

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #8, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

MARCH 21, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.5 million

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

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

1.3 million

Estimated Number of Food-Insecure People in CAR

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

615,000

Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

OCHA – March 2014

190,000

Total IDPs in Bangui

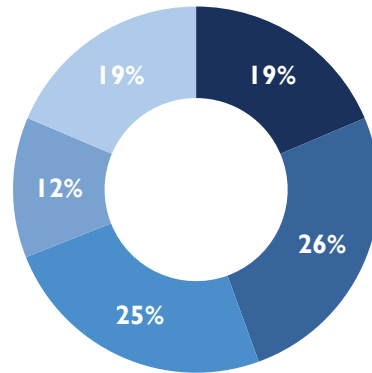
OCHA – March 2014

311,600

Total Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

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

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014



- Health (19%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (26%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (25%)
- Protection (12%)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (19%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence continues across the Central African Republic (CAR) as U.N. launches probe into claims of crimes against humanity
- Increased attacks against humanitarian actors hinders relief operations
- Lack of seeds and tools likely to negatively impact 2014 planting season

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

- Violence targeting minority groups continues across CAR, including in the capital city, Bangui. Armed groups threaten approximately 20,000 people in 18 locations across the country, according to the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for protection activities, comprising the U.N., relief agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Security incidents targeting humanitarian agencies in CAR have increased in recent months. On March 8 and 9, gunmen killed two aid workers—one in Bangui and one in Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture. Armed elements have killed at least nine humanitarian staff since September 2013.
- A February survey conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bangui indicated that only 33 percent of Muslim respondents planned to return to areas of origin, with many citing concerns about violence targeting Muslim communities.
- In FY 2014 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided approximately \$45 million to CAR to support food assistance; health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities; information management; the provision of relief commodities; and multi-sector assistance for new Central African refugees.

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

- Due to targeted violence, Muslim civilians continue to relocate to safer areas in northeast CAR or flee to neighboring countries. As of March 7, an estimated 900 Muslims—less than 1 percent of the capital city’s estimated 100,000 Muslims prior to the December violence—remained in Bangui, according to the U.N. Meanwhile, armed groups, including anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka, continue to commit acts of violence against civilians of all communities.
- On March 14, U.N. Secretary-General (SYG) Ban Ki-Moon urged the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) to act quickly to deploy a U.N. peacekeeping operation to CAR to curb violence, facilitate humanitarian assistance, protect civilians, and restore order. SYG Ki-Moon’s recommendation outlines a peacekeeping force of nearly 12,000—comprising 10,000 peacekeeping troops and 1,820 police personnel—and would include most or all of the 8,000 international forces currently in the country. According to the U.N., the French military’s Operation *Sangaris* and the African-led International Support Mission to CAR (MISCA) troops are insufficient in number to protect all at-risk communities. The Government of France is expected to submit a resolution to the UNSC to authorize a peacekeeping operation in the coming weeks.
- SYG Ki-Moon met with three religious leaders from CAR— the President of the Evangelical Alliance of CAR, the President of the Islamic Council in CAR, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Bangui—in New York on March 13 to urge support for efforts to unite civil society. SYG noted that parties to the conflict are manipulating religious and ethnic affiliations in CAR for political purposes.
- Accumulating reports of human rights violations and mass killings prompted the U.N. to initiate a probe into claims of crimes against humanity in CAR on March 10. The investigation seeks to capture the nature of targeted killings in CAR and deter actors from disseminating sectarian messages. The probe will occur concurrently with the International Criminal Court’s ongoing investigation into violence between Christian and Muslim groups in CAR and follows on the UNSC’s December 2013 launch of a one-year investigation into human rights abuses in the country. The investigation’s research panel comprises three legal and foreign affairs experts, who traveled to CAR on March 10.
- As part of ongoing national efforts to defuse tensions and reduce violence, CAR Prime Minister André Nzapayeké organized peace talks in Bangui on March 6 with government and armed group participation, including anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka. Although participants agreed to work with their respective groups for the restoration of peace and rule of law, violence continued in Bangui and elsewhere in CAR in the days following the talks.

DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- As of March 21, approximately 615,000 individuals remained displaced within CAR, with approximately 190,000 IDPs—or 31 percent—residing in Bangui. The countrywide IDP population decreased by 6 percent—from 657,000 to 615,000 people—from March 7 estimates, while the number of IDPs in Bangui decreased by 18 percent—from 232,000 to 190,00 people—from March 4. The U.N. attributes the changes to the movement of some IDPs to other sites or neighboring countries, localized returns related to the early arrival of the rainy season in Bangui, and minor improvements in the security situation. Displacement estimates will likely continue to vary in accordance with CAR’s fluid security situation.
- From February 13–15, IOM surveyed approximately 600 IDPs in Bangui and found that intent to return to areas of origin differed among surveyed Christians and Muslims. Approximately 72 percent of surveyed Christians reported plans to return to their original homes in the coming weeks. Among Muslims, approximately 37 percent desired to move to other areas of CAR, 33 percent wanted to return to areas of origin, and 22 percent intended to leave CAR for another country. With \$1 million in USAID/OFDA support, IOM continues to assist IDPs throughout CAR. IOM’s USAID/OFDA-funded displacement tracking matrix, which became operational in December 2013, has allowed the organization to create displacement site profiles that track information on health, shelter, security, and other needs. IOM and other humanitarian partners use this information to assess the most urgent humanitarian needs in different displacement sites, facilitating an appropriate humanitarian response.

- Challenges distributing food and relief commodities, high population density, security concerns, and protection violations against IDPs residing at M'Poko International Airport in Bangui culminated in a late-February decision by the humanitarian community to relocate these populations to safer areas in the coming weeks.
- During the week of March 10, IOM helped transport 1,500 people who had fled to Cameroon due to violence in CAR to southern Chad's Moundou town via convoy. While in Cameroon, these migrants—primarily Chadian and Sudanese nationals—received little to no assistance, lacked adequate shelter, and had no assets to support themselves. Upon arrival in Chad, migrants are sheltering in sites pre-identified by IOM. IOM reports that many arriving children exhibit signs of malnutrition, and more than 20 children have died due to related complications in recent weeks. IOM estimates that, since the crisis spiked in December 2013, approximately 10,000 Chadians and other third-country nationals have fled CAR for Cameroon and have requested IOM-assisted transport to their home countries.
- According to UNHCR, approximately 311,600 Central African refugees are residing in neighboring countries. Of the total, approximately 25 percent—or 79,400 people—have arrived in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Republic of the Congo, since December 2013.
- Violence perpetrated by armed elements against humanitarian actors escalated in recent weeks, impeding humanitarian access to vulnerable populations. On March 8 and 9, gunmen killed two aid workers—a Central African Red Cross Society volunteer in Bangui and an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff member in Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture—bringing the total number of humanitarian staff killed in CAR since September 2013 to at least eight. Threats, robberies, and other security incidents against humanitarian actors have continued to increase since late February, at times causing organizations to suspend programs and recall staff in some areas to Bangui, according to OCHA. To date in FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has provided \$500,000 to the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in CAR, which coordinates and supports the work of humanitarian agencies in the country.
- To date in FY 2014, State/PRM has committed more than \$17 million to the ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, and WFP to support new Central African refugees and other individuals in the region affected by the CAR crisis.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- The humanitarian community remains concerned about the combined impact of market disruptions and constraints on the 2014 agricultural season on the food security outlook for CAR. The large-scale departure of traders and herders—the majority of whom are Muslims fleeing violence—has affected CAR's markets, reducing staple food supplies and increasing already high food prices. As of March 19, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that food prices have nearly doubled in Bangui since the beginning of the crisis.
- According to FAO, approximately 94 percent of communities report lacking adequate seeds to plant for the current agricultural season, which spans from February to June. FAO plans to distribute seeds and tools to approximately 150,000 households across CAR before the April-to-July planting season passes, if security and funding permit. To date in FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$281,000 to FAO to support agriculture-related humanitarian activities.
- On March 7, the Government of CAR (CARG), with USAID/OFDA partners WFP and FAO, launched the Agricultural Campaign 2014/2015, which aims to revitalize CAR's agriculture sector by enabling conflict-affected farmers to restore livelihoods. The campaign plans to support more than 75,000 vulnerable households through the distribution of essential seeds and farming tools. If security permits, the project will incentivize IDPs to return to areas of origin and enable the resumption of income-generating activities. Although the World Bank has already contributed \$20 million in support, the project requires an additional \$8 million in April and \$27 million by June 2014.
- In FY 2014 to date, USAID/FFP has provided \$20 million to WFP to support general food distributions, supplementary feeding programs, and other activities benefiting IDPs and additional conflict-affected persons in CAR.

