

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

JUNE 2, 2017

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**2.2 million**

People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance  
2017 HRP – November 2016

**503,600**

IDPs in CAR  
UN – May 2017

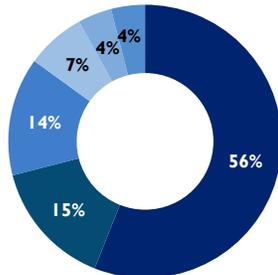
**54,400**

IDPs in Bangui  
UN – May 2017

**481,000**

Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries  
UN – April 2017

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (56%)
- Health (15%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (14%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (7%)
- Protection (4%)
- Shelter & Settlements (4%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (80%)
- Food Vouchers (20%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Fighting in southeastern CAR displaces up to 100,000 people during May
- WFP begins food airlifts to conflict-affected Bangassou
- Conflict resurfaces in Bria town during mid-May
- Relief actors suspend and reduce operations in Ouham due to insecurity

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA	\$11,595,934
USAID/FFP	\$28,959,989
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$17,025,000
<b>\$57,580,923</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Conflict in southeastern Central African Republic (CAR) since early May has resulted in approximately 300 deaths and displaced up to 100,000 people, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to more than 500,000, according to the UN and international media. May displacement reflects the largest wave of population movement since the peak of CAR's humanitarian crisis in December 2013 and the highest number of IDPs countrywide since August 2014. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for CAR Najat Rochdi has expressed concern regarding the resurgence of violence, including incidents of armed actors targeting civilians based on political and religious affiliation and other human rights violations.
- Despite moderate harvest improvements, insecurity and associated effects on livelihoods continue to constrain food access for vulnerable households in CAR, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Fighting across southeastern CAR's Mbomou, Basse-Kotto, and Haute-Kotto prefectures displaced an estimated 100,000 Central Africans during May and prompted nearly 20,600 additional people to seek refuge in neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to international media and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In Basse-Kotto's Alindao town, early-May clashes resulted in at least 130 deaths and the displacement of more than 11,000 people, the UN reports. As of late May, the total number of IDPs in CAR had risen to 503,600 people, an increase of 14 percent from the 440,000 IDPs identified in April, according to the UN. In a May 28 press release, RC/HC Rochdi condemned the recent violence, including targeting of civilians, and called on all those involved in the conflict to respect international law and avoid a further deterioration of the situation.
- Humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in CAR continue to face conflict-related access challenges, including those that hinder the provision of health and protection services. During recent discussions with U.S. Government (USG) representatives, NGO staff highlighted access challenges, including attacks on aid workers, as a primary impediment to humanitarian operations. Humanitarian actors also noted that limited funding and international attention to CAR are hindering the ability of many organizations to continue their work. As of early June, the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for CAR had received only 25 percent of the \$400 million required to meet humanitarian needs in the conflict-affected country through December.
- A mid-May uptick in violence between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka armed groups in Mbomou—previously an area of relative calm—internally displaced up to 5,350 people and resulted in the deaths of at least 115 people and six UN peacekeepers, according to the UN and international media. Since May 16, armed groups have mostly observed a ceasefire in Mbomou's city of Bangassou, although the UN reports continued looting and property destruction in the area. IDPs are sheltering in two ad-hoc displacement sites in Bangassou, while nearly 20,600 people fled to Bas-Uélé and Nord-Ubangi provinces in neighboring DRC. The UN reports that refugees from Bangassou are not arriving in areas of Bas-Uélé affected by an ongoing Ebola Virus Disease outbreak. Displacement figures remain fluid, as the UN and partners continue to register and verify displaced populations. A crisis response team—comprising UN and NGO staff—is coordinating humanitarian efforts in Bangassou, including a May 18 joint needs assessment mission, and liaising with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA).
- A resurgence of fighting between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka armed groups in Haute-Kotto's Bria town killed at least 17 civilians and displaced approximately 41,000 people to three ad-hoc displacement sites in the town since violence erupted from May 15–18, according to the UN. Insecurity also prompted humanitarian staff in Bria to temporarily shelter inside a MINUSCA base in the town, international media report. The violence calmed following MINUSCA interventions in mid-May. Although relief actors provided life-saving assistance in the days that followed escalated violence, the UN has identified relief commodities and emergency food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance as critical needs among IDPs in Bria. The UN is also concerned about protection risks, given continued reports of violence against civilians in the town.
- As of early May, five NGOs—Danish Church Aid, Intersos, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Person in Need Relief Mission, and Solidarités International—had temporarily suspended operations in Ouham Prefecture due to insecurity, while other organizations operating in the prefecture had limited operations to only life-saving activities, the UN reports. To date in 2017, the UN has recorded at least 33 security incidents affecting relief actors in CAR, with 16 attacks recorded in western Ouham since March.
- Ongoing insecurity in Ouaka Prefecture displaced approximately 6,000 people during April, bringing the total number of IDPs in the prefecture to an estimated 96,900 people, the UN reports. In addition, clashes between armed groups on May 2 reportedly resulted in house fires that killed three civilians in Zoubingui village, approximately 50 miles from Ouaka's town of Bambari. The majority of the village's estimated 1,600 residents had previously vacated Zoubingui following clashes in February 2016.

## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Vulnerable households in CAR, particularly in Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Vakaga prefectures, are likely to continue experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—level acute food insecurity until at least September, FEWS NET reports.<sup>4</sup> Although recent harvests have improved food access for some households, persistent insecurity and associated effects on livelihoods and markets continue to limit access to food for many households. In conflict-affected areas, humanitarian assistance remains vital to preventing acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations, according to FEWS NET.
- In response to May violence in Mbomou, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) has begun airlifting food to Bangassou. The UN agency plans to transport food commodities sufficient for an estimated 7,200 people—mainly women and children—and specialized nutritional food for children younger than two years of age.
- In April, a lack of resources for the CAR humanitarian response forced WFP to reduce general in-kind food distributions within the country by 50 percent. In addition, the UN agency began providing half rations to refugees from CAR residing in neighboring countries. Despite funding constraints and ongoing insecurity that continues to impede humanitarian access in the country, WFP reported reaching 414,000 people with food and nutrition assistance during April.
- With approximately \$29 million in FY 2017 assistance, USAID/FFP continues to support WFP's emergency response efforts, including food, cash, and voucher distributions, for vulnerable populations within CAR and refugees from CAR residing in neighboring countries. Since 2015, USAID/FFP has contributed approximately 40 percent of all funding received for the operation, meeting approximately 23 percent of WFP's overall funding requirements.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

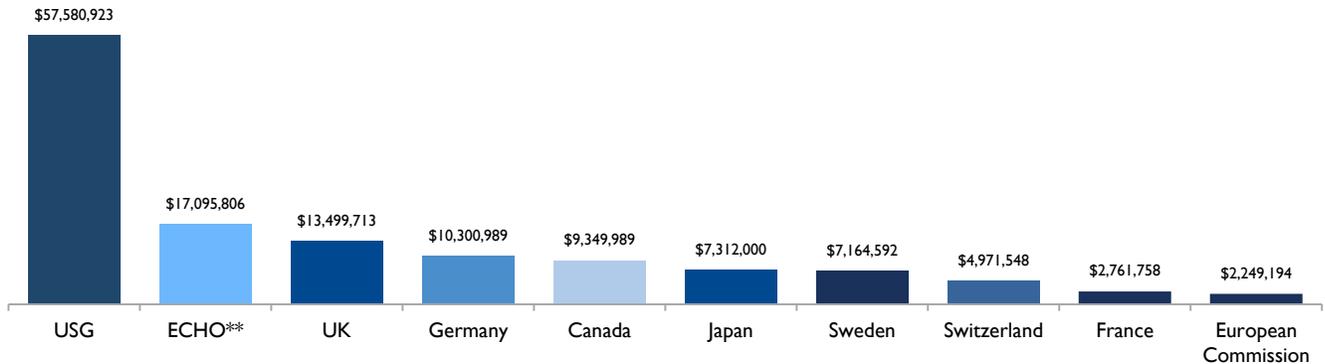
- The Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—targeted nearly 936,800 people with health care services across 38 sub-prefectures of CAR from January to April. During the reporting period, the UN World Health Organization and other cluster partners provided more than 93,800 health consultations, including reproductive health services and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence; polio vaccinations for nearly 927,400 children younger than five years of age; and trauma care training for 55 health workers in late March.
- In Ouaka's Ippy sub-prefecture, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided medical and nutrition assistance to an estimated 5,000 IDPs through support to the Mbangolo health facility during April. UNICEF support included installation of a patient care tent, donation of 16 medical kits, and medical treatment for more than 700 patients. Nearly 58 percent of patients treated were experiencing symptoms of malaria, UNICEF reports.
- From January to April, the USAID/OFDA-supported, UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) distributed critical relief items to approximately 39,000 people and provided WASH services to more than 17,100 people across CAR. The majority of RRM beneficiaries are conflict-affected IDPs or returnees in Basse-Kotto, Kémo, Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures. Since January, the RRM has conducted rapid, multi-sector assessments in newly affected areas; rehabilitated 21 water sources; provided 43 hygiene promotion sessions; and completed 11 relief item distributions countrywide, UNICEF reports.
- Additionally, UNICEF supported relief actors and local government authorities to supply safe drinking water to an estimated 13,600 IDPs in Nana-Grébizi's town of Kaga-Bandoro, 35,000 residents of Ouham's town of Bossangoa, and 14,600 IDPs in Ouham's town of Batangafo during April.

<sup>4</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, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 11, RC/HC Najat Rochdi announced the allocation of \$9 million from the CAR Humanitarian Fund—a country-based pooled fund managed by the UN—to address urgent needs in Basse-Kotto, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, and Ouham-Pendé. This initial allocation for 2017 aims to provide relief commodities and health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance to displaced and vulnerable populations in CAR.

### 2017 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of June 2, 2017. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments from FY 2017, which began on October 1, 2016. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among Central African refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

\*\*European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

## CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed alliance began to advance 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 in CAR further deteriorated on December 5, 2013, when clashes erupted between militants associated with the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups, composed of armed fighters that opposed ex-Séléka forces.
- Following a transitional government period, CAR held presidential elections in December 2015 and February 2016—electing Faustin-Archange Touadéra as president. President Touadéra assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- As of early 2017, the security situation throughout CAR remained volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, and peacekeeping forces. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations, particularly in more remote areas of CAR.
- On October 12, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey J. Hawkins reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2017 due to the scale of current and projected humanitarian needs in the country.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017<sup>1</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$121,210
IOM	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham	\$2,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health	Nana-Grébizi	\$500,000
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,200,000
Plan International	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection	Lobaye, Ouham, Nana-Grébizi	\$774,724
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$11,595,934</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	7,020 Metric Tons (MT) of U.S.-Procured In-Kind Food Aid for General Food Distribution	Countrywide	\$11,994,298
	7,840 MT of U.S.-Procured In-Kind Food Aid for Distribution to Central African Refugees	Cameroon	\$9,989,864
	Cash and Voucher Assistance for Central African Refugees	DRC	\$6,000,000
	540 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid for Distribution to Central African Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$975,827
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$28,959,989</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$9,100,000
	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Refugees	CAR	\$4,800,000
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$2,700,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	CAR	\$425,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$17,025,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$57,580,923</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 2, 2017.

<sup>3</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 [www.interaction.org](http://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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at  
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>