



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

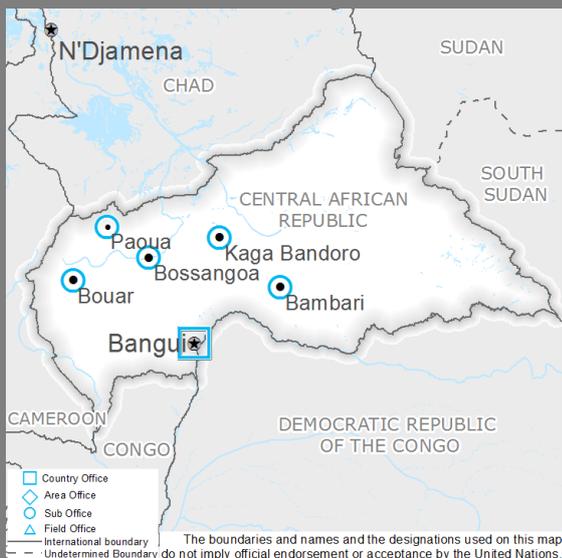
December 2018



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 C.A.R. is ranked 188 out of 188 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index.

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. Persisting insecurity across C.A.R. continues to trigger new displacements and cause an increase of already huge needs. Over half of the country's population (2.9 million people) remain in need of humanitarian assistance, and one in four citizens is displaced either within or outside the country.



Population: **4.7 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children between 6-59 months**

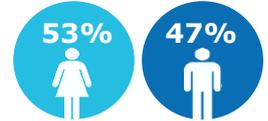
In Numbers

4,091 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.2 m cash-based transfers made

US\$63.5 m six months (January-June 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

628,111 people assisted in DECEMBER 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP has made continuous efforts to improve its capacity to better respond to the needs of crisis-affected populations, including through the strengthening of its field capacity and its supply chain. This enabled WFP to reach its highest number of people assisted this year in December, with more than 628,000 beneficiaries reached across the country, including more than 321,000 extremely vulnerable people who received life-saving assistance to improve their food security and nutrition situation in the regions of Bambari and Paoua.
- WFP conducted two field missions in Alindao: a first mission to support the distribution process and a follow up mission which took place a week later with the country director, allowing WFP to reaffirm its humanitarian principles and its commitment to assist vulnerable populations.
- The Regional Director visited C.A.R. where he met high level government officials and reaffirmed the UN's and WFP's ambition to continue supporting the Government to respond to the humanitarian and development needs of the country. He also made a field visit to Bambari and met with local authorities, partners and WFP staff at Bambari sub-office.
- The security situation remains particularly volatile and further clashes between armed groups and tit-for-tat attacks targeting civilians of opposing communities occurred in December, particularly in Alindao, Batangafo, Gbambia and Bria.
- Humanitarian access remains difficult, primarily due to the highly dynamic and volatile security situation, with recurrent clashes and threat of kidnapping and impeded road movement due to frequent illegal checkpoints and the destruction of road infrastructures. In this context, UNHAS activities are critical to access hard-to-reach locations. However, serious funding shortages are threatening the continuation of the service. USD 3 million are urgently required to maintain the service for the next three months (January-March 2019).

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

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian community (partners and donors) have enhanced capacity to reach and operate in areas of humanitarian crisis all year-round.
Focus area: Crisis Response

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
336.6 m*	126 m**	52.4 m***

*2018 Requirements: USD 144.5 m
 ** Confirmed Contribution does not include grants migrated from former projects to the CSP, WFP Allocations and Multiyear Contribution
 ***2019 requirements are estimated on the basis of the proposed budget revision

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.
Focus area: Crisis Response

- Activities:**
- Provide general food distributions.
 - Distribute emergency school meals to primary school children.

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.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
- Implement BSFP for the prevention of MAM among children aged 6 to 23 months.
 - Provide a comprehensive package for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition to children with MAM aged 6 to 59 months, PLW, girls and provide food by prescription to ART patients.
 - Provide capacity strengthening to health district authorities, health centre staff and community health workers (CHW).
 - Provide nutritious school meals to school children.

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.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
- Provide smallholder farmers with transfers to support asset creation and technical assistance to increase their access to markets, including purchases from WFP supported school meals.

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.
Focus area: Root causes

- Activities:**
- Provide capacity strengthening in zero hunger policies, strategic planning and delivery of programmes to public officials.
 - Provide capacity strengthening to the government to establish a national social safety net platform.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

- Activities:**
- Provide common logistics and ICT services to the humanitarian community and the government
 - Provide UNHAS services to all partners

- Limited access to agricultural fields linked with increased insecurity and population displacements continues to severely disrupt food production, resulting in high needs for food assistance. Against this backdrop of a continually complex humanitarian crisis, it remains essential to continue providing emergency food assistance to conflict-induced populations and to people affected by food insecurity and acute undernutrition.

Monitoring

- WFP is in the process of conducting a decentralized evaluation on gender for the period from 2014 to 2018. A first gender decentralized evaluation took place in early December, following its preliminary recommendations, WFP will apply gender-sensitive indicators specific to the context and conduct a comprehensive gender analysis of activities to develop a concerted approach with other stakeholders on gender issues. The final conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation should be available in July 2019 and may lead to further adjustments of the response strategy in 2019.

Challenges

- Access to remote and insecure areas is limited and military escorts are often required. MINUSCA capacity remains overstretched due to continuous expansion of the conflict to new areas and the absence of the Central African armed forces in most of the provinces.
- Lack of cooperating partners in some of the new crisis areas as well as their limited capacity, combined with direct targeting of aid workers and their properties present major challenges to the implementation of relief interventions.
- Limited capacity and aging fleet of local transporters, the very poor road network throughout the country, and access constraints, often cause delays in the delivery of assistance.

Donors

Canada, CERF, CHF, ECHO, Ericsson, EU/Bêkou Trust Fund France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Multilateral, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America.