

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JULY 15, 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 – May 2020

2.4 million

Estimated People in CAR Facing Severe Levels of Acute Food Insecurity
IPC – May 2020

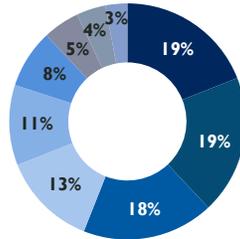
684,000

IDPs in CAR
UN – May 2020

620,000

Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – June 2020

USAID/BHA NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2020



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (19%)
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (19%)
- Shelter & Settlements (18%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (13%)
- Health (11%)
- Protection (8%)
- Nutrition (5%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Other (3%)

USAID/BHA FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2020



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (67%)
- Food Vouchers (18%)
- Local, Regional & International Procurement (10%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved security in Ndélé allows displaced population returns
- Attacks on relief actors in CAR continue to hinder humanitarian access
- Nearly 2.4 million people will likely face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through September

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020

USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$71,217,657
State/PRM ³	\$6,125,000
Total	\$77,342,657⁴

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Clashes between armed groups in multiple regions of Central African Republic (CAR) continue to drive displacement and limit humanitarian access to affected populations, according to the UN. However, relatively improved security conditions in Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture's Ndélé town in recent weeks have enabled the return of some populations displaced by fighting in March and April.
- Nearly 2.4 million people—almost half the population of CAR—will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through September, according to a May IPC analysis.⁵ The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects that despite anticipated above-average agricultural production across much of CAR, conflict and displacement, decreased food production in some parts of the country, and the socioeconomic impacts of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures will likely continue to drive food insecurity in the coming months.

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

² Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP).

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

⁴ This total includes approximately \$14,225,000 in funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities under the Supplemental Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to COVID-19 Abroad.

⁵ 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.

