

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #13, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

APRIL 10, 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) – April 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) – April 2015

49,100

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

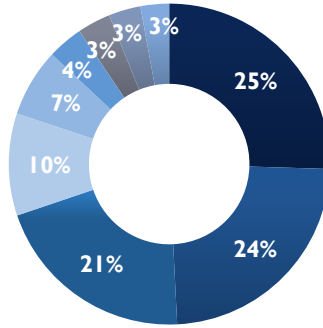
UNHCR – April 2015

457,240

Approximate Number of Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

UNHCR – April 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Health (25%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (24%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (21%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (10%)
- Shelter & Settlements (7%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- 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

- UN Secretary-General (SYG) Ban Ki-moon reiterated concerns over the humanitarian situation and safety of response actors in CAR in an April 1 report to the UN Security Council
- Leaders from opposing armed groups anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka signed two agreements in Kenya on April 8—a ceasefire and a transitional roadmap declaration

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO THE CRISIS IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA \$14,582,259

USAID/FFP \$32,554,287

\$47,136,546

TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- SYG Ban recently presented a CAR situation report to the UN Security Council. Despite relative improvements in security, the SYG noted that areas of the country remain volatile, especially in central regions where armed groups often clash. Insecurity has displaced more than 50,000 people since January—underscoring the tenuous humanitarian situation, especially in Ouaka Prefecture's Bambari town, Ouham Prefecture's Batangafo town, and Nana-Grébizi Prefecture's Kaga-Bandoro town. While the impact of international forces is positive, the SYG acknowledged the existence of Muslim enclaves facing continued threats. The report documents 22 serious security incidents against UN staff between December and March and a surge in kidnappings of humanitarian workers. The SYG reiterated deep concern for the humanitarian situation and threats to response actors.
- Leaders from opposing armed groups anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka signed two accords on April 8 in Kenya's capital city of Nairobi, according to local media. CAR's transitional government has not endorsed these agreements. The two factions agreed to a ceasefire and political transition roadmap—previous ceasefire agreements have failed to end hostilities.

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

- Attacks and thefts targeting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) remain an issue in CAR. The UN recently reported more than 1,300 confirmed security incidents between January 2014 and early March 2015, of which more than 150 resulted in direct violence against humanitarian actors and the deaths of 18 humanitarian workers. During February 2015, the UN reported 76 security incidents, with 14 incidents specifically targeting humanitarian workers.
- The humanitarian community issued a statement on March 25 condemning the killing of a medical worker in Ouaka's Gbokolobo town. In the statement, humanitarian actors called on all armed forces to respect health facilities and ensure the safety of health care workers. The slain health worker, who was serving as the head of the Gbokolobo health clinic, had previously fled from his home area due to violence and was providing care while displaced in Ouaka.
- The number of security incidents involving elements from the armed anti-Balaka group in the capital city of Bangui decreased during the week of March 22 compared to previous weeks, according to International Organization for Migration (IOM) staff in CAR. IOM staff believe that additional international forces present in the capital may in part have caused the recent decrease in violent incidents.
- Humanitarian actors were most concerned about populations in the central areas of CAR during March, the UN reported. Of most concern were the more than 160,000 displaced people sheltering in Batangafo, Kaga-Bandoro, and Ouaka Prefecture's Kouango town. High rates of criminal activity and frequent clashes between armed actors continue to generate insecurity in these central locations.
- The Government of CAR plans to close the IDP site at M'Poko International Airport by the end of May, according to the UN. As of mid-March, NGOs had registered nearly 18,400 people sheltering at the airport. Many IDPs have lost houses during the crisis, while others fear returning to neighborhoods amid continuing insecurity. While humanitarian agencies are identifying alternative sites, constraints on humanitarian access throughout CAR remain a concern for reaching the IDPs once they relocate.
- In late March, several hundred displaced Muslim herders left the safety of a UN compound in Ombella-M'Poko Prefecture's Yaloké town—where they are seeking protection from insecurity—for the first time in nearly a year, according to international media. Before the latest crisis in CAR, an estimated 10,000 Muslims lived in Yaloké. Currently, approximately 500 people continue to seek refuge in the IDP site. In recent days, the Muslim population resumed limited day-to-day activities in the town, such as accessing markets, following months of local intra-community reconciliation discussions.
- Despite these potentially positive gains, the security situation in Yaloké remains tenuous, and most of the Muslim IDP population wishes to relocate. In response to the IDPs' request for additional security, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) deployed 40 additional peacekeepers. Additionally, the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided a first round of food vouchers in Yaloké beginning on March 18 to provide assistance to the IDPs and stimulate the local market.
- The number of IDPs is gradually declining as displaced communities slowly begin returning to their areas of origin, according to IOM staff based in CAR. Despite modest returns, more than 436,000 people remained displaced across the country, with at least 49,000 people sheltering at 35 IDP sites in Bangui as of late March, according to the UN. To support the gradual return of IDPs, USAID/OFDA is supporting IOM with \$2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 funding. IOM's 12-month project will provide shelter reconstruction equipment and commodities—including wheelbarrows, brick molds, and shovels, among other items identified by beneficiaries as priorities—to displaced households to repair housing damaged during the crisis.
- Additionally, IOM will continue to map and track gaps in the humanitarian response—including health, protection, shelter, and other pressing needs identified among IDPs—through its Displacement Tracking Matrix, first operationalized in December 2013. Through support for IOM's effort to track gaps in assistance to IDPs, USAID/OFDA continues to assist the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—co-led by IOM in CAR.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The food security situation among IDPs continued to deteriorate during March due to the disruption of food production and income-generating opportunities, leaving many IDPs experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).³ In response to food needs among affected populations, USAID/FFP partner WFP distributed more than 2,700 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to approximately 300,400 people between March 1 and 22.

