



# Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>4.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.8</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.6</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity</p> <p><i>UN – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>722,101</b></p> <p>Number of IDPs in CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>733,237</b></p> <p>Number of Refugees from CAR in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – September 2021</i></p>
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- Conflict continues to exacerbate acute food insecurity, humanitarian access constraints, and human rights abuses across CAR, the UN reports.
- An estimated 2.6 million people in CAR are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity as of September 2021.
- Heavy rains and flooding displaced more than 12,000 individuals across CAR in August and September, while flood-related stagnant waters increased the risk of malaria and other vector-borne disease outbreaks.



<p><b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the CAR Response in FY 2021</p>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$108,555,007
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$71,359,260
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$179,914,267</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Conflict, Limited Mobility Exacerbate Food Insecurity in CAR

Conflict and resultant access challenges continue to exacerbate food insecurity in Central African Republic (CAR), where an estimated 2.6 million people—approximately 60 percent of the country’s population—were experiencing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity as of July, reports the UN.<sup>2</sup> This represents a 13 percent increase in the population experiencing Crisis or worse levels compared to April projections, according to the Food Security Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian food assistance activities in CAR, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Additionally, 1 million people in CAR were experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—or worse levels of acute food insecurity, including 250,000 people at high risk of a catastrophic food situation.

Armed group activity and conflict-induced displacement are projected to reduce crop production by preventing agricultural workers from accessing their fields during the harvesting season, particularly in Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham, and Ouham-Péndé prefectures, according to an August Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis. Additionally, armed actor presence in pastoral areas has limited access to breeding areas and transportation corridors, reducing livestock production in these areas and exacerbating food insecurity conditions, according to a September FEWS NET analysis. However, following Government of CAR (CARG) territorial gains during the August-to-September harvest period, anticipated security improvements in some locations—such as Ouham Prefecture’s Kabo and Sido towns—are expected to improve humanitarian access and the ability of poor households to receive agricultural inputs, as well as cash and food assistance, over the next six months.

Meanwhile, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community members in conflict-affected areas, particularly in northwestern and southeastern CAR, are projected to experience Crisis conditions from August through January 2022, according to FEWS NET. Despite abundant and well-distributed rainfall in August enabling crop yields above the five-year average, armed group activity continues to prevent IDP and host community households from harvesting crops, resulting in limited crop production and increased food prices. Furthermore, insecurity and poor road infrastructure—degraded by attacks on infrastructure and flooding—have limited the supply of food to hard-to-reach markets, resulting in increased food prices and food scarcity, while the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 mitigation measures—to include fewer employment opportunities—have negatively affected poor households’ access to income-generating activities.

Displaced children and those living in conflict-affected areas are experiencing limited access to health care and safe drinking water due to insecurity, and the UN reports that nutrition conditions are expected to worsen in CAR as a result. At least 80,000 children ages five years and younger are at risk of experiencing severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—by the end of 2021, a nearly 30 percent increase since 2020, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

### Explosive Devices and Insecurity Disrupt Humanitarian Access

Security incidents and other humanitarian access challenges continue to impede the delivery of emergency assistance to crisis-affected populations throughout CAR, the UN reports. The UN recorded more than 300 security incidents affecting humanitarian personnel and property between January and

<sup>2</sup> 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.

August, including attacks that resulted in two deaths and nearly 20 injuries to aid personnel. This represents a nearly 30 percent increase in security incidents from the same period in 2020. Nearly 70 percent of all security incidents affecting humanitarian actors involved assault, looting, robbery, and theft, while the remaining incidents constituted other interference and restrictions on humanitarian activities, according to the UN.

Explosive devices continue to pose a significant security risk to civilian populations and humanitarian staff operating in CAR; incidents involving explosive ordnance have increased since mid-April, particularly in western and northwestern CAR, according to the UN. More than 20 incidents involving explosive ordnance—resulting in the deaths of 14 civilians and injuries to an estimated 20 others, including two UN peacekeepers—were reported in western CAR between January and August. Additionally, a vehicle transporting NGO staff detonated an explosive device in September, resulting in the death of one staff member and injuries to three others, according to the NGO. These attacks illustrate the challenging operational environment relief actors face in CAR, which has one of the highest levels of violence targeting aid workers of any conflict-affected country worldwide, the UN reports.

### **Widespread Human Rights Violations Endanger Civilian Populations**

Conflict between non-state armed groups, Armed Forces of CAR (FACA), CARG Internal Security Forces (FSI), and Russian bilateral forces resulted in hundreds of human rights violations between July 2020 and June 2021, according to a joint report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA). The report documented nearly 530 violations—including arbitrary arrests, conflict-related sexual violence, disproportionate use of force, extrajudicial killings, serious violations against children, and torture—affecting at least 1,220 people and resulting in the deaths of at least 144 civilians. Non-state armed groups were responsible for more than 50 percent of reported incidents affecting 60 percent of victims, while FACA, the FSI, and Russian bilateral forces were responsible for approximately 45 percent of incidents affecting 40 percent of victims. In addition, FACA, FSI, and other CARG-affiliated security personnel increasingly targeted members of CAR's Muslim community between February and June, with reports indicating that the deliberate targeting of Muslims due to alleged affiliation with armed groups remained ongoing as of August, according to MINUSCA's Human Rights Division. While the CARG established a special commission of inquiry to investigate violations of international humanitarian and human rights law during the 2020 election period in May 2021, MINUSCA and OHCHR urged the CARG to take additional steps to professionalize FACA and FSI and hold those responsible for violations accountable.

### **Conflict and Flooding Generate Increased Displacement Throughout CAR**

Armed conflict in CAR—specifically military operations by FACA and affiliated forces aiming to restore CARG control over areas held by armed groups—drove increased displacement in August, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-led Population Movement Commission (CMP). Heavy rains and resultant flooding also contributed to increased levels of displacement between August and September. Floods triggered by a heavy rainfall on August 7 affected an estimated 12,000 individuals, including 3,600 people in and around CAR's capital city of Bangui, according to the UN. Stagnant waters in flood-affected areas have also heightened the risk of malaria and other vector-borne disease outbreaks, according to the International Organization for Migration. As of September 30, the CMP had recorded more than 722,000 IDPs in CAR, including approximately 180,000 individuals sheltering in formal IDP sites and an estimated 542,000 individuals sheltering with host communities, representing a net increase of more than 31,000 IDPs—or more than 4 percent—compared with July estimates.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$62 Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2021



**\$8.6 Million**

In dedicated USG support for health and nutrition assistance in FY 2021



**\$9.5 Million**

In FY 2021 support for critical logistics operations

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers; locally and regionally procured food; U.S.-sourced rice, split peas, and vegetable oil; and vouchers redeemable for food in local markets—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including host communities, IDPs, refugees, and returnees. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is also supporting NGO partners to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations across the country. USAID/BHA partners also provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood rehabilitation for CAR's most vulnerable households.

### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

To prevent and treat malnutrition, USAID/BHA supports NGOs in conducting supplementary feeding programs for children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women. In partnership with these NGOs, USAID/BHA creates community, referral pathways to identify children suffering from malnutrition. With support to UNICEF, USAID/BHA also provides emergency nutrition assistance to children, mothers, and caregivers. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports NGOs in providing health assistance, to include the operation of mobile clinics, diagnostic treatment, and referral services for disease and injury. USAID/BHA NGO partners also provide essential medical commodities to community responders and clinics.

### LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. In 2021, when humanitarian air services were most urgently needed due to insufficient road access across CAR, USAID/BHA provided the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) with approximately \$7 million to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across the country. Moreover, as part of the Logistics Cluster, State/PRM partner UNHCR helped launch an initiative promoting greater gender-based inclusion in humanitarian logistics operations in CAR, where logistics-related professions are typically dominated by men. The initiative provides a platform for all sector stakeholders to exchange ideas monthly and collaborate on advocacy and training, with the aim of introducing tangible means to grant women greater access to humanitarian logistics jobs in CAR. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common storage and logistics management for response organizations.



## **\$5.9 Million**

In FY 2021 support for critical protection assistance

### **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, conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues, delivering emergency case management and referral services for survivors of gender-based violence, and providing individual psychosocial support services. USG partners provide multi-sector assistance for conflict-affected populations in CAR, as well as support for livelihood activities, including the provision of agricultural inputs and training to bolster economic stability and food security for the nearly 690,000 Central African refugees sheltering in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the Republic of the Congo. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR—in coordination with its government partner the National Commission for Refugees (CNR)—has biometrically registered nearly 74,000 newly arrived Central African refugees in DRC as of June 30 and is working to relocate these refugees into safer settlements.



## **\$5.9 Million**

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements in FY 2021

### **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

USAID/BHA supports NGOs and UN agencies in providing individualized shelter assistance to vulnerable households among IDPs, returnees, and conflict-affected host communities in CAR. USAID/BHA NGO and UN partners also distributed emergency shelter kits comprised of shelter items, including tarpaulins and rope, as part of rapid response programs in FY 2021. Moreover, USAID/BHA supported the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—the co-lead of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster in CAR—in prepositioning contingency, emergency shelter kits throughout the country.



## **\$4.6 Million**

In dedicated USG support for WASH assistance in FY 2021

### **WASH**

USAID/BHA partners provide critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which informs how the CAR humanitarian community deploys assistance, including relief items and WASH support, and coordinates with other humanitarian actors to provide complementary assistance in response to new emergency situations that result in displacement and humanitarian needs. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, RRM partners delivered WASH assistance to nearly 112,000 people, built latrines, distributed more than 26,000 hygiene kits, organized more than 90 hygiene awareness sessions, and rehabilitated more than 90 water points in CAR between January and August.

## 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 dialogue and the scheduling of national elections for December 2020, attacks against civilians and UN peacekeeping forces, direct clashes between armed groups, 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. Leading up to and during the election, armed groups aligned with former President Bozizé, whom the Constitutional Court had determined ineligible for candidacy, made a concerted effort to disrupt voting and seize major urban areas.
- An outbreak of election-related violence—which began in December 2020 between the Coalition of Patriots for Change armed groups and FACA, MINUSCA, and bilateral security forces supporting the CARG—has rendered the February 2019 peace agreement moot.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, In-Kind Food Aid; Health; Nutrition; WASH	Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouham-Pende	\$5,500,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, In-Kind Food Aid; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management (HCIMA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Countrywide, Haut-Mbomou, Haut-Kotto, Mbomou, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$10,000,000
CONCERN	Agriculture, Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Ouaka	\$3,000,000
Danish Refugee Council	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pende,	\$2,500,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$5,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui Commune, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Nana-Grebizi, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende	\$1,000,000

International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Health, Protection	Bamingui-Bangoran, Nana-Grebizi	\$2,500,000
MENTOR	Health	Ouham	\$291,075
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Food Vouchers	Ouaka	\$4,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,127,050
Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUJ)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
Solidarites	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, In-Kind Food Aid	Bamingui-Bangoran, Kemo, Nana-Grebizi, Ouham	\$3,500,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Nana-Grebizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham	\$6,000,000
	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,676,883
	Protection	Haute-Kotto, Nana-Grebizi, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Vakaga	\$1,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid <sup>2</sup>	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Countrywide, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Kémo, Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaéré, Vakaga	\$27,704,595
	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers	Bangui Commune, Countrywide, Haute-Kotto, Mambéré-Kadéï, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouham-Pendé	\$9,250,000
World Vision, Inc.	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash, Nutrition, WASH	Mbomou, Ouaka,	\$3,000,000
	Program Support		\$5,404
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$108,555,007</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
CARE	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$1,974,468
Danish Refugee Council	Livelihoods	Cameroon	\$2,000,000
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	CAR	\$10,400,000
Jesuit Refugee Service, USA	Livelihoods	Cameroon	\$1,500,000
Julia V. Taft Refugee Fund Awardee	Livelihoods	DRC	\$24,992
	WASH	Cameroon	\$24,800
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cameroon	\$9,260,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	CAR	\$13,000,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$11,275,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	DRC	\$15,400,000
World Vision	Multi-Sector Assistance	Republic of the Congo	\$4,000,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	DRC	\$2,500,000



<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$71,359,260</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>	<b>\$179,914,267</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.  
<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations 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)