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Central African Republic
ANNUAL REPORT

Our Impact **Update**



2021 Snapshot

Overall, WVCAR assisted

2.5  million people

including



1.1 million children



More than **4,850 children** helped to grow in their faith.



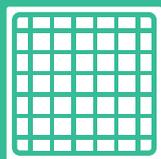
Over **1,000 children** participating in recreational activities.

Provided unconditional cash transfers and food coupons totaling over

\$8,379,963 to

367,000 

vulnerable people. Provided food assistance (in kind) to over



1,117,961 long-lasting insecticidal nets distributed.



350,000 vulnerable people.

2,552,585 of suspected malaria cases were tested for parasitology.

Reached

110,000 people with clean water.

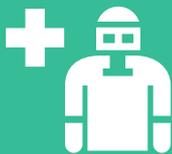


Over

500,000



people reached with behavioral prevention messages on COVID-19.



Distributed **1,650,000** personal protective equipment (PPE) to health facilities.



325,000 face masks distributed to health facilities, health workers and communities.

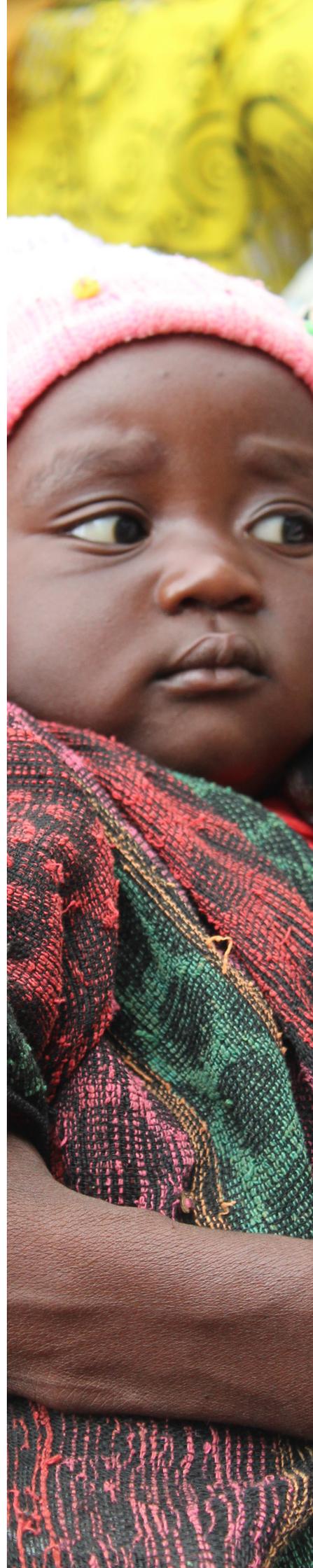
10,000,000 sets of gloves distributed to health facilities, health workers and communities.



Project expenditures totaled **\$45,259,506**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAR	Central African Republic
CC	Christian Commitment
CF	Celebrating Families
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CPC	Coalition of Patriots for Change
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
EU	European Union
FACA	The Central African Armed Forces
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
INSO	International NGO Safety Organization
MTs	Metric Tons
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
S4T	Savings for Transformation
UNDSS	The United Nations Department of Safety and Security
USAID/BHA	Humanitarian Fund, United States Agency for International Development/Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour
WFP	World Food Programme
WVC	World Vision Canada
WVCAR	World Vision Central African Republic
WVK	World Vision Korea
WVUS	World Vision United States

FOREWORD

Dear Friends, Partners and Colleagues,

On behalf of the World Vision Central African Republic (WVCAR) staff, partners, and children of CAR, I am pleased to share with you the 2021 WVCAR annual synthesis report.

In fiscal year 2021, WVCAR successfully implemented activities for Year One of the WVCAR 2021-2025 Strategy, which aims not only to alleviate the suffering of people affected by humanitarian crises, but also to improve the wellbeing of 2,1 million most vulnerable children by 2025.

This report, highlights main successes from 12 projects/grants that were implemented during this period.

We also share some of the challenges we encountered in our work and recommendations which if implemented would ensure successful execution of our strategy. Our interventions reached 2.5 million people, including 1.1 million vulnerable children with an annual budget of over \$50 million.

As you read this report, please consider how you can continue making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Central African Republic.

We are grateful for your generosity, support and commitment to WVCAR,

May God bless you abundantly.

Philippe Guiton
Response Director



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers October 2020 to September 2021 marking the end of Year One of the WVCAR 2021-2025 Strategy.

With the intent to continue lifesaving interventions, WVCAR is currently implementing a five-year strategy (2021-2025) whose goal is to contribute to the wellbeing of 2,100,000 most vulnerable children in CAR by 2025.

The highlights emerging from this report are from the current 12 active projects/ Grants and structured around the FY2021-25 strategic objectives as follows: (i) Increase in the number of children who have positive and peaceful relationships in their families and communities; (ii) Increase in the number of girls and boys protected from violence; (iii) Increase in the number of children who are well nourished (aged 0-5 years); (iv) Increased in the number of children protected from infection and disease (aged 0-5 years).

