



World Food Programme

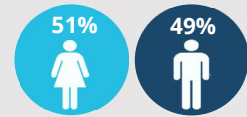
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

August 2023



In Numbers



265,000 people assisted

1,600 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.5 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 86.4 million six-month (September 2023 - February 2024) net funding requirements

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 volatile security climate, combined with intercommunal conflicts, political instability, economic downturn and the impact of the Ukraine crisis results in displacements and significantly impacts households' access to food and livelihoods. There are almost 515,000 internally displaced persons within CAR and the Sudan crisis has displaced 18,000 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 and 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 September 2023 – March 2024 projects **2.1 million people facing high acute food insecurity**, including 378,000 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 and strengthening food systems in CAR.



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**

Operational Updates

- **General food distributions (GFD):** 231,000 people received unconditional food assistance in August. 11,200 people who had fled violence on the border with DRC and 4,000 displaced people in the Ouham prefecture urgently received 15 days rations, complementing other actors' response as part of the rapid response mechanism. Coping with limited funding, WFP distributed 75 percent-rations (405 grams instead of 535 grams). WFP transferred US\$ 1.5 million and will keep prioritising unconditional cash-based transfers in isolated areas wherever markets are functional.
- **Nutrition:** WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population provided an integrated package for the treatment of malnutrition to 46 percent of the planned children with moderate acute malnutrition aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and anti-retroviral treatment clients. 20,000 children aged 6-23 months (+ 166 percent compared to July) were assisted through active screening and nutrition education by WFP's partner *Action Humanitaire Africaine*. The study on the perception of acute malnutrition using the simplified protocol was presented at the University of Bangui: it aims to analyse its acceptability to the medical profession and the communities and to strengthen it in different contexts. The results of the simplified protocol implemented from July 2022 to July 2023 showed encouraging indicators, with a cure rate of almost 88 percent. However, efforts must continue to reduce the drop-out rate (currently 8 percent).
- **Home-grown school feeding:** some 125,000 schoolchildren received nutritious school meals in 2023. WFP and the Ministry of National Education are preparing school-meal programs for the 2023 - 2024 school year and training school canteen workers. With the support of France, WFP will strengthen food systems in the Lim Pendé prefecture, including promoting school gardens and encouraging the preparation of school meals based on local production. Training courses will also be provided on cooking practices to ensure healthy and nutritious meals for schoolchildren.
- **Resilience and livelihoods:** 11,200 people were involved in food assistance for asset creation and livelihood-strengthening activities; US\$ 30,600 were transferred. WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are preparing consultations to draw up the national strategy for local purchases from small producers and the protocol for setting up a food reserve in CAR. Committed to promoting social and environmental safeguards, WFP has extended the identification of environmental and social risks linked to the distribution of agricultural kits to the sites of Bambari, Alindao, Mobaye and Kouago.

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Photo Caption: harvests by beneficiaries of resilience activities in CAR, WFP/DJOYO Bruno

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.1 billion	110.5 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September 23-February 24)
206.4 million	86.4 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:** WFP supports UNHCR in providing life-saving assistance to almost 33,000 Chadian refugees in 66 villages and 6,600 Sudanese refugees and returnees 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)** connects Bangui to 34 destinations. In August, UNHAS supported 105 organisations by transporting 2,150 passengers and 42 mt of light cargo. UNHAS urgently requires USD 3.3 million to pursue its operations until December 2023 and is facing a shortage of aviation fuel in Bria, preventing the helicopter from operating at full capacity. Drums of fuel are sent by road to cover the growing demand in Bria (Haute Kotto).
- WFP, through delivery partners, delivered 56 mt of health products towards 284 health facilities for the **Global Fund Project** against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in support of the Ministry of Health and Population.

Logistics

- WFP delivered 3,234 mt to cooperating partners and advanced delivery points and prepositioned food in hard-to-reach conflict-affected areas.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated four emergency flights in August and three are already planned for September to support humanitarian access to remote areas. A feasibility study is ongoing to assess the deployment of mobile storage units in the remote areas of Ouanda Djallé (north-east) and Bocaranga (north-west).
- One rapid response mechanism assistance planned for the Makili village in Haute Kotto could not be implemented due to poor conditions of the infrastructure (bridge) on the axis.

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

- WFP CAR operates under funding constraints, forcing the prioritization of both GFD and nutritional assistance in IPC 4 sub-prefectures, using adjusted rations. The **resilience activities are critically underfunded**, and WFP will only be able to provide assistance to 3 percent of the people targeted in the needs-based plan. Similarly, WFP expects a **complete funding shortfall for home-grown school feeding activities** starting from December 2023.
- WFP CAR will face a pipeline shortfall starting from October onwards. Without additional resources, WFP will not be able to meet 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.