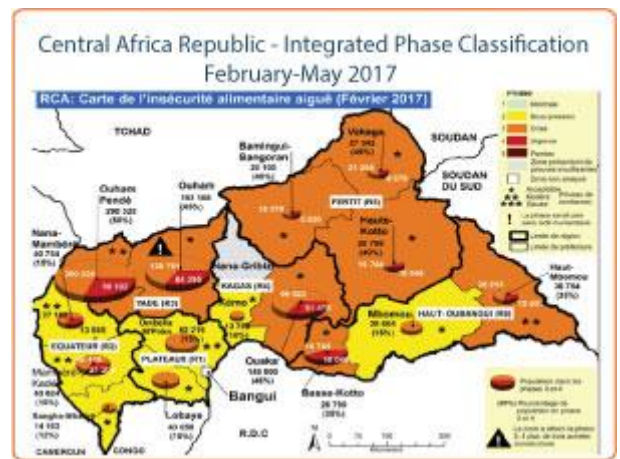
Dire food security situation, strong livelihood support continues to be required

The civil unrest in the country has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. As a result of recent violence, between April and July 2017 about 100 000 people have been displaced in the northwest, southwest, southeast and central areas (Ouham Pende, Nana Mambéré, Basse Kotto, Mbomou, Haut Mbomou and Haute Kotto). According to UNHCR, the IDP caseload as of end of August 2017 is estimated at about 592 000, 54 percent more than a year earlier.

Three consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, resulted in an alarming food security situation across the country. Most households are facing serious food access constraints. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from February to May 2017, about 1.1 million people (30 percent of the total population) were in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). Eight out of fifteen prefectures are in IPC Phase 3: “Crisis”. A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO has provided crop production support to more than 150 000 vulnerable households across the country, distributing seeds and tools.

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GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 07-July-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average production prospects for 2017 crops due to favourable weather conditions
- Food access severely constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced own production and sharply-curtailed market activity
- Prices of most food commodities in Bangui lower than previous years, but above pre-crisis levels
- Improved food security situation, however, it remains alarming for large segments of population, strong livelihood support required

Favourable production prospects for 2017 crops

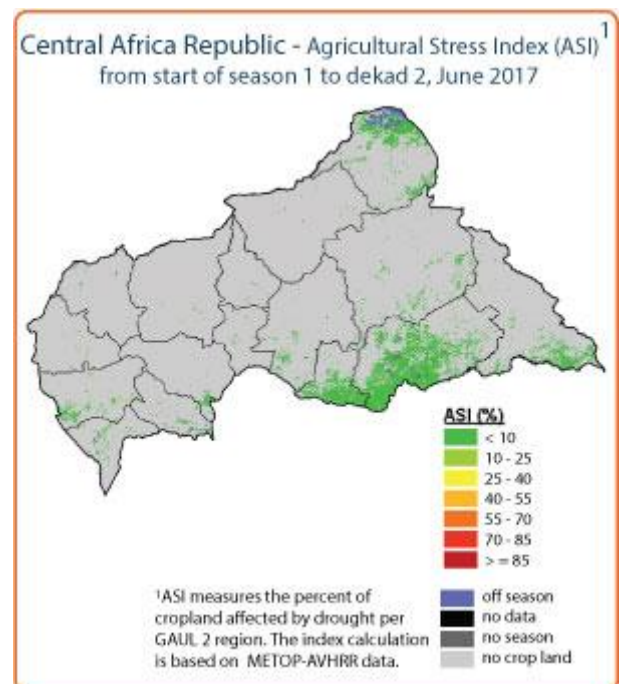
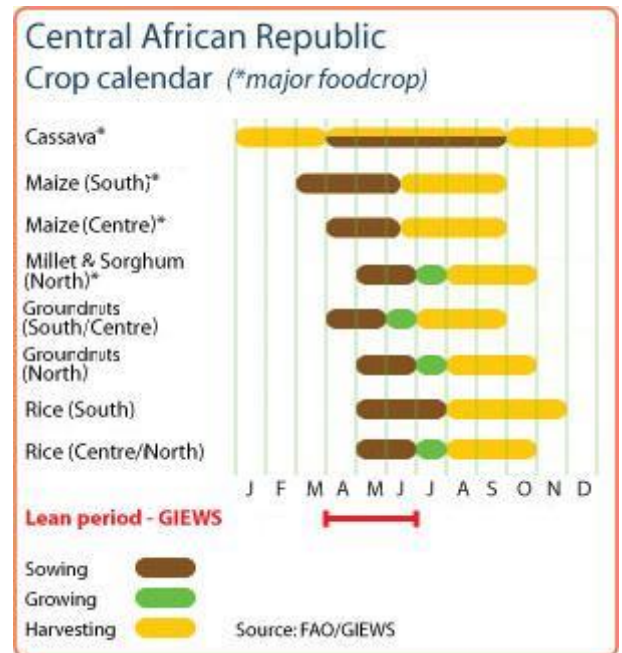
Harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop has started in the southern bi-modal rainfall areas. In the uni-modal northern areas, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, crops are either just being sown or are in vegetative stage and harvesting is expected to start from August.

According to remote sensing analysis, favourable weather conditions prevailed during the cropping season in most provinces. The FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) and Normalized Vegetation Index (NDVI) data indicate favourable vegetation conditions as adequate rainfall from March until the second dekad of June was received both in southern maize-producing areas and in northern millet/sorghum-growing areas. Despite favourable weather conditions, conflict, renewed violence and population movements continue to have a negative impact on the final outcome of the cropping season.

Despite declining rates of inflation and prices, access to food remains constrained compared to pre-crisis levels

The average inflation rate has been on the decline in recent years and is expected to continue this downward trend in 2017. The decline in prices is essentially due to the decreasing purchasing power of households caused by disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited income.

As of December 2016, prices of most food commodities in Bangui were lower than the previous years due to some improvements in supply and trade, but still above their pre-crisis levels of



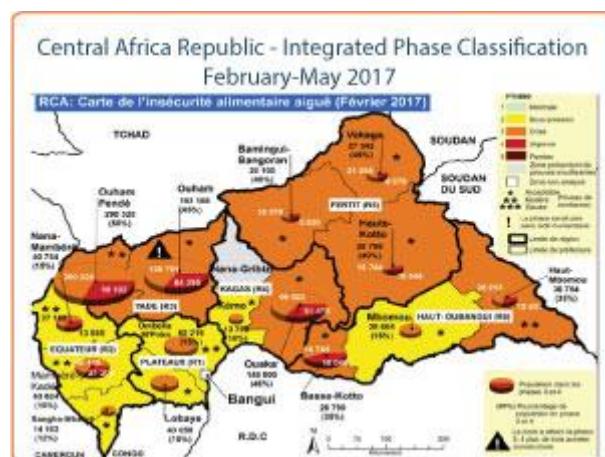
December 2012, following the lingering crop production constraints and marketing bottlenecks. Prices of maize, wheat, bovine meat, bush meat and fish in December 2016 were 20-35 percent lower than their year-earlier levels but still 20-70 percent higher than their pre-crisis levels.

Improving food security situation, but strong livelihood support continues to be required

The acute and complex emergency affecting the country has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, the IDP caseload as of end of May 2017 is estimated at about 504 000, 31 percent more than in end-August 2016.

Three consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, resulted in an alarming food security situation. Most households are facing serious food access constraints. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health. However, in recent months, the above average 2016 harvest and slightly-improved civil security has resulted in a significant improvement in the food security situation. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from February to May 2017, about 1.1 million people (30 percent of the total population) are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). Eight out of fifteen prefectures are in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis". A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO has provided crop production support to more than 150 000 vulnerable households across the country, distributing seeds and tools.





GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 21-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over 2016 cropping season due to protracted and widespread insecurity
- Food access severely constrained by destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production and sharply curtailed market activity
- Alarming food security situation for large segments of the population, strong livelihood support required

Concerns over 2016 cropping season

Harvesting of the bulk of the 2016 cereal crops has just been concluded, while in some areas of the south, the harvest of the secondary season crops will start from December.

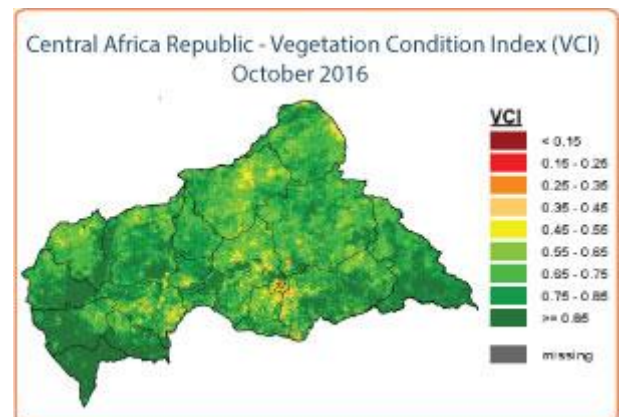
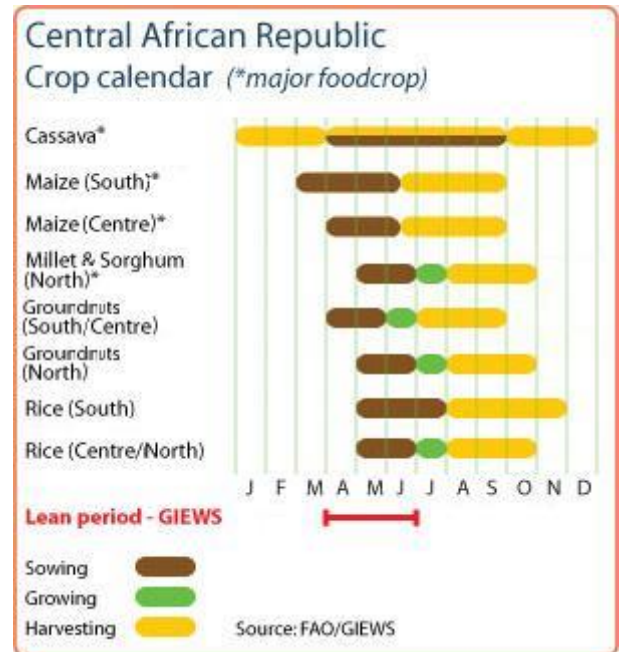
According to remote sensing analysis, precipitation has been abundant and evenly distributed throughout the season (April-October) over most cropping areas. Cumulative seasonal rainfall was 10-60 percent above average and, in October, vegetation conditions were generally good across the country.

Despite favourable weather conditions, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the widespread conflict, which resulted in large scale displacement, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets. Consequently, a reduced agricultural output for the fourth consecutive year is likely.

Despite declining rates of inflation, access to food is still constrained

The average inflation rate, which surged from 6.6 percent to 11.6 percent in 2014 as the political crisis caused the collapse of the economy and a sharp increase in prices, declined to 5.4 percent in 2015 and is estimated to have further decreased to 4.9 percent in 2016. The decline in prices is partly due to a serious decrease in demand, as purchasing power of households is constrained by disrupted livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and limited availability of cash.

As a result of these factors, most households are facing serious food access constraints. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises



serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

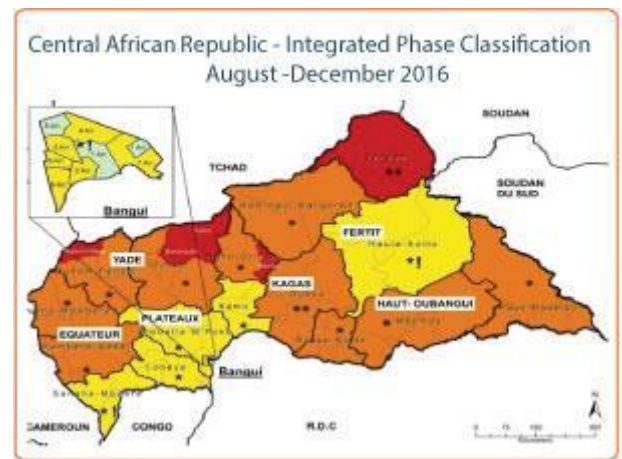
Alarming food security situation, strong livelihood support required

The acute and complex emergency affecting the country has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements, with a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. The IDP caseload, which declined in 2016 following a relative improvement of the security situation in some areas of the country, increased by about 36 000 in October, when it was estimated at about 421 000. The new displacements have been caused by the resurgence of inter-communal violence in Northern Vakaga and northwestern Ouham-Pendé prefectures.

Three consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, resulted in an alarming food security situation. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from August to December 2016, about 2 million people (40 percent of the total population) are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). Ten out of sixteen prefectures are in IPC Phase 3: “Crisis”, while Vakaga Prefecture, Kabo and Batangafo sub-prefectures (Ouham Prefecture), Ngaoundaye sub-prefecture (Ouham Pendé prefecture) and Mbrès sub-prefecture (Nana-Gribizi Prefecture) are in IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”.

A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO, along with WFP and NGO partners, has provided, as of October, crop production support to 123 600 vulnerable households (618 000 individuals) across the country, distributing 3 311 tonnes of cereal, groundnut and sesame seed and 320 400 tools. In addition, about 850 000 heads of livestock have been vaccinated.





GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 30-September-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over 2016 cropping season due to protracted and widespread insecurity; strong livelihood support required
- Food access severely constrained by destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production and sharply curtailed market activity
- Alarming food security situation for large segments of the population

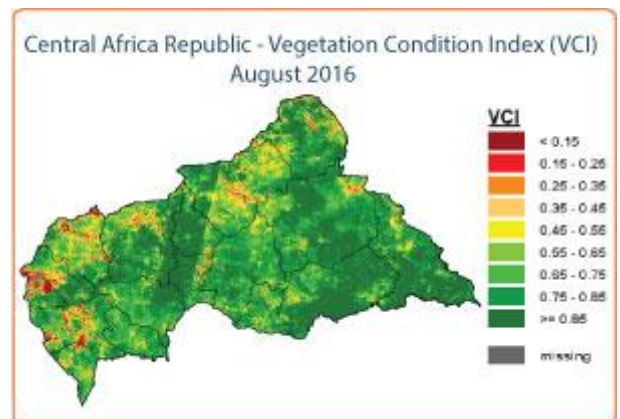
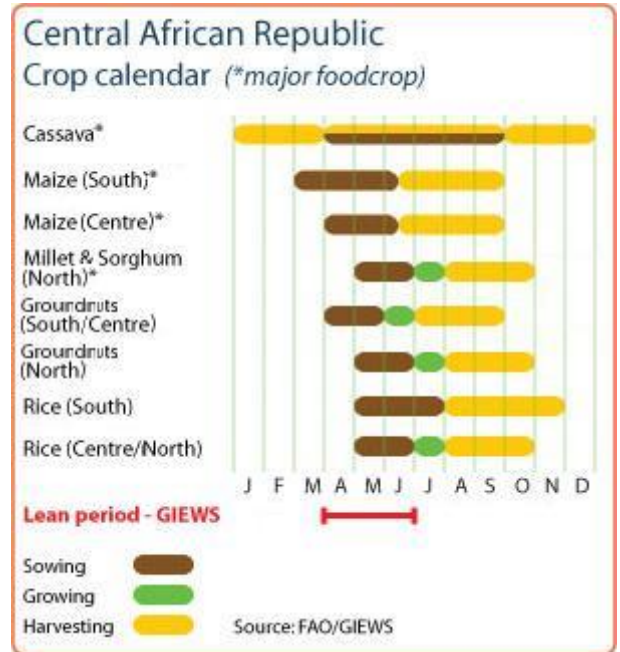
Concerns over 2016 cropping season, strong livelihood support required

In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and the South, harvesting of the main maize crop is almost complete, while in the uni-modal North the sorghum and millet harvests will be concluded in October.

According to remote sensing analysis, cumulative rainfall from March to August was up to 47 percent above average and evenly distributed both spatially and temporally over most cropping areas, with the exception of some southwestern parts (Mambéré-Kadéï, Sangha-Mbaéré, Lobaye and Ombella-M'Poko prefectures), where rains in July were 14-33 percent below average. However, in these areas, the dry spell in July did not completely erode the moisture surpluses accumulated over the previous months of abundant rainfall and in August vegetation conditions were generally good across the country.

Despite the favourable weather conditions, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by widespread conflict, which resulted in large scale displacement, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate. A reduced agricultural output for the fourth consecutive year is likely. A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

To help avert a full-scale nutrition and food security crisis in the coming months and to respond to the needs of the crisis-hit farmers, FAO, along with WFP and NGO partners, has provided, as of July, crop production support to 62 200 vulnerable households across the country. For the main planting season, each assisted family was provided with 31 kg of crop seeds and three hoes, and with WFP's provision of seed protection rations.



In addition, about 712 000 heads of cattle and 138 000 small ruminants have been vaccinated, benefiting 18 000 households, with the programme expected to continue until May 2017.

Despite declining rates of inflation, access to food is still constrained

The average inflation rate, which surged from 6.6 percent to 11.6 percent in 2014 as the political crisis caused the collapse of the economy and a sharp increase in prices, declined to 5.4 percent in 2015 and is forecast to further decrease to 4.9 percent. However, the decline in prices is partly due to a serious decrease in demand, as purchasing power of households is constrained by destroyed livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and availability of cash.

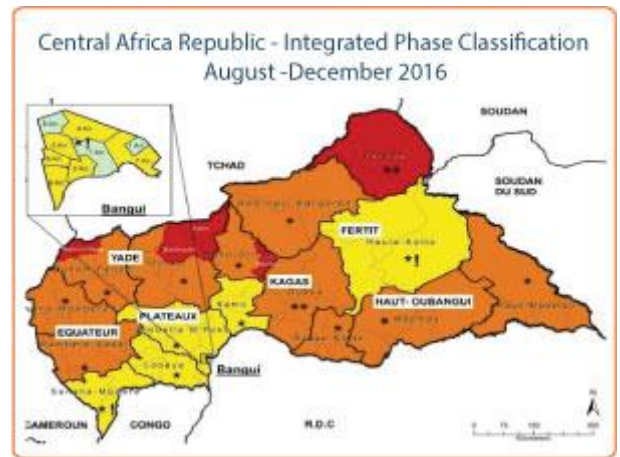
As a result of these factors, the population of the Central African Republic is facing serious food access constraints. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished by the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

Alarming food security situation for large segments of population

The acute and complex emergency affecting the Central African Republic has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement, thus having a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. The IDP caseload declined in 2016 following a relative improvement of the security situation in some areas of the country and, in late August, it was estimated at 386 000, 14 percent less than the peak recorded in November 2015, after the resurgence of inter-communal violence in the capital, Bangui, and in other areas of the country. However, the security situation continues to be volatile, with episodes of violence causing losses of life and new displacements. For instance, clashes in northwestern Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures in April have disrupted relief activities and resulted in the displacement of more than 30 000 individuals.

Three consecutive years of reduced harvests, compounded by access constraints due to market disruptions and declining purchasing power, resulted in an alarming food security situation. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), valid for the period from August to December 2016, about 2 million people (40 percent of the total population), are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). Ten out of sixteen prefectures are in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis", while Vakaga Prefecture, Kabo and Batangafo sub-prefectures (Ouham Prefecture), Ngaoundaye sub-prefecture (Ouham Pendé prefecture) and Mbrès sub-prefecture (Nana-Gribizi Prefecture) are in IPC Phase 4: "Emergency".

In response, the international community launched in November 2015 a Strategic Response Plan, aiming to assist 1.9 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 531 million. As of 31 August, only 28 percent (about USD 149 million) of funding has been received.





GIEWS Country Brief The Central African Republic

Reference Date: 07-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns over the upcoming 2016 cropping season due to protracted and widespread insecurity; strong livelihood support required
- Crop production recovered slightly in 2015 from sharply-reduced 2014 output, but still 54 percent below pre-crisis average
- Food access severely constrained by destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity and high food prices
- Alarming food security situation for large segments of the population

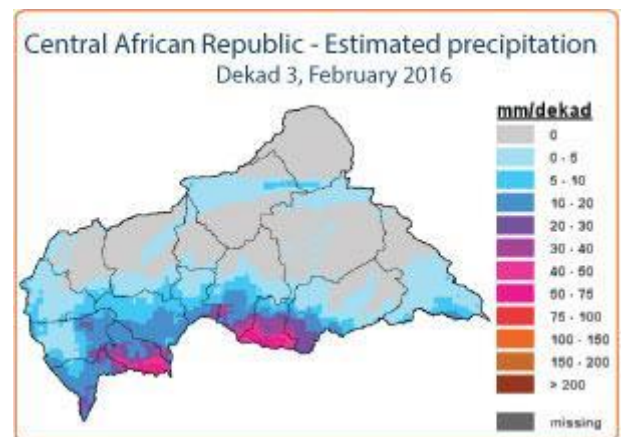
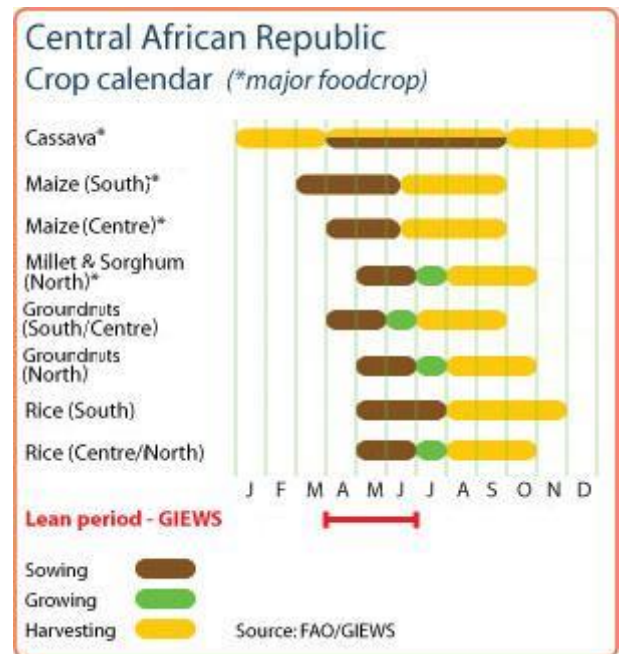
Concerns over the 2016 cropping season, strong livelihood support required

In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and the South, planting of the 2016 maize crop started recently, while in the uni-modal North planting of sorghum and millet is expected to begin in May.

