



World Food Programme

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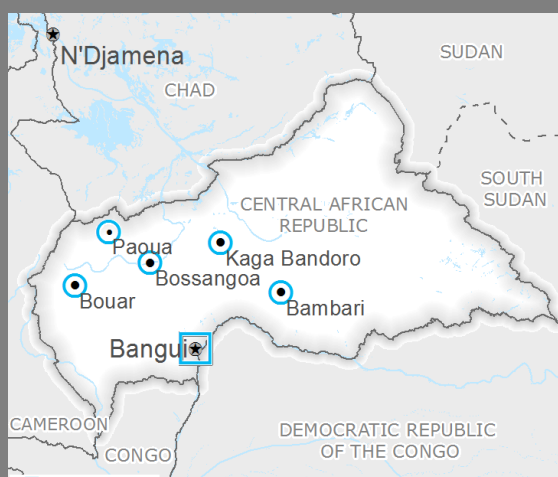
# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief March 2019



## Operational Context

The Central African Republic (C.A.R.) is a land-locked country afflicted by successive coups and waves of conflict, culminating in the 2013 crisis with unprecedented levels of violence. Three years after the first peaceful democratic elections (2016) violence continues to grip the country. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people in C.A.R. are still internally displaced and face growing food insecurity. One in four citizens remains displaced within or outside the country.

Poverty remains pervasive and high. C.A.R. ranks 188 out of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index with 75 percent of the population living under the international poverty line. Basic services are dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas, and the dilapidation of already limited services further hinders people's access to livelihood opportunities. C.A.R. has a population of about 4.7 million people, more than half of which needs food assistance. Reflecting a gradual deterioration of the humanitarian situation, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance increased by 16 percent, from 2.5 million in 2017 to 2.9 million in 2018.



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

**4,270 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 870,315** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 36 m** six months (April-September 2019) net funding requirements, representing 51% shortfall

**756,595 people assisted**

In March 2019

## Operational Updates

- Security incidents and the congestion at Douala corridor in the western part of the country, through which 90 percent of WFP food commodities transit from is resulting in a significant delay in providing a timely emergency food and nutritional assistance to nearly 300,000 people (30 percent of the planned beneficiaries). The expected commodities to complement April distributions in the affected areas may arrive by the third week of April. Thus, disrupting food distribution to the furthest and hard-to-reach localities of the eastern and south-eastern parts. In mid-March some 50 WFP trucks with more than 1,200 mt of food were blocked at both sides of the border in Cameroon and C.A.R. for about two weeks, before they had been released.
- As a mitigation measure, WFP will adjust the ration scales in some localities (Bambari, Bria, Alindao) to avoid interrupting food assistance to IDPs, returnees and extremely vulnerable host families.
- WFP charts cargo plane to perform another three rotations (after the first eight in February) from the capital Bangui and deliver 13 mt of High Energy Biscuit to vulnerable people in an urgent need in Zemio. WFP trucks are on the road to deliver food to Zemio, but broken bridge and damaged ferry are hindering access to the area.
- Following a recent cash-based transfer (CBT) mission in C.A.R., WFP will significantly increase CBT interventions that will ease the constraints on the in-kind pipeline and partially resolve the supply chain difficulties. WFP aims to reach up to 300,000 beneficiaries by the end of the year which is more than doubling the current number of beneficiaries. Preparation is underway for the launch of a nation-wide market survey.
- A budget revision covering the period from 2019 to 2020 is proposed to address the increasing needs linked with the deterioration of the security situation in C.A.R. and refine life-saving interventions.
- Despite the Peace Agreement signed on 6 February between the Government and 14 non-State armed groups and their participation in the Government, the security situation has only marginally improved. Some armed groups keep on engaging on shows of force that include attacks on the population and the humanitarian community to increase their negotiation posture with the aim of getting government positions and a larger share of resources.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic)

**Photo:** WFP/Bruno

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>334.9 m</b>	<b>170 m</b>	<b>36 m</b>

## 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 center 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

**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

## Activities:

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

## Monitoring

- The results of the FAO/WFP joint crop and food security assessment mission undertaken in January at the request of the C.A.R. government estimated the food production in 2018 at just over 1 million mt (3 percent less than in 2017) and about 18 percent higher than the five-year average (2013-2017). This overall positive result is due to an increase in maize and cassava productions of about 27 and 21 percent, respectively, compared to the average of the last five years.
- The system of production and commercialization of livestock is still disrupted due to many pastoralists who lost their livestock to looting, robbery and attacks by armed groups.
- About 37 percent of households use asset depletion strategies (emergency or crisis) while one-third of households have had to give up part of their productive assets to obtain food supplies.
- The mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) analysis covering the period January to March indicated that the maize prices increased by 36 percent in March 2019 compared to January. It is also 20 percent higher than in March 2018. In March 2019, prices of cassava, beans and groundnuts increased by 3 percent, 6 percent and 10 percent respectively compared to January 2019. This is due to the start of the lean season. However, the price of rice fell by 4 percent.

## Challenges

- Since the beginning of April, WFP is forced to intermittently suspend its activities in the Western part of the country, near the Cameroonian border, due to a flare-up of clashes between the *Front Democratique du Peuple Centrafricain* (FDPC) and the MINUSCA. The MINUSCA is undertaking an operation to clear the area of the FDPC members' road blocks. They had taken refuge in the bush and are perpetrating sporadic attacks on the MINUSCA and ransoming transporters. This resulted in an indiscriminate shooting on a humanitarian convoy by FDPC, on 6 April in Zokombo.
- Due to the high insecurity and difficult access, WFP faces significant challenges in both the upstream flow of products and the downstream supply chain. Measure are being put in place to ensure an agile and optimized stream supply chain, such as increasing local purchases, identifying additional commercial transporters. The country office keeps on exploring alternative delivery routes including Kampala and Sudan corridors as well as using the Ubangui River from the Republic of Congo. This is expected to ease the pressure on the Douala corridor. However, this will take some time to come into effect.
- WFP continues to face challenges related to the Douala corridor, where 90 percent of food commodities for C.A.R. operations transit. Security situation coupled with congestion at the border and low transport capacity are causing impacts and severe delay on WFP's operations.

## 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.