



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

October 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 chronic food insecurity.

Poverty remains stubbornly widespread 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 non-existent and in many areas, people are depending entirely on humanitarian aid for basic services and 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 21 percent, from 2.4 million in 2018 to 2.9 million in 2019.

WFP operations are focused on life-saving interventions, to preserve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable crisis-affected people. WFP helps communities by distributing food – including specialized nutritious foods, supporting smallholder farmers in restoring and enhancing their productive assets as well as building resilience to future crises. WFP maintains a crisis response operation while simultaneously supporting 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**

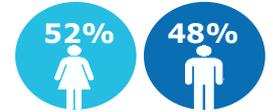
## In Numbers

**2,463 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 1.3 m** cash-based transfers disbursed

**US\$ 86.2 m** six-month (November - April 2020) net funding requirements

**600,930 people assisted** in October 2019



## Operational Updates

- In October 2019, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 600,930 people – 60 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the month – with a total of 2,463 mt of food and USD 1.3 million through cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Heavy rains in October caused flooding which has affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country. As an immediate response, WFP distributed 11.23 mt of high-energy biscuits to 11,225 people affected by the flooding in Bangui and its surrounding areas. Various assessments are ongoing to ascertain the scale and scope of the situation and inform priorities of the humanitarian community. The Government has declared the flooding a national disaster and called for international solidarity. Currently, 23,145 people affected by the floods in Bangui and its surrounding areas are being assisted while the assessment is being conducted. WFP is also consolidating the beneficiary list to provide food and cash-based assistance to those affected for November and December.
- WFP continued to provide food assistance to IDPs in Birao who fled their homes on 1 September following clashes between two armed groups in the north-east of the country. WFP distributed 59 mt of food to 11,068 beneficiaries in the two settlement sites; MINUSCA site and Aerodrome.
- The results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in September 2019 indicate that in the period from September 2019 to April 2020, 35 percent of the population (1.6 million people) are food insecure (Phase 3 – Crisis; and 4 – Emergency). From May to August 2020, the number of food-insecure people is expected to increase to 2.1 million due to the lean season and in the absence of food assistance.
- Data collection for the Enquête Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (ENSA)/National Food Security Assessment is ongoing and expected to end in November. The survey will contribute to updating the key food security indicators, understanding the current situation of household food security, and inform the planning of various humanitarian interventions.
- WFP has signed a field level agreement (FLA) with the Norwegian Refugee Council in CAR to ensure the protection of beneficiaries during food distributions. This arrangement will also ensure that staff from WFP and its cooperating partners receive training on protection issues.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 1,811 passengers and 11 mt of essential cargo for the humanitarian community. The top three most travelled destinations were Bambari, Bria and Bangassou. In addition, UNHAS also transported 287 mt of WFP food commodities from Bangui to Birao with a dedicated cargo flight.

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**Main photo Credit:** WFP/Bruno DJOYO  
**Caption:** WFP Beneficiary in Bambari

### 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>175 m</b>	<b>72.5 m</b>	<b>86.2 m*</b>

\*As of 30 October 2019

#### 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 patients 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 59 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)

## Advocacy

- Efforts to increase visibility of the CAR crisis and WFP operations are ongoing: social media publications (#CARcrisis), press releases and interviews. Follow links for more information; <https://histoires.wfp.org/cinq-jours-%C3%A0-birao-abn%C3%A9gation-et-d%C3%A9termination-pour-sauver-des-vies-48709c16f7f6> [https://twitter.com/WFP\\_WAfrica/status/1186615231277125634](https://twitter.com/WFP_WAfrica/status/1186615231277125634) <https://bit.ly/33P0Zzh>

## Challenges

- The lead time along the Douala corridor – from which 90 percent of the country office's commodities are conveyed– and structural bottlenecks continue to negatively affect the upstream flow of food commodities and transfer to WFP sub offices and area offices. In addition, insecurity, the low uplift capacity of transporters and weak road infrastructure continue to limit the amount of food transported on land.
- The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) redefined the security road classification map in CAR, qualifying some routes as medium to low risks. However, most of them including Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari, Bria, Bangassou etc. where WFP operations are still classified high-risk. Therefore, WFP continues to rely on mandatory escorts from MINUSCA to move food commodities around the country. The delay in obtaining the military escorts and the poor state of roads continue to pose a significant challenge for WFP's activities in several areas of operations.

## Funding

- The operation is facing serious funding deficit. In past months, the lack of funding prevented WFP from providing a full month food ration to the beneficiaries.
- **USD 86.2 million is needed to provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis affected and vulnerable people for the next six months (November - April 2020).** More urgently, WFP needs USD 300,000 per month to fill the funding gap for its response to the flooding in Bangui from November to December.

## Donors

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, USA.