



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



135,417 people assisted in March–April 2026 (54% female)



721.83 mt food distributed between March–April 2026



USD 0.9 M cash transferred between March–April 2026



USD 36.7 M required in the next six months (May–October 2026)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Severe funding shortfalls are constraining WFP's ability to meet rising humanitarian needs, as 2.3 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity in 2026.
- Protection of human capital requires sustained investment in nutrition, school feeding, and resilience, as resource constraints threaten continuity of services. Scaling integrated approaches linking food, cash, nutrition, livelihoods, and systems strengthening is essential to prevent further deterioration while supporting recovery and long-term stability.
- Sustained partner support is critical to preserve supply chains, maintain humanitarian presence, and avoid prolonged response disruptions that could take months to reverse.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The Central African Republic remains affected by protracted insecurity, regional spillover from Sudan, and sustained displacement, with 2.3 million people projected to face acute food insecurity (IPC 3–5) in 2026, including refugees, IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host communities, while access constraints persist in border areas such as Vakaga.
- Humanitarian needs are intensifying amid a sharp decline in food security assistance, with funding reduced by over 55 percent compared to 2024, contributing to worsening malnutrition, increased vulnerability among women and children, and heightened reliance on negative coping strategies.
- Operational capacity and humanitarian access remain at risk due to reduced logistics and UNHAS funding, despite growing needs in hard-to-reach and border areas.
- WFP delivers an integrated humanitarian and resilience oriented response aligned with the CSP (2023–2027), combining lifesaving food, cash, and nutrition assistance with school feeding, livelihoods, and systems strengthening, while providing critical common services (including UNHAS) to enable humanitarian access despite severe funding constraints.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance

- Between March–April, WFP reached an estimated 60,000 people, approximately 60 percent of the

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planned target for the first quarter (January–March 2026) through a combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers, with standard rations applied.

- In-kind assistance averaged 530 g per person per day for refugees and 405 g per person per day for other beneficiary groups, while cash assistance ranged from XAF 25,000 (approximately USD 45) to XAF 50,000 (approximately USD 90) per household per month, depending on household size.

Nutrition

- In March and April 2026, WFP continued to implement malnutrition prevention and treatment activities, targeting children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women through the distribution of specialized nutritious foods and the promotion of appropriate nutrition practices, in coordination with health facilities and partners.
- Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment was delivered through a community-based approach, supporting existing health services and ensuring the referral and follow up of screened children, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, NGO partners and community actors.
- Despite continued operational and financial constraints, activities were maintained by prioritizing areas with the highest nutritional vulnerability and adapting implementation modalities to minimize service interruptions.

School-Based Assistance

- During March and April, school feeding activities continued across priority areas, reaching 251,430 schoolchildren in 336 schools. A total of 678.38 mt of food was distributed over the period, contributing to improved school attendance and learning conditions for children in vulnerable communities.
- However, resource constraints significantly affected operations, with assistance provided for 10 days out of 18 effective school days. This operational adjustment underscores the need for continued prioritisation and sustained support to maintain regular school meals.
- In April 2026, the Betokomia Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model and the associated

beans producers' sub cooperative in Paoua attracted several high-level visits from key partners and donors.

- These visits served both to showcase the Betokomia model as an integrated approach linking school feeding with local agricultural production, and to support resource mobilisation efforts aimed at scaling up the model across schools nationwide. The model was highlighted as a concrete example of how school feeding can contribute simultaneously to education outcomes, local livelihoods, and sustainable food systems.
- In the context of continental advocacy for sustainable school feeding, a delegation from the Central African Republic participated in the 11th African School Feeding Day, held on 28 February and 1 March 2026 in Gaborone, Botswana. The event provided an important platform to reaffirm the role of school feeding in advancing education, nutrition, and resilience outcomes, while promoting experience sharing among African countries.

Social Protection

- WFP supported national social protection systems strengthening by contributing to the development of the concept note for the National Social Protection Policy Action Plan, under UNICEF leadership, reinforcing alignment with government priorities and laying the groundwork for more shock responsive, coordinated and sustainable cash based and humanitarian interventions.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- More than 25,000 smallholder farmers were supported across 11 prefectures, through the structuring of 875 producer groups (76 percent formally registered), targeted capacity building, and the valorization of over 660 mt of production, contributing to more resilient and increasingly market oriented livelihoods.
- Climate adaptation and environmental actions strengthened programme sustainability, including the dissemination of climate resilient post-harvest practices, awareness raising for more than 24,600 people, and the implementation of infrastructures fully

compliant with environmental and social standards.

- Durable community assets such as storage facilities, drying areas and post-harvest equipment are being developed through strong community mobilisation and supported by community management committees, reinforcing local ownership, long term maintenance and collective benefits.
- Together, these interventions demonstrate an integrated humanitarian development peace approach, combining improved food security (76 percent of households with acceptable food consumption), progressive market access and value chain strengthening, and enhanced community cohesion and inclusive governance, with strong participation of women and functional accountability mechanisms.

Capacity Strengthening

- In early 2026, WFP delivered targeted capacity strengthening support to the *Cellule de Promotion de la Sécurité Alimentaire* (CEPSA, formerly CEGAL), training eight staff members on WFP operational household targeting standards and procedures, followed by field deployment.
- The training aimed at strengthening CEPSA's technical and operational capacity. It enabled CEPSA to better supervise and support targeting activities implemented by partners. It also improved quality control in line with WFP norms, procedures, and accountability requirements. This contributes to stronger national ownership and oversight of programme implementation.

Cross-Cutting Issues

- A social cohesion analysis conducted by WFP during the reporting period indicates that WFP assistance is contributing positively to social cohesion, with a national social cohesion index score of 74/100 across five prefectures, reflecting strengthened solidarity, trust and dignity among beneficiary communities, particularly where assistance is perceived as transparent and equitable.

Food Security Assessments

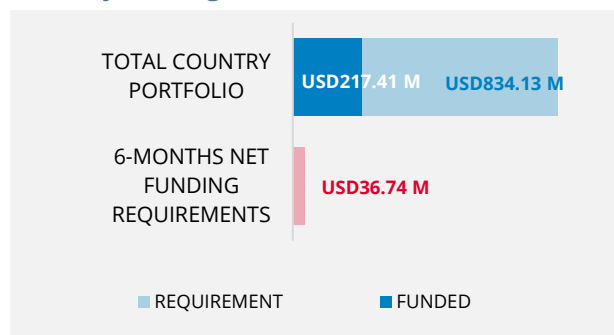
- Analysis conducted by WFP in March 2026 confirms that funding cuts continue to directly

and cumulatively undermine food security in the Central African Republic. They reduce both the coverage and continuity of assistance, leading to declines in household food consumption and dietary quality.

- Evidence shows that households affected by reduced assistance increasingly adopt negative coping strategies, including cutting food intake and shifting to cheaper, less nutritious foods, with children under five and school age children particularly affected.
- Findings demonstrate that reductions in food assistance are associated with lower school attendance, highlighting the role of food and cash transfers in stabilizing household consumption and enabling families to keep children in school during periods of economic stress.
- The analysis underlines that predictable and adequate humanitarian funding is critical not only for meeting immediate food needs, but also for protecting nutrition, education and longer term human capital and recovery outcomes in fragile contexts.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



Donors

Canada, Central African Republic, European Commission, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Private Donors, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN Peacebuilding Fund, United States.

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