

### Acute Food Insecurity Overview

Approximately 2.7 million people, almost half of the Central African Republic's population (44%), are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) between September 2022 to March 2023, driven by the severe flooding and some dry spells, conflict, causing insecurity. Overall, 2 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 642,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

In the projected period of April to August 2023, which coincides with the lean season, 3 million (49% of the population analysed) are likely to be in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4), including 807,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 2.2 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

The severity of the food insecurity will be mainly due to the projected increase in imported and local food prices due to increased transport and petroleum costs, and low access to plant protection products and other chemicals needed for agricultural activities. This will result in limited household access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. The most affected counties that will likely be classified in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency) include Alindao, Kembé, Mingala, Mobaye, Satéma, Zangba (Basse-Kotto); Bambouti, Djéma, Obo, Zémio (Haut-Mbomou); Ouadda, Yalinga (Basse-Kotto); Bakouma, Gambo, Ouango (Mbomou); Kaga-Bandoro, Mbrès (Nana-Gribizi); Bogangolo (Ombella-M'poko); Bakala, Grimari, Ippy, Kouango (Ouaka); Bouca, Kabo, Markounda, Nana-Bakassa, Nana-Boguila (Ouham); Bocaranga, Kouï, Ngaoundaye (Ouham-Pende); and Biraou, Ouanda-Djallé (Vakaga).

The most highly food insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the projected period are mainly those affected by violence who are displaced across the country. In addition, those most affected are poor households in urban and peri-urban areas whose access to food is limited due to low purchasing power, rising food prices and deteriorating livelihoods.

### Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity



**Weather:** Several sub-prefectures have been affected by floods with serious consequences on the livelihoods of households. Satellite images indicate that some agricultural land has also been affected by drought.



**Conflict and insecurity:** The conflict in the northern part of the country continues to be the main key driver of displacements and food insecurity, limiting access to livelihoods and contributing to the mass displacement of people. As of 30 September 2022, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR is estimated to be 484,335.



**Rising food and commodity prices:** The country is experiencing an increase in the prices of the basic foodstuffs – rice, maize, vegetable oil and cassava – as a result of the rising cost of petroleum products and in tandem, the transport of goods. In addition, the indirect effects of the crisis in Ukraine are among the factors driving up the prices of basic foodstuffs on the markets.



**Low agricultural production:** Poor access to seeds and tools as well as the occurrence of crop diseases and floods are factors that negatively affect local production. In addition, the deterioration of road networks and insecurity limit the supply of markets.

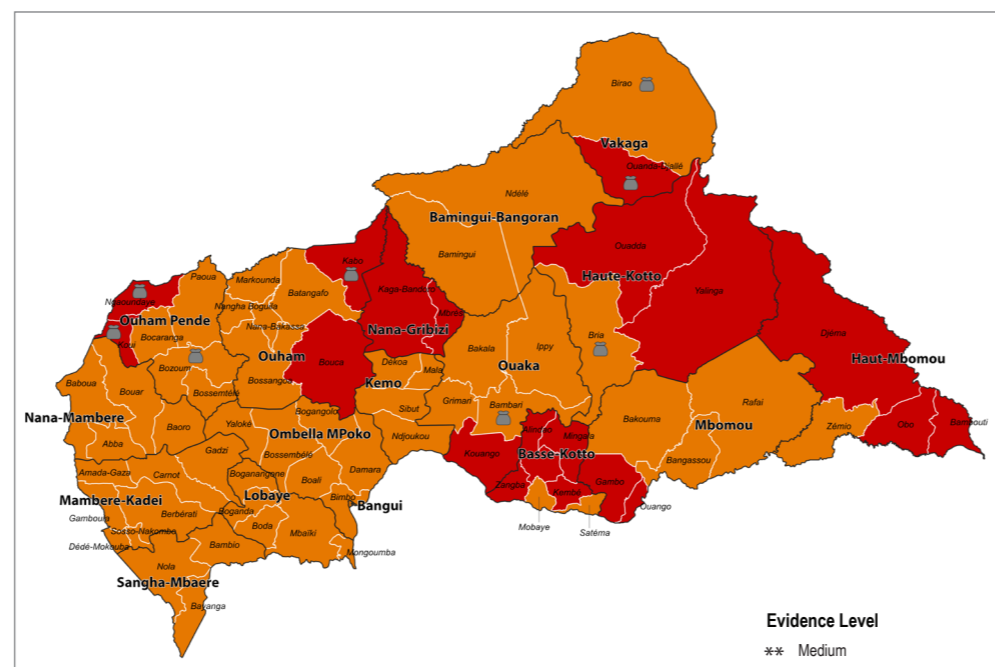
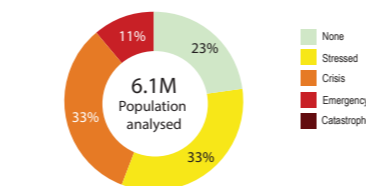


