



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief April 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.

In C.A.R. WFP maintains a crisis response operation while scaling up support for recovery programmes in areas of relative security and providing Government capacity strengthening.



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**

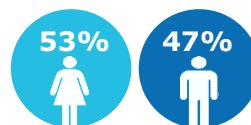
In Numbers

3,120 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.1 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 26.8 m six months (May-October 2019) six-month net funding requirements, representing 44% of total

528,898 people assisted
in April 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP provided life-saving emergency assistance to 528,898 vulnerable people (of which 53 percent were women), distributed 3,120 mt of nutritious food commodities and allocated USD 1.1 m through cash.
- The bulk of WFP assistance was provided through in-kind general food distributions (GFD), reaching 76 percent of total beneficiaries. In addition, WFP implemented several other activities, as part of its integrated assistance package.
- WFP launched the cash-based transfers (CBT) modality in Bambari, in central C.A.R., with the strategic objective of lessening the pressure off its in-kind supply chain. Value vouchers worth USD 1.1m were distributed. The CBT is a cost-efficient modality that improve local procurement and economies. Moving forward WFP will scale up the CBT in the country.
- WFP provided prevention of acute malnutrition to 16,863 people, while 11,200 beneficiaries received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). On 16-19 April, a capacity building mission was carried out in Kagabandoro, a western locality where WFP intends to scale up nutrition activities. WFP consulted local actors and trained 30 health workers affiliated to partner entities (Ministry of Health and NGOs).
- In selected communities, WFP complemented in-kind distributions with the provision of emergency school feeding. About 75,748 vulnerable children (of which 51.4 percent were girls) received school feeding assistance. School meals help increase enrolment and attendance, decrease drop-out rates, improve cognitive abilities and constitute essential social safety nets in crisis-affected communities.
- The logistics cluster organised a donors' mission which enabled delegates to discuss operational challenges and visit warehouses and transport platforms. The cluster also chaired a working group (of 13 member organizations) on the rehabilitation of access infrastructures in the capital Bangui. The UNHAS memorandum of understanding (MoU) which outlines the logistics cluster's air cargo coverage was signed by all concerned parties.
- Given the rising number of people needing humanitarian assistance, WFP beneficiaries' lists are being revised to include returnees and to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are assisted. WFP has also initiated a budget revision covering the additional humanitarian needs identified for the 2019-2020 period. The approval process is underway.

Contact info: Vigno Hounkanli

Country Director: Gian Carlo Cirri

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

Main photo: Caption: Food distribution in Alindao (C.A.R.).

Credit: WFP/Bruno Djoyo

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
334.9 m	201.8 m	26.8 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.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Activity 1: Provide general food distributions.
- Activity 2: 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:

- Activity 3: Implement BSFP for the prevention of MAM among children aged 6 to 23 months.
- Activity 4: 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.
- Activity 5: Provide capacity strengthening to health district authorities, health center staff and community health workers (CHW).
- Activity 6: 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:

- Activity 7: 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:

- Activity 8: Provide capacity strengthening in zero hunger policies, strategic planning and delivery of programmes to public officials.
- Activity 9: 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:

- Activity 10: Provide common logistics and ICT services to the humanitarian community and the government
- Activity 11: Provide UNHAS services to all partners
- Activity 12: provide bilateral logistics services to partners for in country supply chain for three health programmes (malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS)

- WFP is enhancing its focus on gender, protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Consultations are ongoing with *the Norwegian Refugee Council* (NRC) and other actors to build a partnership and improve these aspects in humanitarian interventions.

Monitoring

- On 15 -18 April WFP participated in an UN-interagency mission to Bangassou to assess needs in this south-eastern prefecture set to receive returnees. Meetings were held with partners (MINUSCA, peace committee, government services and local authorities). The mission identified several pressing needs: houses and schools' rehabilitation; increased number of drinking water points; economic revival ... The interagency mission recommended the community's support to help families rebuild their homes. To facilitate the return process, WFP will provide food assistance (complemented by UNHCR non-food items) for three months. Overall 438 people returned to Bangassou, while 1,850 internally displaced persons left Bangassou for Pombolo, their place of origin.
- On 28 - 30 April WFP and UNHCR carried out a joint monitoring mission in Mongoumba (in the south-western prefecture of Lobaye) to monitor WFP food distribution to 352 returnees. Distributions were carried out in partnership with the *National Commission for Refugees* (CNR). Beneficiaries received a three-months assistance to facilitate their return in their hometowns: WFP provided a one-month food ration, while UNHCR awarded cash donations (21.5 USD/ person) to cover the two remaining months. In addition, WFP provided capacity building to the CNR and supported the UNHCR health team in addressing cases of people with special needs. According to the 16 households interviewed post-distribution, beneficiaries are satisfied with WFP and UNHCR collaboration.

Challenges

- The provision of lifesaving assistance continues to be obstructed by persisting insecurity directly affecting humanitarian operations. WFP activities were intermittently suspended by violent incidents in western part of the country, near the Cameroonian border. Militias such as the *Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain* (FDPC) ransomed transporters and perpetrated sporadic attacks against the MINUSCA who subsequently retaliated. Rival armed groups such as the *Anti-Balakas* and *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) also clashed in areas such as Zangba, in the south, forcing local populations to hide in the bush. In addition to militias exactions, several abuses and robberies against civilians were reported. WFP field offices organized simulation exercises to prepare staff for potential evacuations.
- WFP distributions were hampered by limited food stocks, as a result of the congestion of Douala's corridor: 90 percent of the food items delivered into C.A.R. are convoyed through this Cameroonian route. WFP deliveries to the south-eastern part of the country were also affected by physical access issues caused by impractical roads, security risks and required military authorizations and escorts to accompany WFP trucks. Mitigation measures are being explored to improve WFP upstream and downstream supply chain operations. Potential solutions include: increasing local purchases, expanding the CBT, contracting additional transporters, and using alternative delivery routes (Uganda, Congo, Sudan corridors) ...

Donors

Canada, CERF, Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF), ECHO, Ericsson, EU/Békou Trust Fund, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Multilateral, Norway, Private Donors, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, USA.