Central African Republic

C.A.R. Funding Shortfalls (20 August)

- Emergency Operation USD 18.9 million
- Food Security Cluster USD 1 million
- ETC & Logistics Cluster USD 2.9 million
- UNHAS USD 3.9 million
- Augmentation of staff & security USD 5.3 million

Highlights

Despite numerous logistic challenges linked to insecurity and road conditions, WFP assisted over 930,000 people during the first seven months of the operation. In July, more than 300 food delivery points were reached.

Preparations for the upcoming Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission and the Emergency Food Security Assessment are ongoing.

A local purchase mission has been carried out to explore possibilities of supporting local agricultural production.

WFP is in discussions with partners to form new agreements for the coming months.

The supply of jet fuel has been restored and UNHAS has resumed its regular schedule.

The emergency telecommunications cluster is working on installing Internet, setting-up communication centres and prepositioning equipment in field locations.

Over the coming months, WFP will be preparing a Regional Emergency Operation covering C.A.R. and addressing the regional dimensions of the crisis through a coherent response.

C.A.R. Emergency Response

During the first seven months of the emergency operation, WFP faced significant access challenges linked to insecurity along transportation routes and near distribution sites, supply chain challenges with limited arrivals of trucks and transport blockades hampering the flow of food, bad road conditions and heavy rains. Despite these difficulties, WFP increasingly reached out to rural areas to the most vulnerable food insecure people. As a result, WFP assisted over 930,000 people at least once during the first seven months of the operation.

July

In July, WFP distributed 4,180 mt of food to nearly 400,000 beneficiaries, of whom over 35,000 were children assisted under the blanket feeding programme.

During the month, WFP reached 50 main locations across the country. These places constitute main towns and other locations significant to the response. In these main locations, WFP provided food to more than 300 food delivery points. This includes direct distributions (such as to schools) but also deliveries to partners, who in turn moved the food to additional urban and rural sites, as well as villages in remote areas.

In July, more than 225,000 people received seed protection rations, of whom 58 percent were in the most food insecure areas (IPC 4) of the country (Ouham, Ouham Péndé and northern parts of Nana Mambere) according to the Integrated Phase Classification, also including the main agricultural regions.

WFP continued the emergency school feeding programme by supporting the return of children to schools that have re-opened. Through this programme, 50,000 primary school children received a hot meal.

Nearly 5,000 beneficiaries under the targeted supplementary feeding programme received nutritious meals.

August

WFP is working on a strategy to focus on key programme priorities, while considering the current logistical and security challenges in the country.

A local purchase mission was carried out in Bangui in early August to explore possibilities of stimulating local agricultural production through the WFP Purchase for Progress programme.

WFP is preparing to roll out the August Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, as well as the subsequent Emergency Food Security Assessment.
Central African Republic

C.A.R. Situation Update

On 23 July, an agreement was signed on the cessation of hostilities between armed groups at the Brazzaville Forum for National Reconciliation and Political Dialogue. Authorities of the transitional government recently announced the planning of a series of trainings on mediation techniques and social cohesion to create an environment conducive to launching the national reconciliation forum.

On 10 August, Mr. Mahamat Kamoun was appointed the new Prime Minister of the country.

During the past weeks, attacks and violence have continued throughout the country, which most recently left more than 30 people dead in Mbrés in the Nana Bribizi province in the north. A series of clashes took place in and near the town of Batangafo in the north, which killed several people and displaced nearly 16,500 people. Between Kaga-Bandoro and N’délé, the security situation remains precarious and tense, impeding humanitarian access to some areas.

In Bangui, clashes between community members and international forces erupted in the neighbourhood of PK5 on 20 August, which spread to several locations throughout the town. Heavy weaponry and grenades were used and the skirmishes continued until late in the afternoon. The incident left several people dead and over 13 people injured.


Impact on WFP

There have been incidences of armed elements entering WFP distribution sites and attempting to obtain food. There have also been incidences of shooting near distribution sites in Bambari. No injuries were reported at the sites and distributions were able to resume once calm was restored. A few incidents of pillaging at distribution sites recently took place in Bambari and in a village 30 kilometres outside of Bouar. No injuries or threat to staff took place.

There have been several delays in dispatches throughout the country due to insecurity along the routes resulting in the reluctance of truck drivers to travel to certain areas. Heavy rains have also been rendering some routes inaccessible.

Due to low stocks of Plumpy’Sup in Douala and in the country in mid-July and onwards, WFP decided to temporarily suspend the blanket feeding activities (prevention of malnutrition) until stocks are replenished to continue the programme. WFP uses the remainder of the stocks currently in the country to focus on the targeted supplementary feeding programme as a priority to treat cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition.

Food prepositioning in Batangafo was suspended on 15 August due to security concerns. The security situation in the town remained calm during the weekend of 16 to 17 August, however tense. Humanitarian actors in the town decided to temporarily suspend operations until the security situation has improved, while focusing on securing humanitarian access.

Partnership

WFP continues to explore possibilities to expand priority interventions further into the field and reach areas which are difficult to access. Discussions are ongoing with current partners to make new agreements and form strong partnerships to continue reaching the most vulnerable.

WFP is currently working with approximately 25 national and international partner organizations and Government Ministries.

UNHAS

On 24 July, the three month jet fuel shortage came to an end and the supply of JET A1 was restored. During the three month rupture, WFP had airlifted 710 drums of fuel from May to July to maintain operations which enabled UNHAS to successfully transport an average of 1,300 passengers and over 18 mt of cargo per month from April-June.

On 28 July, UNHAS resumed its regular schedule of passenger and cargo flights and transported nearly 1,400 passengers and 19 mt of humanitarian supplies during the course of the month. In the event of additional shortages of fuel, UNHAS will keep a significant stock to ensure a continuation of operations and ability to respond to medical and emergency evacuations, if needed.

Cluster updates

Food cluster: The cluster is supporting the Government, WFP, FAO and the cluster partners for the coordination and preparation of the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission and the Emergency Food Security Assessment. The preparation of a vulnerability and food security evaluation in the enclave in PK5, Bangui, has been jointly finalized by the Food Security and Protection clusters and their partners (including WFP and several NGOs). Data collection will begin once the security situation permits.

Emergency telecommunications cluster: Internet connectivity was installed in the WFP Bambari office in July. A mission was deployed in mid-August to Bambari to set-up the Communication Centre and install a permanent VSAT solution for the Internet access. Prepositioning of equipment in N’Délé has started with a batch of 200 kg of IT equipment.

Logistics Cluster: WFP and the Logistics Cluster is working with a UNHRD technician to erect mobile storage units for inter-agency use in Kabo and Batangafo in the north.

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