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# Central African Republic Operational Update

*Presentation to the*

## **WFP Executive Board**

### **2014 First Quarter Operational Briefing**

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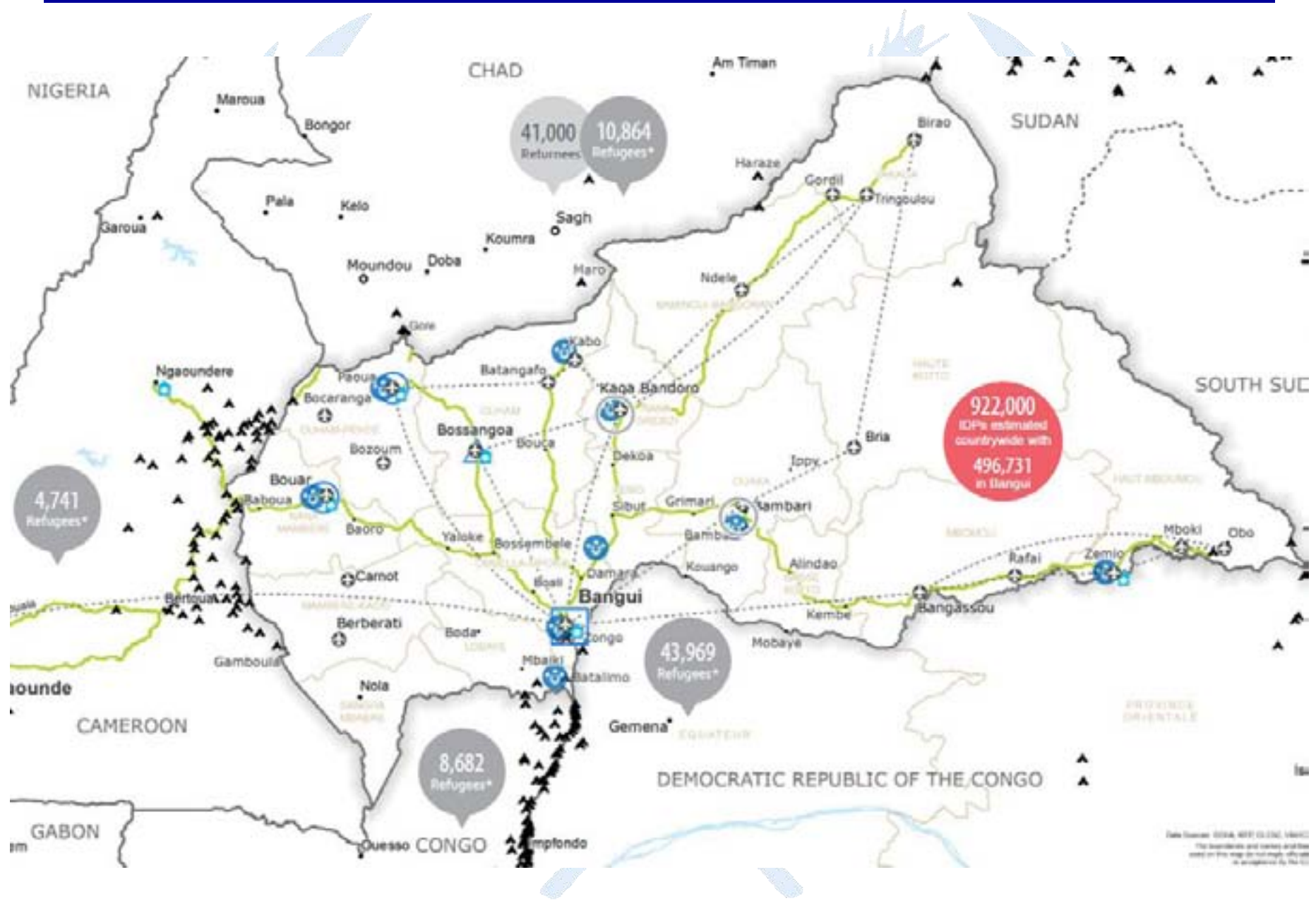
# Background

