

## Crisis response revision of the Central African Republic interim country strategic plan (2018–2020) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1 January 2018– 31 December 2020</b>	<b>1 January 2021– 31 December 2022</b>	<b>1 January 2018– 31 December 2022</b>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>2 013 840</b>	<b>(838 840)</b>	<b>1 175 000</b>
<i>(USD)</i>			
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>547 487 162</b>	<b>378 135 892</b>	<b>925 623 055</b>
Transfer	435 328 748	307 574 636	742 903 384
Implementation	54 772 753	27 895 972	82 668 725
Adjusted direct support costs	23 970 952	19 586 568	43 557 520
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>514 072 453</b>	<b>355 057 176</b>	<b>869 129 629</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	33 414 709	23 078 716	56 493 426

Gender and age marker code\*:2A<sup>1</sup>

\* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Rationale

1. The Central African Republic continues to face extremely high levels of food insecurity driven by conflict-induced displacement, limited access to farming and income-generating livelihood opportunities, high food prices and localized poor harvests. The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan<sup>2</sup> notes that of the 4.7 million population, 2.6 million people are in need of humanitarian and protection assistance; 1.7 million of whom are in critical need.
2. The 2019 Global Hunger Index found the Central African Republic to have an “extremely alarming” level of hunger, ranking it last out of 117 countries.<sup>3</sup> The 2019 National Food Security Assessment (ENSA) estimated that 44 percent of the population (2.1 million) are food-insecure, including 6 percent (300,000) severely food-insecure.
3. The 2019 standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions (SMART)<sup>4</sup> survey underlined the “very high” level of chronic malnutrition in children under 5 (42.3 percent compared to 37.7 percent in 2018 at national level). Nine out of 16 prefectures have chronic malnutrition rates over 40 percent, exceeding the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The gender and age marker should be reviewed in case of a new strategic outcome or additional activity.

<sup>2</sup> Central African Republic Humanitarian Response Plan 2020.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/results.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Health and Population, December 2019.

<sup>5</sup> WHO. *Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition, 2018*.



4. The SMART survey found a slight decrease in the national prevalence of severe acute malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months – from 2 percent in 2018 to 1.3 percent in 2019 – and in the prevalence of global acute malnutrition – from 7.1 percent in 2018 to 5.8 percent in 2019. However, only 7.8 percent of children aged 6–23 months are adequately nourished, while 92.2 percent are affected by poor child development. HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 3.6 percent and 4.3 percent amongst women. About 110,000 are living with HIV/AIDS of which 36 percent (40,000 people) are under anti-retroviral treatment of which 17,000 need food and nutrition support.<sup>6</sup>
5. Poor maternal health and nutrition in the Central African Republic is a major contributing factor to foetal underdevelopment. Prevalence of low birth weight is 13.7 percent and anaemia continues to affect women of childbearing age, with one in two women suffering from iron-deficiency anaemia.<sup>7</sup>
6. While the signing of the peace agreement between the Government and 14 armed groups in February 2019 has improved stability in certain areas, the security situation remains volatile and only 30 percent of national territory is Government controlled. The protracted conflict has caused a severe breakdown in essential services and rendered one in four citizens displaced: as of February 2020, 702,348 people were displaced across the Central African Republic.<sup>8</sup> The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that over 600,000 Central African Republic refugees currently reside in neighbouring countries.
7. The Central African Republic has one of the world’s weakest health systems.<sup>9</sup> COVID-19 reached the Central African Republic in March 2020 at the same time it was declared a pandemic. The Central African Republic’s limited capacity to respond to this epidemic implies that existing vulnerabilities of affected populations will be exacerbated, and consequential socio economic impacts will be seen in the short and medium term.
8. WFP is seeking a fourth budget revision to its interim country strategic plan (ICSP) (2018–2020) to extend operations for two additional years (1 January 2021–31 December 2022). This extension will allow WFP to align with the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework (2023–2027) and the Government National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (2023–2027). The implementation of the latter may be affected by the upcoming presidential elections; with a first round by the end of 2020, and a possible second round in early 2021.