This report is a demonstration of WVCAR's efforts to deepen its commitment to the most vulnerable children, a key imperative of Our Promise; World Vision International Strategy. WVCAR is showing an encouraging progress and clear impact in sectors such as Faith and Development, Child Protection, Food Security and Livelihoods, Nutrition, Health and WASH.

Overall, WVCAR Response Office assisted an estimated number of 2.5 million people including 1.1 million children. In addition, projects expenditure totaled \$45,259,506, i.e. 89% of FY21 WVCAR's total planned budget (50,661,126 USD).

Despite major achievements in assisting vulnerable people, the work of humanitarians in CAR is getting more and more challenging. In 2021, insecurity and humanitarian access continued to hamper the movement of humanitarian personnel and endanger their safety. CAR had 699,000 refugees outside the country and 722,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) as reported by the Population Movement Commission as of September 30, 2021 .

In addition, as of September 15, 2021, the country had confirmed 11,342 cumulative cases of COVID-19, including 100 deaths. Some 140,492 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 .



¹ <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2f5c5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-caf.pdf>

² <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/>

³ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/>

II. INTRODUCTION

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a vast country with an area of 623,000 km². Landlocked in the heart of the African continent, it is surrounded by Cameroon to the west, Chad to the north, Sudan and South Sudan to the east, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo to the south. Its population is estimated at 4.9 million inhabitants unevenly distributed over the national territory⁴.

The poverty remains high and projections suggest that roughly 71% of the population was living below the international poverty (\$1.90 per day in Purchasing Power Parity - PPP terms) in 2018⁵. In 2017, CAR ranked 50th out of 54 countries on the African Governance Index and 184 out of 190 countries on the World Bank's Ease of doing business Index⁶. According to the latest WHO data published in 2018 life expectancy in Central African Republic is: Male 51.7, female 54.4 and total life expectancy is 53.0 which gives Central African Republic a World Life Expectancy ranking of 182⁷. Additionally, the country is the world's highest rate in maternal mortality (882 per 100,000 live births), while the extremely high under-five child mortality rate (179 per 1,000) highlights the severity of the health situation⁸. A child has a one in ten chance of not surviving to age 5⁹.

Despite the signing of the peace and reconciliation agreement in 2019, the security situation in CAR remains volatile and unpredictable. The humanitarian situation, which was already precarious, had worsened after the Constitutional Court invalidated former president François Bozize's candidacy for the presidential election on December 3, 2020.

The first round of CAR's presidential and legislative elections were held on December 27, 2020 and the outgoing President Faustin-Archange TOUADERA has re-elected in the first round of the presidential election, with 53% of votes.

However, many large cities were unable to vote due to the security situation. Throughout of whole of January 2021, several clashes occurred almost everywhere in the country between the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) and the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and its International Partners (Russian Wagner PMC, and the Rwandan Forces). As a result, most humanitarian organizations had temporarily suspended humanitarian relief work and relocated their employees.

The second round legislative elections were held on March 14, 2021, after 22 MPs were elected in the first

⁴ Aperçu des besoins humanitaires en 2021, RCA

⁵ www.worldbank.org/country/overview

⁶ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/688761571934946384/pdf/Doing-Business-2020-Comparing-Business-Regulation-in-190-Economies.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/central-africa-life-expectancy>

⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/centralafricanrepublic/overview>

⁹ Ibid.



round, and have had very little incident. Moreover, the President of the Central African Republic (CAR)- Faustin-Archange Touadera officially began a second term in office on January 19 after the CAR's December 27 presidential polls. His victory was confirmed on January 18 by the Constitutional Court and was sworn in on March 30, 2021 for his second term of five years.

In 2021, 2.8 million people including 1.3 million children were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection¹⁰. In addition, between January and September, 344 incidents affecting humanitarian workers were reported, compared to 267 during the same period in 2020¹¹. Moreover, CAR had 699,000¹² refugees outside the country and 722,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) as reported by the Population Movement Commission as of September 30, 2021¹³. Acute malnutrition in CAR represents a major public health problem and one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children under five. Across the

country, 40% of children under the age of five (more than 395,000 children) are already chronically malnourished, a rate above the emergency threshold of 30%¹⁴. In addition, the recruitment of children into armed forces and groups is also a major concern for one in four households in CAR. An estimated 13,000 children are currently enrolled in armed forces and groups¹⁵.

With the intent to continue lifesaving interventions, World Vision Central African Republic (WVCAR) is currently implementing a five-year (2021-2025) strategic plan, whose goal is to serve 2,100,000 most vulnerable children in CAR by 2025.

The report presents key achievements which aims to ensure protection and assistance to affected populations, especially the most vulnerable children. It also documents key challenges and practical recommendations for future interventions.



¹⁰ 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, October 2020

¹¹ <https://www.unocha.org/car>

¹² <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2f2fc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-caf.pdf>

¹³ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/>

¹⁴ https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/deterioration_de_linsecurite_alimentaire_et_montee_en_fleche_de_la_malnutrition.pdf

¹⁵ Humanitarian Needs Response Plan, OCHA, 2019

III. PROGRESS AGAINST PLANNED ACTIVITIES

A total of 12 projects/grants were implemented by WVCAR for the period 2020-2021. In addition, projects expenditure totaled \$45,259,506, i.e. 89% of FY21 WVCAR's total planned budget (50,661,126 USD).