### Current Acute Food Insecurity | September 2022 - March 2023



Approximately 2.7 million people in the Central African Republic are experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September 2022 and March 2023.

44% of the population is in IPC Phase 3 or above.



#### MAP KEY

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

**Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)**

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

### Comparison with the 2021 IPC analysis

Compared with the previous IPC analysis, the situation is relatively stable, with 44% of the population analysed in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, compared to 43% in the same season in 2021 in these conditions. For the period of September 2022 to March 2023, there is also a slight decrease in the number of areas in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), compared to the analysis published in April 2022. The number of people experiencing Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) has decreased from 14% to 11% thanks to significant humanitarian assistance, efforts undertaken by the government and its technical and financial partners in several areas of the country.

### IPC Analysis Partners

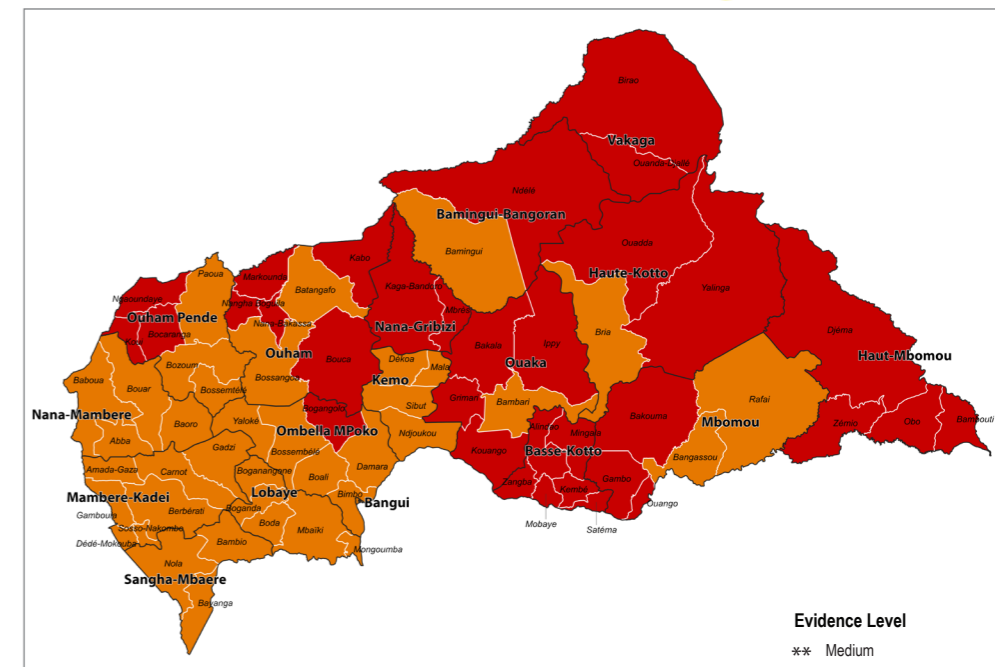
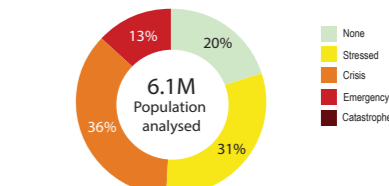


### Projected Acute Food Insecurity | April - August 2023



Between April and August 2023 (the lean season), the situation is expected to deteriorate, with 3 million people (49% of the population analysed) likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).

49% of the population will likely be in IPC Phase 3 or above.



### Recommended Actions



**Provide humanitarian assistance and protection programmes**  
Urgent action is needed to save lives, reduce food gaps and protect livelihood of the households classified in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) situations including displaced people, returnees and host families as well as people with specific needs (poor and very poor households, elderly people and people with chronic illnesses).



**Improve access to safe water and adequate sanitation**  
Improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene services for people in areas with poor coverage and restricted access through the construction of new or the rehabilitation of existing water points, the strengthening of community structures for managing water points and the promotion of hygiene and sanitation.



