



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief August 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 country 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.

WFP has been present in C.A.R. since 1969.



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**

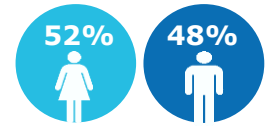
In Numbers

2,180 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.0 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 34.6 m six month (September- February 2020) net funding requirements

349,424 people assisted in August 2019



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP reached 349,424 people – 41 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the month – with a total of 2,180 mt of food and USD 1 million through cash-based transfers (CBT).
- WFP provided life saving assistance to 131,540 internally displaced persons (IDPs) with 211 mt of food (cereals, beans, SuperCereal and oil). WFP also provided nutritional support to 61,714 under the blanket feeding activity to children aged 6-23 months and treated 9,002 children aged 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- To meet the needs of 50,000 pregnant and lactating women suffering from acute malnutrition, WFP is focusing its efforts on these women during the first 1,000 days of childhood to improve infant and child nutrition, but also to promote benefits in maternal health and nutrition.
- As part of WFP's efforts to scale up the provision of CBT, WFP is rolling out the electronic voucher transfer mechanism in Bangui. In August, WFP provided food assistance to 2,980 beneficiaries in the seventh arrondissement neighbourhood of Bangui using SCOPE electronic cards for the first time. Plans are underway to roll -out to other districts in Bangui and throughout CAR by the end of the year.
- The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller visited CAR to assess the humanitarian situation and discuss ways to increase support to the humanitarian response in CAR. Her mission included field visits to Bria, Alindao and Bangassou where WFP has operations.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 1,844 and 13 mt of essential cargo consisting of visibility items, nutritious food items, office supplies, blood samples from the deep field to Bangui on behalf of WHO, vaccines for the Polio response, spare vehicle parts and IT equipment. Bambari, Bria and Bangassou are the top three destinations. These locations are very difficult to reach due to insecurity and poor road conditions in the rainy season.
- UNHAS officers conducted field missions to Kaga Bandoro, Bangassou, Zemio, Obo, Ndele, Paoua, Bria and Bambari to train the aviation focal points on dispatch of aircraft and preventive measures on Ebola Virus Disease.

Contact info: Vigno Hounkanli
Country Director: Gian Carlo Cirri
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic
Main photo Credit: WFP/Fiona Addae
caption: WFP Food voucher beneficiaries in 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)
175 million	72.5 m	34.6

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

- WFP conducted a national market survey and data analysis is currently ongoing. Results will be released by the end of September and will help WFP to better understand the market functionality and facilitate its ability to tailor and scale up CBT operations accordingly. The market assessment encouraged the participation of women enumerators in the data collection as well as women traders interviewed in the survey.

Advocacy

- Following a visit to the UN in Geneva, WFP arranged for Ozaguin, the most notable singer-songwriter from the CAR to travel to Bambari to participate in a food distribution in the Internally Displaced camp of Elevages. The visit resulted in national and international media attention, including an interview between BBC and the WFP senior spokesperson.
- Social media posts on CAR operations are ongoing and were frequent during the month. In August, WFP posted on the food distributions in Bambari, SCOPE registrations in Bangui, and the World Humanitarian Day celebration.

Challenges

- The security situation is unpredictable with an upsurge in robberies, assaults, street demonstrations, kidnappings and car theft in many parts of the country. Several armed groups have violated the agreement signed in February and continue to block major supply routes.
- The rainy season increased logistical challenges for WFP's operations and affected food transport. WFP foodstuffs (60 mt) being transported from Douala by a private truck to the Mogo Kota village (80 km along the Bossembele-Bossangoa axis) was looted by a group of armed persons when the truck got stuck in transit on a muddy road.
- 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.

Funding

- WFP urgently requires USD 6 million for its cash-based transfer operations, for general food distribution, and nutritional activities to crisis-affected populations for rest of the year.

Donors

Canada, China, Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF), European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), USA.