



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

July 2019



Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a land-locked country which has been 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 – one in four - in the CAR are still internally displaced and face growing food insecurity.

Poverty remains pervasive and high. The CAR ranks 188 out of 189 countries in the 2018 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 the 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 simultaneously 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**

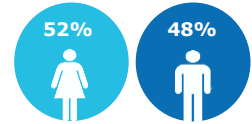
In Numbers

2,922 mt of food distributed

US\$ 966,777 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 45.1 m six month (August- January 2020) net funding requirements - *excluding pending budget revision*

470,233 people assisted in July 2019



Operational Updates

- In July 2019, WFP reached 470,233 people 52 percent of the planned caseload for the month – with a total of 2,922 mt of food and USD 966,777 through cash-based transfers (CBT) in the CAR.
- WFP distributed food to 12,250 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in Obo who had not been reached since February because of continued access issues, including pipeline constraints and the closure of the CAR-Sudan border.
- Due to the state of roads and the volatile security situation in Obo, WFP procured and transported food items from Uganda, that enabled the distribution of food for a 20-day ration to Obo.
- WFP is planning to scale up its provision of CBTs by rolling out the CBT e-voucher modality. A roadmap for implementation has been created and discussions have started with the Government of CAR to facilitate a pilot of the SCOPE biometric registration for beneficiaries in the 7eme Arrondissement of Bangui.
- The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Report released in June, projected that between May and August 2019, five areas with a high concentration of displaced persons (Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Obo, Rafai and Zémio) and three prefectures (Mbomou, Haute Kotto and Haut Mbomou) will experience emergency conditions of food security. The report further estimates that during the harvest period (September to October 2019), 1.35 million people will be severely food insecure
- WFP and UNICEF are providing support to the Ministry of Health in the CAR to implement an innovative strategy that aims to simplify the approach used for severe and moderate acute malnutrition treatment for children aged 6 to 59 months. This strategy aims to reduce the strain on health and community systems to be able to treat acute malnutrition, and its associated morbidity and mortality, effectively.
- In July, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 2,019 passengers and 14 mt of light cargo consisting of food, non-food and medical items to 35 locations across the CAR. The most travelled destinations included Bambari, Bria, Bangasso and Kaga-Bandoro.

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Main photo caption: WFP beneficiary of Purchase for Progress in Paoua.
Credit: WFP/Bruno Djoyo

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)
175 million	68.2 m	45 m *

*A budget revision is currently ongoing to adjust requirements

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)

Monitoring

- To carry out a national market survey, WFP provided training to 70 people, including staff members from six NGOs, university students, and supervisors from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agence Centrafricaine de Développement Agricole (ACDA). The survey will be carried out in August to provide WFP with a better understanding of the market functionality and facilitate WFP's ability to tailor CBT operations and targets accordingly

Advocacy

- Efforts are ongoing to enhance the visibility of the CAR crisis globally through social media publications (#CARcrisis), press releases and interviews.
- By invitation of WFP, Ozaguin, CAR's most popular singer, visited the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) to attend the UNOG press briefing and to share his experiences of the situation in CAR and highlight WFP's operations in the country.

Challenges

- The security situation remains precarious throughout the country as some armed groups have violated the agreement signed in February and continue to block major supply routes. Concerns also remain with regards to banditry and crimes across the country. July was marked by renewed violence (robberies, assaults, murders) in many parts of the country.
- In response to the challenges presented by the rainy season, WFP is adjusting its logistics operations and delivery routes to prevent potential delays in operations.
- WFP supply chain operations continue to be hampered by the volatile security situation, weak road infrastructures and limited availability of private transporters. In addition, WFP continues to experience delays in food dispatches from the Douala corridor and in order to prevent further delays in operations, WFP has established mitigation measures including scaling up CBT activities, as well as implementing new procurement processes to increase local purchases.

Donors

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