The report therefore describes the progress of the activities according to the project results structured around the strategic objectives namely: (i) Increase in the number of children who have positive and peaceful relationships in their families and communities; (ii) Increase in the number of girls and boys protected from violence; (iii) Increase in the number of children who are well nourished (aged 0-5 years); (iv) Increased in the number of children protected from infection and disease (aged 0-5 years), with the following major results:



3.1. Increased number of children who have positive and peaceful relationships in their families and communities

The recurrent crises in CAR have affected not only the foundation of peace and national cohesion but also the fundamentals of the economy. The main recommendations from the National Forum for Reconciliation held in Bangui in May 2015, the adoption

of the new Constitution on March 30, 2016, and the process of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation, provided an opportunity to reflect further on how to explore all the ways and means of peace for the benefit of sustainable development at a time when the country is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030¹⁶.

In 2016, the Interfaith Platform for Peace in the Central African Republic (IPPC), which brings together Catholic, Muslim, and evangelical representatives across the country, established an "Interfaith Partnership for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic," supported by several Christian and Muslim NGOs namely: World Vision International (WVI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW)¹⁷. This platform was established to make national reconciliation a priority within the government's recovery and peacebuilding plan, in which reconciliation and peacebuilding are prioritized. In addition, to ensure that our support to vulnerable communities and children reflects our true Christian identity, WVCAR has strengthened its relationship with interfaith leaders through interfaith dialogues and the restoration of shared values of interfaith tolerance.

In partnership with World Vision International and the Platform of

¹⁶ Rapport National Volontaire de suivi de mise en œuvre des objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD), RCA, 2019

¹⁷ <https://africa.la-croix.com/centrafrique-religions-sengagent-consolider-paix/>



Syrian children inside Azraq Refugee Camp. As of August 2021, the camp hosts more than 36,500 Syrian refugees, 59.68 per cent are children.

Azraq Refugee Camp Photo: data.unhcr.org
<https://data2.unhcr.org>

Religious Confessions (PCRC), WVCAR has been able to implement its Social Cohesion program aimed at strengthening activities related to the spiritual training of children, mobilization and sensitization of the community on the importance of children's education, especially girls, peace education and children's rights, etc.

"Thanks to World Vision, peace has returned between the Muslim and Christian peoples. We have an inter-religious committee of social cohesion with rotating meetings at my imam's house, at the Abbot's and at the Pastor's. [...] we see that the two religions meet whereas before it was very risky [...] when we see each other we also discuss the respect of children's rights in our communities" Imam in Batangafo

The data below are the main results achieved in 2021:

30

religious leaders trained on Spiritual Nurture of Children;

410

religious leaders trained on the Celebrating Families;

4,851

children reached by WV's faith-based programming, including Spiritual Nurture of Children;

180

religious leaders participated in a Christian-Muslim dialogue workshop;

24

Religious institutions supported to do their peacebuilding work;

7,381

children trained on social cohesion, tolerance and child protection.



Success Story - Pastor Fabien

"I ran my home according to my tradition that the man should be violent to impose his authority on his wife and children. I was rude and I used to punish my children by detaining them under the sofa seats for an entire night. As for my wife, when I got angry, I would cut all communication and become insolent towards her. I would tell her that I no longer needed her and she was free to leave the home" said, Pastor Fabien.

"After the Celebrate Families training, I held a family meeting and asked for forgiveness from my children and my wife. I resolved to change my style of disciplining the children and adopted counseling rather than beating them. I decided to build my home on a new foundation by loving my children more, breaking the barrier, taking time to have fun with them", he added.

This is done through the promotion of a culture of forgiveness, tolerance, love of peace, and reconciliation among community members. We use project models adapted to fragile contexts such as: Celebrate Families (CF), Channels of Hope for Child Protection (CoH- CP), Channels of Hoppe for COVID-19, Do Not Harm, and Empowered World View (EWW), among others to achieve this goal.



3.2. Increase in the number of girls and boys protected from violence

CAR has ratified many international Human Right Conventions including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In addition, with the support of development partners, the Central African government's efforts extended to eliminate violence and harmful practices against women and children¹⁸.

Despite the efforts that have been made to prevent and respond to child protection issues, children are still facing severe protection problems. 31% of children aged 5-14 in CAR are engaged in the worst forms of child labor (WFCL), including illicit activities and armed conflict¹⁹. Moreover, one in four families fears for the safety of their children, mainly in relation to sexual violence against girls, forced labor and recruitment by armed groups for boys²⁰.

Similarly, the vulnerability of girls and women and their exposure to gender-based violence, including sexual violence, has increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic. Every single

hour in the Central African Republic, a case of gender based violence is reported. And the situation is certainly worse, since the respective information management system (GBVIMS) supported by humanitarians covers only 42 per cent of the country²¹.

During the reporting year, WVCAR with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), WVUK, WV Korea continued to pursue interventions that aims at enabling children to enjoy their rights and to be protected from the worst forms of child labour.

