



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

May 2021



Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country with a population of 4.9 million people. Though the Government is working on a long recovery process since the major security crisis in 2013, CAR continues to face a large-scale humanitarian crisis. A resurgence of the country's longstanding conflict was seen after recent elections that led to further displacements and increased humanitarian needs.

At the end of 2020, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance grew from 2.6 million in (Jan) 2020 to 2.8 million. This includes 2.3 million people who are considered food insecure. More people are at the stages of crisis (IPC Phase 3) and emergency (IPC Phase 4). Without assistance, this could deteriorate further during the lean season. Exacerbating the situation, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, has also left more people unable to meet their basic food needs.

Situated on a fertile plateau and abundant in water resources, CAR has considerable agricultural potential. It also has a wealth of mineral resources. However, due to the multifaceted challenges, relevant socio-economic development indicators in CAR show a bad standing with 75 percent of the population living under the international poverty line (USD 1.90 per day).

WFP operations are focused on life-saving interventions to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable crisis-affected people while simultaneously contributing to Government capacity strengthening and supporting recovery programmes in relatively secure areas. WFP provides support to smallholder farmers in restoring and enhancing their productive assets, as well as building resilience to future crises. WFP has been present in CAR since 1969.



Population: **4.8 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

2019 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children between 6-59 months**

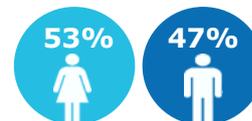
In Numbers

3,184 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2.3 million cash-based transfers made

USD 54 m six months (June-November 2021) net funding requirements

761,087 people assisted in May 2021



Operational Updates

- According to the latest findings of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, almost half of the population (2.29 million people or 47 percent of the population) in Central African Republic (CAR) will be acutely food insecure during the April-August 2021 lean season, with a total of 633,000 people in Phase 4 (emergency) and over 1.6 million in Phase 3 (crisis). Immediate assistance is needed to avert the loss of lives and livelihoods.
- In May, WFP provided food and cash-based assistance to 761,087 people in communities most affected by food insecurity. The food baskets consisted of cereals, vegetable oil, pulses, and specialized nutritious food. About 20 percent (152,909) of those assisted were children aged 6-59 months receiving preventive and curative nutrition assistance. WFP also provided schools meals and implemented resilience building activities such as food assistance for asset creation (FFA).
- WFP continued to scale up cash-based interventions. In May, WFP disbursed a total of USD 2.3 million to 265,124 people (35 percent of total 761,087) giving them a power of choice and flexibility. The beneficiaries received paper vouchers, electronic vouchers, or cash in envelopes worth USD 10 per person monthly. In view of the continuous increase of food prices across the country, WFP conducted an assessment in May 2021 to update the value of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB). Based on the findings of this assessment, the transfer value of USD 10 has been increased to USD 15 per person per month. This new value is likely to be applied from July onwards. In the context of COVID-19, cash-based interventions are providing a safer space for humanitarian assistance

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Amaya Amigo. Caption: WFP beneficiary household in

Bossangoa

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
203 m	97 m	54 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected households and communities in targeted areas can meet their basic food and nutrition needs both during and in the aftermath of crises.
Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant, lactating women, and malnourished ART patients living in target regions, have an improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020.
Focus area: *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Implement BSFP for the prevention of MAM among children aged 6 to 59 months.
 - Provide a comprehensive package for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition to children with MAM aged 6 to 59 months, PLW, girls and provide food by prescription to ART patients.
 - Provide capacity strengthening to health district authorities, health centre staff and community health workers (CHW).
 - Provide nutritious school meals to school children.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure women and men living in targeted areas of CAR have enhanced livelihoods to support the food security and nutrition needs of their households and communities by 2020.
Focus area: *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Provide smallholder farmers with transfers to support asset creation and technical assistance to increase their access to markets, including purchases from WFP supported school meals.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to establish an adequate social protection system and manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2020.
Focus area: *Root causes*

- Activities:**
- Provide capacity strengthening in zero hunger policies, strategic planning, and delivery of programmes to public officials.
 - Provide capacity strengthening to the government to establish a national social safety net platform.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian community (partners and donors) have enhanced capacity to reach and operate in areas of humanitarian crisis all year-round.
Focus area: *Crisis Response*

- Activities:**
- Provide common logistics and ICT services to the humanitarian community and the government
 - Provide UNHAS services to all partners
 - provide bilateral logistics services to partners for in-country supply chain for three health programmes (malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS)

- Works are underway to register more beneficiaries in SCOPE, WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform. As of May, a total of 24,898 households are registered on SCOPE.
- As the country faces a harsh lean season (May-August 2021), WFP plans to assist up to 1.28 million people (300,000 more than initially planned), prioritizing people with the most acute needs. The lean season coincides with the main crop and vegetable growing season, and it's the period when food is typically scarce in the country before the harvest season.
- However, WFP is facing funding constraints and needs **USD 119 million for operations for the rest of 2021** (including additional needs for the lean season). Without new commitments, WFP will not have enough resources to respond to the increased demands and may be forced to reduce food rations or suspend some activities in an already tense and volatile context.
- **COVID 19 Situation:** As of 4 June 2021, there are 10,952 confirmed cases, including 98 deaths. The national vaccination exercise was launched on 20 May by the Ministry of Public Health. The first phase of vaccination is targeting healthcare workers and people over the age of 50. So far, about 2,000 people have received the first dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine. With the second wave of contamination and the discovery of the British variant in CAR, health authorities continue to call for strict preventive measures.

Partnerships

- WFP is partnering with the World Bank on its emergency project to provide seed protection to approximately 40,000 small-scale producers, 20,000 of whom will be strengthened to reduce post-harvest losses and facilitate market access at the cost of USD 7.6 million over three years.

Common Humanitarian Services

- The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) supported humanitarian operations by transporting 2,171 passengers and 22 mt of cargo to 32 locations.

Donors

Top 5 donors to WFP CAR CSP 2018-2022 include USA, Germany, Canada, Japan, and European Commission. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds and OCHA.