22 June 2014

- Almost 70,000 families (of the initial target of 80,000) received seeds & tools for this planting season
- Between 1 and 15 June, WFP distributed 1,310mt of food to nearly 133,000 beneficiaries countrywide
- WFP provides food rations to prevent seed consumption as hunger gap period is at its highest now
- FAO adjust its crop seeds distribution programme to the delayed onset of the rains
- FAO and partners are finalizing the seed distribution plan for the short cycle crops (millet, sorgho, sesame)

The total loss of agriculture assets makes subsistence farmers to restart their livelihoods from scratch in 2014
Correlation between IPC results and geographical seeds distribution: 22-06-2014

68,318 Households reached 85% of initial target
Changes in the agriculture calendar?

From discussions with farmers in Damara (Ombella-Mpoko) and looking at the rainfall pattern so far, it appears that farmers will benefit from a more flexible planting period till July even for maize.

Seed protection coverage

Under the Agricultural Campaign, WFP has assisted 38,700 beneficiaries with seed protection rations, equivalent to 7,738 households, with 510mt of food on 1-15 June. In total, WFP has supported over 138,000 beneficiaries (nearly 28,000 households) with 1,747mt of food since the start of the seed protection programme in April (1 April to 15 June). Over 71 per cent of the beneficiaries were located in areas identified as the most food insecure according to the IPC, namely Ouham, Ouham Pende and Nana Mambere.

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In April and May, the weather pattern in the country was drier than average and the trend has continued in June, with significant rainfall deficits in the north-west, particularly in the main agricultural areas of Ouham and Ouham Pende and areas north of Bangui. These tendencies appear to spread across the western half and into the northeast of the country. Favourable rainfall has taken place in some areas in the south-east and south-west. If the lower rainfall pattern of May and June is not counterbalanced by a normal one in July (last opportunity for planting), the agricultural production may become a worrying issue for food security.
During the initial response to the L3 Emergency, WFP began providing food assistance to vulnerable groups and has been coordinating preventive malnutrition measures amongst nutrition stakeholders through combined general food distributions and blanket feeding (25,000 children per month on average) to displaced populations, returnees, refugees and people relocating due to violence. This response has now been expanded to encompass vulnerable farmer households by providing food support during the critical agricultural season to protect productive assets.

The response to vulnerable groups has also shifted its focus to gradually replace general food distributions with more targeted interventions. WFP supports the Ministry of Education’s Back to School Campaign through the emergency school feeding programme and in June (1-15 June), 63,000 school children have so far received food support in Bangui, Bouar and Bossangoa. WFP also provides country wide nutrition support under the targeted supplementary feeding programme to malnourished women and children 6-59 months and people living with HIV/AIDS.