

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**4.6 million**

Estimated Population of CAR  
UN – March 2019

**2.9 million**

Estimated People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance  
UN – March 2019

**1.3 million**

Estimated People in CAR Facing Severe Levels of Acute Food Insecurity  
IPC – June 2019

**581,362**

IDPs in CAR  
UN – July 2019

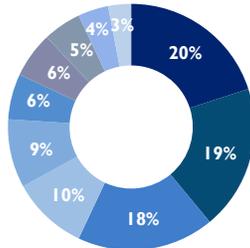
**85,431**

IDPs in Bangui  
UN – August 2018

**607,000**

Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries  
UN – September 2019

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (20%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (19%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (18%)
- Health (10%)
- Shelter & Settlements (9%)
- Protection (6%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (6%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (5%)
- Nutrition (4%)
- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (3%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (59%)
- Food Vouchers (22%)
- Local, Regional & International Food Procurement (14%)
- Complementary Services (3%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (2%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Insecurity prompts new displacement, continues to endanger civilians and aid workers in CAR
- Relief workers report spontaneous return movements in some areas
- More than 1.3 million people facing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$48,618,731
USAID/FFP	\$50,787,077
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$44,883,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$144,289,461</b>

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Localized security improvements and increased humanitarian access in recent months have contributed to some internally displaced person (IDP) returns to areas of origin. An estimated 355,000 Central Africans had returned to their communities of origin as of August, while more than 581,000 people remained internally displaced across Central African Republic (CAR) as of late July, according to the UN.
- Persistent insecurity, however, continues to drive new population displacement, prevent additional returns, and exacerbate humanitarian needs in CAR. In early September, clashes between armed groups in Vakaga Prefecture's Birao city resulted in 38 deaths and displaced an estimated 20,000 people. Relief actors, including USAID partners, continue to provide humanitarian assistance for IDPs from Birao, as well as other IDPs, recent returnees, and vulnerable populations across the country.
- The U.S. Government (USG) provided more than \$144 million in humanitarian assistance for CAR, as well as Central African refugees in neighboring countries, in FY 2019.

<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)

## INSECURITY AND POPULATION MOVEMENTS

- As of July 31, more than 581,000 people were displaced across CAR, with approximately one-third of IDPs residing in nearly 90 IDP sites and the remaining two-thirds residing within host communities, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-managed Population Movement Commission.
- Approximately 355,000 Central Africans, including some refugees from neighboring countries, had returned to or near areas of origin as of August, which represents a more than 50 percent increase from the returnee population in July 2018, according to the UN. Moreover, population movement alerts by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)-led and USAID/OFDA-funded Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) between January and September identified spontaneous returns to half of CAR’s 16 prefectures and resulted in assistance to an estimated 87,000 returnees, including 16,700 Central African refugees who had spontaneously returned from neighboring countries. Relief actors note that while some returnees have returned to villages of origin, others remain secondarily displaced in nearby areas as they assess conditions for return in their villages. While the reasons for return—which humanitarian organizations continue to assess—vary, improved access and security conditions in some areas of CAR, as well as the need to resume agricultural activities, have prompted some of the return movements. Additionally, since the start of 2019, violence has affected the ten areas receiving the largest numbers of returnees, underscoring the precariousness of the returns, according to the RRM. Relief actors continue to assess the needs of and provide assistance for returnee communities, with food, health care, relief supplies, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services identified as priority gaps.
- Despite some localized improvements in security conditions, sporadic armed conflicts continue to result in civilian deaths, generate population displacement, and exacerbate humanitarian needs in CAR. Between January and mid-September, the RRM issued 38 population displacement alerts due prompted by outbreaks of violence.
- Clashes between armed groups on September 1 and 14 in Birao resulted in 38 deaths and 17 people injured, displaced an estimated 20,000 people, and generated large-scale humanitarian needs in a formerly calm, remote region of the country, the UN reports. Approximately 14,000 IDPs have sought shelter near the Birao base of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), where relief actors are providing emergency assistance, including food, health, nutrition, shelter, relief commodity, and WASH support. Given limited infrastructure and humanitarian presence in the area prior to the eruption of violence, humanitarian organizations had to rapidly mobilize response capacity, including logistics capabilities. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) commenced twice-weekly flights shortly after the September 1 clashes and supported the airlift of 80 metric tons (MT) of relief supplies, as well as the deployment of nearly 80 relief workers, to the area by late September. Due to the precarious security situation in Birao and rainy season access impediments, humanitarian actors continue to work with local authorities to identify and prepare an appropriate site to host the IDPs in the coming months, as space to construct adequate shelter and sufficient sanitation facilities near the MINUSCA base is limited.
- On May 21, the armed group Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R) conducted attacks in three villages in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture’s Paoua sub-prefecture, resulting in at least 42 deaths and displacing an estimated 16,000 people, the UN reports. Following the attack, relief actors provided emergency assistance, including food rations, relief commodities, and health and protection services, in areas of displacement. MINUSCA and the Central African Armed Forces concurrently established patrols in Paoua to enhance protection of civilians and provide security for IDP returns, which had commenced by the end of May; by late June, UNICEF reported that most displaced individuals had returned to areas of origin amid reduced tensions.
- USAID partners and other relief organizations continue to face significant safety and security risks in providing humanitarian assistance in CAR. Between January and August, the UN recorded nearly 190 security incidents affecting humanitarian organizations, which resulted in three deaths and 28 injuries among relief workers. Although 2019 figures represent a decrease from the more than 270 incidents recorded during the same period in 2018, the severity of the incidents increased, with the number of injuries to humanitarian workers more than double 2018 levels.
- In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA contributed \$6 million to the RRM, which supports multi-sector assessments and emergency response activities in areas with limited or no humanitarian presence; the RRM also issues new population movement alerts and supports centralized coordination and information sharing among humanitarian actors. From January to September, RRM partners reached nearly 172,000 people with relief commodities, more than half of whom

