CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Food Security Snapshot | Projection Update April - August 2022

IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
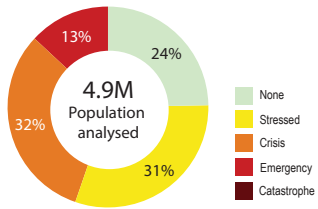*Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions*

Projection Update: Acute Food Insecurity | April - August 2022

2.2M

Over 2.2 million people in Central African Republic will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and August 2022

45% of the analysed population of 4.9 million is experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).

4.9M Population analysed
- 24% None
- 31% Stressed
- 32% Crisis
- 13% Emergency
- Catastrophe

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.

Sub-prefectures with a very high prevalence of food insecurity include Obo, Zémio, Bakouma, Bangassou, Gambo, Rafai, Kaga-bandoro, Bocaranga, Bossemtélé, Bozoum, Koui and Ngaoundaye 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, Koui, Ngaoundaye 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, Dékoa, 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 presence 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 632,240 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.
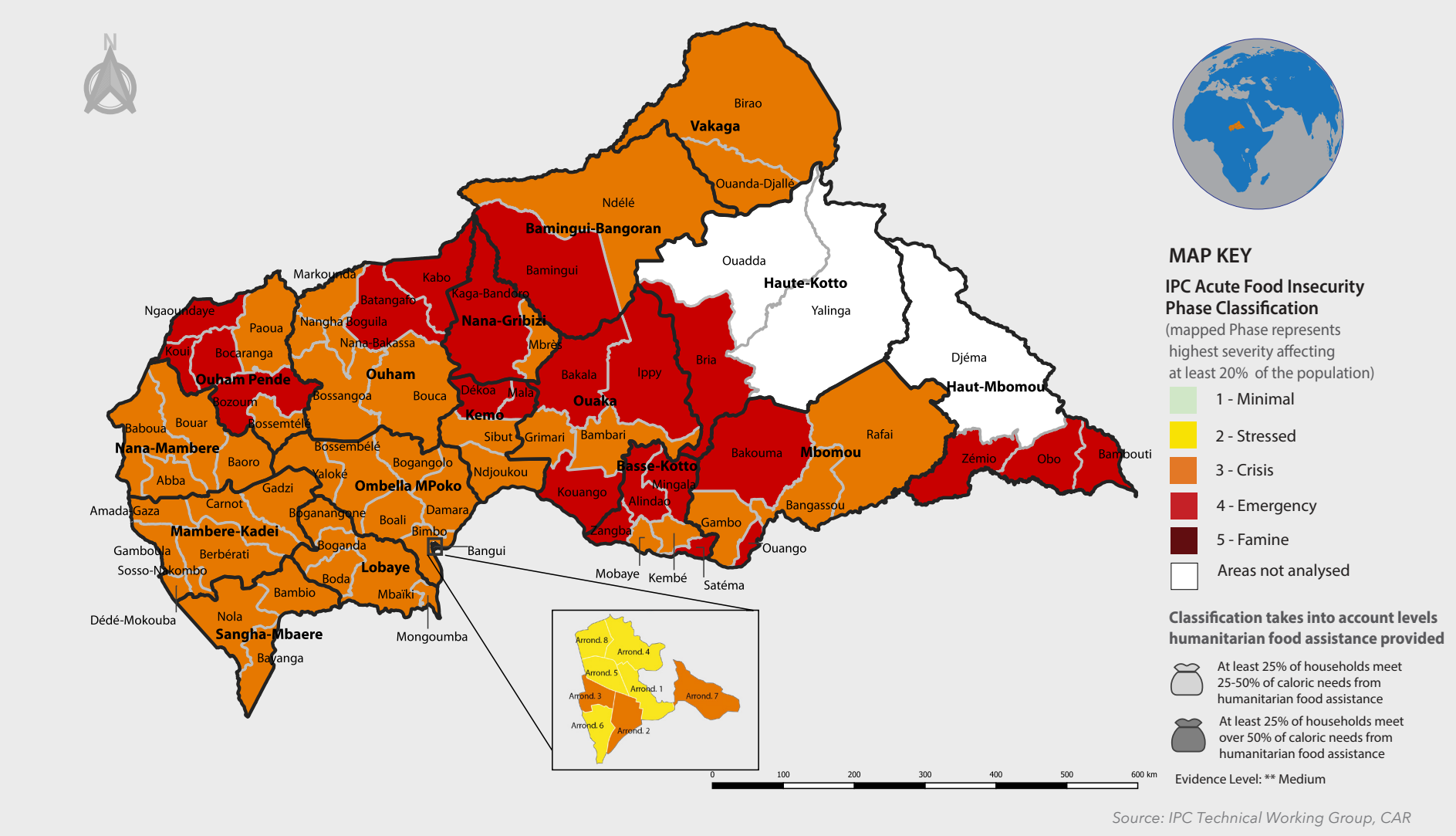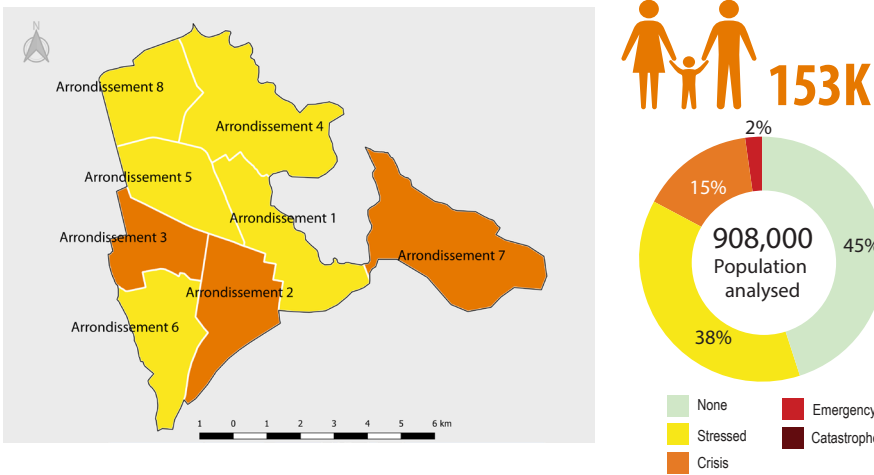
Impact of the crisis in Ukraine
With the crisis in Ukraine and the sanctions imposed on Russia, CAR is likely to suffer significant fuel shortages, impacting transportation costs and prices for essential products and food especially wheat imports.

