



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief September 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**

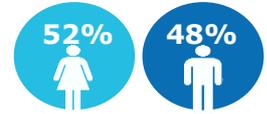
In Numbers

2,489 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.18 m cash-based transfers disbursed

US\$ 36.4 m six month (October - March 2020) net funding requirements

569,216 people assisted in September 2019



Operational Updates

- In September 2019, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 569,216 people – 63 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the month – with a total of 2,489 mt of food and USD 1,18 million through cash-based transfers (CBT).
- WFP provided specialized nutritious food to 8,684 children aged 6-23 months for the prevention of acute malnutrition, 7,896 malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- Through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, WFP assisted 157,000 beneficiaries to reinforce the resilience of communities and households recovering from crises.
- Since 1 September, approximately 30,000 people have fled their homes following clashes between two armed groups in Birao in the north-east of the Country. As an immediate response, WFP launched a three-month response plan and conducted an airbridge operation to transport food to assist the newly displaced people. WFP distributed 36 mt of specialised nutritious food and 17 mt of complete food baskets to 12,165 beneficiaries. WFP's airbridge operation and food assistance is continuing in Birao. However, funds are urgently needed to cover the cost of airlifting more food items to Birao.
- WFP is in the final stages of concluding 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 the 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 1,854 passengers and 26 mt of essential cargo for humanitarian community. The top three most travelled destinations included Bambari, Bria and Paoua. In addition, UNHAS also transported 67 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 Bangassou carrying a box of HEB

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 | 36.4 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:

- 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

- A Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis has been conducted from 26 September to 5 October and data collection for *the Enquête Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (ENSA)/ National Food Security Assessment is ongoing*. The Food Security cluster is also working on the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) to lay the foundation for a coherent and efficient response. The results of these assessments will help inform the planning of assistance for next year.
- The results of the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted in July shows that 86 percent of beneficiaries are satisfied with the food assistance provided by WFP. 67 percent of beneficiary households indicated that distributions of food and voucher exchanges are transparent and fair. The outcome indicators also show that 72 percent of households have adequate food consumption, 23 percent are at a risk of falling into poor food consumption (borderline) and 4 percent have an inadequate food consumption range. In addition, two out of three households (65 percent) continue to develop strategies to cope with their dietary difficulties. PDM surveys help WFP to reinforce accountability and improve programming.

Advocacy

- Efforts to increase visibility of the CAR crisis and WFP operations are ongoing: social medias publications (#CARcrisis), press releases and interviews. Follow links for more information;
 - https://twitter.com/WFP_WAfrica/status/1176569368551067648?s=19
 - https://twitter.com/WFP_WAfrica/status/1173572638138150914?s=19
 - https://twitter.com/WFP_WAfrica/status/1173535067299307520?s=19
 - https://twitter.com/WFP_WAfrica/status/1167141016295661569?s=19

Challenges

- In response to the situation in Birao and due to inaccessibility of roads to the area, WFP can only deliver the various commodities via air. This remains the only current means for delivering food until the end of the rainy season by mid-November.

Funding

- The operation is facing serious funding shortfalls with a high risk that WFP will be unable to deliver food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable families. In past months, the lack of funding has prevented WFP from providing a full month food ration to the beneficiaries.
- **USD 36.4 m is needed to provide food and nutrition assistance to some 600,000 people for the next six months** (October - March 2020). Furthermore, USD 5 million is urgently needed to continue airlifting food to Birao to assist the newly displaced population.

Donors

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