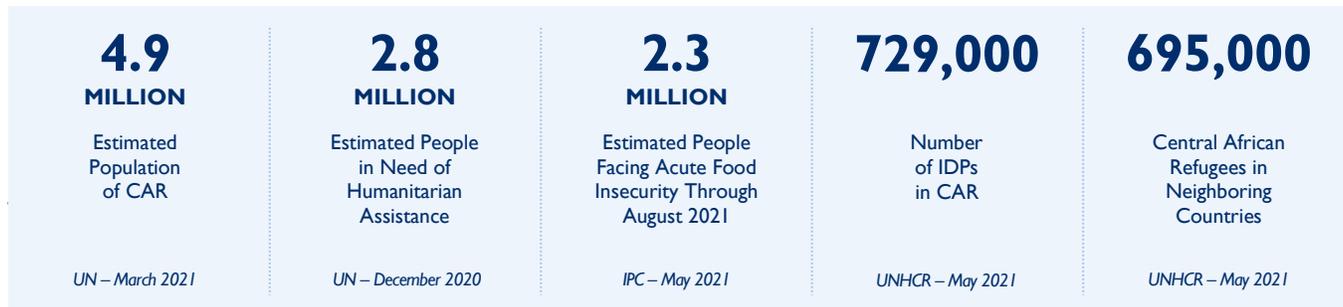


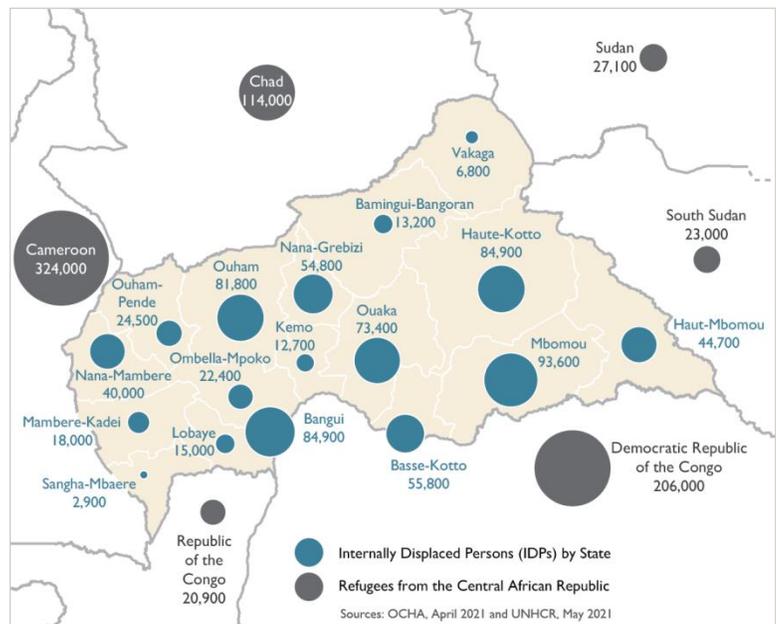
Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

JUNE 21, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Armed conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) displaced nearly 297,000 people from December to April, though the monthly number of newly displaced individuals has declined in recent months.
- In April and May, security incidents involving explosive devices in western CAR resulted in civilian deaths and disrupted humanitarian access, prompting UN agencies to restrict movements.
- At least 2.3 million people in CAR will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity from May to August 2021.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the CAR Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹ \$46,478,911

State/PRM² \$13,040,000

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

Total \$59,518,911

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

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS³

Recent Clashes Displace Thousands as Rate of New Displacements Declines

Armed conflict in CAR continues to adversely affect populations and generate humanitarian needs, displacing nearly 297,000 people—including 176,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 121,000 refugees—between mid-December and April 30, according to the UN. Clashes between Government of CAR (CARG)-aligned groups and organized armed groups (OAGs) displaced more than 11,100 people in April alone; however, the number of newly displaced persons within CAR in April decreased nearly 67 percent compared to March, and April marked the fourth consecutive month that the number of new IDPs declined, indicating the localized nature of the effects of conflict on civilians. For example, during April, approximately 90 percent of the newly displaced IDPs originated from just two sub-prefectures—Kabo and Markounda—in Ouham Prefecture. Overall, approximately 729,000 IDPs were sheltering within CAR as of April 30, the UN reports. In addition, more than 6,100 people fled CAR in search of shelter in neighboring countries during April, with the majority—5,100 refugees—sheltering in Chad.

