



World Food Programme

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WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

August 2022



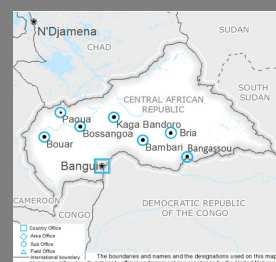
Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country with a population of 6.1 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 610,265 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: **6.1 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

Human Development Index 2021: **188 out of 189**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,992.3 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 4.4 m cash-based transfers made

USD 37.6 m six-month (Sept. 2022 – Feb. 2023) net funding requirements

848,380 people assisted in August 2022



Operational Updates

- WFP delivers food and nutrition assistance through its general food distributions (GFD), school feeding, nutrition, and resilience-building activities in the Central African Republic (CAR). In August, some **848,380 people** were assisted, of whom 78 percent were residents, and 18 percent were internally displaced persons (IDPs). The remaining were returnees.
- Cash-based transfer scale-up:** WFP is scaling up the cash-based transfer (CBT) modality to cope with the current challenges in food supplies while assisting the people affected by rising prices and the negative consequences on their living conditions. The scale-up is ongoing for July – November 2022. WFP plans to distribute immediate cash and e-vouchers in ten subprefectures, including Bangui. Overall, in August, USD 4.4 million were distributed to almost 581,000 beneficiaries (+ 58 percent compared to July). SCOPE cards were used on 20 distribution sites.
- Flood response:** WFP provided cash assistance to almost 14,000 flood victims in Bangui. In late July, around 6,000 households had been affected by flooding in seven arrondissements of Bangui, in Bimbo and Begoua, in Bangassou (south-west) and Paoua (north-west). The heavy rains continue to negatively impact the transport of WFP commodities, access to beneficiaries, and monitoring of activities.
- General food distributions (GFD):** 534,300 people received unconditional food assistance or cash transfers in August 2022. For the first time since February 2022, to respond to the increasing needs of the lean season and thanks to the donors' support, all GFD activities were carried out with full 30-day rations (compared to the half-rations distributed since February). Funds currently available will allow maintaining the distribution of full rations in September too.
- Nutrition:** Critical funding gaps and shortage of nutritional products in-country continue to impact WFP nutrition support. The nutritional assistance for the prevention of malnutrition resumed in July, but only 4,325 children aged 6-23 months received 19 mt of specialized nutritious food. WFP and the Ministry of Health provided an integrated package for the treatment of malnutrition to 26,400 children with MAM aged 6-59 months and anti-retroviral treatment (ART) clients. The preparation of the National Nutrition Survey based on the SMART methodology is ongoing and will assess the nutritional situation (prevalence and coverage) in all the Prefectures of the country.
- School feeding:** During the 2021-2022 school year, 586 mt of food were distributed to 168,399 school children. In August, school meals were distributed to 18,800 school children, including girls admitted to the end-of-year exams, thus encouraging girls' school enrolment in CAR. WFP continues to support the development of the National School Feeding strategy.
- Resilience and livelihoods:** 264,600 people received food assistance for asset creation (FFA). In August, the CBT modality scale-up allowed the transfer of USD 1.3 million (+ 91 percent compared to July) for the FFA activities, in addition to the 8.4 mt of food distributed. Preparation for the implementation of the *Projet de Réponse d'Urgence à la Crise Alimentaire en Centrafrique* (PRUCAC) is underway with cooperating partners and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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Photo caption: WFP cash-distribution (e-vouchers)

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)
217.3 m	118 m*	37.6 m (37%)

* Representing 54 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 August, UNHAS resumed 80 percent of its operations, transporting almost 1,800 passengers (+93 percent compared to July) from 104 organizations and moved 24.4 mt of light cargo. Critical fuel shortage and weather constraints impacted the UNHAS flight plan and tonnage transported, limiting access to beneficiaries in certain areas (e.g., Birao, Obo, etc.) between March and July 2022. In August, WFP and UNHAS managed to receive enough stocks to maintain an almost full-scale flight planning until the end of October, time by which fuel supplies are expected to improve.

Logistics

- In August, WFP delivered 4,502 mt of commodities to cooperating partners and advanced delivery points for upcoming months' response. 2,505 mt of commodities were received through the Douala corridor, where the movements of trucks further improved. Around 679 mt of food were purchased locally. The fuel shortage combined with heavy rains affects the transport of commodities. Birao remains inaccessible by road while prepositioning for Obo and Zemio is strongly hampered, and dispatch to Ouham prefectures is delayed, all due to poor road conditions and heavy rains.

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 fuel price. This is impacting the supply chain, transport costs, and aviation services. At the end of July, WFP managed to stock the necessary fuel to implement its activities and to resume UNHAS' regular flight schedule until October. In the Douala corridor, trucks movement continue to improve. However, this improvement is partial, and the situation remains critical for the population, which vulnerability is at risk of severe deterioration.
- The **security situation** severely hinders humanitarian access in the northwest, centre, and east. 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, resulting in temporary suspensions of some operations and delays in food delivery. Continued movements of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) were reported in the same areas.

Funding

- WFP requires **USD 67.3 million** in the next six months (Aug 22 – Jan 23) to continue providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR.
- Despite generous donor support, limited resources forced WFP in CAR to prioritize 1.02 million most vulnerable people (out of 1.2 million people in need). WFP faces a critical funding gap preventing WFP from implementing adequate food and nutritional assistance.

Future plans

- The updated Integrated Food Security Phase Classification exercise for CAR is scheduled for 26 September – 8 October 2022, to identify the humanitarian needs' projection for September 2022 – April 2023. Food Security partners aim to link the food security classification to the nutrition classification, using the SMART data currently being collected.

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, France, Sweden, and the Central African Republic.