

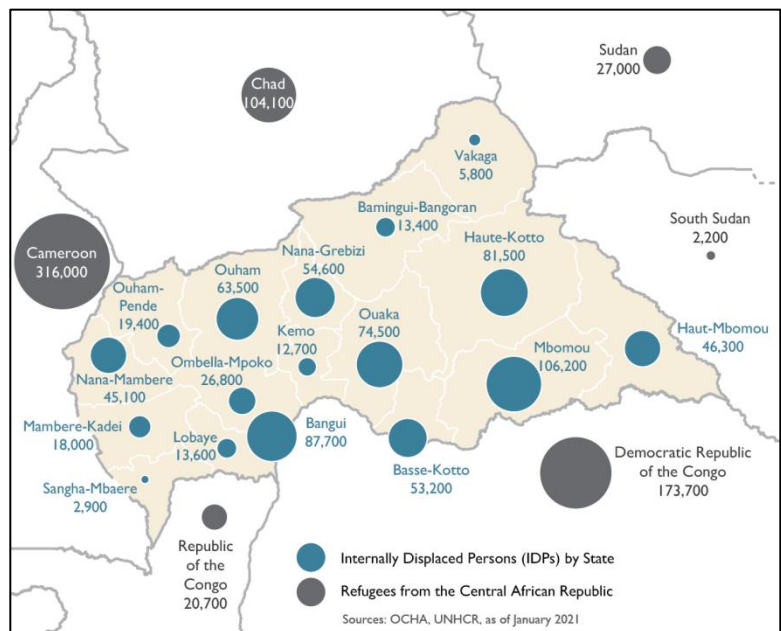
# Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

MARCH 8, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>4.9</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p> | <p><b>2.8</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – December 2020</i></p> | <p><b>1.9</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People Facing Acute Food Insecurity Through April 2021</p> <p><i>UN – September 2020</i></p> | <p><b>725,193</b></p> <p>Number of IDPs in CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2021</i></p> | <p><b>641,377</b></p> <p>Central African Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2021</i></p> |
|--|---|---|---|---|

- Approximately one-third of CAR’s population remains displaced due to intensifying armed conflict surrounding the December 27 presidential elections.
- The first humanitarian convoy since mid-December successfully delivered life-saving relief commodities to CAR’s capital city of Bangui in early February.
- U.S. Ambassador to the DRC Michael A. Hammer visited newly arrived Central African refugees in the DRC’s Nord-Ubangi Province.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the CAR Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$34,682,432

State/PRM<sup>2</sup> \$81,500

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

**Total \$34,763,932**

<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)

| IPC Status <sup>3</sup><br>September 2020–April 2021 |  |
|--|--|
| Phase 5  | 0 people in Catastrophe                  |
| Phase 4  | 407,877 people in Emergency              |
| Phase 3  | 1,520,732 people in Crisis               |
| Phase 2  | 1,756,781 people in Stress               |
| Phase 1  | 1,058,613 people Minimally Food Insecure |

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Escalating Violence Exacerbates Needs in CAR

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has significantly deteriorated following the invalidation of former president François Bozizé's candidacy for presidential election by the Government of CAR (CARG) Constitutional Court. Leading up to the December 2020 presidential election in CAR, a coalition of six armed groups united to form the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC). Aligned with Bozizé, the CPC engaged in a prolonged offensive to seize control of major urban areas from CARG authorities. By mid-January, the CPC offensive had reached Bangui before being repelled by the Armed Forces of CAR (FACA), UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) peacekeepers, and Russian and Rwandan forces supporting the CARG.

The recent election-related violence has constrained humanitarian access, displaced approximately 276,000 people within CAR, and prompted 109,000 civilians to seek refuge in neighboring countries. In addition, rising insecurity has exacerbated humanitarian needs across CAR, even as state security forces recapture territory formerly controlled by the CPC, the UN Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports. As of January 31, more than 725,000 people were displaced within the country, the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDP) in CAR since January 2014, according to the Commission on Population Movements, a non-governmental working group that tracks population displacement in CAR. According to the UN, newly displaced populations were primarily located in CAR's Basse-Kotto, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-M'poko, Ouaka, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures, as of January. Displaced households are sheltering in town centers, in forested areas outside of towns, and with host families. In addition, the violence has resulted in significant protection violations, including sexual violence and separation of children from their families, according to State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

September estimates of acute food insecurity initially projected 1.9 million people in CAR would face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through April 2021. However, the significant increase in mass population displacement, declining trade, increases in food prices and insecurity-related field access challenges for farmers who were unable to fully harvest crops has contributed to approximately 2.3 million people in need of emergency food assistance in early March, according to USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP).

