Overview

In the current period of April to August 2023 (lean season), approximately 2.4 million people (39 percent of the population analysed) are acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above). Approximately 622,000 people (10 percent of the 6.1 million population analysed) in 13 sub-prefectures, mainly in the Haut Mbomou, Haute Kotto and Oubangui prefectures are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In the remaining 62 sub-prefectures, about 1.8 million people (29 percent of the population analysed) are in IPC Phase 3 and 2.2 million people are under stress (IPC Phase 2) – the majority of whom are at risk of facing more severe levels of acute food insecurity if necessary actions are not taken to secure livelihoods.

For the projected period of September 2023 to April 2024 (post-harvest season) – within the 34 percent of the population analysed, approximately 2 million people will face high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4). This includes approximately 378,000 people (6 percent of the population analysed) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and nearly 2 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The populations of the sub-prefectures of Zemio, Obo, Bambouti, Djema, and Birao will be particularly affected and will be classified as Emergency (IPC Phase 4), while the other 68 sub-prefectures will all be classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and the two others – Boganangone and Boganda will be classified as Stress (IPC Phase 2).

With a total of 2.4 million people in the current period and 2 million people in the projected period – urgent action needs to be taken to save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption deficits. Key factors influencing household food insecurity include rising staple and imported food prices, conflict, and population displacement. These factors greatly impact access to agricultural inputs and markets. Other factors such as floods have led to poor road conditions in remote areas and a decrease in agricultural production in the country.

Key Drivers

- **Conflict and insecurity:** Conflict in the northern and western part of the country (Ouham-Pendé, Ouham, Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadei) continues to be the main key driver of displacement and food insecurity, limiting access to agricultural inputs and contributing to the mass displacement of people.
- **Weather:** Extreme weather events such as floods have impacted several agro-ecological zones, infrastructure, and agricultural production in the country.
- **Rising food and commodity prices:** High fuel prices, and low agricultural production and transportation costs have contributed to food insecurity. The crisis in Ukraine has also impacted access to imported products such as sugar, oil, wheat flour and other commodities.

**Recommended Actions**

- **Provide humanitarian assistance and protection programmes:** Action needs to be taken to reduce food gaps and protect livelihoods with an emphasis on the most vulnerable communities including women and children, particularly in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4).
- **Provide livelihood support:** Support and restore livelihood support through access to markets, agricultural inputs, and assistance through government projects and coordination.
- **Climate-resilience systems and policy:** Support the implementation of national agricultural policy and establish a mechanism to monitor climatic factors and pest damage in the region to increase agricultural production and livelihoods.
- **Improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene:** Facilitate access to clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in the most vulnerable communities and remote areas.
- **End violence and conflict:** Efforts are needed to restore security and prevent conflict resurgence in the country.

**IPC Analysis Partners**

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