Therefore, WVCAR organized capacity building training for 155 actors of line ministries, police and the gendarmerie on the ILO Convection No.182 that calls for the prohibition and elimination of the wors forms of child labour. WVCAR also provided financial and logistical support to the Ministry of Labor in its mandate to raise awareness and sensitize the public on the rights of children. In addition, the organization has facilitated the formation of 16 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and they have received a grant of 250,000 XAF each for their economic activities. *"Thanks to World Vision, our association has grown and I even got a credit of 50,000F which allowed me to expand my business and I solve more easily the problems of my children"*, testifies a member of a VSLA in Batangafo.

Furthermore, we provided financial assistance to 400 households with children associated with armed groups in Batangafo and Bocaranga. *"I got 25,000 XAF from WV and I traded common products such as soap, sardines, rice, milk, etc. Today, I manage to make a living from my activities. Today, I manage to save a profit of 500*

¹⁸ Rapport National Volontaire de suivi de mise en œuvre des objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD), RCA, 2019

¹⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1104376/download>

²⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-situation-report-30-october-2020>

²¹ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20Report%20-%20Central%20African%20Republic%20-%20Feb%202021.pdf>

to 1,000 per day, which allows me to feed my family and provide for my children.” A head of household benefiting of income generating activity in Bocaranga.

During the year, WVCAR succeeded in setting up three groups (one in Bocaranga and two in Batangafo) called “Citizen Voice and Action” (CVA), each with 15 members. Note that CVA is a social responsibility approach that relies on civic engagement to improve the performance of the administration and the vote. WVCAR, through training, sensitization and community dialogue activities, has been able to strengthen the capacity of community leaders and six (6) Community Networks for Child Protection (RECOPE) on the prevention of violence against children. We also sensitized over 1,000 children on their rights and responsibilities.

In addition, WVCAR provided education kits (notebooks, pens, slates, pencils, and bags) to more than 5,800 children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG) and vulnerable children to enroll in primary and secondary school. Moreover, we supported 370 vulnerable children to enroll in vocational training. The children have been listened to and supported in their training choices, which include sewing, masonry, carpentry, mechanics, small trade and animal husbandry. Also, WVCAR has set up 6 child-friendly spaces reaching over 1,000 children every weekend participating in recreational activities.

Some testimonies

1. *“World Vision made me learn that at my age (8 years old) my place is in school and not with the armed groups, even if my father was a Zone Commander (Comzone). [...] we should hold a pen and not a gun”. A CVA child*
2. *“With the Citizen Voice and Action group, I learned to speak in public and in the presence of authorities such as*

the sub-prefect and the mayor”. A young person from the CVA group

3. *“Since we left the armed groups, we have discovered that we have many qualities that we can put to use in the service of our community, whereas we used to serve the bad guys in the armed groups”. A young CVA girl*
4. *When we were in the armed groups, all our families disowned us and no one had the courage to approach us, but today with the testimonies and the skits we did in public, the whole community has accepted us” A young CVA “I was in the armed groups and I did bad things like stealing, robbing, ... everyone here knows that I was very bad. But since I got out I read the Koran and I stopped everything” A young person from the CVA group*
5. *“As a group leader, I have become a fervent defender of children’s rights, I call on all parents to blame them when they mistreat their children” A group leader in Batangafo*



3.3. Increase in the number of children who are well nourished (aged 0-5 years)

The Food security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is complex and multidimensional and the main cause remains the security constraints. The deterioration of the food security situation is also attributed to the decline in the security situation, the rise in food prices and the depletion of household’s food stocks. The loss of household incomes and the rise in food costs in the urban areas is affecting households’ purchasing power, which exacerbates their vulnerability²². During an IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analysis of Central African Republic conducted in September 2021, 67 of the country’s 71 sub-prefectures were analyzed as well

²² WFP Central African Republic, Country Brief February 2021



as the city of Bangui. For the period of September 2021 to March 2022, nine sub-prefectures were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 59 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Of the 4.9 million people living in the sub-prefectures analyzed, 2.1 million (43%) will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) through March 2022, including around 620,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)²³.

For the projected period (April to August 2022), 20 sub-prefectures are classified as IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 40 others as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Approximately 2.4 million people, or 49% of the population analyzed, will face a high level of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher), of which approximately 689,000 people will be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)²⁴.

The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) is 5.8% and the prevalence of chronic malnutrition throughout the country is over 40% of

children under five, a rate above the emergency threshold of 30%²⁵. The results of the WFP mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (mVAM) shows that 2.3 million people have insufficient food consumption, a considerable increase compared to the last three months²⁶.

With the funding from different donors namely the World Food Program (WFP), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Humanitarian Assistance (OHA), and the United Nations Humanitarian Fund (UNH), significant progress has been made in the area of food security.

During the reporting period, WVCAR provided unconditional cash transfers and food coupons totaling over \$8,379,963 (approximately 484 million XAF) to 367,000 vulnerable people. Moreover, WVCAR provided food assistance (in kind) to over 350,000 vulnerable people. Furthermore, 10,000 children (under 2) received therapeutic and complementary

²³ IPC_CAR_Acute_Food_Insecurity_2021Sept_2022Aug_Report

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ WFP Central African Republic, Country Brief February 2021

feeding assistance. Over 10,500 affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were identified, treated or referred. Also WVCAR assisted over 70,000 children through its school feeding program every month. Furthermore, nearly 2,330 people living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral treatment received food assistance.

