

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

DECEMBER 7, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.5 million

People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance
UN – October 2017

601,600

IDPs in CAR
UN – October 2017

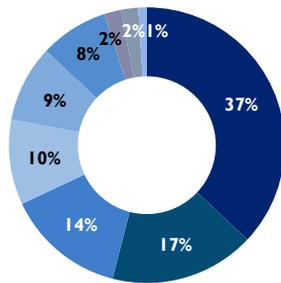
85,400

IDPs in Bangui
UN – October 2017

538,600

Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UN – October 2017

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017–2018



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (37%)
- Shelter & Settlements (17%)
- Health (14%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (10%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (9%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (8%)
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (2%)
- Protection (2%)
- Nutrition (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017–2018



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (47%)
- Local & Regional Food Procurement (39%)
- Cash Transfers & Food Vouchers (14%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- IDPs in CAR increase by 50 percent since January, UN reports
- Relief actors record 13 aid worker and 14 peacekeeper deaths in CAR in 2017
- Relief actors in Bangassou suspend operations due to insecurity; nearly 500,000 people in need

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA	\$32,892,593
USAID/FFP	\$47,117,809
State/PRM ³	\$45,196,665
\$125,207,067	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Violence in northwestern and southeastern Central African Republic (CAR) has increased the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) by nearly 50 percent since January, bringing the total to more than 601,000 IDPs in CAR as of October 31, the UN reports.
- Increasing insecurity and targeted attacks on humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel and assets continue to negatively impact relief operations across CAR. Attacks by armed actors have resulted in the death of 13 aid workers and 14 UN peacekeepers to date in 2017. In addition, insecurity prompted relief organizations to evacuate 240 aid workers from 10 villages between January and September, according to the UN.
- Despite favorable agro-climatic conditions during the 2017 growing season across CAR, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) projects below-average aggregate crop production—similar to that of the previous four years—due to ongoing conflict and reductions in planted land.

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 EVENTS

- UN Secretary-General (SYG) António Guterres traveled to Mbomou Prefecture's Bangassou town and CAR's capital city of Bangui from October 24–27 to highlight critical humanitarian needs in the country and frequent armed attacks against relief workers and UN peacekeeping forces. SYG Guterres met with Government of CAR (CARG), UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), donor, and humanitarian actor representatives to discuss strategies for alleviating the ongoing crisis and improving the protection of civilians, according to the UN.
- On November 15, the UN Security Council extended the MINUSCA mandate through November 15, 2018, and approved an additional 900 MINUSCA troops—resulting in an authorized ceiling of 11,650 military personnel—due to violence against civilians in recent months. Ongoing insecurity continues to hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid throughout the country; relief organizations evacuated 240 aid workers from 10 villages between January and September, FAO reports.

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Countrywide

- The IDP population in CAR increased by nearly 50 percent from January–October, primarily as a result of ongoing insecurity and armed clashes in northwestern and southeastern parts of the country. The UN recorded more than 601,000 IDPs in CAR as of October 31, representing the highest number of IDPs since August 2014.

Northwest and West

- Despite ongoing clashes, approximately 3,300 people displaced by armed attacks in April have returned to parts of Nana-Grébizi Prefecture's Kaga-Bandoro sub-prefecture as of mid-November, the UN reports. The returns—equivalent to approximately 67 percent of the nearly 4,900 people originally displaced—were likely prompted by relative stability in the area in recent months. A UN interagency assessment mission in Kaga-Bandoro on November 15 identified critical food, health, relief commodities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among conflict-affected populations. Since the assessment, relief actors have reportedly begun supporting local health facilities and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in the area, according to the UN.
- On November 4, gunmen ambushed an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) humanitarian aid convoy near Kaga-Bandoro town, resulting in the death of an aid worker and the theft of humanitarian cargo. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for CAR (RC/HC) Najat Rochdi condemned the attack and underscored the critical need to improve protection for aid workers and civilians. RC/HC Rochdi reports that the attack brings the total to 13 aid worker deaths in CAR to date in 2017. In comparison, the UN recorded five aid worker deaths in 2016.
- In early November, fighting between armed groups in rural areas north of Ouham Prefecture's Batangafo town displaced nearly 5,000 people, bringing Batangafo's IDP population to approximately 36,000 people, the UN reports. Priority needs of newly displaced people include food and basic household items. The town has experienced an increase in clashes between armed groups in recent months; a September attack on a compound housing several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) prompted humanitarian actors to suspend operations, temporarily leaving residents in the town without access to emergency services.
- The security situation in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture's Bocaranga town has improved following the deployment of MINUSCA forces in response to late September clashes that displaced nearly all of the town's 15,000 residents, according to the UN. As of late October, approximately 4,000 people had returned to Bocaranga, and several humanitarian organizations had resumed activities in the area.

East and Southeast

- Insecurity continued to prevent relief actors from providing assistance to an estimated 11,750 people displaced to Basse-Kotto Prefecture's Dimbi and Kembe towns and Mbomou Prefecture's Pombolo town in October and

November, according to the UN. Relief actors report that vulnerable populations in these towns lack access to services, as ongoing insecurity has restricted movement and precluded relief actors from implementing response activities. Humanitarian actors are closely monitoring the situation in Dimbi, Kembe, and Pombolo and aim to assess needs and provide emergency services once security conditions permit.

