

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

MARCH 31, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.2 million

People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance
2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview

402,200

IDPs in CAR
UN – February 2017

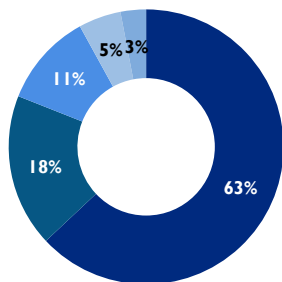
61,500

IDPs in Bangui
UN – January 2017

463,800

Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UN – February 2017

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (63%)
- Health (18%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (11%)
- Protection (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (80%)
- Food Vouchers (20%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tensions between armed groups in Ouaka continue to displace civilians from Ippy sub-prefecture
- Despite operational challenges, USAID partners continue reaching conflict-affected populations in CAR
- UN urges donors to contribute to 2017 HRP, which was 5 percent funded as of late March

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING³ FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA	\$9,474,724
USAID/FFP	\$28,959,989
State/PRM ³	\$17,025,000
\$55,459,713	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Despite ongoing conflict, USAID partners are providing emergency assistance to conflict-affected communities and developing contingency plans to address additional humanitarian needs. USAID partners are supporting economic recovery, emergency health care, humanitarian coordination and information management, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in Central African Republic (CAR).
- During a March 15 briefing for humanitarian donors in the city of Yaoundé, Cameroon, UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for CAR, a.i., Michel Yao highlighted a downward trend in humanitarian funding to CAR since 2014, emphasizing that approximately half the country's population continues to require emergency assistance. As of March 31, the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) had received only \$21.6 million—approximately 5 percent of the nearly \$400 million required to assist an estimated 1.6 million people in CAR through December 2017.

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

- At least 2.2 million people in CAR—approximately half of the country’s population—are in urgent need of emergency assistance, including approximately 100,000 people newly displaced by increased violence in the country since September 2016, the UN reports. At a donor briefing in Yaoundé on March 15, HC for CAR Yao called on the international community to provide emergency assistance to address critical humanitarian needs in CAR.
- Tensions between various ex-Séléka armed groups in Ouaka Prefecture continued to escalate in February, exacerbating pre-existing protection and humanitarian access challenges. On February 22, ex-Séléka elements attempted to enter a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ouaka’s Ippy town, resulting in clashes with UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) forces that injured at least four MINUSCA peacekeepers. MINUSCA subsequently launched targeted operations, including air strikes, against various ex-Séléka armed groups in late February and called on all armed actors to leave Ouaka’s Bambari town, the UN reports. All visibly armed elements had reportedly left Bambari as of February 25, although the UN reports that residents remain fearful of renewed violence. As the security situation remains fluid in Bambari and surrounding areas, relief agencies have developed contingency plans to ensure continued assistance to vulnerable populations.
- Fighting on March 13 in Ippy sub-prefecture displaced approximately 1,500 people to nearby towns, with some IDPs reportedly traveling as far as Haute-Kotto Prefecture’s town of Bria, according to the UN. Additionally, in late February, approximately 200 IDPs evacuated from Ippy town and arrived—under UN escort—in Ouaka’s town of Maloum, where an estimated 8,300 IDPs currently reside. A UN-led interagency assessment to Maloum on March 3 confirmed that at least 4,000 newly displaced people had arrived in the town as a result of insecurity in Ouaka since late December 2016. The interagency mission identified emergency food assistance, health services, protection assistance, relief commodities, and shelter support as priority needs among IDPs in Maloum. USAID/OFDA partner the International Organization for Migration is providing multi-sector emergency assistance to IDPs in CAR with \$2 million in FY 2016 funding.
- On February 19, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the European Union, the International Organization of La Francophonie, and the UN released a joint statement expressing concern about violence targeting civilians in CAR—particularly in Haute-Kotto and Ouaka—and lauding efforts by the Government of CAR (CARG) and MINUSCA to promote reconciliation and protect civilians. On February 22, the UN called on all parties to the conflict in Haute-Kotto and Ouaka to respect international humanitarian law, protect civilians, and respect human rights.
- An early-February fire at an IDP site adjacent to a MINUSCA base in Nana-Grébizi Prefecture’s Kaga-Bandoro town destroyed more than 850 shelters, affecting more than 2,550 people, the UN reports. Unverified reports indicate that increased IDP returns may have occurred in the days following the fire, according to the UN. Some fire-affected IDPs relocated to the nearby Lazare IDP site, where relief actors distributed emergency relief commodities and shelter supplies and constructed sanitation infrastructure in the weeks following the incident. Relief agencies, including USAID/OFDA partners, continue to support reconstruction and rehabilitation of houses in Kaga-Bandoro to enable sustainable returns.
- In December 2016, the CARG began the process of closing the IDP site at M’Poko International Airport, Ombella-M’Poko Prefecture, and all 28,700 IDPs had vacated the site as of late February, according to the UN. Approximately 50 percent of the IDPs returned to areas of origin in the capital city of Bangui and its suburbs, while the remaining population was sheltering with host communities due to property destruction and persistent insecurity in areas of origin.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided life-saving assistance to more than 189,000 Central Africans in February through in-kind food distributions, malnutrition prevention and treatment efforts, and cash-based transfers. WFP’s first round of cash-based transfers began in February to assist approximately 7,000 IDPs in Kaga-Bandoro.

- The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had admitted approximately 1,730 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs in CAR as of late February. UNICEF has also pre-positioned nutrition supplies, including ready-to-use therapeutic food, in Ouham’s Bossangoa town, Bambari, and Kaga-Bandoro; the supplies are sufficient to treat an estimated 4,750 SAM cases.
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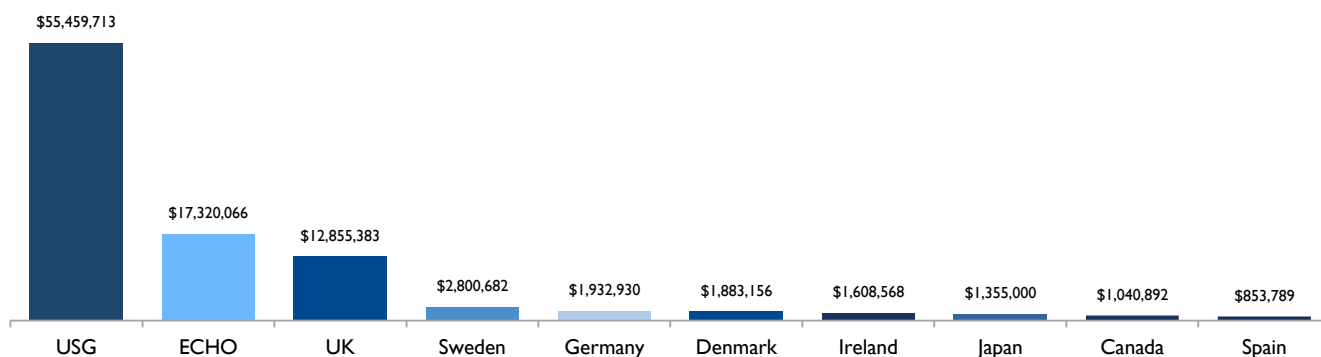
HEALTH, WASH, AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT

- To date in FY 2017, USAID/OFDA has provided \$9.5 million to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, WFP, and three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address humanitarian needs in CAR. OCHA is working to improve humanitarian coordination and information management countrywide. In addition, NGO partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) recently began providing health care services to vulnerable communities in Nana-Grébizi, complementing ongoing interventions in Kémo and Ouham-Pendé prefectures.
 - USAID/OFDA partner UNICEF is providing emergency relief commodities and WASH assistance through a rapid response mechanism, reaching more than 20,200 beneficiaries in January and February. In February, rapid response mechanism teams rehabilitated five water points, conducted 11 hygiene promotion sessions, and completed 10 multi-sector assessments countrywide.
 - In addition, WFP is supporting relief actors to transport relief commodities and humanitarian personnel to remote and conflict-affected locations through the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In February, UNHAS transported 1,560 passengers and 28 metric tons (MT) of cargo to 31 locations in the country. UNHAS also conducted three medical evacuations and provided security relocation services for 18 humanitarian workers transferring from Bambari to Bangui.
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OTHER ASSISTANCE

- On March 14, the Government of Japan announced \$8.2 million in new funding for UN agencies assisting IDPs, returnees, and refugees in CAR. The new funding will support the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, WFP, and the UN World Health Organization to provide life-saving protection, food, nutrition, health, and WASH assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR.
- In February, the UN released an emergency allocation of \$3.1 million from the UN-managed Humanitarian Fund for CAR, enabling UN and NGO partners to provide IDPs from Bambari and Bria towns—the sites of conflict and related displacement since late 2016—with emergency shelter, critical relief items, and health, protection, and WASH support. The allocation also supports the establishment of a logistics hub in Bambari to pre-position food and other critical relief items and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian supplies to populations in Haute-Kotto and Ouaka.
- Additionally, through a \$6 million allocation from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, WFP is providing approximately 3,600 MT of emergency food assistance, sufficient to feed nearly 37,000 conflict-affected people in Bambari, Bria, and Kaga-Bandoro for four months, according to the UN.
- With support from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), NGO the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) plans to build homes for approximately 500 households recently returned to Bangui’s suburb of Boeing from the M’Poko International Airport IDP site. The UN reports that an estimated 80 percent of Boeing was destroyed following the outbreak of armed conflict in Bangui and surrounding areas in 2013.

2017 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed alliance began to advance 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 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 opposed ex-Séléka forces.
- Following a transitional government period, CAR held presidential elections in December 2015 and February 2016—electing Faustin-Archange Touadéra as president. President Touadéra assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- As of early 2017, the security situation throughout CAR remained volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, and peacekeeping forces. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations, particularly in more remote areas of CAR.
- On October 12, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey J. Hawkins reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2017 due to the scale of current and projected humanitarian needs in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
IRC	Health	Nana-Grébizi	\$500,000
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,200,000
Plan International	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection	Lobaye, Ouham, Nana-Grébizi	\$774,724
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000

OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$9,474,724
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	7,020 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid for General Food Distribution	Countrywide	\$11,994,298
	7,840 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid for Distribution to Central African Refugees	Cameroon	\$9,989,864
	Cash and Voucher Assistance for Central African Refugees	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$6,000,000
	540 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid for Distribution to Central African Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$975,827
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$28,959,989
State/PRM			
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$9,100,000
	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Refugees	CAR	\$4,800,000
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$2,700,000
WFP	Logistics Support	CAR	\$425,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$17,025,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$55,459,713

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 31, 2017.

³ 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 or +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>