

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

APRIL 9, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4.6 million

Population of CAR
UN – January 2018

2.5 million

People in CAR Requiring Humanitarian Assistance
UN – January 2018

2 million

People in CAR Facing Food Insecurity
IPC Analysis – February 2017

681,000

IDPs in CAR
UN – February 2018

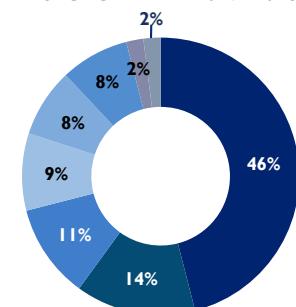
85,400

IDPs in Bangui
UN – November 2017

567,900

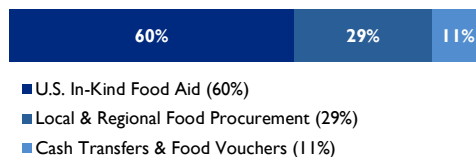
Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UN – February 2018

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017–2018



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (46%)
- Shelter & Settlements (14%)
- Health (11%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (8%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (8%)
- Protection (2%)
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (2%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017–2018



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (60%)
- Local & Regional Food Procurement (29%)
- Cash Transfers & Food Vouchers (11%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence and security incidents continue to disrupt relief activities across CAR
- The number of IDPs in CAR increases by nearly 70 percent since February 2017
- Food security conditions deteriorate, leaving more than 87,000 children at risk of acute malnutrition

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA	\$39,967,747
USAID/FFP	\$62,046,507
State/PRM ³	\$54,196,665
Total	\$156,210,919

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Insecurity and violence continue to restrict humanitarian access across Central African Republic (CAR). Attacks targeting civilians and humanitarian staff have continued in recent months, with one incident in Ouham Prefecture resulting in four aid worker deaths.
- Clashes between armed groups near Ouaka Prefecture's capital town of Bambari have caused approximately 11,200 people to flee to internally displaced person (IDP) sites in and around Bambari in recent weeks. In addition, an attack against a UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) base in Ouaka resulted in the death of one peacekeeper on April 3.
- Ongoing conflict in CAR resulted in the fifth consecutive year of poor harvests in 2017. Additionally, insecurity continues to restrict access to markets, further limiting food accessibility for vulnerable households. Relief actors estimate that more than 87,000 children may face acute malnutrition in CAR during 2018.

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

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

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

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Countrywide

- Population movement in CAR remains fluid, with relief organizations reporting both new population displacement and IDP returns to areas of origin. In February, the UN reported that nearly 681,000 IDPs were sheltering across CAR, representing a decrease of 7,000 people since January. However, this figure represents a nearly 70 percent increase from February 2017, when more than 402,000 IDPs were sheltering in CAR, according to UN estimates. Overall, increased violence against civilians in recent months continues to prompt displacement, with nearly 567,900 Central African refugees sheltering in neighboring countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Republic of the Congo, as of February 2018.

Northwest and West

- Criminality and violence continue to restrict humanitarian access to vulnerable populations in northwestern and western CAR, including parts of Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures. On March 24, armed assailants attacked an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convoy traveling between Ouham's Bossangoa and Nangha Boguila towns, according to local media. Although the attackers seized cash and communications equipment, the incident did not result in any injuries. The ICRC convoy, containing food and other emergency assistance, was destined for Ouham's Markounda town, where at least 7,000 IDPs were sheltering as of late March. In response, ICRC temporarily suspended operations in the vicinity of Markounda, local media reported.
- A February 25 attack by armed actors in Markounda resulted in the death of one UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) consultant, three non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, and two officials from the Government of CAR (CARG) Ministry of Education, the UN reports. The individuals, all CAR nationals, were traveling to Markounda to establish a teacher training program to benefit approximately 2,000 displaced children. Following the attack, a security-focused organization recommended suspending all humanitarian staff movement near Markounda, pending further updates on the security situation.
- In mid-March, the UN called for additional MINUSCA patrols in Ouham's Batangafo town to prevent criminal elements from targeting humanitarian assets and personnel. On March 12, unidentified assailants attempted to rob a relief organization's compound in Batangafo; MINUSCA forces intervened, preventing the robbery, the UN reports. Increased criminal activity targeting humanitarian organization facilities, including residencies and offices, between September and December 2017 had previously prompted some relief agencies to suspend activities in Batangafo.
- Instability in Ouham-Pendé has displaced approximately 65,000 people to the prefecture's Paoua town since December 2017, the UN reports. While tensions and sporadic clashes between armed groups persist, security conditions in and around Paoua improved in February due to increased MINUSCA presence, prompting some IDPs to begin assessing whether security conditions are sufficient to return to areas of origin, a USAID/OFDA partner reports.
- Relief organizations continue to conduct multi-sector interventions to address acute needs and outstanding response gaps in the vicinity of Paoua, according to the UN. On February 27, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) resumed emergency food distributions for approximately 32,000 people in Ouham-Pendé's Bocaranga, Kouï, and Ngaoundaye sub-prefectures, after relief organizations suspended activities in December 2017 due to insecurity. Additionally, WFP and other humanitarian actors distributed a 10-day ration of emergency food assistance to nearly 11,500 vulnerable households in Paoua on March 1.

