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COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Agenda item 7

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no-objection basis*

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COUNTRY PROGRAMME CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 200331 (2012–2016)

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval on a no-objection basis

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since gaining independence in 1960, the Central African Republic (CAR) has experienced unremitting civil strife and political instability. It is a low-income, food-deficit country, ranking 159th of 169 countries in the 2010 human development index. Per capita gross domestic product is US\$454.

Poverty, food insecurity and undernutrition are widespread: 62 percent of the population lives below the poverty line; 30 percent of households are food-insecure; the average global acute malnutrition rate is 10 percent; and chronic malnutrition is 37 percent. Primary school enrolment rates improved from 55 percent in 2003 to 63 percent in 2010, but only 36 percent of children finish school. The capacity to design and deliver social services remains extremely limited.

Following the recommendations of a 2011 WFP appraisal mission, the proposed country programme will continue food assistance while emphasizing the building of national capacity, to reinforce the roles and responsibilities of national stakeholders.

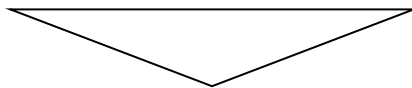
The country programme will focus on:

- supporting education through school meals;
- improving the nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women and children, particularly in the first 1,000 days following conception, and of acutely malnourished children under 5; and
- strengthening the capacity of national institutions for programme ownership.

It will be implemented in areas where insecurity, limited government capacity and poor infrastructure are significant challenges. Erratic funding and pipeline breaks, limited logistics capacity, and resource misappropriation pose further risks. To mitigate these, WFP will enhance internal controls, coordination and communication mechanisms, including with the Government and beneficiaries, to ensure that they become well-informed actors contributing to the achievement of results.

The country programme is aligned with the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for 2011–2015 and with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012–2016. It will contribute to Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and is aligned with WFP Strategic Objectives 4 and 5.

DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves on a no-objection basis country programme Central African Republic 200331 (2012–2016) (WFP/EB.1/2012/7/3), for which the food requirement is 13,254 mt at a total cost to WFP of US\$23.4 million.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

1. The Central African Republic is a large, landlocked country with 4.4 million inhabitants.¹ Despite its high potential in natural resources, the country remains one of the ten poorest in the world, placed 159th of 169 countries in the human development report for 2010.² Unlike those of the neighbouring Sudan and Chad, the Central African Republic's human development index has been declining for decades.

Political Situation

2. Since gaining independence in 1960, the Central African Republic has suffered repeated armed conflicts, including rebellions and coups during the past two decades, and living conditions have deteriorated. The inclusive political dialogue of 2008 culminated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the main rebel groups and the Government, providing the framework for a return to peace and stability. This included the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of military-political groups and the organization of presidential and parliamentary elections in January 2011.
3. Although all rebel groups signed the CPA, consultations and the disarmament process have not yet resulted in sustainable peace and stability throughout the country. The Government has demonstrated a strong desire to achieve this through dialogue, improved governance and consolidation of the rule of law. Government partners and the international community are currently addressing insecurity and instability, particularly in the southeast.
4. In recent years, clashes in the central, northwest and southeast regions – with different causes and dynamics in each region – have involved the government army, new and old rebel groups and local self-defence groups.³ Violence has triggered the internal displacement of 177,000 people⁴ and forced 138,000 people to seek refuge in southern Chad, the Sudan and eastern Cameroon.⁵
5. The Central African Republic is also affected by conflicts in the Sudan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The independence of the Republic of South Sudan and upcoming presidential elections in DRC may spark renewed violence and cause a fresh influx of refugees into the Central African Republic.

Economic Context

6. Armed conflicts have led to the destruction of basic social and economic infrastructure. The Central African Republic is a low-income, food-deficit country, with per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$454.⁶ The economy is dominated by agriculture, which accounted for 52 percent of GDP in 2008. Subsistence agriculture and livestock, contributing 29 and 13 percent of GDP respectively, are the main activities and constitute the livelihoods of 70 percent of rural households. More than 70 percent of women work in

¹ 2009 projection based on the 2003 General Population and Territorial Census.

² UNDP. 2010. *Human Development Report, 2010*.

³ For example, conflict between Kara, Goula and Roungha ethnic communities and transhumant armed herders displaced more than 10,000 people in Vakaga prefecture in 2009.

⁴ Central African Republic, Consolidated Appeal 2010.

⁵ Humanitarian and Development Partnership Team (HDPT). Central African displacement data, July 2009.

⁶ World Bank. 2009. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ny.gdp.pcap.cd>.

agriculture; rural women are responsible for their families' daily food security and nutritional well-being.

7. Household survey data indicate that 62 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2008. This national average hides the important variation for rural areas, where it is 69 percent. The proportion of poor and very poor households is highest in northwestern prefectures.⁷
8. Following the combined effects of the global financial, energy and food crises, the economy declined by 2.2 percent in 2008. The financial crisis caused a sharp decrease in net external demand, and exports fell by 23 percent between 2008 and 2009. This resulted in many business closures in the forest and mining sectors, which produce more than 80 percent of export earnings. Falling prices for cotton and coffee, the main cash crops in the south, caused significant job losses.