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) evacuated nearly 60 staff and suspended emergency medical operations in Bangassou following a November 20 armed robbery on the organization's residential compound. MSF estimates that more than 500,000 people in and around Bangassou were relying on health services provided by the organization. MSF was the only international NGO operating in Bangassou prior to the attack, as violence in recent months had prompted other humanitarian actors to suspend operations in the town.
- Armed clashes in and around Mbomou's Dembia village on November 20 and 23 resulted in approximately 30 deaths and prompted nearly all 18,000 residents of the village and approximately 8,000 IDPS to flee to Mbomou's Bangassou and Rafai towns, as well as to Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN reports. The violence included large-scale looting and destruction of homes and a health center, prompting health workers to also flee the village. Local authorities reported that approximately 10,000 IDPs had arrived in Rafai as of November 27 in urgent need of emergency food and shelter assistance, and are discussing the establishment of an IDP site to host the newly displaced population in Rafai, according to the UN. In addition, approximately 3,000 residents of Rafai have fled the town in anticipation of escalating tensions, seeking refuge in the vicinity of the nearby MINUSCA base.
- Despite a late September cessation of hostilities agreement, tensions and clashes between armed actors near Haute Kotto Prefecture's Bria town continue to prompt population displacement. At least 2,500 people have fled to an IDP site in Bria since November 9, joining approximately 12,000 IDPs who arrived in Bria between September and October, according to the UN. Relief actors report ongoing protection concerns in Bria; in November, armed actors entered health facilities in Bria sub-prefecture several times, attempting to prevent treatment of wounded combatants and threatening patients and health care workers.
- On November 26, suspected anti-Balaka elements attacked a MINUSCA convoy traveling between Bangassou and Basse-Kotto Prefecture's Kongbo town. On December 4, suspected anti-Balaka elements attacked MINUSCA peacekeepers at a checkpoint near a Bria IDP site. Each incident resulted in the death of one UN peacekeeper and injury of three others, according to the UN. SYG Guterres condemned the attacks, calling for authorities to investigate the incident and hold the perpetrators accountable. Attacks by armed elements in CAR have resulted in 14 peacekeeper deaths since January, the UN reports.
- From May–August, more than 85,000 people fleeing violence in southeastern CAR arrived in Democratic Republic of the Congo, seeking refuge in hard-to-reach areas of the country's Bas-Uele and Nord-Ubangi provinces where few relief agencies operate, according to the UN. Relief agencies note that the refugees are in critical need of food, health, shelter, and WASH services, and that the arrival of the refugees has severely strained limited host community resources. Relief actors have provided limited assistance to date, as insecurity and inadequate road infrastructure hinder humanitarian access to affected areas. As of mid-October, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) planned to relocate the Central African refugees to more accessible areas of the country. Approximately 168,000 Central African refugees were sheltering in Democratic Republic of the Congo as of October 31.

FOOD SECURITY

- Despite favorable agro-climatic conditions and adequate rainfall during the planting season across most of CAR, FAO projects below-average 2017 aggregate crop production, consistent with 2012–2016 yields, due to ongoing conflict and the resultant reduction in planted fields. Poor market access and increased demand for commodities in conflict-affected central, northwestern, and southeastern parts of CAR have raised food and livestock prices. Insecurity across CAR has also hindered relief actors from distributing emergency food assistance, exacerbating poor food security conditions. As a result, approximately 700,000 vulnerable people in Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Vakanga prefectures will likely continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity until at least May 2018, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early

Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).⁴ In addition, the 2018 lean season, which typically begins in April or May, is expected to begin as early as March, FEWS NET reports.

