

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

APRIL 8, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4.9 million

Estimated Population of CAR
UN – October 2019

2.6 million

Estimated People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance
UN – December 2019

1.6 million

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

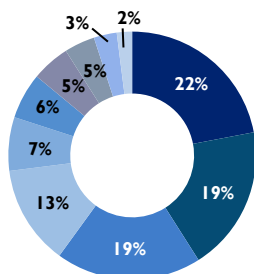
682,000

IDPs in CAR
UN – February 2020

613,000

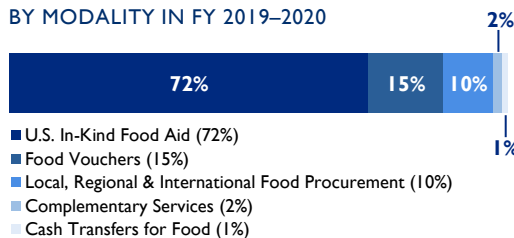
Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – February 2020

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019–2020



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (22%)
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (19%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (19%)
- Shelter & Settlements (13%)
- Health (7%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (6%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (5%)
- Protection (4%)
- Nutrition (3%)
- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (2%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019–2020



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (72%)
- Food Vouchers (15%)
- Local, Regional & International Food Procurement (10%)
- Complementary Services (2%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (1%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Armed conflict and violence in Ndélé, Birao, and Bria displaces thousands of people
- Trend of increased violence against aid workers continues in 2020
- 2020 HRP appeals for \$401 million to assist 1.6 million people
- COVID-19 measures restrict movement as CARG closes Bangui airport

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020

USAID/OFDA	\$66,960,365
USAID/FFP	\$73,584,658
State/PRM ³	\$44,883,653
Total	\$185,428,676

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Insecurity continued to intensify in Central African Republic (CAR) in early 2020, with incidents in several prefectures in January and February displacing populations and increasing humanitarian needs. CAR remains among the most dangerous countries for humanitarian personnel; security incidents resulted in injuries to six aid workers in February.
- Health actors have confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in CAR. In response to the ongoing outbreak, the Government of the Central African Republic (CARG) closed the international airport in the capital city of Bangui to passenger travel and introduced a range of measures, such as limiting public gatherings, to slow the spread of the disease.
- Conflict-affected areas of CAR continue to experience food production deficits, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As a result, populations in eastern and southeastern CAR are likely to experience deteriorated food security conditions through September, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Violence escalated in some areas of CAR in early 2020 and continued to displace populations and disrupt livelihoods. Armed group clashes in Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture’s Ndélé town had displaced more than 12,500 people as of mid-March. Also, on January 9, clashes between CARG armed forces and armed groups in Basse-Kotto Prefecture’s Alindao town injured at least nine people and destroyed an estimated 100 shelters at two internally displaced person (IDP) sites, displacing approximately 2,000 people, the UN reports. The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) deployed additional forces to Alindao following the clashes, and relief actors, including USAID/OFDA partners Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), began mobilizing response efforts by mid-January, including providing protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.
- From January 25 to 26, clashes between armed groups in Haute-Kotto Prefecture’s Bria city resulted in nearly 50 deaths, relief actors report. According to an interagency humanitarian assessment, the violence displaced nearly 11,500 people across the city as of January 28, including in five IDP sites. Humanitarian actors have expressed concern regarding additional conflict in the area, which had resulted in the temporary suspension of humanitarian assistance in Bria—leaving up to 50,000 conflict-affected individuals without access to humanitarian assistance in late January. Since then, tensions resulting in temporary suspensions of assistance have occurred multiple times.
- Insecurity continues to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance and endanger humanitarian workers in CAR. Between September 2019 and February 2020, armed conflicts in parts of Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, and Vakaga prefectures, as well as in the PK5 district of CAR’s capital city of Bangui, caused new displacement and generated urgent humanitarian needs, the UN reports. During the same period, the USAID/OFDA-supported, UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism recorded 33 new emergency alerts, of which 49 percent were due to violence.
- Insecurity and incidents against aid workers led to temporary suspensions or withdrawal in Bria, Ouham Prefecture’s Batangafo town, Vakaga’s Birao town, and Kaga-Bandoro sub-prefecture—which hosts the largest number of humanitarian actors in central CAR, humanitarian actors report. State/PRM partner the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) suspended staff movements and drastically reduced humanitarian operations in Nana-Gribizi Prefecture’s Kaga-Bandoro town in mid-February due to a series of security incidents. On February 6, armed individuals attacked guards and looted items from ICRC staff residences. In response to the incident, ICRC reduced operations, continuing to deliver only emergency medical services at Kaga-Bandoro Hospital and supplying water to an IDP site in the town.
- While the number of security incidents affecting humanitarian personnel or property in the country decreased from 396 in 2018 to 306 in 2019, the number of staff injured nearly doubled from 23 in 2018 to 42 in 2019, according to the UN. In the first two months of 2020, armed conflict led to the death of one humanitarian working in Birao in mid-February, the first recorded death of an aid worker in CAR in 2020, the UN reports. Six additional humanitarian workers were wounded in security incidents in February, with humanitarian actors noting increased physical violence during burglaries as a main trend during the month.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Populations in some areas of eastern and southeastern CAR, including Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut Mbomou, Mbomou, Ouaka, and Vakaga prefectures, will likely face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through September, due to seasonal declines in food availability and conflict-related disruptions of markets and income-generating activities, FEWS NET reports. Although humanitarian assistance may improve food availability for some households in conflict-affected areas, FEWS NET anticipates that the onset of the April-to-October rainy season will hinder regular distributions of assistance.
- A mid-December UN World Food Program (WFP) assessment indicated that rates of food insecurity exceeded 60 percent of households in areas of CAR affected by conflict and displacement, including Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut Mbomou, and Mbomou prefectures in eastern CAR and Nana-Gribizi in central CAR.