Food Security

9. Agriculture and livestock occupy nearly 80 percent of the workforce, contribute 52 percent of GDP and account for 43 percent of exports. The Central African Republic has huge agricultural potential, with a favourable climate and 15 million ha of fertile agricultural land, of which only 0.7 million ha is cultivated. Traditional staple foods are cassava, maize and rice, but there are few incentives for crop production beyond subsistence needs. Agricultural productivity is hindered by insecurity, inadequate road infrastructure, underdeveloped marketing systems, a lack of agricultural inputs and irrigation facilities, small farm size, poor crop diversification, and limited investment and support services. Food insecurity has been compounded by the deteriorating economy.
10. At the national level, 30 percent of households are food-insecure.⁷ There are significant disparities among social strata and prefectures; the hardest-hit households are in the conflict-affected north, northwest, and centre and southeast areas, which are currently covered by protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200050 "Assistance to Populations Affected by Armed Conflict in the Central African Republic and Sub-Region". The 2009 comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis (CFSVA) shows that four southern prefectures – Kémo, Basse-Kotto, Ouaka and Lobaye – have food insecurity worse or similar to the national average, so they too are targeted in this country programme (CP).⁷
11. Poverty and food-security go hand in hand: 85 percent of very poor households are food-insecure.⁷ Instability in conflict-affected areas has seriously hampered agricultural activities and trade, with decreased agricultural production leading to low food supplies. Population displacements from the north to the south have strained food markets, compounding the weak purchasing power and limiting people's access to food in the south. The CFSVA indicated that food prices for oil, millet, maize, rice and bread have not returned to pre-crisis (2008) levels. These factors have increased the food insecurity of low-income households, which spend 74 percent of their income on food.

Health and Nutrition

12. The most recent (2006) multi-indicator cluster survey (MICS) found an average global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 10 percent – considered "serious" – with prefecture-level rates ranging from 3 to 13 percent. Chronic malnutrition is a critical 38 percent at the

⁷ Central African Republic CFSVA 2009.

national level. Iodine deficiency disorders are prevalent; only 62 percent of households consume iodized salt compared with a regional average of 72 percent.⁸

13. Poor health, food security and nutrition conditions have a range of causes, including food insecurity, insufficient access to health care, inappropriate care and feeding practices for infants and young children, water and sanitation problems, high prevalence of HIV infection, and general socio-political insecurity.
14. All health and nutrition activities are embedded in the National Health Development Plan for 2004–2016. The Government is formulating a national nutrition policy to guide all nutrition activities. The new national nutrition protocol is being distributed to all stakeholders, to ensure harmonized and appropriate treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Education

15. The Government has a National Action Plan (2004–2015) promoting Education for All, but the education system is in crisis. Civil unrest has disrupted schools: there are fewer qualified teachers; infrastructure and equipment have deteriorated; and investments are lacking. Only 1.45 percent of the Government's budget is allocated to education, with 50 percent of this amount being for primary education.
16. Gross enrolment rates are 84 percent in rural and 111 percent in urban areas. Although net primary school enrolment increased from 55 percent in 2003 to 63 percent in 2010, only 36 percent⁹ of children complete primary school, and the average drop-out rates are 11 percent for boys and 13 percent for girls.⁷ In the minority Fulani¹⁰ and Pygmy communities, only 5 percent of children attend school.¹¹ It should be noted that public education is free and that primary education is compulsory for children aged 6–14.
17. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) focuses on education through its strategic priority on promoting human capital and basic social services. It aims to achieve universal primary education, improve education quality, develop literacy programmes and vocational training courses, and professionalize higher education. Strategies include building and rehabilitating schools, providing equipment and teaching materials, and recruiting and training teachers. School meals are considered a powerful instrument for promoting school enrolment, attendance and completion.

PAST COOPERATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

18. In the past three decades, WFP in the Central African Republic has acquired significant knowledge of food security, accumulated extensive field experience and developed institutional frameworks with stakeholders. These comparative advantages are complemented by a reliable logistics system and the provision of safe air transportation services for the humanitarian community.

⁸ UNICEF, 2008.

⁹ UNICEF. *Tableau de bord de l'éducation 2008–2009*.

¹⁰ A nomadic ethnic group.

¹¹ Central African Republic Millennium Development Goal Report, May 2010.

