Over 2.2 million people in the Central African Republic will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and August 2022 due to conflict, population displacement and high food prices. The projection corresponds to the lean period in most agro-climatic zones of the country. During this lean period, in the absence of food assistance, it is estimated that 13% of the population is likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In the capital, Bangui, more than 153,000 people are in high acute food insecurity (Phase 3 and 4 of the IPC). These figures remain among the highest in the CAR, confirming the persistence of a high prevalence of acute food insecurity in the central African nation.

Sub-prefectures with a very high prevalence of food insecurity include Obo, Zémio, Bakouma, Banguissou, Gambo, Rafa, Kaga-Bandoro, Bocaranga, Bossermé, Bozoum, Kouï and Ngoundaye with populations in situations of acute food insecurity ranging from 65% to 75% of the total population in Crisis and Emergency. Of the 22 areas classified as IPC Phase 4, the sub-prefectures of Bocaranga, Kouï, Ngoundaye and Obo record at least 30% of the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The other sub-prefectures classified in IPC Phase 4 record between 20 and 25% of the people in Emergency. These include Bamingui, Alindao, Mingala, Satéma, Zangba, Bambouti, Zémio, Bria, Dékossa, Mala, Bakouma, Ouango, Kaga-Bandoro, Bakala, Ippy, Kouango, Batangafo, Kabo and Bozoum. The most affected households are those living in conflict zones where crops are looted or the people forced to move, disrupting their livelihoods. Areas with a high prevalence of displaced persons and those with significant numbers of returnees also face high acute food insecurity due to pressure on livelihoods.

**Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity**

**Conflict and insecurity**
- Armed, inter-communal and transhumance-related conflicts generate displacement of populations and significantly impact household access to food and livelihoods. As a result, some 652,246 people are displaced within the country.

**Low agricultural production**
- Poor access to agricultural inputs and the impact of conflict on livelihoods have reduced cultivated areas and affected the food stock of households. Drastically low production has been observed, affecting key staple foods such as cassava and maize in the East and central-North areas of the country.

**Impact of the crisis in Ukraine**
- With the crisis in Ukraine and the sanctions imposed on Russia, CAR is likely to suffer significantly fuel shortages, impacting transportation costs and prices for essential products and food especially wheat imports.

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**Overview**

About 2.2 million people in the Central African Republic (CAR) are projected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse between April and August 2022 due to conflict, population displacement and high food prices. The projection corresponds to the lean period in most agro-climatic zones of the country. During this lean period, in the absence of food assistance, it is estimated that 13% of the population is likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In the capital, Bangui, more than 153,000 people are in high acute food insecurity (Phase 3 and 4 of the IPC). These figures remain among the highest in the CAR, confirming the persistence of a high prevalence of acute food insecurity in the central African nation.

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**Publication date:** April 26 2022, *IPCPopulation data is based on population estimates by the National Institute of Statistics of Central African Republic. Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any official or political boundaries.**
CAR Crisis Background and Time Series 2018 - 2022

The Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the poorest countries in the world, hostage to a prolonged humanitarian crisis coupled with an unstable and unpredictable security environment. Marred with conflicts for several years, nearly half of the population experiences high levels of food insecurity, with hundreds of thousands of children severely malnourished, due to structural weaknesses combined with the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. CAR also suffers recurrent natural disasters, including drought and floods.

Violence and Instability

Since gaining independence in 1960, CAR has suffered decades of violence and instability, making it fragile. An insurgency led by the Seleka (or “alliance” in Sango)—a coalition of armed, primarily Muslim groups—and continues to worsen the country’s insecurity. Fighting has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and the destruction of homes and infrastructure. Millions of people have been forced from their homes, leaving them vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

Natural Disasters

In the last three years, CAR has been hit by the worst flooding in two decades, with thousands of homes destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people displaced. Heavy and torrential rains cause the Oubangui river, a major tributary of the River Congo that forms the border between CAR and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to overflow on about 372 miles of riverbanks. Several riverside communities in CAR have been completely submerged, with reports from aid organizations that the flooding is so bad in the capital Bangui that the streets are no longer usable.

Economic Decline

Sparsely populated with 5.4 million inhabitants, it is one of the poorest countries in the world, despite its abundant natural resources, ranking at the bottom of the human capital and human development indices. Conflict, poverty, and weak infrastructure have contributed to CAR’s high levels of food insecurity in crisis.

Food Insecurity

Conflict and insecurity, flooding, low production, and high food prices are key and common drivers of food insecurity in the landlocked central African country. Since 2018, when the first IPC analysis was conducted in CAR, nearly half of the country’s population has experienced high levels of food insecurity classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse. In recent months, the situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has kept food prices high. People’s movements and trade were also limited, and families were pushed to the brink as they struggled to keep their jobs, incomes, and limited access to food.

Malnutrition

According to UNICEF, 40% of children under five in CAR are already suffering from chronic malnutrition, a rate above the emergency threshold of 30%. Conflict, poor access to health services, displacement, and disease outbreaks such as malaria and cholera, among others, have contributed to CAR’s high levels of malnutrition. An IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis conducted this year has found that nearly 214,000 children under five in CAR will suffer from acute malnutrition through February 2022. Nearly 67,000 children will be severely malnourished.

Over 98,000 pregnant or lactating women will suffer from acute malnutrition through February 2022. Nearly 67,000 children will be severely malnourished. Over 98,000 pregnant or lactating women will suffer from acute malnutrition through February 2022.