

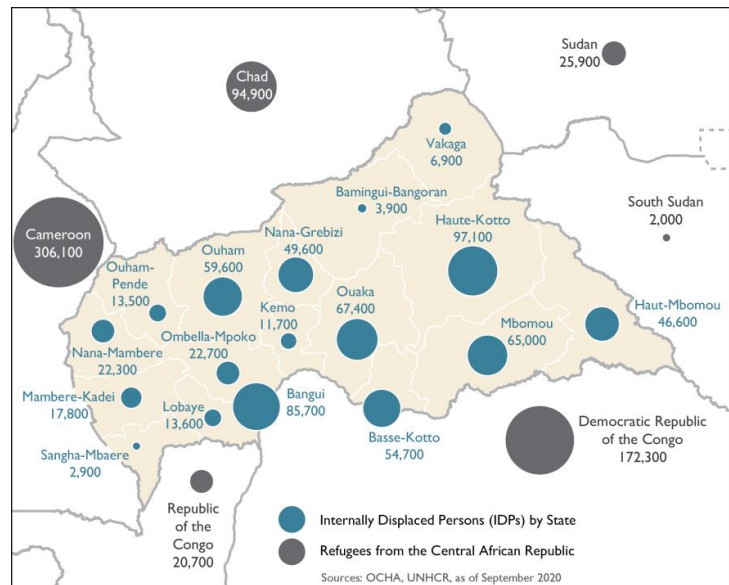
# Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Clashes between armed groups and intercommunal tensions continue to displace civilians and restrict humanitarian access in CAR. In addition, the UN recorded 304 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers between January and September.
- Heavy rainfall and flooding had displaced approximately 20,000 people in Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture as of mid-September; relief actors are preparing for additional rains and disruptive floods in the coming weeks.
- Food assistance needs are expected to remain high through early 2021 due to localized conflict and COVID-19-related price increases.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the CAR Response in FY 2020

 USAID/BHA<sup>1,2</sup> \$112,857,893

 State/PRM<sup>3</sup> \$64,184,616

**Total \$177,042,509**

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

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

<sup>4</sup> This total includes approximately \$17,255,000 in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Insecurity in CAR Drives Displacement, Generates Protection Risks**

Insecurity continues to displace civilians and limit humanitarian access to populations in need in CAR, particularly in northern and western parts of the country, relief actors report. Intercommunal tensions and clashes between armed groups in Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga prefectures spread to Haute-Kotto Prefecture's Ouadda sub-prefecture in May, with armed attacks on the sub-prefecture's Ouadda town displacing more than 800 people in late July; previous violence had already displaced nearly 7,800 people in the town, generating critical needs for food, protection, and shelter assistance. Separately, armed elements conducted several attacks in Nana-Grebizi Prefecture's Bamatara town in late August, displacing approximately 300 households, looting houses, and seizing medical supplies from a local health clinic, according to the UN. The armed actors also assaulted CAR Government (CARG) electoral agents present in Bamatara to assist with preparations for CAR's upcoming presidential elections.

Meanwhile, localized insecurity continues to threaten civilian populations in and around Ouham Prefecture's Batangafo town, while approximately 35,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the town require shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, according to a September 12 interagency humanitarian assessment mission. Despite some relative improvements to security conditions in the area since late 2019 following the deployment of additional UN Police personnel, reported security incidents and threats against civilians and humanitarian workers in Batangafo have increased over the past several weeks. In particular, local sources have raised concerns over the presence of weapons in town, including in the Batangafo IDP site, as well as the repeated vandalism of the Batangafo–Bouca ferry, which has prevented humanitarian actors from assisting people residing on the northern side of the Ouham River. Community members also continue to report gender-based violence (GBV) and other protection incidents, the majority of which have affected women and girls leaving population centers to cultivate agricultural fields.