19. Since 2005, WFP has provided food to an average of 423,000 beneficiaries a year in highly food-insecure areas, through general food distributions, school meals, food for assets, and nutritional support to vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children under 5, households affected by HIV and tuberculosis patients.
20. The current development project (DEV) 103610 “Support to Education for All and Health” provides food assistance to: i) primary schools; ii) pre-schools; and iii) nutritional rehabilitation centres and mother-and-child health centres. It ends in December 2011.
21. Through DEV 103610 and its predecessor DEV 53870, WFP nutrition activities targeted children with MAM, and were implemented primarily through government health centres. Appraisal missions underscored the need for appropriate stakeholder involvement and capacity development. Operational reports called for improved implementation through application of a government-owned monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.
22. In May 2011, appraisal of WFP school feeding activities in DEV 103610 concluded that food assistance is justified by low enrolment rates and high incidences of poverty and food insecurity. However, the lack of a strong M&E system and the frequent turn-over of education staff hamper effectiveness. The appraisal recommended: i) re-focusing on schools in poor and food-insecure areas with low enrolment and retention rates; and ii) developing a national school feeding policy, to enhance coordination and initiate the ownership process.
23. Protracted relief and recovery operation 200050 (2010–2011) operates in conflict-affected areas. It aims to meet the basic food needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and refugees, and to ensure appropriate complementary feeding programmes for malnourished children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, and food-insecure people living with HIV. The PRRO also restores and protects the livelihoods and rehabilitates the productive assets of populations hosting IDPs and returnees, and provides school meals for children in conflict-affected areas.

STRATEGIC FOCUS OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

24. The CP components are aligned with priority 3 of the PRSP¹² and priority 2 of the 2012–2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).¹³ They emerged from consultations with government partners, the United Nations country team, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in education and nutrition, selected community-based organizations and the donor community. These concluded that nutrition and education are the priorities for WFP’s future development interventions.

¹² The priorities of PRSP II are: 1 – Peace consolidation and security sector reform; 2 – Good governance and the rule of law; 3 – Development of human capital and essential social services (health, nutrition, education); 4 – Economic growth and sustainable development; and 5 – Environment: climate change and renewable energy.

¹³ Based on the PRSP II priorities, the UNDAF priorities are: 1 – Peace consolidation, reinforcement of good governance, security and the rule of law; 2 – Investment in human capital, including combating HIV/AIDS; and 3 – Promotion of sustainable and equitable development.

25. The CP contributes to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 to 5,¹⁴ by prioritizing food security and access to education, health and nutrition services as key drivers for growth. It is aligned with WFP's Strategic Objectives 4 and 5,¹⁵ and reflects WFP's gender policy¹⁶ by directly addressing women's food and nutrition needs and advocating for women's empowerment. A PRRO¹⁷ will address the continuing humanitarian needs of IDPs, refugees, returnees, schoolchildren and other vulnerable groups in conflict-affected areas in the north, northwest and southeast.
26. The CP has two components, supporting education and nutrition: school meals will support education in preschools and primary schools in four prefectures, and advocacy campaigns for the education of girls and minorities; and nutrition activities will aim to improve the nutrition status of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women in eight prefectures. To encourage CP sustainability and ownership, WFP will support capacity development through policy formulation, institutional strengthening and training in project implementation, M&E, food procurement and logistics.
27. The CP's specific objectives are to:
- increase enrolment and attendance in WFP-assisted pre-schools and primary schools, and reduce drop-outs among boys and girls (Strategic Objective 4);
 - improve the nutrition status of young children and pregnant and lactating women, particularly in the first 1,000 days following conception (Strategic Objective 4);
 - strengthen national capacities to manage food-assisted programmes (Strategic Objective 5).
28. The CP will target the prefectures of Kémo, Basse-Kotto, Ouaka, Lobaye, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'Poko, Mambéré-Kadei and Sangha-Mbaéré, and the peri-urban area of Bangui. It will complement activities of the next PRRO, which targets the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga, Haute-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou.

Component 1: Primary and Pre-school Education in Rural Areas

29. WFP will provide daily hot meals to schoolchildren in the rural areas of three southern prefectures with food insecurity levels above 28 percent and enrolment rates below the national average of 63 percent – Basse-Kotto, Ouaka and Lobaye.¹⁸ Given the extremely low educational enrolment rates of the Fulani and Pygmy minorities, rural areas of Nana-Mambéré prefecture,¹⁹ where these groups are concentrated, will also be covered.

¹⁴ MDGs 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2 – Achieve universal primary education; 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women; 4 – Reduce child mortality; and 5 – Improve maternal health.

¹⁵ WFP Strategic Objectives 4 – Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition; and 5 – Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase.

¹⁶ “WFP Gender Policy: Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Addressing Food and Nutrition Challenges” (WFP/EB.1/2009/5-A/Rev.1).

¹⁷ The successor PRRO will start in January 2012.

¹⁸ Annex III shows the geographic targeting of the school meals component.

¹⁹ Nana Mambéré prefecture has a net enrolment rate of 47 percent and a food insecurity level of 18 percent.