- The 24 March 2013 coup led by Seleka rebels plunged a fragile state into a humanitarian crisis, triggering violence and displacements.
  - On 5 December 2013, anti-Balaka attacks sparked a new wave of violence, spiralling into sectarian conflict between Muslim and Christian communities.
  - Two months later, Bangui has seen a reduction in large-scale clashes as 1,600 deployed French forces and AU mandated troops establish presence on main roads of capital. But the situation remains fragile. Underlying tensions and reprisal attacks result in daily fatalities, criminality is on the rise, and populations are not yet confident to return to their homes.
  - Beyond Bangui the situation has deteriorated. Clashes between militias and sectarian violence results in displacement, destruction of homes and looting of assets, and fatalities. Bridges have been destroyed and clashes and banditry present a significant challenge for transportation.
  - On 10 January, interim President Djotodia and the Prime Minister resigned amid international pressure. On 20 January, the National Transitional Council elected Bangui Mayor Samba-Panza as transitional President.
  - CAR has been a WFP Level 2 emergency since 14 May 2013 and was declared a system-wide Level 3 emergency on 11 December 2013.
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# Humanitarian Situation

- Violence over the past year has led to grave human rights violations, including atrocities against women and children; December clashes left more than 1,000 dead in Bangui alone.
  - As many as 922,000 persons may have been displaced, including 496,700 in Bangui. Dynamic movements make IDP counting difficult, and there is no mechanism to check or monitor numbers.
  - The Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment and market monitoring from January 2014 underscore the serious deterioration in food and nutrition security. Households now rely on one single meal per day, and their stocks are exhausted.
  - The exodus of large-scale traders and suppliers (majority Muslim) and the impact of insecurity on trade has left a failing economic situation. Signs point to the risk of break in food supply and an imminent spike in prices.
  - Schools are closed due to damage, looting, and the presence of IDPs. Limited access to medicine and sanitation indicate a highly concerning nutrition situation.
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41,000  
Returnees

10,864  
Refugees\*

4,741  
Refugees\*

8,682  
Refugees\*

43,969  
Refugees\*

922,000  
IDPs estimated  
countrywide with  
496,731  
in Bangui

Data Source: IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF  
The boundaries and names and the  
use of the map do not imply official  
recognition by the UN.

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# Framework of interventions in 2014

**DEV 200331- Strengthening Support to Education and Nutrition in CAR - *suspended***

**SO 200522- Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Central African Republic**

**SO 200605- Logistics Support to WFP operations, and Logistics & Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Augmentation in CAR**

**SO 200643- Capacity Augmentation and Staff Security**

**SO 200646- Strengthening Food Security Cluster Coordination in Central African Republic**

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# Framework of interventions - EMOP

## EMOP 200650 – Saving lives and Protecting Livelihoods in the Central African Republic

<b>Operation:</b>	January 2014 – August 2014
<b>Total budget:</b>	USD 106,943,441 million
<b>Beneficiaries targeted:</b>	1.24 million
<b>Food requirements:</b>	73,565 mt

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# EMOP Activities

- **General Food Distributions:** In the first phase of distributions, focus is on reaching those in greatest immediate need, namely internally displaced and severely food insecure populations; assistance will be scaled up ahead of the peak of the lean season.
  - **Blanket supplementary feeding:** is provided alongside general food distributions for all children 6 to 59 months. The integrated food and nutrition response aims to prevent a peak in acute malnutrition.
  - **Targeted supplementary feeding:** is implemented where health facilities and/or specialized NGO partners work to treat moderate acute malnutrition among pregnant/lactating women and children.
  - **Food by prescription:** supports people living with HIV/AIDS receiving antiretroviral therapy.
  - **Emergency school feeding:** provides an opportunity for children to return to school and to receive nutritious meals. The activity will be scaled up as schools gradually re-open.
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# EMOP Approach

## Specific intervention areas under this two-phased approach:

- January to April 2014: Focus on providing an integrated food security and nutrition response for the most severely food insecure and vulnerable groups, by scaling up a combination of general food distributions, blanket supplementary feeding, and targeted support for vulnerable groups (including targeted supplementary feeding, food by prescription, and emergency school feeding). The activities will overlap geographically and temporally to the extent possible, and be concentrated in the most affected areas.
  - May to August 2014: Assistance will be expanded to people who need support ahead of and during the peak of the lean season.
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# Implementation of CAR Operations

**Staff:** 113 staff in-country (73 national and 40 international); additional SURGE support in Yaounde and Douala Cameroon

**WFP offices :**

- **Bangui CO**
- **Paoua SO**
- **Bouar SO**
- **Bossangoa Field office**
- **(Bamabari SO – damaged, to begin rehabilitation)**
- **(Kaga-Bandoro SO – damaged)**

**Warehouses:** WFP currently has 4 operational warehouses in CAR.

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# Key operational constraints

## Volatile security

- Since early January, commercial trucks carrying WFP food are stuck as the majority of drivers refuse to cross the border from Cameroon even with escorts, citing insecurity along the roads. Road transport cannot guarantee the movement of sufficient stocks required for response; an airlift has been elaborated between Douala and Bangui.
- The fear of reprisals and violence that drove IDPs into displacement, remains their priority concern, and the confidence and security required for them to return is not yet assured.

