

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

NOVEMBER 21, 2014

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**2.5 million**

Estimated Number of People in the Central African Republic (CAR) Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – November 2014

**1.0–1.5 million**

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Emergency Food Assistance

USAID-Funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – November 2014

**430,000**

Approximate Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – November 2014

**61,250**

Approximate Number of IDPs in CAR's Capital City of Bangui

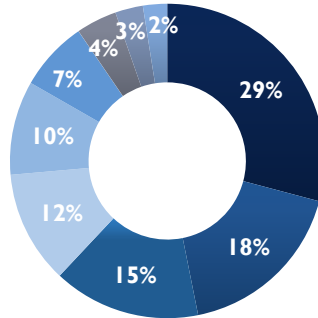
UNHCR – November 2014

**426,700**

Approximate Number of Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

UNHCR – November 2014

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014 & FY 2015



- Logistics & Relief Commodities (29%)
- Health (18%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (15%)
- Protection (12%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (10%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (7%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)
- Shelter & Settlements (3%)
- Nutrition (2%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2014



- Local and Regional Procurement
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid
- Food Vouchers

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The situation in Bangui remains precarious, as ex-Séléka elements have issued demands to the Government of CAR (CARG) and threatened to detonate explosives.
- U.N. Senior Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for CAR Claire Bourgeois visits northeast CAR and calls for increased humanitarian support to the area.
- The ongoing harvest has improved food security levels in parts of CAR; however, an estimated 1 million people may require emergency food assistance by mid-2015.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO THE CRISIS IN FY 2014 & FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$37,071,866
USAID/FFP	\$42,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$70,898,621
<b>\$149,970,487</b>	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since November 12, ex-Séléka elements have protested against a CARG plan to relocate members of the group from Bangui to other parts of the country. The protesters have issued demands, including payment for relocation and support for reintegration into the military, and threats, such as the detonation of explosives. The situation in the capital remains precarious.
- Although the ongoing harvest has eased food insecurity in parts of CAR, an October assessment by U.N. World Food Program (WFP) indicated that 26 percent of households do not have adequate food consumption. Displaced populations in CAR are particularly vulnerable, and the number of individuals requiring emergency food assistance is projected to be approximately 1 million people by the May-to-September lean season in 2015, according to FEWS NET.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## CURRENT SITUATION

- The situation in Bangui remains tense, as ex-Séléka elements continue to protest a CARG plan to relocate members of the group from Bangui to other areas of the country, international media reports. On November 12, ex-Séléka elements threatened to detonate explosives in Beal camp—a demobilization site in Bangui where ex-Séléka elements have quartered since early 2014—unless the CARG meets their demands, according to the U.N. Beal camp is located near an OCHA compound and two hospitals, and the U.N. estimates that detonating explosives at the site could severely affect up to 30,000 people. An estimated 1,000 ex-Séléka members remain encamped near Bangui, and anti-Balaka elements have threatened to attack ex-Séléka members if they do not leave the capital.
  - In response, HC Bourgeois convened a November 13 emergency meeting of the U.N. Humanitarian Country Team and identified several contingency and mitigation measures—relocation of IDPs in the area; an emergency plan in the event of an explosion; community outreach to minimize panic; and engagement with international forces to reduce the risk of conflict between armed actors.
  - Following a meeting with the CARG on November 13, ex-Séléka elements received payment of more than \$8,000; however, ex-Séléka elements have continued demonstrating against the CARG relocation plan. On November 16, armed actors fired weapons and began looting near Beal camp, prompting international forces to intervene. As of November 17, armed groups had set up roadblocks in Bangui and tensions in the area persisted, according to the U.N.
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## DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The number of IDPs in CAR has increased by 20,000 people since early November due to clashes between armed actors, according to the U.N. Approximately 430,000 people remain displaced across the country.
  - Since November 17, inter-communal violence in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture’s Zémio town has resulted in the displacement of approximately 12,800 people—80 percent of the local population. The violence in Zémio has killed one person, injured 10 others, and destroyed more than 30 homes. The inter-communal fighting is the most significant incidence of violence in the area since the CAR crisis escalated in December 2012. On November 19, the U.N. conducted a rapid assessment that identified shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services as priority needs for some of the IDPs.
  - During a November 8 visit to Vakaga Province in northeast CAR, HC Bourgeois met with local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community members to assess humanitarian needs in the province. The U.N. reports that the May closure of the nearby Chadian border restricted local access to food and other commodities, exacerbating the humanitarian situation in Vakaga—a remote province with poor infrastructure. HC Bourgeois called on international humanitarian organizations to provide additional support to displaced and host communities.
  - On November 7, armed actors attacked and looted cash from a truck carrying medical supplies for NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) between Bossembélé and Yaloké towns in Ombella-M’Poko Prefecture. On November 8, armed individuals—reportedly the same perpetrators involved in the November 7 attack—looted a second MSF truck in the area and kidnapped a MSF staff member, releasing the person upon payment of ransom. MSF reports that ongoing threats to its personnel may force the organization to reduce operations in CAR, which likely would result in less access to health care for conflict-affected populations throughout the country. MSF provided approximately 15,000 consultations between August and October in CAR.
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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Due to ongoing conflict and insecurity, household food and income sources remain significantly disrupted across CAR. The most food-insecure areas are in the central and northwestern parts of the country, including Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, and Ouham prefectures, according to the U.N. The ongoing harvest is expected to provide most non-displaced households with sufficient food in the short-term; however, atypically low incomes in 2014 will likely constrain access to food via markets in early to mid-2015, according to FAO and the WFP estimates.
- FEWS NET projects that the size of the food-insecure population in CAR, as well as the severity of food insecurity, will likely increase in 2015, and approximately 1 million people may experience Crisis—IPC 3—or higher levels of food

