

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #6, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

FEBRUARY 21, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.6 million

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – December 2013

1.3 million

Estimated Number of Food-Insecure People in CAR

U.N. World Food Program (WFP) – December 2013

698,500

Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR
OCHA – February 2014

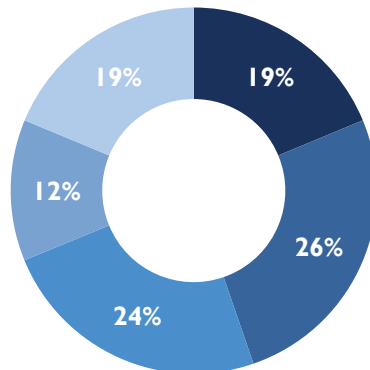
273,500

Total IDPs in Bangui
OCHA – February 2014

289,977

Total Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – February 2014

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014



- Health (19%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (26%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (24%)
- Protection (12%)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (19%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) deteriorates further, with attacks against civilians escalating.
- Persistent insecurity continues to hinder humanitarian efforts across the country.
- Potential for worsening food insecurity in CAR raises concerns.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO CAR IN FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$8,008,810
USAID/FFP ²	\$20,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$17,000,000
\$45,008,810	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO CAR	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The situation throughout CAR remains alarmingly volatile, and international media and relief organizations report near-daily incidents of mob violence, looting, and banditry committed by both ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka forces.
- Humanitarian access and activities in the capital of Bangui and other areas of CAR remain subject to fluctuating security conditions. CAR's interim government and the international community continue to call for an increased presence of security forces throughout the country to prevent escalating attacks against civilians and to improve humanitarian access.
- Insecurity-related market disruptions and uncertain prospects for the upcoming 2014 agricultural season could likely worsen food insecurity in CAR.
- In FY 2014 to date, the USG is providing approximately \$45 million in humanitarian assistance to CAR. USG assistance supports emergency food aid, health care, relief item distribution, humanitarian protection activities, and humanitarian coordination and logistical services in CAR, as well as multi-sectoral interventions for Central African refugees and other individuals in the region affected by the ongoing crisis.

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

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

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

CURRENT SITUATION

- Growing violence in CAR has raised serious concerns within the international community. Increasing retaliatory violence targeting Muslims by anti-Balaka elements has caused many Muslim civilians to flee CAR or to relocate to Muslim-majority areas in the country's northeast. Meanwhile, ex-Séléka fighters continue to perpetrate attacks on communities and anti-Balaka forces while withdrawing from western CAR.
- In recent weeks, several high-level U.N. officials, including U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) António Guterres and U.N. Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Valerie Amos, visited CAR to assess humanitarian conditions. At the end of their trips, both HCR Guterres and ERC Amos issued statements expressing concern for the high levels of violence in the country and urging the international community to help re-establish security in CAR. In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including Human Rights Watch and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), released reports highlighting ongoing humanitarian concerns in CAR, particularly the targeted attacks on Muslims by anti-Balaka forces.
- On February 15, soldiers from the African-led International Support Mission to CAR (MISCA) helped a convoy carrying hundreds of Chadian nationals departing Bangui for the CAR–Chad border leave the capital without incident. However, unidentified armed fighters attacked the group at least twice as it traveled northward, killing at least three people and injuring four others, according to OCHA reports.
- On February 19, heavy fighting—including rocket and grenade attacks—erupted in Bangui between anti-Balaka fighters and troops from MISCA and France. The clashes occurred near M'Poko International Airport and in Boy Rabe neighborhood, known as a base for anti-Balaka groups, according to international media. Initial estimates from local authorities indicate several deaths and 10 to 40 individuals wounded. OCHA reported that February 19 anti-Balaka demonstrations against disarmament by international forces likely contributed to the spike in violence. International media also cited confrontations between anti-Balaka fighters and soldiers escorting a convoy of Muslim civilians to M'Poko airport as a reason for the clashes.
- On February 20, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon presented a six-point initiative to the U.N. Security Council to prevent further deterioration in the CAR crisis. The plan calls for the deployment of at least 3,000 soldiers to reinforce the MISCA and French troops in CAR as a priority, noting the need to improve security conditions rapidly.

DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Rising violence against Muslims by anti-Balaka elements have led many Muslim civilians to flee from CAR to neighboring countries or to relocate to Muslim-majority areas in the country's northeast. According to MSF, tens of thousands of Muslims have fled Bangui and western towns, including Baoro, Berbérati, Bocaranga, Bossangoa, Bouca, Bozoum, and Carnot, to escape threats of violence. Additional Muslim populations may be residing in forested or other remote areas, without access to protection or humanitarian aid.
- The insecure operating environment in CAR, including incidents perpetrated by armed groups against humanitarian actors, continues to hinder humanitarian access to vulnerable populations throughout CAR, according to OCHA. On February 14, armed fighters blocked an interagency humanitarian protection mission from reaching northern parts of Bangui to investigate reported abuses against Muslim civilians and to assist survivors of an attack that killed an estimated 21 men from a convoy of approximately 70 Muslims traveling toward Chad.
- As of February 19, approximately 698,500 individuals remained displaced within CAR, and nearly 40 percent of the total—more than 273,000 IDPs—resided at displacement sites or with host families in Bangui, according to OCHA. The countrywide IDP estimate represents a 17-percent decrease from the 838,000 IDPs reported on February 7. While the new number reflects some recent localized returns in parts of Bangui, new displacement continues to occur, and many IDPs remain inaccessible to in-country actors working to verify displacement figures. IDP estimates will likely continue to vary in accordance with CAR's fluid security conditions.
- In mid-February, one month after a return intention survey conducted on January 15 and 16, USAID/OFDA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) completed a second survey to ascertain changes in the capacity and willingness of Central African IDPs to return to areas of origin. Preliminary results indicate that the percentage of