East and Southeast

- Violence and reprisal attacks between armed groups near Bambari have escalated in recent weeks, prompting approximately 11,200 people to flee to IDP sites in Bambari and nearby Seko and Tagbara villages, humanitarian actors report. On April 3, suspected anti-Balaka elements attacked a MINUSCA peacekeeping base in Tagbara, international media report. The attack resulted in the death of one peacekeeper and injured at least 11 others. Previous clashes between armed elements in Tagbara resulted in at least 20 civilian deaths, including a parish priest and children residing at the Catholique Mission, as well as destruction of houses on March 20–21, according to local reports. The UN

Security Council and UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued statements condemning the attacks and called on authorities to launch investigations to bring those responsible to justice. Relief organizations—including USAID/OFDA partners—are distributing food and relief commodities and delivering emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to address the acute needs of IDPs in Bambari and the newly created IDP sites in Seko and Tagbari. In addition, USAID/FFP partner WFP is providing emergency food assistance to nearly 17,800 IDPs in Bambari.

- On March 14, humanitarian actors in Haute-Kotto Prefecture’s Bria town visited six districts where IDPs have reportedly begun to return due to improved security conditions, the UN reports. More than 320 people had returned to Bria’s Ndrou 4 neighborhood and were sheltering in abandoned houses or attempting to rehabilitate homes that were damaged during recent conflict in the town, according to the assessment team. The team also identified immediate food, relief commodity, shelter, and WASH needs among returnees.
- Attacks against civilians in Mbomou Prefecture’s Rafai sub-prefecture resulted in at least five deaths from March 2–6, security actors report. An armed group entered Rafai’s Guerekindo village on March 2, prompting residents to flee, and subsequently continued toward Rafai town. Humanitarian actors estimate that 6,000 people, including IDPs sheltering in Rafai, had fled the area by March 3 in anticipation of continued violence.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The Nutrition Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian nutrition activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—estimates more than 87,000 children may experience acute malnutrition in CAR during 2018. Protracted insecurity disrupted agricultural production during 2017, resulting in the fifth consecutive year of poor harvests of staple crops such as maize, millet, and sorghum, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In addition, attacks by armed actors and illegal checkpoints along main roads have restricted access to markets in recent months, further limiting access to food and other commodities, FAO reports. As of March 14, UNICEF had admitted nearly 3,100 children in CAR ages five years and younger for acute malnutrition treatment in 2018.
- The start of the agricultural lean season—the period when food is most scarce—will likely begin in April, instead of June, due to continued deterioration of livelihoods, decreased food accessibility, and limited humanitarian access, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). IDPs and vulnerable host communities in eastern, northwestern, and southeastern regions of CAR will likely continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity or worse until at least September.⁴ People in areas more accessible to humanitarian actors are expected to experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels during the same period.
- In March, Action Against Hunger (AAH), the CARG, and other humanitarian actors conducted rapid Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions surveys in Basse-Kotto Prefecture’s Mbelime commune and Nana-Mambéré Prefecture’s Niem-Yelewa commune. In Mbelime, NGO Agence Africaine Humanitaire reported a global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of more than 12 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence of nearly 4 percent among children ages five years and younger, exceeding the national emergency threshold set by the CARG. In Niem-Yelewa, AAH reported a GAM prevalence of nearly 8 percent and a SAM prevalence of 2 percent.
- Prices of staple food items—including cassava, maize, palm oil, and rice—in Paoua increased by as much as 92 percent between November 2017 and January 2018, according to a WFP assessment. The increased prices have limited the ability of IDPs and host communities to purchase sufficient quantities of food. The WFP assessment attributes price increases to limited food supply in the area due to the burning of grain storage facilities in nearby villages and insecurity-related closures of supply routes, as well as increased demand resulting from the large influx of IDPs into Paoua. With \$14.9 million in FY 2018 funding, USAID/FFP is supporting WFP food distribution to vulnerable IDP and host communities in Paoua.