insecurity by mid-2015.<sup>4</sup> The most vulnerable and food-insecure populations include people sheltering in IDP sites, IDPs staying with host families, and former displaced people who have recently returned to areas of origin.

- Although CAR's aggregate food production in 2014 increased by 11 percent compared to 2013, prices for most food items have risen by 48 percent, including a 30-to-70 percent increase in the price of maize, millet, and peanuts in Bangui between March and August, according to the U.N. However, national cassava prices between February and August decreased by 13 percent, partially due to a 45 percent increase in cassava production during 2014.
- Between September and November, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with support from State/PRM and volunteers from the Central African Red Cross, provided emergency food assistance to more than 18,000 displaced persons sheltering at IDP sites in Bangui. Additionally, USAID/FFP provided 7,000 cartons—approximately 97 metric tons (MT)—of ready-to-use therapeutic food to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) in October to treat malnourished, displaced women and children across CAR.
- WFP is preparing a ninth round of food distributions for CAR refugees in eastern Cameroon and intends to provide emergency food assistance to nearly 86,000 people. The agency is working with UNHCR to expand food distributions in the area to reach approximately 130,000 Central African refugees. Additionally, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)—in partnership with WFP—recently completed a fourth round of nutritional support to CAR refugees in eastern Cameroon's Gado refugee site, reaching nearly 5,000 children under the age of five and more than 900 pregnant or lactating women. From January to early November, IFRC provided nutritional supplements to nearly 25,000 children and 3,800 women in eastern Cameroon.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- In early November, health professionals diagnosed a Central African child with cholera at a hospital in Cameroon's East Region—the first reported cholera case in the area, according to UNHCR. As of November 20, relief agencies had documented 14 cases of cholera among Central African refugees in eastern Cameroon and had distributed more than 200 cholera kits in the area to prepare for additional cases, according to the U.N.
- To date in 2014, relief actors have reported more than 100 cases of pertussis—a highly contagious respiratory disease—in Nana-Grébizi Prefecture's Kaga-Bandoro town, according to the Health Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Relief agencies have provided treatment to more than 540 children under the age of five—the most vulnerable group for the disease—while vaccinating an additional 530 children in the area.
- In partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Mercy Corps, UNICEF provided improved WASH services for nearly 13,000 people by constructing and rehabilitating latrines and showers in Bangui. In addition, UNICEF reached more than 22,000 people with hygiene awareness activities, including personal and environmental hygiene techniques.
- From September to November, ICRC—with support from State/PRM—provided access to safe drinking water for more than 20,000 IDPs sheltering at the M'Poko international airport in Bangui, as well as more than 20,000 displaced persons in Ouaka Prefecture's Bambari town. During the same period, ICRC also supported the rehabilitation of the main water pipeline that provides safe drinking water to more than 100,000 people in the area north of Bangui.

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## PROTECTION

- From October 6 to 15, UNICEF and partners conducted separate trainings on child protections strategies for more than 400 ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka combatants in Bambari. Children are particularly vulnerable in CAR, as violent clashes between October 8 and 20 resulted in the deaths of nine children—all boys between the ages of 8 and 17—as well as 22 reported injuries, according to UNICEF.
- Armed groups in CAR recruited an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 children during the previous 18 months, international media report. Since January 2014, UNICEF has negotiated the release of approximately 1,400 youths; however, released children have struggled to reintegrate into the general population.

