



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

November 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 (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. 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

**3,097 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 850,151** cash-based transfers made

**USD 69 m** six months (December- May 2020) net funding requirements

**632,589 people** assisted in November 2020



**WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

## Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide food and nutrition assistance to 632,589 people including internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees and vulnerable households, in rural and urban areas, through unconditional in-kind distributions and cash transfers, to meet their immediate food needs.
- The COVID-19 crisis is also exacerbating pre-existing education disparities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable children to continue their learning. Despite the official reopening of schools in November after seven months of closure because of COVID-19, school attendance remained low across the country, notably in the Vakaga prefecture in the far north, Haut Mbomou in the southeast, and parts of Ouham and Ouham Pendé in the west. Insecurity in these regions has been a significant concern. WFP resumed the provision of hot meals to school children across the country to encourage attendance and enable children, especially girls, to return to school.
- According to the Population Movement Commission, there are about 623,010 people internally displaced in CAR as of 31 October. The leading cause of displacement remains the insecurity resulting from armed group activities. In November, WFP provided food baskets and cash vouchers to 192,067 IDPs.
- Through its partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP provided food assistance to 250 returnees who arrived with a repatriation convoy from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). WFP is working to integrate them into activities in the areas of return; Béloko and Berbérati. Plans are underway to provide food assistance to the convoy arriving from Congo Brazzaville.
- As of 30 November, CAR has recorded 4,918 cases of the COVID-19 disease. Although the confirmed cases have declined significantly over the past three months, socio-economic activities are still operating at a slower pace in major cities where some businesses remain closed and transport prices high. The prices of local food products such as cereals and tubers have recorded a seasonal decline. However, the reduction in household income and the increase in the prices of imported products continue to negatively affect the purchasing power of households.
- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, transported 2,329 passengers and 183 tons of essential cargo.

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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/Amaya Amigo

Caption: An FFA beneficiary in Bangui

### Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>224 million</b>	<b>101 million</b>	<b>69 million</b>

\*Six months Net Funding Requirements as of 08 December 2020.

#### 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 centre 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)

- In November, WFP marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence under the theme, "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" The objective was to achieve greater awareness on gender-based violence and motivate funding to ensure essential services for survivors of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 crisis, focus on prevention, and collection of data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated key risk factors for violence against women and girls, such as food shortages, unemployment, economic insecurity, school closures and the threat of civil unrest. As part of its gender-sensitive intervention strategy, WFP is systematically integrating issues related to gender equality and women empowerment in its activities and aims for equity in addressing the food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys.

## Funding

- WFP welcomed a contribution of **USD 2.8 million** from the Government of Japan to deliver lifesaving assistance to vulnerable people, including women and children in the CAR. Read the press release [here](#).
- Despite generous donor support, insufficient funding levels continued to affect WFP's efforts to support the population's access to food and nutritional needs. **WFP requires USD 69 million in the coming six months** (December 2020-May 2021) to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR for 2021.

## Success Story

### WFP building resilience of women in CAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities in CAR. Many families have lost their source of incomes and livelihoods. WFP has been providing food and nutrition support to families while also building resilience.

This month, WFP highlights the story of Dorian Bio (pictured in the page above).

Since the pandemic begun, Dorian has been busy making masks to protect her community as well as financially support her son. The mother of one is a beneficiary of WFP's food for asset creation programme which is supported by DMI (Daughters of Mary Immaculate - Help Humanity International), an NGO that aims to provide skill training and education to women across CAR, so they can sustain themselves and their families. Through this programme, Dorian learned how to sew in 2019. Today, Dorian is not only earning an income from selling masks but directly contributing to efforts to prevent the spread of COVID.

"The training has been life changing. After selling enough masks and saving some money, I am planning to expand my sewing business so that I can also help other women in my community" Dorian Bio.

## Donors

Donors to WFP CAR in 2020 include Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and USA. Additional support has been provided by UN Country-Based Pooled Funds.