PROTECTION

- Protection actors remain concerned about the safety of children in CAR amid the ongoing conflict. UNICEF reports that all six of the grave violations against children during armed conflict—recruitment and use of children, killing or maiming children, sexual violence against children, attacks against schools or hospitals, abduction of children, and denial of humanitarian access—have transpired in CAR.
- The UN continues to estimate that between 8,000 and 10,000 children are associated with armed groups. UNICEF recently identified approximately 440 children associated with anti-Balaka elements in Ouaka’s Ngakobo town and in Ouham’s Boguila, Bossangoa, Bouca, and Nana-Bakassa towns. UNICEF aims to verify, secure release, and reintegrate these children in the coming weeks.
- In early April, protection actors provided socioeconomic reintegration support to 50 children and adolescents in Bangui’s third district.

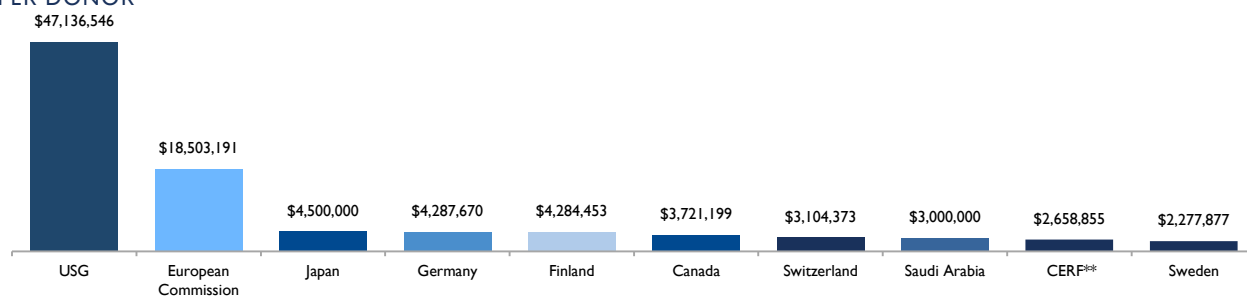
HEALTH AND WASH

- During the first three months of 2015, UNICEF reached more than 26,000 people with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support and supplied emergency relief commodities through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). UNICEF-coordinated RRM missions include improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The RRM program aims to respond to violent incidents and population displacements within 15 days, assisting affected households. To date, UNICEF has undertaken 12 RRM responses in CAR. With \$2 million in FY 2015 USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF is providing WASH assistance to vulnerable households in CAR.
- Assailants, reportedly from the Lord’s Resistance Army, abducted at least 20 Congolese refugees on March 21 in Haut-Mbomou’s Zemio town. The assailants released about 10 of the abductees on March 24; however, the fate of the others is unknown. The released refugees exhibited various wounds and reported that the assailants raped some of them while captive. NGO International Medical Corps (IMC) provided psychosocial support and distributed post-exposure preventative treatment kits—used as a preventative measure for individuals who may have been exposed to HIV—to the released refugees.
- IMC recently trained 21 health care workers in psychosocial techniques. Additionally, IMC trained 25 volunteers in providing first-response psychosocial assistance to those traumatized by the crisis.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$1.4 million in FY 2015 funding to support the Mentor Initiative to improve access to health care in northwestern CAR. With USAID/OFDA support, the Mentor Initiative is building on its community health care worker network in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures. Community health workers are local residents trained and equipped to carry out basic health services and provide health messaging to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, serving displaced and host communities with a special emphasis on pregnant women and children ages five years and younger. Additionally, the Mentor Initiative plans to provide support to up to 10 health facilities in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé. The facilities serve a population of more than 151,000 people, including IDPs.

³The 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.

2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



* Funding figures are as of April 10, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2015 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments in FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2014. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among CAR refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

** The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN 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 March 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, WASH	Lobaye and Ombella-M'Poko Prefectures	\$1,504,768
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Ouham	\$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
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Ouham-Pendé	\$1,500,000
Mentor Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,400,000
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		\$23,705
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$14,582,259

USAID/FFP ³			
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			\$47,136,546

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 April 10, 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>