

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

JANUARY 3, 2014

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**2.6 million**

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – December 2013

**1.3 million**

Estimated Food-Insecure Population in CAR

U.N. World Food Program (WFP) – December 2013

**935,000**

Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – January 2014

**512,672**

Total IDPs in Bangui

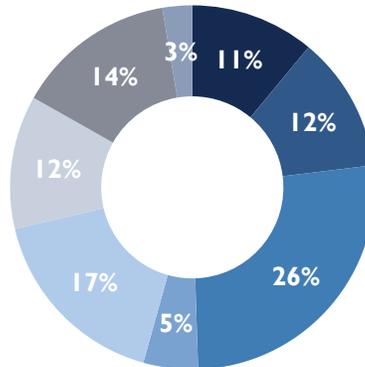
UNHCR – January 2014

**71,200**

CAR Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries since January 2013

UNHCR – December 2013

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013 & FY 2014



- Agriculture & Food Security (11%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (12%)
- Health (26%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (5%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (17%)
- Nutrition (12%)
- Protection (14%)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (3%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence renewed in the Central African Republic (CAR) in late December, causing a surge in population displacement and related needs.
- Insecurity and logistical constraints remain significant obstacles to humanitarian efforts across the country.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO CAR IN FY 2013 AND FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$8,403,497
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$18,831,500
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$12,402,000

**\$39,636,997**  
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO CAR

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Persistent, daily fighting between majority Muslim ex-Séléka rebels and majority Christian anti-Balaka armed fighters resumed in CAR's capital, Bangui, on December 19. The resurgence in violence follows a period of relative calm after the events of December 5 and 6. The rising insecurity has spurred population displacement and generated frustrations among IDPs and other conflict-affected populations.
- U.N. agencies have increased in-country staff presence and are working to improve function and coordination of the humanitarian clusters—sectoral coordinating bodies for humanitarian activities, comprising U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—following the Inter-Agency Standing Committee declaration of the humanitarian situation in CAR as a Level-3 emergency in mid-December. However, insecurity and logistical challenges continue to impede delivery of humanitarian services in Bangui and more remote areas.
- In FY 2013 and FY 2014 to date, the U.S. Government has provided nearly \$40 million to address humanitarian needs and refugee assistance in CAR. This aid supports emergency food assistance, humanitarian logistical operations, and agricultural, health, humanitarian protection, livelihood, and nutrition interventions.

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

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

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

## **DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS**

- Persistent violence throughout CAR, particularly in Bangui, continues to trigger internal population displacement and has reduced the likelihood of returns in the coming days, according to OCHA. On January 3, UNHCR reported approximately 935,000 IDPs in CAR—an increase of more than 46 percent from the December 17 estimate of 639,000 IDPs. Nearly 512,700 IDPs are now residing in the capital’s 67 IDP sites or with host families, and more than 100,000 IDPs alone had settled at the city’s M’Poko International Airport. The fluid security situation and constrained humanitarian access remain significant challenges to verifying displacement figures, and estimates are likely to vary as the situation evolves.
- The humanitarian community is working on a 30-day plan to improve the situation for IDPs at M’Poko, with UNHCR and its partners developing both an inter-cluster humanitarian assistance plan and a strategy to relocate IDPs settled in the airport’s customs area. In addition, several U.N. agencies have created a task force to formulate a distribution plan to improve allocation of emergency relief items to airport-based IDPs. However, technical, logistical, and security concerns at the airport constitute major challenges to relief efforts.
- The security situation in northwestern CAR remains precarious. Areas of Nana Mambéré, Ouham, and Ouham Pendé prefectures experienced intermittent violence in late December 2013, according to the U.N. UNHCR reported that fighting, looting, and arson in Bossangoa town caused additional displacement to the École Liberté and L’Évêché Archbishop IDP sites. On December 29, a team comprising Humanitarian Coordinator Abdou Dieng and cluster representatives visited the Bossangoa IDP sites, noting that difficult access to building materials, fuel, and other essential items impedes humanitarian agencies’ attempts to establish a presence in town and to address existing humanitarian needs. Clashes between ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka fighters also occurred in Bozoum in late December, heightening tensions in the town and surrounding area.
- To improve humanitarian access to areas difficult to reach due to remoteness or insecurity, USAID/OFDA and State/PRM are supporting the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in CAR. UNHAS transported humanitarian personnel and cargo to conflict-affected Bossangoa and Paoua towns on December 25 and Bangassou, Obo, and Zemio towns on December 26. According to OCHA, more than 65 relief organizations in the country depend on UNHAS for flights to more than 27 domestic destinations. To date, USAID/OFDA and State/PRM have provided more than \$1.5 million for UNHAS operations.