USG ASSISTANCE

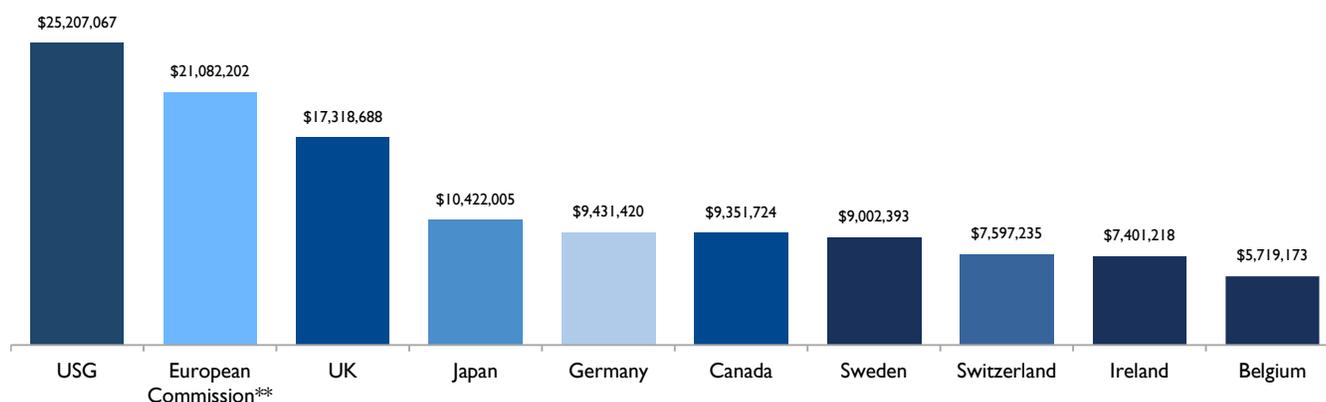
- With more than \$1.7 million in USAID/OFDA support, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided approximately 18,000 people with WASH assistance, more than 14,000 people with emergency shelter supplies, and more than 2,000 people with relief commodities from July–September in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé, despite persistent insecurity and operational challenges.
 - With USAID/FFP support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to reach vulnerable and conflict-affected populations in CAR with Title-II U.S. in-kind food assistance and locally and regionally procured food. In FY 2017, USAID/FFP provided WFP with approximately \$47 million to respond to the regional CAR crisis, including approximately \$27 million for use within CAR and \$19.5 million to assist Central African refugees sheltering in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Republic of the Congo.
 - Between October 17 and November 7, USAID/OFDA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) relocated approximately 3,500 vulnerable IDPs—or 700 households—from an informal IDP site near a MINUSCA base outside Kaga-Bandoro to safer locations nearby. Up to 20,000 IDPs had arrived at the informal site following violence in Kaga-Bandoro in October 2016, according to the UN. Unsafe shelter conditions and proximity to a fuel depot and airstrip prompted IOM to relocate the IDPs, though approximately 15 households voluntarily returned to areas of origin. Relocated households received transportation assistance, cash grants, and relief commodities, while returnees received transportation assistance, return packages, and shelter rehabilitation assistance. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to IOM for the provision of emergency assistance to IDPs in CAR, including shelter rehabilitation.
-
-

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In October, the CAR Humanitarian Fund—a country-based pooled fund managed by the RC/HC—allocated \$7 million to relief organizations to provide critical food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance in conflict-affected areas. With contributions from the governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK, the CAR Humanitarian Fund has allocated \$24 million to humanitarian organizations to date in 2017.
- As of December 4, the 2017 CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) had received nearly 37 percent of the more than \$497 million requested to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations, representing a sustained decrease in CAR’s humanitarian funding in recent years; in 2014, 2015, and 2016, the HRP was approximately 68 percent, 54 percent, and 38 percent funded, respectively.

⁴ 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.

2017 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of December 7, 2017. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments from FY 2017, which began on October 1, 2016, and FY 2018, which began on October 1, 2017. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among Central African refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

**Includes contributions from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

CONTEXT

- 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. President Touadéra assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- Conflict between armed groups has persisted across much of CAR in 2017; however, armed groups have fragmented and reformed among various alliances, complicating the ongoing crisis. An estimated 2.5 million people in CAR require humanitarian assistance, while more than 538,000 people have fled the violence in CAR to neighboring countries.
- The security situation throughout CAR remains volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, and peacekeeping forces.
- On October 12, 2017, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires David Brownstein reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2018 due to the scale of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017-2018¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Health	Kémo, Ouaka	\$500,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements	Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou	\$2,500,000
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Ouaka	\$1,293,372
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements	Basse-Kotto, Mbomou	\$1,500,000

DRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,750,000
Handicap International	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto	\$1,089,816
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$121,210
International NGO Security Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$900,000
IOM	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham	\$2,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham-Pendé	\$2,300,000
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,200,000
Mercy Corps	ERMS, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Ouaka	\$1,100,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, Ombella M'Poko, Ouaka	\$1,000,000
Oxfam	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,500,000
Plan International	ERMS, Protection	Lobaye, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham	\$774,724
Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Bangui	\$1,300,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Ouham	\$500,000
	Program Support		\$63,471
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$32,892,593

USAID/FFP ²			
UNICEF	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$81,227
	7,026 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$10,680,661
	11,666MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$16,800,000
WFP	7,840 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Cameroon	\$10,679,969
	Food Vouchers and 1,490 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Cameroon	\$2,000,000

	Cash Transfers for Food and Food Vouchers	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$6,000,000
	540 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Republic of the Congo	\$875,952
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$47,117,809

State/PRM			
CRS	Livelihoods and Protection	Cameroon	\$975,000
CARE	Livelihoods and Protection	Chad	\$974,998
ICRC	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$16,300,000
Jesuit Refugee Service	Protection	Cameroon	\$349,266
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Livelihoods and Protection	Cameroon	\$1,034,367
	Livelihoods and Protection	Chad	\$942,000
PUI	Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response, Peacebuilding, Livelihoods	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$1,500,000
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$11,500,000
	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Refugees	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$2,700,000
	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$425,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$975,000
	Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response, Livelihoods, WASH	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$1,021,034
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$45,196,665
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017-2018			\$125,207,067

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

² Values for FY 2017 funding adjusted based on reconciliation of data.

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:
 - USAID 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>