### **Humanitarian Workers Face Continued Security Incidents in 2020**

CAR remains one of the most dangerous countries for humanitarian workers, with the UN recording an increase in the number of security incidents affecting humanitarian workers in 2020. Following 38 and 37 monthly security incidents in July and August, respectively, the UN recorded 37 security incidents affecting humanitarian staff in September, including armed robberies, break-ins, burglaries, vandalism, intimidation, interference with humanitarian activities, and threats. Armed robberies and burglaries accounted for nearly 47 percent of all security incidents affecting humanitarian workers countrywide during the month. Overall, the UN recorded nearly 304 security incidents between January and September, including two aid worker deaths and injury to 21 people, representing a nearly 40 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

### **Relief Actors Prepare for Abnormally Heavy Rainfall and Flooding**

Heavy rainfall beginning in early August and subsequent flooding had displaced approximately 20,000 people along the Bahr Aouk River near the CAR–Chad border in Bamingui-Bangoran as of mid-September, according to relief actors. A September 23 UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) aerial assessment of the affected area identified several hundred inundated shelters in and around Bamingui-Bangoran's Ngarba village, noting more significant impacts on the Chadian side of the river. While some relief actors were initially unable to access flood-affected populations due to high water levels and poor road conditions, humanitarian actors are developing a multi-sector response plan for Ngarba and surrounding areas to meet urgent humanitarian needs.

Moreover, abnormally heavy rainfall and flooding are projected for northern and southwestern CAR, as well as the Ubangui River Basin, in the coming weeks, according to the UN. October-to-November flooding adversely affected approximately 100,000 people in these areas in 2019, and humanitarian actors are preparing for the likelihood of similar flooding in the coming weeks. Thus far, relief actors are coordinating closely with CARG’s Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation Crisis Committee, bolstered by UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) engineering efforts to clear flood drainage in affected areas, and scaled up multi-purpose cash assistance for highly food insecure individuals in CAR’s capital city of Bangui.

Relief actors are also pre-positioning relief commodities in preparation for anticipated flooding. For example, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) has pre-positioned emergency food commodities—including in-kind food stocks and high-energy biscuits (HEBs)—at warehouses throughout CAR; the UN agency plans to coordinate with the USAID/BHA-funded and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to distribute HEBs in the event of widespread flooding.

<b>IPC Status</b> [Sept. 2020-April 2021]	
Phase 5	<b>0</b> people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	<b>407,877</b> people in Emergency
Phase 3	<b>1,520,735</b> people in Crisis
Phase 2	<b>1,756,785</b> people in Stress
Phase 1	<b>1,058,615</b> people Minimally Food Insecure

### Food Needs Expected to Remain High Through 2021

More than 1.9 million people in conflict-affected areas of CAR are likely to continue experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through at least April 2021 as armed group activities, localized conflict, and ongoing insecurity continue to disrupt agricultural production, the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and access to markets, according to a September IPC analysis.<sup>5</sup> Recent conflict and subsequent displacement have also limited household access to agricultural fields in parts of northwestern and southeastern CAR, likely contributing to below-average crop yields from the July-to-October harvest season and increasing food consumption gaps in affected areas, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.

Additionally, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) containment measures have restricted access to livelihood opportunities and contributed to supply shortages for several staple foods, including cassava, maize, and rice, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization reports. COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions have resulted in a 10 to 30 percent price increase for some food commodities, further eroding the purchasing power of vulnerable households.

In response to increased food assistance needs in urban areas due largely to the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID/BHA partner WFP has focused on scaling up activities in CAR’s cities, initiating food voucher distributions in Bangui starting in July. Overall, with USAID/BHA support, WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 760,000 food-insecure people in CAR in July and approximately 800,000 people in August.