## Changes

### Strategic orientation

9. The present budget revision does not affect WFP’s strategic orientation.

### Strategic outcomes

10. No new strategic outcomes will be introduced through this budget revision and the line of sight does not significantly change.
11. Considering the “very high” rates of chronic malnutrition, WFP will shift the nutrition intervention toward the prevention of stunting among children aged 6–23 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls focusing on 1,000 days, through both preventive supplementary feeding and social and behaviour change communication initiatives, under strategic outcome 2 (resilience building).
12. WFP will scale up its resilience-building activities in the form of home-grown school feeding and smallholder agricultural market support as per activity 6 under strategic outcome 2 and livelihood creation through food assistance for assets (FFA) schemes, as per activity 7 under strategic outcome 3 (resilience building).
13. WFP will use the next two years to transition to a full country strategic plan in 2023. This will include a gradual scaling down of activities 1, 2 and 14 under strategic outcome 1 and scaling up of activities 3 and 6 under strategic outcome 2 (resilience building). The further strengthening of

<sup>6</sup> Central African Republic Humanitarian Response Plan 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. March 2020: As of February 2020, the total number of internally displaced persons was estimated at 702,348 composed of 235,019 people on sites and 467,329 estimated people in host families. This general upward trend is due to resurgence of violence in the prefectures of Haute-Kotto (Bria), Vakaga (Birao), Basse-Kotto (Alindao) and Bamingui-Bangoran (Ndélé, Bamingui).

<sup>9</sup> WHO. [Country profile Central African Republic](#) – the average life expectancy is 53 years, fewer than 50 percent of children are vaccinated against polio, diphtheria and tetanus, and the maternal mortality rate is the second highest in the world.



FFA interventions (activity 7) will be a key component of WFP's exit strategy from the provision of its unconditional food assistance.

14. While overall targets under strategic outcomes 1 and 3 will be decreased, WFP plans to increase those under strategic outcome 2 as part of its home-grown school feeding initiatives and to fulfil its refined nutrition interventions.
15. In line with corporate guidance, this budget revision proposes the separation of activity 10 (provide common logistics and the emergency telecommunications cluster services to the humanitarian community) into two separate activities to be managed by the logistics cluster and the emergency telecommunications cluster under strategic outcome 5.
16. WFP will also enhance capacity strengthening through the provision of technical support to address food and nutrition security analysis, emergency preparedness and support the development of policies for food security, nutrition and social protection.

#### ***Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis***

17. WFP will concentrate its interventions in areas of high food and nutrition insecurity targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps and in host communities, as well as refugees and vulnerable communities hosting IDP camps.
18. Geographic targeting will be based on the recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, ENSA, SMART survey results and will be refined with a second level targeting of the most crisis-affected communities in collaboration with community leaders, cooperating partners and local stakeholders.
19. WFP will continue to build the resilience and capacity of local populations through the implementation of FFA activities using the three-pronged approach for selecting of communities.
20. COVID-19 related changes are being reflected in the revision of the 2020 implementation plan. The country office plans to carry out assessments during the last quarter of 2020 to guide appropriate programming decisions.

#### ***Transfer modalities***

21. Transfer modality choice will be informed by food security, markets and cost-efficiency analyses, supply chain capacity, beneficiary preference and the specific needs of the vulnerable population.
22. Where conditions are favourable, and markets are functioning, WFP will prioritize cash-based transfers (CBTs) and also include the corporate digital beneficiary and transfer management platform (SCOPE) e-voucher delivery mechanism where feasible. It is also anticipated that an expansion of CBT activities will lessen the burden on the Douala supply corridor.

