



Central African Republic: The food security situation deteriorates further with disruptions in agricultural and marketing activities following civil conflict

■ **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.**

Protracted civil conflict negatively impacts on agricultural activities

The main 2013 maize harvest is almost complete in the southern bimodal rainfall area, while in the unimodal northern area millet and sorghum crops will be harvested 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 above-average rainfall was received across the country 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).

Increasing food prices due to low supplies and market disruptions

Market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are at high levels following the severe and widespread market disruptions due to increased civil insecurity. The average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3 percent in 2011 to 5 percent in 2012, is forecast to rise further to 8

percent in 2013. In April, in the main markets of the capital Bangui, groundnuts and maize supplies were very low and in response, maize prices increased by 60 percent compared to the pre-conflict levels. Meat and fish were not even available in the markets. Manioc (a root crop) was the only crop in sufficient supply and its prices were around their pre-conflict levels.

The number of people in need of food assistance almost doubled since February 2013

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 total 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. Child malnutrition rates have also continued to rise - for example, in Solo, Nola and Boda, the GAM (global acute malnutrition) rate increased from less than 10 percent in July 2012 to

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Further reading:

Resultats de l'analyse de la situation de l'insecurite alimentaire aigue actuelle (Report from the IPC analysis July 2013)

<http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/documents/detail/en/c/2873>

between 13 and 33 percent in July 2013, while the number of malnourished children admitted to the therapeutic feeding center in Nola more than tripled from January to May 2013. The IDP caseload, which was estimated at 206 000 by UNHCR in late March, increased to 225 000 by late August.

To tackle the aggravation of food insecurity situation, the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), a joint effort by the government, the United Nations and the humanitarian community, which was launched in early December 2012, has been revised in June 2013 and scaled up to meet the needs of those affected by the escalation of civil conflict. The international community currently plans to assist 1.6 million beneficiaries for a total cost of USD 195. The appeal has so far received 34 percent of its required funding.

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