



# World Food Programme

## Central African Republic Food Security Assessment Results October 2013

### Key Results:

- \* Approximately 1.1 million people outside of Bangui are estimated to be severely or moderately food-insecure
- \* Due to persistent insecurity, households have relied on stress or crisis coping mechanisms, putting their livelihoods at risk
- \* The food security situation is expected to deteriorate in the coming months if violence continues

**I**n September 2013, a food security assessment was conducted in Central African Republic (CAR) in partnership with ACF, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, and ICASSES to assess the effects of insecurity on household food security. The assessment confirmed concerns raised by rapid assessments conducted earlier in 2013.

**91 villages visited,  
including 972  
households**

**A**pproximately 30 percent of the population outside of Bangui (around 1.1 million) is estimated to be moderately or severely food-insecure. The displaced have been most affected, with half suffering from severe or moderate food insecurity. The worst-affected parts of the country are found

**Displaced  
populations are  
most affected by  
severe food  
insecurity**

in the Northwest (Ouham, Ouham-Pende and Nana Gribizi) and Northeast (Vakaga and Bamingui Bangoran) regions, though pockets of food insecurity

are found throughout the country due to the high level of displacement.

**N**early all households were affected by persistent insecurity throughout the country since the beginning of this year. Stocks, crops and markets are providing only partial access to food. As a result, affected populations have relied on stress or crisis coping mechanisms, including the sale of productive assets (such as livestock and agricultural tools), which is irreversible in the short term. Many households have reduced their herd size in anticipation of possible displacement and for fear of looting; however, the majority of households interviewed indicated having lost their livestock due to theft in the past months.

**Most households  
reported losing  
their livestock to  
theft**

**Approximately 1.1  
million people  
outside Bangui are  
food-insecure**

**L**imited purchasing power of affected households and sale of





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stocks among traders and farmers have contributed to a decrease in market prices. Two-thirds of farm households indicated that their harvest will be smaller than last year, which may cause the lean season to start early.

**T**he inter-and intra- community tensions and the multifaceted nature of the conflict limit humanitarian access to affected populations and make economic and commercial activities difficult. Access to health and educational facilities is also limited in conflicted-affected areas. This further increases the vulnerability of households to food insecurity.

**I**f violence continues, the food security situation is expected to further deteriorate due to a number of factors. First, available food stocks do not cover needs of the population through January/February 2014. Second, disruptions to the cotton trade, decreased availability of wage labor and reduced peanut harvests—the primary source of income for rural households—have decreased purchasing power and overall economic

**The next lean period may begin in January and February, especially in zones affected by conflict**

**Economic activity may slow drastically if insecurity persists**

activities. Third, the loss of productive assets may reduce agricultural production even further. Finally, the next lean period may begin as early as the end of this year, especially in conflict-affected zones. As insecurity persists in most parts of the country, economic activity may slow drastically. In this context, a nutrition crisis could evolve from the dire food security situation and limited access to health facilities.

**T**he situation will continue to be closely monitored by WFP and partners, with a particular focus on peanut and cotton production and trade activities over the next six months.

**T**o better assess the food security situation in Bangui, ACF, with its partners, is planning to conduct an Household Economy Approach (HEA) survey. A SMART survey is also scheduled in the coming months to assess the nutrition situation in the country.

**The situation should be closely monitored to detect any further deterioration**

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