According to remote sensing analysis, the onset of the rainy season was timely, with southern areas beginning to receive rains in the third dekad of February (see Estimated precipitation map). However, agricultural operations continue to be severely affected by the widespread conflict, which resulted in massive displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that were already inadequate. A reduced agricultural output for the fourth consecutive year is likely. A timely and effective support to the agricultural sector is required to mitigate the extent of the impact of the protracted and widespread insecurity on the agricultural sector.

The Government of the Central African Republic has begun a strategic effort to revive the agricultural sector and facilitate the reintegration of vulnerable people by helping youth and family farms improve their capacity to produce. In 2016, FAO will support these efforts through programmes aiming to protect and strengthen livelihoods and build resilience. FAO aims to provide seeds and tools to 95 000 farming families, while WFP plans to provide them with seed protection rations.

FAO is appealing for USD 86 million to support 1.55 million people with inputs to produce crops and keep their livestock healthy, and strengthen the Government's efforts to boost food security. In addition, FAO plans to continue its resilience support operations through activities (caisses de resilience) that will help households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets by



building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial abilities and governance structures at community level.

Crop production in 2015 exhibits some recovery compared to 2014 but still at well below average levels

Harvesting of the 2015 main season cereal crops was completed between last September and October. The 2014/15 season was characterized by generally favourable weather conditions. An early onset of seasonal rains in March was followed by below average rainfall in April. Subsequently, adequate precipitation for the remainder of the cropping season benefited crop development, and in October, according to satellite imagery analysis, vegetation conditions were generally favourable (see Vegetation Health Index map). However, planted area and agricultural operations have been negatively impacted by widespread civil insecurity.

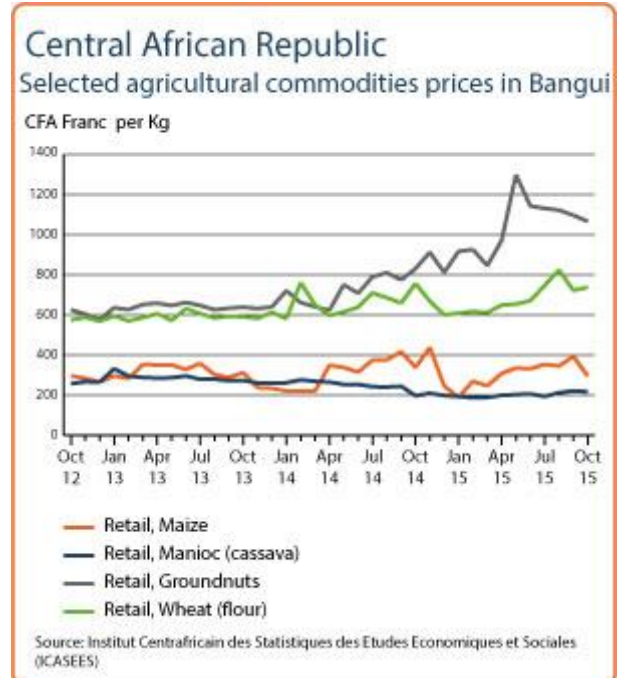
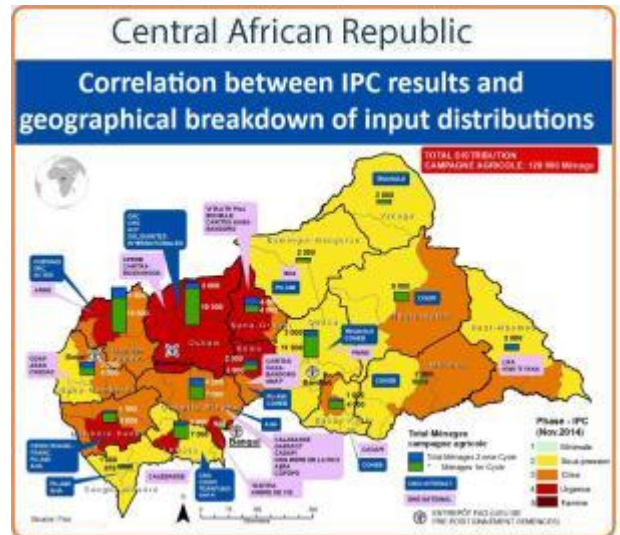
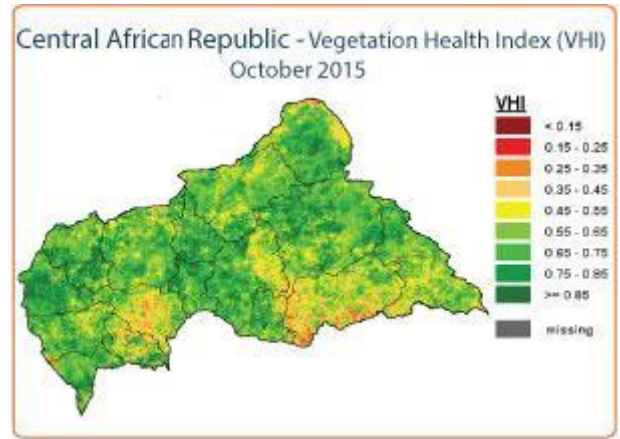
According to the findings of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted last October-November, crop production in 2015 is estimated at 838 671 tonnes, 54 percent lower than the pre-crisis average but 10 percent up on 2014, due to increased cassava production. By contrast, cereal output, already reduced in the previous two seasons, recorded a 4 percent decrease from 2014, and currently is 70 percent lower than the pre-crisis average (2008-2012).

The widespread and persistent insecurity in 2015 continued to have a negative impact on livestock rearing and fishing activities. Cattle and small ruminant numbers are estimated to have declined by 46 and 57 percent from the pre-crisis levels, respectively. Fish supply, which in 2014 was 40 percent below the pre-crisis average, did not increase in 2015 due to insecurity along the waterways, loss of fishing equipment and over exploitation in some areas which led to the exhaustion of fish stocks.

FAO's support to crop production helped mitigate the negative impact of the crisis on food production with about 170 900 households assisted with seeds and tools. Each household received 31 kg of crop seeds (groundnut and cereals, including maize, rice, and sorghum, according to different agro-ecological zones) and three hoes. WFP provided seed protection rations. The distributed inputs have yielded a crop production of about 40 000 tonnes. The targeting of beneficiaries was based on the results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in November 2014 (see map).

High food prices constraining food access and dietary diversity

In Bangui, prices of several food items, already at high levels, further increased in October 2015 due to trade disruptions following an upsurge of intercommunal violence in September 2015. Prices of groundnuts, wheat flour, beef meat and fish in October were between 22 and 87 percent higher than their pre-crisis levels. By contrast, maize prices declined by 25 percent in October 2015, as newly-harvested crops increased supplies, while prices of cassava were stable. In October 2015, prices of maize were 16 percent lower than their pre-crisis levels, while prices of cassava were around their pre-crisis levels, largely due to trade disruptions that retained maize and cassava in the producing regions surrounding Bangui.



The population of the Central African Republic is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity and high food prices. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns of having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

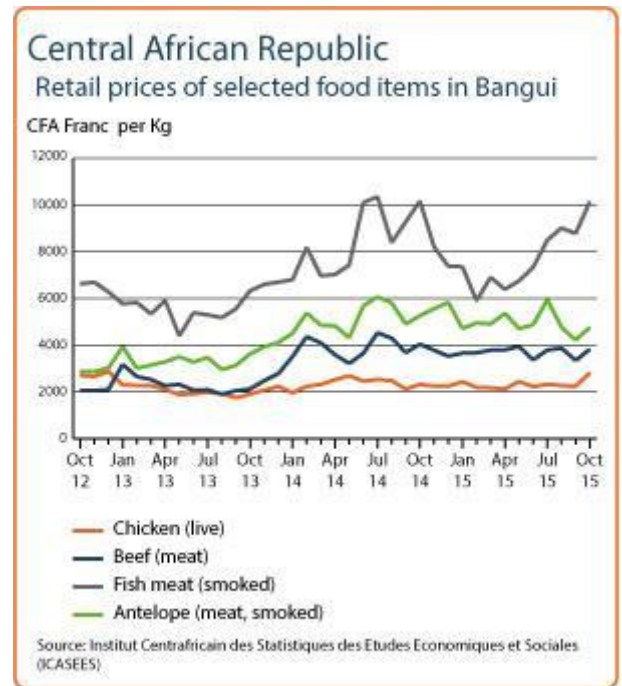
Alarming food security situation for large segments of the population

The acute and complex emergency affecting CAR has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement thus having a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. The IDP caseload, which declined in the first semester of 2015 due to a relative improvement in security in some areas of the country and in June 2015, at about 369 000 individuals, was at its lowest level since early 2014, but increased again to 448 000 in October due to the resurgence of inter communal violence in the capital, Bangui, and in other areas of the country. As of mid-February 2016, the IDP caseload was estimated at about 435 000 individuals.

Reduced food availability and access constraints have led to a deterioration of the food security situation: according to the findings of the CFSAM, 47 percent of the surveyed groups have indicated that the food security situation has deteriorated compared to 2014, and 20 percent has indicated that it has sharply deteriorated.

Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. For instance, the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted by WFP in September 2015 indicates that in 2015 the number of households with poor or borderline food consumption increased due to the declining frequency of consumption of almost all food groups. Between 2014 and 2015, a deterioration of the household diet has been observed: households consume less often cereals (5 days per week in 2015 compared to 6.5 days in 2014), legumes (3 days compared to 5 days), animal proteins (2 days compared to 3 days), sugar (3.6 days compared to 5.3 days) and slightly less often oil and fruit.

Results from the ongoing Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis will provide an updated estimate of the number of people affected by food insecurity and are expected to shed more light on the specific humanitarian assistance requirements.



Reference Date: 17-June-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production in 2015 is likely to be negatively affected by continuing civil insecurity
- Prices of animal protein have risen significantly due to constraints in available supplies
- Food access severely constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production and sharply curtailed market activity

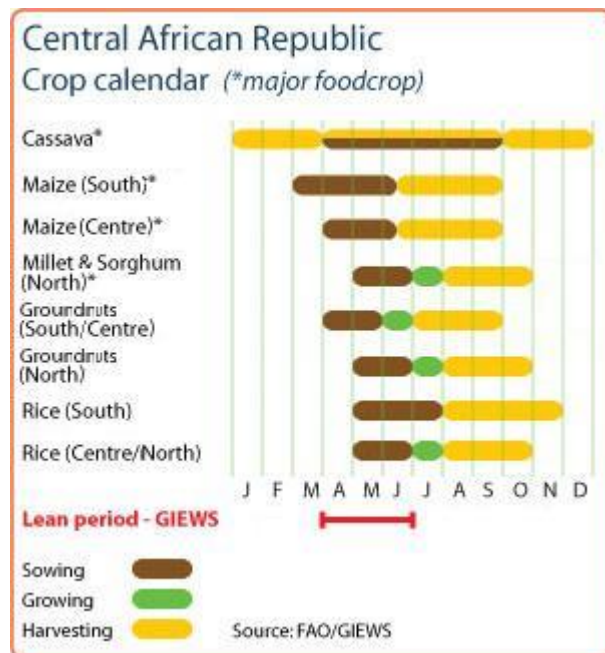
Cropping season negatively affected by continuing insecurity

Harvesting of the maize crop is expected to start in July in parts of the Centre and the South, while still some sowing would continue in June. In northern provinces, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, crops are either being sown or are vegetative and harvesting is expected to start from August.

According to satellite-based data, favourable weather conditions prevailed from March until the first dekad of June in both the southern maize-producing areas and in northern millet/sorghum growing areas. However, continuing civil insecurity is likely to negatively affect crop production following a significant reduction in area planted due to the abandonment of a substantial number of farms. Furthermore, the significant drop in food crop production over the past few years has led to the depletion of the already inadequate household productive assets. The Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, WFP and NGO partners are providing crop production support to vulnerable households across the country. FAO plans to assist 150 000 households through the distribution of seeds and farming tools but so far has secured funding to assist only 97 800 households.

Prices of animal protein have risen significantly due to constraints in available supplies

The livestock and fishing sectors have been severely affected by the crisis. The decline in livestock numbers from 2013 due to theft, looting and mass slaughter of animals is estimated at 67 percent for cattle and 77 percent for small livestock and poultry, a daunting task for the future recovery of the overall agricultural sector. Furthermore, local populations no longer have access to certain types of foods such as beef since the departure of pastoralists to Cameroon at the beginning of 2014. The sudden tightening of available supplies of animal food products has driven up the cost of animal protein. According to a recent assessment conducted in March 2015, the price of one chicken, has jumped from CFA 1 000 (USD 1.7) to somewhere between CFA 3 000-4 000 (USD 5.2-6.9). Fish supplies have also declined by about 40 percent from pre-crisis levels due to insecurity in fishing areas and loss of fishing equipment.



Grave food security situation persists

The acute and complex emergency affecting the Central African Republic (CAR) has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement resulting in a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, a new surge in violence reported since the beginning of the year is triggering new internal and cross-border population movements resulting in approximately 50 000 additional people being displaced since the beginning of the year. As of late May 2015, the IDP caseload was estimated at 426 240, (representing about 9.3 percent of the total population), including about 36 930 in Bangui.

A large segment of the population of the CAR is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity, food availabilities and access. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished, with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns, having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in April 2015, about 1 268 000 people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4: “Emergency”). In rural areas, 19 percent of the people are in IPC Phase “Crisis” and 12 percent are in IPC Phase “Emergency”. Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. For instance, According to a recent rapid assessment, the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption stood at 36 percent in March 2015, compared to 26 percent in October 2014.

The international community launched, in December 2014, a Strategic Response Plan, which aims to assist 2 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 613 million. The food security cluster plans to assist 1 200 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 195 million, providing immediate life-saving assistance through food aid distributions, supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools, and contributing to strengthen the resilience of households through cash-for-work activities on the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures and the establishment of community-based credit systems that will allow reinvestment in productive activities.

Increased and strong livelihood support required

In addition to emergency relief operations (distribution of seeds and farming tools), FAO is engaged in resilience support operations and some 27 000 households would be assisted, with received funds so far, through resilience activities (caisses de resilience) that will help households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets by building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial abilities and governance structures at community level. Participating families will be engaged in contractual production of quality seeds and food, support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and

cash transfer initiatives to boost their community. These activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines and the constitution of food and seed reserves.

Last year, FAO, WFP and NGO partners provided crop production support to a total of 111 750 vulnerable families across the country. The targeting of beneficiaries was based on the results of the IPC analysis conducted in April 2014. For the main planting season, each of the 83 950 families was assisted with 25 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize and rice) and two hoes, as well as by WFP's provision of seed protection rations. In addition, FAO assisted 27 800 families with seeds (beans, maize, millet, niébé, sesame and sorghum), and tools as part of the short-cycle (secondary) season support.

Reference Date: 08-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cropping season has started in southern part of the country amid concerns about continuing insecurity across the country
- Crop production recovered in 2014 from sharply-reduced 2013 output, but still is 58 percent below pre-crisis average
- Food access severely constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production and sharply curtailed market activity
- Food security situation continues to be of grave concern despite relative improvement following 2014 harvest

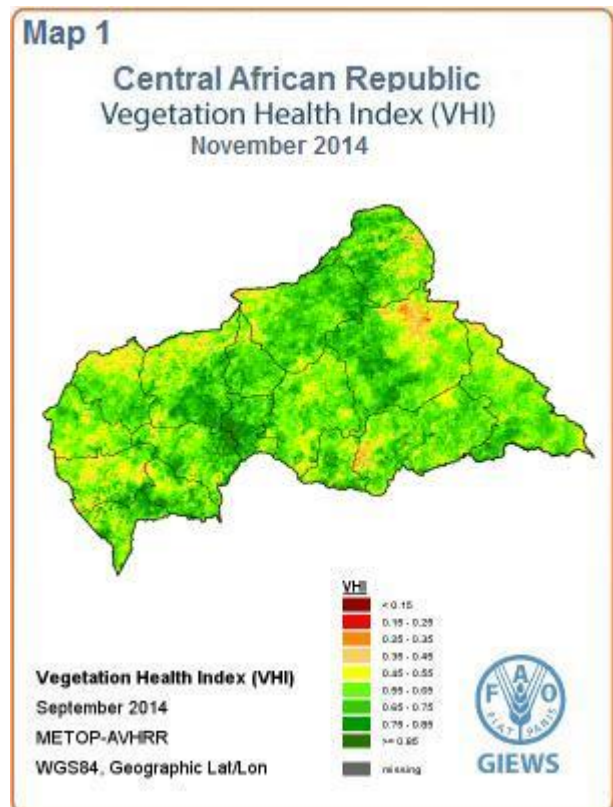
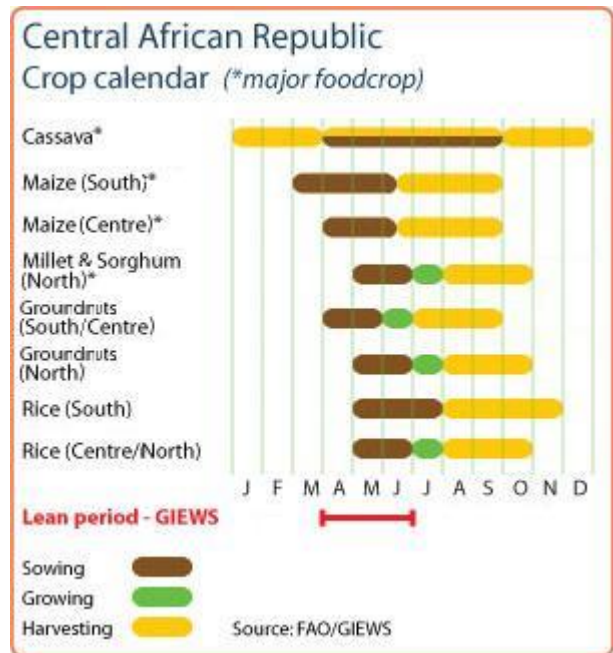
Cropping season has started against a backdrop of continuing insecurity

Sowing of the 2015 maize crop began in March in some areas of the south while sowing of the other main cereal crops is expected to start in other parts of the country in April and May and continue until June. Despite the current favourable weather conditions, planted area and agricultural operations are likely to be negatively impacted by widespread civil insecurity. The significant drop in food crop production over the past few years has led to the depletion of the already inadequate household productive assets. The Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, WFP and NGO partners are providing crop production support to vulnerable households across the country. FAO plans to assist 150 000 households through the distribution of seeds and farming tools but so far has secured funding to assist only 86 400 households.

2014 crop production exhibits some recovery compared to 2013 but still at well below-average levels

Harvesting of the 2014 main cereal crops was completed in September in southern areas and in October in northern areas. In some areas of the south, harvesting of the secondary season crops was concluded in November. Despite favourable weather conditions during the secondary season cropping period in most southern provinces (see Map1), planted area and agricultural operations have been negatively impacted by widespread civil insecurity.

According to the findings of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which visited the country in August last year, the 2014 aggregate production of food crops increased by 11 percent from the sharply reduced 2013 output, but still remains 58 percent below the pre-crisis five-year average (2008-2012). The 2014 aggregate outcome is mainly driven by a significant increase in cassava production (+45 percent), while cereal output declined by about 54 percent from 2013. The ongoing socio-political crisis and widespread insecurity severely disrupted agricultural and marketing activities and caused the depletion of the already inadequate household productive assets. This, coupled with erratic rainfall in



western parts of the country during the main season cropping period (see Map 2) and some pest attacks, led to a 23 percent reduction in the planted area.

The livestock and fishing sectors were also severely affected by the crisis. The decline in livestock numbers from 2013 due to theft, looting and mass slaughter of animals is estimated at 67 percent for cattle and 77 percent for small livestock and poultry, a daunting task for the future recovery of the overall agricultural sector. Fish supplies declined by about 40 percent from pre-crisis levels due to insecurity in fishing areas and loss of fishing equipment.

