

# Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

MARCH 31, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>6.1</b> MILLION	<b>3.4</b> MILLION	<b>3</b> MILLION	<b>482,816</b>	<b>740,212</b>
Estimated Population of CAR	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	Projected Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity Through August	Number of IDPs in CAR	Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers From CAR in Neighboring Countries
<i>UN – November 2022</i>	<i>UN – November 2022</i>	<i>IPC – November 2022</i>	<i>UNHCR – January 2023</i>	<i>UNHCR – February 2023</i>

- The 2023 HRP for CAR requests \$465 million to reach 2.4 million people with lifesaving, multi-sector assistance as climatic events, conflict, and displacement exacerbate needs countrywide.
- An estimated 3 million people in CAR will experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity from April to August, according to a November 2022 IPC analysis.
- The USAID/BHA-supported Rapid Response Mechanism continues to deliver timely support to recently displaced individuals in January and February, in one instance reaching nearly 4,900 newly returned IDPs in northern CAR with WASH assistance.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the CAR Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$61,401,756
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$3,500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,901,756</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

### 2023 HRP Aims to Reach 2.4 Million People with Humanitarian Aid in CAR

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), released by the UN in partnership with the Government of Central African Republic (CARG) in February, requests \$465 million to meet the multi-sector needs of approximately 2.4 million people across Central African Republic (CAR). The UN's goal represents an estimated 20 percent increase compared with the 2022 HRP and targets 71 percent of the 3.4 million people that the UN projects will require humanitarian assistance in CAR in 2023. The estimated number of people in need includes approximately 485,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 317,000 returned IDPs, and 2.6 million people residing in communities that host IDPs. The 2023 CAR HRP highlights food security, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as the highest-priority sectors for humanitarian response in 2023. In particular, food security and WASH needs have increased throughout the country compared to 2022, with the HRP reporting a 25 percent and 7 percent increase of people in need of assistance, respectively. In addition, armed conflict continues to increase civilians' vulnerability and generate protection risks, including child protection violations, gender-based violence (GBV), and human rights abuses across the country. Climatic shocks such as flooding, protracted conflict, and related displacement are the primary drivers of deteriorating humanitarian conditions across CAR. Additionally, the UN reports that insecurity continues to constrain humanitarian access and undermine efforts to deliver life-saving assistance to populations in need.

### Acute Food Insecurity Persists Across CAR in 2023

Nearly 3 million people, or an estimated 49 percent of the population, are likely to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between April and August, across all 72 of CAR's sub-prefectures, according to a November 2022 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.<sup>3</sup> Of that total, an estimated 807,000 individuals are likely to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity, according to the analysis. Climatic shocks—such as flooding and dry spells—as well as insecurity and rising food prices are driving CAR's food emergency. Ongoing insecurity, particularly in eastern CAR continues to limit populations' access to agricultural land, food, and income-generating activities, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). In addition, projected increases in the price of agricultural inputs, fuel, and many staple food commodities will likely affect households' ability to afford enough nutritious food, further exacerbating food security concerns, an IPC analysis reports. Prices of staple food items, including corn, groundnuts, rice, and palm oil, increased in 2023, reducing household purchasing power and limiting access to adequate food, the UN reports. Humanitarian access to individuals in need of food assistance is also constrained by insecurity. Despite these constraints, USAID/BHA-supported Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which allows partners to respond quickly to sudden developments in the region, provided food assistance to more than 4,300 individuals across the region in January.

### Clashes Generate Displacement; IDPs Return to Areas of Origin

Ongoing conflict-related insecurity across CAR continues to prompt displacement, with approximately 483,000 IDPs as of January, including nearly 59,000 people newly displaced in January alone, according to the UN. The majority of IDPs—approximately 346,000 individuals—reside in host communities, while 137,000 individuals shelter in IDP sites. The overall number of IDPs decreased by 6 percent compared to December 2022 as some IDPs returned to their areas of origin in December and January, according

<sup>3</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

to the UN. During this period, nearly 92,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin, with the majority returning to Bangui, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures due to improved security conditions in their communities, the UN reports. These trends broadly reflect shifting security conditions in various prefectures across the country.

Despite returns in some prefectures, clashes continue to endanger civilian populations and generate displacement in other areas of the country such as Basse-Kotto, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, and Vakaga prefectures. In particular, clashes between armed groups in Vakaga’s Ouandja commune in mid-February resulted in the displacement of 7,300 individuals to nearby areas of Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga prefectures, according to the UN. Armed groups looted livestock and non-food items as well as health center supplies in Vakaga’s Sikikede locality. Conflict-affected populations in Vakaga urgently required food assistance as of February following the recent violence, according to the UN.

USAID/BHA RRM partner Solidarités Internationale provided WASH assistance, including essential household items and relief commodities, to approximately 4,900 returned IDPs in Bamingui-Bangoran’s Ndélé sub-prefecture between January 29 and February 10 following displacement related to previous clashes between armed groups in December 2022. Additionally, the USAID/BHA partner reached approximately 4,800 individuals with hygiene awareness messaging during the period.

## **Incidents Involving Explosive Devices Result in Civilian Deaths, Limit Humanitarian Access in Western CAR**

Incidents involving landmines and other explosive devices have steadily increased countrywide since April 2021, particularly in CAR’s western prefectures of Mambéré-Kadei, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé, the UN reports. Twenty incidents involving explosive devices led to the deaths of at least nine people, including five civilians, between early January and mid-March; this represents 60 percent of the total number of deaths caused by explosive devices in all of 2022. Across CAR, explosive devices threaten the safety and security of civilians, who have accounted for nearly 75 percent of victims of explosive devices during 2023, according to the UN. Moreover, the increased presence of explosive devices compounds the access challenges humanitarian actors face due to persistent insecurity and physical access constraints. In Mambéré-Kadei, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé, the UN warns that restricted humanitarian access could result in the delay or suspension of assistance to nearly 940,000 individuals who require food, nutrition, protection, and WASH services, among other types of support.

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### **KEY FIGURES**



**\$41.8 Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2023

### **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, and returned IDPs. USAID/BHA is also supporting non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations across the country. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partners provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood

rehabilitation for CAR's most vulnerable households.



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USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting health and nutrition activities

## 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 diagnostic treatment, the operation of mobile clinics, and referral services for disease and injury. USAID/BHA NGO partners also provide essential medical commodities and training to community responders and clinics.



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USG-funded partners supporting 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 RRM partners, enabling relief actors to quickly dispatch supplies to crisis-affected areas.



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USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

## WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to populations in need across CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returned IDPs. 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.



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USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

## PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners 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.



## \$7.6 Million

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements in FY 2023

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports NGOs and UN agencies in providing individualized shelter assistance to IDPs, returned IDPs, 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 (IOM)—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.

### 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, 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 Coalition of Patriots for Change (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 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 A. Mahoney renewed the declaration of humanitarian need 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<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food	Bangui, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pendé	3,500,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IOM	ERMS, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide, Haute-Kotto, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham-Fafa	\$11,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Protection	Bamingui-Bangoran, Nana-Grébizi	\$200,000
Mentor	Health	Ouham-Fafa	\$799,021
Oxfam Intermon	WASH	Haute-Kotto, Ouham-Fafa	\$850,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Mambere-Kadei, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaere, Vakaga	\$23,986,455
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers and Vouchers for Food	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Mbomou, Ouaka	\$3,566,279
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$61,401,756</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$3,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$64,901,756</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 March 31, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> 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 [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)