

Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

JUNE 14, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>6.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>2.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – January 2024</i></p>	<p>2.5 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity from April to August</p> <p><i>IPC – November 2023</i></p>	<p>518,075</p> <p>People Internally Displaced Across CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – April 2024</i></p>	<p>750,622</p> <p>Number of Refugees from CAR Residing in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – May 2024</i></p>
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- Nearly 70,000 people arrived in CAR from Chad and Sudan between April 2023 and June 2024, according to the UN.
- Conflict remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity in CAR, with IDPs and refugees facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity, according to a March FEWS NET report. Approximately 2.5 million people, are expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity between April and August, according to the IPC.
- Incidents involving ERW and landmines have increased in CAR since 2021, with 82 incidents resulting in the deaths of 27 people in 2023.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the CAR Response in FY 2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$59,447,406
	State/PRM ²	\$5,680,000
Total		\$65,127,406

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

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

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers From Neighboring Countries Shelter in Displacement Sites in CAR, Face Heightened Humanitarian Needs

The number of asylum-seekers and refugees from Chad and Sudan arriving in the Central African Republic (CAR) continues to increase, according to the UN. Intercommunal conflicts involving armed groups in Chad displaced more than 38,000 people, including approximately 31,800 Chadian asylum-seekers and 6,200 Central Africans, to CAR's Lim-Pendé and Ouham prefectures between April 2023 and June 2024, according to the UN. Chadian asylum-seekers face significant humanitarian needs, including food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support, and currently reside in more than 50 villages in CAR along the border with Chad, which are among some of the least developed areas in CAR. In March, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners, along with the Government of CAR's National Commission for Refugees (CNR), organized a relocation convoy for 310 Chadian asylum-seekers from Markounda Sub-Prefecture—a particularly remote and insecure area in Ouham Prefecture, along the border with Chad—to the UNHCR-developed Betoko displacement site in Lim-Pendé Prefecture's Paoua Sub-Prefecture, bringing the site's population to more than 3,200 individuals as of March 30. The CNR identified Betoko as a reception site in July 2023 with plans to develop the site, in partnership with relief actors, to accommodate 10,000 people; UNHCR began relocating Chadian asylum-seekers to Betoko in November 2023. Although the majority of Chadian asylum-seekers in CAR have expressed a preference to remain near the border, CNR and humanitarian actors are encouraging Chadian asylum-seekers to relocate to the Betoko site, where relief actors can provide stronger protection and other humanitarian assistance.

As of early June, nearly 31,700 people, including approximately 25,500 Sudanese refugees and 6,200 Central African returnees, had arrived in CAR from Sudan since the onset of the Sudan conflict in April 2023, according to the UN. In particular, nearly 9,000 people from Sudan arrived in the UNHCR-managed Korsi displacement site in CAR's Birao town, located in Vakaga Prefecture's Birao Sub-Prefecture, between early January and late May, bringing the total to more than 12,700 people residing in the site as of May 31, according to UNHCR. The January-to-May arrivals mark a rapid increase in the number of people residing in the site, with the population growing approximately 345 percent population since December 2023. Insecurity in Sudan continues to generate protection concerns and hinder access to markets and livelihoods, driving people to flee across the border into CAR. The influx of people into Korsi has led to overcrowding and the deterioration of WASH conditions. The site only contained 179 functioning latrines as of May 15, resulting in 70 people per latrine, far exceeding the minimum Sphere standard key indicator of 20 people per latrine.³ The quantity of safe drinking water distributed had also fallen to approximately ten liters per person per day as of the same date, below the minimum Sphere standard key indicator of 15 liters per person per day, UNHCR reports.

In response to growing needs, U.S. Government (USG) partners International Medical Corps (IMC) and UNHCR and its cooperating partners provided food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH support to populations sheltering in Korsi. The partners conducted eight protection monitoring visits in Korsi and the host community of Birao and issued referrals for cases of gender-based violence (GBV), medical care, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The relief actors also provided more than 600 medical consultations, distributed more than 13,600 breakfasts and hot meals, and conducted nutrition screenings of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

³ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN, nongovernmental organizations, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

Conflict Remains Primary Driver of Acute Food Insecurity in CAR

Conflict remains the main driver of acute food insecurity in CAR, with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity, according to a March Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) report. An estimated 522,000 people remained displaced across CAR as of March, with more than 90 percent of IDPs citing armed clashes and community tensions as the causes of displacement, according to an International Organization for Migration (IOM) assessment conducted in December 2023 and January 2024. Insecurity also contributed to the rapid depletion of household food stocks in Haute-Kotto, Haute-Mbomou, Ouham-Pende, and Vakaga prefectures, causing households in these areas to experience an early onset of the lean season, which started in March but typically begins in April, heightening acute food insecurity outcomes during subsequent months, FEWS NET reports. Growing food insecurity has prompted households to adopt negative coping strategies, such as reducing the quantity of daily meals. Additionally, the suspected presence of explosive devices has restricted the movements of people who use roads and pathways to access income-generating opportunities and livelihoods, such as farming, and has also limited humanitarian access to food-insecure areas. The rapid depletion of household food stocks has increased demand for food at markets, leading to an increase in food prices, which were already elevated in conflict zones due to reduced supplies and high transport costs, and subsequently decreased households' purchasing power, FEWS NET reports. Approximately 2.5 million people—more than 40 percent of CAR's population—are expected to experience Crisis acute food insecurity conditions between April and August, with Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou, Nana-Mambere, and Ouham prefectures projected to face the highest levels of acute food insecurity, according to November 2023 IPC projections.

