



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Central African Republic

Country Brief

November 2024

Operational Context

Despite its agricultural potential and mineral wealth, the Central African Republic (CAR) persistent insecurity, inflation, fuel crisis, low food production exacerbated by global crises, continue to negatively impact the living conditions of the populations. The October 2024 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis projected over the period September 2024 to March 2025 shows that around 1.97 million people, (30 percent of the population), will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher). Almost 451,000 people are internally displaced and the north-east of the country has recently received some 32,000 Sudanese refugees/returnees due to the Sudan crisis. This comes in addition to 45,000 Chadian refugees and CAR returnees hosted in the north-west. These displacements are considerably worsening food needs in these areas where resources are already limited, with difficulty of access throughout the rainy season (June – December). The prevalence of chronic malnutrition of 38 percent remains at a very high threshold according to the World Health Organization.

Contributing to address the above challenges, 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.

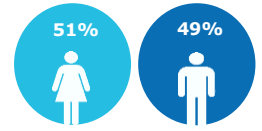
WFP has been present in CAR since 1969.



Population: 6.1 million
Income level: Low income
Human Development Index: 191 out of 193
Income level: Low income

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In Numbers



504,784 people assisted in November 2024

US\$ 1,837,280 cash transferred under general food distributions, malnutrition treatment and livelihood support and resilience building programmes.

1,397 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 59.7 m six months net funding requirements (December 2024-May 2025)

Operational Updates

Food assistance to crisis-affected populations/GFD (Activity 1): In November, WFP provided 338,069 crisis-affected people with unconditional life-saving food assistance valued at 1,007 mt of in-kind food and USD 1,713,973 in cash-based transfers. Beneficiaries included refugees mainly from Sudan and Tchad, Central African refugees returning home, IDPs and members of host communities.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (Activity 2): WFP directly supports the Ministry of Public Health for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. In November, 9,869 vulnerable people including 1,023 people living with HIV-AIDS on ART received USD 49,172 to purchase food. WFP also delivered 58 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 8,571 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 275 children 6-59 months in Bambari, Bossangoa, Bria, Kaga and Paoua.

Malnutrition prevention (Activity 3): Under this programme, WFP aims to prevent stunting through active screening, provision of specialized nutritious foods, and nutritional education activities. In November, WFP reached 4,685 PBWGs and children aged 6-23 months (2,092 PBWGs and 2,593 children) with 46 mt of nutritious foods.

Home-grown school feeding (Activity 4): school feeding activities reached 146,099 school children in 300 schools across the country, with a total of 264 mt of food distributed. The school children assisted accounted for 80 percent of the planned beneficiaries mainly due to insufficient resources and access issues due to poor road condition.

Livelihood support and resilience building (Activity 5): In November, 6,062 people from Lim-pende prefecture in Paoua commune, who were participating in community resilience building, received 22 mt of food and USD 74,135 in cash-based transfers. The activities focused on the development of drying areas, preparation of gardening sites, and harvesting. In addition, WFP contributed to capacity building of government NGO partners on the resilience/Food-for-assets approach.

Humanitarian air service (Activity 7): The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) using Bangui as hub serves 25 regular destinations with 11 ad hoc destinations ensuring humanitarian partners access to hard-to-reach destinations. In November 2024, UNHAS transported 1,567 passengers and 14.1 metric tons of light cargo to 23 regular destinations. In addition, UNHAS operated two MEDEVAC flights for WFP from BAMBARI to BANGUI and from BANGUI to DOUALA. UNHAS operated aerial assessments flights to BAYANGA but the airfield was deemed unsuitable for operations.

Logistics cluster (Activity 9): In November, the logistics cluster organized an emergency cargo flight to Bangassou to deliver 5 mt of lifesaving of food assistance as this region is inaccessible by road during the current rainy season.

In-country supply chain support (Activity 10): In November 2024, WFP delivered 47 mt of health products for Malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, and laboratory equipment, worth USD 2.4 million to 595 health facilities in Nola, Boda, Sibut, Ndjoukou, Bangui, etc. WFP also provided the Ministry of Health storage services of 270 mt of health products valued at USD 17.3 million.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.1 billion	268 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (Dec 2024 – May 2025)
231.2 million	59.7 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.

2024 COHA results: The 2024 Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study focusing on the Central African Republic (CAR) indicates that nearly four out of 10 children suffer from stunting in CAR. In addition, 26.3% of infant mortality is associated with undernutrition. The said report highlights that the annual costs associated with undernutrition among children are estimated at XAF125.9 billion (USD 201.9 million), corresponding to 9.57% of GDP in 2019. The study recommends, amongst others, the integration of nutritional aspects into the social safety net programme, as well as the promotion of the nutrition of school children through the home-grown school feeding programme.

Monitoring

- The October 2024 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis projected over the period September 2024 to March 2025 shows that around 1.97 million people, i.e., around 30 percent of the population, will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher). If adequate assistance is not provided, the number of acutely food-insecure people will rise to 2.25 million or 35 percent of the population during the April – August 2025 lean season.
- The Humanitarian Country Team validated the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2025, which aims to assist 1.8 million people in need with a total budget of USD 326 million. Persistent insecurity, inflation, fuel crisis, low food production exacerbated by global crises continue to negatively impact the living conditions of the populations.

Challenges

- The overall security situation in CAR remains volatile with a relative stability in Bangui and in the main cities. However, there are sporadic attacks by armed groups targeting truck convoys in some locations, hence adding more complexity to logistics operations. WFP maintains Civil-Military coordination with MINUSCA and OCHA in view to ensure continuous support from military escort if needed.
- The non-practicability of roads due to the rainy season, until December 2024, prevents truck convoys from reaching beneficiaries in remote locations such as Birao, Bagngassou, Zemio & Obo. Several sections of roads to those locations have reached a critical level of deterioration that requires maintenance.

Funding

- General For the next six months (December 2024 – May 2025), the crisis response component of the WFP CAR Country Strategic Plan will be facing a funding shortfall in the amount of USD 57.2 million, accounting for 76 percent of the need-based plan for the period under consideration. This shortfall includes USD 4.07 million to provide emergency food assistance to refugees and returnees from Sudan, estimated based on UNHCR's projection to roughly 40,000 individuals (refugees and returnees) from now up to May 2025. This activity will be facing a pipeline break starting from March 2025 and onward. If no new funding is made available soon, the food security of these vulnerable people will be seriously affected.
- The funding shortfall is also important for nutrition activities with USD 8.9 million (83 percent of the need-based plan). Malnutrition treatment and prevention activities will have critical pipeline shortfall from March 2025 onwards, which will pose a serious threat to the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations.
- UNHAS activities will also be facing a critical funding shortfall of about USD 11.8 million starting in February 2025 and there will be virtually no funds available in the subsequent months, making it difficult to operate regular flights to priority hard-to-reach locations in the Central African Republic.

Donors (in alphabetical order):

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, USA.

Photo: Pupils at Betokomia public school in Paoua enjoy their school meal, with locally produced food from the Food and Nutritional Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in the Lim-Pende Prefecture project, initiated by WFP and supported by France.. © WFP/Richard Mbouet