Projection Update: Acute Food Insecurity | April - August 2022

MAP KEY

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas not analysed

Classification takes into account levels humanitarian food assistance provided

At least 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

At least 25% of households meet over 50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

Evidence Level: ** Medium

Source: IPC Technical Working Group, CAR

BANGUI: Projection Update: Acute Food Insecurity | April - August 2022

153K

908,000 Population analysed
- 45% None
- 38% Stressed
- 15% Crisis
- 2% Emergency
- Catastrophe

Urban analysis of over 907,000 people living in CAR's capital Bangui finds that more than 153,000 people (17%) are likely in high acute food insecurity (Phase 3 and 4 of the IPC) and need immediate food assistance to sustain adequate access to food and protect their livelihoods. High unemployment, a declining economy and displacement are the primary drivers of CAR's urban acute food insecurity. Thousands of internally displaced people shelter in informal sites in Bangui or live with host families, exerting pressure on social services.

Recommended Actions

Provide humanitarian assistance and protection programmes
Provide immediate food assistance in the quantity and quality necessary to support populations in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 or 4), especially during the lean season. These populations include displaced persons, returnees and host families, as well as people with specific needs (poor and very poor households, seniors citizens, those with chronic illness, HIV, etc.).

Provide livelihood support
Implement urgent actions targeted by sub-prefecture to facilitate access to food and protect or strengthen household livelihoods through the distribution of agricultural and livestock inputs and the creation of community assets. Protect and maintain livelihoods through better synergy and coordination between different Ministries.

Increase access to safe water and adequate sanitation
Improve food utilisation and its impact on nutrition by facilitating people's access to safe water sources through the rehabilitation and development of boreholes in areas where access to safe water remains low, while intensifying hygiene and sanitation awareness and services among households in hard-to-reach areas.

Improve acute malnutrition services
Strengthen the coverage and quality of management of acute malnutrition and revitalise the health and nutrition system to improve the quality and coverage of primary care services (input management, adaptation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) protocols, and strengthening of routine system, human resources and surveillance and management of diarrhoea, fever, malaria and acute respiratory infections (ARIs).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Food Security Snapshot | Crisis Background

IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions

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 withthe 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—has severely deteriorated the country's security infrastructure and heightened ethnic tensions. The cycles of violence are deeply rooted in factors that drive fragility, such as a lack of social cohesion and governance problems.

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. Weighty 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 adversely affected, with reports from aid organizations that the flooding is so bad in the capital Bangui that the only way to get around is by canoe.

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. According to the World Bank, CAR's poverty remains high, and projections suggest that roughly 71% of the population was living below the international poverty line ($1.90 per day, in terms of PPP) in 2020. However, CAR's agricultural-based economy, potential, and vast mineral resources and forests have yet to benefit the population. The economy has also suffered a slowdown, primarily due to COVID-19 and the related restriction measures that affected trade between the Central African Republic and the rest of the world and disrupted input and food supply chains.

