

Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>6.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>3.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>2 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity from September to April</p> <p><i>IPC – May 2023</i></p>	<p>514,547</p> <p>People Internally Displaced Across CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2023</i></p>	<p>749,334</p> <p>Number of Refugees from CAR Residing in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2023</i></p>
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- CAR continues to face elevated humanitarian needs and deteriorating economic conditions resulting from Sudan’s security crisis as of late September. In response, USG partners UNHCR and WFP have provided food assistance to host communities and more than 1,160 displaced people relocated to a formal site since May.
- Nearly 37,300 Chadian refugees and CAR returnees, in addition to host community members, in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture remain in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Persistent armed group conflict in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture has exacerbated humanitarian needs, with approximately 80 percent of people in urgent need of humanitarian and protection assistance in the prefecture, the UN reports.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$103,926,103
	State/PRM ²	\$55,824,800
For the CAR Response in FY 2023		
	Total	\$159,750,903

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Sudan Crisis Exacerbates Existing Humanitarian Needs, Food Insecurity

Ongoing conflict in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces drove more than 18,500 people—including an estimated 13,800 Sudanese refugees and 4,700 returnees from Central African Republic (CAR)—to seek refuge in northern CAR between April and September, the UN reports. New arrivals—many of whom are women and children—have primarily settled in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga prefectures. However, relief actors note that actual displacement figures in the CAR–Sudan border region remain fluid; as of June, displaced individuals continued to cross back into Sudan as security conditions allowed, primarily to access markets and basic services, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The influx of refugees and returnees has placed additional strain on already limited resources among conflict- and flood-affected host populations in northeast prefectures, many of whom require multi-sector humanitarian support—particularly food, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance—to meet basic needs, the UN reports. The heightened conflict in Sudan has also resulted in supply chain disruptions and food price increases in regional markets. Due to increased demand for food and non-food supplies from displaced individuals and disrupted trade with Sudan, the main supplier of basic commodities in Vakaga’s capital city of Birao and Bamingui-Bangoran’s Ndélé town, the prices of several staple items such as millet and sugar doubled in Birao between April and September, according to the UN. Without additional food assistance, people in Vakaga are projected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between September 2023 and March 2024 largely due to rising prices of basic food items and limited livelihood opportunities, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.³

In response to elevated humanitarian needs in Vakaga, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide food assistance to host populations and support the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide emergency food assistance to Sudanese refugees and CAR returnees in affected areas. Through UNHCR, WFP has reached at least 1,160 people at the Korsi site, a displaced persons camp in Birao, to which more than 1,850 people have relocated as of late September.

Chadian Refugees, CAR Returnees, and Host Communities Experience Elevated Humanitarian Needs

Intercommunal violence in Chad between agricultural and pastoralist communities along the CAR–Chad border had prompted an influx of nearly 37,300 people—including more than 5,600 CAR returnees—into CAR’s Bah-Bessar and Mia-Pende communes in Ouham-Pende’s Paoua Sub-Prefecture, as well as into Ouham Prefecture’s Markoundia Sub-Prefecture, between April and mid-September, according to the UN. The displaced populations are mainly sheltering with host communities throughout Paoua, where at least 200,000 people needed humanitarian assistance prior to the influx. While additional pressure on limited host community infrastructure and services—particularly health and WASH—and increasing prices of food and non-food products due to trade disruption continue to drive needs, resource limitations hinder relief actors’ ability to provide sufficient assistance in the area. Only 22 percent of the 1,000 representative displaced and host community households surveyed by the IOM in Bah-Bessar and Mia-Pende received any form of humanitarian assistance between April and July.

³ The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC Phase 5 is referred to as “Catastrophe” when classifying a household and “Famine” when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

Displaced households and host community members remain in urgent and increasing need of additional in-kind food assistance; relief supplies such as hygiene kits, kitchen items, and shelter supplies; and WASH support, IOM reports.

Preliminary efforts by UNHCR and the CAR National Commission for Refugees to reduce pressure on host communities by relocating populations away from border villages to a new site in Paoua had received few participants as of August, UNHCR reports. Most refugees from Chad in Bah-Bessar and Mia-Pende are reluctant to relocate from their initial villages of arrival in CAR due to these villages' proximity to the border, which enables displaced individuals to occasionally return to their areas of origin during periods of reduced violence, according to the July IOM survey. Refugees also cited the presence of a familiar community including others from their areas of origin, limited but known opportunities for subsistence farming on land rented from host community households, and satisfactory security conditions as primary factors contributing to their reluctance to relocate.