were returnees, and approximately 11,000 people with High Energy Biscuits. During the same period, the RRM reached more than 77,400 people with WASH assistance, distributed more than 10,000 menstrual hygiene kits, and conducted 20 exploratory missions and 39 multi-sector assessments in response to population movement alerts.

- USAID/OFDA continued to support shared warehousing and logistics services across CAR in FY 2019, enabling timely and flexible humanitarian operations, including in response to new population movements or improved humanitarian access. With a nearly \$2 million contribution from USAID/OFDA, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) provides warehousing and stock management services for humanitarian organizations operating in CAR through fixed storage facilities in CAR's capital city of Bangui, as well as mobile storage units that can be deployed as needed to field locations. USAID/OFDA also provided \$6 million to UNHAS for the transport of relief personnel and supplies to hard-to-reach areas and \$1.5 million to Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to support pooled road transportation services.

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## FOOD SECURITY

- More than 1.3 million people—approximately 30 percent of CAR's population—are expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the September-to-October harvest season, representing a 25 percent decrease from the estimated 1.8 million people that faced Crisis or worse levels during the May-to-August lean season, the period when food is most scarce, according to a June IPC analysis.<sup>4</sup> During the ongoing harvest season, nearly 274,000 people are expected to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity, compared to an estimated 466,000 people facing Emergency conditions during the lean season. According to the June IPC analysis, Emergency levels were likely to persist in areas with large IDP concentrations, particularly in southeastern CAR's Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, and Mbomou prefectures, given the impact of conflict and displacement on agricultural activities and labor opportunities. Persistent insecurity contributing to hindered agricultural production, population displacement, and high food prices remain key drivers of food insecurity in CAR.
- The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates that overall 2019 crop production—while still below pre-2013 crisis levels—may exceed 2018 levels due to above-average April-to-September rainfall and improved security conditions in some areas enabling increased agricultural activity. However, populations in eastern and southeastern CAR will likely face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through January due to heavy rainfall and associated damage to agricultural lands, as well as insecurity-related market disruptions and hindered delivery of food aid, FEWS NET projects.
- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached nearly 400,000 people in CAR with general food distributions in September. In FY 2019, USAID/FFP contributed \$33.6 million to WFP to provide emergency food assistance to crisis-affected Central Africans. Additionally, USAID/FFP contributed a combined \$12.3 million in FY 2019 to non-governmental organization (NGO) partners Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Concern Worldwide, Mercy Corps, and Oxfam Intermón to distribute food vouchers, cash transfers for food, and locally-procured food, as well as conduct food-for-assets activities to rehabilitate community assets, for IDPs and host community members in Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou, and Ouaka prefectures. The assistance includes food vouchers and cash-based transfers for participants of community improvement projects, such as the construction or rehabilitation of gardens, roads, irrigation canals, and drainage systems. In total, USAID/FFP contributed nearly \$51 million in FY 2019 to respond to urgent food and nutrition needs among vulnerable populations in CAR.