**Provide livelihood support**  
Implement urgent protection and actions targeted by sub-prefecture to facilitate access to income, agricultural inputs (market gardening), livestock rearing and the creation of community assets, particularly for households in Crisis and Emergency situations. Improve the synergy of action between state institutions and technical and financial partners for a better impact of livelihoods and social protection actions.



**Support agricultural production**  
Promote access for small-scale producers to improved seeds and strains resistant to diseases and pests, and adapted agricultural tools and strengthen their capacities in terms of agricultural techniques.

**Central African Republic Crisis Background**

The Central African Republic is one of the poorest and most fragile countries in the world. Bordered by Cameroon, Chad, the two Congos and the two Sudans, the Central African Republic has now been mired in crises for over two decades. With a population of six million, the country ranks at the bottom of the Human Capital and Human Development Indices. Its citizens have limited access to basic services, infrastructure is inadequate, gender-based violence is widespread, and the social fabric has been eroded.<sup>1</sup>

**Conflict and violence**

Since gaining independence in 1960, the Central African Republic has experienced decades of violence and instability. In 2013, renewed conflict broke out, plunging the country into a chaotic state of violence and an ensuing humanitarian crisis and in the run-up to and after the general elections of December 2020, armed conflict between government forces

and a coalition of armed groups in several towns forced many families to flee their homes.<sup>2</sup>The security situation in the country remains precarious and to date, almost 664,000 have been internally displaced. The cycles of violence are deeply entrenched and persistent insecurity is fuelled by regional conflicts.

**Vulnerability to climate and environmental shocks**

In July 2022, torrential rains caused flooding in the capital city, Bangui, as well as other parts of the country, affecting 35,000 people and destroying livelihoods. Climate shocks like extreme flooding and droughts are contributing to an already precarious situation in some contexts in the Central Africa Republic as governments and militaries are stretched thin and remain heavily reliant on security and humanitarian assistance. The country's unique set of risk factors and protracted crises make it particularly vulnerable to climate shocks amid ongoing conflict.<sup>3</sup>

**Social context and development challenges**

The Central African Republic has one of the lowest education and gender equality indicators in the world. The poor quality of primary education and the numerous cases of violence against women and girls remain pressing challenges for the country. Maternal mortality is among the world's highest (882 per 100,000 live births), while the under-five child mortality rate is the sixth highest in the world, (116 children out of every 1,000). The average life expectancy is only 53 year and 40% of the population suffers from chronic malnutrition while fertility rates remain high with 6.4 children per woman.<sup>4</sup>

**Economic challenges**

Economic activity in the Central African Republic has slowed, owing to the deteriorating security environment in the aftermath of the 2020 elections. The country is also experiencing the shocks from the war in

Ukraine, including rising food and fuel import prices, rising inflation, fuel shortages and elevated shipping costs as the Central African Republic is landlocked. Despite its immense potential, the country remains one of the poorest in the world due to cycles of political instability and heavy reliance on natural resources.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/centralafricanrepublic/overview>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-central-african-republic>

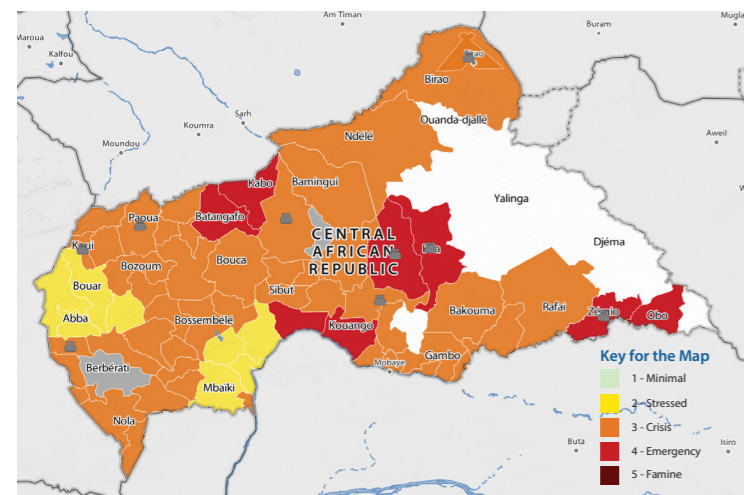
<sup>3</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/west-africa-hard-hit-climate-crisis-deadly-floods-decimate-lives-and-livelihoods>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/crisis-central-african-republic>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/07/14/pr22257-imf-staff-completes-mission-for-a-staff-monitored-program-to-the-central-african-republic>

