



World Food Programme

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WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

July 2023

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 results in displacements and significantly impacts households' access to food and livelihoods. There are almost 486,000 internally displaced persons within CAR and the Sudan crisis has displaced 17,820 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.



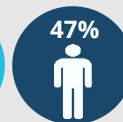
Population: **6.1 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

Human Development Index 2022: **188 out of 191**

Chronic malnutrition: **37.9 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers



268,000 people assisted

1,600 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.1 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 84.4 million six-month (September 2023 - February 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- Some **602,200 people** have been assisted between January and July through WFP's general food distributions, school meals, nutrition, and resilience-building activities.
- General food distributions (GFD):** WFP distributed unconditional food assistance to 236,000 people in July. Coping with limited funding, WFP distributed 75 percent-rations (405 grams instead of 535 grams). WFP transferred US\$ 1 million and will keep prioritising unconditional cash-based transfers in isolated areas wherever markets are functional (south-east) during the rainy season. Furthermore, 7,900 people located in the Kemo prefectures urgently received 75 percent-rations covering 15 days and complementing other actors' response as part of the rapid response mechanism.
- Nutrition:** WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population provided an integrated package for the treatment of malnutrition to only 34 percent of the planned children with moderate acute malnutrition aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and anti-retroviral treatment clients. Some 7,500 children aged 6-23 months (23 percent) were assisted through active screening and nutrition education by WFP's partner *Action Humanitaire Africaine*. The low implementation rate is mainly due to consistent funding constraints and long lead times for receiving nutritional inputs. The "Support for the empowerment of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) through sustainable income-generating activities in the Lim-Pende prefecture, Paoua" has enabled 173 PLHIV to receive agricultural inputs and farming tools, and to build their capacity to cultivate 19.5 hectares of farmland.
- Home-grown school feeding:** a total of 485,000 schoolchildren received nutritious school meals in 2023. WFP is now supporting the Ministry of National Education in preparing school-meal programs for the 2023 - 2024 school year and training school canteen workers. WFP will pre-position 815 mt in the relevant sub-offices, but still needs an additional 1,700 mt of food to cover the needs for the next six months.
- Resilience and livelihoods:** Almost 21,000 people were involved in food assistance for asset creation and livelihood-strengthening activities; US\$ 101,000 were transferred as part of the food assistance for asset creation. Committed to promoting social and environmental safeguards, WFP is raising awareness among its staff and partner OXFAM of the environmental and social safeguards involved in WFP operations and exchanged views with farmers' groups in Bria on the impact of field development on nature.

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Photo Caption: Eugenie N., internally displaced person receiving WFP unconditional assistance through cash-based transfers, next to the spinach she grows herself in the IDP camp, WFP/POINGT Camille

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.1 billion	109.5 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September 23-February 24)
243.7 million	84.4 million

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: Nutritionally 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.

- **Response to refugees:** In July, WFP supported UNHCR in providing life-saving assistance to almost 33,000 Chadian refugees in 49 villages and 1,160 Sudanese refugees in the relocation site (Birao) through distributions of 405 gram-rations per person in the north-west and north-east of CAR.

Common Humanitarian Services

- The **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**, managed by WFP, connects Bangui to 34 destinations. In July, UNHAS supported 114 organisations by transporting 2,053 passengers and 37 mt of light cargo, including for the response to the Sudanese refugees. Recent contribution from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) allowed UNHAS to add one helicopter to its fleet until December 2023 to maintain humanitarian access to remote areas or areas without airstrips during the rainy season.
- WFP, through delivery partners, delivered 18 mt of health products to 116 health facilities for the **Global Fund Project** against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in support of the Ministry of Health and Population.

Logistics

- WFP delivered 6,605 mt to cooperating partners and advance delivery points and prepositioned food in hard-to-reach conflict-affected areas, including through airlifts, to ensure that stocks are fairly distributed and available at extended delivery point level, in line with the needs of vulnerable populations.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated five emergency flights in July and three are already planned for August to support humanitarian access to remote areas of Birao (north-east), Obo and Zemio (south-east), currently inaccessible by road.
- WFP is exploring ways to extend its assistance to two hard-to-reach areas in the south-eastern CAR which have been hardly accessible both physically and in terms of security over the past year while food needs are alarming.

Challenges

- **Supply chain:** heavy rains, combined with increasing insecurity and access constraints, poor road conditions and lengthy customs procedures are increasing food transport times and the risk of commodity loss (water ingress).
- The **intensification of armed conflicts** is hindering humanitarian access in the north-east and north-west of CAR, while the resurgence of serious incidents against humanitarian actors threatens the ability to deliver assistance to thousands of vulnerable people.

Funding

- Funding constraints force WFP to prioritise both GFD and nutritional assistance in sub-prefectures classified in IPC 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.
- WFP CAR will face a pipeline shortfall starting from October onward. Without additional resources, WFP will not be able to cope with the increasing needs nor provide the necessary food assistance to the additional 55,000 Sudanese and Chadian refugees expected by 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.