- FAO reports that conflict and localized flooding also disrupted trade flows and food availability in some markets, increasing the price of essential food staples—including cassava and maize—by approximately 50 percent between January 2019 and January 2020. Despite above-average cereal production countrywide during the 2019/2020 agricultural season, conflict-affected areas of CAR continued to experience food production deficits in early 2020, according to FAO. More than half of households in areas of Basse Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, and Ouaka could not access their fields in 2019 due to insecurity, which resulted in below-average crop production in these areas.
- In response to acute needs across CAR, USAID/FFP partner WFP reached approximately 537,000 people with food and nutrition assistance in December, despite logistical and operational challenges. Throughout the month, the UN agency distributed more than 1,750 metric tons (MT) of food assistance and approximately \$1.1 million in cash-based transfers for food to households in conflict and flood-affected areas. WFP also conducted a variety of interventions, including general food distributions, delivery of emergency cash-based transfers, moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment activities, and school feeding and food-for-assets programs. Overall, in FY 2019, USAID/FFP contributed approximately \$33.5 million to WFP's emergency operations in CAR.

HEALTH AND PROTECTION

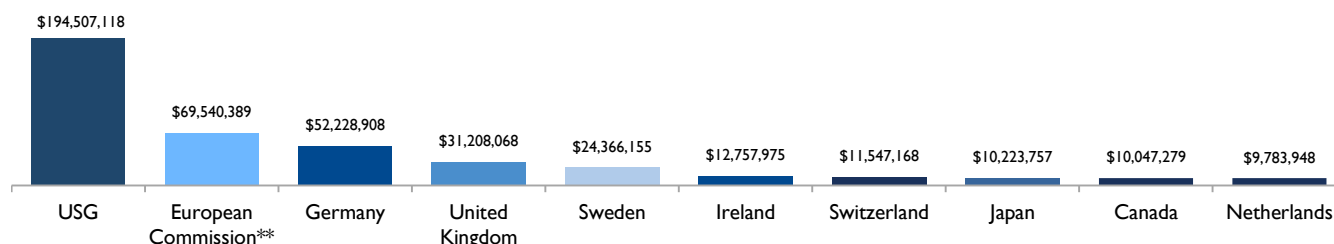
- Following a resurgence of measles in areas of CAR, the CARG Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a national measles epidemic on January 24. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported 7,626 suspected measles cases, including at least 130 confirmed cases and 83 related deaths, in CAR between January 1, 2019 and February 16, 2020. The MoH implemented vaccination campaigns in several health districts during 2019, however the disease continued to rapidly spread, placing 24 of CAR's 35 health districts at risk. The CARG is requesting technical and financial support to scale up the measles response, including the procurement of vaccines sufficient to reach children between 6 months and 9 years of age, the UN reports. WHO reports that inadequate numbers of trained health staff and large population movement between localities with vaccination coverage to areas with low coverage contribute to a high level of risk associated with the current measles outbreak.
- Relief actors continue to prioritize delivery of protection assistance in CAR, with sporadic conflict and protracted displacement resulting in child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and psychosocial support needs among conflict-affected populations. With USAID/OFDA FY 2019 funding, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and NRC continue to respond to the protection needs of host community, IDP, and returnee populations in CAR. In Basse-Kotto, Nana-Gribizi, and Ouaka, NRC is training 500 people—including community leaders, local authorities, and non-governmental organization (NGO) local staff—to strengthen their capacity to respond to protection risks and prevent abuse, exploitation, or harm of people in the area.
- In addition, IRC is implementing child protection and GBV prevention and response services for displaced women and children in Kaga-Bandoro. The NGO's activities include establishing discussion groups for adolescent girls and women to bolster GBV awareness and capacity to lead preventive actions; training community stakeholders on GBV concepts, referral pathways, and awareness-raising skills; and providing psychosocial first aid, case management, and referrals to GBV survivors.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- On January 21, humanitarian actors launched the 2020 CAR HRP, which requests \$401 million to respond to urgent humanitarian needs of an estimated 1.6 million people across the country. Approximately 2.6 million people in CAR will require humanitarian assistance during 2020 due to conflict and climatic shocks, according to the HRP and the recent update to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, released on February 28. Within the HRP framework, relief actors plan to reach more than 1.4 million people through food security interventions, including emergency food assistance and support to agricultural and pastoral activities for crisis-affected communities. In addition, the plan prioritizes acute malnutrition treatment activities for approximately 669,000 people, including more than 39,000 children ages five years and younger experiencing severe acute malnutrition and 103,000 experiencing MAM.