IDP, Refugee Returns Continue in Mbomou Amid Severe Food Insecurity

Relief actors continue to report the return of displaced populations in Mbomou Prefecture's Bangassou city following its recapture by CARG Armed Forces (FACA) and bilateral military forces on January 15; Bangassou had previously been the site of multiple security incidents through 2020 and 2021, which displaced populations and disrupted relief activities. As of May 20, approximately 2,100 IDPs remained in Bangassou's Siwa IDP camp, compared to approximately 5,000 IDPs in January, according to the UN. The population flows underscore potential spontaneous returns to CAR occur in the context of severe food insecurity throughout Mbomou, and IDP populations in the area have requested assistance to facilitate livelihood recovery upon their return to areas of origin, according to USAID/BHA staff. USAID/BHA partners have provided monthly food assistance; relief commodities; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to IDP populations in Bangassou, including delivering latrines and improving the host community's water point to also serve the elevated IDP population.

In addition, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had registered nearly 72,000 Central African refugees at various locations across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the wake of election-related violence in CAR. Approximately 37 percent of the newly arriving refugees had previously been in DRC and registered with UNHCR.

Explosive Devices, Insecurity Disrupt Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian access challenges—including the presence of armed groups, ongoing military operations, insecurity, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) or mines—in CAR continue to impede the delivery of life-saving assistance to crisis-affected populations. For example, in early June, some areas of Mbomou remained inaccessible due to security concerns along key roads and in rural areas, limiting the response to needs among IDPs in the prefecture's Bakouma town, according to relief actors. In addition, the access challenges prevented the transport of relief commodities from CAR's capital city of Bangui to Bangassou, where humanitarian needs among displaced and returned populations remain elevated. Furthermore, in March, a group of UN experts reported serious human rights violations—including mass summary executions, sexual violence, arbitrary detentions, torture, forced displacement, looting, and attacks on civilians—allegedly committed by bilateral forces.

IEDs and mines in particular continue to constitute a significant security risk to civilian populations and

humanitarian staff operating in CAR; incidents involving the devices resulted in the deaths of 11 people between April 20 and May 16, according to the UN. Explosive device risks are particularly acute along several axes in western CAR, such as the road connecting Ouham-Pendé Prefecture’s Bocaranga town and Nana-Mambéré Prefecture’s Bouar town, as well as along other corridors within Nana-Mambéré, including in areas where FACA elements are operating. In response to the recent IED incidents, UN agencies have suspended staff movements in the affected areas, while the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) are working to clear the corridors of IEDs and other explosive threats to eliminate protection risks to civilians and allow the resumption of relief activities. More than 50,000 people in Nana-Mambéré in need of assistance are inaccessible to humanitarian actors as a result of the explosive devices, the UN estimates. In addition, explosive device risks are preventing local populations from carrying out critical agricultural and livelihoods activities, such as tending to fields and accompanying animals to pasture.

CAR remains one of the most dangerous places for humanitarians, with nearly 230 violent incidents affecting aid personnel between January and May, resulting in 11 injuries and one death, according to the UN. While the number of incidents declined from 60 incidents in January to 14 incidents in May, relief actors continued to face the threat of attacks, harassment, interference, and opportunistic crimes.

IPC Status April–August 2021	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	633,000 people in Emergency
Phase 3	1,657,000 people in Crisis
Phase 2	1,591,000 people in Stress
Phase 1	998,000 people Minimally Food Insecure

2.3 Million People Projected to Face Acute Food Insecurity Through August

Approximately 2.3 million people in CAR, or approximately 47 percent of the country’s population, will likely face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity from May to August 2021 and require emergency food assistance, according to an April IPC technical working group update.⁴ Ongoing insecurity and resultant population displacement, elevated staple food prices linked to below-average harvests in 2020, and limited market access due to the poor road conditions during the April-to-September rainy season will likely contribute to elevated levels of food insecurity through August, with up to 633,000 people projected to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity. Households experiencing Emergency levels face extreme food consumption gaps, resulting in very high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or face an extreme loss of livelihood assets—such as selling a final animal—that likely lead to food consumption gaps. However, as of mid-June, the UN World Food Program (WFP) estimated approximately 2.6 million people in CAR were facing insufficient food consumption and 2.7 million people had adopted Crisis-level coping strategies—such as reducing the quality, quantity,

and frequency of meals or selling productive assets—signifying a further deterioration of food security conditions since the April IPC assessment.

