

Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

MARCH 29, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>6.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>2.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – January 2024</i></p>	<p>2.5 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity from April to August</p> <p><i>IPC – November 2023</i></p>	<p>522,231</p> <p>People Internally Displaced Across CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2024</i></p>	<p>755,641</p> <p>Number of Refugees from CAR Residing in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2024</i></p>
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- The 2024 CAR HRP appeals for \$367.7 million to provide multi-sector assistance to 1.9 million of the most vulnerable individuals in CAR, prioritizing localization, protection, and supporting returnees.
- Attacks by suspected 3R armed group elements in Lim-Pendé Prefecture in December 2023 led to at least 23 deaths, the displacement of residents, and the destruction of houses and other infrastructure.
- Nearly 7,000 people from Sudan arrived at the UNHCR-supported Korsi displacement site between January 1 and March 19, increasing the site’s population by more than 250 percent.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$43,311,985
	State/PRM ²	\$5,180,000
For the CAR Response in FY 2024	Total	\$48,491,985

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

2024 CAR HRP Appeals for \$367.7 Million to Assist 1.9 Million People; UNHCR Refugee Response Plan for Sudan Launched in February

The Government of the Central African Republic (CARG) and the Humanitarian Country Team officially launched the 2024 Central African Republic (CAR) Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on February 2, requesting \$367.7 million to provide multi-sector humanitarian assistance to 1.9 million of the most vulnerable individuals across CAR. While the overall humanitarian situation in CAR has improved in recent years, decades of persistent conflict, along with impacts from the conflict in Sudan and insecurity in northwestern CAR along the border with Chad continued to drive widespread needs in CAR in 2023; the HRP cites food, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support as the greatest areas of need. The plan projects that approximately 2.8 million people in CAR—46 percent of the population—will require humanitarian assistance in 2024. Although the need for sustained humanitarian action remains high, relief actors reported an overall decrease in humanitarian needs across CAR during the course of 2023 due to the impact of humanitarian assistance and relative improvements in security conditions in some areas. As a result, the 2024 HRP focuses on multi-sector assistance, ensuring protection issues are addressed across all forms of assistance, and incorporating local stakeholders into the humanitarian response. The plan emphasizes support for displaced people returning to their areas of origin and integrating humanitarian aid with development programs in more stable areas. The \$367.7 million requested by the 2024 CAR HRP represents a more than 30 percent decrease from the 2023 HRP, which received only approximately 56 percent of its \$533.3 million request from donors.

Separately, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released its Regional Refugee Response Plan for Sudan on February 7, requesting \$1.4 billion to support Sudanese refugees in 2024; of the total appeal, UNHCR requested \$46.6 million to meet the needs of Sudanese refugees in CAR, warning that an additional 10,000 refugees could arrive in the country during the year.

3R Attacks in Nzakoundou in December and January Lead to Death, Displacement, and Heightened Protection Needs

Attacks by suspected Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R) armed group elements in Lim-Pendé Prefecture's Nzakoundou village on December 21, 2023, led to at least 23 civilian deaths, the displacement of village residents, and the destruction of houses and other infrastructure. In response, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) deployed forces to secure the area and facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid to affected populations, including supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) and three international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) deliver humanitarian assistance to nearly 3,800 people as of January 6, 2024. A USAID/BHA partner also provided dignity kits containing basic hygiene and sanitary supplies. MINUSCA reported that security conditions had calmed in Nzakoundou as of January 10, leading to the gradual return of displaced people and the full resumption of aid programs. However, on January 15, a MINUSCA patrol hit an explosive device while returning from escorting humanitarian workers to Nzakoundou, leading to the death of one person and injury to five others and highlighting the urgency of protection assistance, including safe disposal of explosive devices, in conflict-affected areas across CAR, according to the UN. UN Independent Expert on human rights in CAR Yao Agetse condemned the recent 3R-related violence in a statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council on February 27.

Number of Sudanese Refugees in Korsi Continues to Increase in 2024

The population of the UNHCR-supported Korsi displacement site in Vakaga Prefecture's Birao Sub Prefecture had reached nearly 4,700 households, or approximately 10,700 people, as of March 25 as people continue to flee neighboring areas of Sudan amid airstrikes and worsening conditions, according to UNHCR. More than 3,000 households, or more than 6,900 people, arrived in Korsi between January 1 and March 19 alone, representing a more than 250 percent increase in Korsi's population compared to the end of 2023. People arriving in CAR from Sudan urgently require health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance, the UN reports. Between March 21 and 27, State/PRM partner UNHCR and its local implementing partner NOURRIR, along with USAID/BHA NGO partner International Medical Corps (IMC), provided more than 770 medical consultations in Korsi benefiting nearly 750 refugees, of whom 200 were new arrivals.

