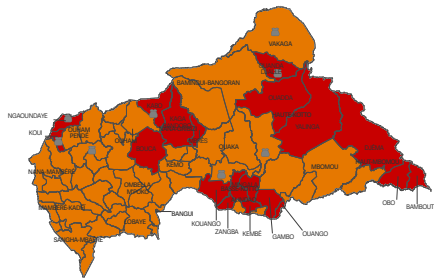


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Insecurity due to armed groups and displaced populations drives high levels of acute food insecurity.

PEAK 2023 (SEPTEMBER 2022–MARCH 2023)

2.7M people or **44%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This included 0.6 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Insecurity and violence continued to impact food availability and access, with 19 areas classified in IPC Phase 4. The situation was worst in Nana-Mambéré prefecture where 64 percent of the population faced high acute food insecurity.

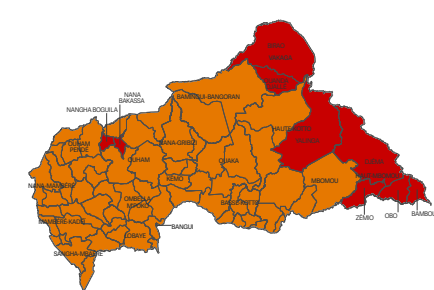


Source: Central African Republic IPC TWG, November 2022.

PROJECTION 2024 (APRIL–AUGUST)

2.5M people or **41%** of the total population projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity. This included 0.5 million in IPC Phase 4.

The situation is projected to stay relatively calm during the lean season. Five areas are projected to be in IPC Phase 4, an improvement since the 2023 peak.



Note: the projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.

Source: Central African Republic IPC TWG, November 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Conflict/insecurity Violent incidents and population displacement decreased in 2023 compared with 2021, but security remained precarious in the north, northeast and southeast with armed groups attacking civilians and driving population displacement. The

presence of armed groups disrupted agropastoral relations, and limited access to cropland and agricultural inputs, which affected food production. Conflicts in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan led to increased arrivals of refugees, putting pressure on livelihoods in border areas (IPC, October 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

0.5M forcibly displaced people, 2023

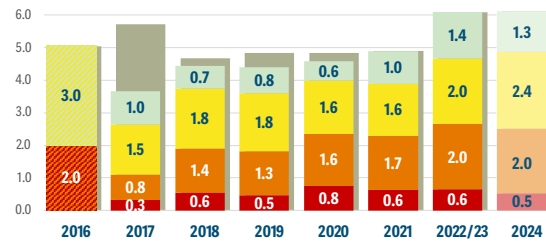
0.5M IDPs and **0.07M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, June 2023.

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Economic shocks Prices of basic goods remained very high, particularly in the most insecure areas where armed groups disrupt market functionality (FEWS NET, September 2023). High prices for imported fertilizers constrained access for those who use them, with reductions on their 2023 crop production.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024



Source: Central African Republic IPC TWG.

A protracted major food crisis A low-income country, the security crisis that has affected the country since 2013 was superimposed on a fragile national context. According to the INFORM risk index, the country is at the highest risk of humanitarian crisis in the world. It has been included as a major food crisis in all editions of the GRFC and has been included almost continuously among the ten countries with the highest prevalence of high levels of acute food insecurity, reaching 51 percent at the height of COVID-19 restrictions in May–August 2020.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.3M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition, October 2022–August 2023

0.2M MAM and 0.1M SAM

Source: Central African Republic IPC TWG, January 2023.

0.2M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition, September 2023–August 2024

Source: Central African Republic IPC TWG, November 2023.

Conflict, internal displacement, disease, acute food insecurity and poor WASH drove deteriorating nutrition between 2021/22 and 2022/23, although the situation was expected to improve in 2023/24.

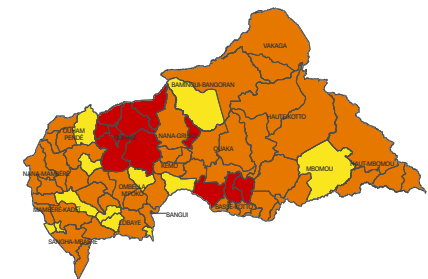
DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

Inadequate services High levels of disease (diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections) and poor access to clean drinking water are major contributors to malnutrition. Conflict and insecurity disrupt already inadequate basic services and make it difficult to supply as well as access nutritional assistance and prevention.

Inadequate practices Fewer than 10 percent of children receive a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is considered Extremely Critical by the IFE Core Group (IPC, January 2023).

Lack of food While food insecurity is a major contributing factor, especially during the lean period, the IPC analyses showed a greater severity of acute food insecurity than acute malnutrition partly explained by the fact that the acute food insecurity analysis took place during the lean season. It also suggests that other factors mitigate the nutritional situation including good exclusive breastfeeding rates (80 percent), and high coverage of measles vaccinations and vitamin A supplementation (IPC, January 2023).

PEAK 2023 (MARCH–AUGUST)



Source: Central African Republic IPC TWG, January 2023.