30. During the CP, 4,800 pre-school and 85,000 primary schoolchildren will receive a hot meal²⁰ on 165 school days per year. The food ration will be cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt.
31. This component will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Education, with the Government gradually increasing its role in management and implementation. WFP will also advocate for community contributions to help school meals meet quality standards.
32. WFP will support the creation and strengthening of a School Feeding Unit (SFU) within the Ministry of Education to ensure:
- a stand-alone service provider within the Government, with capacity to implement the school feeding policy;
 - strong M&E systems and accountability;
 - full management, ownership and sustainability; and
 - support for a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGAFP) within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework, and reinforced links with the agriculture sector through enhanced local purchase.
33. WFP will pursue the establishment of school gardens and farming plots to complement WFP food assistance. Given the Central African Republic's engagement in the CAADP process,²¹ the CP will explore opportunities for linking farmers' organizations to schools. Marketing outlets for locally produced commodities will be explored and strengthened, through local purchase.
34. Whenever possible, and to ensure greater synergy with the nutrition component, the CP will:
- distribute fortified foods – maize meal, iodized salt and vegetable oil;
 - utilize schools as platforms for basic nutrition and hygiene education;
 - support synergies between the field staff of schools and health centres;
 - undertake deworming and optimize school meals; and
 - carry out cooking demonstrations for parents' and women's associations.

Component 2: Mother-and-Child Health and Nutrition

35. The nutrition component of this CP will include three activities: i) blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) to prevent chronic malnutrition; ii) targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) to treat MAM; and iii) a caregiver's ration to reduce default rates among children suffering from SAM in in-patient health centres. Based on lessons learned from previous interventions, the nutrition component will focus on M&E to improve programme effectiveness.
36. *Prevention of chronic malnutrition among children under 2*: BSF will be for all pregnant and lactating women, and children under 2 – the first 1,000 days following conception – targeting areas with chronic malnutrition rates of more than 40 percent among children

²⁰ The school day lasts for half a day in the Central African Republic.

²¹ The CAADP compact was signed in April 2011. WFP, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other development actors will support the Government's implementation of the strategy, with specific attention to food production and hunger.

under 5. To address the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition, a lipid-based nutrient supplement (LNS)²² will be provided during the six-month lean season from April to September. Interventions will be supported by sensitization using messages on nutrition, health, hygiene and infant/child nutrition, and accompanied by growth monitoring and deworming medication. BSF will cover the prefectures of Kémo, Ombella-M'Poko, Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéi, and the peri-urban areas of Bangui; targeting may be adjusted if data from the ongoing MICS show significant changes in the geographic distribution of chronic malnutrition. Health agents or NGOs will distribute monthly rations at health centres or in communities. It is expected that 10,200 pregnant and lactating women and 20,300 children aged 6–23 months will be targeted each year.

37. *Treatment of MAM among children under 5:* In areas where GAM rates are more than 10 percent, TSF will target children under 5 with MAM. Treatment will conform to the national protocol for treating acute malnutrition, including its admission and exit criteria, ration composition and distribution, supporting activities, and reporting.²³ Initial targets will be health centres in the prefectures of Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéi, Nana-Mambéré, Sangha-Mbaéré, Ouaka and Basse-Kotto.
38. Approximately 13,500 malnourished children aged 6–59 months will be treated each year, for an average of 90 days each, in line with the national protocol. A take-home ration of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) will be provided during centre visits twice a month. Local habits, logistical constraints and operational realities make RUSF the most appropriate option. During visits to supplementary feeding centres, health agents will monitor the child's growth, provide counselling on the child's nutrition status, ensure systematic treatment as outlined in the protocol, and provide the ration. Health centres will be encouraged to provide regular awareness-raising activities, cooking demonstrations and discussion sessions with beneficiaries. When possible, regular screening of the children visiting centres, and community-level screening by NGOs will help increase programme uptake and improve coverage rates.
39. *Support to the treatment of SAM:* Mothers accompanying children under 5 with SAM and medical complications at in-patient therapeutic feeding centres will receive a caregivers' ration. This will provide an incentive for the caregivers to remain at the centre for the duration of the child's treatment.

²² In line with the global 1,000 Days and Scaling Up Nutrition initiatives, this ration will provide a low-dose LNS for women and a high-dose LNS for children.

²³ TSF admission and discharge will be based on the criteria in the national protocol: admission for children aged 6–59 months is based on z-score weight-for-height > -3 SD and < -2 SD, and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) > 115 mm and < 120 mm; for pregnant women from the sixth month of pregnancy or lactating women with a child under 6 months it is based on MUAC < 210 mm. Discharge for children 6–59 months is based on weight-for-height Z-score ≥ -2 on two consecutive visits, an average weight gain of 15 percent and a maximum of three months on the programme; for pregnant and lactating women it is based on MUAC > 225 mm on two consecutive visits.

Component	Activity	Men/boys	Women/girls	Total
Education	Pre-school	2 367	2 433	4 800
	Primary school	49 566	35 434	85 000
Nutrition	BSF: pregnant/lactating women	-	51 000	51 000
	BSF: children 6–23 months	50 547	50 953	101 500
	TSF: children 6–59 months	33 615	33 885	67 500
	Caregivers ration	-	5 000	5 000
TOTAL*		136 095	178 705	314 800

* Total beneficiaries are cumulative figures for the five years of the CP.

