



World Food Programme



Central African Republic (C.A.R.) Crisis – Regional Impact

Situation Report #21

29 February 2016

In Numbers

- **904,000** people displaced
- **2.5 million** people food insecure in C.A.R.
- **5** countries affected
- **USD 46 million** urgently required to meet the most immediate needs in the five countries over the next six months

Highlights

- A Regional Special Operation was approved in February for the 'Regional optimization of supply corridors for the humanitarian response to the C.A.R. crisis'.
- WFP has reduced its rations by 20 percent in D.R.C. since December 2015, and plans to maintain this level in the face of a difficult funding outlook. If no new contributions materialize, WFP will have to halt its assistance to nearly 70,000 C.A.R. refugees living in four camps by May 2016.

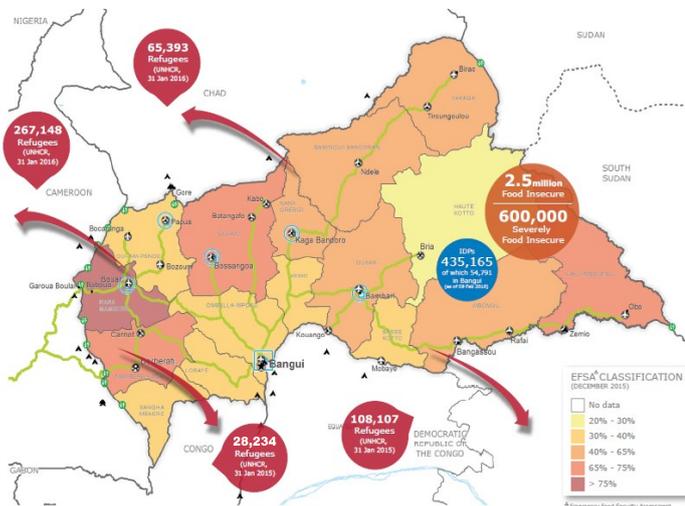
Situation Update

- The security situation remained relatively stable in **C.A.R.** through the month of January despite the ongoing general elections. In February the C.A.R. Electoral Commission (ANE) announced the consolidated provisional results for the second round of the Presidential elections and declared former prime minister, Faustin Archange Touadera as elected President with 62.67 percent of the votes cast. Although results for legislative election have not been released, security reports that the election-related security situation in the country remains calm. However, a surge in attacks and abductions attributed to suspected LRA elements has been noticed in **Northeast Province bordering D.R.C.**, resulting in small-scale population displacement. Transhumance-related violence involving Fulani herders and Anti-Balaka has been observed in **West and Central C.A.R.** which could lead to more population displacements. Meanwhile the security situation in **eastern Cameroon** remains volatile due to the continued presence of criminal groups and the constant threat of spill-over violence from C.A.R.

- With regard to food security, the final report from the post distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise carried out in **Cameroon** in December 2015 is now available. The results indicate a stabilization in the food consumption levels of refugee households over the past nine months. Though the number of households reporting acceptable food consumption dropped slightly from 89.58 percent in August to 86.6 percent in December, the rate remains at a good level. Whilst, the number of households with poor food consumption dropped from 9.4 percent in April to 0.6 in December. The proportion of beneficiaries with acceptable dietary diversity increased from 77.99 percent in August to 94.76 percent in December. In **Chad** Serious food insecurity rates have been registered in the Logone Oriental (31 percent), bordering C.A.R. regions of Ouham and Ouham-Pende. This situation was caused by low production during the 2014-2015 agricultural campaign, which in turn led to increased food prices (cereal prices are 10 to 44 percent higher than the five-year average in the South).

