

Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 23, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>6.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p>3.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p>3 MILLION</p> <p>Number of People Requiring Emergency Food Assistance Through August</p> <p><i>IPC – November 2022</i></p>	<p>505,059</p> <p>Number of IDPs in CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – October 2022¹</i></p>	<p>748,937</p> <p>Number of Refugees From CAR in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – November 2022</i></p>
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- Approximately 3.4 million people in Central African Republic (CAR) are projected to require humanitarian assistance in 2023, the UN reports.
- A surge in armed group activity has led to increased displacement and protection violations against civilians in recent weeks.
- Up to 990,000 people will likely experience acute food insecurity countrywide between June and August 2023, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- Relief actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, provided multi-sector assistance to approximately 1.5 million people in CAR, the UN reports.



<p>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the CAR Response in FY 2023</p>	<p>USAID/BHA²</p> <p>\$25,486,456</p>
<p><i>For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6</i></p>	<p>Total \$25,486,456</p>

¹ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
² USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

HNO Projects 3.4 Million People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

An estimated 3.4 million people in CAR—more than half of the country’s population—are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2023, including approximately 2 million people projected to face severe needs, such as acute malnutrition or grave protection violations, according to the UN’s 2023 CAR Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). The HNO identifies food security, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as priority needs in CAR, with the most pressing needs expected in the country’s central and northwestern prefectures. Food security and WASH needs are likely to increase the most, with the number of people in need of assistance in those sectors projected to increase by 23 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

The projected increase in humanitarian needs in 2023 underscores the ongoing challenges faced by vulnerable populations, including displacement, food insecurity, natural hazards, and protracted armed conflict. Notably, sudden-onset shocks, such as conflict-related displacement or natural hazards such as flash flooding, had negatively affected at least 400,000 people across approximately 75 percent of CAR’s sub-prefectures as of late November, the UN reports. Furthermore, armed group activity continues to result in violence against civilians and limits livelihood opportunities, with approximately 265,000 people affected by insecurity in 2022, according to the UN. Compounding these vulnerabilities, rising prices for agricultural imports and staple food commodities will likely limit household purchasing power in the coming months, largely due to a surge in prices for imported foods, such as flour and rice, in urban centers.

Despite persistent insecurity and logistical challenges, relief actors—including USG partners—provided life-saving multi-sectoral assistance to 1.5 million people from January to September, the UN reports. The 1.5 million figure represents 74 percent of the total 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan target and includes 1.2 million people who received emergency food assistance and 662,000 people who received WASH services during the reporting period.

Insecurity Drives Displacement, Protection Violations Across CAR

A resurgence of armed group activities—particularly concentrated in northern CAR—has fueled an uptick in displacement and protection violations against civilians in recent weeks, relief actors report. Non-state armed group (NSAG) attacks contributed to the displacement of more than 29,000 people across CAR in October alone, including an estimated 12,000 people who fled Ouham-Pendé Prefecture’s Bocaranga-Mann axis following rumors of impending NSAG attacks, according to the UN. The surge in armed group activity also affected several towns in Basse-Kotto, Ouaka, and Vakaga prefectures during November, resulting in significant civilian casualties, displacement, and the looting of towns. On November 9, one NSAG, the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), reportedly attacked Armed Forces of CAR positions in Ouaka’s Ngakobo town, displacing civilians to nearby fields, according to local media. In response to heightened protection violations, relief actors are providing affected populations—particularly victims of gender-based violence (GBV)—with health care services and psychosocial support, among other types of assistance, despite limited access to conflict-affected areas.

Acute Food Insecurity Levels Projected Across CAR in 2023

Food insecurity is projected to increase during the April-to-August 2023 lean season—the period of time when food is most scarce—in the absence of emergency food assistance, relief actors report. Up to 990,000 individuals are expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity across CAR

between June and August 2023, FEWS NET reports.³ Significant damage to cropland caused by persistent rain during the June-to-October rainy season—in combination with projected price increases for agricultural inputs, basic food commodities, and fuel—contributed to the projected increase in food insecurity countrywide. In addition, the resurgence of armed group activities has disrupted local markets, hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and negatively affected agricultural and economic activity across most regions during the reporting period, according to FEWS NET. In rural areas, the presence of armed groups has limited access to agricultural land and hindered income-generating opportunities for many individuals, which is particularly significant in CAR as 80 percent of the population derives their livelihood from farming, according to the UN. Moreover, the deterioration of road networks further limits the availability of food supplies at key markets countrywide. The CAR IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) projects that the seasonal increase in the number of people experiencing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity will likely remain relatively stable compared to 2021. The IPC TWG also anticipates that the provision of emergency food assistance from relief actors, such as USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), will likely prevent worst-case food insecurity outcomes from transpiring in the coming months.

At Least 160 Security Incidents Affect Relief Organizations in 2022

Relief actors recorded more than 160 security incidents affecting humanitarian operations and staff in CAR between January and November, including the death of one aid worker and injury to 18 others, the UN reports. Ouham, Bangui, and Ouaka remain the most affected prefectures, with 26, 22, and 9 percent of incidents occurring in the locations, respectively. Relief organizations reported 14 security incidents affecting humanitarian operations in November alone—in line with the average monthly rate since the beginning of 2022—with theft from humanitarian convoys, facilities, and vehicles accounting for nearly 80 percent of incidents. The remaining cases involved access restrictions against humanitarian personnel. USAID/BHA staff based in CAR’s capital city of Bangui continue to closely track security incidents affecting aid workers to mitigate risks to partner organization staff.

KEY FIGURES



\$94 Million

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

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, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and returnees. USAID/BHA is also supporting non-governmental organization (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.

³ 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.



\$19.2 Million

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

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

To prevent and treat malnutrition, USAID/BHA supports NGO partners to conduct supplementary feeding programs for children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women by creating community referral pathways to identify and treat cases of 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 to provide health assistance, including 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.



\$8.4 Million

In FY 2022 support for critical logistics operations

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. For instance, due to insufficient road access across the country, USAID/BHA supports the UN Humanitarian Air Service to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across CAR, 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 strengthen the response capabilities of UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners, enabling relief actors to quickly dispatch supplies to crisis-affected areas.



\$9.7 Million

In FY 2022 support for critical protection assistance

PROTECTION

Partners of USAID/BHA and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continue to implement protection programs for CAR’s most vulnerable populations by bolstering child protection services, conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks, delivering emergency case management and referral services for survivors of GBV, and providing individual psychosocial support services. USG partners support livelihood activities for conflict-affected populations in CAR, including providing agricultural inputs and training to bolster economic stability and food security.



\$9.9 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 IDPs, returnees, and conflict-affected host communities in CAR. USAID/BHA NGO and UN agency partners distributed emergency shelter kits and improved IDP camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) services in FY 2022. Moreover, USAID/BHA supported the International Organization for Migration—the co-lead of the CAR CCCM Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—in pre-positioning emergency shelter kits throughout the country.



\$5.9 Million

In dedicated USG support for WASH assistance in FY 2022

WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to populations in need across CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed RRM, which delivers 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 Government of CAR (CARG) and 14 armed groups signed the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation on February 6, 2019.
- On January 18, 2021, 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 CPC, CARG, UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR, and bilateral security forces supporting the CARG. Conflict 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 parties to the conflict, including the CPC.
- On October 4, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Patricia Mahoney redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2023 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—10,950 metric tons of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Mambere-Kadei, Mbomou, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaere, Vakaga	\$23,986,456
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$25,486,456

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 23, 2022.

² 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 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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)