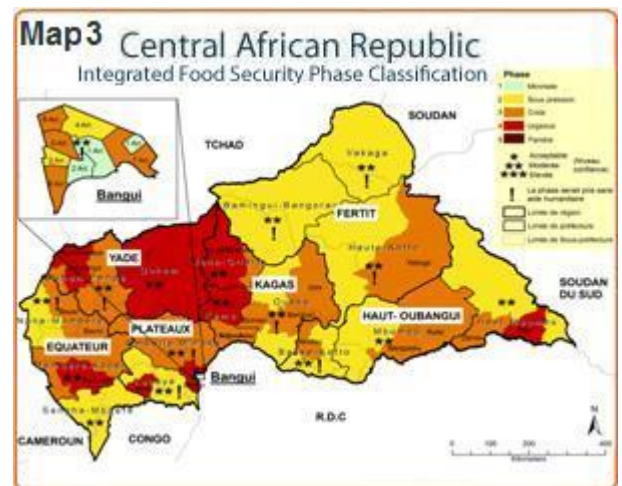
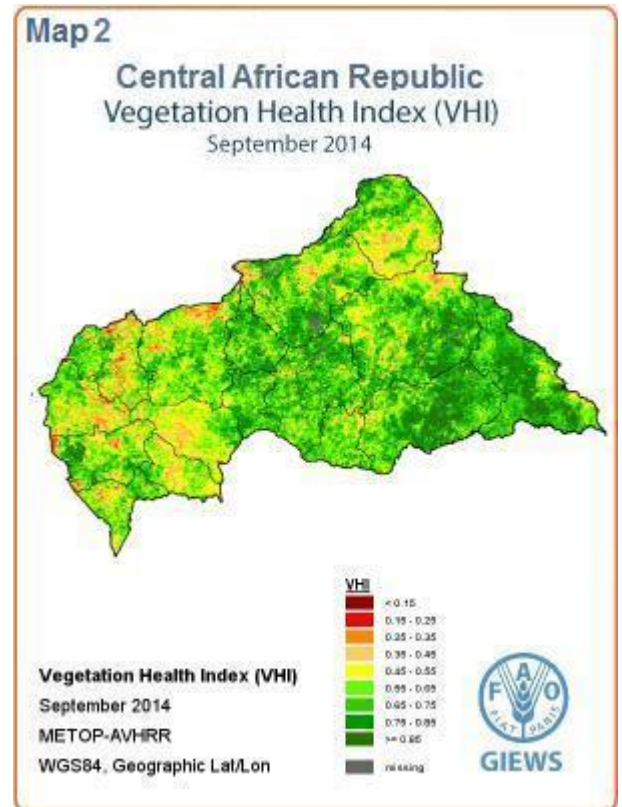
Grave food security situation persists

The acute and complex emergency affecting the Central African Republic (CAR) has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement resulting in a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. According to UNHCR, a new surge in violence reported since the beginning of the year is triggering new internal and cross-border population movements resulting in approximately 50 000 additional people being displaced since the beginning of the year. As of March 2015, the IDP caseload was estimated at 436 256, (representing about 10 percent of the total population), including about 49 113 in Bangui.

A large segment of the population of the CAR is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity, food availabilities and access. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished, with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns, having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in October 2014 (see Map), about 1.5 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4 “Emergency”) with 1.3 million of them located in rural areas and 200 000 in Bangui. The number of people in need of urgent assistance represents 32 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of the population in rural areas and in Bangui. The regions most affected by food insecurity (Phase 4 “Emergency”), are Ouham province and most of Nana Grebizi and Kemo prefectures in the northwest, Ngaoundaye, Bocaranga and Berberati sub-prefectures in the in west, Boda and Bimbo (located at the outskirts of Bangui) sub-prefectures in the south, Obo sub-prefecture in the east.

Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. For instance, the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), conducted by WFP in October 2014, indicates that the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption stood at 26 percent, compared to 15 percent in 2013. In addition, the number of households forced to recur to negative coping strategies increased over the past year: the percentage of households which had to sell domestic and productive assets increased from 27 percent to 30 percent and from 20 percent to 22 percent, respectively, while school dropout and illegal activities more than doubled, increasing from 5 percent to 11 percent and from 4 percent to 10 percent, respectively.



In response, the international community launched in December 2014 a Strategic Response Plan, which aims to assist 2 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 613 million. The food security cluster plans to assist 1 200 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 195 million, providing immediate life-saving assistance through food aid distributions, supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools, and contributing to strengthen the resilience of households through cash-for-work activities on the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures and the establishment of community-based credit systems that will allow reinvestment in productive activities.

Increased and strong livelihood support required

Last year, FAO, WFP and NGO partners provided crop production support to a total of 111 750 vulnerable families across the country. The targeting of beneficiaries was based on the results of the IPC analysis conducted in April 2014 (see Map 4). For the main planting season, each of the 83 950 families was assisted with 25 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize and rice) and two hoes, as well as by WFP's provision of seed protection rations. In addition, FAO assisted 27 800 families with seeds (beans, maize, millet, niébé, sesame and sorghum), and tools as part of the short-cycle (secondary) season support.

In addition to emergency relief operations, FAO is engaged in resilience support operations and some 27 000 households would be assisted, with received funds so far, through resilience activities (caisses de resilience) that will help households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets by building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial abilities and governance structures at community level. Participating families will be engaged in contractual production of quality seeds and food, support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives to boost their community. These activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines and the constitution of food and seed reserves.

Reference Date: 06-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production recovered in 2014 from sharply-reduced 2013 output, but still is 58 percent below pre-crisis average
- Food access severely constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity and high food prices
- Food security situation continues to be of grave concern despite relative improvement following 2014 harvest

2014 crop production exhibits some recovery compared to 2013 but still at well below-average levels

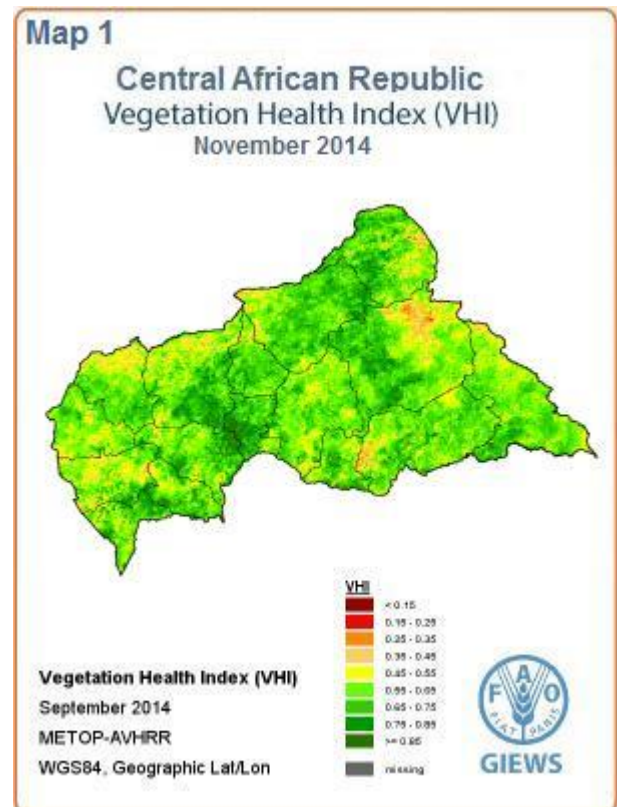
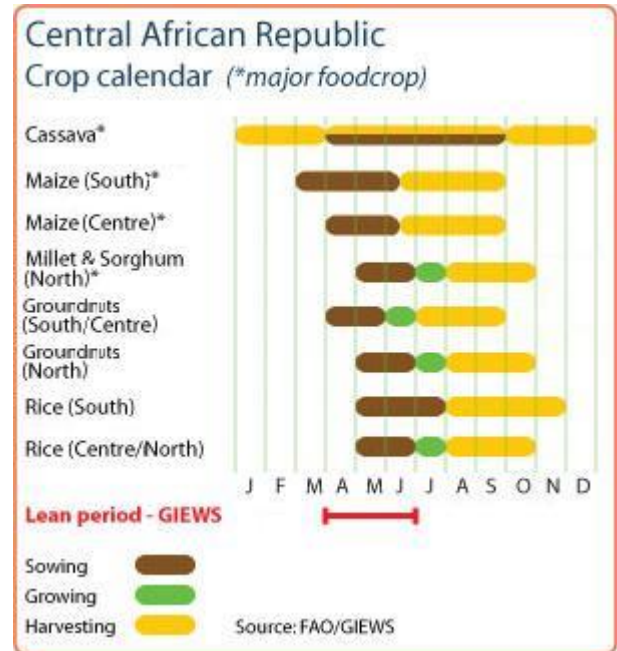
Harvesting of the 2014 main cereal crops was completed in September in southern areas and in October in northern areas. In some areas of the south, harvesting of the secondary season crops is about to conclude. Despite favourable weather conditions during the secondary season cropping period in most southern provinces (see Map 1), planted area and agricultural operations have been negatively impacted by widespread civil insecurity.

According to the findings of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which visited the country in August, the 2014 aggregate production of food crops increased by 11 percent from the sharply reduced 2013 output, but still remains 58 percent below the pre-crisis five-year average (2008-2012). The 2014 aggregate outcome is mainly driven by a significant increase in cassava production (+45 percent), while cereal output declined by about 54 percent from 2013. The ongoing socio-political crisis and widespread insecurity severely disrupted agricultural and marketing activities and caused the depletion of the already inadequate household productive assets. This, coupled with erratic rainfall in western parts of the country during the main season cropping period (see Map 2) and some pest attacks, led to a 23 percent reduction in the planted area.

The livestock and fishing sectors were also severely affected by the crisis. The decline in livestock numbers from 2013 due to theft, looting and mass slaughter of animals is estimated at 67 percent for cattle and 77 percent for small livestock and poultry, a daunting task for the future recovery of the overall agricultural sector. Fish supplies declined by about 40 percent from pre-crisis levels due to insecurity in fishing areas and loss of fishing equipment.

High food prices constraining food access and dietary diversity

Prices of agricultural commodities remained at comparatively low levels in the capital, Bangui, throughout most of the crisis period, due to a sharp decrease in production coupled with a serious decline in demand, as households, whose purchasing power was constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and



availability of cash, partially shifted from market purchases to own stocks and production (mainly cassava) and gathering; food aid distributions (mainly maize and palm oil) exerted additional downward pressure on prices. Subsequently, prices sharply increased from early 2014, and in August 2014 prices of maize, millet and groundnuts were 30-70 percent higher than in March-April 2014. The sharp rise was mainly due to an increase in demand, as payments to civil servants resumed in March 2014, injecting more cash in the economy while large numbers of IDPs also returned to their homes. By contrast, prices of locally-produced cassava declined by 13 percent between February and August due to the combined effect of increased production and limited marketing and movement of goods which retained ample supplies around the surplus producing zone of the capital, Bangui.

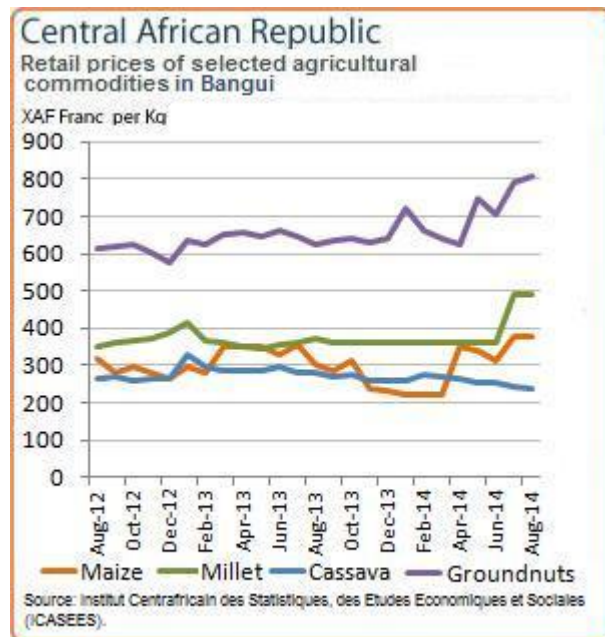
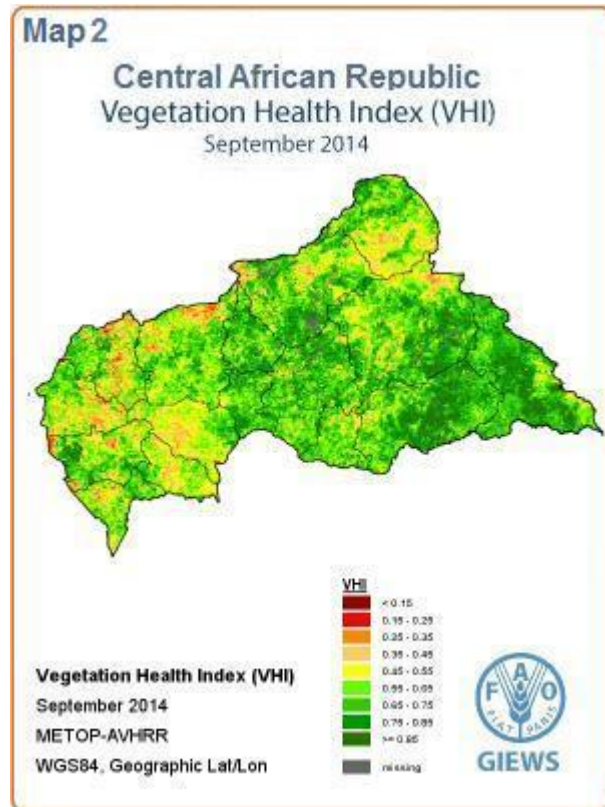
Prices of bovine meat are on the increase since mid-2013, due to the sharp declines of livestock numbers, and in August 2014 in Bangui they were more than double than 12 months earlier. Chicken meat price increases were comparatively less sharp, but prices in August 2014 were still 28 percent higher than in August 2013. Prices of fish and milk, other important sources of animal proteins, increased as well, mainly as a result of trade disruptions. In August 2014, prices of milk were 29 percent higher than 12 months earlier and 63 percent higher than in December 2012, immediately before the onset of the crisis. Prices of fish, which show a marked volatility since early 2013, in August 2014 were at the same levels than in August 2013, but 43 percent higher than in December 2012.

The population of the Central African Republic (CAR) is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity, availabilities and access, and high food prices. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished, with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns, having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

Grave food security situation persists

The acute and complex emergency affecting CAR has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement (in late January 2014, the IDP caseload was estimated at 440 000, about half the number at the peak of the crisis in early 2014, but still representing 10 percent of the total population), thus having a severe negative impact on both food availability and access.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in October 2014 (see Map 3), about 1.5 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4 “Emergency”) with 1.3 million of them located in rural areas and 200 000 in Bangui. The number of people in need of urgent assistance represents 32 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of the population in rural areas and in Bangui. The regions most affected by food insecurity (Phase 4 “Emergency”), are Ouham province and most of Nana Grebizi and Kemo prefectures in the northwest, Ngaoundaye, Bocaranga and Berberati sub prefectures in the in west, Boda and Bimbo (located at the outskirts of Bangui) sub prefectures in the south, Obo sub-prefecture in the east.



Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. For instance, the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), conducted by WFP in October 2014, indicates that the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption stood at 26 percent, compared to 15 percent in 2013. In addition, the number of households forced to recur to negative coping strategies increased over the past year: the percentage of households which had to sell domestic and productive assets increased from 27 percent to 30 percent and from 20 percent to 22 percent, respectively, while school dropout and illegal activities more than doubled, increasing from 5 percent to 11 percent and from 4 percent to 10 percent, respectively.

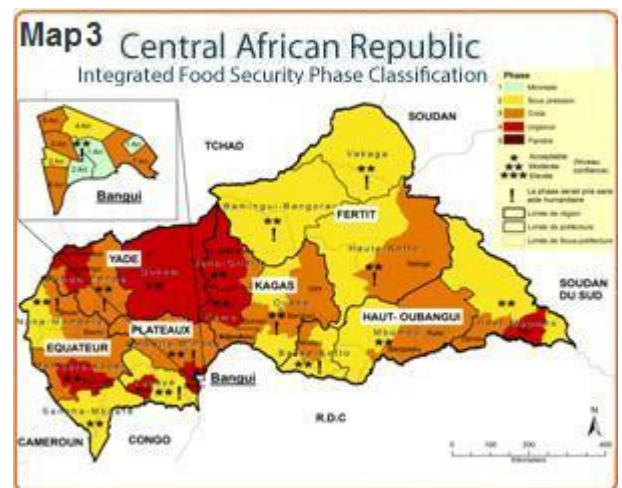
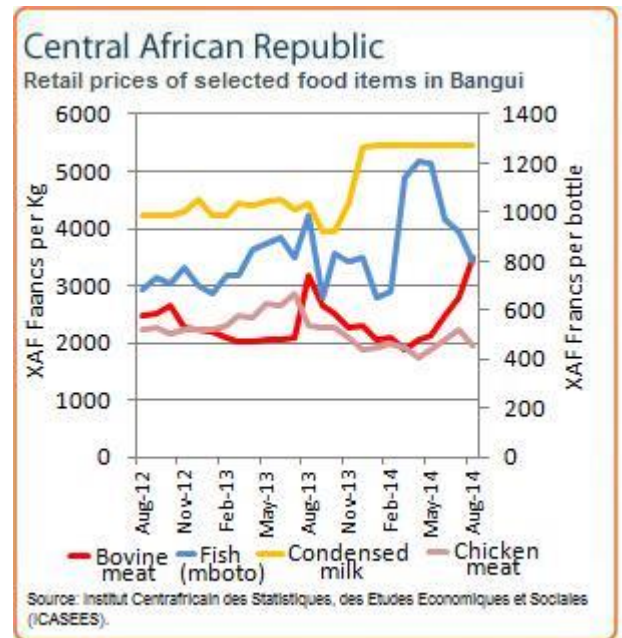
In response, the international community launched in December 2014 a Strategic Response Plan, which aims to assist 2 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 613 million. The food security cluster plans to assist 1 200 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 195 million, providing immediate life-saving assistance through food aid distributions, supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools, and contributing to strengthen the resilience of households through cash-for-work activities on the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures and the establishment of community-based credit systems that will allow reinvestment in productive activities.

Increased and strong livelihood support required

FAO, WFP and NGO partners provided crop production support to a total of 111 750 vulnerable families across the country. The targeting of beneficiaries was based on the results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in April 2014 (see Map 4). For the main planting season, each of the 83 950 families was assisted with 25 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize and rice) and two hoes, as well as by WFP's provision of seed protection rations. In addition, FAO assisted 27 800 families with seeds (beans, maize, millet, niébé, sesame and sorghum), and tools as part of the short-cycle (secondary) season support.

In addition to emergency relief operations, FAO is engaged in resilience support operations and some 27 000 households would be assisted, with received funds so far, through resilience activities (caisses de resilience) that will help households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets by building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial abilities and governance structures at community level. Participating families will be engaged in contractual production of quality seeds and food, support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives to boost their community. These activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines and the constitution of food and seed reserves.

FAO completed the procurement planning for the 2015 agricultural campaign seed and tools distribution in early February. Procurement operations should start in the next weeks.



Reference Date: 26-January-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production recovered in 2014 from sharply-reduced 2013 output, but still is 58 percent below pre-crisis average
- Food access severely constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity and high food prices
- Food security situation continues to be of grave concern despite relative improvement following 2014 harvest

2014 crop production exhibits some recovery compared to 2013 but still at well below-average levels

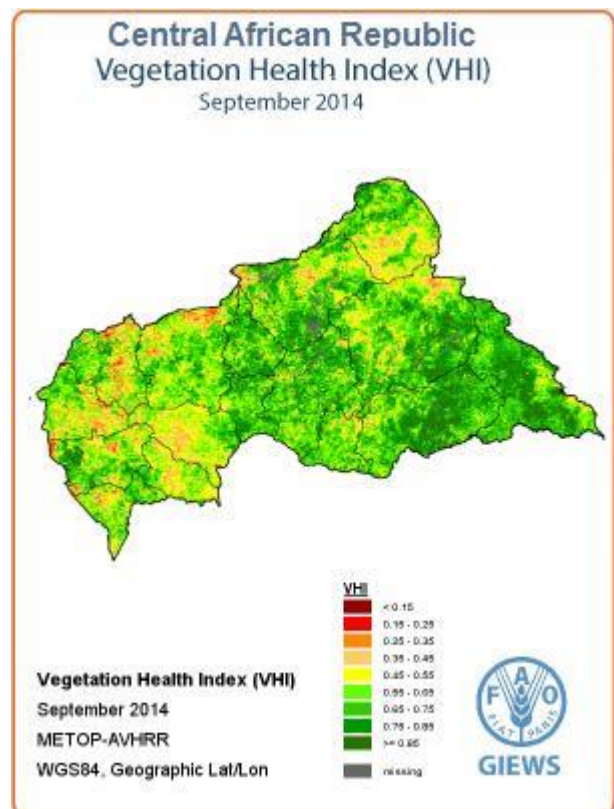
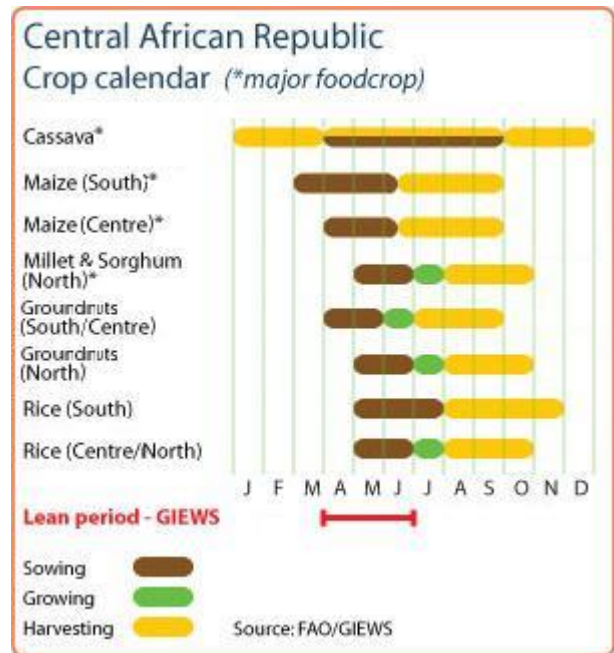
Harvesting of the 2014 main cereal crops was completed in November. In some areas of the south, harvesting of the secondary season crops is about to conclude.