Food type	Component 1 – Education		Component 2 – Nutrition			
	Pre-school	Primary school	BSF: pregnant/lactating women	BSF: children 6–23 months	TSF: children 6–59 months	Caregivers ration
Plumpy'doz®	-	-		46.3		-
Nutributter®			20			
Plumpy'sup®	-	-	-	-	92	-
Cereals	80	120	-	-	-	450
Pulses	20	30	-	-	-	60
CSB*	-	-	-	-	-	50
Vegetable oil	10	15	-	-	-	25
Salt	3	3	-	-	-	5
TOTAL	113	168	20	46.3	92	590
Total kcal/day	443.5	665.2	108	260	500	2 234
% kcal from protein	10.1	10.1	9.6	9.6	10	10.6
% kcal from fat	26.4	26.4	58.3	58.3	59.2	17.6
Number of feeding days per year or month	165	165	180	180	90	30

* CSB = corn-soya blend.

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS, BY ACTIVITY (mt)

Food type	Education		Nutrition			
	Pre-school	Primary school	BSF: pregnant/lactating women	BSF: children 6–23 months	TSF: children 6–59 months	Caregivers ration
Plumpy'doz®	-	-	-	845.9	-	-
Nutributter®	-	-	183.6	-	-	-
Plumpy'Sup®	-	-	-	-	558.9	-
Cereals	298.3	7 968.0	-	-	-	67.5
Pulses	74.5	1 992.0	-	-	-	9.0
CSB	-	-	-	-	-	7.5
Vegetable oil	37.2	996.0	-	-	-	3.7
Salt	11.0	199.2	-	-	-	0.7
TOTAL	421.4	11 155.2	183.6	845.9	558.9	88.5
% of total requirements	3	84	1	6	4	0.7

40. School meals will provide 30 percent of daily calorie requirements. WFP aims to improve schoolchildren's intake of micronutrients through cereals – fortified corn flour where possible – vegetable oil fortified with vitamins A and D, and iodized salt. Parents will contribute fuel, condiments, vegetables, cereals or cassava from school-owned agricultural plots and gardens and their own sources.
41. The most effective foods for meeting CP nutrition objectives in the Central African Republic are RUSF, such as Plumpy'Sup®, to treat MAM, and LNS, such as Plumpy'doz®, to prevent chronic malnutrition. These types of products:
- ensure rations are nutritionally complete;
 - facilitate logistics, including the pre-positioning of stocks in remote and inaccessible areas during the rainy season;
 - ensure easy implementation modalities where there is limited capacity at the health centre; and
 - have been utilized successfully by partners in the Central African Republic.
42. Ration items are approved by the national nutrition protocol, and the Ministry of Health and Population has expressed support for their utilization. Ration size is in line with current recommendations. A monthly individual ration of cereal, pulses, corn-soya blend, oil and salt will be provided to caregivers attending therapeutic feeding centres.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

43. *Programme coordination:* The four ministries involved in the CP are those of planning and economy; education; health and population; and social affairs. A higher-level inter-ministerial committee will coordinate overall CP management through regular meetings for discussing achievements.

44. The Food Aid Management Unit in the Ministry of Planning and Economy oversees all food assistance and is the main interlocutor for WFP activities in the Central African Republic. It will coordinate and manage tasks through monthly meetings with technical ministries and quarterly reviews with WFP.
45. The Ministry of Social Affairs will be responsible for activities in pre-schools, while the Ministry of Education coordinates activities in primary schools through the envisaged national SFU. Within primary schools, canteen management committees of parent-teacher association representatives, school authorities and students will be responsible for daily management, reception, storage, meal preparation, organizing parent engagement and possible contributions in labour or in-kind, keeping daily records, and social mobilization.
46. For nutrition activities, WFP will work directly through the Ministry of Health's community health division to ensure strong involvement and coordination. Where possible, and in agreement with health services, WFP will contract NGOs for community-level activities, to improve coverage and avoid the overburdening of health centre staff.
47. *Monitoring and evaluation:* To overcome the challenges that have confronted previous programmes, WFP will enhance its M&E capacity in the Central African Republic to improve data collection and documentation systems, which will include training government and partner staff with the aim of handing over certain M&E activities at the end of the CP. Within the decentralized divisions of ministries, designated focal points and partner NGOs will coordinate activities regionally, in collaboration with four WFP field offices. WFP processes and tools will support the M&E activities of ministry focal points, including the production of quarterly and annual reports. To evaluate effectiveness, a baseline survey is envisaged for 2012, to be followed by a country portfolio evaluation in 2013 and a final CP evaluation in 2016. Evaluations will be conducted jointly with CP stakeholders and will provide lessons learned to inform current and future programme design and implementation.
48. In recognition of the limited capacity and difficulties in monitoring nutrition activities, data collection will be limited to key indicators such as admission and discharge figures, and performance indicators such as recovery, death, defaulter and non-respondent rates.
49. *Capacity development:* To ensure knowledge transfer and lay the foundations for programme ownership, relevant line ministries will receive technical assistance in programme design and planning, beneficiary targeting, implementation, M&E, commodity dispatch, delivery, storage, distribution, recording and reporting.
50. WFP will assist the Ministry of Education in developing a national school feeding policy and action plans. It will support establishment of the SFU and M&E systems, to enable the SFU to reach minimum standards in management, targeting and implementation. WFP will partner local NGOs to support activities for strengthening the capacities of school committees and redefining their roles and responsibilities.
51. To promote HGSFP, WFP will pilot activities for developing links between school feeding and local producers. In partnership with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank and NGOs, WFP will explore and initiate the local procurement of food, guided by the findings of a September 2011 market assessment and future assessments.
52. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and WFP will assist the Ministry of Health in designing a national nutrition strategy, to ensure an effective mother-and-child health and nutrition (MCHN) programme, including targeting, entry and exit criteria, storage and handling, distribution, and M&E. Given the

