

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #12, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

MARCH 27, 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) – March 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) – March 2015

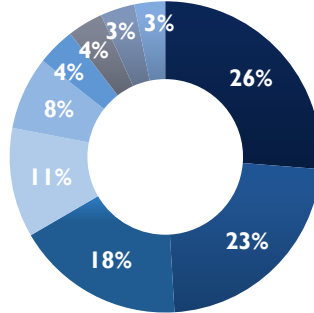
**49,100**

Approximate Number of IDPs in CAR's Capital City of Bangui  
UNHCR – March 2015

**453,400**

Approximate Number of Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries  
UNHCR – March 2015

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (26%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (23%)
- Health (18%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (11%)
- Shelter & Settlements (8%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)
- Protection (3%)
- Nutrition (3%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



- Local and Regional Procurement
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid
- Food Vouchers

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The E.U. withdraws 750 soldiers and launches the E.U. Military Advisory Mission to CAR (EUMAM RCA) to support security sector reforms that prioritize protection of civilians
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) releases an appeal requesting \$6.2 million to provide agricultural inputs critical to food security and livelihoods in CAR during upcoming lean season

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO THE CRISIS IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA \$13,169,759

USAID/FFP \$32,554,287

**\$45,724,046**  
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Following the UN Security Council's mid-March visit to assess the security and political situation in CAR, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power expressed concern regarding the potential security vacuum that could result from the withdrawal of French and E.U. forces, while the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) remains at approximately 80 percent of the planned strength of 10,000 peacekeepers, according to international media. On March 27, the UN Security Council approved UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's request to increase the number of MINUSCA peacekeepers by 750 military personnel, 280 police personnel, and 20 corrections officers, the UN reported.
- The fifteen-member UN Security Council delegation convened the ninth joint annual meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council in Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa on March 12. During the meeting, members expressed concern for the humanitarian situation and the culture of impunity in CAR, emphasizing the need to bring perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice.

<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)

## **INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT**

- The E.U. withdrew approximately 750 soldiers and police comprising the E.U. Forces (EUFOR) mission in CAR in mid-March, according to international media. EUFOR personnel originally deployed to CAR in April 2014 with a mandate to facilitate humanitarian assistance, support the arrival of MINUSCA as UN personnel arrived, and improve security in Bangui—particularly at M'Poko International Airport, where approximately 70,000 IDPs were seeking shelter. As EUFOR withdraws, the E.U. announced the launch of its EUMAM RCA to assist MINUSCA in reforming the security sector, including the country's armed forces, as part of the E.U.'s overall effort to improve stability and the protection of civilians in CAR. MINUSCA—which assumed responsibility from the African-led International Support Mission to CAR in September 2014—aims to have 10,000 peacekeepers in-country by April.
- Shelter actors continue to develop plans for the eventual closure of the M'Poko International Airport IDP site, which the CARG had announced on January 14. In mid-March, the Danish Refugee Council, Première Urgence–Aide Médicale Internationale, and the CARG conducted an IDP registration at the site, recording more than 4,300 households comprising nearly 18,400 people. Of the population surveyed, approximately 55 percent endeavor to return to their areas of origin and a remaining 42 percent plan to resettle in a new area when security conditions permit. Meanwhile, the UN has relayed reports of a slight increase in the number of Bangui-based IDPs returning to their areas of origin despite sporadic insecurity in the capital. Marginal returns have caused the overall number of IDPs in Bangui to decline somewhat—from 50,200 IDPs in early February to more than 49,100 people in early March. However, insecurity in other areas of the country—including Mambéré Kadéï, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Sangha-Mbaéré prefectures—continues to displace families and create humanitarian needs.
- Unidentified assailants attacked seven villages in Ouham between mid-February and early March, according to USAID/OFDA partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF). The attacks resulted in 19 deaths and displaced more than 1,000 people to Ouham's Kaboro town. Assailants burned approximately 75 percent of the villages' houses, destroyed agricultural infrastructure, and looted property. During a March 11 humanitarian assessment in Kaboro, ACF identified food assistance and relief commodities—including bedding, cooking equipment, and mosquito nets—as the most urgent needs among displaced households. Assessing dietary diversity, meal frequency, and nutrition, ACF reported that more than 50 percent of displaced households experienced Poor levels of food consumption—the highest level of concern on ACF's three-tiered food consumption rating scale.
- On March 14, armed assailants from Chad attacked a village in Ngaoundaye sub-prefecture, the northwestern-most area of Ouham-Pendé, located near the Chadian border. The attack resulted in at least 10 deaths and displaced a number of households who fled toward the center of Ngaoundaye, according to international media. While the identity of the assailants is unknown, villages in northern areas of CAR have faced similar attacks in recent weeks. International forces have deployed to these affected areas to improve security.
- From March 11–13, UN and partner organizations undertook the first mission to Nana-Grébizi's town of Mbrès since violence began in December 2014 to assess the feasibility of resuming relief activities in the area. The UN reported that the mission identified ten deserted villages and approximately 2,000 people displaced from Mbrès, where local administration and access to basic services, including schools and health facilities, are still lacking. As of late-March, outcomes of the assessment had not been released.