According to the findings of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which visited the country in August, the 2014 aggregate production of food crops increased by 11 percent from the sharply reduced 2013 output, but still remains 58 percent below the pre-crisis five-year average (2008-2012). The 2014 aggregate outcome is mainly driven by a significant increase in cassava production (+45 percent), while cereal output declined by about 54 percent from 2013. The ongoing socio-political crisis and widespread insecurity severely disrupted agricultural and marketing activities and caused the depletion of already inadequate household productive assets. This, coupled with erratic rainfall in western parts of the country and some pest attacks, led to a 23 percent reduction in the planted area.

The livestock and fishing sectors were also severely affected by the crisis. The decline in livestock numbers from 2013 due to theft, looting and mass slaughter of animals is estimated at 67 percent for cattle and 77 percent for small livestock and poultry, a daunting task for the future recovery of the overall agricultural sector. Fish supplies declined by about 40 percent from pre-crisis levels due to insecurity in fishing areas and loss of fishing equipment.

High food prices constraining food access and dietary diversity

Prices of agricultural commodities remained at comparatively low levels in the capital, Bangui, throughout most of the crisis period, due to a sharp decrease in production coupled with a serious decline in demand, as households, whose purchasing power was constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and availability of cash, partially shifted from market purchases to own stocks and production (mainly cassava) and gathering; food aid distributions (mainly maize and palm oil) exerted additional downward pressure on prices. Subsequently, prices sharply increased from early 2014, and in August 2014 prices of maize, millet



and groundnuts were 30-70 percent higher than in March-April 2014. The sharp rise was mainly due to an increase in demand, as payments to civil servants resumed in March 2014, injecting more cash in the economy while large numbers of IDPs also returned to their homes. By contrast, prices of locally-produced cassava declined by 13 percent between February and August due to the combined effect of increased production and limited marketing and movement of goods which retained ample supplies around the surplus producing zone of the capital, Bangui.

Prices of bovine meat are on the increase since mid-2013, due to the sharp declines of livestock numbers, and in August 2014 in Bangui they were more than double than 12 months earlier. Chicken meat price increases were comparatively less sharp, but prices in August 2014 were still 28 percent higher than in August 2013. Prices of fish and milk, other important sources of animal proteins, increased as well, mainly as a result of trade disruptions. In August 2014, prices of milk were 29 percent higher than 12 months earlier and 63 percent higher than in December 2012, immediately before the onset of the crisis. Prices of fish, which show a marked volatility since early 2013, in August 2014 were at the same levels than in August 2013, but 43 percent higher than in December 2012.

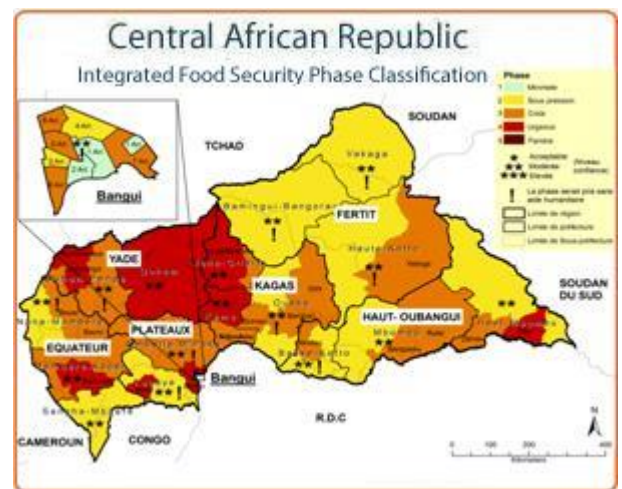
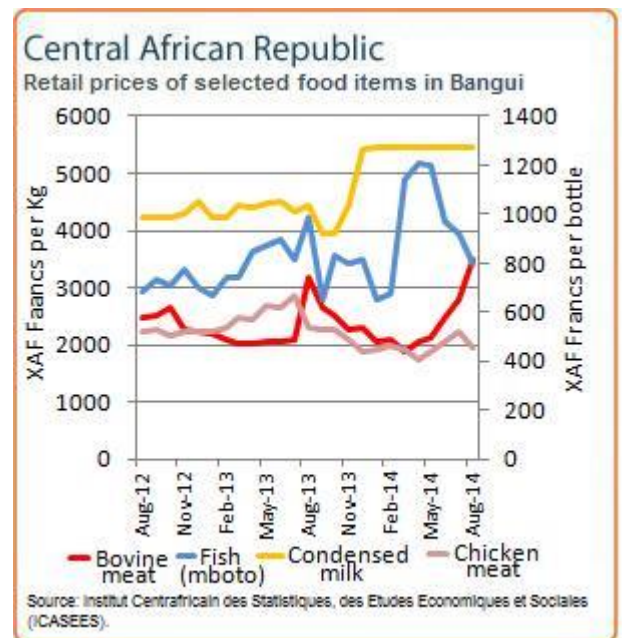
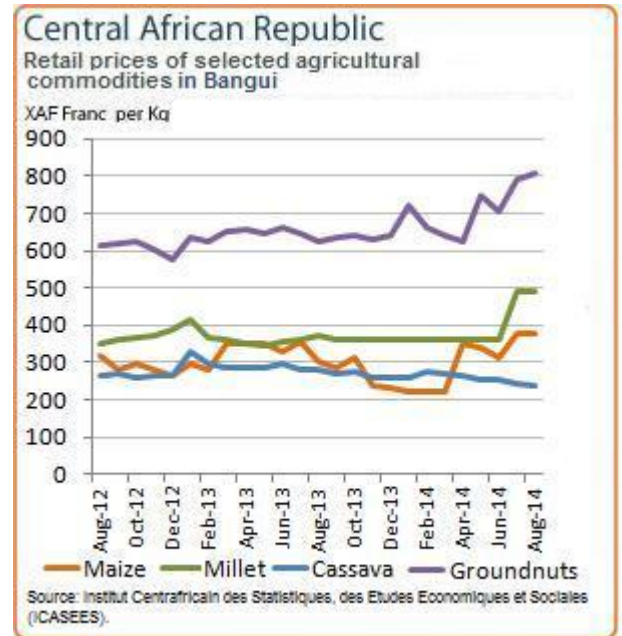
The population of the Central African Republic (CAR) is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity, availabilities and access, and high food prices. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished, with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns, having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

Grave food security situation persist

The acute and complex emergency affecting CAR has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement (in early November 2014, the IDP caseload was estimated at 410 000, about half the number at the peak of the crisis in early 2014, but still representing 9 percent of the total population), thus having a severe negative impact on both food availability and access.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in October 2014, about 1.5 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4 “Emergency”) with 1.3 million of them located in rural areas and 200 000 in Bangui. The number of people in need of urgent assistance represents 32 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of the population in rural areas and in Bangui. The regions most affected by food insecurity (Phase 4 “Emergency”), are Ouham province and most of Nana Grebizi and Kemo prefectures in the northwest, Ngaoundaye, Bocaranga and Berberati sub prefectures in the in west, Boda and Bimbo (located at the outskirts of Bangui) sub prefectures in the south, Obo sub prefecture in the east.

Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. For instance, the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), conducted by WFP in October 2014, indicates that the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption stood at 26 percent, compared to 15 percent in



2013. In addition, the number of households forced to recur to negative coping strategies increased over the past year: the percentage of households who had to sell domestic and productive assets increased from 27 percent to 30 percent and from 20 percent to 22 percent, respectively, while school dropout and illegal activities more than doubled, increasing from 5 percent to 11 percent and from 4 percent to 10 percent, respectively.

In response, the international community launched in December 2013 a Strategic Response Plan, which was revised and scaled up in January 2014 following the aggravation of the situation. It plans to assist 1.9 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 565 million. The food security cluster plans to assist 1 250 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 180 million providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools, through the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment for production such as drying areas and warehouses, and support to animal and crop disease control. As of early November 2014, only 61 percent (about USD 336 million) of funding has been received.

Increased and strong livelihood support required

FAO, WFP and NGO partners provided crop production support to a total of 111 750 vulnerable families across the country. For the main planting season, each of the 83 950 families was assisted with 25 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize and rice) and two hoes, as well as by WFP's provision of seed protection rations. In addition, FAO assisted 27 800 families with seeds (beans, maize, millet, niébé, sesame and sorghum), and tools as part of the short-cycle (secondary) season support.

In addition to emergency relief operations, FAO is engaged in resilience support operations and some 24 300 households would be assisted, with received funds so far, through resilience activities (caisses de resilience) that will help households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets by building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial abilities and governance structures at community level. Participating families will be engaged in contractual production of quality seeds and food, support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives to boost their community. These activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines and the constitution of food and seed reserves.

Reference Date: 17-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop production recovered in 2014 from sharply reduced 2013 output, but still is 58 percent below pre-crisis average
- Food access severely constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity and high food prices
- Food security situation continues to be of grave concern despite relative improvement following 2014 harvest

2014 crop production exhibits some recovery compared to 2013 but still at well below-average levels

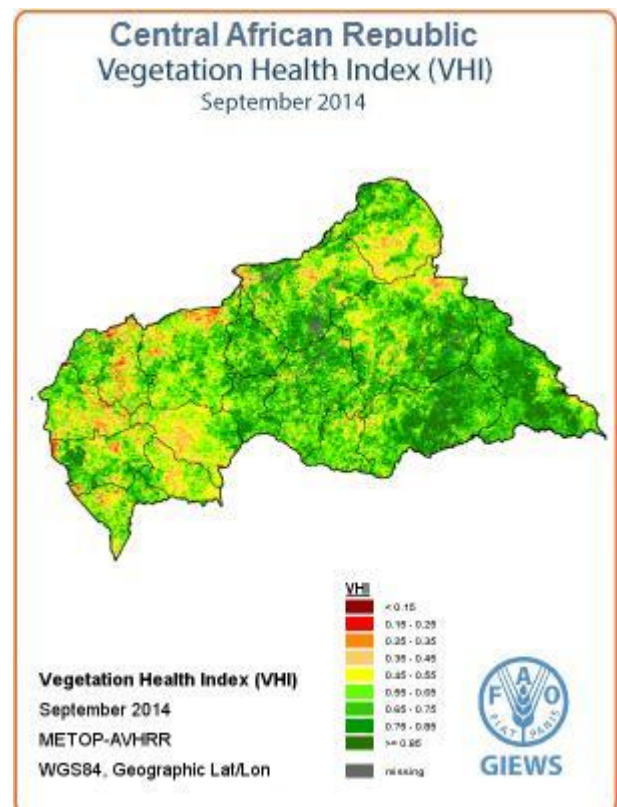
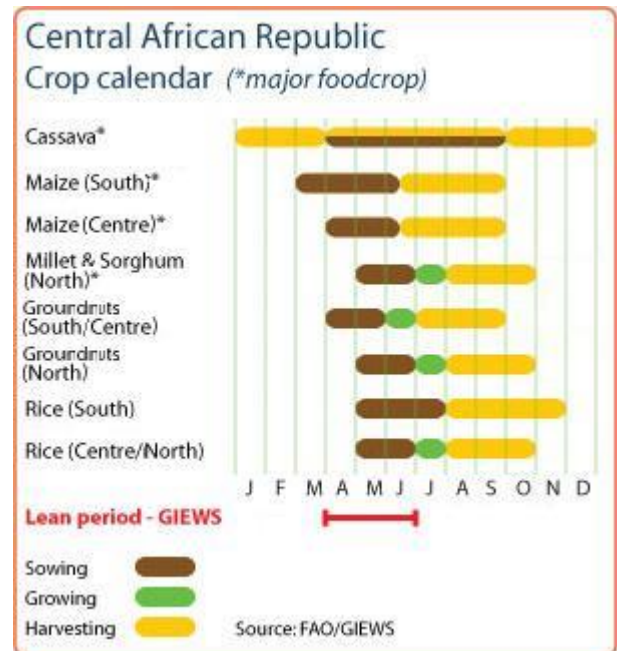
Harvesting of the bulk of the cereal crops has been concluded in the last several weeks. In some areas of the south, the secondary season crops will be harvested from December.

According to the findings of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which visited the country in August, the 2014 aggregate production of foodcrops increased by 11 percent from the sharply reduced 2013 output, but still remains 58 percent below the pre-crisis five-year average (2008-2012). This year's aggregate outcome is mainly driven by a significant increase in cassava production (+45 percent), while cereal output declined by about 54 percent from 2013. The ongoing socio-political crisis and widespread insecurity severely disrupted agricultural and marketing activities and caused the depletion of already inadequate household productive assets. This, coupled with erratic rainfall in western parts of the country and some pest attacks, led to a 23 percent reduction in the planted area.

The livestock and fishing sectors were also severely affected by the crisis. The decline in livestock numbers from last year due to theft, looting and mass slaughter of animals is estimated at 67 percent for cattle and 77 percent for small livestock and poultry, a daunting task for the future recovery of the overall agricultural sector. Fish supplies declined by about 40 percent from pre-crisis levels due to insecurity in fishing areas and loss of fishing equipment.

High food prices constraining food access and dietary diversity

Prices of agricultural commodities remained at comparatively low levels in the capital Bangui throughout most of the crisis period, due to a sharp decrease in production coupled with a serious decline in demand, as households, whose purchasing power was constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and availability of cash, partially shifted from market purchases to own stocks and production (mainly cassava) and gathering; food aid distributions (mainly maize and palm oil) exerted additional downward pressure on prices. Subsequently, prices sharply increased from early 2014, and in August 2014 prices of maize, millet and groundnuts were 30-70 percent higher than in March-April 2014.



The sharp rise is mainly due to an increase in demand, as payments to civil servants resumed in March 2014, injecting more cash in the economy while large numbers of IDPs also returned to their homes. By contrast, prices of locally-produced cassava declined by 13 percent between February and August due to the combined effect of increased production and limited marketing and movement of goods which retained ample supplies around the surplus producing zone of the capital Bangui.

Prices of bovine meat are on the increase since mid-2013, due to the sharp declines of livestock numbers, and in August 2014 in Bangui they were more than double than 12 months earlier. Chicken meat price increases were comparatively less sharp, but prices in August 2014 were still 28 percent higher than in August 2013. Prices of fish and milk, other important sources of animal proteins, increased as well, mainly as a result of trade disruptions. In August 2014, prices of milk were 29 percent higher than 12 months earlier and 63 percent higher than in December 2012, immediately before the onset of the crisis. Prices of fish, which show a marked volatility since early 2013, in August 2014 were at the same levels than in August 2013, but 43 percent higher than in December 2012.

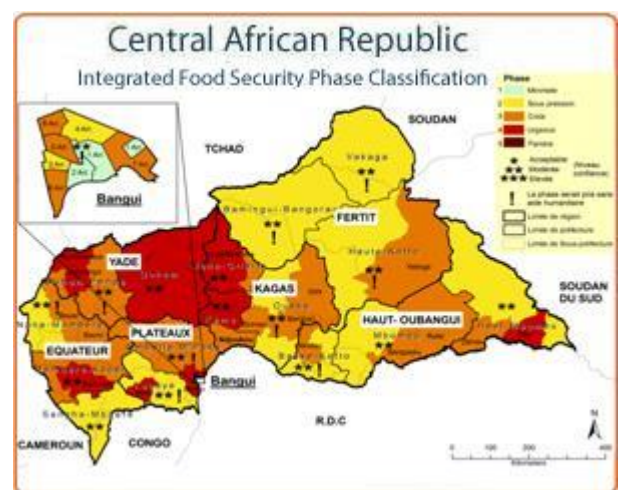
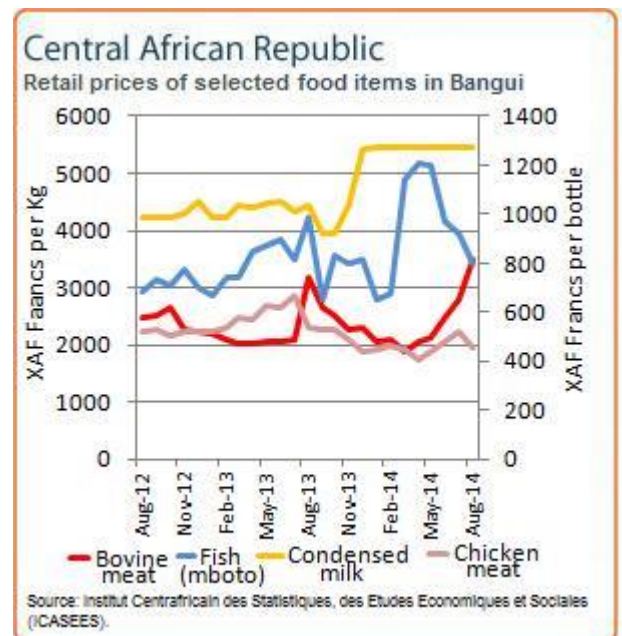
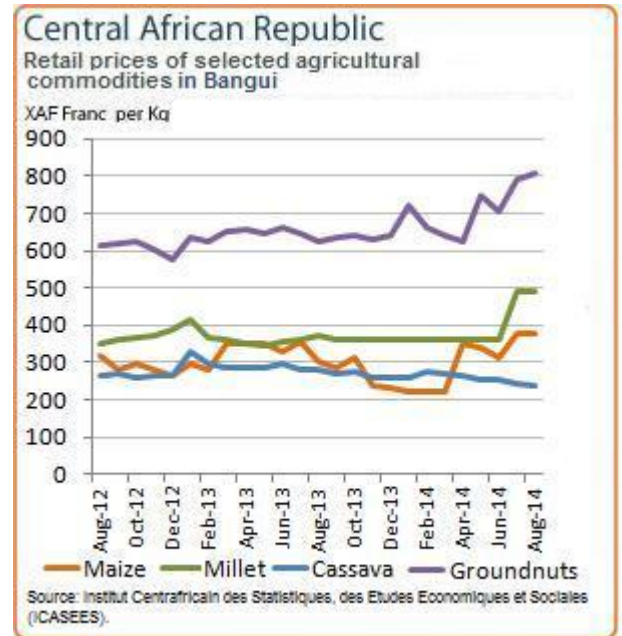
The population of the Central African Republic (CAR) is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity, availabilities and access, and high food prices. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished, with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns, having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

Grave food security situation persist

The acute and complex emergency affecting CAR has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacement (in early November 2014, the IDP caseload was estimated at 410 000, about half the number at the peak of the crisis in early 2014, but still representing 9 percent of the total population), thus having a severe negative impact on both food availability and access.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in October 2014, about 1.5 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 “Crisis” and IPC Phase 4 “Emergency”) with 1.3 million of them located in rural areas and 200 000 in Bangui. The number of people in need of urgent assistance represents 32 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of the population in rural areas and in Bangui. The regions most affected by food insecurity (Phase 4 “Emergency”), are Ouham province and most of Nana Grebizi and Kemo prefectures in the northwest, Ngaoundaye, Bocaranga and Berberati sub-prefectures in the in west, Boda and Bimbo (located at the outskirts of Bangui) sub-prefectures in the south, Obo sub prefecture in the east.

Additional food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation compared to a year earlier. For instance, the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), conducted by WFP in October 2014, indicates that the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption stood at 26 percent, compared to 15 percent in 2013. In addition, the number of households forced to recur to



negative coping strategies increased over the past year: the percentage of households who had to sell domestic and productive assets increased from 27 percent to 30 percent and from 20 percent to 22 percent, respectively, while school dropout and illegal activities more than doubled, increasing from 5 percent to 11 percent and from 4 percent to 10 percent, respectively.

In response, the international community launched in December 2013 a Strategic Response Plan, which was revised and scaled up in late January 2014 following the aggravation of the situation. It currently plans to assist 1.9 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 565 million. The food security cluster plans to assist 1 250 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 180 million providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools, through the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment for production such as drying areas and warehouses, and support to animal and crop disease control. As of 6 November, only 61 percent (about USD 336 million) of funding has been received.

Increased and strong livelihood support required

FAO, WFP and NGO partners provided crop production support to a total of 111 750 vulnerable families across the country. For the main planting season, each of the 83 950 families was assisted with 25 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize and rice) and two hoes, as well as by WFP's provision of seed protection rations. In addition, FAO assisted 27 800 families with seeds (beans, maize, millet, niébé, sesame and sorghum), and tools as part of the short-cycle (secondary) season support.

In addition to emergency relief operations, FAO is engaged in resilience support operations and some 24 300 households would be assisted, with received funds so far, through resilience activities (*caisses de resilience*) that will help households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets by building their capacities in terms of agriculture techniques, financial abilities and governance structures at community level. Participating families will be engaged in contractual production of quality seeds and food, support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives to boost their community. These activities will be completed with the distribution of small processing machines and the constitution of food and seed reserves.