shortage of nutrition information, United Nations agencies and the Government will collaborate on nutrition surveillance activities.

53. *Partnerships:* To deliver the Essential package for education,²⁴ United Nations agencies,²⁵ NGOs and line ministries will work to improve the following complementary elements: infrastructure; water and sanitation; provision of educational materials and equipment; school meals; agricultural activities, and health and nutrition awareness. Linkages with these interventions will ensure synergies with WFP-provided school meals. In districts with gender disparities, advocacy and social mobilization will encourage the education of girls and minority groups. WFP nutrition activities will complement other partners' programmes, particularly those of United Nations agencies addressing other causes of malnutrition. WFP and UNICEF will jointly support the integrated treatment of acute malnutrition and will undertake Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) surveys to complement the MICS with the Government and other partners.
54. *Contextual risks:* The main contextual risk to the CP would be a deteriorating political and security environment: insecurity could lead to declining nutrition status among the vulnerable population. The Government and international partners are addressing peace and stability (paragraph 3).
55. *Programmatic risks:* The main programmatic risks to this CP are: i) logistics and infrastructure constraints; and ii) the ability of the Government and development actors to provide complementary assistance. Logistics remain a challenge, particularly in areas targeted by this CP. WFP will consider renewing part of its vehicle fleet to complement the capacity of private transporters. Given the landlocked position, the lead times will be carefully considered to avoid pipeline breaks and ensure food pre-positioning ahead of the rainy season. WFP will enhance coordination and communication mechanisms with the Government and beneficiaries' institutions to ensure they become knowledgeable and contribute to achieving results. A partnership framework with education and nutrition stakeholders will ensure complementary inputs are regularly available during the implementation.
56. *Institutional risks:* The main institutional risks to this CP are: i) erratic funding; and ii) resource misappropriation. WFP will advocate for a joint Government/WFP committee to develop a resource mobilization strategy and action plan for progressive programme ownership. The Government and WFP will strive to sustain resource mobilization by expanding the donor base and seeking multi-year funding mechanisms. Regular joint field visits geared to mobilize various stakeholders will anticipate and prevent the possible deviation of resources. This CP includes a strong capacity development strategy to strengthen control mechanisms in which the Government will play a pivotal role. The CP will also focus on building community awareness and participation through the training of school canteen committees and broadcasting of community radio advertisements. It will also promote investment by the Ministry of Education and education parliamentary committees in school meals as a means to support primary education. Internally, WFP applies risk mitigation measures and regularly updates the risk register during performance assessments.

²⁴ The essential package comprises school-based interventions to promote access to and benefits from education by linking the education, health, nutrition and sanitation resources in existing school infrastructure.

²⁵ WFP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

57. *Logistics arrangements:* Significant logistics problems include the landlocked position and distance from the nearest port (Douala, Cameroon); the lack of an adequate road network; volatile security conditions; and a weak private transport sector. WFP is responsible for all internal transport, storage and handling operations, and for delivery to extended delivery points by private transporters and WFP trucks. The Government will provide storage facilities. To reduce transport costs, WFP will purchase locally and pre-position food near final delivery points ahead of the rainy season.
58. *Procurement:* Depending on availability, WFP will prioritize local and regional purchases, which could include local fortified corn flour. To advance this aim, WFP is providing technical assistance to local suppliers and quality control bodies to ensure that quality requirements will be met. WFP is working with FAO, the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development, and a consortium of NGO partners to support land reclamation, crop production, and the construction of feeder roads and storage facilities to link markets through local purchase. Within CAADP and other agricultural development projects, WFP expects to increase purchases of maize meal from the local market, from 10 percent in 2012 to 30 percent in 2016, thus contributing to agricultural revitalization and poverty reduction, while reducing transport cost.

