

Reporting period: 01 January – 31 March 2015

Country Director: Mustapha Darboe, Country Director a.i

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 at risk of malnutrition as well as emergency school 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 emergency 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 15 – Dec 15	1,221,400	119,918,691	41,591,645	35%	51,196,759	USA, Japan, Canada, Germany, Saudi Arabia
SO 200605 Logistics Support to WFP operations, and Logistics & Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Augmentation in CAR	Jul 13 – Dec 14 BR ongoing	n/a	10,128,955	5,072,413	50%	n/a	Multilateral, UN CERF, USA, Sweden, UN Common Funds (excluding CERF)
SO, 200804, Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Central African Republic	Jan 15 – Dec 15	n/a	15,515,785	5,745,967	37%	n/a	USA, European Commission, Japan, Canada, Switzerland

*April-September

Summary of WFP assistance: In 2014, WFP operations in C.A.R. saw an exceptional increase in geographic coverage, beneficiaries reached, tonnage distributed, and spectrum of activities. WFP distributed three times the annual average of previous years. 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 meeting targets. Against this background, targeting was refined and re-focused for the EMOP 200799, 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.

Under Strategic Objective 1, the operation aimed to (i) improve food consumption for beneficiaries in conflict-affected areas (2) reduce undernutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and (3) increase access to basic services. By providing an integrated food and nutrition response to improve food consumption, prevent a peak in acute malnutrition and by increasing access to basic services, such as education, the operation aimed to reduce household reliance on negative coping strategies, including selling productive assets and removing children from school. WFP assistance is in line with national sectoral plans for education, health and nutrition, and food security which constitute the intervention framework of humanitarian actors in the country.

Food Security Cluster



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In March, WFP distributed 4,275 mt of food to 427,953 people through general food distribution, school feeding, targeted supplementary feeding and food by prescription. WFP began distributing the first vouchers in Yaloké on 18 March. The vouchers, valued at USD 10 each, will complement WFP distributions of rice, pulses and oil. In the next six months, the food voucher programme will be rolled out in Bangui and other areas of C.A.R. The programme will stimulate the local market and also increase the benefits of women as women-headed households will be prioritized to receive the voucher assistance, thus giving them more control over the household resources and decision making process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous insecurity complicates access negotiations and constitute risks for attacks against humanitarians or implementation sites. The increasing trend of incidents against aid workers may further disrupt activities and supply corridors, resulting in a decrease of humanitarian space and access to operational areas, preventing WFP from reaching its beneficiaries and affecting the effective capacity of partners. WFP has adopted a flexible approach to adjust plans, interventions and distribution models to enable continued response within a highly dynamic security environment.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2014, WFP worked with 30 partners and coordinated the response through the food security cluster, education cluster and nutrition cluster. For UN partnership, WFP worked with multi-activity partners such as UNICEF for school feeding and nutrition coordination involving moderate acute and severe acute malnutrition. A successful seed protection programme was carried out in coordination with FAO which received strong donor support and partnership with IOM enabled food support to people isolated in enclaves in the transit camp at M'Poko airport and the long-standing enclave in PK5 area of Bangui. WFP worked with 17 NGOs for GFD (including four Caritas and two local NGOs), one NGO dedicated to school feeding and 10 NGOs for nutrition specific activities, including five Medecins de Frontieres. A food transfer agreement was also signed with ICRC. WFP collaborated with UNICEF for the Rapid Response Mechanism and worked with their partners to respond to needs as well as used their reports to facilitate planning of distributions with WFP partners.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

The past three decades of socio-political complications in the Central African Republic have been characterized 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 and the introduction of additional actors and external de-stabilizing forces added further pressure on the population, which led to countrywide attacks and provoked unprecedented inter-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 and destroyed basic social and economic infrastructure. Human development indicators remain low as the country's ranking among 187 countries decreased from 180 in 2012 to 185 in the 2013 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 and by the end of 2014, nearly 20 percent of the population remained moved with 410,000 internally displaced and nearly 420,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. The November 2014 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) estimated that 1.5 million people require humanitarian food assistance, with approximately 19 percent of the rural population in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and 12 percent in phase 4 (emergency). This showed an improvement compared to the previous IPC conducted in April 2014 with about 11 percent (down from 1.7 million) however a deterioration with 4 percent compared to the November 2013 IPC before the escalation of insecurity.

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children under 5 decreased from 10.2 percent in 2006 to 7.4 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 3.3 to 8 percent. Chronic malnutrition data among children under five increased from 37.5 percent in 2006 to 40.7 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.