In 2021, WVCAR promoted maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) with a focus on infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Approximately 22 mothers' clubs were established in intervention target areas to promote exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) for the first six months of the child's life and adequate transition to complementary foods at 6 months, followed by a multitude of sensitization sessions conducted in the intervention area. As a result, more than 12,000 lactating and pregnant women received therapeutic and complementary feeding assistance. In addition, 611 pregnant and lactating women also participated in bi-weekly meetings to learn about best nutritional practices and participated in cooking demonstrations in Bambari.

Over the reporting period, WVCAR organized trainings for 10 women's groups with over 250 members in Bangassou. These trainings focused on children's rights, the creation and management of income-generating activities, and market gardening. WVCAR also provided small grant of 500,000 F CFA to these 10 women's groups for their economic activities, especially in the areas of agriculture, livestock, and small businesses, thus contributing to their livelihoods. In addition, 250 households in Bangassou and 2,550 households in Bambari were trained on farming techniques.

Also, 66 members of agro-pastoral groups received training on income-generating activities, association governance, etc. and received a grant of \$39,000. As of September 30, 2021 WVCAR had established 185 Village Savings and Loans Associations – Savings for Transformation (S4T) with over 3500 active members. Moreover, 20 Village Agents were trained on the S4T modules and the monitoring mechanism of Savings groups.



SUCCESS STORIES

Léonie, 28 years old, Mother of 6 children

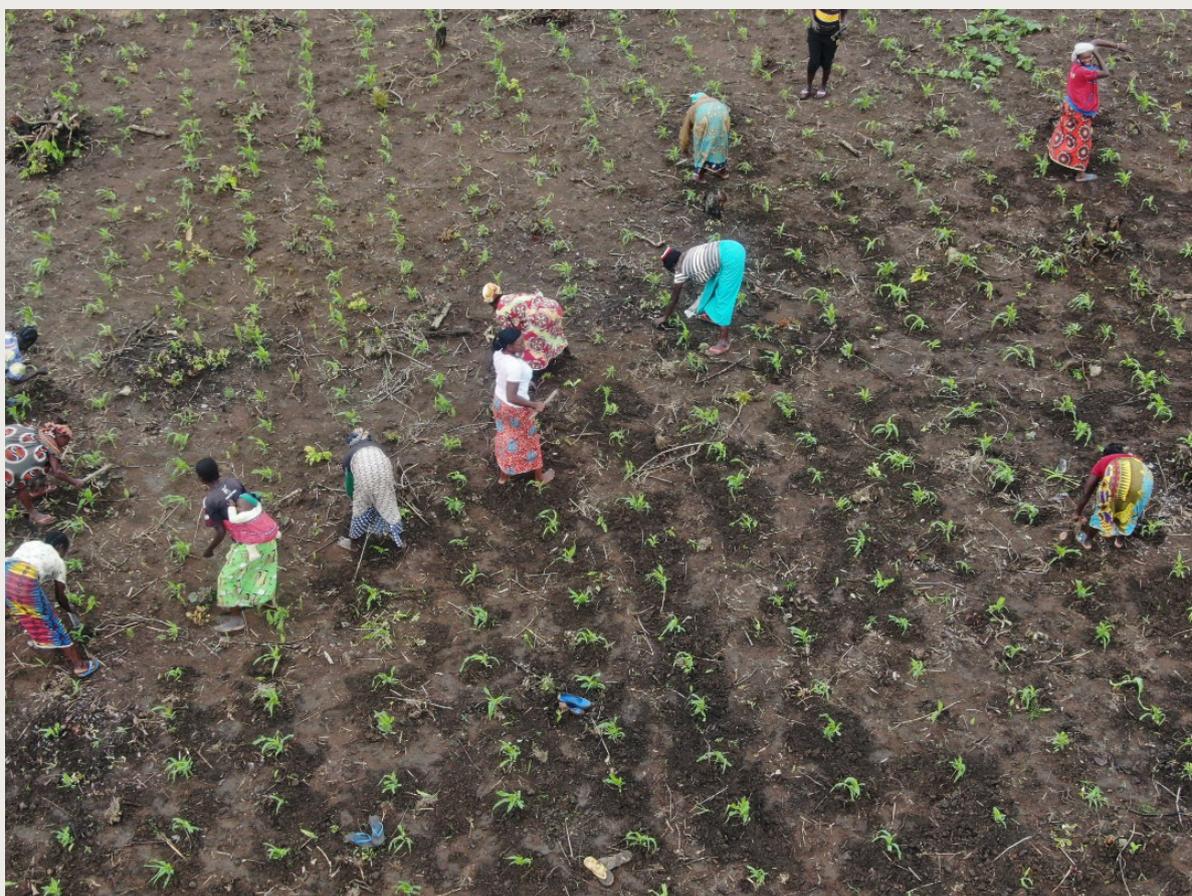
"When I arrived in this area, it was not easy to get land for cultivation. Seeds and vegetables are scarce and expensive in the local market. I had difficulties feeding my children, and I had to engage in casual labor to survive," said Leonie. Before adding that *"Thanks to WVCAR, despite being a displaced person, I received seeds that I grew. Now I have something to harvest in the last two months and it is still going on. This contributes significantly to improving the living conditions of my children"*