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Clashes between armed groups and heightened intercommunal tensions in Ndélé during March and April displaced at least 5,500 people and resulted in the suspension of humanitarian activities in early May, according to the UN. However, a significant improvement in security conditions beginning in late May, primarily due to an increase in UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) security presence in Ndélé and surrounding areas, has enabled some displaced populations to return to places of origin in recent weeks. In addition, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been able to provide protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to conflict-affected populations in the area as a result of the decrease in fighting. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continues to work with MINUSCA to ensure the protection of civilians and relief staff and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance in and around Ndélé.
- In mid-May, Solidarités International—through the USAID/BHA-supported, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)—installed an emergency water point to serve an estimated 13,500 people at an Ndélé internally displaced person (IDP) site. The increased MINUSCA presence also enabled Solidarités International to conduct humanitarian assessments in nearby Kotissako town and repair water points in communities located between Bamingui and Ndélé towns. In addition, the NGO distributed emergency relief commodities and rehabilitated a water point capable of supporting up to 600 IDP households in Bamingui during the week of May 11.
- Conflict between armed group elements and the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) displaced more than 5,000 people in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture’s Obo city between May 18 and 20, the UN reports. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Denise Brown traveled to Obo to assess humanitarian conditions and meet with community and religious leaders, displaced populations, and local authorities on May 28. Following the visit, RC/HC Brown underscored the need for humanitarian actors to scale up efforts to meet the increasing food, shelter, and other emergency needs of IDPs in and around Obo, and urged relevant actors to improve security conditions and social cohesion within the host community. In recent weeks, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and MINUSCA have provided shelter and WASH assistance to displaced households in and around Obo. In addition, several NGOs have provided food, health, and WASH assistance in Obo, as well as facilitated family reunifications in the city.
- Ongoing insecurity and heightened tensions in central and northern CAR—including in and around Nana-Grébizi Prefecture’s Kaga Bandoro town and Ndélé, as well as Haute-Kotto Prefecture’s Bria town and Vakaga Prefecture’s Birao town—continued to hinder the delivery of assistance and relief staff movement throughout the first six months of 2020. Overall, the UN recorded two aid worker deaths and 17 injuries to aid workers across CAR between January and June, with eight humanitarian workers wounded during May and June; the figures reflect the risk relief actors face when delivering life-saving assistance in conflict-affected areas of the country.
- Security incidents in CAR continue to negatively affect humanitarian staff and impede relief organization operations. In June, the UN recorded 38 security incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel in CAR—a 15 percent increase from the 33 incidents recorded in May, and a nearly 35 percent increase from the 28 incidents recorded in June 2019. In Ouham Prefecture’s Batangafo town, at least 11 security incidents involving humanitarian staff occurred between January and June, including the kidnapping of a team of humanitarian workers by armed actors in May before the workers were then released over the following six days, according to the UN.
- While clashes between armed actors across multiple regions of CAR continue to drive displacement, disrupt livelihoods, and limit humanitarian access, the number of IDPs in the country has decreased slightly in recent months, from more than 697,000 people in March to approximately 684,000 people as of late May, according to the Population Movement Commission (CMP), an interagency mechanism that tracks population movement figures and trends. The decrease is due to a slightly greater number of returns than new displacements, CMP reports.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Nearly 2.4 million people in CAR will likely face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity through September, a period that includes the May-to-August lean season, when food is most scarce, according to a May IPC analysis. Conflict and displacement, decreased food production in some parts of the country, and the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 mitigation measures are among the primary drivers of food insecurity in the country. In addition, the May analysis indicates heightened levels of food insecurity in areas where recent conflict has prompted population displacement, including in Haute-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou, where 65 percent of the surveyed population required emergency food assistance. Elevated food assistance needs are also likely to persist in communities hosting large numbers of IDPs.
 - FEWS NET projects that favorable rainfall from June to September will facilitate above-average crop production in most parts of CAR during the 2020 agricultural season. However, populations in some regions of CAR will likely continue to experience limited food availability through at least January, as conflict, crop diseases, and the effects of flooding in late 2019 and fires in early 2020 may lead to food production deficits in affected areas, contributing to the depletion of food stocks and food price increases.
 - COVID-19-related movement restrictions have increased emergency food assistance needs in CAR's capital city of Bangui and other urban areas of the country, according to FEWS NET. Border closures and transit delays, limits on public gatherings, and physical distancing policies have significantly disrupted the livelihoods of urban households reliant on the informal sector for income, diminishing their purchasing power. Additionally, border control measures and restrictions on travel within CAR have slowed the import of commodities to markets in Bangui and other prefectures, resulting in steep price increases for food and other commodities throughout the country and causing average daily food costs for households in Bangui to double between March and May. As such, the May IPC analysis projects that 50 percent of Bangui's population will likely require emergency food assistance through September to meet basic needs, representing a two-fold increase from the previous November IPC projection for the same period.
 - In May, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided nearly 3,500 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food and more than \$510,000 in cash transfers for food in CAR, reaching nearly 650,000 vulnerable people. During the month, WFP also treated more than 18,200 children ages five years and younger suffering from acute malnutrition. To date in FY 2020, USAID/BHA has contributed nearly \$32 million to WFP's operations in CAR.
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RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WASH

- The USAID/BHA-funded RRM registered 10 humanitarian alerts during May and June, including conflict in Bamingui-Bangoran and Haut-Mbomou, as well as strong winds and flash floods in Badenguët, Bossambebe, and Ndjoh communes in Ombella-M'Poko Prefecture. In response, RRM partners conducted 11 humanitarian needs assessments during the period and provided relief commodities and WASH assistance to populations displaced by conflict or flooding in Bamingui-Bangoran, Ombella-M'Poko, and Mambéré-Kadéï prefectures.
 - With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, RRM partners distributed relief commodities to more than 67,000 individuals, delivered WASH assistance to more than 64,000 people, and provided cash transfer payments to approximately 7,600 people in 12 of CAR's 16 prefectures from January to June. During the same period, RRM partners also built latrines, distributed nearly 10,000 hygiene kits, organized more than 1,300 hygiene sessions, and rehabilitated 70 water sources.
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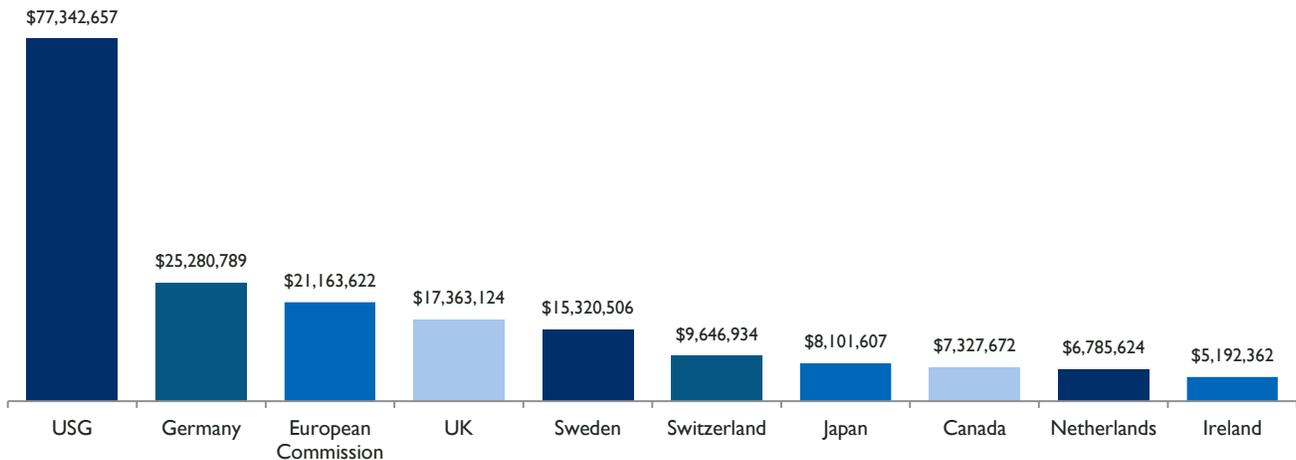
HEAVY RAINS