Reference Date: 03-June-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable prospects for the current, 2014 cropping season due to insecurity
- Food access constraints due to trade and market disruptions
- The dire food security situation is continuously and sharply deteriorating since early 2013

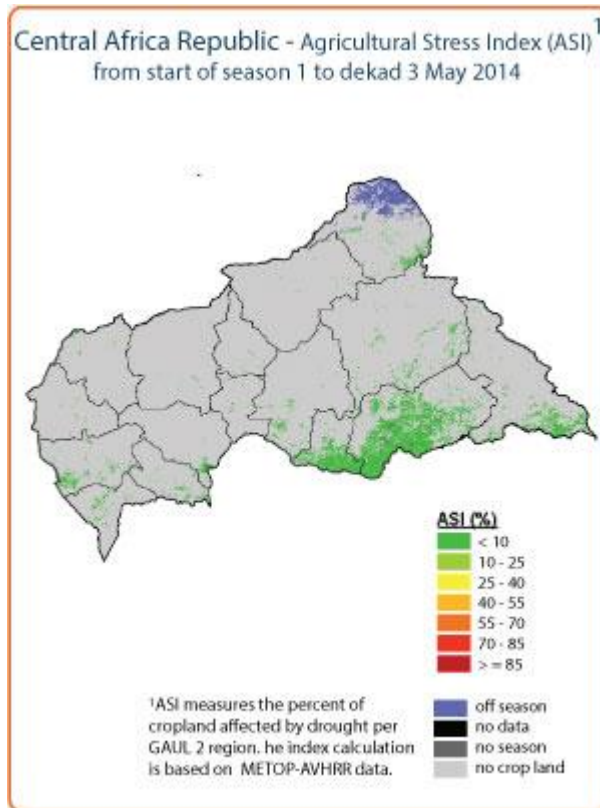
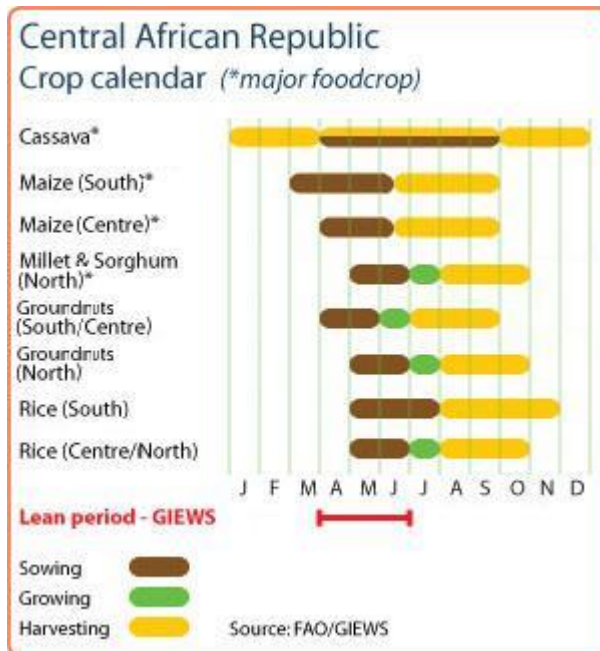
Civil insecurity negatively impacted on prospects for the current 2014 cropping season

In the Central African Republic (CAR), harvesting of the maize crop is expected to start in July in parts of the Centre and the South, while still some sowing would continue in June indicating the extended cropping period in different parts of the country. In northern provinces, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, crops are either being sown or are vegetative and harvesting is expected to start from August.

According to satellite-based information and analysis, favourable weather conditions prevailed during the cropping season in most provinces. The FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) and Normalized Vegetation Index (NDVI) data indicate favourable vegetation conditions, as adequate rainfall from March until the second dekad of May was received both in southern maize-producing areas (see NDVI graphs for Mbomou and Ouaka provinces) and in northern millet/sorghum growing areas (see NDVI graph for Bamingui-Bangoran province). However, the widespread conflict, which caused the loss and the depletion of the already inadequate households' productive assets, together with shortages and soaring prices of inputs, is expected to severely affect the outcome of the cropping season. According to the findings of the Multi-Agency Multi-Sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) undertaken in December 2013, 94 percent of the interviewed communities reported that they would not have enough seeds to plant for the current agricultural season if not provided through humanitarian assistance.

In order to respond to the needs of crisis-hit farmers, the Food Security Cluster, co-led by FAO and WFP, planned to distribute tools and 1 800 tonnes of seeds by mid-June 2014. FAO has established strategic partnerships with NGOs to implement this plan and assist 80 000 farming families countrywide. Seeds distributions are coupled with food rations from WFP to avoid seed consumption and support farming activities. As of 20 May, almost all the purchased seeds (1 742 tonnes) and tools (97 percent) have been pre-positioned in FAO seed-distribution hubs in Bangui, Bambari, Bossangoa and Bouar. However, rising levels of insecurity on the main roads and in rural areas affected logistics and the transportation of inputs and, in turn, the distributions to farmers, while funding constrains limited the scope of operations.

As a result, a further and overall decline in agricultural output is likely and such a decline would exacerbate the dire levels of food insecurity and severely undermine the economy at large, as agriculture



accounts for around 53 percent of the national GDP and a large share of employment.

Widespread insecurity and conflict resulted in sharply reduced crop production in 2013

The conflict which started in December 2012 in the northeast and quickly spread west and southwards in the following months severely affected the 2013 agricultural season as large numbers of households could not access their fields due to severe insecurity. Only a small fraction of the displaced households were able to farm small plots of lands, due to the lack of seeds which were either looted or consumed, and the destruction of agricultural tools and inputs, which were already inadequate even prior the conflict. Consequently, according to a joint FAO/WFP markets and food security assessment fielded in March 2014, in 2013 agricultural production declined by about 40 percent compared to the previous year, despite favourable rainfall received in most areas during the cropping season. According to the findings of the Multi-Agency Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), undertaken in December 2013, 60 percent of the farmers included in the nation-wide sample have indicated that their crop production in 2013 was significantly reduced from last year's levels.

Livestock rearing activities were also seriously disrupted with about 50 percent of livestock either killed or taken to neighbouring countries, particularly cattle. Around 45 percent of the households interviewed during the MIRA declared to have lost their livestock and poultry.

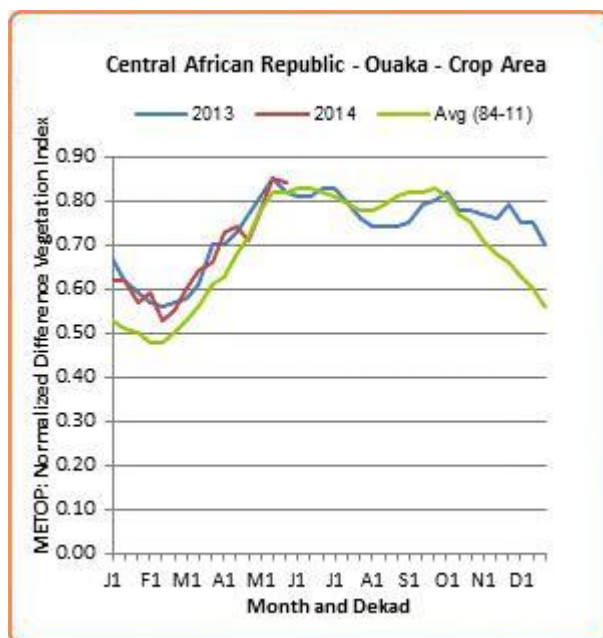
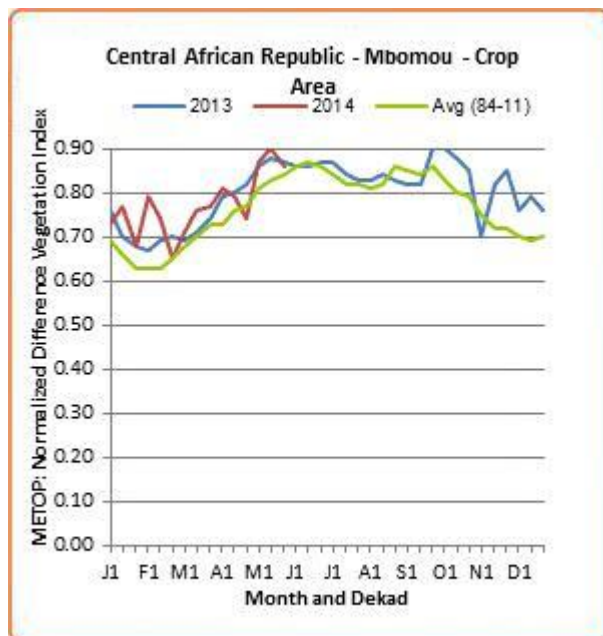
Agricultural exports, especially timber, cotton and coffee (the largest source of foreign currency, together with diamonds), were also sharply reduced.

High prices of several food commodities constraining food access and dietary diversity

According to a market survey fielded by FAO in March 2014, which collected prices of meat, fish and agricultural commodities in three markets of Bangui (Marché Central, Petevo, and Ouango) and in Bossangoa, in Ouham prefecture, several food commodities were in short supply and sold at very high prices. For instance, in Bangui, in March 2014 prices of beef meat were almost double than 12 months earlier and prices of the most consumed types of fish were almost 70 percent higher than 12 months earlier. Similarly, in Bossangoa, in March 2014 prices of beef meat were about four times higher than 12 months earlier, and prices goat meat and fish were 50 and 60 percent higher than in March 2013, respectively.

By contrast, prices of agricultural commodities showed a marked volatility since the start of the crisis, but are at comparatively low levels: in Bangui, in May 2014 prices of maize and cassava were 15 and 31 percent lower than 12 months earlier, respectively. The low prices of agricultural commodities are the result of a sharp decrease in production coupled with a serious decline in demand, as households, whose purchasing power was constrained due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced employment opportunities and availability of cash, partially shifted from market purchases to own stocks and production (mainly cassava) and gathering. Food aid distributions (mainly maize and palm oil) exerted additional downward pressure on prices.

According to the joint FAO/WFP markets and food security



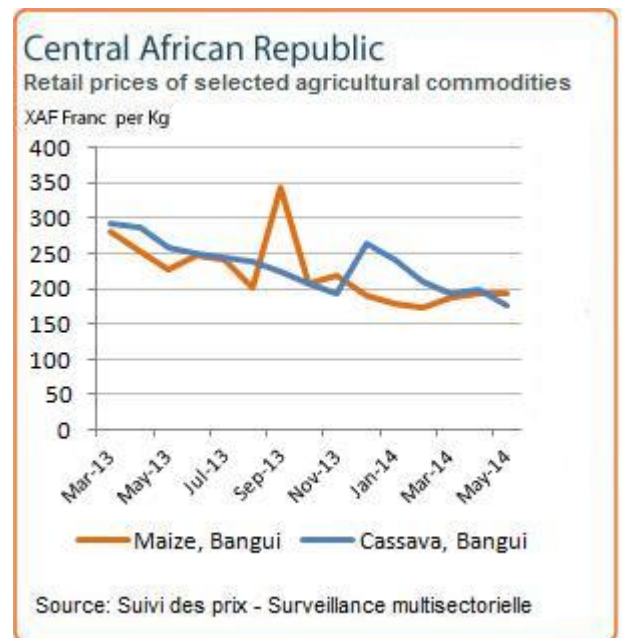
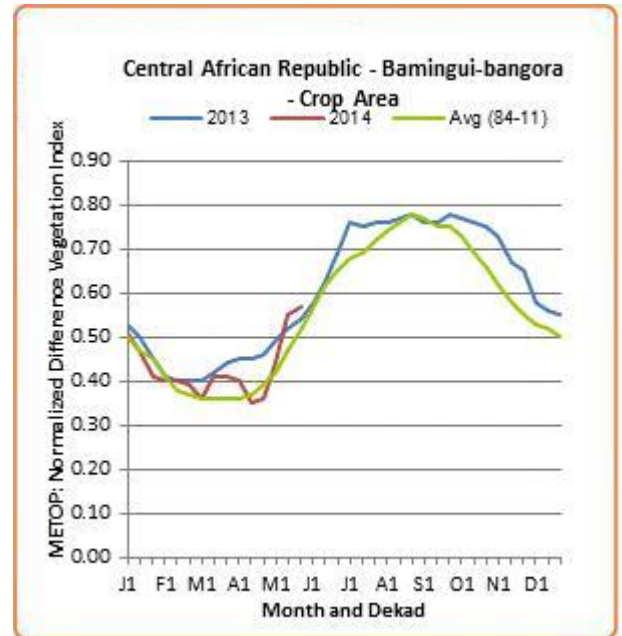
assessment, the population of CAR is facing serious and constantly deteriorating food access constraints, due to destroyed livelihoods, reduced own production, sharply curtailed market activity and availabilities, and access to markets. In addition, not only the quantity of food intake is reduced, but the dietary diversity is also drastically diminished, with the substitution of more nutritious cereal and vegetable staples with more cassava and the sharp reduction of animal proteins intake. This widespread dietary deterioration raises serious concerns, having a dire effect in terms of nutrition and health.

Dire food security situation

The civil conflict, which began in December 2012 in north eastern provinces, expanded and escalated further since March 2013, when violence spread to the capital Bangui and to the whole country. Since then, the Central African Republic has moved from a protracted crisis characterized by chronic underdevelopment and localized emergency situations into an acute and complex emergency affecting the entire population and territory. This has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements (in late May 2014 the IDP caseload was estimated at 557 000), thus having a severe negative impact on both food availability and access. As a result, the food security situation, which has been seriously and sharply deteriorating since the start of the crisis, is alarming.

According to the analysis conducted by the FAO-supported Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in April 2014, about 1.7 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are currently in need of urgent assistance, with 57 percent of them in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 43 percent in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The regions most affected by food insecurity (Phase 4, Emergency), are Ouham and Ouham Pende provinces in the north-west: in these areas the food security situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months until the start of harvests in August. All the other regions of the country except one have been classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

In response, the international community launched in December 2013 a Strategic Response Plan, which was revised and scaled up in late January 2014 following the aggravation of the situation. It currently plans to assist 1.9 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 565 million. The food security cluster plans to assist 1 250 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 180 million providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs including seeds and tools, through the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment for production such as drying areas and warehouses, and support to animal and crop disease control. As of 22 May, only 32 percent (about USD 178 million) of funding has been received.



Reference Date: 28-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The widespread civil insecurity, which caused a sharp reduction in 2013 crop production, is expected to severely impact the 2014 cropping season
- High food prices and inflation levels registered in 2013
- The dire food security situation is deteriorating with the number of IDPs nearly doubling in December 2013

Deep concern over the upcoming 2014 cropping season

Seasonably dry weather conditions prevail across the Central African Republic (CAR). In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South planting of the 2014 maize crop is expected to start in March, while in the unimodal North planting of sorghum and millet would start from next May.

Agricultural operations are already severely affected by the widespread conflict, which resulted in massive displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that already were inadequate. According to the findings of the Multi-Agency Multi-Sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) undertaken in December 2013, 94 percent of the interviewed communities reported that they will not have enough seeds to plant for the next agricultural season.

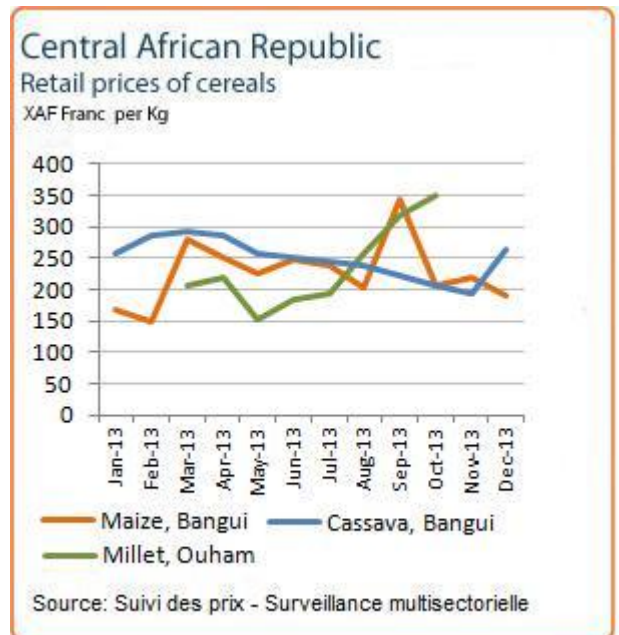
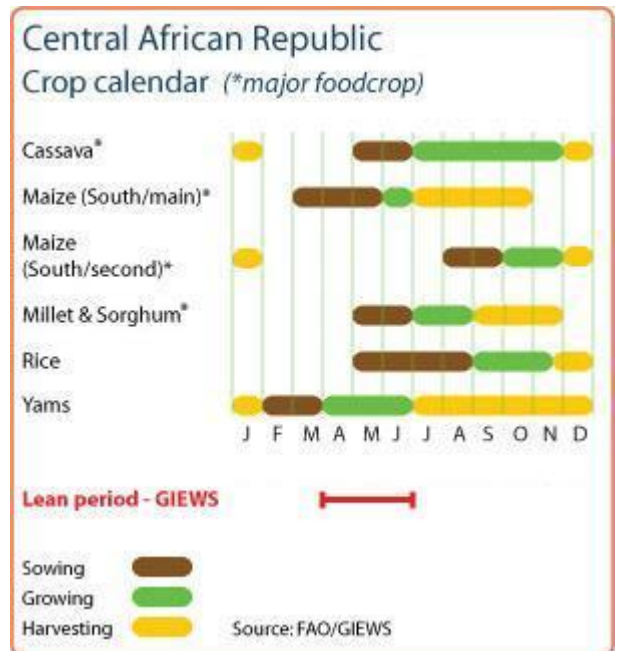
Further and significant decline in agricultural output is very probable. Such a decline would exacerbate the dire levels of food insecurity and severely undermine the economy at large, as agriculture accounts for around 53 percent of the national GDP and a large share of employment. Timely and effective support to the agricultural sector may somehow mitigate the extent of the decline.

Widespread insecurity and conflict result in sharply reduced crop production in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 crops has just been concluded. Crop production was sharply reduced despite favourable rainfall received in most areas during the cropping season. Large numbers of households could not access their fields and seeds were in short supply due to looting or were used for consumption. Harvest operations were also delayed in parts due the intensification of conflict.

Livestock raids and distress sales have aggravated household food insecurity. Agricultural exports, especially timber, cotton and coffee (the largest source of foreign currency, together with diamonds), were also sharply reduced.

According to a multi-agency Emergency Food Security assessment conducted in September, the majority of the farmers included in the nation-wide sample have indicated that their crop production in 2013 was significantly reduced from last year's levels.



High food prices and inflation levels in 2013

Market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are volatile and at high levels, due to the severe and widespread market disruptions caused by the deterioration of civil insecurity.

In the capital Bangui, prices of maize were very volatile in recent months, and in November 2013, at XAF 189/kg, were 13 percent higher than in January 2013. Prices of cassava, an important staple, declined between August and November by 19 percent, partly due to the ongoing harvest; however, the decline was short-lived due to the overall decline in production, and in December prices sharply increased by 37 percent.

In Ouham province, an important sorghum and millet producing area, where the heavy fighting which erupted in September 2013 caused further disruption to agricultural activities, prices of millet began increasing from May 2013; and by October 2013 they were about 70 percent higher than in March 2013. Cassava prices more than doubled between July and September, and in November they were 32 percent higher than in March.

As a result of high food prices, the average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3 percent in 2011 to 5 percent in 2012, increased further in 2013 to 8 percent.

The food security situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months

The civil conflict, which began in December 2012 in north eastern provinces, expanded and escalated further since March 2013, when violence spread to the capital Bangui and to the whole country. Since then, the Central African Republic has moved from a protracted crisis characterized by chronic underdevelopment and localized emergency situations into an acute and complex emergency affecting the entire population and territory. This has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements and a serious deterioration of the food security situation. The already widespread and dire civil insecurity situation has further deteriorated since December 2013, with intercommunal violence incidents causing the number of displaced individuals, estimated at about 500 000 in early December, to nearly double to 922 000 as of mid-January.

According to the analysis conducted by the FAO-supported Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in November 2013, about 1.3 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are currently in need of urgent assistance, nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. Out of these 1.3 million, approximately 60 percent are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 40 percent in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The areas most affected by food insecurity are the districts of Ouham, Nana-Gribizi and Mbomou. On the basis of recent information, the situation in 4 additional districts (Lobaye, Ouham-Pendé, Ouham and Ombella-Mpoko) is likely to have deteriorated to IPC Phase 4 in December due to recent violence episodes.

According to the findings of the MIRA, food reserves are almost non-existent: 60 percent of interviewed households reported to have completely exhausted their food stocks, while the remaining households declared that their food reserves could cover their requirements for up to two weeks in urban areas and one month in rural areas.

In response, the international community launched in December 2013 a Strategic Response Plan, which was revised and scaled up in late January 2014 following the aggravation of the situation. It currently plans to assist 1.9 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 551 million. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, plans to assist 1 250 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 180 million providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs including seeds and tools, through the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment for production such as drying areas and warehouses, and support to animal and crop disease control.

FAO aims to support 75 000 farming households in the first three months of 2014, and is currently distributing emergency kits for vegetables production on the outskirts of Bangui and agricultural inputs in and around Bouar, Bossambélé and Bossangoa (Ouham and Ouham Pendé regions) to about 15 000 households.

GIEWS Country Brief

Central African Republic



Reference Date: 16-December-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The widespread civil insecurity, which caused a sharp reduction in 2013 crop production, is likely to severely impact the 2014 cropping season
- High food prices and inflation levels registered in 2013
- The dire food security situation is expected to deteriorate further and requires stepping up of humanitarian interventions and close monitoring

Deep concern over the upcoming 2014 cropping season

Seasonably dry weather conditions prevail across the Central African Republic (CAR). In bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South planting of the 2014 maize crop is expected to start in March, while in the uni-modal North planting of sorghum and millet would start from next May.

Agricultural operations are already severely affected by the widespread conflict, which resulted in massive displacement of people, caused input shortages and depleted households' productive assets that already were inadequate. Further and significant decline in agricultural output is very likely, unless timely and effective support is provided to the agricultural sector. Such a decline would exacerbate the dire levels of food insecurity and severely undermine the economy at large, as agriculture accounts for around 53 percent of the national GDP and a large share of employment.

Widespread insecurity and conflict result in sharply reduced crop production in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 crops is almost over. Crop production was sharply reduced despite favourable rainfall received in most areas during the cropping season. Large numbers of households could not access their fields and seeds were in short supply due to looting or were used for consumption. Harvest operations were also delayed in parts due the intensification of conflict.