## Insufficient Funding

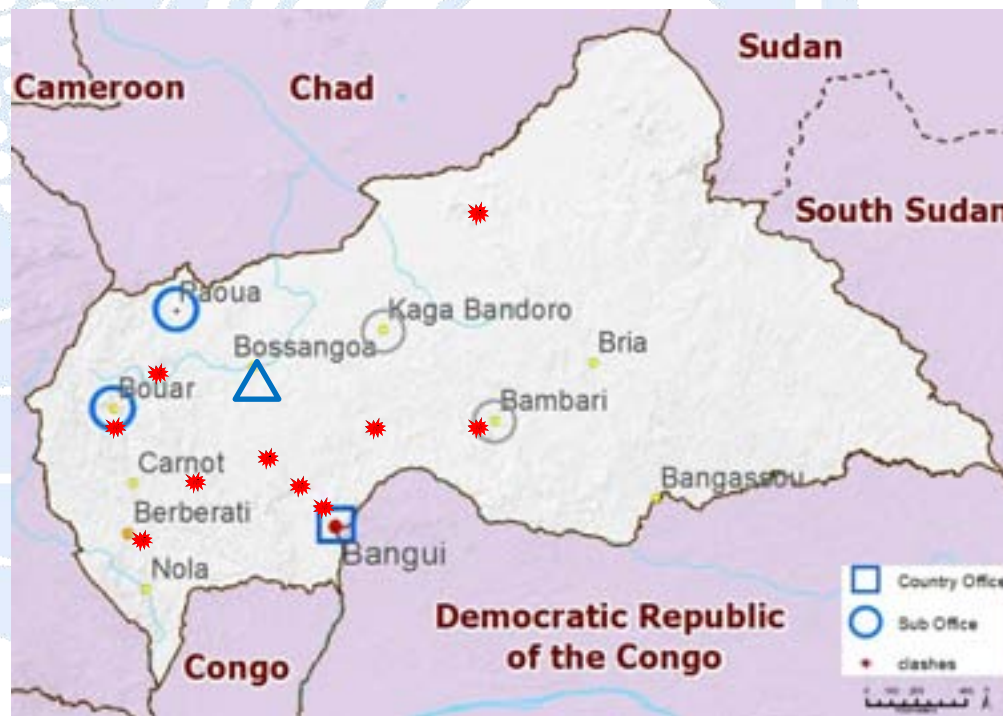
- The EMOP faces a 88%\* shortfall. Without new funds, WFP will be unable to maintain assistance after March, or to cover the large-scale pre-positioning required ahead of the rainy season when access to populations is extremely reduced. WFP is not in a position to meet any additional needs, or to plan for airlifts.
- Reducing assistance in a highly tense and unstable context presents an important risk to staff and beneficiaries.

# CAR Security

**Bangui:** Tensions remain high and sporadic deadly violence is reported daily.

**Centre and East:** Clashes continued in Sibut despite reconciliation between militias, and the situation around Bambari is tense.

**The Lord's Resistance Army** has expanded its reach towards Central CAR.



**North and Northwest:** The situation has significantly deteriorated around hotspots including areas in and around Bouar, Bozoum, and the Boali-Bossemele axis. Clashes between anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka militias are frequent, houses looted and burned, and populations flee to the bush.

