



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

May 2022



Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country with a population of 5.4 million people. Though the Government is working on a long recovery process since the major security crisis in 2013, a resurgence of the country's longstanding conflicts was seen after recent elections that led to further displacements and increased humanitarian needs. There are over 1.9 million displaced people within CAR and in neighbouring countries, including 658,265 internally displaced persons.

The updated **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in CAR for April – August 2022** confirmed a total of 2.2 million people facing high acute food insecurity, including 638,000 people in Emergency (Phase 4). These figures remain among the highest CAR has ever seen. In the country, 45 sub-prefectures and 3 arrondissements of Bangui are classified as Phase 3 (Crisis), of which 22 are on the verge of falling into Phase 4 (Emergency), in addition to the 22 sub-prefectures already classified in Phase 4.

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 71 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 is using satellite imagery data for remote sensing on hard-to-reach area and mobile vulnerability analysis mapping data to monitor Food Security trend and food prices on the market. WFP has been present in CAR since 1969.



Population: 5.4 million
Income Level: Low income
Human Development Index 2021: 188 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 38% of children aged 6-59 months

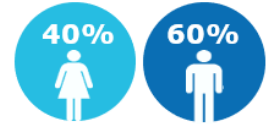
In Numbers

1,500 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 959,651 cash-based transfers made

USD 70 million six-month (June – November 2022) net funding requirements

400,912 people assisted in May 2022



Operational Updates

- WFP delivers food and nutrition assistance through its general food distributions (GFD), school feeding, nutrition, resilience-building activities in the Central African Republic (CAR). In May, out of the total **400,912 people** assisted, 42 percent were residents, 34 percent were internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 24 percent returnees.
- General food distributions:** 224,064 people received unconditional food assistance or cash transfers in May 2022. WFP in CAR is facing a scarcity of in-kind resources, leading to the distributions of half rations in all general food distributions activities. The country office will fill the gaps in the food supply chain by using cash transfers wherever markets are functional, and food is available (starting from June 2022).
- Nutrition:** Due to the lack of funding and of nutritious products, no WFP activity for prevention of acute malnutrition was implemented in health facilities in May 2022. To treat malnutrition, 20,763 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and girls (PLW/Girls) and anti-retroviral treatment (ART) clients received nutritional support through 35 mt of nutritious food and USD 141,987 cash transferred.
- School feeding:** In May 2022, 59,022 children (54 percent of the prioritized plan) received nutritious school meals through WFP's operations. In crisis-affected areas, 16,400 children through emergency school feeding with a total of 40 mt of food. Overall, WFP and partners supported 158 schools through both home-grown school feeding and emergency school feeding activities. Capacity strengthening activities on the school canteen management are ongoing with the unit in charge of schools with canteen within the Ministry of Education and partner.
- Resilience and livelihoods:** 80,665 people received food assistance for asset creation (FFA) through USD 94,804 transferred and 135 mt of food in Bangui and 5 sub-prefectures in May 2022. Due to the lack of resources for the cash-based transfer (CBT) programmes, the amount received for 15 working days will be reduced to USD 20 in June, July, and August 2022 (initial amount: USD 30)
- Analysis of Gaps and Capacity Building Needs of WFP Cooperating Partners:** This mapping launched in May 2022 presents the capacities and gaps of the Government, national and international NGOs, and provides a baseline to monitor progress in the implementation of capacity strengthening activities.
- Registration of beneficiaries on **SCOPE** (WFP's beneficiary management and tracking platform) for GFD and FFA was finalised in Kaga, Bambari, Bria and Bangui. Registration for Bouar is underway. As of May, 121,000 beneficiaries are registered, and 122 vendors are involved in the SCOPE rollout in CAR.

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Photo caption: Woman receiving vouchers as part of WFP CBT assistance.
Main photo credit: WFP/Bruno DJOYO

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement 2022 (in USD)	Available Contributions 2022 (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
217 m	66.9 m*	70 m

* Representing 31 percent of the total requirement for 2022

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 persons with disabilities, 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)

Common Humanitarian Services

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, connects Bangui to 31 destinations (in 2021). In May, UNHAS facilitated the transport of 2,069 passengers from 108 organizations and moved 10.2 mt of light cargo. Transport capacities decreased compared to April 2022, mainly due to the lack of fuel and weather constraints, which led to the cancellation of 20 flights, reprogrammed at the earliest possible. 4 medical evacuations were operated.

Logistics

- In May, WFP delivered 2,899 mt of commodities to cooperating partners and advance delivery points to cater for upcoming months response. 1,932 mt of commodities were received through the Douala corridor, and additional 366 mt were purchased locally in Bocaranga. Cereal stock levels remain very low and pre-positioning for Obo and Zemio is still delayed, in addition to the significant delays at the border in Garoua Boulai. Due to the rainy season, the road to Birao (north) is now inaccessible. Until mid-December, the airlift is the only way to move food to Birao.

Challenges

- Overall, the **limited resources** available forced WFP in CAR to prioritize 585,621 most vulnerable people (out of 872,900 people in need), 68 percent of which received WFP's assistance in May 2022. Unless adequate resources are received, WFP in CAR will continue to prioritize selected life-saving interventions, resilience building and early recovery activities using the resource-based programming approach for 2022.
- CAR has been facing a **fuel shortage** since mid-March 2022 due to the combination of the off-season, scarcity of products on the market and the globally increasing price of fuel (driven by the impact of the crisis in Ukraine). This is affecting WFP operations and transports, the humanitarian community and is expected to continue for at least a month. This will also impact the supply chain, transport costs and prices of essential commodities and foodstuffs. This will increase the vulnerability of households and may lead to an early hunger gap.
- The **security situation** is severely hindering humanitarian access, mainly in the northwest of the country. Military operations could result in further displacements of the population. WFP activities are challenged by the restriction of movement in areas under the control of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA)/allied and armed groups, and threats of explosive devices resulting in temporary suspensions of certain operations and delays in food delivery in the Northwest. May was marked by an increase in incidents involving NGOs. MINUSCA escorts remain essential.

Funding

- Despite generous donor support, insufficient funding levels strongly affect WFP's efforts to support the population's access to food. WFP requires USD 70 million in the next six months (June – November 2022) to continue providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR.

Donors

Top five donors for WFP CAR ICSP 2018 – 2022: USA, Germany, Canada, Japan, and European Commission.

Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, Switzerland, Sweden, France.