Martine and Madeleine, Our "Unconditional cash" beneficiaries

"My family in-laws have always considered me as the cause of my husband's misfortunes and I was hated", says Martine. But today, she testifies, *"It is the hand of God with this Cash Transfer program. I have multiplied my business and thanks to my small savings, I can pay my children's school fees and make them eat regularly."*

Madeleine, *"It is my daughter who returned to her uncles in Congo who supported me to survive with my grandsons whose parents abandoned in the hands of my daughters."* It was Providence, says Madeleine, a 70's widow. *"When I was registered to benefit from World Vision's unconditional cash program"*.

Our two unconditional Cash beneficiaries said they are saved because, tired by the disease, they manage, not only to eat well regularly, but also to but to take care of themselves.





3.4. Increased in the number of children protected from infection and disease (aged 0-5 years)

The deterioration of living conditions is perceptible at the health level in the Central African Republic with its chronic crises. It is estimated that 2,571,343 people (including 446,128 children under the age of 5, 102,854 pregnant and lactating women) are in need of humanitarian health assistance during the year 2021²⁷

In addition, CAR has a generalized HIV epidemic estimated at 4%²⁸. It is also a country with high morbidity for tuberculosis. According to WHO estimates, in 2019, the incidence of tuberculosis in all its forms was 540 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with about a quarter of them living with HIV²⁹. It should be noted that a Central African child has a 12% chance of not surviving to the age of 5. Malaria remains the leading cause of death among children³⁰. Between January and June 2021, more than 1.3 million cases of malaria were reported in public health facilities.

According to the World Health Organization, all pregnant women and newborns must receive quality care throughout pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period. In addition, the maternal mortality rate in the Central African Republic (CAR) is estimated at approximately six deaths per day³¹.

In addition, since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to

exacerbate the vulnerabilities of the most marginalized groups.

Years of conflict and underinvestment have also had a devastating impact on access to essential basic services. The number of people in need of water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) services has increased by 8%, or 2.5 million people in 2021³². People's access to WASH services remains very low in CAR, with a water coverage rate of around 40% and less than 30% for sanitation in 2018³³. Access to water and sanitation is particularly problematic in the many sites where 207,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) live, often in overcrowded makeshift shelters where physical distance is not feasible³⁴.

Despite many challenges in 2021, WVCAR has continued to provide assistance in the areas of health, COVID-19 and WASH.

Health:

With the funding from the Global Fund, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WVCAR continued to implement activities aimed at reducing malaria-related morbidity and mortality among the general Central African population. WVCAR also ensures the free distribution of medicines in order to improve access to health care for the affected populations as well as the free distribution of mosquito nets in the context of malaria prevention to the population in general and to pregnant women and children under 5 years of age in particular. Thus, the following activities were carried out during the fiscal year 2020-2021:

²⁷ Aperçu des besoins humanitaires en RCA, OCHA, 2021

²⁸ <https://www.unaids.org/fr/keywords/central-african-republic>

²⁹ Rapport mondial de l'OMS sur la tuberculose 2020

³⁰ HNO, CAR, OCHA 2021

³¹ http://french.china.org.cn/foreign/txt/2021-09/19/content_77763520.htm

³² <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/central-african-republic/document/car-plan-de-r%C3%A9ponse-humanitaire-humanitarian-response>

³³ https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020%20Country%20Overview_CAR_FR.pdf

³⁴ Rapport de situation, 23 juin 2021, OCHA

Throughout 2021, 894,050 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) were distributed to at-risk populations through mass distribution campaigns. In addition, 223,911 long-lasting insecticidal nets distributed to targeted risk groups (pregnant women and children under 5 years of age) through continuous distribution

In addition, 2,552,585 of suspected malaria cases were tested for parasitology. The availability and free access to malaria control inputs, particularly rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), are factors that have made this result possible. It should be noted that the rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) is still the most popular means of parasitological testing with a proportion varying between 92% and 75% between the public sector and the private faith-based sector respectively.

Similarly, 1,794,018 of confirmed malaria cases received first-line antimalarial treatment at public sector health facilities. This achievement is due to the availability of free malaria control inputs in the health facilities as well as to the training and supervisions of health facilities, while 564 public health facilities did not experience stock outs of essential medicines

On the other hand, 77,663 of pregnant women attending antenatal clinics received three or more doses of intermittent preventive treatment for malaria.

Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation in response to COVID-19:

The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview shows that in 2021, 2.5 million people have critical needs in the area of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) to live in dignity.

Since the first case of COVID-19 in CAR in mid-much, 11,342 cumulative cases, including 100 deaths have been confirmed as of September 15, 2021³⁵.