Nearly 80 Percent of People in Haut-Mbomou Need Multi-Sector Assistance

Haut-Mbomou's security and humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate between March and September, with clashes between rival armed groups driving displacement, exacerbating humanitarian needs, and resulting in grave protection violations. Nearly 80 percent of the prefecture's population required humanitarian assistance as of January, and the uptick in conflict this year has exacerbated these needs, particularly access to health care and protection services, the UN reports. Armed groups abducted and killed civilians, as well as burned private property, and displaced more than 7,500 people from Haut-Mbomou to Mbomou Prefecture's Bangassou, Mboki, and Zémio regions during May. Displaced populations in Mboki are experiencing heightened health care needs that continue to go unmet—including access to medical consultations, reproductive health services, and vaccinations—due to continued insecurity that prevents the establishment of a consistent humanitarian health support presence and shortages of essential medicines due to looting, according to the UN. In response to growing humanitarian needs in Haut-Mbomou, humanitarian organizations are providing health care to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Zémio, particularly primary care and reproductive health services. This includes relief actors providing the Zémio Health Center with medical supplies to meet the needs of approximately 1,400 people for a period of three months starting in May, notably for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections and support for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors. Additionally, the UN allocated \$13.2 million from its Common Humanitarian Fund on August 19 to address multi-sector needs among IDPs, refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host community members in CAR's most conflict-affected prefectures, particularly Haut-Mbomou's Bambouti, Mboki, Obo, and Zémio.

More Than 120 Security Incidents Affect NGOs Since January

The delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance—particularly food, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH support—remains hindered by insecurity across CAR, particularly in northern regions. Between January and August, the UN documented more than 120 security incidents against humanitarians, including destruction of property, kidnapping, torture, and 50 cases of GBV. Reported security incidents adversely affecting humanitarian operations in 2023 also include the abduction of a nongovernmental organization (NGO) staff member, eight cases of theft from humanitarian teams, harassment of aid workers, and the looting of commodities, with opportunistic crimes such as robbery accounting for more than 59 percent of incidents, according to the UN. Approximately 20 security incidents impacted humanitarian actors in August alone, with the highest number incidents reported in Ouham-Fafa Prefecture's Batangafo Sub-Prefecture, as well as in Obo and in CAR's capital city of Bangui, the UN reports. The frequency of security incidents affecting humanitarian relief actors countrywide has remained relatively consistent in recent months, underscoring the complex and dangerous operating environment humanitarian actors face in CAR.

Persistent Health Gaps in CAR Endanger Civilians and Hinder Treatment

Civilians across CAR remain at high-risk of infectious disease transmission and malnutrition as many individuals lack access to functional markets, nutritious foods, and safe WASH facilities, while also facing degraded access to critical health services. As of late August, CAR had one of the lowest doctor-to-patient ratios worldwide, with only 0.6 doctors for every 10,000 civilians, according to Médecins Sans Frontières. Many health facilities also face constrained operational capacity due to a lack of essential equipment, medication, and reliable electricity, among other factors. Additionally, due to heightened insecurity and related access constraints, humanitarian actors' ability to provide life-saving assistance in many areas of the country remains restricted, particularly in northern regions where roadways and transportation infrastructure are limited. In response to growing medical needs across CAR, and despite increasing access constraints in some areas, one USAID/BHA NGO partner supports health centers and mobile clinics capable of providing safe and accessible medical treatments for nearly 55,000 displaced persons, host populations, and refugees in CAR.

KEY FIGURES



\$50.3 Million

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2023



7

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting health and nutrition activities



2

USG-funded partners supporting critical logistics operations

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers; locally and regionally procured food; U.S.-sourced rice, split peas, and vegetable oil; and vouchers redeemable for food in local markets—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including host communities, IDPs, refugees, and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports NGO partners to provide emergency food assistance to populations in need across the country. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partners provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood rehabilitation for CAR's most economically vulnerable households.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports NGO partners to conduct supplementary feeding programs for children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women by creating community referral pathways to identify and treat cases of malnutrition. Through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), USAID/BHA also provides emergency nutrition assistance to children, mothers, and caregivers. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports NGOs to provide health assistance, including diagnostic treatments, the operation of mobile clinics, and referral services for disease and injury. USAID/BHA NGO partners also provide essential medical commodities and training to community responders and clinics.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. Due to insufficient road access across the country, USAID/BHA supports the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across CAR and to

provide air service to NGO partners. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common logistics and storage management for response organizations. USAID/BHA has also funded efforts to improve logistics platforms in Bangui to strengthen the response capabilities of UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners, enabling relief actors to quickly dispatch supplies to crisis-affected areas.



