



# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief May 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

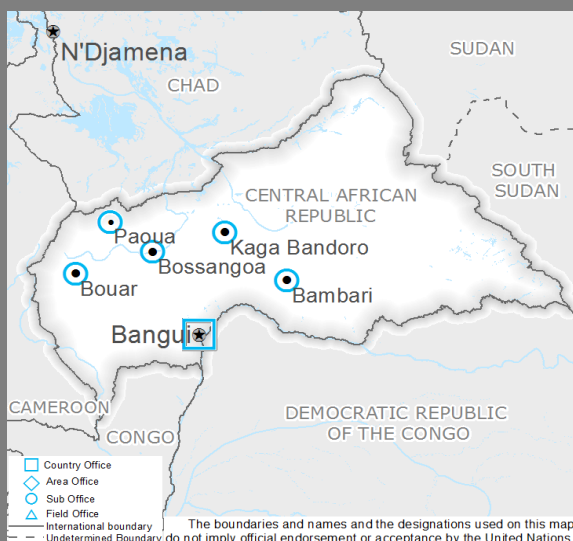


## Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) 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 CAR are still internally displaced and face growing food insecurity. One in four citizens remain displaced within or outside the country.

Poverty remains pervasive and high. CAR 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. CAR 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 CAR 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**

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### Main photo

**Caption:** WFP beneficiaries in C.A.R.

**Credit:** WFP/Bruno Djoyo

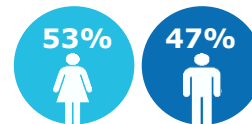
## In Numbers

**2,809 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 1.2 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 33.5 m** six months (June-November 2019) net funding requirements

**520,609 people assisted**  
in May 2019



## Operational Updates

- In May 2019, WFP continued its life-saving emergency response by assisting 520,609 vulnerable people (of which 53 percent were women), distributed 2,809 mt of food commodities, and allocated USD 1.2 m through cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Most of WFP assistance was provided through in-kind general food distributions (GFD). The following food items were distributed: cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and iodised salt. The GFD reached 68 percent of targeted beneficiaries. In areas with limited food stocks, WFP reduced food rations to assist more people.
- On 21 May, a mass killing occurred in the north of the Paoua region (Ouham-Pende prefecture), where elements of the armed group "Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation" (3R) convened villagers and executed over 50 people. Many villagers fled to the nearby region of Bouar. This was the largest massacre since the February 2019 peace agreement. Shortly after the events, WFP provided an emergency response in affected areas.
- WFP continued the implementation of the cash-based transfers (CBT) initiated in Bambari, central CAR, in April 2019. WFP aims at lessening the pressure off its in-kind supply chain in this area. Value vouchers worth USD 1.2 m were distributed. An assessment of the CBT will soon be performed and will inform the CBT upcoming scale up plan.
- Due to limited stocks of nutritional products, WFP was unable to carry out planned distributions for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. Activities will resume in June. However, WFP worked on the launch of a pilot project aiming at implementing a simplified protocol (plumpy nut) to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children aged 6-59 months. This pilot is expected to improve treatment coverage and reduce infant mortality in targeted areas. Its outcomes will be authorised during a sectoral workshop and will inform the revision of the national protocol for malnutrition.
- The Food Security Cluster chaired by WFP facilitated the consultations and drafting process of the upcoming Integrated Food security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. The official results will be approved by the Government in June. The Cluster also conducted eight capacity building sessions targeting humanitarian actors.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transports a monthly average of 2,000 passengers and 22 mt of light cargo in 35 sites across CAR.

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2018-2020)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD) *	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>95.5 m</b>	<b>57.1 m</b>	<b>33.5 m</b>

\* A budget revision is underway. The budget increase will be included in the next country brief.

### 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
- provide bilateral logistics services to partners for in country supply chain for three health programmes (malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS)

- The presence of IDPs in host communities puts additional strain on social protection and food systems that are already weak. WFP beneficiaries' lists are subsequently being updated to include new targets. A budget revision and fundraising efforts are underway to cover increasing humanitarian needs.

## Monitoring

- An interagency mission was carried on 26 May in Ouham-Pendé prefecture (Paoua and Lougol districts) to assess the impact of 21 May killings and determine humanitarian needs;
- WFP also held a mission in the Besson village located in Bouar (north-west). WFP monitored distributions targeting 3,500 beneficiaries (70 percent are returnees from Cameroon). Health risks were noted during the mission: there are only two water sources available for six districts in Besson, hence a lack of drinking water;
- On 17 - 18 May, a field trip was carried out in Bria (Central CAR) by WFP Management and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. They visited the PK3 site (the largest IDPs camp in the country) to determine an appropriate response to help IDPs return home, in safe conditions.

## Advocacy

- Efforts are ongoing to enhance the visibility of the CAR crisis: social medias publications (#CARcrisis), press releases and interviews.
- Two donor missions visited the PK3 camp in Bria: USAID (10 May) and a German parliamentarian (29 May);
- On 25 May, WFP management accompanied a CNN team in Bria to showcase WFP activities and tell beneficiaries stories: <https://twitter.com/GCCirri/status/1132295545127616513>

## Challenges

- In the past few months WFP supply chain operations were hampered by various challenges: insecurity, weak road infrastructures and limited availability of private transporters. In addition, bottlenecks were identified within the Douala corridor (from which 90 percent of the country office's commodities are conveyed). Therefore, in May WFP implemented several mitigation measures, including: increased reliance on the Congo and Kampala corridors, one assessment mission to explore the feasibility of a third supply chain corridor in Sudan, new procurement processes to increase local purchases, scale up plan of the CBT modality (to lessen the reliance on in-kind deliveries...).
- May was marked by renewed violence (massacres, abductions, looting...), particularly in the north-west. In addition to the mass killings occurred on 21 May, incidents were recorded in other regions, including direct attacks against MINUSCA offices. These events generated further internal displacements and human rights abuses (including gender-based violence), resulting in increased humanitarian needs. In some areas, armed groups' attacks delayed the availability of MINUSCA escorts and affected WFP food deliveries. Nonetheless, WFP hopes that the peace agreement signed in February will gradually improve the security situation.

## Donors

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