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 870,000 beneficiaries were reached in July through the EMOP, representing 80 percent of planned figures. In August, WFP is targeting more than one million beneficiaries across the five countries.

The C.A.R. EMOP urgently needs resources to deliver on food assistance activities until the end of the year. It is paramount that WFP be able to confirm contributions as early as possible, due to the lead times required to procure and position food. Delays may result in reduced rations or the suspension of several activities in the coming months.

WFP Response

C.A.R.

In July, WFP reached approximately 538,000 beneficiaries through general food distributions (GFDs), nutrition activities and school meals. This includes the distribution of nearly USD 96,000 to more than 10,000 beneficiaries through cash-based transfers. In August, WFP plans to reach some 664,000 people through food assistance.

Due to a strike by transporters crossing from Cameroon to C.A.R., the commercial and humanitarian supply chain was severely affected during the month of August. Over 80 trucks carrying a total of 2,300 mt of WFP food were stuck at the border for the first 3 weeks in August. Although the strike has since ended, and deliveries have resumed, it could be some time before all trucks with WFP commodities reach C.A.R. given the backlog of hundreds of trucks at the border.

Following the recent rise in tension and insecurity in the town of Bambari, WFP had to suspend activities and distributions to IDPs during the week of 24 August. Trucks carrying WFP food from Bangui are also currently blocked on the road in Grimari. WFP is closely following the developments in order to resume activities as soon as the security situation improves.

Preparations are underway for the 2015 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA). Tools and terms of reference have been finalized, and the methodology has been shared and discussed with food security cluster partners. The field survey is planned to start on 1 September for a total coverage of 2,737 households in 228 locations across the country. Six partners, including five NGOs and government authorities, will participate in the evaluation.

WFP continues to support the agricultural season by providing a seed protection ration to moderately food insecure farmer households. Working alongside FAO’s distribution of agricultural inputs, WFP assisted some 260,000 beneficiaries under this activity in July.

Cameroon

In July, WFP delivered assistance to 141,000 refugees in seven existing UNHCR sites and numerous host villages across the East, Adamawa and North regions; achieving 99 percent of the planned monthly target. As several villages on the C.A.R. border become inaccessible during the rainy season, WFP ensured a 2-month ration (July and August) for about 10,000 beneficiaries in remote areas. In August WFP is planning to reach some 133,000 C.A.R. refugees.

Due to limited resourcing, WFP is running out of Super Cereal in Cameroon. Consequently, WFP is prioritizing the distribution of the nutritional product for nutrition activities, and temporarily removing it from the GFD rations. As shortfalls are expected to persist through September, WFP will maintain the same prioritization
during next month. Meanwhile, WFP has activated internal advanced financing mechanisms for the immediate purchase of the nutritional product, however moving forward new resources will be needed to ensure Super Cereal needs are met.

Preparations are underway for the roll-out of cash-based transfers to refugees in early 2016. This follows the cash-based transfer formulation mission carried between 23 and 29 July, which indicated that there is a strong potential for the activity in refugee sites and communities in the East.

Chad

The Chad component of the C.A.R. Regional EMOP covers newly identified beneficiaries in 2015, while the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) covers those who arrived in 2014; who had previously been assisted under a Chad-specific EMOP.

WFP reached some 116,000 returnees in Chad during the month of July. Specifically under the PRRO, WFP provided assistance to some 99,000 existing returnees through cash-based transfers in the form of vouchers. Under the Regional EMOP, WFP provided vouchers to more than 17,000 returnees residing within host communities in the Salamat region of Chad.

DRC

According to UNHCR, there are some 97,000 C.A.R. refugees in the DRC; approximately 63,000 of them are living in four camps in the Equateur and Orientale Provinces. The most recent camp, Bili, is in the Bosobolo territory where 7,300 refugees have so far been relocated out of 10,000 planned.

WFP is providing assistance to all refugees living in the camps with in-kind food or cash-based transfers. Some 25,000 refugees living outside the camps, and host community members, also received food assistance through school feeding, protection rations for families of malnourished children and women in Bosobolo area, food-for-assets and nutrition activities.

WFP urgently needs funding to deliver on its cash-based transfer activities in DRC. If new contributions do not materialize, WFP will have to gradually halt assistance outside the camps as of October, and 25,000 vulnerable people will be affected.

RoC

The dry season (January-June) posed serious logistical constraints for WFP operations in the country, as transportation via the Congo River, used to transport WFP commodities, was impassable due to low water levels. Although river levels improved towards the end of June, and commodities were dispatched to Betou, not all commodities reached WFP in time for July distributions. WFP was therefore unable to carry out GFD activities for the month. Betou was the only location reached with available commodities, and priority was given to beneficiaries who did not receive assistance in June.

WFP is currently transferring food to Betou and Impfondo to ensure more beneficiaries are reached in August.

**Spotlight:**

**From C.A.R. to DRC – UNHAS helps DRC refugees return home**

In collaboration with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in C.A.R. began assisting DRC refugees residing in Zemio with the repatriation to their home country. Zemio is a town located in the south-eastern part of C.A.R. however, although it sits right by the Oubangui River that separates the two countries, displacement across the river remains a challenge.

UNHAS is providing an air bridge for a planned total of 600 refugees. Operations started at the beginning of August and the refugees are being flown to the town of Ango in DRC. As of 15 August, over 370 people have been safely transported home.

**Contacts**

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**WFP Operations**

<table>
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<tr>
<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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<td>Regional EMOP200799</td>
<td>1,650,000</td>
<td>215,672,500</td>
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