Operational Context
Situated on a fertile plateau and abundant in water resources, the Central African Republic (CAR) has considerable agricultural potential and a wealth of mineral resources. However, the impact of the Ukraine crisis, compounding the economic downturn, has worsened households’ vulnerability. The volatile security climate, combined with intercommunal conflicts and political instability result in displacements and significantly impact households’ access to food and livelihoods. There are over 453,000 internally displaced persons within CAR and the Sudan crisis has displaced almost 17,300 Sudanese refugees and Central African returnees in the north and north-east of the country. This comes in addition to 37,300 Chadian refugees and CAR returnees in the Ouham Pende prefecture (north-west). These displacements are considerably worsening food needs in these areas where resources are already limited, and which will be isolated throughout the rainy season (June – December). The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) for April – August 2023 (lean season) confirmed 2.4 million people facing high acute food insecurity, including 622,000 people in Emergency (Phase 4). The prevalence of chronic malnutrition of 36.7 percent at the national level remains at a very high threshold according to the World Health Organization.

Implemented in CAR since 1969, WFP's operations focus on life-saving interventions to improve the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable crisis-affected people while addressing the root causes of vulnerability and strengthening the capacities and systems for the prevention and resilience to future shocks, including climate shocks. WFP's country strategic plan for 2023 – 2027 aims to further integrate its crisis response into early recovery activities, to accompany some of the vulnerable people out of crisis situations towards conditional assistance.

Operational Updates
- Some 602,200 people were assisted between January and June through WFP's general food distributions, school meals, nutrition and resilience-building activities.
- General food distributions (GFD): WFP distributed unconditional food assistance to 292,000 people. Coping with the lack of commodities in-country, WFP distributed 70 percent-rations. As the rainy season began in June, WFP transferred US$ 1.1 million and will keep prioritising cash-based transfers in isolated areas wherever markets are functional (south-east).
- Nutrition: Due to funding constraints, WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population provided an integrated package for the treatment of malnutrition to only 41 percent of the planned children with moderate acute malnutrition aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and anti-retroviral treatment clients. Some 12,800 children aged 6-23 months (41 percent) were assisted through active screening and nutrition education by WFP's partner Action Humanitaire Africaine. WFP also supported 192 people living with HIV to improve their nutritional status, health and access to income generating activities.
- School feeding: Over 6,400 schoolchildren received nutritious school meals. WFP supported the Ministry of Education to transport more than 240 bags and boxes of various food items provided by national sponsors to Ombella Mpoko's schools for take-home ration distributions. Meanwhile, WFP was asked by the Education Cluster to relaunch its emergency school meals to cope with the recent increase in population movements.
- Resilience and livelihoods: Some 75,500 people were involved in food assistance for asset creation and livelihood strengthening activities; US$ 420,000 were transferred as part of the food assistance for asset creation. Agricultural equipment to reduce post-harvest losses was dispatched in sub-offices as part of the Emergency Response Project to the Food Crisis in CAR (PRUCAC) project and white beans are being purchased from smallholder farmer umbrella organisations.
- Response to Sudanese refugees: WFP, through partners All for Peace and Dignity (APADE) and NOURRIR, supported UNHCR in providing life-saving assistance to 1,087 Sudanese refugees through distributions of hot meals and dry-rations in the Vakaga prefecture (north-east) upon arrival at the relocation site.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>454,000 people assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,900 mt of food assistance distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$ 1.5 million cash-based transfers made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$ 94.8 million six-month (July - December 2023) net funding requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact info: Camille Poingt (camille.poingt@wfp.org)
Country Director: Peter Schaller
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic

Photo Caption: woman about to receive WFP cash-based transfer assistance in Bambari, WFP/DJOYO Bruno
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 billion</td>
<td>105.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (In US$) (July-November 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>243.7 million</td>
<td>94.8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their food and nutrition needs both during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:
- Provide life-saving assistance to crisis-affected populations to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and support their early recovery.
- Provide an integrated assistance package for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW-G). Provide nutrition assessment, counselling and support for people living with HIV and tuberculosis clients receiving anti-retroviral therapy and observed treatment in crisis-affected areas.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Nutritioally vulnerable and shock-affected populations (including indigenous peoples), with or without disabilities in targeted areas have improved nutrition, health and education and enhanced access to safe and nutritious diets and school feeding in line with national standards by 2027.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:
- Provide a comprehensive health and nutrition package to targeted children aged 6-23 months, PLW-G for the prevention of malnutrition.
- Provide nutritious school meals to schoolboys and schoolgirls in targeted areas in a way that promotes local production, school retention and reduces gender and ethnic discrimination.

Strategic Result 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure and shock-affected populations in targeted areas have improved livelihoods and more resilient and sustainable food systems by 2027. Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity: Provide livelihood support and resilience building to targeted populations, including indigenous peoples and communities, through productive asset creation and value chain development.

Strategic Result 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened

Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions and partners have strengthened capacities to manage food and nutrition programmes and strengthen the social protection system by 2027. Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity: Provide technical assistance and policy support to national institutions and partners on gender-transformative food and nutrition security, social protection, emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk management.

Strategic Result 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

Strategic Outcome 5: The Government and humanitarian and development partners in CAR can reach populations in vulnerable situations and respond to emergencies throughout the year. Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:
- Provide United Nations Humanitarian Air Service services (passengers and light cargo) to the Government and humanitarian partners.
- Provide on-demand data and telecommunication services to the Government, humanitarian and development partners and the assisted population.
- Provide information management, coordination services and facilitate access to extra logistics service capacity for the humanitarian community and partners through the Logistics Cluster.
- Provide bilateral logistics services to partners to support in-country supply chains for health programmes (malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and COVID-19) and other needed commodities and services.
- Some 37,300 Chadian refugees and CAR returnees reached 35 villages in the Ouham Pende prefecture (northwest), with an urgent need for shelter and food assistance, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation support. WFP provided 15,540 people with emergency food assistance in 23 villages.

Common Humanitarian Services

The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, connects Bangui to 34 destinations. In June, UNHAS supported 110 organisations by transporting 1,800 passengers and 18 mt of light cargo, including for the response to the Sudanese refugees. UNHAS faced a critical JETA-1 fuel shortage and had to interrupt its flight rotations for a week. A recent contribution from USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) will allow UNHAS to add one helicopter to its fleet until December 2023, which will be key to maintain humanitarian access to remote areas during the rainy season.

WFP delivered 45 m3 of health products to 333 health facilities for the Global Fund Project against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in support of the Ministry of Health and Population.

Logistics

WFP prepositioned food in hard-to-reach locations affected by conflicts, including through airlifts, to ensure that stocks are available at extended delivery point level, and aligned with the needs of vulnerable populations. Some 1,316 mt are prepositioned in Birao, including to cover the response to Sudanese refugees.

Challenges

- Supply chain: heavy rains, combined with increasing insecurity and access constraints, poor road conditions and lengthy custom procedures are delaying the transport of commodities.
- Market prices of basic foodstuffs remain higher than the last five-year average, while 2023 is marked by a critical decrease in supply for markets due to higher transport prices, poor road conditions, insecurity and localized decline in supply from local markets. The recent National Food Security Survey (ENSA) confirmed that affordability of basic foodstuffs remains a major concern for an average of two out of three Central African households.

Funding

Funding constraints force WFP to prioritise both GFD and nutritional assistance for beneficiaries in IPC 3 and 4, using adjusted rations. However, GFD faces the biggest share of the overall shortfall. WFP uses the cash-transfer modality where markets are functional and supplied.

Without additional resources, WFP will not be able to cope with the increasing needs nor to provide the necessary food assistance to the additional 55,000 Sudanese and Chadian refugees anticipated until December 2023.

Donors

WFP donors to CAR CSP 2023 – 2027 in 2023 include Canada, the Central African Republic (World Bank), European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, private donors, regional or TF allocations, Russian Federation, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds and USA.