Though a previous September 2020 IPC analysis similarly projected that 2.3 million people would face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity between May and August 2021, the analysis did not incorporate planned and ongoing food assistance activities. The most recent IPC update does factor the mitigating effect of ongoing and planned food assistance into its analysis, and, as such, represents a deterioration of food security conditions among populations in CAR. As of June, relief actors had

⁴ 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.

provided emergency food assistance to approximately 1 million people in CAR, though most beneficiaries still required sustained food assistance to meet their needs, according to the Food Security Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

KEY FIGURES



\$32.1 Million

In dedicated USG support for emergency food and nutrition assistance in FY 2021



\$8.5 Million

In FY 2021 support for critical logistics operations in CAR



18,000

Number of Central African returnees assisted by State/PRM partner UNHCR

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced rice, vegetable oil, and yellow split peas, as well as vouchers redeemable for food in local markets, cash transfers, and locally and regionally procured food—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is also supporting NGO partners to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations across the country.

To prevent and treat malnutrition, USAID/BHA also supports WFP to conduct a supplementary feeding program for children and pregnant and lactating women, while UNICEF provides emergency nutrition assistance to children, mothers and caregivers. USAID/BHA partners also provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihoods rehabilitation for CAR's most vulnerable households.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. In January 2021, when humanitarian air services were most urgently needed due to lack of road access across CAR, USAID/BHA provided the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) with \$6 million to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across the country. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common storage and logistics management for response organizations.

PROTECTION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

USAID/BHA NGO and UN partners continue to implement protection programs for CAR's most vulnerable populations, particularly displaced individuals. USAID/BHA-funded protection activities include bolstering child protection services, delivering emergency case management and referral services for gender-based violence survivors, providing individual psychosocial support services, and conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues. USAID/BHA partners also utilize child-friendly spaces and listening and counseling centers for women and girls to meet protection needs and distribute dignity kits. Meanwhile, State/PRM and USAID/BHA partners provide multi-sector assistance for conflict-affected populations in CAR while facilitating livelihoods activities, including providing agricultural inputs and training to bolster economic stability and food security for over 690,000 Central African refugees sheltering in Cameroon, Chad, the DRC, and the Republic of the Congo

(RoC). State/PRM also supports UNHCR to facilitate safe, voluntary returns to CAR. Before stopping its repatriation program in mid-December 2020, UNHCR had facilitated the return of almost 18,000 Central Africans.



WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnee communities. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism, which informs the CAR humanitarian community regarding new emergency situations resulting in displacement and humanitarian needs; deploys assistance, including relief items and WASH support; and coordinates with other humanitarian actors to provide complementary assistance.

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. Despite initial progress on the dialogue and scheduling of national elections for December 2020, direct clashes between armed groups, insecurity and attacks against civilians and UN peacekeeping forces, and security incidents affecting humanitarian workers continue in multiple regions of the country.
- On October 27, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2021 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.
- On January 18, the Constitutional Court validated the results of the December 27, 2020 election, resulting in President Touadéra assuming a second term in office despite a concerted effort to disrupt voting and seize major urban areas by armed groups aligned with former president Bozizé, whom the Constitutional Court determined was ineligible for candidacy.
- A recent outbreak of election-related violence, which began in December 2020 between the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) armed groups and FACA, MINUSCA and bilateral security forces supporting the host nation government, has rendered the February 2019 peace agreement moot.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
MENTOR	Health	Ouham	\$291,075
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, Food Assistance	Ouaka	\$4,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Kémo, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka	\$623,477
	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$76,523
PUI	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UN Development Program	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid ²	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Kémo, Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaéré, Vakaga	\$19,982,432
	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers	Bangui, Haute-Kotto, Mambere-Kadei, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouham-Pende	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$5,404
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$46,478,911
STATE/PRM			
Implementation Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Central Africa	\$4,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cameroon	\$1,840,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Central Africa	\$2,200,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$2,450,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	DRC	\$2,350,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$13,040,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$59,518,911

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 8, 2021.

² 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 [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)