WFP Central African Republic
Country Brief

In Numbers

- **2.1 m** people are food insecure
- **633,300** people displaced (CMP, Nov 2017)
- **267,790** people are severely food insecure

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Assisted</th>
<th>November 2017</th>
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<td><strong>247,037</strong></td>
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Credit: WFP/Bruno Djoyo.
Caption: Smallholder farmers participating in the P4P initiative in Paoua.

**EMOP 200799:** WFP assists internally displaced persons (IDP), host communities and affected local populations through general food distributions, food assistance for the creation of productive assets and Purchase for Progress (P4P) that links local production to school meals, complementing in-kind assistance with cash-based transfers.

Following the uptick of violence since the beginning of the year, WFP has been providing emergency food assistance in areas previously considered as relatively stable and where food security was not a real concern compared to other localities.

WFP conducts activities for prevention and treatment of malnutrition targeting children aged 6-23 months through blanket supplementary feeding and children aged 6-59 months through treatment services.

In 2017, WFP plans to assist nearly 700,000 people in Central African Republic (C.A.R.) with in-kind distributions and/or cash-based transfers.

**SO 201045:** The WFP-managed Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides reliable and safe transport to 31 destinations in the country for the humanitarian community. More than 138 humanitarian organizations depend on UNHAS services to facilitate humanitarian access.

**SO 200997:** A Special Operation for the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide Logistics and emergency telecommunications support to the entire humanitarian community in C.A.R. The clusters provide logistics coordination and information management; facilitate the provision of common warehousing and transport services; and provide reliable emergency telecommunications and data connectivity networks and services. For additional information on the logistics cluster visit: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/caf13a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/caf13a). On the ETC visit: [https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/central-african-republic-conflict](https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/central-african-republic-conflict)

**SO 200934:** A regional Special Operation addresses, through enhanced coordination, logistics gaps and bottle-necks in the main access route from the port of Douala in Cameroon to the capital Bangui which originate from the unstable security in C.A.R.
Operational Updates

- Civilians in C.A.R. faced a devastating year of violence, with fighting between rival militias forcing thousands of civilians to flee their homes, exposing them to serious protection issues. To ensure that UN peacekeepers can deploy rapidly and back up efforts to protect civilians from egregious violence, the UN Security Council approved on 15 November the decision to add a further 900 peacekeepers to the UN mission in the C.A.R. This decision is expected to support efforts to promote peace and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Increased violence against relief workers despite rising needs is a source of concern. Attacks directly targeting humanitarian workers forced some NGOs to stop operations in certain areas, which in turn is affecting the delivery of effective humanitarian response to the displaced. So far this year, 14 humanitarian aid workers were killed in C.A.R., making it the most dangerous country in the world for humanitarian workers after Syria.
- WFP is currently providing emergency food assistance in most of the 11 hotspots that were reported since June 2017. This includes Alindao, Kongbo, Bria, Bangassou, Bocaranga, Batangafo, Zemio and Obo.
- To reach a one-month food pre-position in Bria, WFP C.A.R. increased the storage capacity from 350 mt to 700 mt using mobile storage facilities.
- WFP continues to use airlifts to bring food to Bangassou and Zemio from Bangui with a direct consequence on the cost of the emergency operations. Airlift in the two locations remains the only option to supply food to the IDPs hosted there.
- Due to security and logistics constraints, WFP has opened a new corridor from Uganda through Democratic Republic of Congo to reach refugees and IDP population in the far east location of Obo. The logistical arrangements to move to Zemio part of the second shipment received in Obo from Uganda were concluded; four trucks loaded with 41 mt are expected to reach Zemio on 1 December 2017.
- The 2017 national food security survey (ENSA 2017) is currently ongoing, and data collection was concluded in November. Results should be available by year-end. Given the rising level of insecurity and displacement and the concomitant effects on access, levels of food insecurity are expected to increase further.

Challenges

Among the main challenges WFP faces while implementing its operations are:

- Clashes between armed groups and increasing attacks against humanitarian organizations which have the potential of disrupting activities;
- Limited capacity of local transporters and poor road network, which often cause additional delay in the delivery of food assistance; and
- Funding constraints: WFP requires nearly USD 43 million to provide food and nutrition assistance for the next six months.