ERW and Landmine Incidents in 2023 Raise Protection Concerns for Civilians in Western CAR

Accidents involving explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines have increased in CAR since 2021, raising protection concerns among relief actors, according to the UN. A total of 82 ERW and landmine incidents led to the deaths of 27 people, including 19 civilians, in 2023, representing a 15 percent increase compared to 2022, the UN reports. Western prefectures, including Mambéré-Kadei, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé, were the most affected areas. The presence of ERW and landmines restrict the movement of civilians, who use various roads and pathways to access livelihoods, such as farming, thereby contributing to food insecurity. The presence or suspected presence of ERW and landmines also limits humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, often in areas already experiencing access obstructions due to armed conflict or poor infrastructure. In Mambéré-Kadei, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé, ERW and landmines hinder humanitarian access for the nearly 770,000 people in need targeted by humanitarian actors in 2024. Demining actors remain essential for the protection of civilians and the implementation of humanitarian operations.

With funding from the CAR Humanitarian Fund, USAID/BHA partner Humanity & Inclusion conducted ERW and landmine awareness-raising and risk reduction sessions for nearly 5,900 people, including more than 3,100 children, in Ouham-Pendé in 2023. The nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner also trained 40 humanitarian workers on the risks associated with explosive devices. Despite the awareness campaigns, the UN reports persistent needs remain and more assistance is necessary to strengthen and expand ERW and landmine risk education in western CAR.

KEY FIGURES



6

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting food assistance activities



6

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting health and nutrition activities



2

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting 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, vouchers redeemable for food in local markets, and U.S.-sourced rice, split peas, and vegetable oil—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including host community members, IDPs, refugees, and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports NGO partners to provide emergency food assistance to populations in need across the country. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood rehabilitation among CAR's most economically vulnerable households. Between May 23 and 29, UNHCR cooperating partner NOURRIR distributed more than 6,800 hot meals in Korsi with food donated by WFP and nearly 6,800 breakfasts with food donated by UNHCR.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports NGO partners to conduct supplementary feeding programs for children ages five years and younger and PLW 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 treatments, 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. In 2023, with USG support, UNICEF and partners trained more than 200 healthcare workers and nearly 2,000 community health workers to detect severe acute malnutrition among children and PLW. In addition, UNICEF delivered vitamin A supplements to more than 580,000 children ages 6 to 59 months during the year, achieving a coverage rate of nearly 90 percent. Since January, IMC and NOURRIR conducted more than 14,600 medical consultations and treated more than 1,000 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition in Korsi.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. 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 logistics and storage management for response organizations. USAID/BHA has also funded efforts to improve logistics platforms in CAR's capital city of Bangui to strengthen the response capabilities of members of the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which enables relief actors to quickly dispatch supplies to crisis-

affected areas. In 2023, the RRM’s monitoring system, which covered approximately 75 percent of the country, generated 125 alerts for emergencies that affected nearly 277,000 individuals. Approximately 65 percent of these alerts were related to violence, with others driven by natural disasters and IDP returns.



6

USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

WASH

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to populations in need across CAR, including IDPs 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 safe water sources and support water distribution systems within communities in need. In 2023, USG partner UNICEF provided access to safe water for nearly 100,000 vulnerable individuals through the rehabilitation and repair of more than 90 boreholes equipped with human-powered pumps, the implementation of emergency water supply systems, and the distribution of household water treatment kits.



6

USG-funded partners supporting protection activities

PROTECTION

USG 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 gender-based violence survivors; and providing individual MHPSS services. UNICEF provided nearly 40,000 children and adolescents and more than 5,500 caregivers with community-based mental health and MHPSS activities in 2023. UNICEF also provided gender-based violence prevention and response interventions that reached more than 280,000 individuals during the year.



3

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting shelter and settlement activities

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports NGOs and UN agencies providing individualized shelter assistance to IDPs, returnees, and conflict-affected host communities in CAR. USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners distribute emergency shelter kits and improve camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) services at IDP camps across CAR. USAID/BHA also supports IOM, which co-leads the CAR CCCM Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—to pre-position emergency shelter kits throughout the country. With USAID/BHA support, IOM collects mobility tracking data and provides transitional shelters to IDPs returning to their areas of origin.

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.
- An outbreak of election-related violence began in December 2020 between armed groups from the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), CARG, the 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 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.
- 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 6, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Mahoney renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2024 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country related to conflict impacts, climatic shocks, food insecurity, and refugee influxes from neighboring countries.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA²			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pendé	\$3,500,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IOM	ERMS, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$13,500,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection	Kémo, Mbomou, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$3,700,000
UNICEF	Nutrition—In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$800,000

WFP	Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$27,999,856
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$3,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance, ERMS, MPCA	Countrywide	\$3,433,721
Program Support			\$13,829
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$59,447,406
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	ERMS, WASH	Bangui, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka	\$1,400,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Bangui, Vakaga	\$4,280,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$5,680,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$65,127,406

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 14, 2024.

² This total does not include the more than \$5 million in FY 2024 State/PRM funding for Central African refugees in neighboring countries, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the CAR Complex Emergency in FY 2024 to more than \$70 million.

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.
- 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)