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. According to UNOCHA, the response efforts to CAR's acute food insecurity have been hampered by significant limitations of humanitarian access. With the crisis in Ukraine and the sanctions imposed on Russia, CAR is likely to suffer significant fuel shortages, impacting transportation costs and prices for essential products and food especially wheat imports.
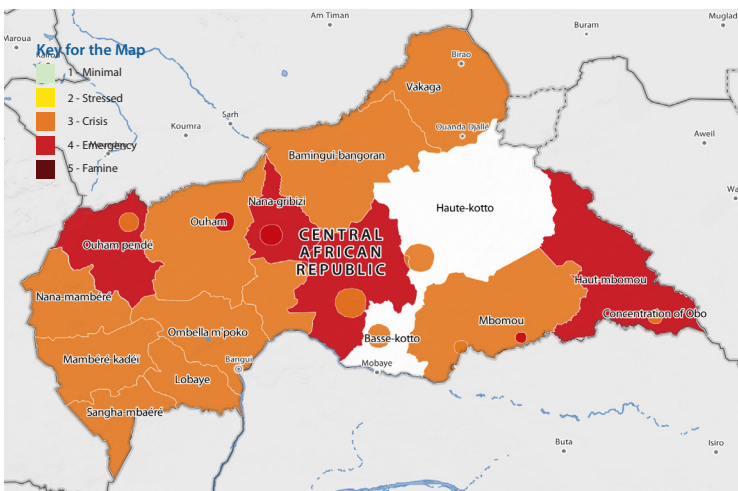
Malnutrition

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 in will suffer from acute malnutrition through February 2022.

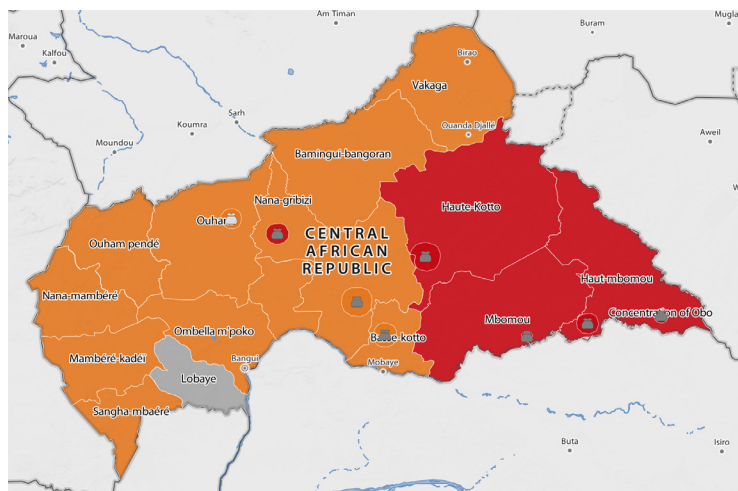## Central African Republic: IPC Population Classification Time Series 2018 - 2022

2018 — CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity
August 2018

1.9M Nearly 1.9 million people (42% of the analysed population) in CAR were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in August 2018.
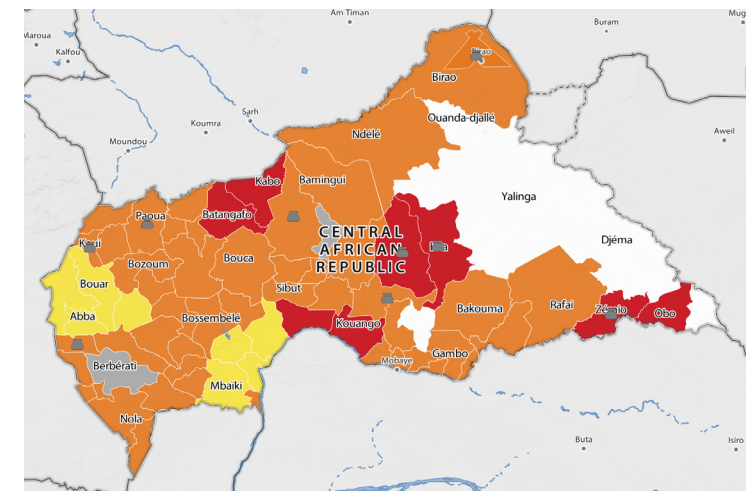
Key for the Map
- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

2019 — CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity
May - August 2019

