



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief July 2021



Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country with a population of 4.9 million people. Though the Government is working on a long recovery process since the major security crisis in 2013, CAR continues to face a large-scale humanitarian crisis. A resurgence of the country's longstanding conflict was seen after recent elections that led to further displacements and increased humanitarian needs.

At the end of 2020, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance grew from 2.6 million in (January) 2020 to 2.8 million. This includes 2.3 million people who are considered food insecure. More people are at the stages of crisis (IPC Phase 3) and emergency (IPC Phase 4). Without assistance, this could deteriorate further during the lean season. Exacerbating the situation, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, has also left more people unable to meet their basic food needs.

Situated on a fertile plateau and abundant in water resources, CAR has considerable agricultural potential. It also has a wealth of mineral resources. However, due to the multifaceted challenges, relevant socio-economic development indicators in CAR show a bad standing with 75 percent of the population living under the international poverty line (USD 1.90 per day).

WFP operations are focused on life-saving interventions to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable crisis-affected people while simultaneously contributing to Government capacity strengthening and supporting recovery programmes in relatively secure areas. WFP provides support to smallholder farmers in restoring and enhancing their productive assets, as well as building resilience to future crises. WFP has been present in CAR since 1969.



Population: **4.8 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

2019 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children between 6-59 months**

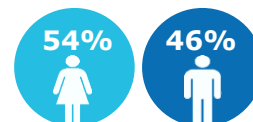
In Numbers

3,616 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2.3 million cash-based transfers made

USD 54 m six months (August 2021-January 2022) net funding requirements

753,058 people assisted in July 2021



Operational Updates

- The Food security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is deteriorating because of significant limitations of humanitarian access. According to the April 2021 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 2.3 million people were food insecure. Among those, more than 632 000 (13 percent of population) were in an emergency (phase 4), on the verge of famine. As of July, monitoring data shows an increase of 13 percent in the number of food insecure people. About 2.6 million people or 57 of the population, are food insecure. Of those, 1 million are classified as being in an emergency (IPC 4), and out of those, more than 250,000 are at a high risk of a catastrophic situation and largely inaccessible. Without safe, sustained, and unimpeded humanitarian access to the areas of highest food insecurity, several people will slip into a food security catastrophe in key pockets of the country.
- The humanitarian situation is at its worst level in five years. However, humanitarians continue to experience significant access limitations, making assisting the 2.8 million people in need even more challenging. Safe and unhindered humanitarian assistance by air and road to areas in the north-west and South-east is hampered by active conflict, shifting frontlines and the presence of explosive devices. Given the rainy season, the humanitarian community's ability to deliver at scale by road is further hindered in most affected areas.
- In July, despite the access limitations, WFP supported 753,058 people by distributing 3,616 metric tons of food and cash-based assistance amounting to USD 2.3 million. The access constraints, especially in the south east, significantly affected assistance delivery. As a result, there were no distributions in areas such as Basse Kotto and Rafai.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Bruno Djoyo. Caption: WFP beneficiary

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
203 m	97 m	54 m

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

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)

- Based on the latest nutrition assessments, CAR continues to face a deterioration of the nutritional situation. The Nutrition Cluster estimates that the number of children suffering acute malnutrition is likely to reach an alarming level by the end of the lean season. The number of children aged 6-59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is likely to increase by 29 percent, passing from 62,400 to 80,000; while the number of children aged 6-59 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) is likely to increase by 19 percent, passing from 143,000 to over 177,000. WFP supported 49,093 children aged 6-59 through malnutrition prevention activities and 20,203 children aged 6-59 through treatment activities. WFP also continued to support the prevention of stunting for children aged 6-23 months at community level.
- As part of its response to the ongoing agricultural lean season (May-August), WFP has supported 700,000 food-insecure people with food assistance. WFP plans to reach 1.28 million people with in-kind food assistance by the end of the period, typically when food is scarce in the country.
- Given the deterioration of the situation, the need for assistance has become more critical. Most conflict-affected people will continue to rely on WFP for food assistance in the coming months. However, unless the funding gap is urgently addressed, WFP will not be able to provide the much-needed assistance to all the affected population. **WFP urgently requires USD 54 million from August 2021 to January 2022** to carry out its planned lifesaving operations.

Common Humanitarian Services

- The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) supported humanitarian operations by transporting 2,497 passengers and 55 mt of cargo to 32 locations.

Donors

Top 5 donors to WFP CAR CSP 2018-2022 include USA, Germany, Canada, Japan, and European Commission. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds and OCHA.