



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

June 2024

## Operational Context

Despite its agricultural potential and mineral wealth, the Central African Republic (CAR) security instability and local inflation, exacerbated by global crises, have led to a decline in living standards, with 41 percent of the population facing severe food insecurity. In 2023, at the beginning of the lean season, three out of four households had no food. There are almost 451,000 internally displaced persons within CAR and the country has experienced an influx in refugees due to the Sudan crisis, displacing some 32,000 Sudanese refugees/returnees in the north-east of the country. This comes in addition to 45,000 Chadian refugees and CAR returnees in the 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 2024 reports **2.5 million people facing high acute food insecurity**, including 508,000 people in Emergency (IPC 4). The prevalence of chronic malnutrition of 38 percent remains at a very high threshold according to the World Health Organization.

Operating in CAR since 1969, WFP focuses on life-saving interventions to improve the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable crisis-affected people while addressing the root causes of hunger and strengthening the capacities and systems for resilience to future 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, using homegrown school feeding as an entry point.



Population: **6.1 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

Human Development Index: **191 out of 193**

Chronic malnutrition: **38 percent**

## In Numbers

**582,000** people assisted

**4,236 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 2.9 million** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 90.4 million** six-month (July - December 2024) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- **General food distributions (GFD):** 449,000 people (74 percent of planned) received unconditional food assistance in June. WFP doubled the number of refugees assisted, mostly in the north-east and north-west areas. Almost 60 percent of these beneficiaries received cash-based assistance. WFP transferred US\$ 2.8 million but could not resume distributions in Ngaoundaye (north-west) due to persistent access constraints. This is particularly worrying considering that 69 percent of the population there is classified as facing crisis or emergency food insecurity (IPC3+).
- **Nutrition:** WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population provided an integrated package for the treatment of malnutrition to 10,200 (17 percent) children with moderate acute malnutrition aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) and anti-retroviral treatment (ART) clients. Some 49,000 children aged 6-23 months and PBWG were assisted through active screening, nutrition education and distribution of specialized nutritious foods (SNF) by WFP's partner *Action Humanitaire Africaine*, representing 35 percent of the initial number of people targeted through the prevention activities. US\$ 77,400 was also transferred to 330 people, mostly ART clients. Nutrition assistance is limited by the lack of nutritious food in-country, particularly for PBWG. Based on available resources, prevention activities will cover the lean season up to September, while nutrition treatment activities will extend until October 2024. WFP is developing a strategy for social and behavioural change (SBC) in CAR for November 2024.
- **Home-grown school feeding:** 74,000 schoolchildren received nutritious school meals in 153 schools – or only 42 percent of the targeted schoolchildren, mostly due to limited funds. WFP and the Ministry of National Education are preparing the home-grown school-feeding programs for the 2024 - 2025 school year and trainings for all actors involved in the management and monitoring of school canteens. WFP aims to extend the school canteens based on local products to 400 schools in 2025, in line with the government's priorities and contributing to the CAR's commitment to the Global School Feeding Coalition.
- **Resilience and livelihoods:** 1,166 people in the Paoua sub-prefecture (north-west) contributed to the rehabilitation of 35 ha to produce rice, maize, beans, groundnuts, and market gardening, and will receive cash assistance in return. In addition, WFP and the targeted community, through a community-based participatory planning, identified food crop and market garden fields, and drying areas in the prefectures of Ouaka, Kémo and Nana-Gribizi (centre), Vakaga and Haute Kotto (north-east), Mbomou (south-east), Ombella M'Poko.

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Photo Caption: schoolchildren in the Sainte Philomene school in Bimbo (Ombella M'Poko) where WFP and partner DMI implement the home-grown school feeding programme, WFP/DJOYO Bruno

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>1.1 billion</b>	<b>211.3 million</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jul - Dec 24)
<b>231.2 million</b>	<b>90.4 million</b>

### 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 25,500 Chadian refugees and 24,000 Sudanese refugees through general food distributions and prevention of malnutrition among children and PBW/G in the north-west and north-east of CAR.

## Common Humanitarian Services

- The **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** connected Bangui to 19 destinations in June, transporting 1,400 passengers and 11.5 mt of light cargo for 94 organizations. UNHAS urgently requires US\$ 3 million to pursue its operations beyond September 2024. UNHAS faced a shortage of aviation fuel in Bangui, forcing the temporary interruption of rotations for one week.
- WFP, through delivery partners, delivered 29 mt of health products towards 261 health facilities for the **Global Fund Project** against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in support of the Ministry of Health and Population. WFP distributed mosquito bed nets to 460 schools in Lobaye and Ombella M'Poko (south) as a test phase before extending this programme to the whole country in 2025.

## Logistics

- WFP delivered 3,480 mt to cooperating partners and advanced delivery points. Out of the 7,400 mt of commodities blocked in Douala (Cameroon) since March, WFP, supported by the Government, managed to recover 2,200 mt but the rest remains stuck in Douala due to increasing transport costs.
- **Local procurement:** 207 mt of beans and 449 mt of maize meal were procured locally through smallholder farmers and the local company Palme d'Or, respectively.
- The **Logistics Cluster** provided WFP Supply Chain Unit with a 160 m<sup>2</sup> mobile storage unit (MSU) for deployment in Sam Ouandja – a particularly hard-to-reach area.

## Challenges

- **Heavy rains, combined with insecurity, access constraints** and poor road conditions are increasing food transport times and the risk of commodity loss. Out of 35 trucks heading for Birao (north-east), 30 have been redirected to Kaga Bandoro and Gordil due to the rains.
- **Insecurity and increasing criminal activities** keep hindering humanitarian access in the north-east and north-west of CAR. As such, WFP's cash assistance remains interrupted in Ngaoundaye (north-west), depriving almost 35,000 people of emergency food assistance.

## Funding

- **Critical pipeline shortfall starting from September onwards**, while the pipeline break for cash-based will occur in August 2024 already. Without additional resources, WFP will not be able to meet the increasing needs in CAR nor provide the necessary food assistance to the 56,300 Sudanese and Chadian refugees expected by December 2024. An estimated US\$ 4.7 million are required to cover the refugees' response in CAR for six months.
- WFP CAR is prioritizing both GFD and nutritional assistance in IPC 4 sub-prefectures and hotspots with high global acute malnutrition, using adjusted rations.

## Donors

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