### Humanitarian Convoy Delivers Life-Saving Assistance to Bangui

The escalating armed conflict has had a particularly adverse impact in Bangui, as insecurity, threats to customs officials, and targeted attempts by CPC elements to cut off supplies to the capital prevented commercial and humanitarian organizations from transporting supplies to the city from mid-December to early February. As the blockade continued, relief actors reported declining local food stocks, rising prices of staple goods, and shortages of medicine and other basic items in the city.

The arrival of a humanitarian convoy carrying food assistance and relief commodities from WFP and other relief actors has helped alleviate the heightened humanitarian needs in Bangui and surrounding communities. Escorted by MINUSCA, the convoy successfully traveled from neighboring Cameroon's Garoua-Mboulai town to CAR between February 3 and 8, and delivered nearly 90 metric tons (MT) of

<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.

food commodities to Bouar town, located in Nana-Mambéré, as well as 60 MT of food to Bangui. The convoy's arrival marks the first successful passage of commercial or humanitarian commodities along Main Supply Route 1 (MSR-I)—Bangui's primary overland supply route—since mid-December, international media report.

While security along MSR-I has gradually improved in recent weeks and small convoys carrying commercial and humanitarian goods have begun to reach Bangui, resumption of regular traffic will likely take months, as hundreds of trucks carrying relief commodities and commercial goods have been stuck at the Cameroon-CAR border since mid-December. Moving forward, relief actors are considering alternate supply routes to increase the flow of humanitarian assistance into CAR during periods of heightened insecurity.

### **Rising Insecurity Increases Threats to Civilians, Aid Workers in CAR**

The intensified violence in CAR has exacerbated civilian protection risks across the country, including sexual violence, familial separation, and other protection violations. MINUSCA documented at least 24 incidents of violence against civilians—including attacks on hospitals and schools, gender-based violence (GBV), and kidnapping—affecting at least 32 individuals across the country from February 16 to 22, compared to 17 incidents affecting at least 32 victims between February 9 and 15. In response to heightened civilian protection risks, U.S. Government (USG) partners continue to provide psychosocial support and other protection services to GBV survivors and conflict-affected communities.

The recent violence in CAR has also adversely affected relief operations within the country. OCHA documented 66 security incidents—primarily burglaries, looting, and robberies of humanitarian commodities, equipment or facilities—affecting aid workers in January, representing the highest number of reported security incidents ever recorded in CAR. Although the number of reported security incidents affecting humanitarian aid workers declined to 49 reported cases in February, the UN agency maintains that relief actors operating in CAR continue to face heightened security risks. To ensure the safety of their staff, relief actors remain in regular contact with the UN Department of Safety and Security and other sources of humanitarian safety information to receive up-to-date information on local security risks.

### **USG Officials Visit Central African Refugees in Northern DRC**

Ambassador Hammer and USAID staff—including Mission Director in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Paul Sabatine—participated in a joint delegation comprising diplomatic and UN officials that visited the Inke refugee camp and nearby host communities in the DRC's Nord-Ubangi Province from February 18 to 19 to assess the humanitarian needs of newly arrived Central African refugees in northern DRC. During the visit, the delegation participated in a question-and-answer session with the refugees, who requested an increase in the amount of cash-based food assistance and livelihoods support, as well as greater protection and sanitation services.

In addition to the 725,000 citizens displaced within CAR, insecurity and intensified armed conflict prompted more than 109,000 individuals to seek refuge in neighboring Cameroon, Chad, the DRC, and the Republic of the Congo (RoC) from mid-December to late February, according to UNHCR. As of late February, more than 1.5 million people—approximately one-third of the country's population—had fled their communities of origin in CAR due to the ongoing armed conflict, including 1.3 million people displaced prior to mid-December. The USG continues to work with host nation governments and relief actors to provide life-saving assistance to displaced persons in CAR, as well as Central African refugees in neighboring countries.

### **UNHCR Assists Newly Displaced Persons in CAR and the DRC**

In response to the recent influx of Central African refugees to northern DRC, UNHCR is conducting biometric registration of newly arrived Central African refugees in Nord-Ubangi. The UN agency also continues to pre-position relief commodities in Bas-Uélé Province's Ndu town and Nord-Ubangi's

Yakoma town in advance of the upcoming April-to-September rainy season, when relief actors anticipate that areas of northern DRC with large Central African refugee populations may become inaccessible due to flooding.