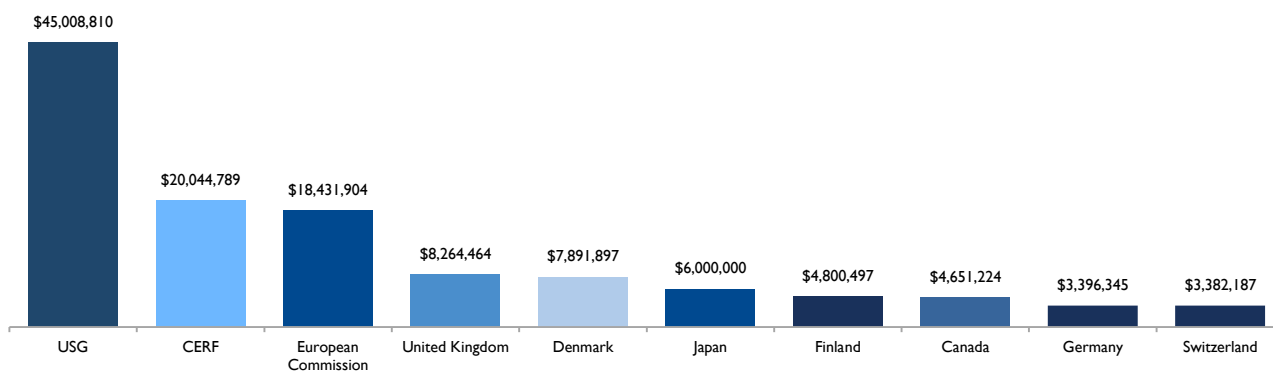
HEALTH AND WASH

- Approximately 900,000 conflict-affected people in CAR require WASH support, according to the U.N. The WASH Cluster continues to improve access to safe drinking water for IDPs in Bangui; Bambari town, Ouaka Prefecture; Bossangoa town, Ouham Prefecture; and Bouar town, Nana-Mambéré Prefecture. In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided \$750,000 to the WASH Cluster lead agency, UNICEF, for WASH activities in CAR.
- Food insecurity, insufficient availability of health services, and prolonged displacement have resulted in increased malnutrition levels among many IDP communities, according to the U.N. The Nutrition Cluster reports that significant challenges, including limited staff and supplies, impede the provision of nutrition assistance to populations in need, potentially resulting in a deterioration of nutritional status among vulnerable children and adults.
- Humanitarian partners report that insecurity has also affected nutrition service provision, causing relief agencies to occasionally suspend many of the few malnutrition screening and treatment programs in Bangui. Violence-related access challenges and isolation due to prolonged displacement have also impeded families from seeking treatment for their malnourished children, with some Muslim families refusing treatment due to concerns of targeted violence in clinics. In addition, many CARG health workers have not received payment in six months, which has discouraged staff from continuing work and further limited the availability of services.
- In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$1.5 million to the non-governmental organization Mentor to ensure access to life-saving health services in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures. With USAID/OFDA support, Mentor will respond to acute needs by establishing community health worker networks and supporting the reactivation of 20 health facilities.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of March 21, international donors had provided approximately \$145 million in humanitarian funding for the crisis in CAR in 2014. Of the total figure, donors have allocated approximately \$114 million toward the CAR Strategic Response Plan (SRP). The \$114 million represents approximately 21 percent of total SRP requirements.
- On March 17, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) sent an aircraft carrying 100 metric tons (MT) of relief commodities from Oostende, Belgium, to Bangui. The shipment included medicines, sanitation commodities, telecommunication equipment, therapeutic feeding supplies, and two vehicles. The shipment is the third ECHO-conducted airlift since December 2013.
- Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Hawa Bangura traveled to Bangui on March 17 to monitor recent CARG commitments to improve national response to gender-based violence (GBV). SRSG Bangura will assess the CARG's efforts to adopt legislation protecting women and children; establish mechanisms for prosecuting perpetrators; and incorporate international GBV protocols into CAR's governance of the crisis. SRSG Bangura met with civil society, peacekeeping bodies, and religious leaders during her three-day visit.
- During a visit to CAR on March 13, the European Commissioner for Development announced plans to contribute €81 million—or more than \$112 million—to support vulnerable populations in CAR. The new funding is in line with the European Commission's (EC) Linking Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development strategy, and will help restore basic social services—such as education and health—and improve food security and nutrition, according to the EC. As of March 13, the EC had provided more than \$18.4 million in humanitarian assistance to CAR in 2014.

2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of March 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 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-March, the situation throughout CAR remained volatile, with continuing 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			
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
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			
ICRC	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
IOM	Evacuation and Basic Return Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants	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 March 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>