

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

DECEMBER 6, 2013

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

395,000

Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

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

68,200

New Refugees from CAR in Neighboring Countries since December 2012

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – November 2013

>2.3 million

Children Affected by the Ongoing Crisis

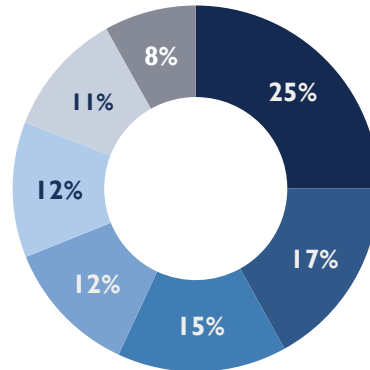
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) – September 2013

1.1 million

Food-Insecure Population in CAR

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

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013 & FY 2014



- Health (25%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (17%)
- Protection (15%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (12%)
- Nutrition (12%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (11%)
- Other (8%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Central African Republic (CAR) IDP population has greatly increased
- 2013 CAR Consolidated Appeal (CAP) is 44 percent funded
- Volatile security conditions pose significant constraints to humanitarian access across CAR

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO CAR IN FY 2013 AND FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$8,403,497
USAID/FFP ²	\$8,831,500
State/PRM ³	\$7,402,000

\$24,636,997
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO CAR

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Recent clashes among ex-Séléka coalition fighters, other armed groups, and former government forces have further aggravated insecurity in CAR and generated acute humanitarian needs. On December 5 and 6, violence in CAR's capital city of Bangui and Ouham Prefecture's Bossangoa town resulted in casualties, population displacement, and destruction of property.
- From October 17 to 19, senior representatives from U.N. and relief agencies visited CAR to assess the gravity of the emergency. Participants expressed concern regarding the atrocities occurring in CAR and estimated that half of CAR's total population requires immediate assistance.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8.4 million in FY 2013 and FY 2014 funding in response to deteriorating humanitarian conditions in CAR. USAID/FFP's \$8.8 million in FY 2013 funding continues to help enable WFP deliver life-saving food to conflict-affected communities. In addition, State/PRM provided more than \$7.4 million to support conflict-affected populations and refugees residing in CAR, including \$3.7 million for UNHCR activities targeting more than 17,000 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan.

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)

DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Conflicts between former Séléka fighters and self-defense groups continue to aggravate humanitarian conditions in CAR. Violent incidents have occurred in Haut Mbomou, Nana Mambéré, Ombella Mpoko, Ouham, and Ouham Pende prefectures in recent weeks. On December 5, the U.N. reported that the growing crisis is spreading into neighboring countries, including a late November attack on eastern Cameroon's Gbiti village.
- Violence erupted in both Bangui and Bossangoa on December 5, resulting in more than 200 casualties, population displacement, and destruction of property. As of December 6, the U.N. reported that clashes in Bangui had resulted in at least 140 deaths and prompted at least 700 people to flee southward to DRC. In response to traumatic injuries, Médecins Sans Frontières immediately commenced emergency medical assistance through two Bangui hospitals, treating more than 90 people with gunshot and/or machete wounds.
- While the humanitarian impact of December 5 fighting in Bossangoa remains unknown at this time, UNHCR noted that the 40,000 IDPs that have amassed in the town since September remain extremely vulnerable. UNHCR transported 60 metric tons of relief commodities—including mosquito nets, soap, buckets, blankets, and plastic sheeting, among other items—to Bossangoa on December 5 for distribution to approximately 3,000 families.
- In late October and early November, UNHCR assessed available shelter for IDPs in Bossangoa, and developed an initial strategy for shelter interventions in the town. The U.N. reports that by late November, shelter sites were not accepting additional persons due to lack of available space, despite continuing arrivals.
- As of November 22, up to 6,000 children were fighting among the numerous armed groups operating in CAR, according to the U.N. The figure is roughly double UNICEF's April 2013 child soldier estimate of 2,000 children.
- Armed group the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remains a threat in southeastern CAR. While media sources report that CAR government officials engaged in negotiations with LRA representatives in late November and an early-December African Union military offensive resulted in the deaths of high-level LRA combatants, the U.N. reports that LRA elements kidnapped civilians in Haut Mbomou in late November. In response to LRA-related disruption of livelihood opportunities, USAID/OFDA partner Mercy Corps is providing unconditional cash vouchers—valued at approximately \$98 each—to affected Mbomou residents, benefitting up to 7,100 people.
- Clashes between armed groups in Bouar town, Nana-Mambéré, on October 26 forced an estimated 6,000 people to seek shelter near a local church, according to OCHA. In response to the violence, several NGOs and U.N. agencies temporarily relocated staff members from Bouar to the capital city of Bangui. A subsequent October 31 joint humanitarian assessment in Bouar prompted Cordaid, Mercy Corps, and UNICEF to distribute food, relief items, safe drinking water, and hygiene materials, as well as provide protection and health services to affected populations.
- In late November, the Government of France (GoF) announced plans to deploy up to 1,200 soldiers to CAR in early December to quell escalating violence, according to media. On December 5, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to approve an African Union-led peace enforcement mission to CAR, with GoF military support. In anticipation of increased military presence in CAR, OCHA is strengthening its civil-military coordination mechanism to facilitate humanitarian-military interactions that preserve key humanitarian principles, such as impartiality and neutrality.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- According to a WFP September assessment, an estimated 30 percent of the population outside of Bangui—approximately 1.1 million people—is experiencing deteriorating access to food, impediments to agricultural activities, and other indications of food insecurity. An estimated half of those affected are IDPs, with the most-affected populations residing in Nana Gribizi, Ouham, and Ouham-Pende prefectures in northwestern CAR and Bamingui Bangoran and Vakaga prefectures of northeastern CAR. The majority of interviewed households indicated having sold livestock to buy food, as well as out of fear of looting or in preparation for anticipated displacement.
- WFP warns that further conflict in CAR will likely exacerbate the already fragile food security situation. Disruptions to the cotton trade, decreased availability of wage labor, and reduced peanut harvests—the primary income-generating activities for rural households—have decreased purchasing power and overall economic activities. In addition, the loss of productive assets may reduce agriculture production even further.

- Despite persistent security-related constraints, between January and November WFP had provided approximately 350,000 people— IDPs, as well as refugees from the DRC and Sudan—with food commodities and plans to reach an up to 500,000 people by December 2013, according to OCHA.

PROTECTION

- Virtually all of CAR's population remains vulnerable to protection risks, and armed groups increasingly target humanitarian organizations with looting—at times resulting in violence. From October 17 to 19, senior representatives from U.N. agencies and NGOs visited the city of Bangui and the towns of Bossangoa and Kaga Bandoro to assess the gravity of the CAR emergency. Following the visit, OCHA Director of Operations John Ging expressed concern regarding brutality committed by armed groups, estimating that half of CAR's total population requires immediate assistance.
- In October, a UNHCR-led protection team visited Bossangoa to assess the prevalence of violence in the conflict-affected town. According to the U.N., the team identified more than 2,500 protection incidents perpetrated against civilians during attacks, including killings, physical violence, arbitrary detentions, and destruction of property.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION AND WASH