#### ***Partnerships***

23. WFP will continue to partner with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Rescue Committee for operational research. This initiative, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, aims to test simplified approaches for addressing wasting in children aged 6–59 months in two prefectures (Kémo and Ouaka). Using this new approach, of one protocol and one product, WFP and partners aim to improve coverage and cost-effectiveness. WFP will also partner together with United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WHO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to promote water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and nutrition education to school children using school feeding as a delivery platform.
24. To support voluntary returns of IDPs and refugees, WFP will continue to partner with the Government, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNICEF, by expanding the provision of food and CBTs to facilitate IDP reintegration and livelihood creation through FFA.

#### ***Country office capacity***



25. WFP will maintain its deep field presence throughout the Central African Republic with a country office in Bangui and an area office in Bambari and sub-offices in Bouar, Paoua, Kaga-Bandoro, Bria, and antennas in Bangassou, Birao and Ndélé.
26. A staff recruitment exercise, as recommended by the organizational alignment review mission (March 2019), will soon be completed. WFP will continue to assess gaps and needs in personnel to ensure strengthened capacity at country office and sub-office levels.

### ***Supply chain challenges***

27. To address access challenges WFP will continue to implement measures to ensure uninterrupted food delivery through combining different modes of transport: i) WFP-owned fleet (56 trucks); ii) commercial trucks on tariff system; iii) all terrain-dedicated specialized contracted fleet; iv) river transport from Bangui to Mobaye area; and v) air transport as last resort option (4.5 metric tons of cargo per rotation).
28. WFP will continue to prioritize the prepositioning of food items for life-saving activities across the Central African Republic to ensure access to areas with high needs before the rainy season.
29. To lessen reliance on the Douala corridor, through which 90 percent of WFP's commodities are supplied by one forwarding agent, WFP plans to establish alternative supply routes: through Uganda, the Sudan and also an alternative port in the Republic of the Congo (Pointe-Noire).

### ***Service provision***

30. WFP will continue to support the humanitarian community with the provision of United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and its mandated logistics and emergency telecommunications clusters. UNHAS will continue to provide flight services for partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.
31. The logistics cluster will continue to provide coordination, information management and common storage services. The logistics cluster will also coordinate and provide airlifts on behalf of humanitarian partners. The emergency telecommunications cluster will provide connection and security services to the humanitarian community and connectivity to facilitate accountability to affected populations. Together with FAO, WFP will continue to co-lead the food security cluster.

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

32. Monitoring and evaluation will be strengthened through training of monitoring staff on data collection, analysis and reporting. Tools will be updated and digitalized, and innovations in remote and third-party monitoring will be implemented to overcome access challenges due to security constraints and COVID-19.
33. Activities will be monitored using the corporate monitoring approach and standardized tools, including assessment of beneficiary participation in the design and management of activities through interviews, operational research and direct observations. WFP will also collaborate with the WASH and nutrition clusters to ensure an integrated approach in monitoring nutrition and health interventions.
34. An Office of Evaluation centralized evaluation of the ICSP is planned for the last quarter of 2021. A decentralized evaluation of FFA and an internal review of general food distribution (GFD) are also envisaged in early 2021.

### ***Accountability to affected populations, protection risks, restrictions of gender and disabilities***

35. With high insecurity across the country and limited state presence, the protection of beneficiaries remains a priority for WFP. The complaint and feedback mechanism for beneficiaries assisted through GFD (strategic outcome 1) will be expanded to all activities under strategic outcomes 2, 3 and 4.
36. WFP will increase the number of qualitative studies on protection risks linked to its assistance. In partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council, WFP is strengthening its capacity to identify, analyse and reduce potential protection risks, including through community-based approaches in relation to food assistance. This project, launched in 2019 in two localities (Bambari and Kaga-Bandoro), will continue to be expanded to cover all sub-offices.



37. The recommendations from the gender-focused decentralized evaluation, commissioned in 2019, will continue to help refine gender-sensitive programming. WFP is in the process of registering beneficiaries into SCOPE to support a more efficient registration system, while respecting confidentiality and data protection standards.

