



9 July 2015

2.7 million people

in need of humanitarian assistance

399 300 people

currently internally displaced
(out of a population of 4.6 million)

1.5 million people

in need of food assistance
(8th cycle of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] analysis, October 2014), of which 19 percent of the rural population is in IPC phase 3 (Crisis) and 12 percent in phase 4 (Emergency)

75 percent

of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income



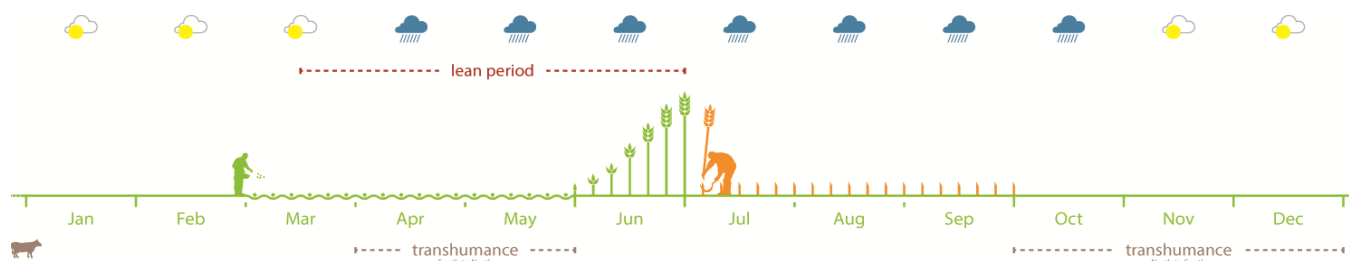
\$ Of USD 42 million requested under the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) to support a total of 240 000 farming families, FAO has mobilized USD 14.2 million. The agriculture sector is fragile and ensuring production is crucial to avoid population movement, which will increase tensions across the country. Funds requested include USD 5 million for FAO’s priority transhumance programme that aims to create the basis for improving dialogue between the *Peulh* community (livestock keepers) and farmers.

CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- ❖ The ongoing crisis is still seriously affecting the agriculture sector - the backbone of the country’s economy.
- ❖ The Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) indicated that crop production is 58 percent lower than the pre-crisis average, but 11 percent higher than 2013.
- ❖ Despite efforts from FAO and partners, many farmers lacked adequate agricultural inputs to secure enough food and income.
- ❖ Insecurity and bad road access disrupted market linkages and presented serious constraints for humanitarian operations.
- ❖ Transhumance activities remain a serious threat to the fragile dynamics for peace reconciliation between the anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka, as it’s as a source of income for both factions that are looting or illegally taxing the herds. The *Peulh* household situation in various areas remain of concern in terms of security, livelihood and food security.

FAO’S RESPONSE

A major food crisis was contained in 2014 thanks to timely donor support that has allowed emergency crop production support, saving families from a domino effect of continued losses, as well as preventing farmers from adopting negative coping strategies with long-term effects. During 2014, FAO provided crop production support to 142 000 farming families. With funds received, FAO also supported 14 000 crisis-affected households through livelihood resilience activities (*caisses de résilience*), linked to vegetable, small livestock and fish production, to allow families to better cope with future shocks.



For the 2015 main agricultural campaign, FAO is partnering with over 25 international and national Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to distribute agricultural inputs to nearly 90 000 crisis-affected households – of the 150 000 identified – to cultivate 0.5 ha of land; this will contribute to meet their food needs for up to nine months, reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and stabilize their incomes. A total of 3 100 tonnes of seeds were procured and delivery to FAO hubs is ongoing; 66 percent of the seeds were purchased within the country, for which quality control was reinforced. Each family is receiving 31 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize, rice and sesame) and three hoes to plant in time and produce their own food. Furthermore, FAO plans to assist over 30 000 households with inputs for the second cycle of the agricultural campaign.