Meanwhile in CAR, UNHCR has partnered with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to provide shelter materials and other urgent support to four IDP settlements in Bangui, as well as supported the Return and Reintegration Support Project in CAR (PARET) to provide camp coordination and camp management services to the PK22 IDP camp near the city. The UN agency has also launched a \$165 million appeal to provide humanitarian assistance to nearly 1.5 million Central African IDPs and refugees in the coming months.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$26.5 Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food and nutrition assistance in FY 2021



**\$6 Million**

In FY 2021 support for critical logistics operations and shelter needs in CAR



**18,000**

Number of Central African returnees assisted by State/PRM partner UNHCR

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced rice, vegetable oil, and yellow split peas, as well as vouchers redeemable for food in local markets, cash transfers, and locally and regionally procured food—to food-insecure populations throughout CAR, including IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is also supporting non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations across the country.

To prevent and treat malnutrition, USAID/BHA also supports WFP to conduct a supplementary feeding program for children and pregnant and lactating women, while the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides emergency nutrition assistance to children, mothers and caregivers. USAID/BHA partners also provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihoods rehabilitation for CAR's most vulnerable households, while distributing emergency food assistance to Central African refugees sheltering in Cameroon, the DRC, and the RoC.

### LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. In January 2021, when humanitarian air services were most urgently needed due to lack of road access across CAR, USAID/BHA provided the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) with \$6 million to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across the country while USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common storage and logistics management for response organizations.

### PROTECTION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

USAID/BHA NGO and UN partners continue to implement protection programs for CAR's most vulnerable populations, particularly displaced individuals. USAID/BHA-funded protection activities include bolstering child protection services, delivering emergency case management and referral services for GBV survivors, providing individual psychosocial support services, and conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues. USAID/BHA partners also utilize child-

friendly spaces and listening and counseling centers for women and girls to meet protection needs and distribute dignity kits. Meanwhile, State/PRM partners provide multi-sector assistance for conflict-affected populations in CAR, and provide protection assistance to Central African refugees in Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, the DRC, and the RoC. State/PRM also supports UNHCR to facilitate safe, voluntary returns to CAR. Before stopping its repatriation program in mid-December 2020, UNHCR had facilitated the return of almost 18,000 Central Africans.



**\$182,076**

In dedicated USG support for WASH services in FY 2021

## **WASH**

USAID/BHA partners provide critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnee communities. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism, which informs the CAR humanitarian community about new emergency situations resulting in displacement, deploys assistance including relief items and WASH support, and coordinates with other actors to provide complementary assistance.

## 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. Despite initial progress on the dialogue and scheduling of national elections for December 2020, direct clashes between armed groups, insecurity and attacks against civilians and UN peacekeeping forces, and security incidents affecting humanitarian workers continue in multiple regions of the country.
- On January 18, the Constitutional Court validated the results of the December 27, 2020 election, resulting in President Touadéra assuming a second term in office despite a concerted effort to disrupt voting and seize major urban areas by armed groups aligned with former president Bozizé, whom the Constitutional Court determined was ineligible for candidacy.
- A recent outbreak of election-related violence, which began in December 2020 between the CPC and FACA, MINUSCA and bilateral security forces supporting the host nation government, has rendered the February 2019 peace agreement moot.
- On October 27, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2021 due to the scale and severity of ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER            | ACTIVITY   | LOCATION   | AMOUNT      |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>                |  |  |             |
| Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH                                  | Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Kémo, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Grébizi, Ouaka | \$623,477   |
|                                 | Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA) | Countrywide  | \$76,523    |
| OCHA                            | HCIMA  | Countrywide  | \$1,500,000 |
| UNHAS                           | Logistics Support  | Countrywide  | \$6,000,000 |

|   |   |   |                     |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
| WFP   | Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid         | Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Kémo, Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Sangha-Mbaéré, Vakaga | \$19,982,432        |
|   | Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers | Countrywide   | \$6,500,000         |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$34,682,432</b> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>  |   |   |                     |
| International Medical Corps (IMC)                                     | Health  | Cameroon  | \$81,500            |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$81,500</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b> |   |   | <b>\$34,763,932</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 8, 2021.

## 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)