
Central African Republic Operational Update

Presentation to the

WFP Executive Board

2013 Second Quarter Operational Briefing

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WFP food distribution in Bangui, 25 April 2013;
DIASPORA/Hervé Serefio

Background

Political instability and insecurity:

- a) Since the 25 March coup, the security situation remains a source of concern despite signs of gradual improvements.
- b) CAR has been suspended by the African Union, ECCAS and the OIF. Regional leaders have pledged to increase FOMAC troops from 500 to 2,000 but there is no plan for deployment yet.
- c) Regional political efforts at establishing stability are ongoing.

Humanitarian and Protection Needs:

- a) Concerns about humanitarian space and access to basic services and utilities.
- b) Recent civil conflict has contributed to population displacement as well as food and nutrition insecurity.
- c) Protection of civilians remains a major concern.

Priority now is to further scale up food assistance for people affected by the crisis; successful distributions outside Bangui took place on 01 May and are ongoing, to be further scaled up as possible.

Framework of interventions in 2013

PRRO, 200315 – Assistance to Populations Affected by Armed Conflicts in the Central African Republic and Sub Region

Operation:	January 2012 – December 2013
Total budget:	USD 42.22 million
Beneficiaries targeted:	398,382
Food requirements:	24,933 mt

Country Programme, 200331, Central African Republic (2012-2016)

Operation:	June 2012 – December 2016
Total budget:	USD 23.4 million
Beneficiaries targeted:	315,106
Food requirements:	13,254 mt

Operations and Requirements

					Budget	Beneficiaries		2013 Requirements	Project Shortfalls as of 8 May 2013	Project Shortfalls Percentage
Project Number	Project Type	Project Description	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Total Cost (USD)	Total	2013	USD	USD	%
200315	PRRO	Assistance to populations affected by armed conflicts in the Central African Republic and the Sub Region	01 Jan 12	31 Dec 13	42,222,864	398,382	329,182	21,399,869	0	0%
200331	CP	CP CAR (2012-2016)	01 Jan 12	31 Dec 16	23,354,244	315,106	127,458	4,726,501	18,526,384	79%
200522	SO	Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Central African Republic	01 Jan 13	31 Dec 13	7,638,002			7,638,002	3,645,967	48%
200544	IR-PREP	Special Preparedness Activity for Central African Republic	15 Feb 13	15 May 13	176,194			176,194	-	0%
Total					73,391,304	713,488	456,640	33,940,566	28,513,969	39%

- **PRRO:** Thanks to the most recent contributions, the PRRO is currently fully funded. Food security assessments taking place in the coming weeks will determine the continued and scaled up crisis response, which will be carried out either under a budget revision of the PRRO, or a new Emergency Operation.
- **Country Programme:** Current stocks cover less than one month of distributions for the education component; WFP faces a pipeline break under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme of the nutrition component. If no additional funds become available, WFP will only be able to distribute the ration for children for one month, but not for pregnant women and nursing mothers.
- **Special Operation:** With a recent CERF contribution, UNHAS' operational sustainability can be guaranteed until the end of August 2013. In order to sustain the operation until the end of 2013, some USD 3.6 million are required.

Activities in 2013

CAR (PRRO 200315)

(398,382 beneficiaries planned)

- **Food security:**
 - ✓ Lean season distributions (May – September)
 - ✓ Food for Assets
 - ✓ Emergency School Feeding in seven prefectures affected by conflict
- **Nutrition:**
 - ✓ **Targeted supplementary feeding** for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children as well as pregnant and lactating women scaled up to areas with high malnutrition rates