WFP Response

- In January 2016, WFP revised its Regional Emergency Operation responding to the C.A.R. crisis (EMOP 200799) by extending its timeframe until 31 December 2016, aligning targeted population with new assessment findings, and adapting activities and corresponding programmatic tools to match the evolving context C.A.R. and its cross-border impacts on Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.) and Republic of Congo (R.o.C.). All five countries will continue and gradually expand cash-based food assistance in areas where markets are accessible and functioning. All countries will keep a strong nutrition focus.
- Furthermore, a Regional Special Operation (SO 200934) has been approved. The operation aims to optimize the regional supply corridors for the humanitarian response to the C.A.R. crisis, with a budget of USD 3.5 million, until 31 December 2016. The operation has three key activities within this objective: 1) establish three additional supply routes, respectively from Cameroon, D.R.C. and R.o.C., and potentially through Chad; 2) augment



C.A.R. crisis: Regional Impact

Photo: Voucher distributions (Kpètènè Bangui). WFP/Bruno Djoyo

logistics capacity, warehouse facilities and transport fleet in key positions along the newly established supply routes; and 3) establish a regional coordination system to optimize use of the humanitarian corridors.

C.A.R.

- In January, WFP assisted over 311,000 food insecure people in C.A.R. through general food distributions, cash-based transfers (CBTs), nutrition support and school meals, and food for assets; with some 3,500 mt of food and USD 97,600.
- Preparations are underway for the 2016 Agricultural Campaign seed distribution in collaboration with FAO. WFP will be supporting households receiving seeds with food assistance during the planting season.
- WFP is opening up a second supply route via the Ubangui river corridor from both Kinshasa (D.R.C.) and Brazzaville (R.o.C.) in view of challenges to the main supply route linking the Douala port in Cameroon with Bangui; transporters' capacities, insecurity on the road and road infrastructure. WFP recently purchased 350 mt of commodities in D.R.C. which is being delivered to Bangui by barge from Mbandaka. The commodities are expected to arrive in Bangui in March 2016.

Cameroon

- In January, WFP assisted nearly 165,000 C.A.R. refugees, including some 4,000 new beneficiaries that were registered in border areas following UNHCR's identification exercise. This also includes some 11,000 children aged 6–59 months, and pregnant and nursing women receiving treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). WFP has also managed to undertake February distributions to C.A.R. refugees thanks to an Immediate Response Account (IRA) allocation which allowed for swift purchase and delivery of food.
- Preparations are ongoing for the roll-out of cash-based transfers planned for March. Implementing cooperating NGO partners and mobile operators have been selected.

Chad

- In January, WFP reached over 77,000 people through cash-based transfers in the form of vouchers, and nutritional support. The interruption of cash-based transfers to Chadian returnees since January in the Salamat region (to approximately 18,000 people) remains ongoing due to resource constraints. However, WFP has been able to prepare several field agreements so that urgently needed food assistance can resume once resources arrive. However, the current lack of resources threatens assistance to the

78,000 people targeted in other southern regions in the forthcoming months.

- In 2016, assistance in Southern Chad to populations affected by the C.A.R. crisis will target 62,000 refugees and 101,000 returnees. This represents a decrease compared to 2015 since host communities who were previously assisted in villages in 2014 and 2015 are not included in 2016 planning as the situation in the host villages has improved greatly in the past two years and the burden of the returnees is less heavy on the local community.

Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.)

- WFP has reduced its rations by 20 percent since December 2015, and plans to maintain this level in the face of a difficult funding outlook. If no new contributions materialize, WFP will have to halt its assistance to nearly 70,000 C.A.R. refugees living in four camps by May 2016.
- The US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) Regional Coordinator (Great Lakes Region), Mr. Joshua Fischel, visited all four camps in the North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces with WFP and UNHCR (5-10 February).

Republic of Congo (R.o.C.)

- In January, WFP assisted over 12,000 food insecure people in R.o.C. through general food distributions, cash-based transfers (CBTs), and nutrition support.
- In an effort to improve the transfer of commodities long the humanitarian corridors, between 15 and 19 January, WFP assessed the state of the road linking Congo Brazzaville with Bertoua in eastern Cameroon for delivery of a stock of 600 mt of mixed commodities, thus bypassing Bangui and saving valuable transit time.



Resourcing Update

- USD 45.8 million (equivalent to 51.4 percent of total net funding requirements) are immediately required for the five countries, to meet the food needs of the population through July 2016. Considering the long lead times from the launch of procurement of commodities to delivery in-country, early confirmation of funding is vital for the operation.

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WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)	People Reached (January 2016)
Regional EMOP 200799 (01.01.2016 – 31.12.2016)	378,962,000	175,481,911	46 million	633,419