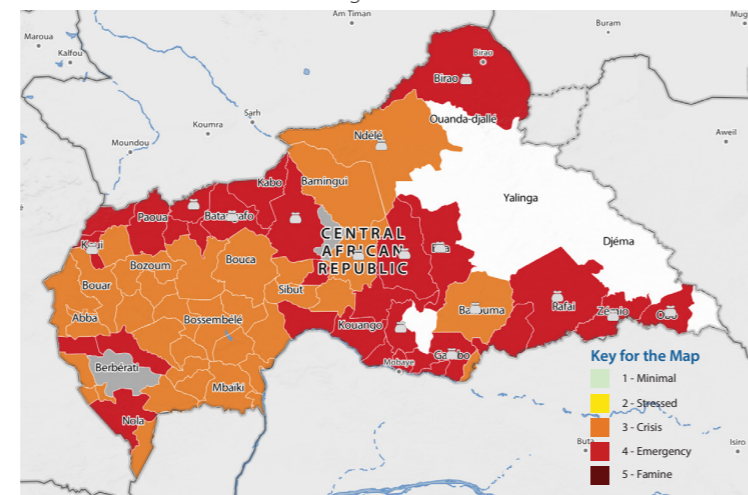
**2019 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity**  
September 2019 - April 2020

**1.6M** Over 1.6 million people (35% of the analysed population) in CAR were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September 2019 and April 2020.



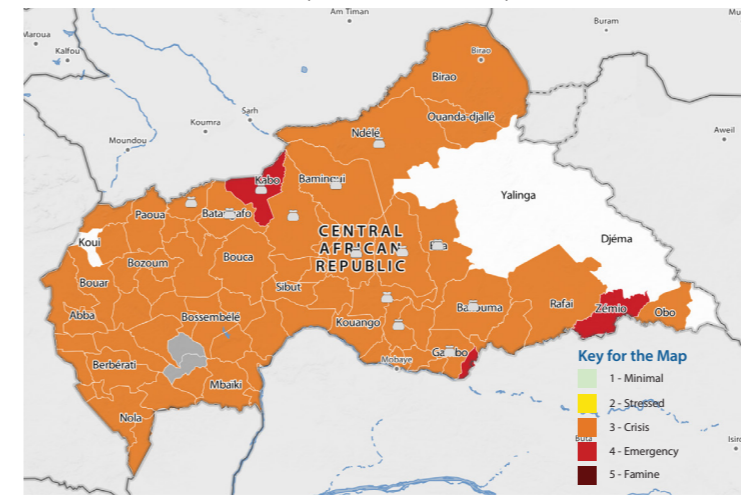
**2020 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity**  
May - August 2020

**2.36M** Over 2.36 million people (51% of the analysed population) in CAR were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between May and August 2020.



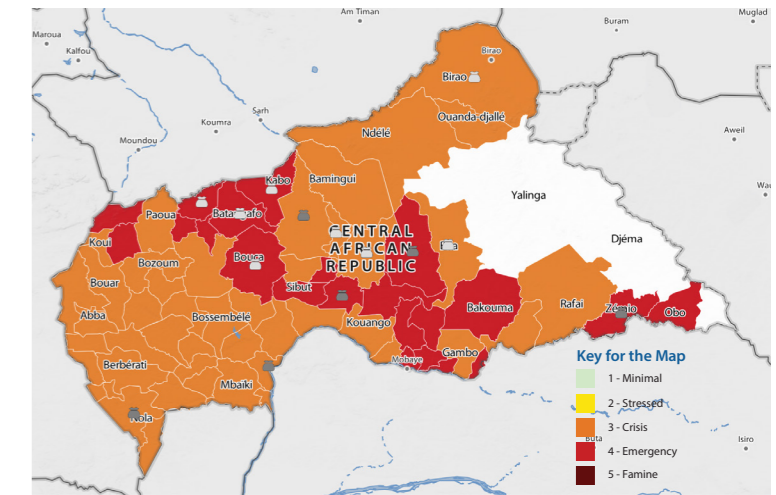
**2020 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity**  
September 2020 - April 2021

**1.9M** Over 1.9 million people (41% of the analysed population) in CAR were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in between September 2020 and April 2021.