- On June 28, torrential rains injured at least 11 individuals and damaged or destroyed approximately 130 homes across three districts in Mbomou Prefecture's Bangassou city, relief actors report. RRM partner the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) conducted an assessment and were planning a distribution of shelter and relief commodity needs among the affected population for July 9.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- In response to the spread of COVID-19 in CAR, humanitarian actors, including USAID/BHA partners, have conducted a variety of preparedness and response activities, reaching nearly 1.1 million people in the country with critical COVID-19 prevention information as of May 4, the UN reports. Relief agencies have also adjusted operations to continue the delivery of food, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH interventions amid COVID-19-related mitigation measures, including movement restrictions. To bolster COVID-19 preparedness and alleviate needs amplified or generated by the effects of the outbreak, humanitarian organizations had provided multi-sector assistance to nearly 294,000 people in CAR as of May 4, the UN reports. As of July 6, more than 4,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases had been recorded across CAR, along with at least 50 deaths, according to the UN.
- Although response activities in CAR are ongoing, the UN cautions that high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as the limited capacity of CAR's health care system and WASH infrastructure, could exacerbate the impact of COVID-19 in the country. RC/HC Brown has underscored the urgent need for additional funding to support humanitarian response efforts in CAR. As of July 15, international donors had contributed approximately \$172 million toward the 2020 CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), according to the UN; the figure represents 31 percent of the \$554 million total appeal, which includes \$401 million requested in the 2020 HRP for CAR and an additional \$153 million for the plan's COVID-19 Global HRP response. While the number of people estimated to need humanitarian assistance in CAR is unchanged at 2.6 million people, humanitarian agencies recently revised the number of people relief actors plan to reach to 1.7 million people due in large part to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



* Funding figures are as of July 15, 2020. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2020 calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments 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 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 620,000 people have fled the violence in CAR to neighboring countries, as of June 2020.
- On October 23, 2019, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Pamela Hack redeclared a disaster 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 2019 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
FUNDING IN CAR FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou	\$2,990,369
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$2,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$5,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham	\$600,000
Mercy Corps	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mbomou, Ouaka	\$2,500,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,750,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,000,000

	WASH	Countrywide	\$100,000
	Program Support		\$1,265
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$30,341,634
Food Assistance			
WFP	10,260 MT of U.S. In-Kind Emergency Food Aid, 3,038 MT of Locally and Internationally Procured Food, Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$31,876,023
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$31,876,023
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$62,217,657
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$900,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN CAR IN FY 2020			\$63,117,657

FUNDING IN CAR FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE²			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
ACTED	Health, Protection, WASH	Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$2,000,000
IMC	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	HCIM, Health, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$6,500,000
Food Assistance			
WFP	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$2,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$9,000,000
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	COVID-19	Countrywide	\$1,825,000
UNHCR	COVID-19	Countrywide	\$3,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$5,225,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN CAR IN FY 2020			\$14,225,000

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$71,217,657
TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$6,125,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$77,342,657

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 15, 2020.

² Figures represent International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for the COVID-19 response under the Supplemental Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to COVID-19 Abroad as of July 15, 2020.

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, dietarily, 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.