In addition, the combination of low rates of access to water and sanitation, low sanitation coverage and economic vulnerability of households, ranks the Central African Republic among the most vulnerable countries in the world to the COVID-19 pandemic according to the INFORM COVID-19 index³⁶. According to the General Directorate of Hydraulic Resources (DGRH), the water coverage rate is around 32% and less than 30% for sanitation³⁷.

In partnership with the European Union, and World Vision International, WVCAR has implemented interventions to help save lives by increasing drinking water coverage and improving hygiene and sanitation services. WVCAR played also an important role in supporting the government 'efforts to respond to COVID-19.

In FY 2021, World Vision supported approximately 110,000 affected people to improve their living conditions through the construction of 55 boreholes and the rehabilitation of 78 existing boreholes throughout our intervention areas. Similarly, 95 water point management committees composed of 570 members have been set up and trained to ensure and guarantee the sustainability of the hydraulic works and the continuity of the water supply. Also, 95 Hygiene Committees/Clubs composed of 382 members have been set up and trained. Similarly, 216 community relays have been trained as trainers and are actively disseminating health and hygiene messages in targeted communes and villages. In addition, 82 masons were

³⁵ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/>

³⁶ https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020%20Country%20Overview_CAR_FR.pdf

³⁷ CAR 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview



trained in the construction techniques of SanPlat slab latrines and three-stall VIP latrine blocks.

WVCAR also installed 300 handwashing stations in public spaces, households, and institutions (markets, schools, health training,). 5578 Kits were distributed to 5578 households. The kits consisted of 1 empty 20-liter jerry can, 1 20-liter bucket, 1 2.5-liter plastic kettle, 12 pieces of azure soap and 12 pieces of toilet soap, a baby pot and a sanitary napkin.

In addition, 70 blocks of VIP latrines with 3 stalls were built and equipped with accessories for disabled people (ramps, handrails and raised seats and hand washing device). 6500 SanPlat slabs constructed and distributed to vulnerable families.

In 2021, 50 religious leaders (32 men and 18 women) were identified and trained on

the Channels of Hope (CoH) -COVID-19 approach. Similarly, 50 handwashing devices are installed in places of worship. Each device is composed of a 60L plastic bucket with lid and tap, six (06) 200g pieces of laundry soap, one (01) 15L basin, one (01) soap basket, a 5L bucket and one (1) iron stand.

In addition, several health facilities equipped with 1,650,000 personal protective equipment (PPE). 325,000 masks or cash-noses distributed to health facilities, health workers and communities). 10,000,000 new sets of gloves distributed to health facilities, health workers and communities

As of September 30, 2021, over 500,000 people reached with behavioral prevention messages on COVID-19 through the various outreach campaigns.

SUCCESS STORIES

Mirabelle, 17 years' old

"Two years ago, the population used to fetch water from springs of dubious quality located several kilometers from the neighborhood. Thanks to the rehabilitation work carried out, the quality of the water has improved significantly. We got our well as if it was newly built and the population is happy to have drinking water just nearby."

"Since the pump has been repaired and functional, it has helped all the students a lot. It has brought us so much joy because before the pump was repaired all the students in the high school went to the neighborhoods, often located a long distance away, to get water every day. The fact of having drinking water available permanently improves some of our study conditions and makes us more comfortable especially for cleaning classrooms, washing hands and other uses"; Bienvenu student at Bocaranga high school



IV. MAIN CONCLUSIONS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusions

In conclusion, regardless of the still difficult and volatile context, WVCAR remains fully committed to assisting the affected population, especially vulnerable children in CAR.

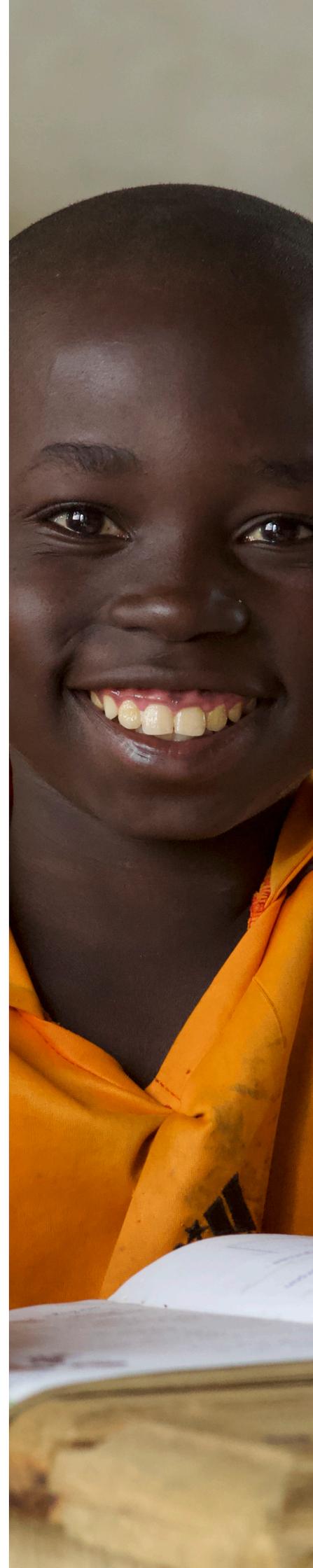
Despite 2021 being a challenging year, the majority of the project's planned activities were implemented and targets were mostly met. Beneficiaries' testimonies of satisfaction with

WVCAR's interventions have proven the relevance and quality of the programs' implementation.

