



WFP C.A.R. CRISIS REGIONAL* UPDATE Situation Report #28

*EMOP 200799 focus on affected C.A.R. population in C.A.R. and neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Chad, DRC and RoC)

30 November 2016

Highlights

- Critical funding shortfall continue to hamper WFP's capacity to address the needs and provide life-saving assistance to people affected by the C.A.R. crisis. For the next six months, WFP requires USD 50.5 million to procure food and set up cash-based transfers in the five affected countries.
- The low funding level is negatively impacting WFP assistance and could lead to loss of lives, malnutrition and school drop outs. WFP was forced to reduce the rations distributed in the past months, to face this funding shortfall.

In Numbers*

2 million people food insecure in C.A.R.
—50% of the population of the country

*The number include vulnerable local and IDPs in C.A.R. and refugees in neighbouring countries.

Situation Update

- In **C.A.R.**, persisting insecurity continues to disrupt agricultural activities and one family out of two is facing hunger. Security incidents continues to destabilize west and central parts of the country, impacting livelihood of the local population, with civilians fleeing some of the affected areas. 145 villages deserted and some 3,000 households displaced in Kouï sub-prefecture. Between 21 and 25 November, violence broke out in Bria (Haute-Kotto prefecture), with some 12,000 people forced to flee, seeking refuge near the MINUSCA base. The ongoing displacement is also affecting the delivery of basic public services, with schools only partially reopened in Bambari (Ouaka prefecture) due to a lack of teachers. This situation affects WFP operations, such as WFP's school meals programme.
- Malnutrition remains a concern in C.A.R. Rapid SMART surveys conducted in the prefecture of Vakaga indicate critical levels of global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 18.1 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of 4.9 percent. A multiple cluster indicator survey and a joint UNICEF-WFP nutritional assessment are planned in 2017. A national food security assessment

(ENSA) is ongoing.

- The number of refugees is expected to increase in both **Chad** and **Cameroon** due to the volatile security and humanitarian situation in C.A.R. In Cameroon, over one million people are estimated to be food insecure in the east, Adamawa and north regions. In Chad, risk of further displacement and new arrivals remains high due to insecurity in C.A.R. Southern Chad, which hosts the refugees and returnees from C.A.R. is one of the most fertile area of the country and production for the 2016-2017 season is 30 to 50 percent higher than last year. The situation is likely to deteriorate during the lean season and the projections of the IPCC for this period predict that 122,000 people could experience food insecurity among the local population (phase 3 – crisis). In **DRC**, sporadic clashes in Bangui, the border city of Zongo, remains of concern. During the first two weeks of November, UNHCR reported the presence of 164 newly arrived refugees (48 households) in the transit site of Batanga in Libenge territory waiting to be relocated to the Boyabu camp. In the same period UNHCR also registered 38 newly arrived refugees in Zongo, fleeing insecurity in Bangui.
- Also, critical funding shortfalls continue to hamper WFP's capacity to address the needs and provide life-saving assistance to people affected by the C.A.R. crisis. WFP urgently needs USD 50.5 million in the next six months (December 2016 to May 2017) to procure food, especially for land-locked countries with a complex supply chain, such as C.A.R. and Chad.

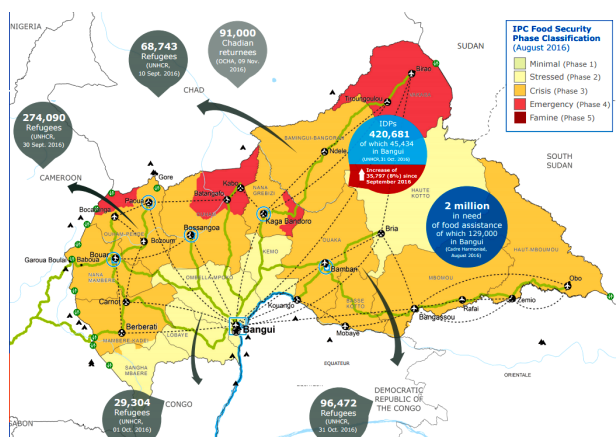


Photo: IDP in Bambari injured at the onset of the conflict WFP/ Adel Sarkozi

WFP Response

- WFP extended its Regional Operation 200799 until December 2017. Alongside continuing to respond to acute humanitarian needs of refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable population affected by the crisis, WFP aims to focus on introducing refugees' vulnerability-based targeting, recovery support activities, as well as expanding cash-based programming. A total of 886,000 people will be targeted over the five countries, out of which 580,000 people in C.A.R. itself. In C.A.R., WFP will remain geographically focused in high stunting and highly food insecure prefectures where