⁴ 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.

HEALTH

- Relief actors are monitoring and responding to monkeypox cases in Ouaka's Ippy town. As of March 25, relief actors had reported eight cases of monkeypox, six of which were laboratory-confirmed, according to the UN World Health Organization. Affected individuals are receiving medical treatment at a local hospital; no deaths were reported as of mid-March. Relief organizations—including USAID/OFDA partners International Medical Corps (IMC) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)—are coordinating with the CARG Ministry of Health and Population to mitigate the risk of additional disease transmission, given limited health infrastructure in affected areas. Affected patients are receiving free health care, while public awareness campaigns remain ongoing.
 - With USAID/OFDA funding, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is improving access to health care for displaced communities in Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures. IRC is deploying a mobile clinic to provide health services in inaccessible areas and training community health workers from 26 health centers across the prefectures.
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PROTECTION

- Recent reports of gender-based violence (GBV) reaffirm critical gaps in access to protection services for survivors of GBV in CAR. At least 10 women sought medical assistance on March 3 after armed elements sexually assaulted civilians near Bossangoa, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reports. Members of a local armed group attacked the women as they collected water, tended to crops, or washed clothes near Kiriwiri, a village approximately 35 miles from Bossangoa. According to the survivors, many affected women did not seek medical assistance, fearing exclusion from their communities. Since September 2017, MSF has treated 56 GBV cases in Bossangoa. MSF estimates the actual number of cases to be much higher, citing lack of access to medical services and social stigma as factors contributing to underreporting of GBV incidents.
 - Armed groups in CAR regularly commit sexual violence against boys and men in captivity, according to a study released in March by international research group All Survivors' Project. Survivors also include boys and men who experienced GBV after rejecting recruitment attempts by armed actors. The group notes that insufficient medical and psychosocial support for male GBV survivors is due in part to frequent underreporting and lack of public awareness.
 - With \$800,000 in FY 2017–2018 funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting four NGOs to conduct emergency protection programs, including GBV assistance, in at-risk areas of CAR. In Haute-Kotto, USAID/OFDA partner IMC is providing clinical management of rape services and training community health workers and local protection committees to identify GBV cases and refer affected individuals for medical and psychosocial care.
 - IMC, in coordination with another relief organization, is providing health care services and GBV interventions in Bria, where humanitarian actors have recently reported child protection violations, civilian movement restrictions, property rights infringements, instances of GBV, and reduced humanitarian access to the *Pointe Kilométrique 3* (PK3) IDP site due to threats against relief actors. The Protection Cluster recommends increased support for voluntary IDP returns in Bria; strengthened MINUSCA security support; sustained response capacity at PK3 and other Bria IDP sites; and improved coordination between MINUSCA and local authorities to mitigate ongoing protection violations in Bria.
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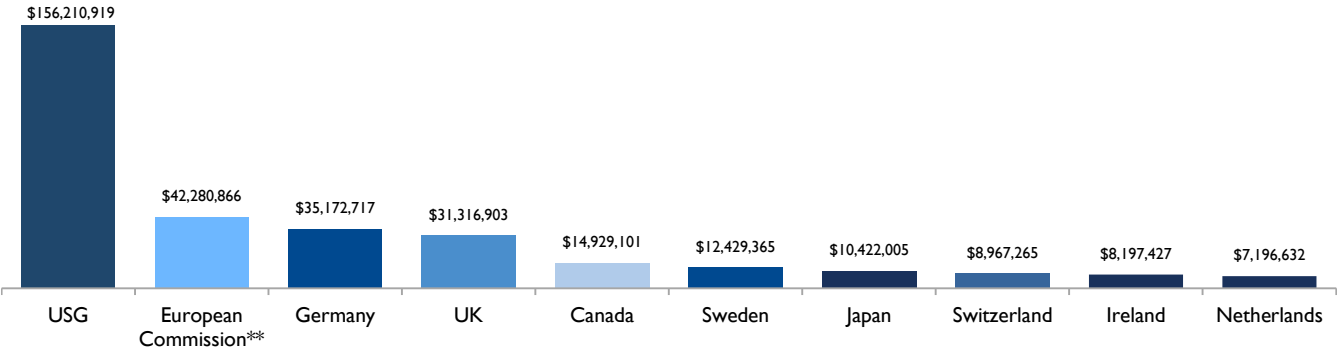
USG ASSISTANCE

