



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

## August 2021



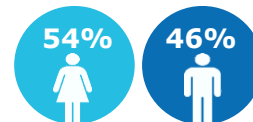
## In Numbers

2,655 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2.6 million cash-based transfers made

USD 49 m six months (September 2021-February 2022) net funding requirements

609,779 people assisted in August 2021



## Operational Updates

- In August, WFP reached 609,779 people with food assistance through in-kind food distribution and cash-based transfers in the Central African Republic (CAR). As rainfall continues, access and extended lead time remain considerable challenges undermining WFP timely distribution in certain sites.
- Following recent conflicts in Basse Kotto and Batangafo, the need for humanitarian assistance increased. The conflict in Batangafo alone led to an increase in displaced persons from 20,375 to 40,895. WFP supported all the newly displaced persons but could not provide full rations to ensure food assistance in all the affected areas, including Sibut (IDPs from Bambari), Tiri, Kabo and Sido. WFP supported a total of 61,269 displaced persons (40,143 female and 41,540 male) in August.
- The total number of internally displaced people (IDP) in CAR is estimated at 712,945 individuals as of 31 August 2021. There was an increase of 3 percent (22,240 IDPs) in August compared to July (690,705 IDPs) because of a surge in new IDPs, mainly in the Ouham-Pendé, Ouaka, Mambéré-Kadeï, Haute-Kotto and Basse-Kotto Prefectures and in the capital Bangui. The displacements are driven mainly by armed clashes.
- The data collected from the recent WFP mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (mVAM) conducted in August 2021 revealed that some 2 million people across CAR have insufficient food consumption, an overall improvement compared to the last four months (2.6 million). Given the current levels of food insecurity and access constraints in several locations, millions of people are likely to remain food-insecure in CAR within the following months. It is essential to maintain access to food assistance to sustain the current achievements and prevent further deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation.

### 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**

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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/Bruno Djoyo.

Caption: WFP team preparing distributions at an IDP site in Bria.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
203 m	136 m	49 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)

- Incidents involving the use of explosive devices by armed groups increased since mid-April 2021, particularly in the west of the Central African Republic, a region where conflict intensified. This is severely limiting humanitarian access to vulnerable people in a context already marked by access restrictions and physical constraints. Some roads are now considered high-risks areas due to the suspected presence of explosive devices and remain practically impassable for humanitarians. Without safe, sustained, and unimpeded humanitarian access to the areas of highest food insecurity, several people in will slip into a food security catastrophe in key pockets of the country.
- In preparation for the United Nations Food Systems Summit in September 2021, a national dialogue on food systems was held in Bangui from 25 to 27 August to explore pathways towards sustainable food systems to boost and accelerate the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. At the end of the dialogue, a roadmap for strengthening food systems in CAR was developed. Recommendations that were made to the government include developing a national strategy for purchasing from smallholders' producers, implementing actions to reduce chronic malnutrition by at least 10 percent within the next three years, and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities through the development of agricultural value chains.

## Funding

- Without new funding, WFP may be forced to cut down food rations or suspend some activities, leading to a further deterioration of the food security situation in CAR.

## Common Humanitarian Services

- The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) supported humanitarian operations by transporting 2,528 passengers and 55 mt of cargo to 32 locations.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continued to provide telecommunication support to the humanitarian community. In addition, the ETC supports the Ministry of Health-managed COVID-19 call centre, which is recording over 2,000 calls weekly.

## 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.