- The number of people to be reached and the funding requested in the 2020 HRP represent a decrease from the 2019 HRP, which requested \$431 million to reach 1.7 million of the 2.6 million people in need in CAR during the year. The reduction is due to increased prioritization based on improved data collection in CAR during 2019, which enabled a more precise identification of populations in acute need.

2019–2020 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



* Funding figures are as of April 8, 2020. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2019 and 2020 calendar years, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments from FY 2019, which began on October 1, 2018 and ended on September 30, 2019, and from FY 2020, which began on October 1, 2019. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among Central African refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

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 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, humanitarian workers, and UN peacekeeping forces continue in multiple regions of the country. An estimated 2.6 million people in CAR require humanitarian assistance, while nearly 611,000 people have fled the violence in CAR to neighboring countries, as of February 2020.
- On October 23, 2019, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Pamela Hack reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2020 due to the scale of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.
- Heavy rains and resultant flooding in October and November adversely affected an estimated 100,000 people in one-half of CAR's 16 prefectures and Bangui, exacerbating humanitarian conditions in already vulnerable areas. On November 11, 2019, U.S. Ambassador to CAR Lucy Tamlyn declared a disaster due to the humanitarian impact of flooding in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Haute-Mboumou, Mboumou	\$2,990,369
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,750,000

OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
	WASH	Countrywide	\$100,000
	Program Support		\$1,265
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$18,341,634
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	10,260 MT of U.S. In-Kind Emergency Food Aid	Countrywide	\$22,876,023
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$22,876,023
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$41,217,657

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
ACF	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
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$2,500,000
Humanity and Inclusion (HI)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
International Medical Corps (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-Grébezi	\$1,547,211
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,643,019
NRC	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Kémo, Mambéré-Kadéi, Nana-Grébezi, 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
Première Urgence Internationale (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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$48,618,731
USAID/FFP³			
ACTED	Cash Transfers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Complementary Services	Haut-Mboumou, Mboumou	\$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	\$29,915,129
	Food Vouchers, 1,120 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$3,579,332
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$50,708,635
State/PRM			
CARE	Protection, WASH, Food Security	Chad	\$1,931,868
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
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (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	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$2,024,385
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$44,883,653
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$144,289,461
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020			\$66,960,365
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020			\$73,584,658
TOTAL USAID/PRM FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020			\$44,883,653
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020			\$185,428,676

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

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