interviewees who expressed interest in returning home in the coming weeks decreased between January and February, from 72 percent to 66 percent. In addition, IOM reported that approximately 72 percent of Christian interviewees expressed desire to return home, while 66 percent of Muslim and ethnic minority respondents stated interest in staying at an IDP site, relocating to a different area of CAR, or departing CAR for a neighboring country.

- USAID/OFDA is providing \$1 million in FY 2014 to date to support IOM efforts to assist Central African IDPs. With USAID/OFDA funding, IOM is establishing a tracking and monitoring mechanism for IDPs throughout CAR, as well as distributing emergency relief commodities, such as shelter materials and cooking kits, to IDPs.
- Civilians—comprising Central Africans and individuals of other nationalities—continue to depart CAR for neighboring countries, primarily Cameroon, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Since the beginning of February, nearly 20,000 Central African refugees and approximately 7,900 third-country nationals (TCNs), mainly from Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, have crossed into Cameroon, according to UNHCR. In addition, OCHA reports that approximately 70,900 Chadians, Central African refugees, and TCNs, including 980 unaccompanied minors, have fled from CAR to Chad since December 21. The total includes more than 16,700 individuals evacuated by air to the Chadian capital of N'Djamena, as well as approximately 54,200 people arriving by road in Chad's southern regions.
- According to UNHCR, nearly 54,700 Central Africans have become refugees within the region since December 2013. The estimate includes approximately 28,800 refugees in Cameroon, 14,200 refugees in DRC, 6,600 refugees in Chad, and 5,100 refugees in the Republic of the Congo. As countries strive to cope with new arrivals, the need for additional emergency assistance within the region is rising.
- In FY 2014 to date, State/PRM has committed more than \$14 million to IOM and UNHCR for transportation and multi-sectoral assistance to Central African refugees and other individuals in the region affected by the CAR crisis.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- In a February 10 press release, several NGOs, including Oxfam, Action Contre La Faim, International Medical Corps, Mercy Corps and Tearfund, expressed concern that the recent departure of many large traders and herders from CAR—the majority of whom are Muslims fleeing violence—will likely generate negative impacts for the country's markets. Pre-crisis, the vast majority of Bangui's food trade relied on approximately 40 wholesalers, who imported food from neighboring countries for resale to smaller traders. As of early February, fewer than 10 wholesalers remained in the capital, with many reportedly planning to leave should the insecurity persist. A prolonged absence of wholesale traders could significantly reduce CAR's staple food supplies, resulting in rising food prices for already vulnerable populations with limited resources.
- As of late 2013, approximately 1.3 million Central Africans were experiencing acute levels of food insecurity. The ongoing market disruptions will likely worsen existing food insecurity caused by depleted household food stocks and already high food prices. Furthermore, the country faces uncertain prospects for the 2014 planting season, as most communities report having insufficient quantities of seeds for planting. Relief agencies anticipate that CAR's food-insecure population may increase in the coming months, with most expected to rely on humanitarian assistance or market purchases until at least the harvest in mid-2014.
- On February 12, WFP commenced airlifts of food commodities from Douala city in western Cameroon to Bangui, transporting 82 metric tons (MT) of rice to the Central African capital. WFP plans to convey approximately 1,800 MT of cereals—sufficient to feed 150,000 people for one month—from Douala to Bangui by plane over the next four weeks. During the week of February 3, a security escort including MISCA troops accompanied more than 40 WFP trucks from the Cameroon-CAR border to Bangui. The trucks reportedly transported adequate food supplies to feed approximately 50,000 people for one month. While the recent arrival of food commodities will help meet emergency needs, WFP reports that the limited supplies will not permit the replenishment of low WFP food stocks or the pre-positioning of food items across CAR ahead of the rainy season due to begin in April, when many roads will become impassable.
- With USAID/FFP support, WFP reached more than 32,800 Central Africans with approximately 220 MT of emergency food rations between February 1 and 12. The assistance included some 170 MT of food commodities

distributed to an estimated 26,700 IDPs at the M'Poko International Airport site, as well as another 5 MT of food provided to 830 beneficiaries elsewhere in Bangui. WFP also provided 21 MT of food rations for 2,700 people in Bouar and 22 MT of food items for nearly 2,600 people in Bossangoa. In addition, between January 23 and February 12, WFP and partners provided supplementary food items to more than 7,800 children under the age of five in Bangui and Bouar to prevent deterioration in their nutritional status.

