Situation update

WFP’s C.A.R. Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200799 began on 1 January 2015 and spans across five affected countries. More than 840,000 beneficiaries were reached in May through the EMOP, representing 64 percent of planned figures. In June, WFP is targeting some one million beneficiaries across the five countries. A second budget revision is pending approval and aims to respond to evolving operational needs, based on recent nutrition assessments, and to provide necessary programmatic flexibility. It contains no revisions to the Chad and C.A.R. components.

Urgent resources are needed due to supply chain challenges and the long lead time to position food to meet beneficiaries’ needs in the coming months. WFP expects food supply pipeline breaks in several commodities by the end of August. It is thus paramount for WFP to be able to confirm contributions as early as possible to ensure that food is available for distribution by September.

C.A.R.

Supply chain challenges resulted in a complete rupture of the food pipeline in May. As such, WFP was forced to suspend GFD to C.A.R. refugees during the course of the month. Nutrition activities continued without interruptions, and rations were augmented to compensate for the reduced food support and to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable groups. Consequently, WFP only reached 44 percent of planned beneficiaries for the month of May, including some 57,000 children under five and pregnant and nursing women.

Following the various efforts taken by WFP to expedite local purchases and transport procedures, new food started arriving in warehouses in early June and WFP resumed delivery of full-size food rations to the refugees.

In June, WFP plans to reach 138,000 C.A.R refugees in seven existing UNHCR sites and numerous host villages across the East, Adamawa and North regions. WFP is currently expanding nutrition activities to additional sites, for a wider beneficiary coverage.

Chad

The Chad component of the C.A.R. EMOP covers new arrivals in 2015, while the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) covers those who arrived in
2014, already assisted under a Chad-specific EMOP.

Starting in June, WFP plans to provide food assistance to the returnees residing within host communities in the Salamat region of Chad. Voucher distributions are slated to reach approximately 21,000 people per month for at least seven months.

WFP continues to provide assistance to existing returnees through food vouchers, while nutrition support is being provided in nutrition supplementary units. Some 101,000 people are planned for the June cash-based transfer cycle in returnee sites, and in 18 villages in the regions of Mandoul, Moyen Chari and Logone Oriental.

DRC

According to UNHCR, there are some 97,000 C.A.R. refugees in the DRC; approximately 56,000 of them are living in five camps between the Equateur and Orientale Provinces. The most recent camp, Bili, is in the Bosobo-lo territory where some 4,000 refugees have so far been relocated out of 15,000 planned. A multi-sectorial mission is being organized to re-assess the needs of these refugees.

WFP is providing assistance to all refugees living in the camps with either in-kind food distribution, or cash-based transfers, depending on the specific characteristics of each camp. WFP is also reaching some 30,000 refugees living outside the camps, and host community members, through school feeding, protection rations for families of malnourished children and women in Bosobolo area, food-for-assets and nutrition activities.

WFP is providing logistics support services for the benefit of the wider humanitarian community, including transport and storage. Two WFP trucks are assisting UNHCR with the deliveries of Non-Food Items (NFIs) around affected areas. Furthermore, two WFP-contracted engineers completed road and airstrip assessments in the North and South Ubangi regions. The final report is expected shortly, with the aim of identifying specific areas in need of urgent road repair.

RoC

The influx of refugees from C.A.R. remains constant; the town of Betou receives some 20-30 persons per day, or about 500 per month. All of the new arrivals are provided with WFP food assistance.

The dry season (January-June) posed serious logistical constraints as transportation via the Congo River, which is used to transport WFP commodities for consumption by the refugees, was impassable due to the water level being too low. The water level is now rising, and cereals will be dispatched to Betou around the end of June.

Furthermore, stocks for the majority of commodities are predicted to end in September 2015. It is therefore essential that new resources are mobilized immediately for arrival during the period between July and December 2015, to cover the foreseen food supply breaks.

During the month of May, WFP reached some 16,500 C.A.R. refugees in RoC. Beneficiaries received a reduced cereal ration, combined with an augmented pulses ration which partially made up for the missing kilocalories. A similar arrangement was in place for the month of June.

Spotlight:
Expanding the roll-out of cash-based transfers in C.A.R.

WFP is adjusting the general food distribution (GFD) activity to reflect operational changes and expand the cash-based transfer modality, as security and market conditions are improving. The shift to and scale-up of vouchers continues WFP assistance to the most vulnerable, conflict-affected populations in priority zones.

Vouchers will reflect dietary needs and beneficiary preference, while also helping to stimulate the local economy. In this manner, WFP will be able to reach people through vouchers in areas where roads are practically inaccessible for food delivery and where local markets can absorb the increased demand.

WFP is using vouchers rather than cash in this context because the vouchers are tied to the market and to specific commodities. Moreover, vouchers are also considered to be safer.

The response provides vital life-saving assistance while supporting community mobilization and social cohesion through community-based protection of assets and human capital.

Contacts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WFP Operations</th>
<th>Project Duration</th>
<th>Planned number of people</th>
<th>Total requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total received (in USD)</th>
<th>Shortfall (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regional EMOP200799</td>
<td>01.01.2015–31.12.2015</td>
<td>1,565,400</td>
<td>196,335,000</td>
<td>121,282,775</td>
<td>39.1 %</td>
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