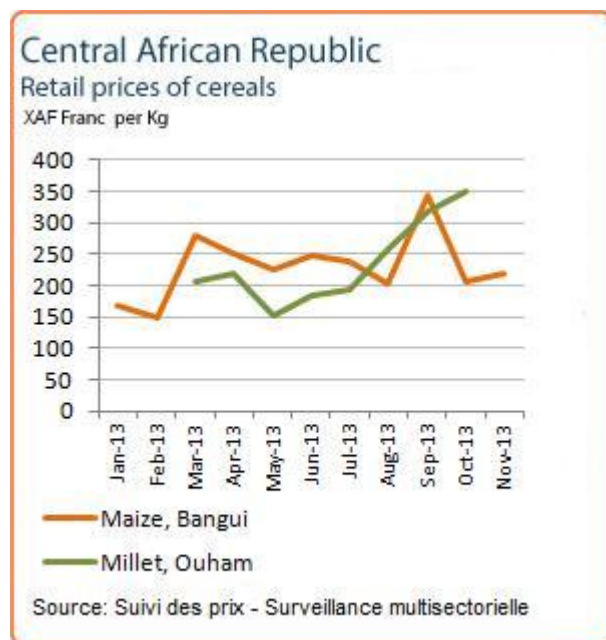
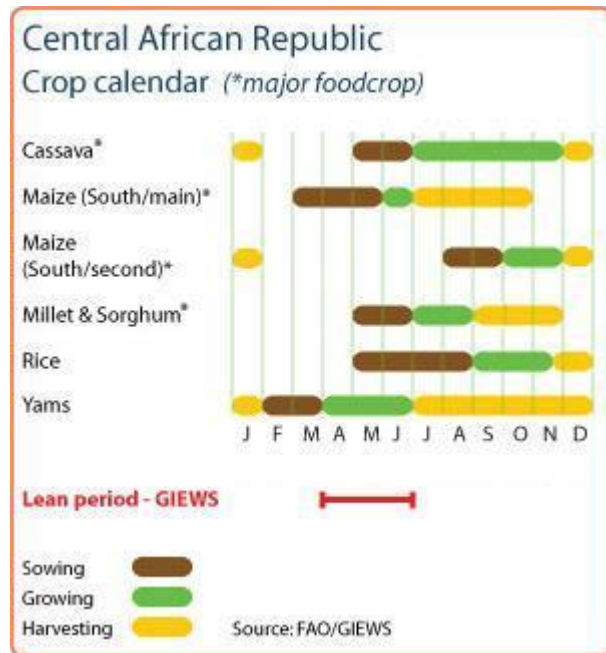
Livestock raids and distress sales have aggravated household food insecurity. Agricultural exports, especially timber, cotton and coffee (the largest source of foreign currency, together with diamonds), were also sharply reduced.

According to a multi-agency Emergency Food Security assessment conducted in September, the majority of the farmers included in the nation-wide sample have indicated that their crop production in 2013 was significantly reduced from last year's levels.

High food prices and inflation levels in 2013

Market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are volatile and at high levels, due to the severe and widespread market disruptions caused by the deterioration of civil insecurity.

In the capital Bangui, prices of maize were very volatile in recent



months, and in November 2013, at XAF 219/kg, were 31 percent higher than in January 2013. By contrast, prices of cassava, an important staple, declined between August and November by 19 percent, partly due to the ongoing harvest, and in November they were 25 lower than in January. Such a decline is expected to be short-lived due to the overall decline in production.

In Ouham province, an important sorghum and millet producing area, where the heavy fighting which erupted in September 2013 caused further disruption to agricultural activities, prices of millet began increasing from May 2013; and by October 2013 they were about 70 percent higher than in March 2013. Cassava prices more than doubled between July and September, and in November they were 32 percent higher than in March.

As a result of high food prices, the average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3 percent in 2011 to 5 percent in 2012, increased further in 2013 to 8 percent.

The food security situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months

The civil conflict, which began in December 2012 in north eastern provinces, expanded and escalated further since March 2013, when violence spread to the capital Bangui and to the whole country. Since then, the Central African Republic has moved from a protracted crisis characterized by chronic underdevelopment and localized emergency situations into an acute and complex emergency affecting the entire population and territory. This has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements and a serious deterioration of the food security situation.

According to the preliminary findings of the analysis conducted by the FAO-supported Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in November 2013, about 1.3 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are currently in need of urgent assistance, nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. Out of these 1.3 million, approximately 60 percent are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 40 percent in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The areas most affected by food insecurity are the districts of Ouham, Nana-Gribizi and Mbomou. On the basis of preliminary information, the situation in 4 additional districts (Lobaye, Ouham-Pendé, Ouham and Ombella-Mpoko) is likely to have deteriorated to IPC Phase 4 in December due to recent violence episodes.

Accordingly, the international community plans to assist 1.8 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 241 million. The food security cluster, led by FAO and WFP, plans to assist 500 000 beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 61 million providing food assistance to severely food insecure populations and supporting the agricultural sector by improving access to essential agricultural inputs including seeds and tools and, supporting the rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment for production such as drying areas and warehouses as well as supporting animal and crop disease control.

The food situation of the IDPs, estimated at about 500 000 in early December 2013, is also very alarming.

GIEWS Country Brief

Central African Republic



Reference Date: 29-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall benefited crops in 2013, but civil insecurity affected agricultural activities in parts
- Food prices and inflation increase in 2013
- The food security conditions continue to deteriorate

Escalating civil conflict disrupts agricultural activities

Harvesting of the 2013 main season and planting of the second season maize crops have been concurrently completed in several bi modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South. In the unimodal North region, where sorghum and millet are predominantly grown, harvest is underway.

Yams, an important staple, are also being currently harvested, while the cassava crop, the principal staple, grown across the country with the exception of the northeast, was planted in May/June and will be harvested from December/January.

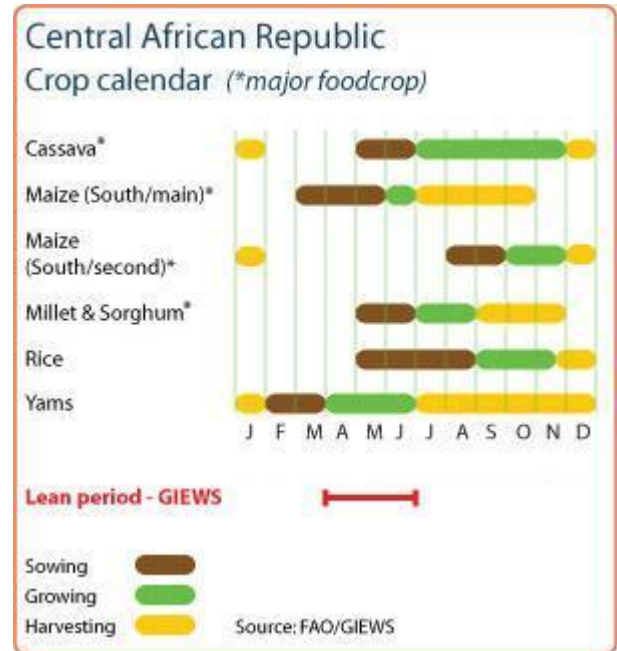
Although above-average rainfall was received in most areas during the cropping season, crop production is likely to be reduced and harvests are expected to be delayed in parts due to deteriorating civil insecurity, which disrupted agricultural activities and caused input shortages. Several assessments in April and May 2013 found that large numbers of households lacked seeds for planting due to looting and/or used for household consumption. According to a joint FAO/WFP Rapid Food Security Evaluation conducted in May, production prospects were particularly poor in the North (Ouham-Pende, Ouham, North Nana-Grebizi, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga, Haute Kotto). In addition, the heavy fighting which erupted in the Ouham province in September 2013 caused further disruption to agricultural activities in a cereal surplus producing area which is considered to be the country's granary.

The likely decrease in agricultural output will severely undermine the economy at large, as agriculture accounts for around 53 percent of the national GDP and a large share of employment. The expected decline in farmers' income is expected to impact private consumption, contributing to heightened levels of food insecurity. Agricultural exports, especially timber, cotton and coffee (the largest source of foreign currency, together with diamonds), will also be reduced, since coffee and cotton crops have not been harvested and marketed in parts.

Food prices and inflation increasing in 2013

Market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are volatile and at high levels, due to the severe and widespread market disruptions caused by the deterioration of civil insecurity.

In the capital Bangui, prices of maize, despite having sharply declined in September as crops of the main season harvest increased supplies, in October were still 16 percent higher than in January. In Ouham province, an important sorghum and millet producing area, prices of millet were 60 percent higher than in March. In Bangui, prices of cassava, an important staple, declined in August and September by



13 percent due to the increased availability of maize, and in October they were 29 percent below the peaks reached in March, while in Ouham they more than doubled between July and September, and in October they were 31 percent higher than in March.

Moreover, due to severe market malfunctioning, absolute levels of food prices are likely to underestimate both the relative scarcity of food commodities (after a prolonged lean season, sellers are trying to make profits as rapidly as possible lowering retail prices) and the access constraints for purchasers, due to the scarcity of liquidity and general indebtedness.

As a result of high food prices, the average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3 percent in 2011 to 5 percent in 2012, increased further in 2013 to 8 percent.

The food security situation continues to deteriorate

The civil conflict, which began in December 2012 in the north eastern provinces of the Central African Republic, escalated further in late March 2013, when violence spread to the capital Bangui and to the whole country. This has resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities, and the already large number of displaced and food insecure people increased further.

According to an Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in July 2013, about 978 000 individuals are currently experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels, while about 309 000 individuals are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Accordingly, the total number of people in need of food assistance adds up to a total of about 1.29 million people (about 40 percent of the rural population) nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. The areas most affected by food insecurity are Ouaka region in the center, Kabo and Batangafo sub-prefectures in the northwest, and Salo, Nola, Boda sub-prefectures in the south east. Overall food insecurity has been exacerbated by widespread displacement, and the IDP caseload, estimated in late September at 395 000 by UNHCR, nearly doubled since August mainly due to heavy fighting in the north-western Ouham province. In addition, about 17 000 refugees, mostly Congolese and Sudanese, reside in CAR, and an estimated 5 000 people were displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes in April and May 2013, while torrential rains in Bangui in early September resulted in the flooding of several districts, which affected about 33 000 people, of which 1 785 were displaced.

According to the FAO/WFP Rapid Food Security Evaluation, the most vulnerable populations have begun adopting negative coping mechanisms such as eating once a day and reducing food diversity; moreover, the food security situation of IDPs is critical.

To tackle the food insecurity situation, a Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), a joint effort by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, was launched in early December, shortly before the escalation of the civil conflict, appealing for USD 129 million to assist 646 000 people. Subsequently, a response plan has been implemented to meet the needs of those affected by the current crisis, and after a Mid-Year-Review conducted in June 2013, the international community currently plans to assist 1.6 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 195 million. The appeal has so far received 40 percent of its required funding.

WFP has assisted 246 000 individuals from January 2013 to mid-

October, and aims to assist 500 000 people by the end of the year.

Reference Date: 24-July-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall benefited crops in 2013, but civil insecurity affected agricultural activities in parts
- Food prices and inflation increase in 2013
- The food security conditions continue to deteriorate

Escalating civil conflict disrupts agricultural activities

The main 2013 maize harvest is currently underway in the southern bimodal rainfall area, while in the unimodal northern area millet and sorghum crops are being sown for harvest in October.

The cassava crop, the principal staple, grown across the country with the exception of the northeast, was sown in May/June and will be harvested in December/January.

Although overall growing conditions have been favourable so far, with above average rainfall across the country, crop production is likely to be reduced and harvests will be delayed in several parts due to deteriorating civil insecurity, which disrupted agricultural activities and caused input shortages. Several assessments in April and May found that large numbers of households lacked seeds for planting due to looting and/or used for household consumption. According to a joint FAO/WFP Rapid Food Security Evaluation conducted in May, production prospects were particularly poor in the North (Ouham-Pende, Ouham, North Nana-Grebizi, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga, Haute Kotto).

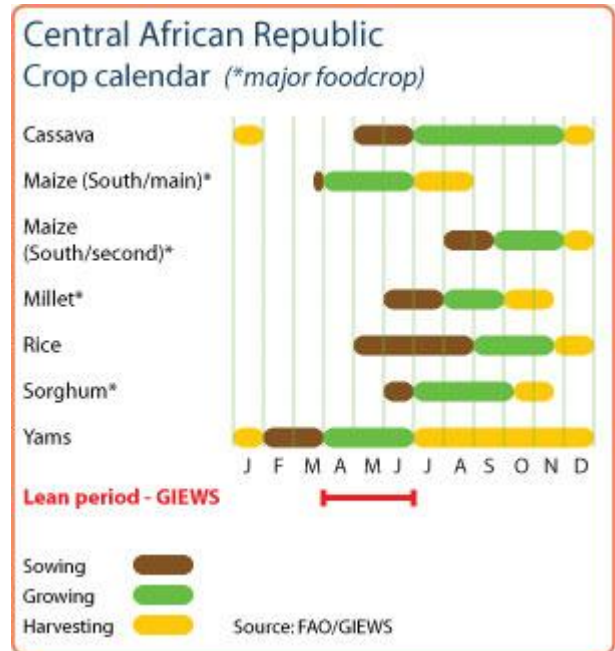
The likely decrease in agricultural output will severely undermine the economy at large, as agriculture accounts for around 53 percent of the national GDP and a large share of employment. The expected decline in farmers' income is expected to impact private consumption, contributing to heightened levels of food insecurity. Agricultural exports, especially timber, cotton and coffee (the largest source of foreign currency, together with diamonds), will also be reduced.

Food prices and inflation increasing in 2013

Market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are at high levels, due to the severe and widespread market disruptions caused by the deterioration of civil insecurity. Prices of food in May were between 10 and 35 percent above a year earlier, and the average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3 percent in 2011 to 5 percent in 2012, is forecast to rise further in 2013 to 8 percent. In the last several years, inflation rose significantly from 1 percent in 2007 to 9.3 percent in 2008 but declined to 3.5 percent in 2009 and to 1.5 percent in 2010.

The food security situation continues to deteriorate

The civil conflict in northeastern provinces, since December 2012, escalated from late March 2013, when armed skirmishes spread to the capital Bangui and to the whole country. About 1.6 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity, with up to 600 000 individuals



being severely food insecure. Overall food insecurity has been exacerbated by widespread displacement, with the IDP caseload estimated at 206 000 by UNHCR in late March; however, the current number is most likely be higher, since displacement continued in the following months, but information is limited owing to restricted humanitarian access. In addition, about 17 000 refugees, mostly Congolese and Sudanese, reside in CAR, and an estimated 5 000 people were displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes in April and May 2013.

Areas of major concern are the central and northern provinces, which have been suffering the effects of conflict since the outbreak of the crisis in December 2012. Households in these zones, which have already depleted their stocks - two or three months earlier than normal - due to the disruption of agricultural activities, had to increase their market dependence, but are unable to satisfy their food consumption needs due to a lower purchasing power, high food prices and insufficient market supplies. As a result, a Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency level (IPC Phase 4) is forecast between June and the next harvest from September.

According to the FAO/WFP Rapid Food Security Evaluation, the most vulnerable populations have begun adopting negative coping mechanisms such as eating once a day and reducing food diversity; moreover, the food security situation of IDPs is critical.

To tackle the food insecurity situation, a Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), a joint effort by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, was launched in early December, shortly before the escalation of the civil conflict, appealing for USD 129 million to assist 646 000 people. Subsequently, a response plan has been implemented to meet the needs of those affected by the current crisis, and after a Mid-Year-Review conducted in June 2013, the international community currently plans to assist 1.6 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 195 million. The appeal has so far received 31 percent of its required funding.

Reference Date: 12-March-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rainfall benefited crops in 2012, but civil insecurity affected agricultural activities in parts
- Inflation increased in 2012
- Escalation of civil conflict aggravated an already alarming food security situation

Despite good weather conditions, civil conflict negatively affect agricultural activities

The main 2013 maize crop, to be harvested from July, will be sown in March. However, agricultural activities have been affected by the escalation in civil conflict in December 2012, and land preparation, which should have started in January, is behind schedule in parts.

The 2012 secondary cereal crops were harvested last December, while the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was harvested in December/January.

Crop development benefited from above average rainfall during the growing season (September-November); however, civil insecurity affected harvesting operations in parts, but estimates of crop damage and production losses are not yet available.

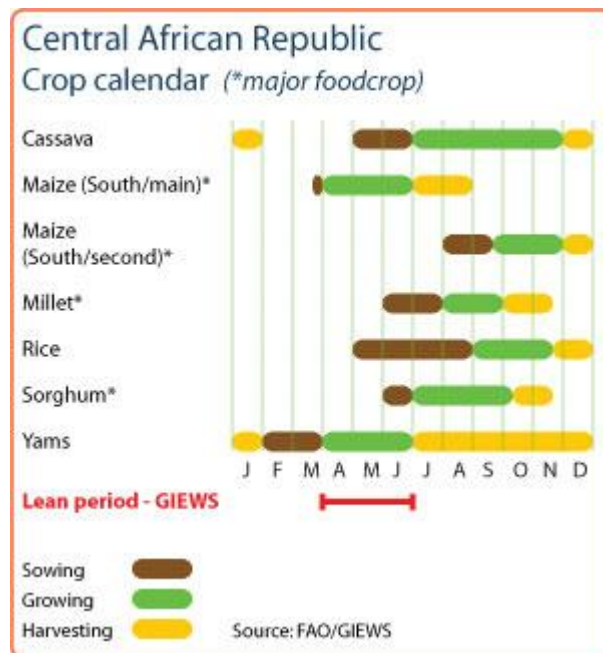
Levels of inflation increased in 2012

Market disruptions caused by the civil strife resulted in significant increases in food prices in several areas, including in the capital Bangui, where the cost of a food basket was 29 percent higher in January 2013 compared to the month before. Already, the annual consumer price inflation had surged from 1.5 percent in 2011 to 7 percent in 2012. In the last several years inflation rose significantly from 1 percent in 2007 to 6.5 percent in 2008 but declined to 3.5 percent in 2009 and to 1.5 percent in 2010 and 2011.

Civil conflict aggravates an already alarming food security situation

The food security situation, which was already alarming (as of May 2012, more than 776 000 individuals, close to 20 percent of the total population, were in a food crisis), has deteriorated from December 2012 onwards, when the civil conflict escalated. Drastic coping strategies, such as selling of productive assets and a reduction in the diversity and quantity of food consumption compared to 2012 have been reported in many areas. Overall food insecurity has been exacerbated by the widespread displacement, with the IDP caseload estimated at 173 000.

The food situation is projected to further deteriorate until the next harvest, in July 2013, especially in the north of Nana-Grebizi, in Ouham and Vakaga regions. In the absence of food aid distribution and the resumption of trade and marketing activities, an estimated 80 000 people would face severe food insecurity during the lean season (from April/May in most parts) in rebel held areas alone, and that 13 500 children under 5, in the rebel held areas and Bangui, will suffer from



Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), while over 44 000 will suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

To tackle the food insecurity situation, a Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), a joint effort by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, was launched in early December, appealing for USD 129 million to assist 646 000 people. However, since the appeal was launched shortly before the escalation of the civil conflict, the needs of those affected by the current crisis is unaccounted for. Humanitarian agencies are currently working on a response plan to the current crisis and additional funding will be required in 2013 to cover the entire humanitarian programme in 2013.

WFP is also preparing a Budget Revision with additional needs of USD 5.6 million to assist an additional 120 000 people in need of food assistance, including 80 000 severely food insecure in the rebel occupied areas.

Reference Date: 29-November-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rains during the current season benefit crops
- Inflation expected to increase in 2012
- Continued civil insecurity and recent floods exacerbate food insecurity

Above average rains during the current season benefit crops

Harvesting of the 2012 millet and sorghum crops is underway, while the second season maize crop is scheduled to be harvested in December. Crop development benefited from above average rainfall during the growing season (September-November). Earlier in the year, the temporal distribution of rains during the maize main season (March-June) had been erratic but cumulative levels were at average levels. The 2012 official cereal production forecast is not yet available but is tentatively put at average levels.

Levels of inflation expected to increase in 2012

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate is expected to reach 7 percent in 2012. In the last several years inflation rose significantly from 1 percent in 2007 to 6.5 percent in 2008 but declined to 3.5 percent in 2009 and to 1.5 percent in 2010 and 2011.

