

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #11, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

MARCH 13, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.7 million

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

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – March 2015

1.5 million

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Emergency Food Assistance

UN World Food Program (WFP) – January 2015

436,300

Approximate Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – March 2015

49,100

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

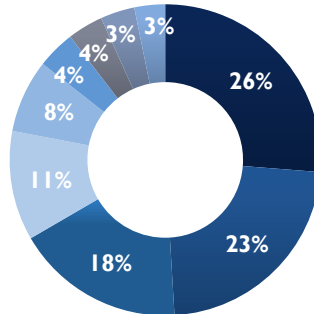
UNHCR – March 2015

453,300

Approximate Number of Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

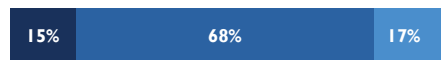
UNHCR – March 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (26%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (23%)
- Health (18%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (11%)
- Shelter & Settlements (8%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)
- Protection (3%)
- Nutrition (3%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fifteen UN Security Council ambassadors undertake mid-March assessment trip to CAR
- Between 3,000 and 4,000 residents of Ouaka Prefecture's Grimari town flee recent clashes and require humanitarian assistance
- High levels of food insecurity are expected to persist through the end of the upcoming lean season in August

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO THE CRISIS IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA \$13,169,759

USAID/FFP \$32,554,287

\$45,724,046

TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Members of the UN Security Council—including U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power—traveled to CAR from March 10 to 12, marking the Council's first visit to the country since the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) began in September 2014. Security Council members met with Government of CAR (CARG) officials, senior staff from MINUSCA, religious leaders, and non-government organizations (NGOs) to assess current humanitarian and human rights conditions, as well as discuss the challenges faced by MINUSCA, according to the UN.
- On March 5, the Government of France (GoF) announced plans to begin gradually reducing its 2,000 troops comprising Operation *Sangaris* as part of the transition to the MINUSCA peacekeeping force, according to international media. The GoF stated plans to keep some of the French forces in the capital city of Bangui and in the country's east to support MINUSCA. The UN plans to increase MINUSCA's force size to 10,000 peacekeepers from approximately 7,500 by late April.

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

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

INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- Armed groups continued clashing in areas of Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Sangha-Mbaéré prefectures, as well as in Bangui, according to an early-March International Organization for Migration (IOM) report. In addition to conflict among local armed groups, MINUSCA and Operation *Sangaris* forces also engaged with armed factions. While the number of IDPs in Bangui continued to decline during early March, the violence in several CAR prefectures generated new displacements. For example, between 3,000 and 4,000 residents of Ouaka's Grimari town fled conflict between ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka factions in late February, according to the UN. A recent UN interagency assessment of the displaced population identified food assistance, relief commodities, and protection as the most needed humanitarian interventions.
- Teachers at a school in Bangui's *Pointe Kilométrique* (PK) 5 neighborhood have begun to leave the area due to insecurity in recent weeks, the UN reported. The school had recently reopened, and humanitarian actors are concerned that persistent insecurity in the neighborhood will force the school to close again. As of early March, the UN reported needing temporary safe learning spaces for 60,000 children countrywide.
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs Chaloka Beyani visited CAR in recent weeks to assess IDP conditions and needs. The Special Rapporteur emphasized supporting conditions that would allow IDPs to return to areas of origin. For example, the CARG intends to close the displacement site at Bangui's M'Poko International Airport, which provides shelter to approximately 20,000 people; however, persisting insecurity in the IDPs' areas of origin continues to prevent some IDPs from returning home. The proposed alternative AVICOM site—approximately 16 miles from the center of Bangui—does not have necessary services to respond to IDP needs, according to relief agencies. The Special Rapporteur also called for national stakeholders to include IDPs in election preparations, including IDP voter registration.
- The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of MINUSCA, Babacar Gaye, recently visited the town of Bossangoa, Ouham, to assess the security situation, according to the UN. While visiting Bossangoa, SRSG Gaye reiterated the UN pledge to restore state authority in CAR and support ongoing peace process efforts.
- Between February 26 and March 2, UN Senior Humanitarian Coordinator (SHC) Claire Bourgeois led a joint humanitarian mission to western CAR, visiting Mambéré-Kadéï's Berbérati and Carnot towns and Nola town in Sangha-Mbaéré. SHC Bourgeois noted relative stability in the areas visited by the mission. While visiting these western towns, SHC Bourgeois reiterated calls for all people to have the freedom to choose a location for habitation, and respect for property belonging to displaced households.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- All areas of the country are expected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or higher levels of food insecurity through the end of the upcoming lean season in August due to significant crop production shortfalls, premature depletion of household food stocks, and destabilized household livelihoods, according to a February report released by the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).³ In addition, the report indicated that IDP populations in localized areas of CAR could experience Emergency—IPC 4—level food insecurity.
- Security issues on roads and in IDP camps remain a major constraint for relief organizations attempting to deliver adequate assistance to populations affected by food insecurity in CAR. However, FEWS NET reported that implementation is underway for seven programs developed by a consortium of NGOs to provide emergency food assistance to an estimated 400,000 people, in addition to school feeding programs.
- The UN World Food Program (WFP) distributed more than 3,200 MT of food assistance to approximately 340,000 Central Africans—approximately 23 percent of the population in CAR requiring emergency food assistance—in February. In addition, WFP partnered with the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct a rapid assessment of malnutrition levels in Ouham-Pendé's town of Bohong in late February. The assessment identified at

³ 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.

least 60 children ages five years and younger who were experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with health complications.

