



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief February 2020



## Operational Context

The humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains one of the deepest, acute, and damaging in world. It is among the top 5 humanitarian crisis in the world considering the proportion of the people in humanitarian need and the total population.

The country is grappling with numerous challenges with poverty remaining stubbornly widespread and high. The country ranks 188 out of 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Index, with 75 percent of its population living under the international poverty line ((\$1.90 per day). Basic services are non-existent, and, in many areas, people depend entirely on humanitarian aid for basic services and livelihood opportunities. These aggravating factors have multiplied the impact of the crisis which has rendered one in four citizens displaced and chronically food insecure.

CAR has a population of about 4.9 million people, about half of which needs food assistance. The 2019 National Food Security Assessment (NFSA) shows that 44 percent of the population (2.1 million) are food-insecure, including 6 percent (300,000), who are severely food insecure.

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**

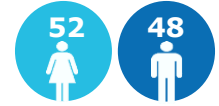
## In Numbers

**2,509 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 1.3 million** cash-based transfers

**US\$ 79 million** six-month (March – August 2020) net funding requirements

**544,396 people assisted**  
in February 2020



## Operational Updates

- In February, WFP reached 544,396 people - 61 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the month with food and nutrition assistance through general food distributions, nutrition, and resilience building activities. WFP distributed over 2,509 mt of food and transferred USD 1.3 million in cash assistance.
- A budget revision covering the period from 2021 to 2022 is underway to address the growing humanitarian needs in CAR and refine life-saving interventions. This revision is in line with WFP's plan to align the Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020 with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2027) and the 2017-2021 National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan of the Government of CAR.
- Inter-communal violence erupted in Ndélé, a remote village in the north-eastern part of the country, between two ethnic groups (Goula and Rounga) within the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic (FPRC) armed group. Hundreds of civilians fled the fighting area and settled around the base of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission. As an immediate response, WFP is sending food items to assist the affected people. However, a further deterioration of the security situation is likely to compromise WFP's plan to pre-position food for Birao in the far north (1,000 km from Bangui) before the rainy season starts in May.
- Due to resources and logistical challenges, food baskets were disrupted for some activities, and beneficiaries in some areas, including Zemio, Rafai, and Bakouma, were not assisted.
- WFP continued school feeding programme activities in CAR, reaching 52,471 children with 120 mt of daily hot and nutritious food in schools. This programme helps to address schoolchildren's nutritional needs, increase enrolment and attendance rates, decrease drop-out rates, improve cognitive abilities, and constitute essential social safety nets in crisis-affected communities. WFP is revising the list of schools to ensure that all eligible schools receive assistance

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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

## WFP Country Strategy

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2018-2020)		
2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
228 million	49 million	79 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)

- Prevention of acute malnutrition activities were not implemented due to a shortage in Super Cereals caused by the unexpected long lead time in receiving commodities from the Douala Corridor in Cameroon. WFP is increasing efforts to resume this activity in March
- Through food assistance for asset creation (FFA) activities, WFP assisted 30,780 beneficiaries (including 16,021 women) in Nana Mambere, Mambere Kadei, Ouham Pende, Nana Gribizi, Kemio, Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye to cover their immediate food needs and build assets. A total of 59 mt of food was distributed.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 1,918 passengers and 47.41 mt of essential cargo. The top three most travelled destinations were Paoua, Bria, and Bangassou.

## Monitoring

- Humanitarian needs in Bossangoa increased due to the recent security situation in the area. The monitoring activities also revealed that some women sell specialized nutritious food given to their children to meet other needs. Plans are underway to update beneficiary lists and to sensitize beneficiaries against selling their food.

## Donor Relations

- A delegation from the German and Belgian Embassy, as well as representative of the Swiss Confederation from Cameroon, visited WFP FFA activities implemented in Paoua.

## Challenges

- WFP intermittently suspended activities in the north-eastern part of the country due to violent incidents in Birao, the north-eastern part of the country, near the Sudanese border. WFP, therefore, conducted a mission to Birao to assess the situation and find ways to continue delivering its assistance to the displaced persons.
- WFP CAR continues to face challenges in importing food items through the Douala corridor (Cameroon). As a result, WFP distributions were hampered by limited food stocks, especially Super Cereals, which led WFP to temporarily suspend activities for the prevention of malnutrition.

## Donors

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