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## **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- FAO released an appeal on March 23 requesting \$6.2 million to help supply farmers with critical inputs, which are intended for the cultivation of 0.5 hectares of land per household to meet household food needs for up to five months. To date, FAO has provided assistance to almost 86,400 households; however, the funding gap precludes the agency from reaching the remaining 63,600 targeted households in advance of the April-to-July planting season. The UN agency reported that without sufficient and timely distribution of seeds and tools, vulnerable populations are at even greater risk of food insecurity and deterioration of livelihoods, as agriculture is the primary revenue source for the majority of CAR's population. FAO also warned that the lean season—April-to-July in the south and July-to-October in the north—could begin four months earlier than usual given that agricultural output is approximately 60 percent

lower than the pre-crisis average. Nearly \$3.8 million in ongoing FY 2014 funding from USAID/OFDA is helping FAO to both conduct seed and tool distributions and lead the Food Security Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—in CAR.

- Insecurity along supply corridors and at food distribution sites continues to impede relief workers' attempts to provide food assistance. WFP has reported increased looting of trucks along key routes in 2015, especially along the main road between Bangui and Kémo Prefecture's Sibut town, which connects the central and northeastern areas of CAR. In mid-March, WFP reported that they are examining options for reinforced security patrols along this route in coordination with MINUSCA.
- In February, WFP provided food assistance to 626,000 acutely food-insecure individuals in CAR and among refugee-hosting communities in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the Republic of Congo, as part of the 2015 Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP). To date in 2015, WFP reported that the EMOP maintains a shortfall of nearly 69 percent of the required \$196.3 million to meet needs in 2015. WFP projects that funding shortfalls and road transport challenges will cause delays to food distributions in the coming months; pre-positioning food will be vital to ensuring uninterrupted assistance during this period.
- In Bangui, WFP is piloting a cash and voucher program to assist approximately 100,000 conflict-affected people in CAR through funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The program, which complements WFP distributions of oil, pulses, and rice, provides recipients with vouchers valued at \$10 to purchase local foods of their choice. The voucher program aims to inject nearly \$2.5 million into local markets, while reducing WFP expenditures for transporting and storing food.
- According to the UN, health actors across CAR have admitted more than 2,500 children into severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment since January 1. The to-date total of SAM admissions represents 11 percent of the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan's target of 22,700 children experiencing SAM treated in 2015. Approximately 86 percent of these children have recovered and only 1 percent has died, reflecting statistics within global standards. During the same period, WFP enrolled more than 8,800 malnourished individuals into its nutrition program, including 2,300 children younger than five years, nearly 4,800 pregnant and lactating women, almost 680 people with HIV, and 1,000 caregivers of SAM-affected individuals already in treatment.

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## PROTECTION

- On March 24, Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum—the UN-appointed independent expert on the situation of human rights in CAR—presented findings from her February visit to CAR to the UN Human Rights Council. She called for greater access to justice and psychosocial support for victims of sexual violence, as humanitarian protection programs remain under-resourced in the country. In addition, Bocoum urged the CARG to collaborate with partners to develop a consistent strategy to ensure the demobilization and rehabilitation of children associated with armed groups; of the 8,000–10,000 child soldiers reportedly involved in the CAR conflict, the UN Human Rights Council estimated that approximately 400 have been released.
- On March 8, Bangui hosted a celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), the first observance in CAR since 2008. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), local authorities, and NGOs facilitated the participation of approximately 8,000 IDPs to join host communities in a march in solidarity, soccer games, and women's dancing exhibitions. IWD celebrations focused on women's empowerment and sought to raise awareness of issues faced by Central African women, including barriers to health care services, risk of gender-based violence (GBV), and sexual and reproductive health.
- Humanitarian actors remain concerned regarding the potential for tensions to generate violence and protection violations. In recent weeks, the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—has continued advocating for improved safety of civilians, particularly in hot spots identified by early warning systems, NGO field reports, and MINUSCA forces, according to the UN. Areas at greatest risk include the transit route between Ouham's Batangafo and Bouca towns, and routes from

