

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

MARCH 7, 2014

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**2.5 million**

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – March 2014

**1.3 million**

Estimated Number of Food-Insecure People in CAR

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

**657,000**

Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

OCHA – March 2014

**232,000**

Total IDPs in Bangui

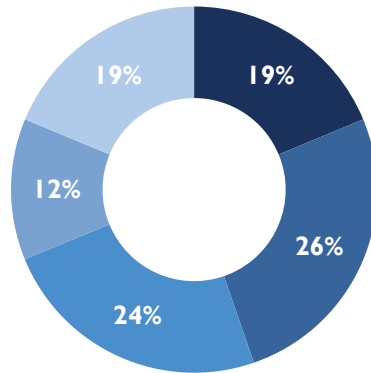
OCHA – March 2014

**296,200**

Total Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – March 2014

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014



- Health (19%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (26%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (24%)
- Protection (12%)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (19%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence continues in the Central African Republic (CAR)
- Malnutrition levels increase due to ongoing food insecurity
- Rainy season likely to further restrict humanitarian access and create additional needs in displacement sites

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO CAR IN FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$8,008,810
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$20,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$17,000,000
<b>\$45,008,810</b>	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO CAR	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Violence and insecurity continue in CAR, with anti-Balaka, ex-Séléka, and other armed group elements committing atrocities against civilians of all communities. Threats, robberies, and other security incidents targeting humanitarian actors have increased since late February, forcing relief organizations to suspend some programs.
- The international community is calling for an increased presence of security forces throughout the country to prevent attacks against civilians and to facilitate humanitarian access to populations in need. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has recommended deploying a U.N. peacekeeping operation to CAR to stem the violence and restore order.
- Market disruptions have negatively affected livelihoods and exacerbated food insecurity throughout the country. Meanwhile, the upcoming rainy season, which typically begins in April but has already started in some areas, is likely to increase humanitarian needs.
- In FY 2014 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided approximately \$45 million to CAR to support food assistance; health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities; information management; the provision of relief commodities; and multi-sector assistance for new Central African refugees.

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

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

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

## CURRENT SITUATION

- In recent weeks, retaliatory anti-Balaka violence against Muslims has caused many Muslim civilians to flee CAR or to relocate to Muslim-majority areas in the country's northeast. As of March 5, an estimated 80 to 85 percent of Bangui's minorities—including Muslims and third-country nationals—had left the capital city, with most fleeing to Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and northeastern CAR, according to the U.N. On February 25, UNHCR called for additional security forces to protect more than 15,000 people, mainly Muslim civilians, in 18 locations in western CAR who face high risk of attack by anti-Balaka fighters. UNHCR indicated particular concern for Muslims, mainly women and elderly persons, trapped in Bangui's Pointe Kilométrique (PK) 12 neighborhood, as well as the towns of Boda, Bossangoa, and Bouar towns, located in Lobaye, Ouham, and Nana-Mambéré prefectures, respectively.
- Meanwhile, anti-Balaka, ex-Séléka, and other armed group actors continue to commit atrocities against civilians of all communities, most recently in Bossangoa; Kouango town, Ouaka Prefecture; and Paoua town, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture.
- The U.N. continues to discuss the details of a peacekeeping plan for CAR, as the 8,000 international forces currently in the country are insufficient to provide protection to all at-risk communities. On March 3, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon recommended deploying a U.N. peacekeeping operation comprising 10,000 peacekeeping troops and 1,820 police personnel to CAR to curb violence, protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and restore order.
- In Kaga Bandoro town, Nana-Grebizi Prefecture, humanitarian organizations are working to prevent an escalation of hostilities between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka elements. Tensions in other areas, including Berberati town, Mambéré-Kadéi Prefecture, have increased due to the recent influx of anti-Balaka actors.

