



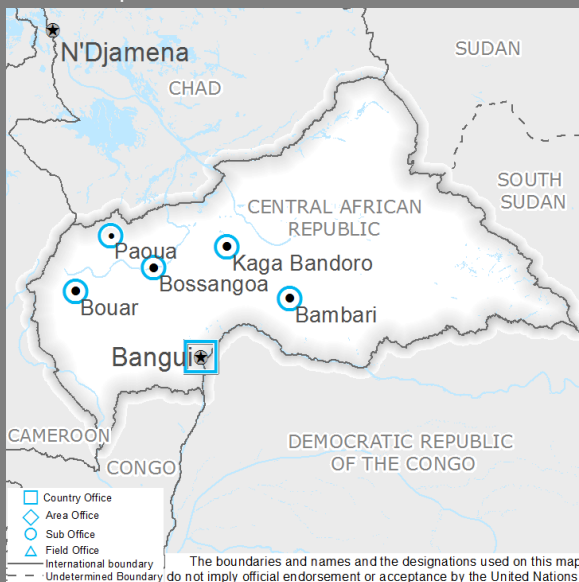
WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

May 2018

Operational Context

The Central African Republic (C.A.R.) is a land-locked and least developed country with a population of 4.7 million people. Despite a wealth of natural resources, C.A.R. has not yet realized its potential due to poor governance and recurrent political and security crises over the decades. The poverty rate stands at 76 percent and the gross domestic product per capita fell from USD 488 in 2011 to 382.21 in 2016.

Two years after the C.A.R. held free, peaceful and democratic elections for president and parliament, the country continues to struggle for stability and progress. Over half of the country's population (2.5 million people) remain in need of humanitarian assistance. Since September 2016, the increase in violent incidents has threatened to destabilize any progress made to date. One in four citizens is displaced either within or outside the country and insecurity continues to destroy livelihoods. WFP has been present in C.A.R. since 1969.



Population: **4.7 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **188 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **40% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Bruno Djoyo.
Caption: Distribution of seeds for the Seeds 4 Change initiative in Bambari.

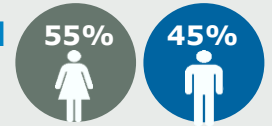
In Numbers

2 m people affected by food insecurity

669,997 internally displaced persons

US\$ 63 m six months (July-December 2018) net funding requirements, representing 42.7% of total

418,490 people assisted in May 2018



Operational Updates

- The security situation continues to be volatile, characterized by renewed tensions along religious lines, and increased socio-political instability and divisions. Violence and reprisal attacks following the April-May incidents in Bangui prompted humanitarian organizations to temporarily suspend their operations in PK5 and other areas of C.A.R.
- New outbreaks of violence in Bambari in mid-May have seriously impacted operations in the area, which represent a significant part of WFP's interventions in the country. WFP continues to maintain a presence in Bambari and deliver assistance, albeit at a reduced scale, remaining one of the two main concentration points for UN staff in the town.
- WFP is providing an agile response, reprioritising its resources and adapting its interventions to respond to evolving needs, using the most appropriate and context-specific transfer modalities and delivery mechanisms. In May, WFP started implementing food assistance using cash-based transfers for vulnerable host communities in Paoua. This is expected to minimize logistical and supply chain challenges.
- Due to resource constraints, WFP is implementing a prioritisation plan, targeting primarily extremely vulnerable displaced people living on site and severely food insecure host communities with general food distributions, blanket supplementary feeding and activities for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. The emergency school meals which was suspended from January to March, remains the second prioritized activity. In-kind food assistance continues to be prioritized, particularly in remote areas.
- As the crisis continues, the needs are dramatically increasing and the financing of humanitarian action is far below expectations, as it has been in recent years. Serious funding shortages are undermining humanitarian operations: as at end of May 2018, only 16 percent of the USD 515.6 million 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan has been funded.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)		
336.6 m*	19.03 m**	63 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected households and communities in targeted areas can meet their basic food and nutrition needs both during and in the aftermath of crises. <i>Focus area: Crisis Response</i>		
205.7 m	10.97 m	47.8 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant, lactating women, and malnourished ART clients living in target regions, have an improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
26.2 m	0.46 m	3.1 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure women and men living in targeted areas of CAR have enhanced livelihoods to support the food security and nutrition needs of their households and communities by 2020. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
42.6 m	2.4 m	5.1 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 4: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to establish an adequate social protection system and manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2020. <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
1.6 m	0 m	0.2 m
Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian community (partners and donors) have enhanced capacity to reach and operate in areas of humanitarian crisis all year-round. <i>Focus area: Crisis Response</i>		
60.5 m	5.2 m	6.7 m

*2018 Requirements: USD 147.6 m

** Confirmed Contribution does not include grants migrated from former projects to the CSP, WFP allocations and multi-year contribution

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 Crisis-affected households and communities in targeted areas can meet their basic food and nutrition needs both during and in the aftermath of crises.

SO 2 Vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, children, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and malnourished ART patients living in target regions, have an improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020.

SO 3 Food-insecure women and men living in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods to support the food security and nutrition needs of their households and communities by 2020.

SO 4 National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to establish an adequate social protection system and manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2020.

SO 5 Humanitarian community (partners and donors) have enhanced capacity to reach and operate in areas of humanitarian crisis all year round.

- WFP continues efforts to expand local purchases schemes to move food as quickly and cost-effectively as possible to those who need it most. Funding was recently received from the European Union (Bêkou Fund) to strengthen the capacity of small-scale producers to engage in the marketplace and increase their revenue. A contract was also recently signed with a local company to purchase 400 mt of fortified blended foods to support nutrition activities. In addition, WFP is procuring 375 mt of various food commodities from local traders.
- Capacity development of line ministries continues to be conducted to strengthen their capacities in food management programmes. WFP also provided support to the Government to prepare key policy and strategy documents such as the National Food Security and Nutrition policy, the guidance for moderate acute malnutrition treatment among Person Living with HIV and the Home-Grown School Feeding Manual).
- WFP is in process of conducting a decentralized evaluation on gender in the coming months to identify the bottlenecks for gender equality and help to design the most appropriate strategy of intervention, particularly in remote and insecure areas.

Monitoring

- Since April 2018, WFP has established a complaint mechanism using toll-free numbers. Assisted people can use these numbers to report a problem or wrongdoing, or notify WFP on any inappropriate use of its resources, with an element of anonymity. They can also obtain information on the distributions plans through this system.
- With support from the regional bureau in Dakar, a training on nutrition was carried out in May 2018 for WFP monitoring and programme assistants to strengthen their capacities in the collection of nutritional data, in conducting basic analysis and adequately reporting on achievements. Similar training is scheduled for cooperating partners at the field level between June and September 2018.

Challenges

- Insecurity continues to significantly constrain operations, delaying the delivery of emergency food and nutrition assistance. In May, logistics activities have been considerably impacted by the escalation of violence in Bambari which made it difficult to move food commodities to and from Bambari.
- Major food deficit across all commodities are expected from September. For cash-based transfers, the country office is likely to face a critical lack of funding starting from July.
- Considerable logistical challenges continue to affect WFP operations in C.A.R. To accommodate the complexity of the C.A.R. operation, the country office is currently working on a strategy that will ensure an agile upstream supply chain with multiple procurement options and opportune repositioning of stocks to enhance operational capacity.

Donors

Canada, ECHO, European Union (Bêkou Funds), Luxembourg, Multilateral, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America.