Implementation in CAR

- **Food and nutrition assistance is being scaled up** as security allows;
 - **Emergency Food Security Assessment** to be carried out mid-May with FAO, UNICEF and NGOs;
 - **Cooperating partners:** WFP activities are currently implemented in collaboration with a large number of international and national cooperating partners;
 - **Logistics routes:** WFP is preparing a Special Operation to increase its logistics capacity (fleet augmentation, bridge repairs);
 - **Coordination with UN agencies and NGOs:**
 - ✓ Food Security, Nutrition and Education Clusters activated – WFP is actively participating to the meetings held in Bangui.
 - ✓ 3 CERF Proposals submitted and notification of funding received (UNHAS, food security, ETC)
 - ✓ CAP response plan under revision
 - ✓ Weekly humanitarian coordination meetings in Yaoundé
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Response in neighbouring countries

- **Food and nutrition assistance for CAR refugees** in DRC, Cameroon implemented in collaboration with the Government, UN agencies and NGO partners;
- **Particular focus on the nutrition situation** of refugee children;

Field Offices for refugee response

Cameroon: Bertoua (1,889 refugee arrivals since December 2012, UNHCR)

Chad: Maro, Gore and Haraze (6,407 new refugees registered since December 2012, UNHCR)

DRC: Mbandaka - Equateur Province; Bunia - Oriental Province (37,755 refugees registered by UNHCR)

Republic of Congo: Betou – Likouala Region (3,000 refugees, 23 April, UNHCR)

Key operational constraints

Insecurity

- **The security situation remains volatile:**
 - ✓ **Bangui:** persistent looting, slowly shifting towards other violent acquisitive crimes; gender-based violence; military child recruitment.
 - ✓ **Rest of the country:** insecurity throughout in most parts of the country; limited or inexistent formal institutions of governance.
 - ✓ **Neighbouring countries:** Renewed fighting in Darfur has led a group of about 2,200 Sudanese refugees to cross the border *into* CAR.
 - **Security challenges:**
 - ✓ Discussion to reduce UN staff ceiling from 40 to 25 staff – WFP has been advocating against the reduction of humanitarian staff in close consultation with FAO, UNICEF and UNHCR.
 - ✓ Critical staff are accommodated in the BINUCA compound and rotate in and out to Yaoundé.
 - ✓ International and national staff work in the office on a strictly critical needs basis in Bangui.
 - ✓ Movements remain restricted.
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Key operational constraints

Logistical challenges

- **CAR is a landlocked country** and fully depends on sub-regional (air)ports for supplies. Roads are in very poor conditions and access to some location is impossible during the rainy season. Refugee hosting countries also face the challenge of **long lead times and weak road infrastructure.**
- **The lack of humanitarian space in CAR is a major challenge**
 - ✓ WFP has made necessary security arrangements for the transportation of food.
 - ✓ UNHAS is serving 27 destinations country-wide



Monitoring and assessments

- **IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

- ✓ Rapid Food Security Assessment planned for mid-April was postponed; meanwhile, WFP VAM officer has trained partners to go to the field as soon as security allows.
 - ✓ WFP plans to conduct a Food Security Assessment in May: The assessment should ideally be country-wide if security allows and will include the Bangui, Damara, Sibut axis where serious fighting and loss of lives took place.
 - ✓ An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted in February reported critical food insecurity among some additional 80,000 people. These additional needs were subsequently integrated into PRRO 200315 (Budget Revision approved in April 2013).
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Monitoring and assessments

- **IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES:**

- ✓ **Cameroon** – WFP is currently monitoring the situation in collaboration with other UN agencies and authorities. A joint assessment mission (JAM) is to be carried out as soon as possible (prior to mid-June).
 - ✓ **Chad** – A rapid food security assessment is currently being carried out by WFP in the refugees camps in Maro; preliminary results should be available within two weeks. Post distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys were conducted twice in 2012 (April and October).
 - ✓ **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** – Nutrition screening in March 2013 indicated acute malnutrition rates above the emergency threshold of 15%. Furthermore, prior to the recent influx, WFP food security assessments indicated that 14% of the local population is food insecure.
 - ✓ **Republic of Congo** – WFP is monitoring the situation through its field office in Betou in collaboration with local authorities and UNHCR. WFP prepared a questionnaire for a rapid assessment which was adopted by UNHCR. As the influx continues, the assessment was not yet launched by UNHCR.
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Current operational priorities