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## DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- As of March 4, approximately 657,000 individuals remained displaced within CAR, with approximately 232,000 IDPs—or 35 percent—sheltering in 57 different displacement sites in Bangui. Between February 25 and March 4, the number of IDPs in Bangui decreased by 16 percent from 276,500 to 232,000 people. The U.N. attributes the change to minor improvements in the security situation, the exodus of people from Bangui to neighboring countries and other areas of CAR, and deteriorating living conditions in IDP sites, caused in part by heavy rains in early March. The countrywide IDP estimate represents a 22 percent decrease from February 7 estimates, reflecting some recent localized returns in parts of Bangui. However, many people continue to flee CAR for neighboring countries and displacement estimates will likely continue to vary in accordance with CAR's fluid security situation.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) reports that since the beginning of March, the last Muslims remaining in at least 10 locations in CAR's northwest, including Baoro and Boali towns in Nana-Mambéré and Ombella M'Poko prefectures, respectively, fled to Cameroon and Chad, leaving the locations without any Muslim presence. In addition, the remaining Muslims in Yaloke town, Ombella M'Poko, which was home to more than 10,000 Muslims before the current crisis, recently fled to Chad, according to HRW.
- The volatile security situation in CAR, including incidents perpetrated by armed elements against humanitarian actors, continues to impede humanitarian access to vulnerable populations in need. Threats, robberies, and other security incidents against humanitarian actors have increased since late February, causing relief organizations to suspend ongoing programs and recall humanitarian staff in some areas to Bangui, according to OCHA. In Ndele town, Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture, and Bocaranga town, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, two international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) either suspended activities or relocated staff to Bangui due to insecurity.
- With \$1 million in USAID/OFDA support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to assist IDPs throughout CAR. IOM's USAID/OFDA-funded displacement tracking matrix, which became operational in December 2013, has allowed the organization to create displacement site profiles that track information on health, shelter, security, and other needs. IOM and other humanitarian partners use this information to assess the most urgent humanitarian needs in different displacement sites, facilitating an appropriate humanitarian response. Using data

gathered from the displacement tracking matrix tool, IOM recently released updated profiles of 54 displacement sites in Bangui.

- According to UNHCR, approximately 296,200 Central African refugees are residing in neighboring countries. Of the total, more than 20 percent, or 66,300 people, have arrived in Cameroon, Chad, DRC, and the Republic of the Congo, since December 2013.
- To date in FY 2014, State/PRM has committed more than \$17 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IOM, UNHCR, and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to support new Central African refugees and other individuals in the region affected by the CAR crisis.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- Continuing market disruptions and uncertain prospects for the upcoming 2014 agricultural season have raised concerns among the humanitarian community regarding increased food insecurity in CAR. The large-scale departure of traders and herders—the majority of whom are Muslims fleeing violence—has affected CAR’s markets, reducing the country’s staple food supplies and further increasing already high food prices.
- The combined effects of the early exhaustion of household food stocks, below-average incomes, market disruption, and population displacement continue to limit food access across CAR, according to a recent report published by the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Households are resorting to negative coping strategies, such as skipping meals and selling property assets. As a result, populations in Bangui and western areas of the country are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity<sup>4</sup> and will likely continue to experience Crisis levels of food insecurity through at least June 2014.
- Furthermore, the country faces uncertain prospects for the 2014 planting season, as most communities report having insufficient quantities of seeds for planting. Farmers in CAR urgently require seeds and essential tools, such as hoes, rakes, and watering cans, to prevent a full-scale food and nutrition crisis, according to the U.N. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) plans to distribute seeds and tools to approximately 150,000 households across CAR before the mid-March to mid-May planting season passes, if security and funding permit. To date in FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$281,000 to FAO to support humanitarian coordination and information management.
- Due to ongoing violence and resultant increased food insecurity, relief agencies are witnessing increased levels of malnutrition among conflict-affected populations. The U.N. estimates that in 2014, approximately 75,500 children will experience moderate acute malnutrition and an additional 28,000 children will experience severe acute malnutrition. Central Africans arriving in neighboring countries are also increasingly malnourished, according to UNHCR. On March 1 and 2, at least 15 children who crossed from CAR into Cameroon died due to malnourishment.
- Despite significant challenges to providing assistance, WFP is reaching vulnerable populations in need. In February, WFP distributed approximately 1,600 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to populations in Bangui and parts of Nana-Gribizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures, reaching approximately 228,000 people. As of March 4, WFP had airlifted more than 1,540 MT of rice from Douala city in western Cameroon to Bangui. Although recently supplied food commodities will help meet emergency needs, WFP requires an additional \$72 million to support its emergency operation, particularly in light of rising malnutrition levels and the impending rainy season, when many roads will become impassable.
- In FY 2014 to date, USAID/FFP has provided \$20 million to WFP to support general food distributions, supplementary feeding programs, and other activities benefiting IDPs and additional conflict-affected persons in CAR.