<sup>5</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

## KEY FIGURES



**14,340 MT**

U.S.-In-Kind Emergency  
Food Aid in CAR



**\$17.3 Million**

In dedicated USG  
support for health,  
protection, WASH,  
and food needs  
exacerbated by the  
COVID-19 pandemic

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced peas, rice, and vegetable oil, as well as vouchers redeemable for food baskets in local markets, cash transfers, and local and regional food procurement—to people in CAR facing acute food insecurity, including IDPs, refugees, and host communities. To prevent and treat malnutrition, WFP also conducts a supplementary feeding program for children and pregnant and lactating women, while UNICEF is aiming to provide emergency nutrition assistance to approximately 28,800 children and 148,500 mothers and caregivers. USAID/BHA supports eight international non-governmental organization (INGO) partners to provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster the food security and livelihoods of CAR's most vulnerable families. USAID/BHA also partners with ACTED, Samaritan's Purse, and WFP to distribute emergency food assistance to Central African refugees sheltering in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the Republic of the Congo (RoC).

### HEALTH AND COVID-19 RESPONSE

USAID/BHA addresses urgent health needs in CAR with support to four INGO partners, who provide life-saving services in health facilities, including hospitals, and through mobile medical clinics at IDP sites and in hard-to-reach conflict-affected areas. USAID/BHA health partners provide medicines, medical supplies, and basic equipment, as well as training to community health workers, who support the provision community-based maternal and child health care services, among other activities.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in CAR, USAID/BHA funds UNICEF to bolster emergency water supply systems, install handwashing stations in public areas, and reach approximately 950,000 people with messaging on disease prevention. USAID/BHA partner ACTED is disseminating key COVID-19 health messaging in urban areas, coupled with WASH assistance and activities to safeguard children, women, and girls. USAID/BHA also supports International Medical Corps (IMC) as the leader of a consortium to train frontline health care workers and strengthen infection prevention and control protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition, State/PRM partners have scaled up services to protect the health of vulnerable individuals in CAR, as well as Central African refugees in Cameroon and the RoC. In FY 2020, USAID/BHA and State/PRM provided nearly \$17.3 million in funding for CAR COVID-19 prevention and response activities.

### WASH

USAID/BHA supports nine INGO partners to provide critical WASH assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnee communities. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which informs the



**92,000**

People receiving WASH assistance through RRM from January to September

CAR humanitarian community about new emergency situations resulting in displacement, rapidly deploys a non-food item (NFI) and WASH response, and coordinates with other actors to provide complementary assistance. As of September, the RRM had responded to the WASH needs of nearly 92,000 people through pre-positioning WASH items, supplying safe drinking water through rehabilitated water points or conducting emergency water trucking, constructing emergency WASH infrastructure—including latrines, showers, and waste management facilities—and leading hygiene promotion.



**\$17.7 Million**

In FY 2020 support for critical logistics operations and shelter needs in CAR

### **LOGISTICS AND SHELTER SUPPORT**

With \$17.7 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services and shelter support for the humanitarian response in CAR. USAID/BHA partner UNHAS provides humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo—including urgently needed medical supplies during CAR’s COVID-19 outbreak—across the country, particularly to hard-to-reach areas affected by flooding, while USAID/BHA partner Premiere Urgence International (PUI) provides common storage and logistics management for response organizations. In addition, through partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and five INGO partners, USAID/BHA supports shelter and settlement interventions, including distributing emergency temporary shelter materials and providing equipment and training to support small-scale rehabilitation of conflict-destroyed homes and other community infrastructure. With USAID/BHA support, the RRM also reached nearly 130,000 people across CAR with household and shelter commodities—including clothing, mats, plastic sheeting, soap, and other items—during the first nine months of 2020.



**16**

Number of USG implementing partners supporting protection activities in CAR and for Central African refugees in the region

### **PROTECTION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE**

USAID/BHA support enables seven INGO and UN agency partners to implement protection programs for CAR’s most vulnerable populations, particularly displaced individuals. USAID/BHA-funded protection activities include bolstering child protection services, delivering emergency case management and referral services for GBV survivors, providing individual psychosocial support services, and conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues. USAID/BHA partners also utilize child-friendly spaces and listening and counseling centers for women and girls to meet protection needs and distribute dignity kits.