- **Continue to closely coordinate** through weekly humanitarian coordination meetings in Yaoundé and cluster meetings in Bangui;
 - **Continue advocating for humanitarian access** as the search for a political solution continues;
 - **Scale-up food distribution under the PRRO, preparation of an IR-EMOP to respond to additional beneficiaries' needs;**
 - **Funding for UNHAS:** WFP recently received notification of a CERF contribution of US\$ 1 million to UNHAS which reduces the funding gap to 44% or approximately US\$ 3.3 million;
 - **May** will be a critical month as the lean season approaches or has started in some regions. The reopening of schools is critical to allow for the resumption of emergency school feeding.
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Critical Risks in CAR

Contextual

- Further aggravation of the level of the armed conflict
- Lack of order/rule of law
- Socio-political unrest in Bangui linked to the socioeconomic and political situation in-country
- Security risks for staff

Programmatic

- Continued lack of safe humanitarian space
- Looting of WFP assets
- Disruption / breakdown of the supply chain (corridors)
- Lack of available and limited partner capacity.
- Reduction in WFP's capacity to monitor and coordinate the operations

Institutional

- Reputational risk (distribution monitoring; WFP coverage related to pipeline breaks or insecurity; 'do no harm' principles)

Summary Risk Analysis

Risks

Mitigation measures

Contextual risks

- Further aggravation of the level of the armed conflict
 - Lack of order/rule of law
 - Socio-political unrest in Bangui linked to the socioeconomic and political situation in-country
 - Security risks for staff
- SRSG, Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and Heads of UN Agencies to continue advocating for humanitarian access, for the return of the rule of law and order, for stability and security in the country, and against human rights violations and violence against civilians
 - Enforcement of MOSS and of strict security measures and additional security measures directly relevant to emerging and entrenched threat types.
 - Emergency preparedness / business continuity measures / remote management plan integrated in the latest operational response plan.

Institutional risks

- Reputational risk
- Direct monitoring of distributions by WFP staff (whenever possible) and by cooperating partners
 - Sensitization of staff (and partners) on code of conduct and "Do No Harm" Principles
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Summary Risk Analysis *(continued)*

Risks

Mitigation measures

Programmatic risks

- Continued lack of safe humanitarian space
- Looting of WFP assets
- Disruption / breakdown of the supply chain (corridors)
- Lack of available and limited partner capacity.
- Reduction in WFP's capacity to monitor and coordinate the operations

- WFP to continue advocating for humanitarian access
- Reinforced security on WFP premises in conjunction with neutral forces such as MICOPAX
- Mapping of partners capacities and increasing capacity-building for local NGOs
- Explore possibilities of using independent NGOs for monitoring of distributions where access is limited

Residual risks

- Expansion of conflict into neighboring countries
- Further reductions of humanitarian access and corridors
- Continuing funding shortfalls for UNHAS (and Country Programme)
- Limited number of implementing partners

- Exploring options of using alternative corridors
 - Advocacy and communication of funding shortfalls and needs through regular reports, briefs etc.
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The way forward

- **Increase the number of staff** on the ground and carrying out the rapid food security **assessment** are key priorities
 - **Life-saving and longer term assistance** will be combined within national frameworks where feasible. The following priority activities have been identified:
 - **Lean season distributions** to severely food insecure populations from May to September;
 - General food distributions to **IDPs and refugees**;
 - **Targeted supplementary feeding** for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition of children under 5 children and pregnant women and nursing mothers;
 - **Seed protection** rations in coordination with other actors including the FAO and NGOs to kick-start the agricultural season.
 - In support of above activities, **critical resourcing gaps under the UNHAS operation (USD 3.6 million)** need to be filled in order to sustain the operation beyond August 2013.
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Thank You!