- In FY 2014 to date, USAID/FFP is providing \$20 million to WFP to support general food distributions, supplementary feeding programs, and other activities benefiting IDPs and other conflict-affected Central Africans.

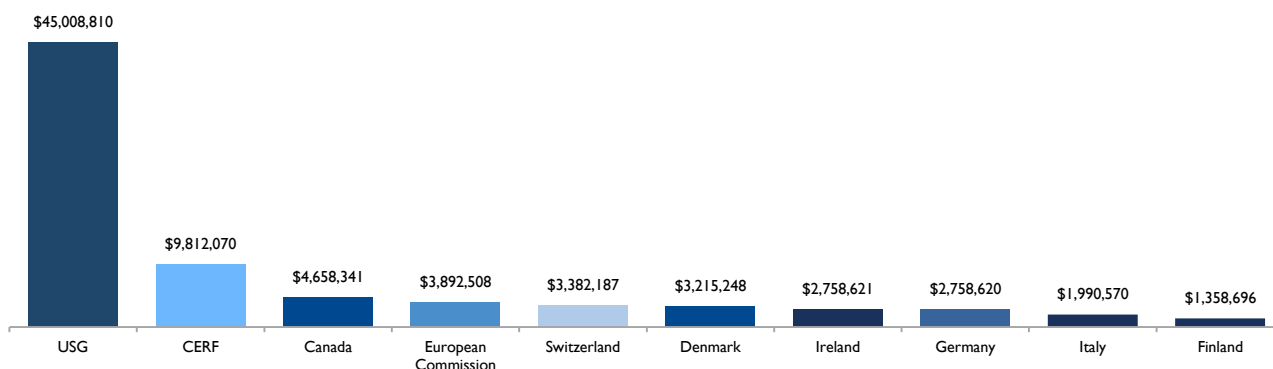
HEALTH AND WASH

- On February 12, the Assessment Capacities Project released the results of a disaster needs analysis of the CAR crisis for the period between December 2013 and February 2014. The analysis highlighted the collapse of basic services in the country and underscored that only 10 to 20 percent of CAR's population has access to medical care through a health system almost entirely supported by international NGOs. The report also confirmed a significant need for humanitarian protection interventions, citing human right violations, forced recruitment of child soldiers, and gender-based violence perpetrated by all parties to the conflict.
- The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—continues working to improve access to safe drinking water for IDPs living at sites in Bangui, particularly at M'Poko airport. Due to recent connections to the network of CAR's national water supplier SODECA and a decrease in the number of IDPs, individuals staying at the M'Poko airport site are able to obtain nearly 10 liters of water per person per day—more than double the amount available in early February.
- In FY 2014 to date, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$4 million through partners to improve access to essential health services and to reduce malaria prevalence among conflict-affected populations in northwestern CAR, as well as to strengthen rapid response mechanisms and support humanitarian protection activities countrywide.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On February 13, ERC Amos authorized the release of an additional \$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the humanitarian response in CAR. This is the second \$10 million CERF allocation since December 2013, when the security situation in CAR sharply deteriorated.
- Also on February 13, the Government of Norway (GoN) announced plans to provide an additional 60 million Norwegian kroner—approximately \$9.8 million—to support efforts undertaken by relief organizations in CAR. In early February, the GoN had pledged 6 million Norwegian kroner—nearly \$1 million—to support MISCA operations.
- On February 14, the Government of Italy announced the provision of €400,000—approximately \$548,000—to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a child protection and education program in northwestern CAR. The allocation represents the first tranche of a €1 million contribution pledged at the January 20 High-Level Meeting on Humanitarian Action in CAR in Brussels, Belgium.

2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of February 21, 2014. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2014 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments from FY 2014, which began on October 1, 2013.

CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed opposition alliance began to advance across CAR in opposition to then-President François Bozizé. On March 24, 2013, Séléka fighters entered CAR's capital city, 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 mid-February, the situation throughout CAR remained volatile, with escalating attacks against civilians. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistical constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of CAR.
- In response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2014 on November 12, 2013.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR PROVIDED IN FY 2014¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$280,623
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Mentor	Health	Ouham and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures	\$1,500,242
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,727,945
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$8,008,810

USAID/FFP ³			
WFP	5,660 MT of Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for General Food Distributions, Supplementary Feeding, and Food-for-Assets Activities	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WFP	Local and Regional Procurement of 5,485 MT of Food Commodities for General Food Distributions and Supplementary Feeding Programs	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$20,000,000

STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
IOM	Assistance for Individuals Being Evacuated from CAR	Countrywide and Neighboring Countries	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Refugees and IDPs	Countrywide and Neighboring Countries	\$12,600,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$17,000,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2014			\$45,008,810

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

²USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of February 21, 2014.

³Estimated 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.
- 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 or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>