1.8M Over 1.8 million people (42% of the analysed population) in CAR were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between May and August 2019.
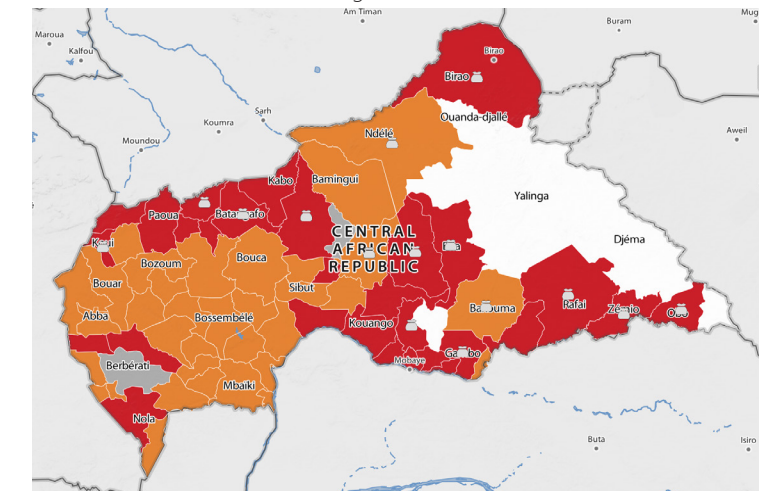
2019 — CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity
September 2019 - April 2020

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.
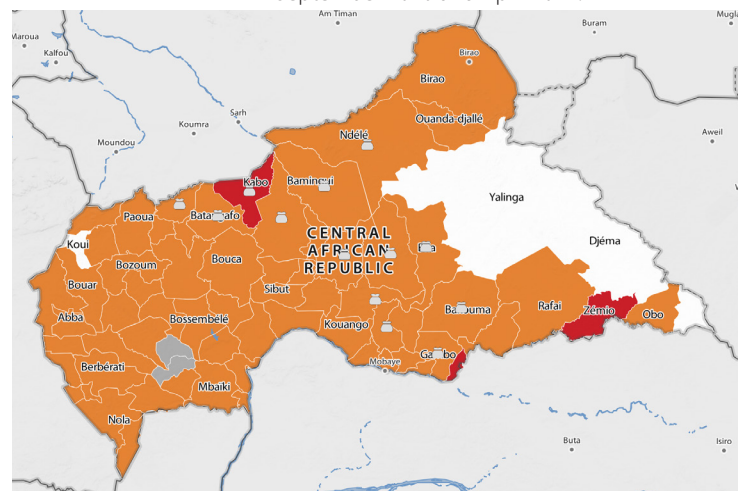
2020 — PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity
May - August 2020

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.
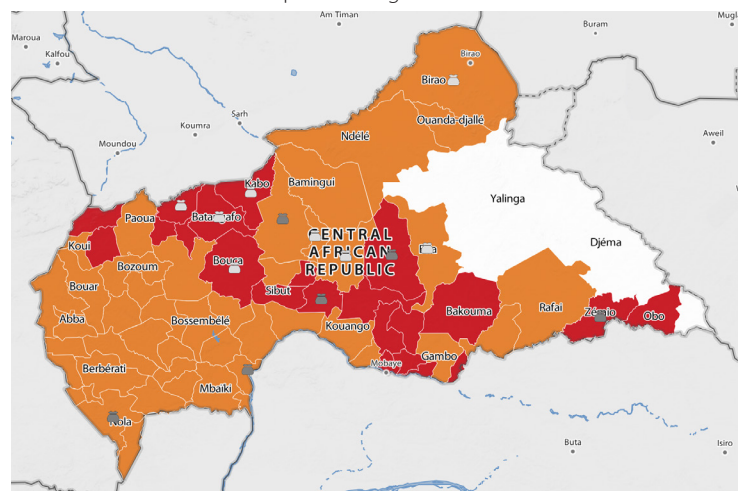
2020 — CURRENT Acute Food Insecurity
September 2020 - April 2021

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.
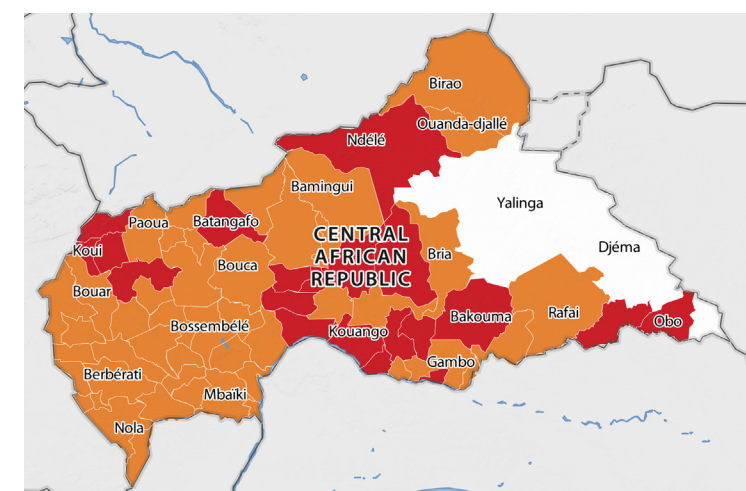
2021 — PROJECTED Acute Food Insecurity
April - August 2021

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 (45% of the analysed population) in CAR are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and August 2022.