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## HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND WASH

- Health actors in CAR continue to monitor and respond to multiple disease outbreaks across the country. As of September 22, relief actors had recorded more than 1,400 measles cases in 2019 across Nana-Gribizi, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. The CAR Ministry of Public Health

<sup>4</sup>The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

and Population (MoPHP), with technical support from other relief actors, is leading response activities, including enhanced epidemiological surveillance, health worker and community health volunteer training, and health risk communication campaigns. Additionally, as of September 24, relief organizations had recorded 30 suspected measles cases in Birao and conducted a vaccination campaign from September 15 to 19 that reached more than 1,500 children in the area.

- Health actors have not recorded any new cases of hepatitis E—a virus affecting the liver that is primarily spread through fecal-oral transmission, including from contaminated drinking water—in Ouham-Pendé since mid-June, WHO reports. Overall, the hepatitis E outbreak, which began in Ouham-Pendé’s Bocaranga sub-prefecture in October 2018 before spreading to neighboring areas of the prefecture, resulted in more than 190 cases, including 147 confirmed cases and one associated death, between October 2, 2018, and June 16, 2019. USAID partners the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) supported WASH and health activities in response to the outbreak.
- USAID partners continue to bolster complementary health, nutrition, and WASH services across CAR. With \$3.7 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2019 support, International Medical Corps (IMC) continues to provide integrated health and nutrition assistance for IDP and host communities in and around Ouaka’s Bambari town and Haute-Kotto Prefecture’s Bria town, including material and capacity-building support for existing health facilities, establishment of static clinics in IDP sites, and operation of mobile health clinics for populations unable to otherwise access health care. Between June 2018 and June 2019, IMC reached nearly 48,600 people and nearly 31,900 people with health and nutrition assistance, respectively, in Bambari and Bria. Additionally, with \$2 million in FY 2019 support, USAID/OFDA partner Action Against Hunger (AAH) supports health, nutrition, and WASH services in Basse-Kotto—the prefecture with the third largest IDP population—through mobile clinics providing integrated health and nutrition services, capacity-building for local health care workers on the prevention and management of acute malnutrition, and the strengthening of WASH infrastructure and hygiene promotion activities. Overall, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$16 million toward health, nutrition, and WASH interventions in CAR in FY 2019.
- With USAID/FFP support, UNICEF treated more than 13,000 children ages five years and younger experiencing severe acute malnutrition from January to July. In FY 2019, USAID/FFP provided nearly \$5 million to UNICEF for the management and treatment of acute malnutrition in CAR, including facilitating nutrition surveys and supporting nutrition-related trainings for caregivers and health workers.