#### ***Proposed transition/handover strategy***

38. WFP will reinforce FFA activities as an effective transition strategy from GFD in areas which are more stable, facilitating the voluntary returns of IDPs.
39. The outcome of the presidential and local elections in 2021 will be crucial in determining the Government's capacity for a potential handover of resilience-building activities to support local populations. WFP will continue to monitor the socio-political landscape and levels of insecurity, to adapt its programming and strategy as needed.

#### ***Risk management***

40. The provision of humanitarian assistance in the Central African Republic presents multiple risks due to the complex operating environment and volatile security situation. Supply chain bottlenecks and access challenges due to persistent insecurity and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, are the major strategic and operational risks to WFP's ability to deliver food assistance. WFP's risk mitigation strategies are already in place and the country office will continue to regularly review, update and monitor their progress.

#### ***Social and environmental safeguards***

41. WFP will endeavour to apply a conflict and protection-sensitive programming, and a "do no harm" approach, in line with the humanitarian principles.
42. WFP will seek to minimize the environmental impact of its sourcing procedures and is continuously working towards more sustainable purchasing, while at the same time fulfilling its mandate of reaching vulnerable populations with humanitarian food assistance.

#### ***Beneficiary analysis***

43. The table below shows an overall decrease in beneficiary numbers under strategic outcome 1 and an increase in beneficiary numbers under strategic outcome 2 reflecting the strategic orientation of WFP Central African Republic's resourced-based approach.

<b>TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY</b>							
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Women (18+ years)</b>	<b>Men (18+ years)</b>	<b>Girls (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Boys (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1	Current	244 470	208 476	501 276	459 178	1 413 400
		Decrease	(157 987)	(134 726)	(323 946)	(296 741)	(913 400)
		Revised	<b>86 483</b>	<b>73 750</b>	<b>177 330</b>	<b>162 437</b>	<b>500 000</b>
	2	Current			82 408	91 481	173 889
		Decrease			(61 082)	(67 807)	(128 889)
		Revised			<b>21 326</b>	<b>23 674</b>	<b>45 000</b>
	13	Current			63 839	56 653	120 492
		Decrease			(63 839)	(56 653)	(120 492)
		Revised					
	14	Current	84 690	27 690	42 770	13 287	168 437
		Decrease	(59 550)	(19 470)	(30 074)	(9 343)	(118 437)
		Revised	<b>25 140</b>	<b>8 220</b>	<b>12 696</b>	<b>3 944</b>	<b>50 000</b>
2	3	Current	0		0	0	0
		Increase	140 000		46 800	43 200	230 000



Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
	4	Revised	140 000		46 800	43 200	230 000
		Current					
		Increase					
	6	Revised					
		Current			24 671	27 481	52 152
		Increase			22 635	25 213	47 848
			Revised			47 306	52 694
3	7	Current	96 657	88 255	44 670	36 868	266 450
		Decrease	(5 967)	(5 449)	(2 758)	(2 276)	(16 450)
		Revised	90 690	82 806	41 912	34 592	250 000
<b>Total (without overlap)</b>		<b>Current</b>	<b>659 468</b>	<b>581 262</b>	<b>420 909</b>	<b>352 201</b>	<b>2 013 840</b>
		<b>Decrease</b>	<b>(317 155)</b>	<b>(416 486)</b>	<b>(73 539)</b>	<b>(31 660)</b>	<b>(838 840)</b>
		<b>Revised</b>	<b>342 313</b>	<b>164 776</b>	<b>347 370</b>	<b>320 541</b>	<b>1 175 000</b>

