



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

June 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 addressing root causes of vulnerability over the longer term, strengthening capacities and systems for prevention and resilience to future shocks, including climate shocks. 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: <b>5.4 million</b>
Income Level: <b>Low income</b>
Human Development Index 2021: <b>188 out of 189</b>
Chronic malnutrition: <b>38% of children aged 6-59 months</b>

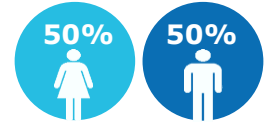
## In Numbers

**1,480 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 1.9 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 67 m** six-month (July – December 2022) net funding requirements

**437,302 people** assisted in June 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 June, out of the total **437,302 people** assisted, 52 percent were internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, while 48 percent were residents.
- General food distributions:** 296,944 people received unconditional food assistance or cash transfers in June 2022. WFP in CAR is facing a scarcity of in-kind resources, leading to the distribution of half rations in all general food distribution activities.
- Nutrition:** Due to the lack of funding and shortage of nutritional products in CAR, no WFP activity for the prevention of acute malnutrition was implemented in June 2022. Temporary interruption in the production of ready-to-use supplementary food products impacted WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment activities. WFP partially replaced it with 21 mt of fortified blended foods and provided nutritional support to 3,577 children with MAM aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Girls) and anti-retroviral treatment (ART) clients.
- School feeding:** In June, 68,806 school children (120 percent of the prioritized plan) received nutritious school meals through WFP's operation. In crisis-affected areas, 23,546 school children received emergency school meals (124 percent of prioritized). A pilot programme to integrate smallholder agricultural market support - food assistance for asset - with school feeding is being developed in Paoua. June marked the end of the school feeding activities for the 2021-2022 school year, during which 586 mt of food were distributed to 143,413 school children.
- Resilience and livelihoods:** 44,429 people received food assistance for asset creation (FFA) through USD 255,034 transferred and 21 mt of food in June 2022. To cope with the lack of resources for the cash-based transfer (CBT) programmes, the amount monthly received was reduced to USD 20 for 10 working days (initial amount: USD 30 for 15 working days).
- Cash-based transfers scale-up:** WFP will scale-up the cash-based transfers (CBT) modality for general food distributions and food assistance for assets to cope with current gaps and challenges in food supplies. The scale-up is planned for July – November 2022 and WFP will target almost 665,000 people, with nine cooperating partners. It will be funded with USD 35 million. WFP is working on extending CBT vouchers directly to 2,229 malnourished people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy in July - September 2022 in Bangui and Bria.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic)

Photo caption: WFP truck, Logistics and Security teams working together to deliver food to beneficiaries.

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)
<b>217.2 m</b>	<b>73.4 m*</b>	<b>67 m (57%)</b>

\* Representing 34 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 (2021). In June, UNHAS facilitated the transport of 2,137 passengers from 107 organizations and moved 11.3 mt of light cargo. Critical fuel shortage and weather constraints impacted the UNHAS flight plans, and tonnage transported, limiting access to beneficiaries in certain areas (e.g., Birao, Obo etc.). This led to a reduction in the number of flights (one flight instead of five per week) and the rescheduling of 11 flights. 3 medical evacuations were operated.

## Logistics

- In June, WFP delivered 2,444 mt of commodities to cooperating partners and advanced delivery points to cater for upcoming months' response. 2,589 mt of commodities were received through the Douala corridor, and an additional 500 mt were purchased locally in Bocaranga. The fuel shortage combined with heavy rains, continues to affect the transport of commodities and the monitoring of activities. Birao is now inaccessible by road and hardly accessible by air. Prepositioning for Obo and Zemio is ongoing, with a first 292 mt convoy.

## Challenges

- 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 gradually impacting the supply chain and transport costs and is drastically aggravating inflation due to the scarcity of certain essential commodities on the market. The vulnerability of households is at risk of serious deterioration, leading to an early hunger gap. WFP distributions and saving lives missions are now being prioritised and transporters are diversifying their fuel sources.
- The **security situation** is severely hindering humanitarian access, mainly in the northwest. 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 by threats of explosive devices resulting in temporary suspensions of certain operations and delays in food delivery in the northwest. The current risk of transhumance-related armed conflicts in the northwest, central and eastern parts could lead to further displacements. The upsurge in crimes continued, aggravated by a volatile context. June was marked by an increase in incidents involving humanitarian actors and civilians, exacerbated by the reduced patrols and escorts in some areas (due to the fuel shortage).

## Funding

- WFP requires **USD 67 million** in the next six months (July – December 2022) to continue providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR.
- Despite generous donor support, insufficient funding levels strongly affect WFP's efforts to support the population's access to food. Limited resources forced WFP in CAR to prioritize 664,199 most vulnerable people (out of 1.2 people in need). WFP is facing critical funding gap for its nutrition activities (95 percent of requirements as of June), preventing WFP to implement adequate nutritional support for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition.

## Donors

**Top five donors for WFP CAR ICSP 2018 – 2022:** [USA](#), [Germany](#), [Canada](#), [Japan](#) and [European Commission](#).

**Additional support has been provided by UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, UN CERF, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, France and the Central African Republic.**