



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief June 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 five 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 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 (NFA) 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. On 13 March, CAR recorded its first case of COVID-19.



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**

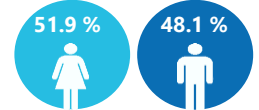
In Numbers

2,224 mt of food distributed

USD 1.1 million cash-based transfers

USD 83 million - six-month (July – December 2020) net funding requirements

669,695 people assisted in June 2020



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP reached 669,695 people (85 percent of the targeted beneficiaries for the month) with food and nutrition assistance through general food distributions, nutrition, and resilience building activities. WFP distributed 2,224 mt of food and disbursed USD 1,098,022 in cash assistance (which represented 68 percent of the planned cash transfers). However, due to funding constraints, WFP was forced to reduce the ration for general food distributions in June. The cereal ration was reduced from 350 to 270 gr/per/day. The COVID-19 crisis led to a reduced flow of goods along the Douala corridor, affecting WFP's food stock
- WFP also launched assistance to COVID-19 patients and people under quarantine in Bangui, Paoua, Bambari, Bria, who received food rations intended to mitigate the immediate negative socio-economic impact of the pandemic on their households. In Bangui, WFP provided institutional feeding via a partnership with the hospitals hosting COVID-19 patients.
- Preparation is well underway to launch a cash-based transfer to assist vulnerable people (IPC phase 3) affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangui. More than 54,000 people in the suburban of Bangui including Bimbo, the 3rd, 6th and 7th *arrondissements* (*districts*).
- COVID-19 Updates:** The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in CAR increased sharply, rising from 64 on 31 April to 4,200 on 9 July, with 52 deaths. The highest number of cases are recorded in Bangui, the capital. However, local transmission is increasing and rapidly spreading to remote parts of the country, where the already vulnerable population face challenges such as poor nutrition and limited access to health services.
- WFP has developed a mid-term programme strategy to respond and mitigate the impact of the pandemic in CAR. The strategy focusses on strengthening lifesaving programmes, enhancing social protection through school-based programmes, and strengthening food systems through the protection of livelihoods.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Bruno DJOYO

Caption: WFP Beneficiary in Ndelé after distributions in May

WFP Country Strategy

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2018-2022)		
2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
228 million	115 million	83 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)

- The security situation remains volatile across the country. A resurgence of military confrontations between non-state armed groups, Government and the UN forces in addition to cases of intimidation /harassment against humanitarian personnel had negatively affected WFP activities. Also, armed attack, theft, assault, intrusion and burglary involving UN organizations, international and national NGOs had significantly increased. In Bambari, a WFP convoy in which three staffs returning from a mission 24 km from the entrance to the town of Grimari, have been subject to a robbery perpetrated by an armed group.
- **The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR by managing UNHAS. UNHAS, transported 1,125 passengers and 50 mt of freight.
- WFP had launched a regional passenger air service to ensure the humanitarian community and medical personnel can rapidly reach the areas where they are most needed, in full compliance with public health procedures. The flight service which started in May links Bangui to Accra.

Monitoring

- WFP is assessing the effects of COVID-19 on food prices and the food security implications through its regular price monitoring system. The analysis also shows the absence of generalized speculation but rather localized speculation specific to certain food items on certain markets in Bangui. Following the partial closure of borders, the traders are facing supply issues for imported food items like fish, chicken, sugar, milk and rice. In order to better understand the extent to which COVID-19 will affect food and nutrition security in the country, WFP is supporting the World Bank to conduct household surveys to inform the COVID-19 response.

Funding

- As WFP is strategizing to scale up its emergency assistance to provide critical support to already vulnerable people affected by the COVID-19 situation, funding is urgently required to cover the additional needs. For the next six months (July – December 2020), **WFP requires USD 83 million to sustain operations.**

Donors

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, USA.