In order to strengthen household resilience, FAO developed a comprehensive approach called *caisses de résilience* that is enabling families to build their agriculture techniques, financial capacities and governance structures at community level. Participating families are contracted to produce quality seeds; to boost their communities' capacities support to school gardening and feeding, nutrition surveillance and cash transfer initiatives will be provided. These activities are coupled with the distribution of small processing machines, allowing for food and seed reserves to be established. As they are not dependent on the rainy season, resilience measures provide opportunities for households to accumulate, diversify and protect assets on a regular basis year round as well as increase knowledge. Throughout 2014, 14 000 households have been supported, and 120 national and international members of NGOs have been trained on the *caisses de résilience* approach, specifically on Saving and Loans schemes (S&L) and Farmer Field School techniques; 90 000 household have been identified to receive support throughout 2015. FAO has signed all Letters of Agreement with identified NGOs and small livestock distributions are being undertaken in Bangui.

As youth unemployment is a major concern, usually resulting into criminal activities and social unrest in urban areas, supporting youth is one of the Organization's main priorities. FAO has already assisted 1 100 youths through initiatives to increase the production of poultry, fish and cash crops. Currently, 1 000 youths are supported through other activities including labour intensive work, garden schools, peri-urban agriculture, cash for work and development of agribusiness.

Food Security Cluster: the Cluster, co-led by FAO and WFP, provided coordination support to implementing partners and the Government from the early stage of the crisis (December 2013). The Cluster was instrumental during the planting season by promoting joint FAO/WFP/NGO partner interventions. FAO provided agricultural inputs, WFP provided food protection rations, while partner NGOs were in charge of distributing both food and seed commodities to the same households to limit the risk of planting material consumption. The objectives of the 2015 SRP focus on: providing life-saving food assistance; supporting agricultural and gardening activities by ensuring that households have access to productive assets (especially during the lean season); strengthening households' resilience through agricultural income-generating activities and capacity building; promoting natural resource management through approaches fostering social cohesion; and coordinating partners' food security interventions and information management and sharing.



FOOD SECURITY MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS

An Emergency Food Security Assessment and CFSAM, in collaboration with WFP and food security partners, have been conducted in August-September 2014 to assess the outcome of the last year's cropping season and evaluate the food security situation in the country. The next CFSAM is planned to be carried out in September 2015.

The latest IPC analysis (October 2014) shows a slight improvement compared with the previous one (April 2014), however it indicates a worsening of the situation compared with that of November 2013. The next IPC analysis will be released in July 2015.

A platform on transhumance has been set up at the national level. FAO and partners carried out a comprehensive assessment and mapped the actual location of livestock keepers and herds and their movement. The joint mission report Catholic Relief Services (CRS)/Danish Refugee Council (DRC)/FAO has been released and proposes priority actions as well as elements for long-term strategy to support the restoration of the livestock sector and cohesion between the communities, as well as Government efforts to build national reconciliation.

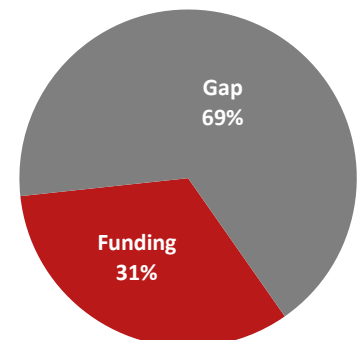
NGO partners: *Action contre la faim*, Africa Humanitarian Action, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid, CRS, the Community Humanitarian Emergency Board, *Cooperazione italiana*, *Croix rouge*, DRC, *Première urgence-aide médicale internationale* and *Triangle*.

Resource partners: the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy and the United Kingdom, the European Union and ECHO, the *Banque africaine de développement*, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the Common Humanitarian Fund for the Central African Republic and the World Bank.

TOTAL FUNDING (2015)

**FAO total funding needs (SRP):
USD 42 million**

**Funding gap: USD 27.8 million (SRP)
Needed for transhumance: USD 3.3 million**



**PLANNED BENEFICIARIES:
240 000 FAMILIES**

CONTACT

Jean-Alexandre Scaglia | FAO Representative | Bangui, Central African Republic | Tel. +236 7203 2511 | JeanAlexandre.Scaglia@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director Emergency and Rehabilitation Division | Rome, Italy | Tel. +39 06 570 53803 | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org