# Operations and Requirements

	Budget	Beneficiaries	Received	Current shortfalls (to project end)
Project	Total Cost (USD)	Planned (2014)	USD	USD
EMOP 200650 (2014)	106,943,441	1,240,000	12,475,013	94,468,428
DEV 200331 (2012-2016) <i>suspended</i>	23,354,244	-	5,555,460	17,798,784
SO 200522 (2013-2014)	16,428,718	n/a	9,284,424	7,144,294
SO 200605 (2013-2014)	4,289,863	n/a	1,279,877	3,009,986
SO 200643 (2014)	5,310,683	n/a	0	5,310,683
SO 200646 (2014)	1,003,918	n/a	0	1,003,918

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# Resource Status

## Confirmed Contributions to CAR EMOP 200650

**12% confirmed against appeal**

<b><u>DONOR</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT (US\$ million)*</u></b>
USA	9.2
UN CERF	2.5
France	0.4
Korea Rep. Of	0.3

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# Current operational priorities

## Operational priorities:

- To maintain life-saving assistance to most vulnerable displaced and affected populations, and scale-up coverage in rural areas (North, North-West, and Centre). Be in a position to respond to new needs.
- To begin to systematically distribute special nutrition commodities alongside food distributions.
- To pre-position commodities in strategic locations ahead of rains.
- To support the gradual renewal of basic services (schools, nutrition and ART centers) as the political and security situation allows.
- To rebuild sub-offices damaged and looted during clashes.

## Means to implement operational priorities:

- Secure additional resources in the immediate term.
  - Continue to advocate for secure movement of trucks and staff, **reinforce WFP's fleet, and establish airlift for movement of goods.**
  - Strengthen partnerships with NGOs and identify additional partners.
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# Monitoring

## **Situation monitoring:**

- Support to market monitoring/surveillance system
- Support to Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (January 2014)
- Participation in ad-hoc inter-agency rapid assessments

## **Distribution monitoring:**

- WFP ensures deep presence in the field during distributions and coordinates with partners to adapt the distribution process
- WFP works with partners to monitor outputs (tonnages, beneficiaries)

## **Post distribution monitoring:**

- The volatile security situation does not allow for systematic comprehensive impact monitoring
  - WFP is analysing opportunities for remote monitoring
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# Critical Risks

## Contextual Risks:

- Continued conflict and violence impacts transport and ability to scale-up and access populations
- Declining food production in the country and deteriorating economic security
- Highly tense and sensitive environment – risk that could be perceived as partial to one side of conflict

## Programmatic Risks:

- Obstacles to access
- Insufficient partner presence and scale-up, particularly in rural areas
  - Pipeline breaks – due insufficient resources and disrupted deliveries
- Insufficient mechanisms in place to reduce protection concerns (abuse, sexual exploitation)

## Institutional Risks:

- Insufficient resources are secured in time for **WFP's response**
- Reputational risk if WFP is unable to maintain assistance and respond to growing humanitarian needs
- Difficult conditions of national staff who are also living the conflict



## Risks

## Mitigation measures

Challenging funding environment

All internal mechanisms necessary to pre-finance the operation and launch early procurement have been activated, and the Forward Purchase Facility has been reinforced. WFP is systematically reaching out to donors and communicating growing needs and the scale-up of **WFP's response. External updates are shared regularly, and** WFP works with the media to raise awareness. An ED appeal letter was sent, and WFP has participated in high-level conferences.

Continued conflict and violence impacts transport and ability to scale-up and access populations

WFP and the Humanitarian Country Team advocate with central and local authorities, MISCA forces, and transporters for securitization of the roads and safe movement of humanitarian staff and convoys. Airlifts are being developed for the movement of food. Humanitarian air services have been reinforced.

Insufficient partners and scale-up

WFP is working closely with the Food Security and Nutrition clusters to map partners. At the country level, WFP is working closely to identify new partners. And at the headquarters level WFP and NGOs are working on the scale up of partners.

Highly tense and sensitive environment – risk that could be perceived as partial to one side of conflict

WFP provides assistance based on needs and works with local religious and community leaders and populations to **sensitize on WFP's humanitarian principles.**

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# Residual Risks

The security situation does not improve.

- WFP is unable to expand as planned and required.
- Access to populations in remote areas is limited.
- Needs increase.
- Reliable road transport is further reduced.

Funding is not secured.

- WFP is no longer in a position to respond.
  - Reputational risk to the beneficiaries, to be shared with international community.
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# Way Forward

- We need to scale-up and push-out to rural areas to meet humanitarian needs. And when security permits, to support populations who are ready to return, to rebuild their livelihoods.
  - WFP assistance aims to mitigate the impacts of the crisis. Assistance meets life-saving needs. But also, by reducing the reliance on the sale of productive assets and protecting human capital development, WFP contributes to preventing a further deterioration of the situation in the medium to long-term. Distribution reduces the burden on host communities and supports voluntary return when and where return is possible.
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*Thank You*