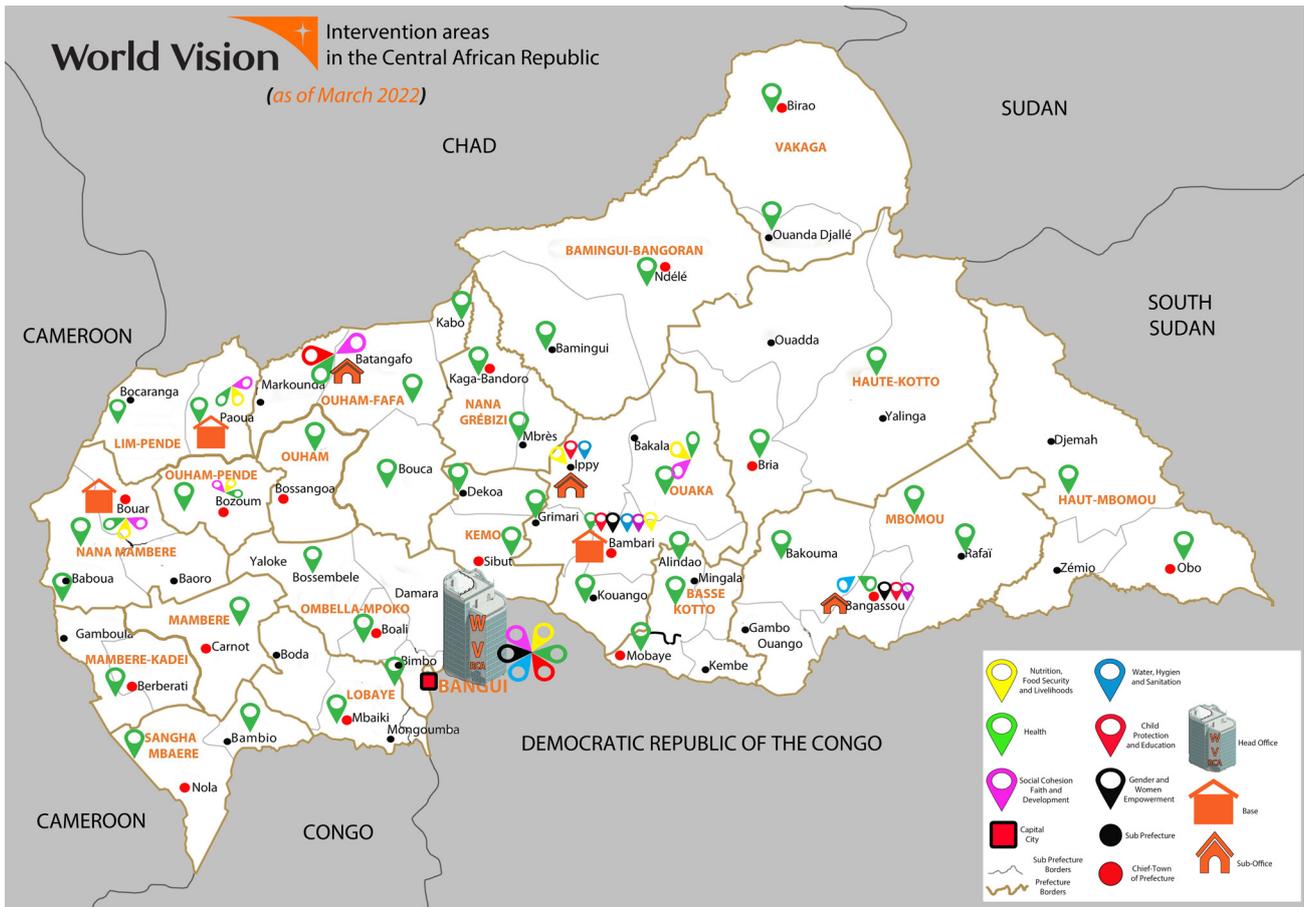
4.2. Challenge and recommendation

While the majority of the planned activities have been implemented and the targets have been met, the table below summarizes the main challenges and proposed recommendations.

No	Key Challenges	Recommendations
1	Security situation and humanitarian access continue to hamper the movement of humanitarian personnel and endanger their safety	WVCAR must continue to engage with the INSO and UNDSS to ensure sustainable access to guarantee security for its staff in the field.
2	Absence of an advocacy Strategy	Consider to formulate the advocacy strategy and implement the ITAW Campaign
3	The absence of the an overall Partnership Framework	Develop the strategy or Partnership Framework between WVCAR and its local partners, especially with interfaith institutions
4	WVCAR website is updated but lacks content	Put content (response strategy, project results, success stories, etc.) on a regular basis to make the WVCAR website more attractive.
5	Growing needs of the many populations affected by the crises	There is need to put in place an aggressive resource mobilization mechanisms to meet the increased demand and expectations of vulnerable groups, especially children



Mapping of World Vision interventions in CAR



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