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

## HEALTH AND WASH

- Approximately 900,000 conflict-affected people in CAR require WASH support, according to the U.N. The WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—continues to improve access to safe drinking water for IDPs in Bangui; Bambari town, Ouaka Prefecture; and Bossangoa town, Ouham Prefecture. In Bangui, CAR’s national water supplier SODECA is providing safe drinking water to approximately 188,000 IDPs in 35 displacement sites. During the week of February 24, Cluster partners began implementing plans to increase SODECA’s distribution system capacity to reach more people in need. The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) provided 100 MT of water-treatment chemicals to allow the system to continue delivering safe drinking water to approximately 600,000 people for three months. In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided \$750,000 to UNICEF for WASH activities.
- In Bambari, WASH Cluster partners chlorinated 30 shallow wells servicing more than 12,000 people. In Bossangoa, the Cluster is providing between 22 and 25 liters of safe drinking water per day to approximately 16,700 IDPs.
- Even prior to the recent crisis, CAR’s health infrastructure was inadequate, and many health facilities were inoperable. Increased insecurity in recent weeks has compounded the health problem in CAR, with many health facilities looted and health workers displaced. Humanitarian health actors remain concerned regarding the increased risk of waterborne diseases, such as malaria and dysentery, due to the early onset of the rainy season. Although CAR’s rainy season typically begins in late March/early April, heavy rains fell in Bangui on March 1, worsening living conditions for thousands of IDPs in crowded displacement sites with poor soil drainage capacity. The rains caused flooding at the M’Poko International Airport displacement site, where approximately 70,000 people are sheltering, forcing some residents to wade through up to 12 inches of standing water. The U.N. reports the need for strengthening early warning and response systems in Bangui to prevent disease outbreaks in the coming months.
- In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$1.5 million to the NGO Mentor to ensure access to life-saving health care services in conflict-affected Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures. With USAID/OFDA support, Mentor will respond to acute needs by establishing and maintaining community health worker networks and supporting the reactivation of 20 health facilities.

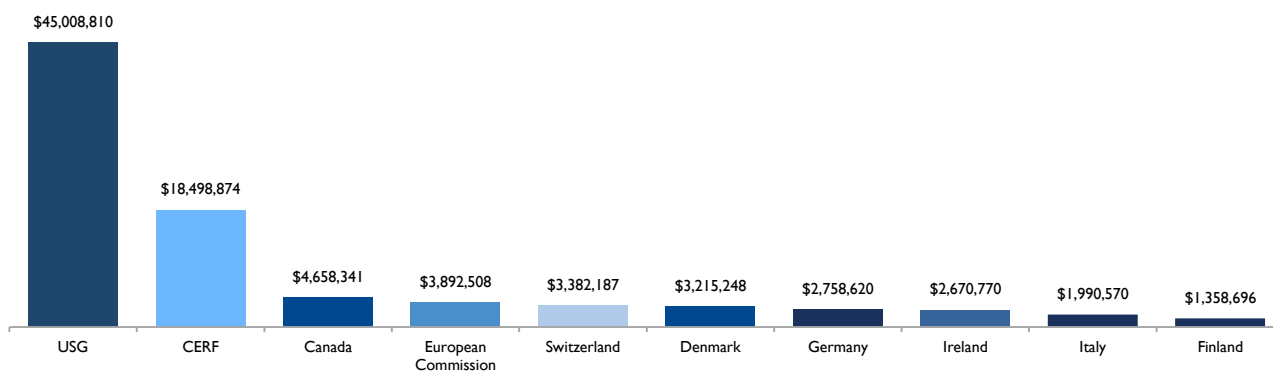
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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of March 7, international donors had provided approximately \$97 million in humanitarian funding for the crisis in CAR in 2014. Of the total figure, donors have allocated approximately \$88 million toward the CAR Strategic Response Plan (SRP). The \$88 million represents approximately 16 percent of total SRP requirements.
- On March 7, the Government of Australia announced plans to provide \$4 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to CAR to support communities affected by recent conflict. Funding will support expanded access to safe drinking water and the provision of food and medical assistance, as well as other relief commodities.

## 2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of March 7, 2014. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2014 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments from FY 2014, which began on October 1, 2013.

### CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed opposition alliance began to advance across CAR in opposition to then-President François Bozizé. On March 24, 2013, Séléka fighters entered CAR's capital city, 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 mid-February, the situation throughout CAR remained volatile, with escalating attacks against civilians. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistical constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of CAR.
- In response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State 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 2014<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$280,623
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Mentor	Health	Ouham and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures	\$1,500,242
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,727,945
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$8,008,810</b>

USAID/FFP <sup>3</sup>			
WFP	5,660 MT of Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for General Food Distributions, Supplementary Feeding, and Food-for-Assets Activities	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WFP	Local and Regional Procurement of 5,485 MT of Food Commodities for General Food Distributions and Supplementary Feeding Programs	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$20,000,000</b>

STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
IOM	Evacuation and Basic Return Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants	Countrywide and Neighboring Countries	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Refugees and IDPs	Countrywide and Neighboring Countries	\$12,600,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$17,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2014</b>			<b>\$45,008,810</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of March 7, 2014.

<sup>3</sup>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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>