IDPs are located, enabling WFP to narrow its focus and concentrate resources to achieve the greatest possible impact.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In C.A.R., critical funding gaps already affect the distribution. For more than six months, WFP has been operating with significantly reduced rations to the severely food insecure households and IDPs. In November, in Bria, WFP distributed a five-day food ration to IDPs instead of the 10-day-food ration initially planned. Despite the reduced rations, WFP will have to suspend distribution on some of the key commodity as of February onward if no additional funds are received. Immediate funds are needed for prepositioning and to increase the supply capacity into C.A.R. An interruption of the assistance would have a devastating impact on the life of already highly vulnerable population, who rely on external assistance to meet their most urgent needs.
- In November, despite the critical funding gaps, WFP provided food assistance to 220,525 people in C.A.R. (82 percent of all planned people), through general food distribution (GFD) using food and cash-based transfers, food assistance for assets, treatment and prevention of malnutrition and emergency school meals. On 26 and 27 November, in response to the clashes in Bria, WFP immediately supported the integrated humanitarian response: food stocks were air-lifted—through MNINUSCA—and trucked to support emergency food distribution for some 10,000 IDPs. In addition, WFP provided a five-day emergency food rations to reach all beneficiaries in Bria. WFP is exploring possibilities to move additional stocks to extend the assistance to populations displaced by the violence in Bria.
- In Cameroon, critical funding shortfalls forced WFP to cut November and December general food distribution rations to around 50 percent for 133,600 CAR refugees under the food modality and 55 percent through CBT transfers. If new funds are not received on time to support the planned extension of the project, funding shortfalls will force WFP to further cut critical life-saving food support to over 156,000 refugees (116,000 GFD and 40,000 CBT) and 25,000 local vulnerable population (15,000 GFD and 10,000 CBT) who depend on life-saving humanitarian support for their survival. This will have a detrimental effect on the food security and nutritional status of these populations.
- In November, WFP provided food assistance to 180,616 C.A.R. refugees in Cameroon and continues to scale up its preventative nutrition programme. An additional 15,000 children aged 6-23 months will be integrated in the prevention programme. BSF distributions are coupled with health service packages, including vaccinations, deworming and vitamin A supplementation.
- In Chad, due to insufficient resources, WFP had to prioritize returnees over the planned host population during the critical lean season and will continue to do so in 2017. Ration reduction will affect beneficiaries negatively, in particular those who depend entirely on WFP's food assistance for survival and force them adopt negative coping mechanisms. In November,

WFP screened 3,000 children under five for malnutrition: the results of the screening showed low levels of malnutrition, an improvement compared to September. WFP provided cash-based food assistance to 73,803 returnees in southern Chad (10,900 under the regional EMOP in the Salamat and some 62,903 under the PRRO in Moyen Chari, Logone Occidental, Logone Oriental and Mandoul).

- In RoC, WFP cut rations so that existing food stocks will cover slightly longer period of time. The break will badly impact the food security situation and nutritional status which are showing an improvement due to regular food distribution in 2016. It will also have an impact on relations with the local population, as criminality by the refugees increases in periods when rations are inadequate or absent. However, overall 19,000 people received food assistance through GFD in November. WFP also responded positively to a UNICEF request to assist 1,253 children in the Child Friendly Spaces to support the UNICEF interventions towards refugee children.



Cash-based transfers (CBT)

- In DRC, WFP will rely on CBT as a transfer modality for all general food distributions. With imminent shortfalls expected as early as February 2017, WFP will be compelled to reduce CBT transfers to the refugees. This can create a serious food security concern. Such food shortfalls also increase protection concerns in the camps, especially because lack of food is one of the main drivers of sexual and gender-based violence among refugees.
- In Cameroon, WFP reached 22,000 people through CBT activities. For its 2017 programming and expansion of the CBT programme, WFP is working on multi-sectoral feasibility assessments in the sites of Lolo, Mbile and Ngarissingo, as well as evaluation in the refugee sites of Timagolo and Garissongo. In 2017, WFP will use the beneficiaries and transfer management platform SCOPE.
- In Chad, WFP resumed assistance to refugees since end of September, with vouchers whose value has been reduced to correspond to half of the daily recommended nutritional intake. WFP will then provide this reduced assistance to the most vulnerable only (around 35,000 people), in light of the resources constraints.

Clusters and Common Services



Logistics Cluster

- Funding was secured for the rehabilitation of the Batangafo ferry in C.A.R. to restore access to 50,000 persons in need of assistance, and works are expected to start early 2017 and last three months.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- To enable humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance, WFP provides essential common services through its UNHAS Special Operations in the five affected countries.

WFP Operation				
	2017 Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD) <i>In 2017</i>	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) <i>December 2016-May 2017</i>	People Targeted (in 2017)
Regional EMOP 200799 (until Dec 2017)	141 million	8 million	50.5 million	886,140 people

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