- Since January, the UN reported that nearly 1,400 children have received treatment for SAM across the country, representing approximately 6 percent of the 22,700 children targeted for SAM treatment in the 2015 Strategic Response Plan. Each month since January, WFP has provided emergency food and nutrition assistance to approximately 19,300 children younger than five years of age.
 - On March 2, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Congo (ROC) Stephanie S. Sullivan announced the U.S. Government's contribution of more than 490 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance through USAID/FFP to Central African refugees living in Likouala Department's Bétou town in the ROC. USAID/FFP assistance will also support the construction of a new feeding center in Bétou, according to a Government of the ROC report.
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PROTECTION

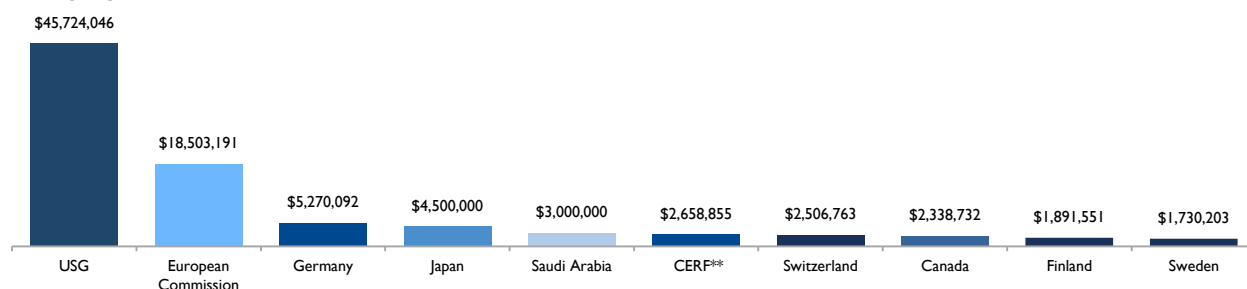
- As of early March, Ouham's Kabo and Moyenne Sido towns were hosting nearly 3,000 displaced people sheltering in IDP sites and approximately 5,200 IDPs living with host families, IOM reported. Through a series of workshops designed to enhance local capacities in IDP camp coordination and management, IOM and the *Association des Femmes pour la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat* trained 60 representatives from the CAR Red Cross Society, IDP committees, and local government in Kabo and Moyenne Sido in late February. The workshops focused on protection issues for IDPs, including assistance to people with special needs, child protection, and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). IOM trained participants to identify protection needs and risk factors among IDPs, as well as to refer protection cases to partner organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Médecins Sans Frontières, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), for monitoring and treatment.
 - USAID/OFDA continues to support immediate emergency relief assistance to IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in CAR. USAID/OFDA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is providing psychosocial services for survivors of GBV and raising community awareness on ways to prevent and respond to GBV, among other health and protection activities in Ouham-Pendé.
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HEALTH

- According to a February WHO report, malaria remains a leading cause of death and morbidity in CAR, particularly for children younger than five years of age. IFRC reported in March that it had provided malaria rapid testing kits, pharmaceuticals for malaria treatment, and mobile smartphones for data collection to address the uptick in diagnosed cases of malaria in Bangui. In addition, IFRC launched a nationwide campaign in December 2014 to distribute more than 2.2 million long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLINs) to CAR's 4.6 million people. To date, IFRC has distributed approximately 661,300 mosquito nets in 11 of CAR's 71 sub-prefectures. IFRC has also provided more than 70,000 LLINs to partners for targeted distribution to pregnant women and children younger than five years of age.
- Since January, the UN reported at least 90 cases of rabies in Bangui. The *Institut Pasteur de Bangui*—a technical resource and adviser to CAR's Ministry of Public Health—is facing a national shortage of rabies vaccines. The Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—has developed a response plan and WHO has placed orders for rabies vaccines and anti-venom stock to address the shortage, according to the UN.

2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of March 13, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2014 and 2015 calendar years, 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.

** UN 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 January 2015, the security situation throughout CAR remained 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 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Lobaye and Ombella-M'Poko Prefectures	\$1,504,768
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Ouham Prefecture	\$1,700,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,453,786
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Ouham-Pendé Prefecture	\$1,500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$11,205
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$13,169,759
USAID/FFP³			

WFP	Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for General Food Distributions, Supplementary Feeding Programs, Food for Assets, and Emergency School Feeding using 5,150 MT of U.S. and 2,958 MT of locally and regionally procured commodities	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
	7,430 MT of Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for distribution to CAR refugees	Cameroon	\$12,000,000
	International Disaster Assistance-funded Cash Transfers for CAR refugees	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$5,554,287
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$32,554,287
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS IN FY 2015			\$45,724,046

¹ 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.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of March 13, 2015.

³ 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.
- 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>