ANNEX I-A

BUDGET SUMMARY (US\$)			
	Component 1	Component 2	Total
Food (<i>mt</i>) ¹	11 564	1 690	13 254
Food (US\$)	7 012 573	3 041 044	10 053 617
Total food by component	7 012 573	3 041 044	10 053 617
External transport			944 144
Landside transport, storage and handling (<i>total</i>)			7 293 676
Other direct operational costs			1 312 511
Total direct operational costs			19 603 948
Direct support costs ² (see Annex I-B)			2 222 448
Indirect support costs ³ (7.0 percent)			1 527 848
TOTAL WFP COSTS			23 354 244

¹ This is a notional food basket for budgeting and approval. The contents may vary.

² Indicative figure for information purposes. The direct support cost allotment is reviewed annually.

³ The indirect support cost rate may be amended by the Board during the project.

ANNEX I-B

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
Staff and staff-related costs	
International professional staff	672 300
Local staff – national officers	51 938
Local staff – general service	108 000
Local staff – temporary assistance	300 375
Local staff – overtime	12 000
International consultants	16 800
Local consultants	6 509
United Nations volunteers	156 900
Staff duty travel	202 783
Subtotal	1 527 604
Recurring expenses	
Rental of facility	14 000
Utilities	290 000
Office supplies and other consumables	24 500
Communications services	31 000
Equipment repair and maintenance	31 000
Vehicle running cost and maintenance	85 000
Subtotal	475 500
Equipment and capital costs	
Vehicle leasing	122 400
Communications equipment	35 755
Local security costs	61 189
Subtotal	219 344
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	2 222 448

ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK			
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
<p>UNDAF Outcome 3 (PRSP 3): Vulnerable communities contribute to the formulation and implementation of social programmes, have access to basic social services and eventually take ownership.</p>	<p>UNDAF Outcome indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Primary school enrolment rates (gross and net). ➤ Primary school completion rate. ➤ % of communes with quality health services (MCHN, vaccination, etc.). ➤ % of health facilities/schools with functional management committees. 	<p>Conducive political and security environment.</p> <p>Increased shares of national budget go to social services.</p>	
CP Component 1: Support to pre-school and primary schoolchildren			
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition			
<p>Outcome 4.1 Increased access to education and human capital development in assisted primary schools and pre-schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual % change in number of girls and boys enrolled. Target: 3% annual increase for 100% assisted schools. ➤ Attendance rate: number of school days on which girls and boys attend class, as % of total school days. Target: 90% for 80% of assisted schools. ➤ Drop-out rate: number of children not completing the school year, as % of total enrolled. Target: < 4% for 80% of assisted schools. 	<p>Ability of Government and development actors to provide complementary resources.</p> <p>National education strategies and priorities maintained for the next five years.</p> <p>Sustained security situation.</p>	US\$15.4 million
<p>Output 4.1 4.1.1 Food of sufficient quantity and quality distributed to assisted schools.</p> <p>Output 4.2 4.2.1 School feeding coverage aligned with programme of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Numbers of girls and boys receiving school meals, as % of planned figures. Target: 100%. ➤ Tonnages of food distributed, by type, as % of planned distribution. ➤ Number of girls and boys receiving deworming medicine. ➤ Number of schools assisted, as % of planned number. 	<p>Adequate funding to maintain a healthy pipeline.</p> <p>Adequate number of qualified teachers.</p> <p>Parents' participation in and ownership of school meal activities.</p>	