Bangui to Ouaka's Bambari and Kouango towns, Ouham's Kabo and Moyen-Sido towns, Ngaoundaye, and Mbrés. Inside Bangui, residents of *pointes kilométrique* 3,4,5,7, and 8 are most vulnerable to violence. The Protection Cluster coordinator recently met with MINUSCA representatives to determine strategies for strengthening community engagement, prevention systems, and response mechanisms in coordination with the humanitarian community to avoid attacks on at-risk groups. To date in FY 2014 and 2015, USAID/OFDA has committed nearly \$4.8 million to protection interventions across CAR—nearly 10 percent of USAID/OFDA's total funding to the crisis. USAID/OFDA partners are providing life-saving medical care and psychosocial support to rape survivors, educating communities on GBV, and bringing at-risk individuals into case management systems, among other activities.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

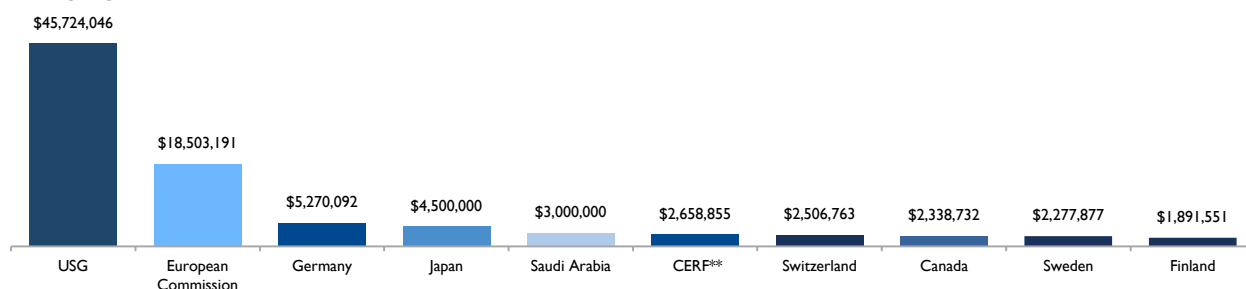
- The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 27 percent of CAR's health facilities were damaged and 40 percent were not operational, as of early 2015. To address the gap in health care services, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided more than 4,400 emergency medical consultations between January 25 and February 28 in Bangui, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture's Obo town, and Vakaga Prefecture's Birao town. In Birao, ICRC treated more than 750 patients for malaria.
  - In March, WHO announced plans to assist the CARG Ministry of Health in developing a two-year plan for the rehabilitation of national health care services. The CARG requires \$63 million to actualize the plan, which will prioritize the restoration of health services for mothers and children while also establishing a minimum package of services.
  - Recent violence and instability damaged health facilities in Bangui and displaced many people living with HIV, interrupting antiretroviral therapy treatment, the UN reported. With support from the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS and the Korea International Cooperation Agency, community volunteers helped more than 540 of approximately 1,500 people resume antiretroviral therapy. The joint project aims to expand to other prefectures.
  - In early March, USAID/OFDA partner IOM conducted maintenance on five boreholes, 50 latrines, and 47 emergency showers to address water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs at IDP sites in Kabo and Moyen-Sido. Additionally, in February, ICRC delivered an average of 220,000 liters of safe drinking water per day to IDPs sheltering at M'Poko International Airport; approximately 250,000 liters of safe drinking water per day to the IDP site in Kaga Bandoro; and between 357,000 and 490,000 liters of safe drinking water each week to Bambari.
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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)—operated by WFP—released an appeal for \$10.2 million in recent weeks in anticipation of a continued uptick in passenger and cargo transport requests. According to UNHAS, the number of relief agencies using the service doubled from 57 registered users in late 2013 to 105 users in late 2014. By December 2014, UNHAS was serving a total of 1,030 people and transporting 26 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian supplies on a monthly basis. During the past year, UNHAS has continued to serve 27 destinations inside CAR, security and environmental conditions permitting, as well as to neighboring Cameroon. UNHAS estimates that, given its current monthly costs, it has enough funding to continue flights through May 20. In FY 2014, the U.S. Government (USG) provided \$1.5 million to UNHAS in support of expanded transport operations, with approximately \$1 million from USAID/OFDA and \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

## 2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\*

PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of March 27, 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, respectively. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among CAR refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

\*\* CERF—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 January 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 2015<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Lobaye and Ombella-M'Poko Prefectures	\$1,504,768
International Medical Corps (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
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$11,205
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$13,169,759</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
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	DRC	\$5,554,287
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>		<b>\$32,554,287</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS IN FY 2015</b>		<b>\$45,724,046</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of March 27, 2015.

<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>