Approximately 13,000 Sudanese refugees are reported to be living in locations other than Korsi, many of whom urgently require assistance and are located in hard-to-reach areas with limited access to basic services, according to UNHCR. However, armed group activity has disrupted the provision of assistance in parts of Vakaga, located along the border with Sudan. Throughout February, humanitarian access to many areas sheltering refugees, including locations along the corridor connecting Vakaga's Ouanda-Djallé and Am Dafok towns, was limited due to armed group presence. Several incidents of armed robbery along this road led to a disruption in the supply of basic necessities in parts of Vakaga, particularly Birao, exacerbating humanitarian needs in affected areas.

Armed Group Activity Drives High Prices and Decreased Agricultural Access, Fueling Food Emergency

Poor households in CAR's conflict-affected areas, including Haute-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou prefectures, are likely to face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity during the April-to-July lean season due to constrained access to food and livelihoods, according to a March Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis.³ Many households in these areas can only access fields and gathering, hunting, and fishing opportunities within six miles of their homes due to armed group activity. Furthermore, insecurity is driving increased food prices, with rice and cassava prices in Haut-Mbomou's Obo Sub-Prefecture nearly 80 percent and 50 percent higher compared to 2023 averages and approximately 40 and 30 percent higher compared to five-year averages, respectively, as of March. Across the country, many poor households have exhausted food reserves during the November–February dry season and therefore rely on markets where prices remain elevated compared to average levels, resulting in Stressed—IPC 2—outcomes. With limited access to food, poor households are likely to adopt strategies such as collecting wild foods, reducing food consumption, and migrating to often-insecure areas with large-scale mineral production to seek livelihoods, FEWS NET reports.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (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.

KEY FIGURES



6

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting food assistance activities



6

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting health and nutrition activities



2

USAID/BHA-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, vouchers redeemable for food in local markets, and U.S.-sourced rice, split peas, and vegetable oil—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including host community members, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports NGO partners to provide emergency food assistance to populations in need across the country. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood rehabilitation among CAR's most economically vulnerable households. Between March 7 and 13, NOURRIR distributed nearly 8,600 hot meals in Korsi with food donated by USAID/BHA partner WFP.

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 (PLW) 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. In 2023, with U.S. Government (USG) support, UNICEF and partners trained more than 200 healthcare workers and nearly 2,000 community health workers to detect severe acute malnutrition among children and PLW. In addition, UNICEF delivered vitamin A supplements to more than 580,000 children ages 6 to 59 months during the year, achieving a coverage rate of nearly 90 percent.

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 CAR's capital city of Bangui to strengthen the response capabilities of members of the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which enables relief actors to quickly dispatch supplies to crisis-affected areas. In 2023, the RRM's monitoring system, which covered approximately 75 percent of the country, generated 125 alerts for emergencies that affected nearly 277,000 individuals. Approximately 65

percent of these alerts were related to violence, with others driven by natural disasters and IDP returns.



6

USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to populations in need across CAR, including IDPs 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 rehabilitate safe water sources and support water distribution systems within communities in need. In 2023, USG partner UNICEF provided access to safe water for nearly 100,000 vulnerable individuals through the rehabilitation and repair of more than 90 boreholes equipped with human-powered pumps, the implementation of emergency water supply systems, and the distribution of household water treatment kits.



6

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 gender-based violence survivors; and providing individual psychosocial support (PSS) services. UNICEF provided nearly 40,000 children and adolescents and more than 5,500 caregivers with community-based mental health and PSS activities in 2023. UNICEF also provided gender-based violence prevention and response interventions that reached more than 280,000 individuals during the year.



3

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting shelter and settlement activities

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 distribute emergency shelter kits and improve camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) services at IDP camps across CAR. USAID/BHA also supports the International Organization for Migration (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 areas 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 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, MINUSCA, 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 6, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Mahoney renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2024 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country related to conflict impacts, climatic shocks, food insecurity, and refugee influxes from neighboring countries.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA²			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pendé	\$3,500,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$500,000
IOM	ERMS, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition—In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$800,000
WFP	Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$27,999,856
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Program Support			\$12,129

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$43,311,985
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	ERMS, WASH	Bangui, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka	\$1,400,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Bangui, Vakaga	\$3,780,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$5,180,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$48,491,985³

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 March 29, 2024.

² Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ This total does not include the more than \$5 million in FY 2024 State/PRM funding for Central African refugees in neighboring countries, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the Central African Republic complex emergency in FY 2024 to more than \$53 million.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)