### Transfers

Beneficiary type	Strategic outcome 1							Strategic outcome 2		Strategic outcome 3	
	Activity 1		Activity 2	Activity 14				Activity 3	Activity 6	Activity 7	
	Refugees, IDPs, returnees, crisis-affected host communities		School-age children	Children 6-59 months	Anti-retroviral patients	Anti-retroviral patients' household members	Pregnant and lactating women and girls	Care-takers	Children 6-23 months	School-age children	FFA/food assistance for training beneficiaries
Modality	Food	CBTs	Food	Food	Food	CBTs	Food	Food	Food	Food and CBTs	
Cereals	350		120					350		120	200
Pulses	90		40					90		40	60
Vegetable oil	35		15		25		25	35		15	20
Iodized salt	5		3					5		3	5
Super Cereal	60		15		250		250	60		15	
Super Cereal Plus									150		
Plumpy'Doz									50		



Plumpy'Sup				100							
Plumpy'Nut				92							
High-energy biscuits	333										
Total (g/person/day)	540		193	100	275		275	540	150	285	
Total (kcal/day)	2 152		774	500	1 171		1 171	2 152	591	1 129	
% kcal from protein											
CBTs (USD/person/day)		0.333				0.333					0.184
Number of assistance days per month	30	30	18	30	30	30	30	21	30	18	15



	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	128 752	51 928 027	65 909	25 004 473	194 662	76 932 500
Pulses	34 103	19 361 674	17 663	7 615 007	51 766	26 976 681
Oil and fats	13 307	13 112 296	7 030	6 417 937	20 337	19 530 233
Mixed and blended foods	3 623	29 823 024	18 873	8 021 425	51 496	37 844 448
Other	2 006	347 214	1 078	269 418	3 084	616 633
<b>Total (food)</b>	<b>210 791</b>	<b>114 572 235</b>	<b>110 553</b>	<b>47 328 260</b>	<b>321 344</b>	<b>161 900 495</b>
Cash-based transfers		72 956 949		72 304 620		145 261 569
<b>Total (food and CBT value)</b>	<b>210 791</b>	<b>187 529 184</b>	<b>110 553</b>	<b>119 632 880</b>	<b>321 344</b>	<b>307 162 064</b>

### Cost breakdown

44. The budget increase requires USD 381 million for 2021 to 2022. It is funded at USD 292.5 million (strategic outcome 1: USD 205.6 million; strategic outcome 2: USD 17.4 million; strategic outcome 3: USD 13.7 million; strategic outcome 4: USD 1.4 million; strategic outcome 5: USD 54.4 million). WFP will aim to mobilize resources by scaling up its engagement with donors, facilitating field missions to highlight achievements, and by approaching development-oriented donors regarding resilience activities.

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	<b>Resilience building</b>	<b>Resilience building</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	
Transfer	218 933 492	13 166 149	29 165 393	900 750	45 408 874	<b>307 574 636</b>
Implementation	13 604 100	1 953 442	2 351 126	1 053 330	8 933 974	<b>27 895 972</b>
Adjusted direct support costs						<b>19 586 568</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>355 057 176</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						<b>23 078 716</b>
<b>Total</b>						<b>378 135 892</b>





**TABLE 5: OVERALL ICSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)**

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Root causes	Crisis response	
Transfer	564 342 844	34 196 882	47 125 856	2 168 868	95 068 933	<b>742 903 384</b>
Implementation	52 342 347	4 334 865	2 816 322	1 464 241	21 710 951	<b>82 668 725</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	32 142 040	2 125 122	2 796 301	197 733	6 296 325	<b>43 557 520</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>648 827 231</b>	<b>40 656 869</b>	<b>52 738 478</b>	<b>3 830 842</b>	<b>123 076 209</b>	<b>869 129 629</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	42 173 770	2 642 696	3 428 001	249 005	7 999 954	<b>56 493 426</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>691 001 001</b>	<b>43 299 565</b>	<b>56 166 479</b>	<b>4 079 847</b>	<b>131 076 163</b>	<b>925 623 055</b>

## Acronyms

CBTs	cash-based transfers
ENSA	National Food Security Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	food assistance for assets
GFD	general food distribution
ICSP	interim country strategic plan
IDPs	internally displaced persons
SCOPE	corporate digital beneficiary and transfer management platform
SMART	standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