- U.S. Government (USG) partners continue to provide emergency food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, WASH, and other assistance to vulnerable populations across CAR. Between March 7–13, the USAID/OFDA-supported Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), managed by UNICEF, distributed hygiene kits and relief commodities—including kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, and tarp—in six villages near Boguila, Ouham, providing WASH assistance to more than 8,900 conflict-affected people. To improve local access to safe drinking water, the RRM also rehabilitated three boreholes and supported the reinstallation of three community water management committees. With \$8 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2017–2018 funding, the RRM assists approximately 230,000 vulnerable people in CAR by

supporting monitoring of humanitarian needs, implementation of multi-sector assessments, and provision of emergency relief commodities and WASH assistance where humanitarian response capacity is restricted or unavailable.

- With USAID/OFDA support, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) rehabilitated an estimated 600 houses damaged by violence in the capital city of Bangui’s *Pointe Kilométrique 5* (PK5) neighborhood. The USAID/OFDA-funded shelter assistance supported populations in PK5’s Fondo area, where ACTED also conducted community peacebuilding activities.
- A joint team of representatives from USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and State/PRM traveled to CAR from February 16–24. The team, joined by U.S. Embassy in Bangui staff, conducted a field visit to Paoua on February 24 to assess the humanitarian needs of IDPs sheltering in the town and observe USG-supported interventions by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and WFP. Many IDPs emphasized the need for income-generating opportunities and expressed concern that continued displacement could disrupt the upcoming planting season beginning in late March, leaving affected populations reliant on emergency food assistance until the next farming season in 2019, USG staff report. IDPs also highlighted additional needs, including health care services, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities.

2017–2018 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*
PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of April 9, 2018. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar years of 2017 and 2018, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments from FY 2017, which began on October 1, 2016, and FY 2018, which began on October 1, 2017. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among Central African refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.
**Includes contributions from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

CONTEXT

- 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. President Touadéra assumed the office of the presidency on March 30, 2016.
- Conflict between armed groups continues to persist across much of CAR in 2018; however, armed groups have fragmented and reformed among various alliances, complicating the ongoing crisis. An estimated 2.5 million people in CAR require humanitarian assistance, while nearly 567,900 people have fled the violence in CAR to neighboring countries. The security situation throughout CAR remains volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, and UN peacekeeping forces.
- On October 12, 2017, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., David Brownstein reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2018 due to the scale of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
AAH	Health	Kémo, Ouaka	\$500,000
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements	Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou	\$2,500,000
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Ouaka	\$1,293,372
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements	Basse-Kotto, Mbomou	\$1,500,000
DRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,750,000
Handicap International	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$500,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto	\$1,089,816
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$121,210
International NGO Security Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$900,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka, Ouham	\$2,000,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham-Pendé	\$2,300,000
MENTOR Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,200,000

Mercy Corps	ERMS, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Ouaka	\$1,100,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, Ombella M'Poko, Ouaka	\$1,000,000
Oxfam	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,500,000
Plan International	ERMS, Protection	Lobaye, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham	\$774,724
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Bangui	\$1,300,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Ouham	\$500,000
	Program Support		\$138,625
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$39,967,747
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$81,227
	14,250 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$25,609,359
	11,666 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$16,800,000
	7,840 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Cameroon	\$10,679,969
WFP	Food Vouchers and 1,490 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Cameroon	\$2,000,000
	Cash Transfers for Food and Food Vouchers	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$6,000,000
	540 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Republic of the Congo	\$875,952
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$62,046,507
State/PRM			
CRS	Livelihoods and Protection	Cameroon	\$975,000
CARE	Livelihoods and Protection	Chad	\$974,998
ICRC	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$16,300,000
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	Protection	Cameroon	\$349,266
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Livelihoods and Protection	Cameroon	\$1,034,367
	Livelihoods and Protection	Chad	\$942,000
PUI	Gender-based Violence Response, Peacebuilding, Livelihoods	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$17,600,000
	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Refugees	Countrywide	\$9,400,000

	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Republic of the Congo	\$2,700,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$425,000
	Logistics Support	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$975,000
World Vision	Gender-Based Violence Response, Livelihoods, WASH	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$1,021,034
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$54,196,665
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018			\$156,210,919

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts.

³ 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.
- 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 or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>