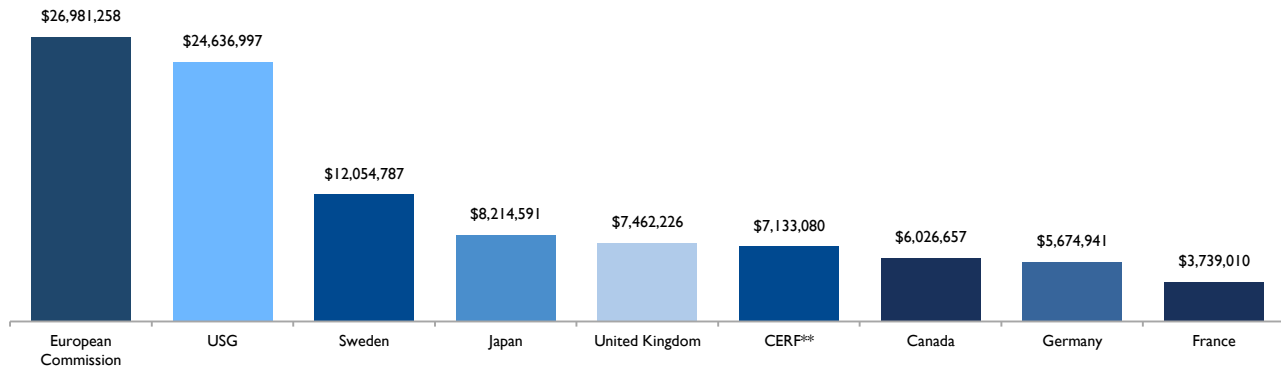
- Destruction of CAR's already weak health infrastructure and departure of qualified health staff have resulted in deteriorating health conditions countrywide. The U.N. estimates that fighting had destroyed more than 60 percent of health facilities and displaced 80 percent of doctors from rural areas to Bangui as of November 8. In addition, all 22 health districts are experiencing shortages of anti-malarial, anti-retroviral, and tuberculosis medications.
- Since March, the U.N. has recorded measles in 15 of CAR's 22 districts, declaring an outbreak in October due to the confirmation of at least 600 cases. Between May and October, USAID/OFDA partner UNICEF and other NGOs vaccinated more than 500,000 children under the age of five against measles and polio—68 percent of the U.N.'s initial 740,000-child target—with plans to conduct an additional campaign between November 26 and December 2. Participating agencies also provided these children with deworming medication and Vitamin A supplements.
- In response to medical needs in Bossangoa, USAID/OFDA partner UNICEF is supporting a nearby dispensary, which treats more than 170 persons each day and delivered 19 infants of IDP women in November, according to the U.N.
- IDP populations in Bossangoa town continue to experience significant WASH needs. According to the U.N., displaced families reside in cramped quarters—only 1.2 meters of available shelter space per person, well below the Sphere Project⁴ emergency threshold of 4.5 meters per person—posing a persistent threat of water and vector-borne diseases. Since August UNICEF teams have responded by delivering basic WASH supplies to more than 44,000 IDPs in Bossangoa; however, UNICEF reports that existent needs far exceed available assistance.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In early September, heavy rainfall and associated flooding destroyed or damaged the homes of more than 1,800 people and affected up to 30,000 people in Bangui, according to the International Federation of the Red Cross. In response, the CAR Red Cross (CARRC) provided WASH materials and relief commodities to affected residents, as well as educated beneficiaries on hygiene practices that prevent disease, with plans to continue the response until January 2014.
- A USAID/OFDA-facilitated shipment of UNICEF relief supplies arrived in Bangui on November 10. The relief supplies will help UNICEF assist some of the estimated 170,000 conflict-affected people recently displaced to northwestern CAR. The relief supplies included 12,000 fleece blankets, 800 kitchen sets, 12,000 mosquito nets, 240 plastic mats, and more than 5,300 plastic sheets.

⁴ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), U.N., NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

2013 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of December 6, 2013. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the associated fiscal years, which began on October 1 of 2012 and 2013.

**U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund

CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed opposition alliance—comprising Wa Kodro Salute Patriotic Convention (CPSK), the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP), and the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR)—began to advance across CAR in opposition to then President François Bozizé. On March 24, Séléka entered CAR's capital city, Bangui, effectively seizing control of the country. Séléka-imposed blockades, ongoing insecurity, looting of relief agency offices and supplies, and poor road infrastructure impede the delivery of life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations in need.
- In response to ongoing humanitarian needs due to food insecurity, conflict, and limited access to health care, Assistant Secretary 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 2013 AND FY 2014¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Chapman Freeborn, Inc	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Bangui	\$227,945
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization	Agriculture and Food Security	Vakaga, Ouham, Haut-Kotto, and Bamingui-Bangoran Prefectures	\$750,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, and WASH	Haute-Kotto and Vakaga Prefectures	\$1,200,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection	Mbomou and Ouaka Prefectures	\$1,636,392
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$400,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Nutrition	Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou Prefectures	\$989,160
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Health, Nutrition, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,200,000

WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$8,403,497

USAID/FFP³			
WFP	4,430 MT of Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for Relief, Nutrition, Safety Net, and Livelihoods Activities	Countrywide	\$8,831,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$8,831,500

STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
ICRC	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$2,800,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Services	Countrywide	\$525,000
IMC	Health	Ouaka Prefecture	\$377,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$7,402,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2013 & 2014			\$24,636,997

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of December 6, 2013.

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>