State/PRM supports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide multi-sector assistance for conflict-affected populations in CAR. State/PRM also supports IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and six INGO partners to provide protection assistance—along with livelihoods, shelter, social cohesion, and WASH services—to Central African refugees in Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, the RoC, and the DRC. State/PRM supports UNHCR to facilitate safe, voluntary returns to CAR, which recommenced—with increased health measures—following temporary suspension due to COVID-19. UNHCR aims to facilitate the return of 7,600 Central African refugees by the end of 2020.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed alliance advanced 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 deteriorated further in December 2013, when clashes erupted between the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups composed of armed fighters that opposed ex-Séléka forces.
- Following a nearly three-year transitional period, CAR held presidential elections in December 2015 and February 2016, resulting in the election of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, who assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- After more than six years of conflict, the CARG and 14 armed groups signed the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation on February 6, 2019. Despite initial progress on the dialogue and scheduling of national elections for December 2020, direct clashes between armed groups, insecurity and attacks against civilians and UN peacekeeping forces, and security incidents affecting humanitarian workers, continue in multiple regions of the country.
- On October 23, 2019, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Pamela Hack redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2020 due to the scale of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.
- Heavy rains and resultant flooding in October and November 2019 adversely affected an estimated 100,000 people in one-half of CAR’s 16 prefectures and Bangui, exacerbating humanitarian conditions in already vulnerable areas. On November 11, 2019, U.S. Ambassador to CAR Lucy Tamlyn declared a disaster due to the humanitarian impact of flooding in the country.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN CAR FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Non-Food Assistance			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Basse-Kotto	\$2,000,000
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou	\$2,990,369
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$2,000,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$5,000,000
IOM	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Nana-Grébizi	\$1,300,000
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham	\$600,000
Mercy Corps	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mbomou, Ouaka	\$2,500,000

Oxfam Intermón	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Haute-Kotto, Ouham, Mbomou	\$2,000,000
PUI	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,750,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,350,000
UNICEF	HCIM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,000,000
	WASH for Flood Response	Countrywide	\$100,000
	Program Support		\$1,265
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$41,691,634</b>
<b>Food Assistance</b>			
ACF	Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Complementary Services	Basse-Kotto	\$3,500,000
ACTED	LRIP; Food Vouchers; Cash Transfers for Food; Complementary Services	Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou	\$2,999,000
Solidarités International	LRIP; Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers	Bamingui Bangoran, Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, Ouham	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	400 MT of U.S. In-Kind Aid	Countrywide	\$4,016,000
World Vision	Cash Transfers for Food; Complementary Services	Ouaka	\$2,999,755
WFP	14,340 MT of U.S. In-Kind Emergency Food Aid	Countrywide	\$31,356,104
	Food Vouchers; 3,040 MT of LRIP	Countrywide	\$15,295,400
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$62,166,259</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$103,857,893</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
CARE	Protection, Nutrition, WASH	Chad	\$1,999,997
ICRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,550,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Sudan	\$978,533
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	Livelihoods	Cameroon	\$1,442,811
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Livelihoods	Cameroon	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$13,558,275
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cameroon	\$19,400,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	RoC	\$6,000,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Sudan	\$4,000,000
World Vision	Livelihoods, Protection, WASH	DRC	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$55,929,616</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN CAR IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$159,787,509</b>

FUNDING IN CAR FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE <sup>2</sup>			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
ACTED	Health, Protection, WASH	Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$2,000,000
IMC	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	HCIM, Health, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$6,500,000</b>
Food Assistance			
WFP	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$9,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	COVID-19	Countrywide	\$2,325,000
	COVID-19	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
UNHCR	COVID-19	Cameroon	\$1,870,000
	COVID-19	RoC	\$600,000
UNICEF	COVID-19	Cameroon	\$1,160,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$8,255,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN CAR IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$17,255,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$112,857,893</b>
<b>TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$64,184,616</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$177,042,509</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 2020.

## 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 [interaction.org](https://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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)



- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)