



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

April 2020



Operational Context

The humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains one of the deepest, acute, and damaging in the world. It is among the top 5 humanitarian crises 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 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 (USD 1.90 per day). Basic services are non-existent, and, in many areas, people depend entirely on humanitarian assistance 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 4.8 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**

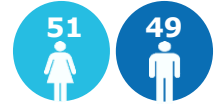
In Numbers

1,634 mt of food distributed

USD 1 million cash-based transfers

USD 129 million six-month (May – October 2020) net funding requirements

508,895 people assisted in April 2020



Operational Updates

Coronavirus (COVID-19) response:

- With 179 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 11 May, the needs in Central African Republic are increasing. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the mitigation measures taken to contain the outbreak may increase the vulnerability of many people to food insecurity in the context of dramatic slow-down of the economy, rising unemployment, threats to food supply and access.
- The prices of food items (such as rice, sugar, soap, and oil) have significantly increased since March 2020 because of the closure of borders, delay in the transportation of goods and increase in transportation costs. It is projected that this trend will continue in the coming months and, in the absence of food and nutrition assistance, it will exacerbate the conditions of poor households and vulnerable populations.
- The [2020 Global Report on Food Crisis](#) published on 20 April, indicated an increase in the number of acute food insecure people and alerted that the COVID-19 pandemic risks to further escalate these figures, as some containment measures are affecting the social and economic situation of vulnerable people. Poor rains, high food prices and unresolved political and economic instability could also worsen acute food insecurity levels in 2020 and disrupt livelihoods, especially in fragile contexts and particularly for the most vulnerable people working in the informal agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.
- In April, WFP reached 508,895 people — 79 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the month — with food and nutrition assistance through general food distributions, and nutrition activities. WFP distributed 1,634 mt of food and transferred USD 1 million in cash assistance. School feeding and resilience building activities such as food assistance for assets have been temporarily discontinued.
- WFP is taking measures to mitigate risks for beneficiaries. Food distribution methods have been reviewed to reduce congestion and limit the risk of infection during distributions. Layouts at distribution sites have also been redesigned to allow physical distancing.

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Main photo
Credit: WFP/Bruno DJOYO
Caption: WFP Beneficiary washing hands at a distribution site.

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 | 60 million | 129 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, in partnership with health centres and partners, distributed 5.8 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 2,820 children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of acute malnutrition and provided cash-based assistance to 7,800 HIV patients under antiretroviral therapy. As a result of the shortage in SuperCereals, no assistance could be provided to pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and for the prevention of acute malnutrition activities.

- On 1 April, inter-communal clashes resumed in N'délé, (a town in the north-eastern prefecture of Bamingui-Bangoran) between ethnic Goula and Rounga elements from the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic (FPRC). At least 37 people were killed in the incident which led to population movements. WFP provided food assistance to 18,698 affected population (IDPs in camps and host families).

UNHAS

- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), transported 980 passengers and 64.44 mt of essential cargo. The top three most travelled destinations were Bangassou, Bambari and Ndelé. Following the start of the regional passenger air service across East and West Africa, UNHAS CAR is planning to commence flights from Kinshasa to CAR.

Monitoring

- WFP is adapting its monitoring system to COVID-19 related restrictions by piloting remote data collection via phone calls.

Funding

- WFP's funding requirements have significantly increased in view of the COVID-19 context, which risks having devastating effects on the livelihoods and food security of the most vulnerable populations. With the approach of the lean season and 2.4 million people projected to be food insecure, WFP requires USD 113 million for the period May-October 2020.

Partnerships

- WFP is working with the Government to strengthen measures to contain the spread of the virus especially from the Cameroon border to Bangui. WFP is also working on providing mobile storage units to be used as COVID-19 control station at the customs checkpoints for drivers and trucks coming from Cameroon.

Challenges

- WFP CAR continues to face challenges in importing food items through the Douala corridor (Cameroon). In April, insecurity across the country affected the transportation of food in the country. As a result, WFP distributions were hampered by limited food stocks, which led WFP to reduce rations.

Donors

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