



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic

Country Brief

October 2021



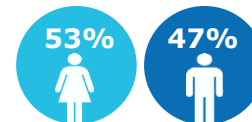
In Numbers

2,728 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1.9 million cash-based transfers made

USD 68 m six months (November 2021- April 2022) net funding requirements

547,730 people assisted in October 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). Exacerbating the situation, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, has also left more people unable to meet their basic food needs. Without assistance, this could deteriorate further beyond 2021.

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**

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP and partners distributed 2,728 metric tons of food and USD 1.9 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) to 547,730 beneficiaries (76 percent) out of 944,931 planned. Of this number, 35 percent were assisted through cash-based interventions. The beneficiaries reached included **144,174 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 164,423 returnees and 239,133 members of host communities**. Fifty-three percent of all beneficiaries were women. The gradual phase-out of unconditional cash transfers in Bangui and non-implementation of school feeding activities because of the school breaks affected the number of people reached in October.
- The latest [Integrated Food Security Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) (September 2021) showed that 2.1 million people (47 percent of the population) will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or above) until March 2022, including around 620,000 people in emergency (IPC phase 4). It also projects that from April to August 2022, the number of food-insecure people will increase to 2.4 million — **48 percent of the total population** — due to the lean season and in the absence of food assistance. This number will include around **689,000 people in emergency (IPC Phase 4)**. Some 68 sub-prefectures out of the current 71 were analysed and 20 are in an emergency phase (phase 4) and 17 in crisis phase (phase 3) with extremely difficult living conditions. Between 15 and 19 percent of the population previously in phase 3 are already classified in phase 4 and the risk of all these sub-prefectures falling into Phase 4 is very high.
- The IPC acute malnutrition analysis also revealed that nearly **214,000 children aged 6-59 months and more than 98,000 pregnant or lactating women and girls** are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition until August 2022. Among these, nearly 67,000 children are likely to be severely malnourished and require urgent care.

Contact info: vigno.houkanli@wfp.org/ fiona.addae@wfp.org

Country Director: Peter Schaller

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic

Main photo: Credit: WFP/Bruno Djoyo. Caption: FFA Participant in Bouar

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
204 m	137 m	68 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)

The [2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview \(HNO\)](#) indicates that in 2022, **3.1 million Central Africans — 63 percent of the population — will need humanitarian assistance and protection.** Of these, 2.2 million people will have severe humanitarian needs (14 percent more than 2021). The recurring violence, persistence of shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the deterioration of essential services have significantly degraded the population's living conditions in 2021. The people's resilience continues eroding under the weight of successive crises and economic recession, forcing nearly the entire population to adopt harmful coping mechanisms –skipping meals, reducing meal portions ,consuming low quality food, and borrowing money.

The evidence from the NHO also shows that food insecurity has worsened due to reduced access to fields, market disruptions and the decline in agricultural production, the primary source of livelihoods. WFP, therefore, needs sustained donor support to meet the populations' growing needs in 2022. **For the next six months, WFP needs USD 68.4 million to continue operations in CAR.**

WFP continues to use its logistical expertise to the Global Fund project against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by storing and delivering medications and health supplies across the country. In October, WFP delivered 66 metric tons of medications to 104 health facilities across CAR. In addition, 4,850 long-lasting impregnated bed nets were delivered in Gamboula, Mbaéré, Mbaiki and Bambari.

Common Humanitarian Services

- The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) served 50 humanitarian organisations by transporting 2,595 passengers and 48 mt of humanitarian cargo across CAR.

Funding

- The sixth budget revision to the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2018 - 2022) has been approved. The modification is in response to the increasing food insecurity, high food prices, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, and persistent insecurity. The new budget plans to reach 1,522,900 people instead of the 1,175,000 beneficiaries initially planned. The entire ICSP requires USD 955 million but it is less than 50 percent funded. **WFP still needs USD 497 million to maintain its response for the rest of the period.**

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.