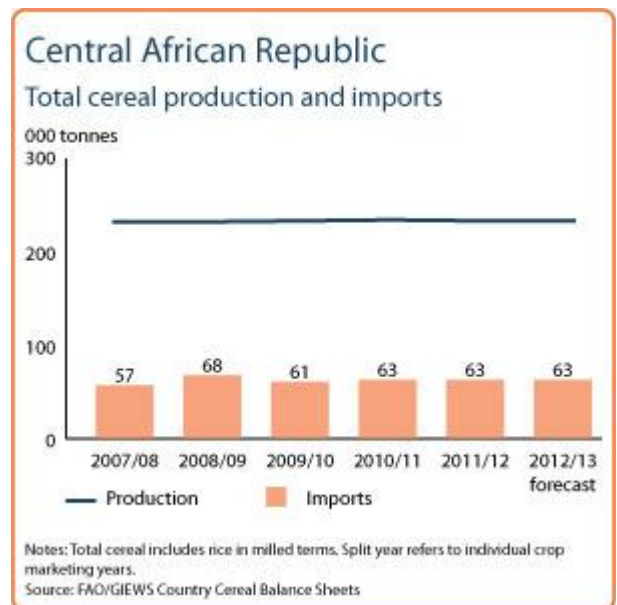
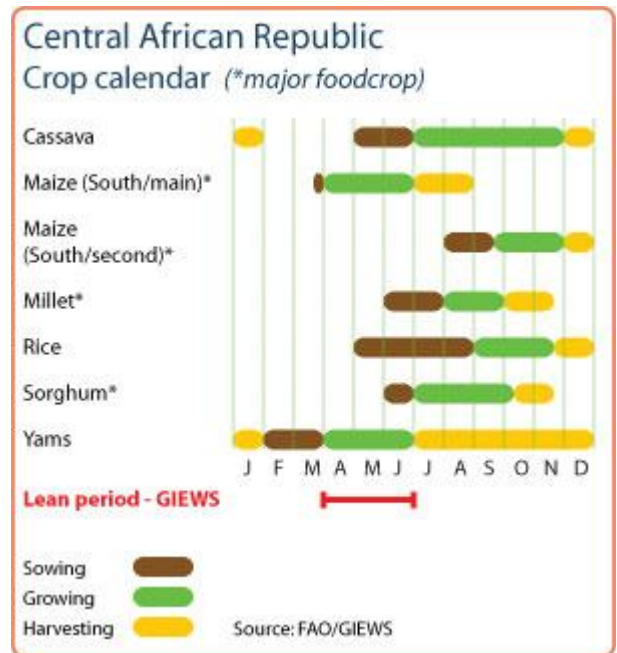
Heavy rains and floods cause damage

During August and September, heavy rains accompanied by strong winds caused floods in the towns of Paoua (Prefecture of Ouham-Pende), Bangui-Bouchia (Prefecture of La Lobaye), Begoua (Prefecture of Ombéla M'poko) and in 5 districts of the capital Bangui. According to OCHA, as of mid October, the floods affected more than 20 000 individuals, of which 13 700 are homeless and urgently need assistance. The displaced population lives with host families in overcrowded environments or in the open air, in both cases without adequate hygiene, sanitation or clean water. The living conditions of the displaced population are causing a critical health risk, including the risk of water-related diseases such as malaria and acute respiratory infections.

In response, some USD 320 000 have been allocated from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to support the Central African Republic Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 13 700 beneficiaries (2 740 households).

Continued civil insecurity exacerbate food insecurity

Persistent civil conflict and insecurity deprive several households of their livelihoods and puts additional pressure on already limited resources. According to OCHA, as of mid October 2012, more than 90 000 individuals were affected by internal displacement, while the number of returnees from neighbouring Chad and Cameroon was put at



about 12 000. Nearly 27 000 persons are newly displaced in 2012 in south-eastern parts of the country as a result of internal conflicts, banditry and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army. In addition, there are about 19 000 refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other countries, located mainly in the Bambari area, the south-east (Zemio and Obo) and the south (Mongoumba, Bangui). During the first half of 2012, significant progress was made towards political peace negotiations between the Government and the country's two main rebel groups resulting in ceasefire agreements and enabling humanitarian access to previously isolated populations. However, despite these positive developments, the security situation has deteriorated in the Kabo-Batangafa-Kaga-Bandoro triangle in the north-center following a joint military operation organized by the Chadian and Central African army against the Chadian rebel group Front Populaire pour le Redressement (Popular Front for Reconstruction). This operation led to the destruction of villages and farms and the displacement of over 2 500 people in the area. In addition, attacks perpetrated in the south-east by the Lord's Resistance Army increased during the first quarter of the year.

High malnutrition levels a big concern

Reported levels of malnutrition and food insecurity are alarming. About 40 percent of children under the age of five classified as malnourished while 10 percent are underweight. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) is estimated at 7.4 percent at national level, but in four prefectures (Lobaye, Vakaga, Bangui and Ouham) the GAM rates have exceeded the emergency threshold of 10 percent set by the World Health Organization. According to a recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in May 2012, the entire population of Central African Republic is food insecure, while more than 776 000 Central Africans outside the capital Bangui (close to 20 percent of the total population) are in a food crisis. Overall, 1.92 million of people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. To tackle the current food insecurity situation, a joint effort was launched by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community in February 2012, which by late November has received about 62 percent of its required funding of USD 134 million.

Reference Date: 20-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic and insufficient precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season
- Agricultural recovery continues to be hampered by persistent civil strife

Erratic precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season

Harvesting of the 2012 main cropping season maize crop, which is predominantly grown in southern regions, is about to be completed.

Following a prolonged dry spell at the beginning of the season (March-April), generally favourable rainfall was received in May and June.

Despite overall average cumulative rainfall levels over the entire cropping season (March-June) the erratic distribution of rains may have negatively impacted yields, limiting production.

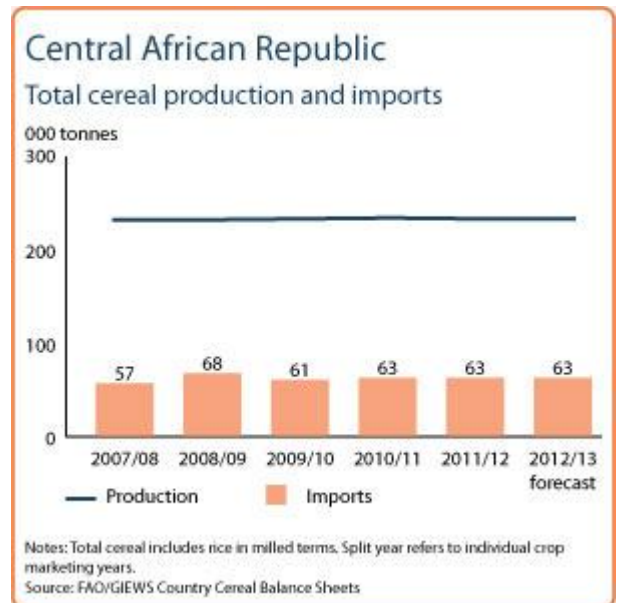
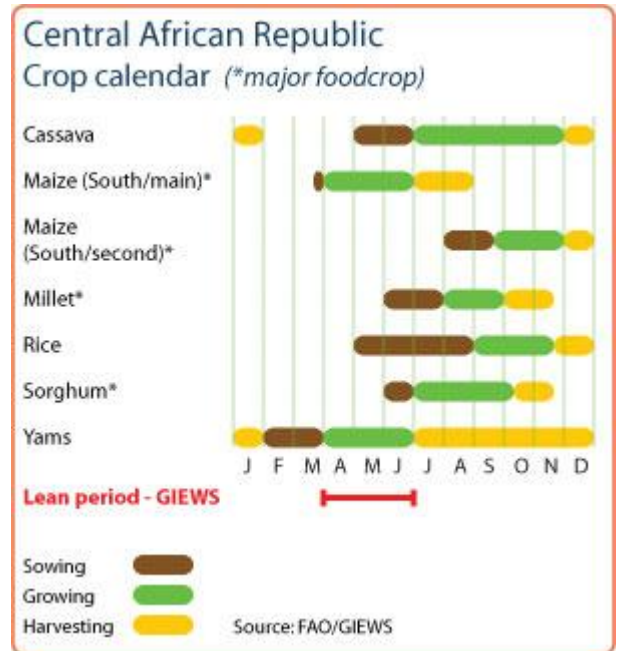
Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production and undermines food security

Although the country has a very high agricultural potential with 15 million ha of arable land and high rainfall levels, agricultural output remains low with only 4 percent of the arable land cultivated each year. In addition, persistent civil conflict and insecurity deprive several households of their livelihoods and puts additional pressure on already limited resources.

According to OCHA, as of late July 2012, more than 100 000 individuals were affected by internal displacement, while the number of returnees from neighbouring countries was put at about 11 000. Nearly 27 000 persons are newly displaced in 2012 in south-eastern parts of the country as a result of internal conflicts, banditry and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army. In addition, there are about 17 000 refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other countries, located mainly in the Bambari area, the south-east (Zemio and Obo) and the south (Mongoumba, Bangui).

During the first half of 2012, significant progress was made towards political peace negotiations between the Government and the country's two main rebel groups. The official dissolution of the *Armée Populaire pour La Restauration de La Démocratie* (Popular Army to Restore Democracy/APRD) in May, the country's largest rebel group, marked a genuine step forward in the country's peace process. In addition, the security situation improved in the north-east following the cease-fire agreement signed between the *Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix* (Patriotic Convention for Justice and Peace/CPJP) and the *Union des Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement* (Union of Democratic Forces for Unification/UFDR) rebel groups enabling humanitarian access to previously isolated populations. Further negotiations for a lasting peace continue between the Government and these groups.

Despite these positive developments, the security situation has



deteriorated in the Kabo-Batangayo-Kaga-Bandoro triangle in the north-center following a joint military operation organized by the Chadian and Central African army against the Chadian rebel group *Front Populaire pour le Redressement* (Popular Front for Reconstruction). This operation led to the destruction of villages and farms and the displacement of over 2 500 people in the area. In addition, attacks perpetrated in the south-east by the Lord's Resistance Army increased during the first quarter of the year.

Reported levels of malnutrition and food insecurity are alarming. About 40 percent of children under the age of five classified as malnourished while 10 percent are underweight. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) is estimated at 7.4 percent at national level, but in four prefectures (Lobaye, Vakaga, Bangui and Ouham) the GAM rates have exceeded the emergency threshold of 10 percent set by the World Health Organization. According to a recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in May 2012, the entire population of Central African Republic is food insecure, while more than 776 000 Central Africans outside the capital Bangui (close to 20 percent of the total population) are in a food crisis. Overall, 1.92 million of people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. To tackle the current food insecurity situation, a joint effort was launched by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, which by mid August has received about 54 percent of its required funding of USD 134 million.

Reference Date: 8-June-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic and insufficient precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season
- Above average 2011 harvest due to adequate rainfall
- Agricultural recovery continues to be hampered by persistent civil strife

Erratic and insufficient precipitation at the start of the 2012 cropping season

Planting of the main maize crop in 2012, for harvest from July, was carried out under generally poor rainfall conditions in March and April. The situation improved in May with abundant rainfall, however, crop development and yields may be compromised by the dry spells at the start of the cropping season.

Above average 2011 harvest due to favourable weather conditions

The 2011 main cereal crops were harvested last December, while the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was harvested in December/January. Although no official figures are available, the 2011 harvest is put at an above average level, due mainly to adequate weather conditions. In addition, FAO has provided agricultural tools, seeds and training to farmers, and provided assistance in the management of the lowlands.

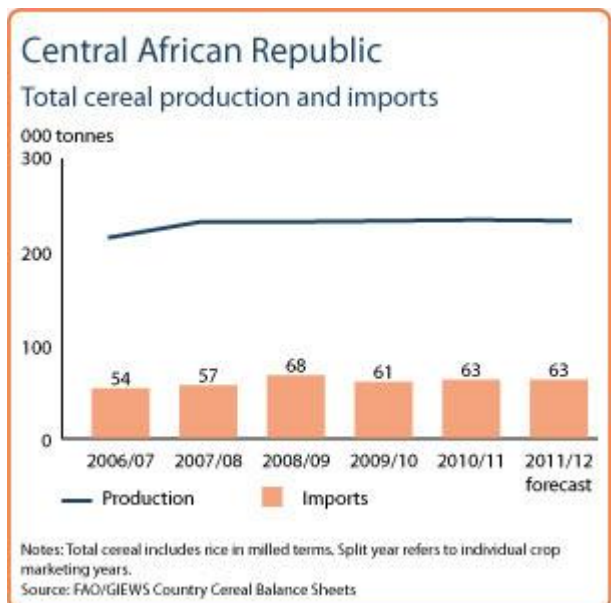
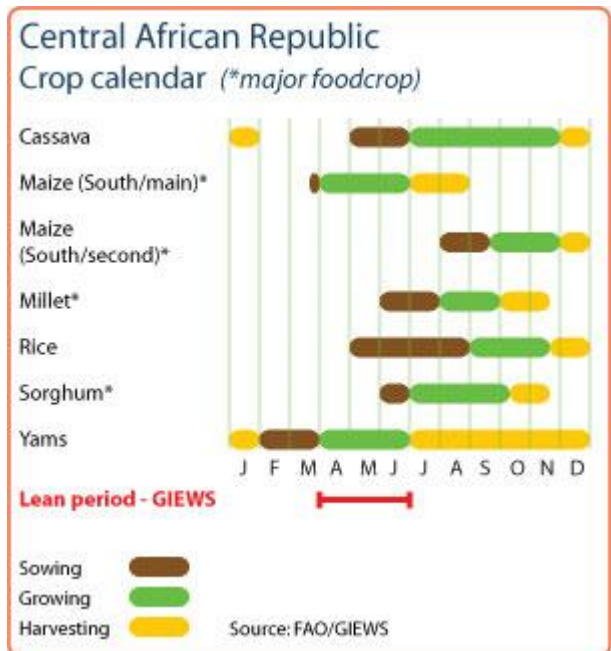
Overall, however, agricultural production is still constrained by limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production and undermines food security

Although the country has a very high agricultural potential with 15 million ha of arable land and high rainfall levels, agricultural output remains low with only 4 percent of the arable land cultivated each year. In addition, persistent civil conflict and insecurity deprive several households of their livelihoods and puts additional pressure on already limited resources.

According to OCHA, as of late April 2012, more than 100 000 individuals were affected by internal displacement, while the number of returnees from neighbouring countries was put at about 10 000. More than 25 000 persons are newly displaced in 2012 in south-eastern parts of the country as a result from internal conflicts, banditry and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, which significantly increased its activity between January and March. In addition, there are nearly 20 000 refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other countries, located mainly in the Bambari area, the south-east (Zemio and Obo) and the south (Batalimo).

Alarming levels of malnutrition are being reported with about 40 percent of children under the age of five classified as malnourished while 10 percent are underweight. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) is estimated at 7.4 percent at national level, but in four prefectures



(Lobaye, Vakaga, Bangui and Ouham) the GAM rates have exceeded the emergency threshold of 10 percent set by the World Health Organization.

To tackle the current food insecurity situation, a joint effort was launched by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, which by early June has received about 40 percent of its required funding of USD 134 million.

Reference Date: 3-April-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable crop prospects due to above average rains
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife

Favourable weather conditions benefited crops in 2011

The main 2012 maize crop to be harvested from July is being sown. Seasonably dry conditions prevailed in February. Limited rainfall in late January in western and southern parts allowed planting of yams.

The 2011 main cereal crops were harvested last December, while the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was harvested in December/January. No official production estimates are available, but estimates for 2011 harvest point to an above average crop due mainly to adequate rainfall. In addition, FAO has provided agricultural tools, seeds and training for farmers, as well as assistance in the management of lowlands. Nevertheless, agricultural production is still constrained by limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country.

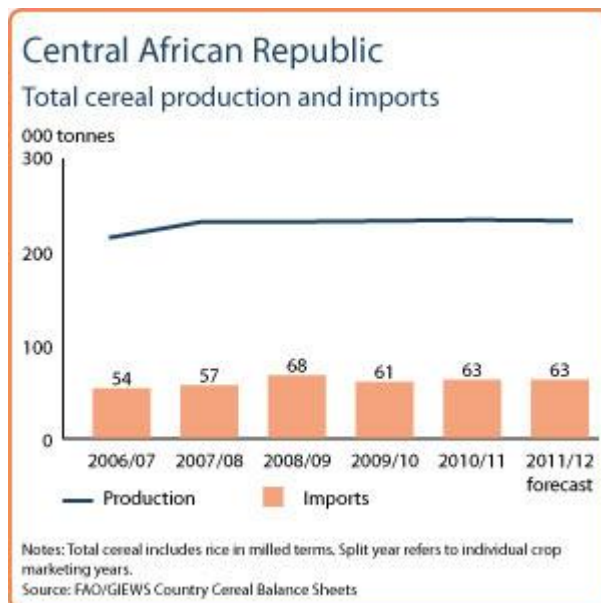
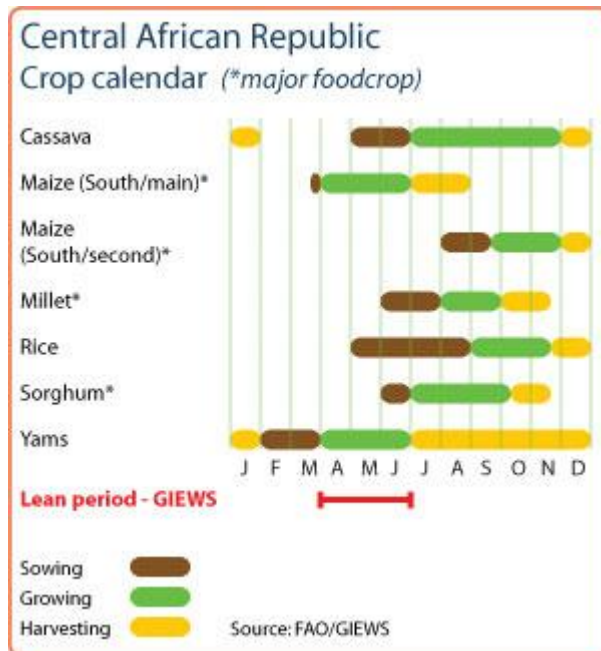
Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production and undermines food security

Although the country has a very high agricultural potential with 15 million ha of arable land and high rainfall levels, agricultural output remains low with only 4 percent of arable land cultivated each year. Continued civil conflict and insecurity conditions also deprive several households of their livelihoods and puts additional pressure on already limited resources.

According to OCHA, as of January 2012, about 94 000 persons were internally displaced, while the number of returnees was put at about 72 000, totalling 166 000 Central Africans still affected by displacement. An estimated 21 500 of the total are newly displaced in 2012 due to internal conflicts, banditry and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army in south-eastern parts of the country. In addition, there are nearly 20 000 refugees from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and asylum-seekers of diverse nationalities residing in CAR. They are located mainly in the Bambari area, the south-east (Zemio and Obo) and the south (Batalimo).

The nutritional situation is very alarming with about 40 percent of children under the age of five classified as malnourished while 10 percent are underweight. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) is estimated at 7.4 percent at national level, but in four prefectures (Lobaye, Vakaga, Bangui and Ouham) the GAM rates have exceeded the emergency threshold of 10 percent set by the World Health Organization.

To tackle the current food insecurity situation, a joint effort was launched by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, which by early April has received about 15 percent of its required funding of USD 134 million.



GIEWS Country Brief

Central African Republic



Reference Date: 13-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early crop prospects are favourable following above average rains
- Inflationary pressure on food increases, fuelled by insecurity and high international prices
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife

Early crop prospects are favourable

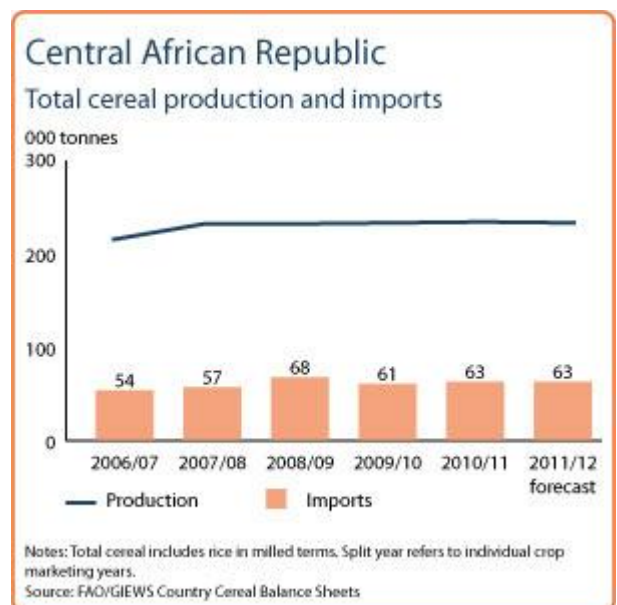
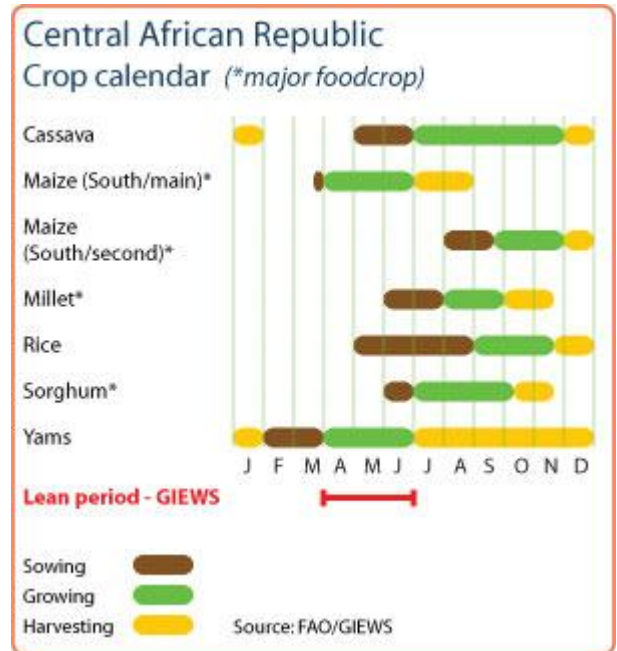
In the southern region, harvesting of the main maize crop is underway, while in the north planting of millet and sorghum was scheduled to conclude by the end of July. Satellite based rainfall estimates indicate above average precipitation across the country since the beginning of the cropping season in February. Moreover, FAO has been providing agricultural tools, seeds and training for farmers, as well as assistance in the management of lowlands. Nevertheless, agricultural production is still constrained by limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country. Overall, preliminary estimates for 2011 harvest point to a level of production that is similar to the previous year.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production and undermines food security

Increased food production and lower prices during most of 2010 pushed annual inflation rate down to 1.5 percent from the 3.5 percent the previous year.

