



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Central African Republic

## Country Brief

November 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**

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

## In Numbers

2,294 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1.1 million cash-based transfers made

USD 76.7 m six months (December 2021-May 2022) net funding requirements

608,260 people assisted in November 2021



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### Operational Updates

- In November, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 608,260 people (292,189 men and 316,071 women) across its general food assistance (GFA), school feeding, nutrition, and resilience-building activities in CAR. Of this number, 478,402 people including 247,813 women and 230,587 men received in-kind assistance, while 129,888 people (68,258 women and 61,602 men) received cash assistance. Over 2,294 mt of food was distributed, and USD 1.1 million in cash assistance was transferred through value vouchers.
- The registration of beneficiaries on SCOPE, WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system, is ongoing. In November, WFP registered beneficiary identities (biometric) in 1,300 households in Bria and 1,500 households in Bambari. Beneficiaries in Bria used the SCOPE e-voucher for the first time to receive WFP cash-based assistance. Plans are underway to register beneficiaries in Kaga-Bandoro in December.
- Through its partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP provided food assistance to 3,370 returnees in Mongoumba and Bangui who arrived with a voluntary repatriation convoy from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The food baskets consisted of a full ration of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt. The insecurity in CAR has caused more than 735,000 Central Africans to flee to Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Chad and the DRC. About a third are being hosted in DRC.
- According to the Population Movement Commission, another 664,491 people are displaced within the country 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 76,544 displaced persons.
- As schools reopened from holidays in October, WFP resumed school feeding across the country. In November, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to 114,454 schoolchildren through its home-grown and emergency school feeding programmes. Due to logistical constraints and commodity shortfalls, there were no school meals for about 7000 schoolchildren in Mbomou prefecture.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
204 m	158 m	76.7 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)

- WFP is working on launching “School Connect” in CAR, a WFP-designed app that will digitise the data collection and analysis process in schools. It will enable school principals to improve supply chain planning and nutritional intake by digitally recording student attendance levels, meal consumption, and food stock inventories on a smartphone or tablet.

## Gender and Protection

- In November, WFP marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence under the theme, “Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!” The objective is to advocate for inclusive, comprehensive and long-term strategies, programmes and resources to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG); amplify the success stories demonstrating that VAWG is preventable by showcasing effective strategies and interventions to inspire all actors to scale up what works and; promote the leadership of women and girls in their diversity and their meaningful participation in policy making and decision making from global to local levels.

## Common Humanitarian Services

- WFP continued to provide logistical support to the humanitarian community in CAR. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, served 70 organisations by transporting 2,521 passengers and 53 tons of essential cargo.

## Challenges

- The security situation is severely hindering humanitarian access mainly in the west of the country — Bocaranga, Ndim, Mann, Koupala and Ngaoundaye. This is stalling assistance for hundreds of thousands of people in need. WFP activities in some areas were suspended due to the significant increase in security risks for beneficiaries and staff.

## Funding

- 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 76 million in the coming six months (December 2021-May 2022)** to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR. Urgent funding commitments are required to avoid cutting rations or suspending assistance in an already tense and volatile context.

## 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.