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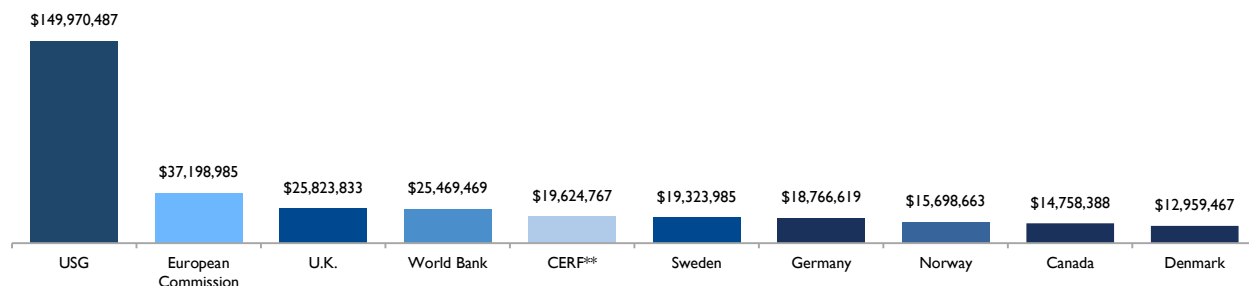
<sup>4</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## OTHER ASSISTANCE

- As of November 21, international donors had committed \$339 million—61 percent—of the \$555 million requested by the 2014 CAR Strategic Response Plan to address urgent humanitarian needs in CAR.

## 2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\*

PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of November 21, 2014. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2014 calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments in FY 2014 and FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2013, and October 1, 2014, respectively. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among CAR refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

\*\* U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the U.N. to support underfunded emergencies.

## CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed alliance began to advance across CAR in opposition to then-President François Bozizé. On March 24, 2013, Séléka fighters entered Bangui, effectively seizing control of the country and triggering a period of widespread violence.
- Security conditions in CAR further deteriorated on December 5, 2013, when clashes erupted between militants associated with the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups, composed of armed fighters that oppose ex-Séléka forces. As of November 2014, the security situation throughout CAR remains volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of CAR.
- In response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires David E. Brown reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2015 on October 1, 2014.

## USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS PROVIDED IN FY 2014 & FY 2015<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	WASH	Ouham Prefecture	\$1,000,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Bangui city, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture	\$1,375,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Ouham Prefecture	\$650,638
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé Prefectures	\$2,163,745
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$3,280,623
IFRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$498,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouham, Vakaga Prefectures	\$2,734,936

International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Ouham-Pendé Prefecture	\$880,587
Mentor	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé Prefectures	\$1,500,242
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection	Mbomou Prefecture	\$779,535
NetHope	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$577,765
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bangui city, Kémo, Mabéré-Kadéï Prefectures	\$2,220,880
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Nana-Mambéré Prefecture	\$1,063,258
SC/US	Health, Protection	Haut-Mbomou Prefecture	\$1,135,126
Tearfund	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Lobaye Prefecture	\$1,274,445
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
USAID/OFDA-Airlifted Relief Commodities	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Bangui city	\$3,646,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$500,000
World Vision	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Ombella-Mpoko Prefecture	\$1,778,626
	Program Support		\$12,460
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$37,071,866</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	200 MT of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, Nutrition Activities	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
WFP	9,876 MT in Local and Regional Procurement of Food Commodities for General Food Distributions, Supplementary Feeding, and Food-for-Assets Activities	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
WFP	Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for General Food Distributions and Supplementary Feeding Programs	Countrywide	\$17,500,000
WFP	Distribution of Cash-Based Food Vouchers to Chadian Returnees Fleeing CAR for Southeastern Areas of Chad	Chad	\$1,000,000
WFP	Distribution of Locally Purchased Commodities to CAR Refugees	Cameroon	\$5,000,000
WFP	475 MT in Local and Regional Procurement of Food Commodities for General Food Distributions and Supplementary Feeding	Republic of Congo	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$42,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
CARE	Protection, Health	Chad	\$600,000
International Center for Health Support (CSSI)	Health Assistance for Refugees	Chad	\$400,000

ICRC	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$11,200,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Cameroon	\$1,357,865
IOM	Evacuation and Basic Return Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants	Countrywide and Neighboring Countries	\$4,950,000
IRC	Health and Protection for Refugees	Chad	\$820,000
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Livelihoods Assistance for Refugees	Chad	\$620,000
Mentor	Health Assistance for Refugees	Chad	\$150,756
UNICEF	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$3,400,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Refugees and IDPs	Countrywide and Neighboring Countries	\$45,500,000
U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA)	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Chad	\$300,000
WFP/UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WHO	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$1,100,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$70,898,621</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS IN FY 2014 &amp; FY 2015</b>			<b>\$149,970,487</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USG humanitarian funding responds to urgent needs among populations inside CAR and refugees and returnees who fled violence in CAR for neighboring countries.

<sup>2</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of November 21, 2014.

<sup>3</sup>Estimated value of food assistance.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>