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## **FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

- Ongoing insecurity has led to dramatic increases in the number of Central African IDPs, many of whom require food assistance as a priority need. In addition, the volatile operating context remains a challenge to humanitarian organizations working in CAR. Members of the Food Security Cluster are meeting daily with community stakeholders to explore approaches to food distribution that would minimize risks to both beneficiaries and staff, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP).
- Given changing humanitarian needs and a complex working environment, WFP has commenced Emergency Operation activities in CAR, which will supersede the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation and Country Program the agency previously implemented in the country. Starting on January 1, WFP began scaling up emergency food assistance to displaced and severely food-insecure populations and plans to reach nearly 400,000 people monthly between January and April. WFP also anticipates distributing supplementary rations to prevent malnutrition among children under the age of five and women of reproductive age. Between May and August, WFP plans to provide food aid to nearly 1.25 million food-insecure people in CAR per month.
- With USAID/WFP assistance, WFP has distributed more than 1,700 metric tons (MT) of food to nearly 237,000 people throughout CAR since the beginning of December. Approximately 174,000 beneficiaries in the capital have received more than 870 MT of food rations, while some 850 MT of food commodities have reached 63,000 people in Bossangoa and Bouar towns, northwestern CAR.

- In FY 2013 and FY 2014 to date, USAID/FFP has committed more than 10,000 MT of Title II food commodities—valued at approximately \$18.8 million—to WFP for general food distributions, supplementary feeding programs, and other activities benefiting IDPs and other conflict-affected Central Africans.
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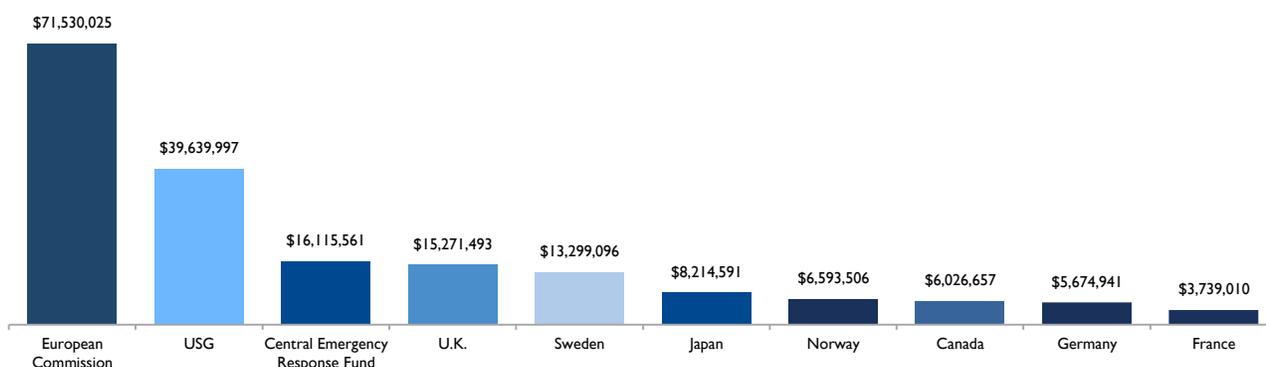
## **HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND WASH**

- On January 2, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced a significant reduction in its medical assistance to IDPs residing at M'Poko airport following successive days of gunfire near the MSF clinic based at the airport. According to MSF, the violence killed two children and wounded 40 people. MSF is limiting staff presence to an emergency team treating only severe cases and providing referrals to other patients. Previously, MSF had averaged 500 medical consultations, seven infant deliveries, and 100 wound dressings at the airport each day since early December.
  - As of January 2, the Bangui Pasteur Institute had confirmed the presence of measles at two Bangui IDP sites, including five cases at the Don Bosco Center and three at M'Poko airport. According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), without immediate humanitarian action, crowded living conditions and inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure could contribute to an increased incidence of measles. In response, WHO, MSF, and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) plan to immunize more than 60,000 children between 6 months and 15 years of age against measles in the coming days. The agencies expect to reach approximately 40,000 children at M'poko airport and more than 20,000 children at Don Bosco. MSF has positioned 13 vaccination teams at M'Poko airport, and UNICEF plans to supply vaccines and inoculation equipment, while WHO will spearhead technical and financial support to CAR's Ministry of Health.
  - With support from USAID/OFDA, the International Medical Corps (IMC) is continuing health and nutrition services to vulnerable populations in Haute-Kotto and Vakaga prefectures, central CAR, with no disruptions. In Bangui, IMC is offering primary health care services to IDPs through temporary clinics established at the St. Paul/Archevêché Church and St. Bernard sites. Between December 15 and 21, IMC staff conducted nearly 3,500 consultations, with children under the age of five accounting for approximately 40 percent of all visits. Malaria remains one of the most common diseases identified among IDPs seeking medical care, according to IMC.
  - In FY 2013 and FY 2014 to date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.2 million—approximately 26 percent of its total contribution—for health assistance to conflict-affected and otherwise vulnerable populations in CAR. USAID/OFDA is addressing the health needs of at least 275,000 individuals through its support to partners IMC, Save the Children, and UNICEF. In addition, State/PRM is contributing nearly \$400,000 to IMC to provide health and protection services for Sudanese refugees and host communities in Ouaka Prefecture.
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## **OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- As of January 3, international donors had committed approximately \$30 million to address the emergency needs of populations affected by the conflict in CAR. The total represents 12 percent of the \$247 million requested by the 2014 U.N. Strategic Response Plan for CAR released in mid-December. In 2013, the international community provided nearly \$185.5 million in humanitarian assistance to CAR, according to the U.N.

## 2013 AND 2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of January 3, 2014. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2013 and 2014 calendar years, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments from FY 2013 and FY 2014, which began on October 1, 2012, and October 1, 2013, respectively.

### CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed opposition alliance began to advance across CAR in opposition to then-President François Bozizé. On March 24, 2013, Séléka fighters entered CAR's capital city, Bangui, effectively seizing control of the country and triggering a period of widespread violence.
- Security conditions in CAR further deteriorated on December 5, 2013, when clashes erupted between militants associated with the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups, composed of armed fighters that oppose the ex-Séléka forces. Ongoing attacks and counterattacks between armed groups continue to destabilize many areas, particularly predominantly Muslim-populated areas of Bangui. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistical constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui, as well as in more remote areas of CAR.
- In response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2014 on November 12, 2013.

### USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR PROVIDED IN FY 2013 AND FY 2014<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Ouham, and Vakaga Prefectures	\$750,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Haute-Kotto and Vakaga Prefectures	\$1,200,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection	Mbomou and Ouaka Prefectures	\$1,636,392
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$400,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Nutrition	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou Prefectures	\$989,160
UNICEF	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,427,945
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$8,403,497</b>

USAID/FFP <sup>3</sup>			
WFP	10,090 MT of Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for General Food Distributions, Supplementary Feeding, and Food-for-Assets Activities	Countrywide	\$18,831,500
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$18,831,500</b>
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$5,200,000
IMC	Health	Ouaka Prefecture	\$377,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Countrywide	\$6,300,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$525,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$12,402,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2013 AND FY 2014</b>			<b>\$39,636,997</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of January 3, 2014.

<sup>3</sup>Estimated value of food assistance.

## 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](http://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:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>