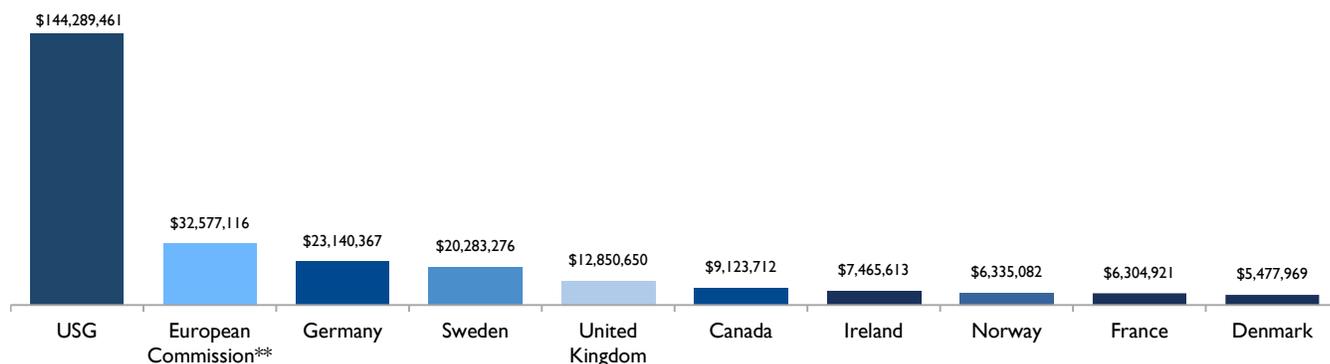
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## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Between January and June, the CAR Humanitarian Fund—a pooled fund managed by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)—allocated \$22 million to nearly 40 partners, including UN agencies and local and international NGOs, to scale-up relief activities in priority areas of CAR and respond to acute, unmet needs of vulnerable populations; nearly 60 percent of the funding supports activities in Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou, and Ouaka. Overall, projects funded by the CAR Humanitarian Fund aim to reach nearly 1 million across the country with emergency assistance, including more than 289,000 people with WASH support, nearly 145,000 people with nutrition assistance, and more than 113,000 people with health services, in 2019. Additionally, in September the CAR Humanitarian Fund proposed a \$400,000 special allocation to support logistical air operations for the response in Birao. USAID/OFDA contributed \$3 million to the CAR Humanitarian Fund in FY 2019.
- As of mid-September, international donors had provided nearly \$208 million for CAR’s 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), representing approximately 50 percent of the nearly \$431 million appeal. By comparison, the 2018 HRP received approximately 50 percent of the nearly \$516 million requested and the 2017 HRP received approximately 40 percent of the more than \$497 million requested. The USG remains the largest donor to the CAR humanitarian response in 2019, contributing more than \$144 million in FY 2019.

## 2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2019. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2019 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments from FY 2019, which began on October 1, 2018. 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 Department for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the EU Békou Trust Fund for CAR.

## 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 CAR's capital city of 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 Government of CAR and 14 armed groups signed the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Bangui on February 6. While the peace agreement has led to fewer direct clashes between armed groups, insecurity and attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, and UN peacekeeping forces continue across much of the country. An estimated 2.9 million people in CAR require humanitarian assistance, while more than 607,000 people have fled the violence in CAR to neighboring countries.
- On October 10, 2018, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., David Brownstein reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2019 due to the scale of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2019<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
AAH	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Basse-Kotto	\$2,000,000
ACTED	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, WASH, Shelter and Settlements	Bangui, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka	\$2,522,000
DRC	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$2,500,000

HI	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka	\$3,700,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$3,207,277
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	Mboumou	\$3,000,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Nana-Gribizi	\$1,547,211
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,643,019
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Kémo, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Oxfam Intermón	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Haute-Kotto, Ouham	\$2,400,000
PUI	ERMS, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,950,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements	Ouham-Pendé	\$500,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,900,087
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,592,296
	Program Support		\$656,841
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$48,618,731</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
ACTED	Cash Transfers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Complementary Services	Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou	\$1,375,486
Concern Worldwide	Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Ouaka	\$3,820,000
Mercy Corps	Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Ouaka	\$5,000,000
Oxfam Intermón	Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Haute-Kotto, Ouham	\$2,100,000
UNICEF	500 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$4,918,688
WFP	16,380 MT of U.S. In-Kind Emergency Food Aid	Countrywide	\$29,993,571

	Food Vouchers, 1,120 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$3,579,332
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$50,787,077</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
CARE	Protection, WASH, Food Security	Chad	\$1,931,868
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Assistance to Conflict-Affected Populations	Countrywide	\$5,500,000
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	Livelihoods and Protection	Cameroon	\$1,405,527
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Livelihoods and Social Cohesion	Cameroon	\$1,680,148
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Refugees	Countrywide	\$10,241,725
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$17,800,000
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Chad	\$2,800,000
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$1,500,000
World Vision	Livelihoods, WASH, Protection, GBV	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$2,024,385
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$44,883,653</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2019</b>			<b>\$144,289,461</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 obligated amounts.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

## 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:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - 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>