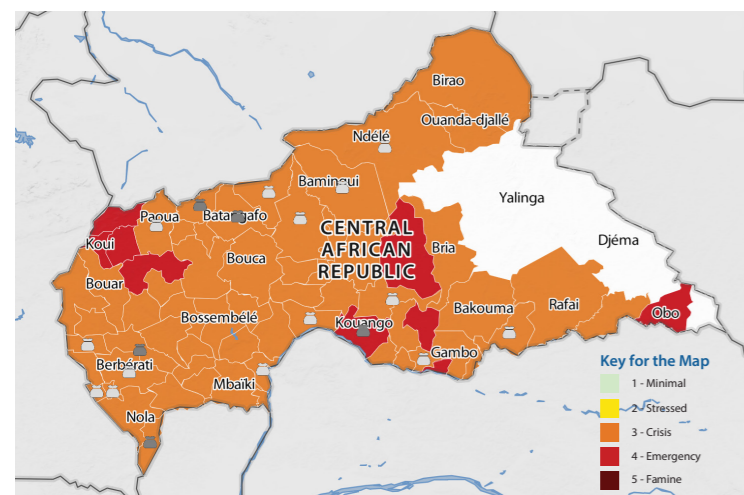
**2021 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity**  
April - August 2021

**2.3M** Nearly 2.3 million people (47% of the analysed population) in CAR were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and August 2021.



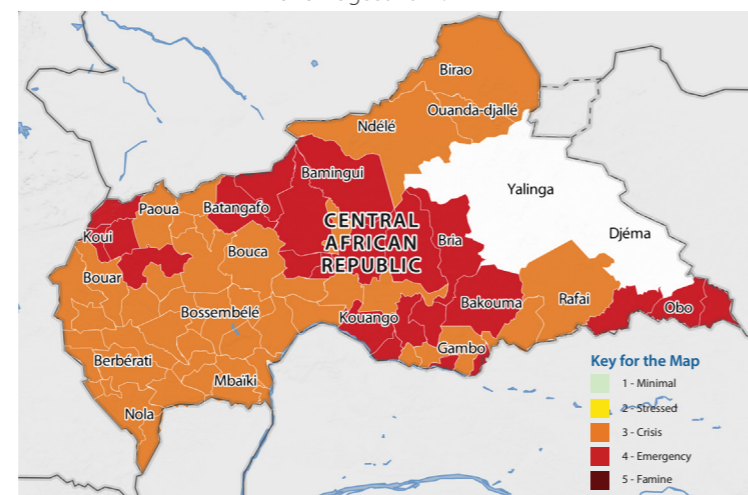
**2021 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity**  
September 2021 - March 2022

**2.1M** Nearly 2.1 million people (43% of the analysed population) in CAR are classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September 2021 and March 2022.



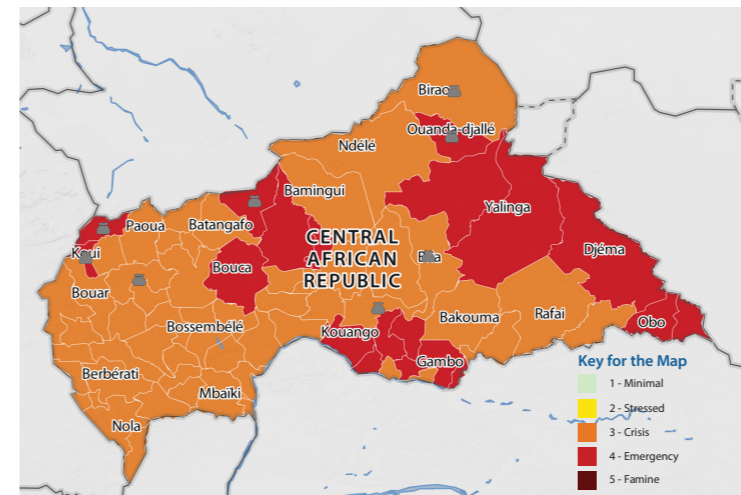
**2022 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity**  
April - August 2022

**2.2M** Over 2.2 million people (48% of the analysed population) in CAR are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and August 2022.



**2022 CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity**  
September 2022 - March 2023

**2.7M** Nearly 2.7 million people (44% of the analysed population) in CAR are classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September 2022 and March 2023.



**2023 PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity**  
April - August 2023

**3M** About 3 million people (49% of the analysed population) in CAR are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and August 2023.