8

USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to populations in need across CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed RRM, which delivers WASH assistance through the construction of latrines, distribution of hygiene kits, organization of hygiene awareness sessions, and rehabilitation of water points throughout CAR. State/PRM-supported activities rehabilitated safe water sources and supported water distribution systems within communities in need in FY 2023.



8

USG-funded partners supporting protection activities

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners continue to implement protection programs for CAR's most vulnerable populations by bolstering child protection services; conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks; delivering emergency case management and referral services for GBV survivors; and providing individual psychosocial support services.



\$9.5 Million

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements in FY 2023

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports NGOs and UN agencies providing individualized shelter assistance to IDPs, returnees, and conflict-affected host communities in CAR. USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners distributed emergency shelter kits and improved IDP camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) services across CAR in FY 2023. USAID/BHA also supported IOM, which co-leads the CAR CCCM Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—to pre-position emergency shelter kits throughout the country. With USAID/BHA support, IOM collects mobility tracking data and provides transitional shelters to IDPs returning to their place of origin.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- 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, who assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- After more than six years of conflict, the Government of CAR (CARG) and 14 armed groups signed the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation on February 6, 2019.
- An outbreak of election-related violence began in December 2020 between armed groups from the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), CARG, UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR, and bilateral security forces supporting the CARG. Conflict exacerbated the widespread deterioration of humanitarian conditions throughout the following year, including numerous human rights violations attributed to the presence of armed groups.
- On January 18, 2021, the Constitutional Court validated the results of the December 27, 2020, election, resulting in President Touadéra assuming a second term in office. Leading up to and during the election, armed groups aligned with former President Bozizé, whom the Constitutional Court had determined ineligible for candidacy, made a concerted effort to disrupt voting and seize major urban areas.
- On October 15, 2021, President Touadéra declared a unilateral ceasefire, which was agreed to by all but two of the parties to the conflict, including the CPC.
- On October 4, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Mahoney renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2023 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouaka Prefecture	\$749,960
ALIMA	Health, Nutrition	Haut-Mbomou	\$1,500,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, Ouham-Pendé	\$3,500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,800,000
Humanity & Inclusion	Logistics Support	Basse-Kotto Prefecture, Ouaka	\$1,800,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	ERMS, Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$8,300,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IOM	ERMS, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Haute-Kotto, Nana-Grébizi Prefecture, Ouham-Fafa	\$11,000,000
	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$950,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Protection	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Nana-Grébizi	\$200,000
Mentor	Health	Ouham-Fafa	\$799,021

Mercy Corps	Agriculture; ERMS; Food Assistance—Food Vouchers; Protection; WASH	Ouaka	\$4,000,000
Oxfam	WASH	Haute-Kotto, Ouham-Fafa	\$850,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP; Health; Nutrition; WASH	Basse-Kotto	\$5,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,300,000
	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$1,066,979
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Kemo Prefecture, Mambere-Kadei Prefecture, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaere Prefecture, Vakaga	\$26,420,533
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
	Food Assistance—LRIP	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture; ERMS; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)	Mbomou, Ouaka	\$3,566,279
	Program Support		\$23,331
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$103,926,103
STATE/PRM ³			
Danish Refugee Council	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cameroon	\$1,500,000
Hebrew Immigrant Society	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$1,530,000
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$24,800
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	CAR	\$10,100,000
Jesuit Refugee Service	Protection	Cameroon	\$1,275,000
UNHAS	Logistics	DRC	\$695,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cameroon	\$7,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	CAR	\$14,600,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$16,900,000
World Vision	Health, Protection	DRC	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$55,824,800
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$159,750,903

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect total publicly announced USAID/BHA funding as of September 30, 2023.

² Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.

³ This total includes funding for Central Africans in CAR and neighboring countries and does not include the \$6.1 million in FY 2023 State/PRM funding for the Sudan Emergency Response in CAR, as this funding is reported in the USG Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

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 [interaction.org](https://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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)