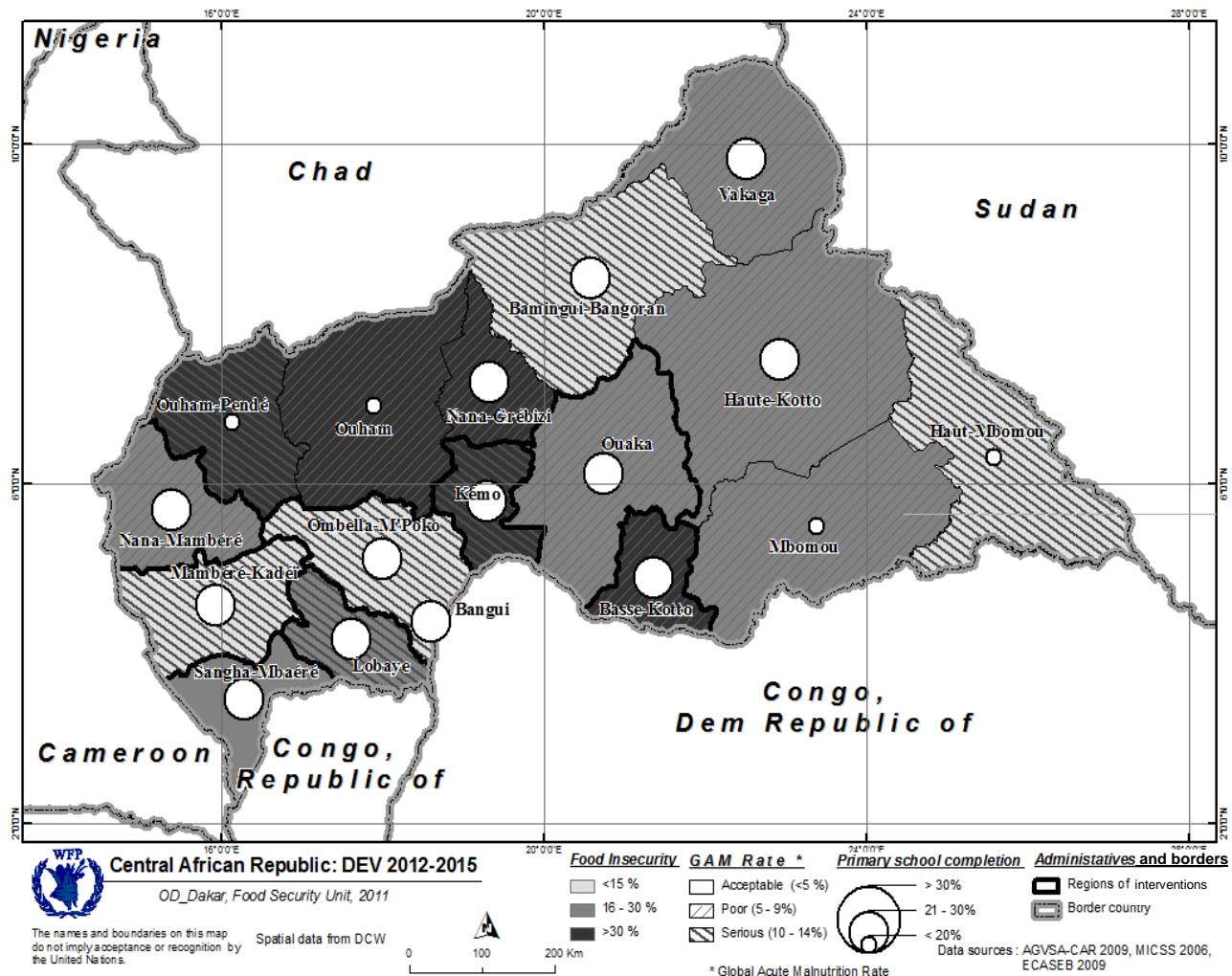
ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK			
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
CP Component 2: Nutrition support to malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women			
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition			
Outcome 4.3 Improved nutrition status of targeted women, girls and boys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 2 (height-for-age). Target: Reduction of 10% per year. Supplementary feeding indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recovery rate > 70%. ➤ Death rate < 3%. ➤ Defaulter rate < 15%. ➤ Non-response rate < 5%. 	No major shocks lead to deterioration in the nutrition status of vulnerable groups. Ability of Government and development actors to provide complementary assistance. Other basic needs are met: health and care services, hygiene. National health/nutrition policy maintained for the next five years.	US\$6.5 million
Output 4.2 Food and non-food items of sufficient quantity and quality provided to targeted women, girls and boys in nutrition programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Numbers of women, boys and girls receiving food and non-food items, as % of planned figures. ➤ Tonnages of food distributed, by type, as % of planned distribution. ➤ Number of health centres assisted. 	Timely contribution of funds and secure availability of commodities.	
CP Components 1 and 2: Capacity development			
Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase			
Outcome 5.1 5.1.1 Enhanced capacities of government institutions to manage school feeding programmes. 5.1.2 Enhanced government capacities in the design, management and implementation of national plans for school meals and nutrition. 5.1.3 Increased marketing opportunities at the national level with cost-effective WFP local purchases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ % increase in government funding for school feeding in the national plan of action Target: Increase of 10% per year. ➤ SFU created and operational by 2016. ➤ Number of policies and programmes for school meals and nutrition developed and implemented. ➤ Food purchased locally, as % of food distributed. 	Government able and willing to nominate staff and ensure complementary funding.	US\$1.4 million

ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK			
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions	Resources required
<p>Output 5.1 5.1.1 Capacity awareness developed through WFP-organized activities and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of health centre, government and partner staff trained in activity implementation and food distribution modalities. ➤ Number of women receiving messages on good health, nutrition, hygiene and caring practices. ➤ Number of counterpart staff trained under school feeding and nutrition components. <p>Target: 75% of counterpart staff trained and women receiving health messages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of annual plans of action/reviews organized with the Government <p>Target: 2 per year.</p>		



ANNEX III

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
COUNTRY PROGRAMME MAP (2012–2016)**



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

BSF	blanket supplementary feeding
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CFSVA	comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis
CP	country programme
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CSB	corn-soya blend
DEV	development project
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAM	global acute malnutrition
GDP	gross domestic product
HDI	human development index
HGSFP	Home-Grown School Feeding Programme
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IDP	internally displaced person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LNS	lipid-based nutrient supplement
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MAM	moderate acute malnutrition
MCHN	mother-and-child health and nutrition
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	multi-indicator cluster survey
MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
NGO	non-governmental organization
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RUSF	ready-to-use supplementary food
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
SFU	school feeding unit
TSF	targeted supplementary feeding
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization