



# Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>4.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>OCHA – February 2022</i></p>	<p><b>3.1</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>OCHA – February 2022</i></p>	<p><b>2.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity</p> <p><i>OCHA – February 2022</i></p>	<p><b>652,036</b></p> <p>Number of IDPs in CAR</p> <p><i>CMP – February 2022</i></p>	<p><b>734,473</b></p> <p>Number of Refugees from CAR in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2022</i></p>
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- Approximately 3.1 million people in CAR are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the 2022 HRP.
- In 2021, nearly 400 security incidents affected humanitarian aid workers, undermining efforts to assist crisis-affected populations. Conflict and the suspected presence of explosive devices along roads in western CAR has further undermined humanitarian access.
- An estimated 944,000 children will require protection assistance in 2022 due increasing GBV incidents and deteriorating conditions in IDP camps.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the CAR Response in FY 2022

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$47,905,868

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

**Total<sup>2</sup> \$47,905,868**

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

<sup>2</sup> Funding includes all publicly announced figures from FY 2022 as of February 28, 2022

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### 2022 HRP Identifies 3.1 Million People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

Approximately 3.1 million people in the Central African Republic (CAR)—64 percent of the country's population—are likely to require humanitarian assistance in 2022, the highest level recorded in five years, according to the 2022 CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) published by the UN in January. This figure includes approximately 2.4 million people projected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through August.<sup>3</sup> Intensified armed conflict since December 2020 has exacerbated declines in household income levels, heightened protection risks, and limited access to essential services, further increasing humanitarian needs across the country, according to the HRP. In particular, the UN identified severe health needs and declining access to safe drinking water due to conflict-related damage to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in nearly 90 percent of CAR's sub-prefectures, while noting that approximately one-third of Central Africans had to walk at least one hour to obtain essential services. Despite efforts by USAID/BHA and U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partners to boost access to WASH services, relief actors expect that more than 2.8 million people will require WASH assistance in 2022—an increase of 13 percent compared to the previous year—largely due to an increase in conflict and resultant displacement. Armed group attacks targeting health centers and medical staff also continue to limit the ability of health actors to respond to growing needs.

### Insecurity Hinders Humanitarian Efforts in Central and Western CAR

In 2021, the UN recorded nearly 400 security incidents affecting aid workers across CAR, which resulted in three deaths, injuries to 28 people, and a decline in humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations. Although the number of security incidents during the year decreased by nearly 7 percent compared to 2020, relief actors note that the decline does not indicate an improvement in security conditions but is instead linked to a significant decrease in humanitarian activity across central and western CAR due to growing conflict. In CAR's Ouham Prefecture, a recent increase in armed group activities impacting relief operations near Batangafo and Kabo towns, including a roadside robbery on January 20, prompted a non-governmental organization (NGO) providing humanitarian assistance in Kabo to evacuate 43 staff members beginning in late January; the organization continues to provide remote technical support and deliver medical supplies to a local hospital and two health centers, according to the UN. Relief actors have urged Government of CAR (CARG) officials to lift a ban on the use of aircraft to transport supplies and personnel to Kabo to boost access to crisis-affected populations amid increased insecurity impacting relief operations.

The deployment of explosive devices also continues to exacerbate humanitarian conditions in western CAR while limiting humanitarian access to vulnerable populations. Overall, approximately 40 security incidents involving explosive devices occurred in western CAR between January and November 2021, resulting in the deaths of 23 civilians and injuries to 30 others in Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures, according to the UN. In addition, risks related to explosives along major roadways had prevented relief actors from reaching approximately 5,800 in need of vaccinations in Nana-Mambéré as of December.

<sup>3</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## **944,000 Children Need Protection Services, GBV Rises by 235 Percent**

The Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—estimates that 944,000 children across CAR will require protection assistance in 2022 largely due to the impact of continued conflict across the country. Psychological harm, physical attacks, and instances of gender-based violence (GBV)—including early and forced marriages—were the most common protection violations experienced by children in CAR in 2021, with children accounting for more than 20 percent of all sexual assault survivors in the country during the year. Armed group actors remain among the most frequent perpetrators of child protection violations in the country, with relief actors linking armed group operatives to 73 of the 74 child protection violations recorded between December 24 and 31. Moreover, the recruitment and deployment of children by armed groups was reported across all of CAR’s 27 sub-prefectures, excluding CAR’s capital city of Bangui, in 2021. The presence of armed actors, particularly in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), has led to an increase in assaults, forced labor, looting, and movement restrictions.

Alongside growing protection violations targeting children, women and girls in CAR remain highly vulnerable to instances of GBV, with nearly 590 cases of conflict-related sexual violence occurring in 2021—a nearly 240 percent increase compared to the previous year—according to relief actors. Survivors of GBV rarely seek treatment due to fear of stigma, among other factors. Notably, survivors are often afraid to return to work or resume other livelihood activities, which pushes them further into poverty. Amid mounting protection needs in the country, USAID/BHA-funded protection activities in CAR continue to bolster child protection services and emergency case management for GBV survivors and provide psychosocial support services to affected populations. In addition, a State/PRM partner provided more than 470 psychosocial support consultations to conflict-affected populations in CAR between mid-January and mid-February, reaching 20 GBV survivors. The partner also conducted more than 360 psychosocial sensitization sessions during the same period that reached approximately 2,350 people and identified more than 160 new GBV survivors in need of assistance

## **FACA and Russian Bilateral Forces Attack Drives Civilian Casualties**

On January 16 and 17, the Armed Forces of CAR (FACA) and Russian bilateral forces carried out an attack on civilian populations in Haute-Kotto Prefecture’s Aïgbado and Yanga villages, according to international media. While the exact number of fatalities resulting from the incident remains unknown, local and international media have reported between 30 and 70 civilian deaths. Although the UN has launched an investigation into the incident, the CARG continues to deny that attacks on the two villages took place. FACA and Russian bilateral forces reportedly blocked access to the two villages immediately after the attack and have only permitted wounded women and children to leave. While populations in Aïgbado and Yanga require humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, relief actors were unable to access the area as of late February. The UN noted that an earlier series of armed clashes in and around Aïgbado beginning on January 12 had already generated significant humanitarian needs.

## **Approximately 652,000 IDPs Present Across CAR**

There were more than 652,000 IDPs across CAR as of January 31, approximately 478,000 of whom were sheltering with host communities, according to a report from the Commission of Population’s Movement (CMP), an inter-organizational mechanism which provides figures on population movements in CAR. This figure marks a decrease of 40,000 IDPs—or approximately 6 percent—compared to December. The report noted that while more than 85,000 people returned to their places of origin in January, approximately 45,000 new displacements occurred in part due to growing clashes between

FACA and armed groups in recent months. Nana-Grebizi Prefecture's Kaga-Bandoro Sub-Prefecture and Ombella M'Poko's Bimbo Sub-Prefecture recorded the largest numbers of new displacements during the month.

Amid continued displacements, relief actors report that a series of fires exacerbated humanitarian conditions at several IDP sites in central and southern CAR in January. In Basse-Kotto Prefecture's Alindao Sub-Prefecture, a fire at the Galileo IDP site on January 11 destroyed approximately 1,100 shelters and affected more than 4,000 IDPs, according to relief actors. The fire also destroyed seeds and food commodities recently distributed by humanitarian actors. In addition, a fire at Ecole Bagga IDP site in Batangafo destroyed between 250 and 300 shelters on January 23. Humanitarian access to the site is limited due to insecurity in the surrounding areas.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$33.5 Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2022



**\$7.5 Million**

In dedicated USG support for health and nutrition assistance in FY 2022



**\$1 Million**

In FY 2022 support for critical logistics operations

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

Having already provided approximately \$33.5 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA supports 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. Through the UN Children's Fund (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 and training to community responders and clinics.

### LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. Due to insufficient road access across CAR, USAID/BHA partners with the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across the country, and to provide air service to NGO partners. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common storage and logistics management for response

organizations. USAID/BHA has also funded efforts to improve logistics platforms in Bangui to enable Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRMs) to quickly respond to sudden increases in humanitarian needs.



**\$6.1 Million**

In FY 2022 support for critical protection assistance

## PROTECTION

USAID/BHA NGO and UN partners continue to implement protection programs for CAR's most vulnerable populations, particularly displaced individuals. USAID/BHA and State/PRM-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 GBV, 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.



**\$2.4 Million**

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements in FY 2022

## 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 and reinforced camp coordination and camp management in FY 2022. 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.



**\$2 Million**

In dedicated USG support for WASH assistance in FY 2022

## WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed 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 deliver WASH assistance through the construction of latrines, distribution of hygiene kits, organization of hygiene awareness sessions, and rehabilitation of water points throughout CAR. State/PRM-supported activities rehabilitate clean water sources and support water distribution systems within vulnerable communities.

## 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.
- 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 began in December 2020 between armed groups from the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), FACA, MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic), and bilateral security forces supporting the CARG. Conflict has exacerbated the widespread deterioration of humanitarian conditions throughout the following year, including numerous human rights violations attributed to the presence of armed groups.
- On October 15, 2021, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra declared a unilateral ceasefire, which was agreed to by all but two of the groups included in the CPC.
- On October 21, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn re-declared a disaster for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2022 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>4</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Handicap International	Logistics	Basse-Kotto, Mbomou	\$929,978
IMC	Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$1,100,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui Commune, Basse-Kotto, Countryside, Mambere-Kadei, Mbomou, Nana-Grebizi, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham-Pende	\$2,400,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Oxfam International	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham	\$2,000,000

UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Countrywide, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Mbomou, Nana-Grebizi, Ombella, M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Vakaga	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Countrywide, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Lobaye, Mambere-Kadei, Mbomou, Nana-Mambere, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Nana-Grebizi, Sangha-Mbaere, Vakaga	\$33,475,890
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$47,905,868</b>
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<sup>4</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 28, 2022.

## 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://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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)