

Reporting period: 01 April – 30 June 2015

Country Director: *Bienvenu Djossa*

COUNTRY STRATEGY

WFP's activities include assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, refugees and vulnerable food insecure populations, seasonal support to food insecure farmer households before and during the planting season and peak of the lean season. WFP also provides nutrition support to malnourished children 6 to 59 months, pregnant women and nursing mothers, people living with HIV/AIDS, and blanket feeding to children 6 to 59 months and pregnant women and nursing mothers at risk of malnutrition as well as emergency meals to primary school children in schools that have reopened. The UNHAS service provides critical access to remote and insecure areas. The Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication operation aims to increase the logistics and telecommunication capacities. WFP has been present in the Central African Republic since 1969.



OPERATIONS

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Total Funded (%)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*	Top 5 Donors
Regional EMOP 200799 Critical support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis in Central African Republic and its regional impact	Jan 2015 – Dec 2015	1,221,400	131,035,000	50,815,878	39%	30,352,162	USA, Japan, Canada, Multilateral, UN CERF
SO 200605 Logistics Support to WFP operations, and Logistics & Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Augmentation in CAR	Jul 2013 – Dec 2015	n/a	12,712,080	5,072,413	40%	n/a	Multilateral, UN CERF, Sweden, USA, UN Common Funds (excluding CERF)
SO, 200804, Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Central African Republic	Jan 2015 – Dec 2015	n/a	15,515,785	6,468,129	42%	n/a	USA, European Commission, Japan, Canada, Switzerland

*July-December

Summary of WFP assistance: In 2014, WFP operations in C.A.R. saw an exceptional increase in geographic coverage, people assisted, tonnage distributed, and a spectrum of activities. Yet, volatile security, limitations on movement of external and internal supply, and challenges to presence of staff and partners in field locations have remained important obstacles to achieve plans fully. Against this background, targeting was refined and re-focused for the emergency operation, taking into account the latest large-scale nutrition and food security assessments, to diversify activities and modalities to provide flexible seasonal support to moderately food insecure households, support restoration of access to basic services and human capital protection.

The operation focuses on ensuring life-saving needs of vulnerable populations in conflict affected communities, sites of displacement and refuge, and returnee receiving areas. The operation is in line with Strategic Objective 1, "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies" and aims specifically to: (i) improve food consumption and access to markets; (ii) stabilise undernutrition; and (iii) restore access to basic services. Elements fostering social cohesion, investment in human capital, and support for agricultural production alongside partners are integrated into the life-saving response.

Food Security Cluster



ETC



Logistics Cluster



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, WFP has assisted more than 600,000 people through general food distribution, cash and vouchers, school feeding, and nutrition programmes WFP is increasing the voucher modality of assistance. The first voucher distribution took place in Yaloké in March and started up in Bangui in June as part of a comprehensive support package by the humanitarian community to support the return of IDPs from M'Poko airport site to their home neighbourhoods. In June, more than 5,400 beneficiaries were assisted with vouchers in Bangui. The programme ensures access to local markets with the twin advantage to also help revitalise the local communities and economies. WFP has launched the P4P-like activity to support and stimulate an increase in smallholder agricultural production and marketing by procuring commodities locally. Farmers have been identified in Bouar and Bozoum (north-west) and purchases are in process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the beginning of the year, Bangui saw an increase in kidnappings of internationals, which resulted in movement restrictions, curfew enforcement and disruption of humanitarian activities. WFP experienced numerous attacks and lootings of trucks along the Bangui-Sibut axis, which is an important route to supply operations in the north-east and central part of the country. During the second half of the year, the security situation slightly improved and the Bangui Forum of National Reconciliation, which was carried out in May, ended with the signing of a peace agreement to end hostilities by armed groups. Discussions focused on DDR, reconciliation, the establishment of a special court and the elections. Frequent isolated violent incidences continue. Considering the current security and political context, WFP will remain flexible and consider key risks and the operational, financial and organisational implications, to adopt appropriate mitigation measures.

PARTNERSHIPS

WFP works closely with partners through coordination with the food security cluster, education cluster and nutrition cluster, as well as advocates nutrition activities in the health cluster. WFP coordinates the response of the seed protection activity with FAO for the agricultural programme as well as has engaged new partners for this activity through the food security cluster. WFP is also advocating and engaging partners to embark on cash and vouchers where feasible and is coordinating through a working group. A food transfer agreement has been signed with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and WFP supports their pipeline through the provision of food. WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners for local procurement. WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Bangui for periodic post distribution monitoring.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Past three decades of socio-political complications in the Central African Republic have been characterised by instability, several coup d'états and the establishment of uncontrolled armed elements contesting for control and territory, as well as access to economic and natural resources, in a context of limited presence of security and law enforcement. Since the end of 2012, widespread insecurity increased as the ex-Seleka coalition staged an offensive against the government and seized power in March 2013. Retaliation measures by the anti-Balaka militia produced renewed clashes in the country. The introduction of additional actors and external destabilising forces added further pressure on the population, which led to countrywide attacks and provoked unprecedented communal violence.

Despite its agro-ecological and mining potential, the Central African Republic remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Following decades of political and economic crises, the country has experienced weakened social indicators; the country's ranking among 187 countries decreased from 180 in 2012 to 185 in the 2013 and 2014 UNDP Human Development Index. Following minor annual increases in the GDP during 2008-2012, the findings of the 2014 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission revealed that the GDP plummeted with 37 percent in 2013, followed by a collapse in agriculture by 46 percent and decline in livestock by 55 percent. According to the UNDP 2014 Human Development Report, more than 77 percent of the population of 4.9 million lives on less than USD 2 a day, with nearly half of the population facing extreme multidimensional poverty.

The intensification of sectarian clashes triggered significant population movements. By 2015, approximately 20 percent of the population remain displaced with 426,000 internally displaced and nearly 461,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. In April 2015, the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) exercise on food security revealed that approximately 1,280,000 people are in need of urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and IPC Phase 4: "Emergency"). An improvement of 5 percent in rural areas and 5 percent in the capital has been noted compared to the analysis of November 2014. The gradual stabilisation of the security situation in Bangui and in a few areas in the provinces has contributed to improved access to livelihoods and markets for the population.

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children under 5 decreased from just over 10 percent in 2006 to just over 7 percent in 2010 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4, UNICEF, 2010). In 2012, GAM rates remained nearly 8 percent in several prefectures (SMART survey, 2012) and preliminary results for the 2014 SMART survey show GAM rates varying from 3 to 8 percent. Chronic malnutrition data among children under five increased from 37 percent in 2006 to 41 percent in 2010 and remained at an average 40 percent in 2012. Preliminary results for 2014 show chronic malnutrition rates varying from 18 to 54 percent, with seven provinces having rates over 40 percent.

