



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief December 2019

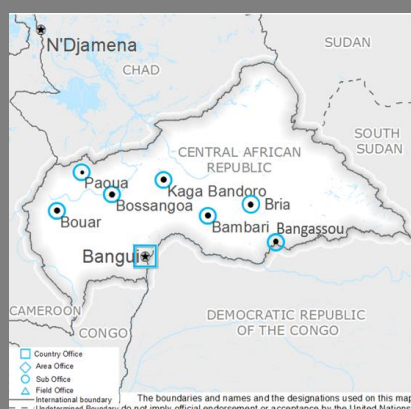


## Operational Context

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 in 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 2018 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 on 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 improve 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

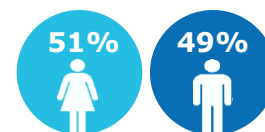
## In Numbers

1,752 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.1 million cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 73.4 million six-month (January – June 2020) net funding requirements

536,456 people assisted in December 2019



## Operational Updates

- In December, WFP reached a total of 536,456 people through food and nutrition assistance. Over 1,752 mt of food was distributed and USD 1.1 million in cash assistance transferred, which represented 52 percent of the planned cash disbursement. The underachievement was due to a lack of resources, which, coupled with insecurity in certain areas, affected WFP's access and reach. Similarly, only 53 percent of planned beneficiaries in December could be assisted, while almost 100,000 people who received cash-based transfers in November did not receive assistance in December. In areas such as Birao, due to insecurity, WFP was unable to provide support.
- WFP provided unconditional resource transfers (in-kind and cash) to 400,564 people, including 194,228 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 91,247 returnees and refugees, and 250,981 host populations to help them meet their basic food and nutrition needs.
- WFP continued the distribution of specialised nutritious foods, reaching 1,226 children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). During the month of December, no food assistance could be provided under the blanket supplementary feeding programme for the prevention of MAM, due to a lack of resources.
- Through the school feeding programme, WFP provided daily hot and varied school meals to 114,606 children in 166 schools in seven prefectures across the country, to contribute to covering the nutritional needs of the children, but also to improve their school enrolment, sustain attendance, and bridge gender inequalities in assisted primary schools. Due to a lack of resources, WFP could not reach all 321 planned schools.
- Under the food assistance for asset (FFA) programme, WFP assisted 20,060 shock-affected vulnerable people through food and cash transfers to cover their basic food and nutrition needs, while integrating them in community asset creation activities, such as the cultivation of land for crop farming and construction of farm-to-market feeder roads. The technical support provided aims to help communities to improve their food security and livelihoods and enhance their resilience to future shocks, through assets created.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic)

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)
175 million	72.5 million	73.4 million

## 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)

- WFP continued its emergency response to flood victims, following heavy rains that occurred in October 2019 and affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country. WFP assisted 47,000 people in Bangui and surrounding areas with vital food and nutrition support, including 20,600 beneficiaries assisted through cash-based transfers in areas with functional markets. At one site located far away (more than 5 km) from the nearest market, in-kind food was distributed to cover the immediate food needs.
- WFP through its partnership with UNHCR assisted 718 returnees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 2,063 passengers and 23 mt of light cargo consisting of food, non-food and medical items in 35 sites across the country.
- The security situation in the country has deteriorated sharply, with increased fighting between armed groups in different parts of the country. In the capital, Bangui, fighting erupted in the mainly-Muslim PK5 neighbourhood between local fighters and traders over tax extortion from militia groups. Fighting also broke out in Am Dafok, 65 km from Birao, resulting in significant population movements to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) displacement site. WFP is closely monitoring the situation and despite the challenging security conditions, plans to organize a distribution in January to respond to the arising needs. Moreover, WFP conducted a security assessment mission to Alindao and Bambari to evaluate safe mitigation measures which could be implemented, to allow WFP to could continue delivering its assistance in these conflict-affected areas.

## Challenges

- Access restrictions due to the deteriorating insecurity continue to impede the implementation of WFP's operations in certain areas and deep field locations.
- Pipeline breaks and a severe funding shortfall are hampering the planned delivery of food and nutrition assistance to targeted beneficiaries, especially conflict and shock affected populations, children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). As a result of funding deficits, WFP has been unable to provide a full month food ration to beneficiaries, and the blanket supplementary feeding programme for children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) has been suspended for the past four months. PLW are currently not receiving any nutrition support either. To cover the gaps, WFP urgently requires USD 88.7 million from January to June 2020, including USD 2.6 million to continue providing critical nutrition interventions for the treatment and prevention of MAM.

## Donors

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