



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

November 2019

In Numbers

3,258 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.2m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 88.4 m six months (December- May 2020) net funding requirements

638,792 m people assisted in November 2019

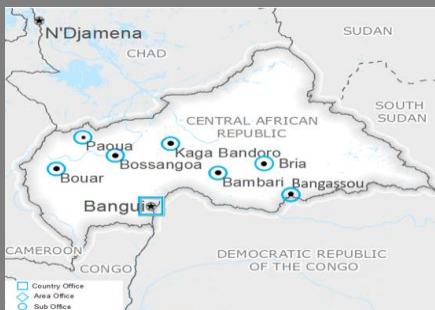
WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country that 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 – 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 2019 Human Development Index, with 75 percent of the population living under the poverty line. Basic services are non-existent, and, in many areas, people depend 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 CAR since 1969.



Population: **4.8 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low Income**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- In November 2019, WFP reached 638,792 people – 63.6 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the month – with a total of 3,258 mt of food and USD 1.2 million through cash-based transfers (CBT) in CAR.
- WFP is at the frontline in responding to the flooding that occurred in October 2019, affecting about 100,000 people across the country, uprooted from their homes. WFP has assisted over 22,810 flood-affected people in Bangui and the surrounding areas with vital food and nutrition support. Ninety (90) percent of the beneficiaries were assisted through cash-based transfers (CBT). Only beneficiaries at a site, located more than 5 km from the nearest market received in-kind food.
- A helicopter has been mobilized by UNHAS to perform assessments of the flooding situation and deliver 1.5 mt of High Energy Biscuits to families in areas affected by floods in the South East of CAR. Based on assessments conducted and in coordination with partners, WFP is preparing to also support the affected communities through food assistance for asset (FFA) activities for the reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed by the floods. WFP will continue to provide lifesaving assistance through general food distribution.
- The security situation in Birao has marginally improved after the clashes that broke out in September 2019. In November, WFP reached 10,038 beneficiaries in the two settlement sites with 100 mt of food for a 40-day ration. With the opening of the new school year in October 2019, WFP resumed its food assistance to school children in seven prefectures. In total, 138,259 school children in 274 schools received 442.9 mt of food from October to November 2019. Due to a lack of funding, WFP could not reach all 321 planned schools.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 2,158 passengers and 23.79 mt of essential cargo. The top three most travelled destinations were Bambari, Bria, and Bangassou.
- According to the results of the 2019 National Food Security Assessment, carried out by the Government through the Central African Institute of Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (ICASEES), with technical and financial support from WFP, 44 percent of the population (2 million people) are moderately or severely food insecure, of which 300,000 people (6 percent of the population) are severely food insecure. There has been a slight decrease in the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity, from 50 percent in 2018 to 44 percent in 2019, and this year recorded the lowest number of people in severe food insecurity since 2016. Land access and cultivation has improved significantly compared to previous year – the highest proportion of households reported cultivating this season since 2015. However, the analysis also showed that prices of the most consumed commodities including rice and cassava are on average 10 and 30 percent higher than the same time last year, which might be due to heavy rainfalls in September and October, cassava disease having impacted several prefectures and as well as hazardous road conditions. WFP staff presented the results of this assessment to the government, key donors, and partner organizations.

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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
175 m	99.6 m	88.4 m

*Figures as of: November 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)

Gender and Protection

- In November, WFP marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence under the theme, "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!". The objective was to achieve greater awareness on gender-based violence and motivate prevention through knowledge. WFP CO organized an event with different spoken word performers to raise awareness. Staff members painted the walls of the office with had prints in orange to mark their solidarity with the cause.

Challenges

- The lead time along the Douala corridor – through which 90 percent of the country office's food items are transported– and structural bottlenecks in the customs clearance continue to negatively affect the upstream flow of food items and transfer to the WFP field offices. In addition, insecurity, the low uplift capacity of transporters, and weak road infrastructure continue to limit the amount of food transported.
- Most of the roads including those to Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari, Bria, and Bangassou where WFP has operations are classified by The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) as high-risk. WFP continues to rely on mandatory escorts from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to move food items on these roads. 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

- WFP welcomed a contribution of USD 3.2 million from the Government of Japan to deliver lifesaving assistance to vulnerable people, including women and children in the CAR. Read the press release [here](#).
- Despite generous donor support, insufficient funding levels continued to affect WFP's efforts to support the population's access to food and nutritional needs. WFP requires USD 88.4 million in the coming six months (December 2019-May 2020) to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR.

Success Story

WFP provides food assistance in Birao

Since the clashes in Birao broke out in September, WFP has been providing food and nutrition support to the newly displaced people. This month, WFP highlights the story of Fatimé Tidjani (pictured in the page above). Read the full article [here](#).

Donors

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