Continuing civil conflict and insecurity in the north-east of the Central African Republic (CAR), remains a major factor impeding improvements in food insecurity conditions and agricultural production. Furthermore, insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has led to an increase in the number of refugees in CAR, putting additional pressure on already limited resources. As of May 2011, the estimated number of refugees and asylum-seekers was about 21 000, while internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country was approximately 192 000.

Nutrition data illustrates the poor food conditions, with a critical malnourishment in the south-west region. A recent study indicates that severe acute malnutrition remains high (above 4 percent in the city and over 7 percent in rural areas) in Berberati, Mambere-Kadei region.



GIEWS Country Brief

Central African Republic



Reference Date: 27-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The overall rainfall situation remains adequate
- Inflationary pressure increases, fuelled by insecurity and high international prices
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife

Favourable weather conditions benefited crops.

Planting of the main maize crop was completed in April while planting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, due for harvest in December and January, started in May.

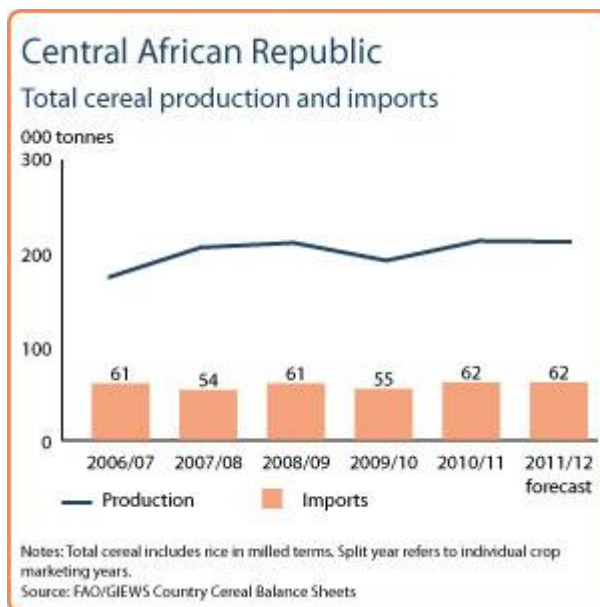
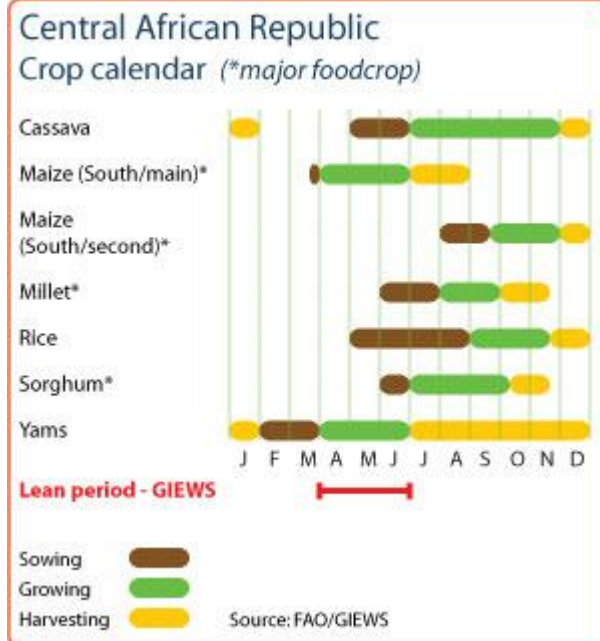
Harvesting of last year's cereal crop was completed in December. Limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country continues to constrain agricultural production. However, satellite estimates indicate that rainfall has been favourable in most regions with sufficient precipitation, pointing to an expanded 2010 harvest over the previous year,

Inflation is on the increase fuelled by insecurity and high international commodity prices.

Increased food production and lower prices during most of 2010 pushed annual inflation rate down to 1.9 percent from the 3.5 percent the previous year according to the Economist Intelligence Unit. However, inflation picked up during the last quarter of 2010 driven by renewed wave of violence in the north and high international commodity prices, making access to food difficult for large segments of the population.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production and undermines food security

Civil conflict and insecurity within the Central African Republic (CAR), which has been concentrated in the north-east, still remains a major factor impeding improvements in food insecurity conditions and agriculture production. As of October 2010, the estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country was about 192 000. The food security situation has further deteriorated following renewed attacks in the south-east, in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou, and in the north-east. Furthermore, insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has led to an increase in the refugees in CAR, putting additional pressure on the already limited resources. Nutrition data illustrates the poor conditions, with a critical malnourishment in the south-west region. A recent study indicates that severe acute malnutrition remains high (above 4 percent in the city and over 7 percent in rural areas) in Berberati, Mambere-Kadei region.



Reference Date: 07-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

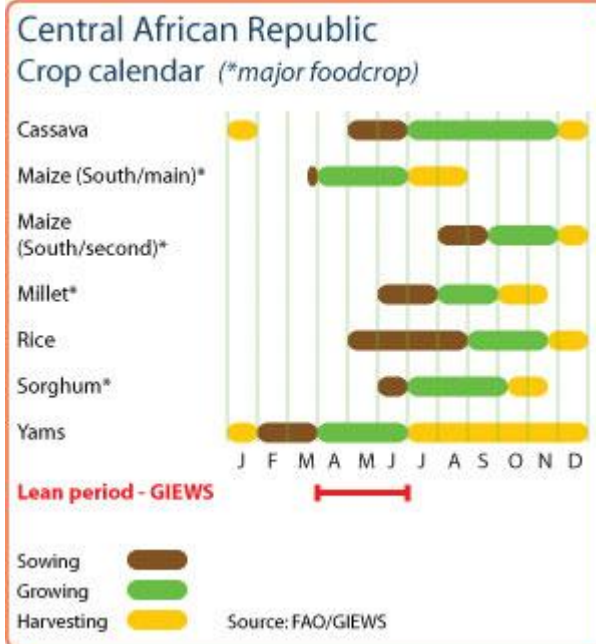
- The overall rainfall was adequate during last year's cropping season
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife

Favourable weather conditions benefited crops in 2010

Harvesting of the main cereal crops was completed in December, while the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was harvested in December and January. The limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country continues to constrain agricultural production. However, satellite estimates indicate that the overall rainfall during the cropping season was adequate. No official production estimates are available, but cereal output is estimated to have increased compared to previous year's crop.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production and undermines food security

Civil conflict and insecurity within the Central African Republic (CAR), which has been concentrated in the north-east, remains a major factor impeding improvements in food insecurity conditions and agriculture production. As of October 2010, the estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country was about 192 000. The food security situation has further deteriorated following renewed attacks in the south-east, in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou, and in the north-east. Furthermore, insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has led to an increase in the refugees in CAR, putting additional pressure on the already limited resources. Nutrition data illustrates the poor conditions, with a critical malnourished situation in the south-west region. A recent study indicates that severe acute malnutrition remains high (above 4 percent in the city and over 7 percent in rural areas) in Berberati, Mambere-Kadei region.



Central African Republic
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	111	100	120	20
Sorghum	43	43	43	0
Rice (paddy)	35	39	40	3
Others	10	10	10	0
Total	199	192	213	11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 9-November-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Heavy rainfall recorded during the main maize harvest in southern regions
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife

Heavy rains recorded during the main maize harvest

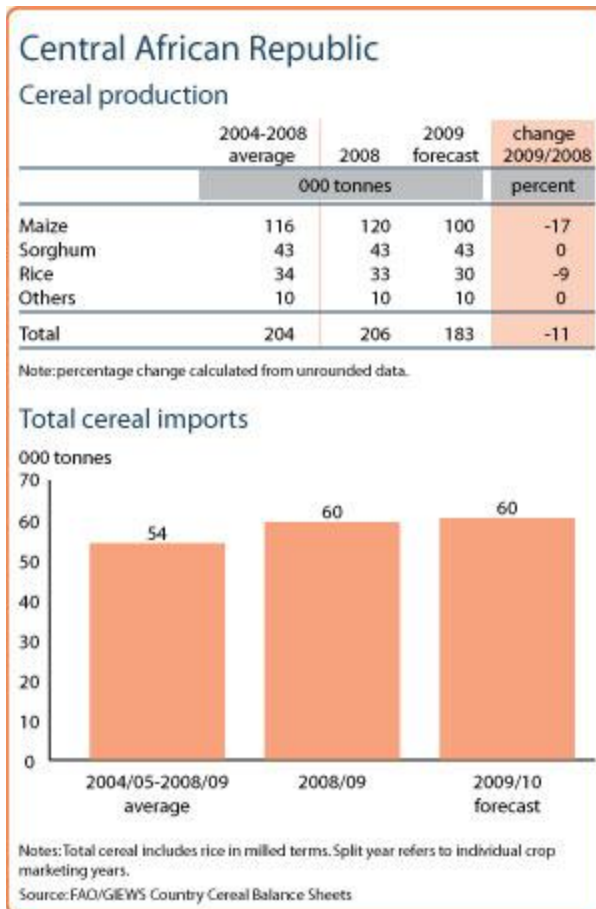
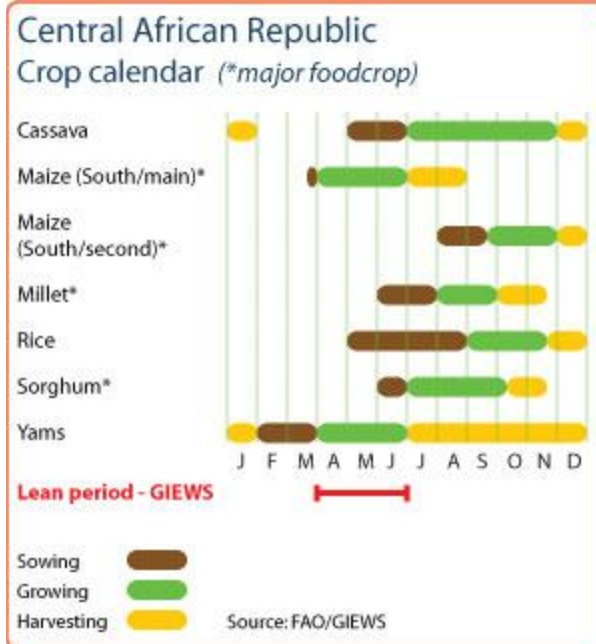
Harvesting of the millet and sorghum crops is underway, while the second season's maize crop is scheduled to be harvested in December. During the main maize growing period (March-August), substantial rainfall was recorded in March and during the harvesting stage, in July and August, in the major southern maize growing regions; no official production estimates are available. The limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country continues to constrain agricultural production.

Decline in cereal production for 2009/10 season

Harvesting of the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was completed in January 2010. Rainfall estimates indicate that several surplus producing regions received average rainfall from April to September, with a spell of below average rainfall in May. Although no official estimates are available, gross cereal production is estimated to be below the five year average for the 2009/10 season.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production

Civil conflict and insecurity within the Central African Republic (CAR), which has been concentrated in the north-east, remains a major factor impeding improvements in food insecurity conditions and agriculture production. As of June 2010, it is estimated that there are nearly 200 000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country. The food security situation has further deteriorated following renewed attacks in the south-east, in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou, and in the north-east. Furthermore, insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has led to an increase in the refugees in CAR, increasing the pressure on the already limited resources. Nutrition data illustrates the poor conditions, with a critical malnourished situation in the south-west region. A recent study indicates that severe acute malnutrition remains high (above 4 percent in the city and over 7 percent in rural areas) in Berberati, Mambere-Kadei region.



Reference Date: 12-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average rains received in southern regions before the start of the maize planting period
- Harvesting of the 2009 cereal crops was completed in December, with estimates indicating a fall in cereal production
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife in the north

Heavy rains recorded in southern regions

In the southern maize growing regions, above average rainfall was recorded in February and the beginning of March, which should help to support maize planting for the 2010/11 agricultural season. However, rainfall levels fell in the last weeks of March. Moreover, limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity throughout the country is expected to continue to constrain agricultural production growth.

Decline in cereal production for 2009/10 season

Harvesting of the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, was completed in January. Rainfall estimates indicate that several surplus producing regions received average rainfall from April to September, with a spell of below average rainfall in May. Although no official estimates are available yet, gross cereal production is estimated to be below the five year average for the 2009/10 season.

Inflation falls in 2009 improving food access

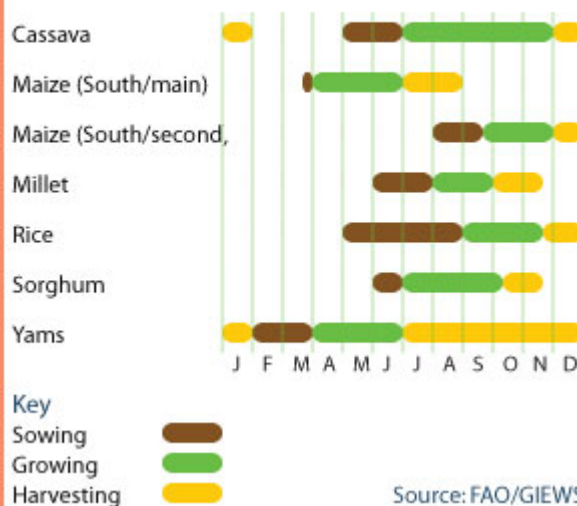
National inflation increased significantly during 2008, with a yearly average inflation rate of 9.3 percent recorded in December 2008. The drop in international food prices helped to ease the rate of inflation in 2009 to an estimated average rate of 2.6 percent, contributing to improving access to food in the food deficit country. However, given that 74 percent of food insecure households' expenditure is allocated to food purchases, according to a WFP assessment conducted between May and June 2009, any future price rises will severely aggravate the food insecurity situation.

The price of cassava reportedly decreased in 2009, as a result of an increase in supply with more farmers growing the crop induced by increased demand. The price movement during 2009 was similar to neighbouring DRC.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production

Civil conflict and insecurity within the Central African Republic (CAR), which has been concentrated in the north-east, remains a major factor for the increased food insecurity and hampering agriculture production. There are an estimated 162 000 internally displaced people. A WFP assessment (May-June 2009) indicates that 30 percent of the population are food insecure, with the highest concentration of food insecure households in Ouham-Pende and Gribingui provinces, in the north west. Furthermore, insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 has led 17 000 refugees fleeing from the Equateur province to CAR.

Crop calendar Central African Republic

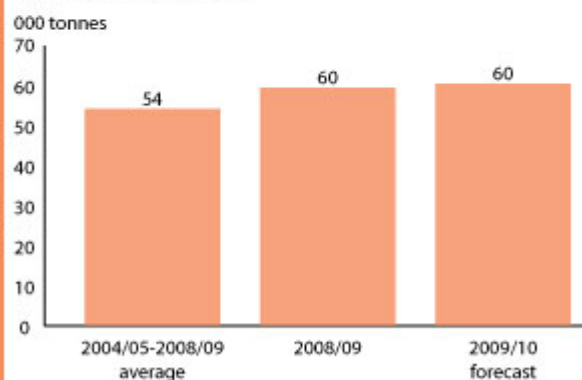


Central African Republic Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	116	120	100	-17
Sorghum	43	43	43	0
Rice	34	33	30	-9
Others	10	10	10	0
Total	204	206	183	-11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

A decline in the mining industry in south-west CAR, as a result of the economic crisis, has also led to unemployment and a loss of income, negatively impacting the affected households' purchasing power and aggravating the precarious food security situation. Conditions have been exacerbated by high food prices, further restricting food access, with reports indicating high levels of malnutrition.

Reference Date: 18-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of cereal crops was completed in December, with estimates indicating a fall in production
- High food prices continue to affect access to food
- Agricultural recovery hampered by persistent civil strife in the north

Decline in cereal production for 2009/10 season

Harvesting of the main cereal crops was completed in December, while the cassava crop, the principal staple in the country, will be harvested between December and January. Rainfall estimates indicate that several surplus producing regions received average rainfall from April to September, punctured by a period of below average rainfall in May. Although no official estimates are available, gross cereal production is estimated to be below average for the 2009/10 season.

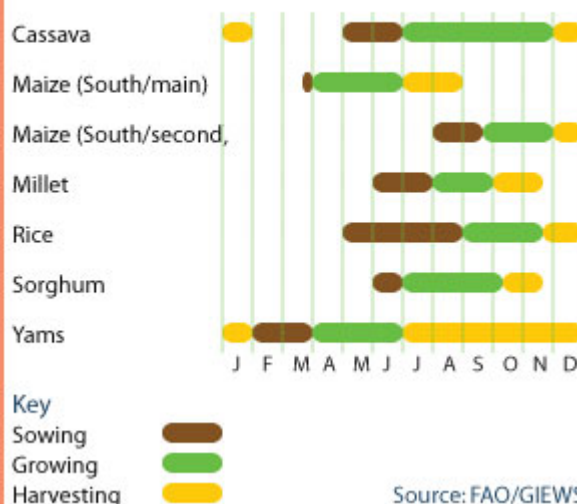
Inflation falls in 2009 improving food access

National inflation increased significantly during 2008, with a yearly average inflation rate of 9.3 percent recorded in December 2008. The drop in international food prices suppressed inflation in 2009 to an estimated average rate of 2.6 percent, contributing to improving access to food in the food deficit country.

Persistent insecurity disrupts agricultural production

Civil conflict and insecurity within the Central African Republic (CAR), which has been concentrated in the north-east, remains a dominant factor that is deteriorating the food security situation and restraining agriculture production. There are an estimated 162 000 internally displaced people, with approximately 41 percent of the population categorised as undernourished. Furthermore, insecurity in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the end of 2009 has led 17 000 refugees fleeing from the Equateur province to CAR.

Crop calendar Central African Republic

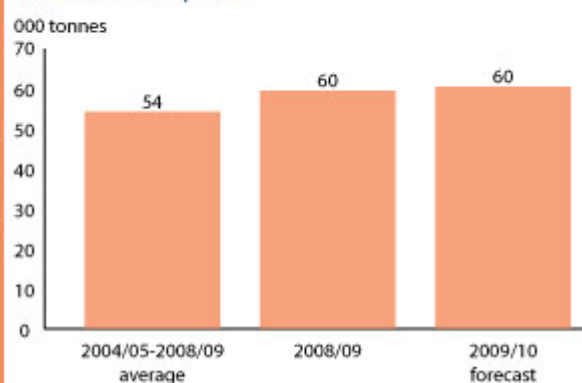


Central African Republic Cereal production

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Total cereal imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed crop prospects for 2009
- High food prices continue to affect access to food
- Agricultural recovery continues to be hampered by persistent civil strife

Prospects for the 2009 food crops are mixed

In the southern region harvesting of the main maize crop commenced in July, while the planting of millet and sorghum was scheduled to conclude by the end of same month in the north. The region received adequate rainfall from April to June, confirmed by satellite imagery indicating average yields for the main maize crop. In the north low cumulative rainfall during May and June lead to early season dryness, however, rainfall levels improved in July offsetting initial moisture deficits. Seed distribution was carried out by FAO prior to the main planting period in efforts to enhance agriculture production.

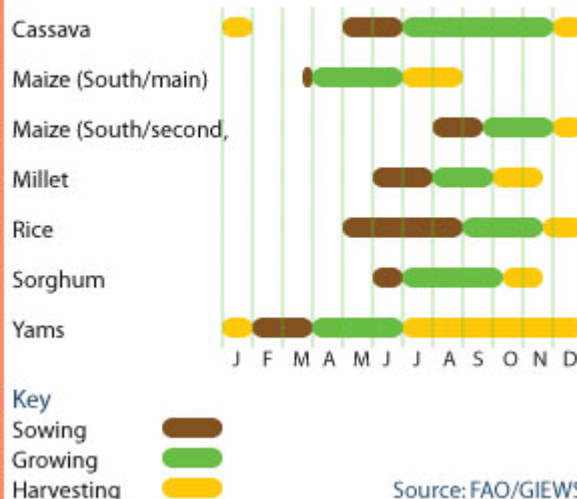
Food import bills not forecast to decrease

National inflation increased significantly during 2008, with a yearly average inflation rate of 9.3 percent recorded in December 2008. Food prices are anticipated to decline moderately on account of lower international food prices and an expected improved harvest. However, the slight depreciation of the CFA franc, which is forecast to remain at a deflated rate throughout 2009, will lead to higher food import bills for the food deficit country.

Agricultural recovery continues to be hampered by persistent civil strife in the northern region

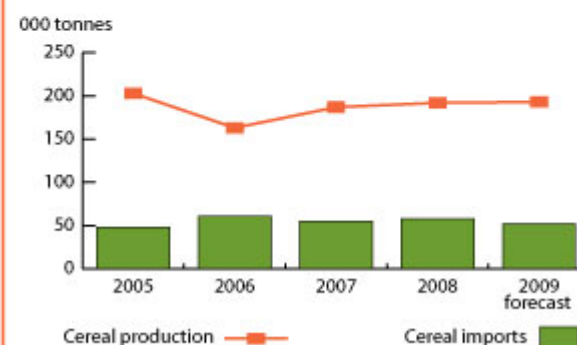
Civil conflict and insecurity within the Central African Republic, which has been concentrated in the northern region, remains a dominant factor that is deteriorating the food security situation and restraining agriculture production. Approximately 300 000 people have been displaced as a result of civil insecurity over the last two years. There are also reports of livestock thefts in the north-east region. To support vulnerable households affected by the conflict, FAO has distributed 3 000 goats, as a means to improve income diversification and food security. Furthermore, heavy rains in Bangui during the beginning of July have left at estimated 11 000 people in need of emergency food aid.

Crop calendar Central African Republic



Cereal production and imports Central African Republic

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	116	120	120	0%
Sorghum	43	43	43	0%
Rice (milled)	19	19	20	5.3%
Other	10	10	10	0%
Total Cereals	188	192	193	0.5%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets