

# Central African Republic – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 23, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>4.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of CAR</p> <p><i>UN – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.8</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – October 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity</p> <p><i>UN – November 2021</i></p>	<p><b>722,101</b></p> <p>Number of IDPs in CAR</p> <p><i>UNHCR – October 2021</i></p>	<p><b>735,204</b></p> <p>Number of Refugees from CAR in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – October 2021</i></p>
--	--	---	---	--

- Approximately 3.1 million people in CAR are likely to require humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the 2022 HNO for CAR.
- On November 23, USAID Administrator Samantha Power met with CAR President Faustin-Archange Touadéra to discuss the growing humanitarian emergency in CAR.
- USAID announces approximately \$8.9 million in additional humanitarian assistance to support the most vulnerable people in CAR in meeting their food, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH needs.



<p><b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the CAR Response in FY 2021 and FY 2022</p>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$120,984,985
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$71,359,260
	<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$192,344,245</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)  
<sup>3</sup> Funding includes all publicly announced figures from FY 2021 and 2022 as of November 23, 2021

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **2022 HNO Identifies 3.1 Million People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance**

Approximately 3.1 million people in the Central African Republic (CAR)—or 64 percent of the country’s population—are likely to require humanitarian assistance in 2022, an increase of 300,000 people since 2021, according to the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for CAR, released by the UN on October 27. The deterioration of basic needs across multiple sectors in CAR and the limited or complete lack of humanitarian services throughout the country are just two contributing factors to the growing humanitarian crisis. More than 1.3 million people across CAR rely on water from unprotected sources, and an estimated 75 percent of the population is unable to meet its health needs. In addition, protection monitors documented nearly 2,800 protection incidents during the first half of 2021, an average of 15 incidents per day, with incidents of sexual violence increasing by more than 25 percent compared to the same period in 2020. Furthermore, the UN reports that approximately 89 percent of CAR’s population is resorting to negative coping strategies indicative of food insecurity, with conflict-affected communities particularly impacted.

### **Administrator Power Meets with President Touadéra on November 23**

Administrator Power met with President Touadéra on November 23 to discuss the growing humanitarian crisis in CAR. During the meeting, Administrator Power expressed concern about the continuing deterioration of the food security situation in the country, where an estimated 2.4 million people—approximately 60 percent of the country’s population—are now experiencing acute food insecurity conditions, the UN reports. The ongoing conflict in CAR and the secondary effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have disrupted food production and transport—including the importation of food from neighboring countries—and led to the closure of markets throughout the country, according to a September report from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Administrator Power also raised concerns regarding worsening security conditions and stressed the need for greater humanitarian access, urging coordinated efforts to ensure humanitarian aid reaches the most vulnerable populations. Lastly, Administrator Power expressed the U.S. Government (USG)’s commitment to inclusive peace in CAR.

### **USAID Provides Additional Humanitarian Assistance to CAR**

Following Administrator Power’s meeting with President Touadéra on November 23, USAID announced an approximately \$8.9 million in additional humanitarian assistance for the people of CAR in FY 2022. This additional funding includes critically-needed food assistance and vital nutrition assistance for malnourished children ages five years and younger. The funding will also support logistics efforts, including infrastructure rehabilitation to help improve humanitarian access to hard-to-reach populations. In addition, USAID’s funding will support internally displaced persons (IDPs) through camp coordination and camp management; emergency shelter assistance; protection services; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. The United States remains the largest donor of humanitarian assistance in CAR.

### **Attacks on Civilians Continue Despite Ceasefire Declaration**

In a nationally broadcast address on October 15, President Touadéra announced that the Government of CAR (CARG) would immediately implement a unilateral ceasefire, the first step in a peace plan that was launched at a September summit of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, international media report. President Touadéra stated that the ceasefire was implemented in part to facilitate humanitarian access and reported that the leaders of all but two of the groups included in the

Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC)—a coalition of armed groups formed in 2020 ahead of the national election—have agreed to end armed action and renounce their efforts to destabilize the CARG. The CPC expressed support for President Touadéra’s unilateral ceasefire announcement in an October 18 communique.

However, Russian bilateral forces attacked Ouham Prefecture’s Benzambé town on October 16, which resulted in the deaths of at least three civilians and caused significant property damage and population displacement, the UN reports. Additionally, a November 16 clash between the Armed Forces of CAR (FACA) and armed actors in Ouham-Pende Prefecture’s Mann town resulted in the deaths of at least 11 civilians, according to international media. Such clashes and other forms of insecurity in CAR continue to generate and exacerbate humanitarian needs among affected populations.

### **Security Incidents Affecting Humanitarian Workers Inhibit Access in CAR**

CAR remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian workers, with more than 360 security incidents affecting humanitarian staff and facilities recorded between January and October, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The incidents were primarily concentrated in CAR’s capital city of Bangui and Ouaka and Ouham prefectures, and the figure represents a more than 7 percent increase compared to the same period in 2020. Meanwhile, conflict and degraded infrastructure continues to limit humanitarian access to communities in need across much of the country. In particular, the suspected presence of explosive devices has impeded humanitarian access in CAR in recent months, with OCHA recording 30 security incidents during 2021 involving the use of explosive devices affecting access as of October 15. The incidents resulted in 15 deaths and 30 injuries, and occurred in western CAR’s Mambéré-Kadei, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures.

### **MINUSCA Mandate Renewed; Humanitarian Access Declared a Priority**

On November 12, the UN Security Council voted to extend the mandate of the UN Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) until November 15, 2022, international media report. The resolution identified facilitating the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities in need in CAR as one of MINUSCA’s primary tasks, along with protection of civilians and support for the ongoing peace process. MINUSCA’s escort services for UN agencies are a critical safety measure, which enables the increased humanitarian access inherent to the delivery of life-saving assistance. The renewal of MINUSCA’s mandate follows a November 1 shooting in Bangui, in which 10 unarmed MINUSCA peacekeepers were injured, MINUSCA reports. Following the attack, in separate statements, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield and UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for an immediate investigation into the incident.

#### **KEY FIGURES**



**\$65.7 Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2021 and FY 2022

#### **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

##### **FOOD SECURITY**

Having already provided approximately \$3.5 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA supports 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, refugees, and returnees. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is also supporting non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to provide

emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations across the country. USAID/BHA partners also provide agricultural inputs and training to bolster food security and facilitate livelihood rehabilitation for CAR's most vulnerable households.



**\$6.2 Million**

In dedicated USG support for nutrition assistance in FY 2021 and 2022

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

To prevent and treat malnutrition, USAID/BHA supports NGOs in conducting supplementary feeding programs for children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women. In partnership with these NGOs, USAID/BHA creates community, referral pathways to identify children suffering from 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 in providing health assistance, to include the operation of mobile clinics, diagnostic treatment, and referral services for disease and injury. USAID/BHA NGO partners also provide essential medical commodities and training to community responders and clinics.



**\$10.4 Million**

In FY 2021 and FY 2022 support for critical logistics operations

## LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA partners provide critical logistics services for the humanitarian response in CAR. In 2021, when humanitarian air services were most urgently needed due to insufficient road access across CAR, USAID/BHA provided the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) with approximately \$7 million to provide humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo across the country. Moreover, as part of the Logistics Cluster, State/PRM partner Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helped launch an initiative promoting greater gender-based inclusion in humanitarian logistics operations in CAR, where logistics-related professions are typically dominated by men. The initiative provides a platform for all sector stakeholders to exchange ideas monthly and collaborate on advocacy and training, with the aim of introducing tangible means to grant women greater access to humanitarian logistics jobs in CAR. In addition, USAID/BHA NGO partners provide common storage and logistics management for response organizations.



**\$5.7 Million**

In FY 2021 and FY 2022 support for critical protection assistance

## 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, conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues, delivering emergency case management and referral services for survivors of gender-based violence, and providing individual psychosocial support services. USG partners provide multi-sector assistance for conflict-affected populations in CAR, as well as support for livelihood activities, including the provision of agricultural inputs and training to bolster economic stability and food security for the nearly 690,000 Central African refugees sheltering in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the Republic of the Congo (RoC). Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR formally resumed facilitating the voluntary return of Central African refugees from the DRC to CAR on October 22, with the goal of supporting 6,500 voluntary repatriations to CAR by the end of the year. UNHCR reports that an initial repatriation saw 500 people from DRC's South Ubangi Province travel to Bangui on October 22 and 26; the UN agency also plans to begin repatriation flights from DRC's North Ubangi Province to Bangui through UNHAS. In total, nearly 10,000 of the estimated 47,000 refugees residing in South Ubangi's refugee camps had signed up for voluntary repatriation as of October 26. The repatriations, which were preplanned and unrelated to the recent unilateral ceasefire, will only facilitate returns to areas of CAR where security has improved during the past six months, such as Bangui and Lobaye and Ombella-Mpoko prefectures, according to UNHCR.



**\$7.3 Million**

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements in FY 2021 and FY 2022

## **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

USAID/BHA supports NGOs and UN agencies in providing individualized shelter assistance to vulnerable households among IDPs, returnees, and conflict-affected host communities in CAR. USAID/BHA NGO and UN partners also distributed emergency shelter kits comprised of shelter items, including tarpaulins and rope, as part of rapid response programs in FY 2021 and reinforced camp coordination and camp management in FY 2022. Moreover, USAID/BHA supported the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—the co-lead of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster in CAR—in prepositioning contingency, emergency shelter kits throughout the country.



**\$5.4 Million**

In dedicated USG support for WASH assistance in FY 2021 and FY 2022

## **WASH**

USAID/BHA partners provide critical WASH assistance to vulnerable populations in CAR, including displaced individuals sheltering in camps and returnees. USAID/BHA also supports the UNICEF-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which informs how the CAR humanitarian community deploys assistance, including relief items and WASH support, and coordinates with other humanitarian actors to provide complementary assistance in response to new emergency situations that result in displacement and humanitarian needs. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, RRM partners delivered WASH assistance to nearly 112,000 people, including through the construction of latrines, distribution of more than 26,000 hygiene kits, organization of more than 90 hygiene awareness sessions, and rehabilitation of more than 90 water points in CAR between January and August.

## 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, 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 the CPC armed groups and FACA, MINUSCA, and bilateral security forces supporting the CARG.
- On October 15, 2021, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra declared a unilateral ceasefire, which was agreed to by all but two of the groups included in the CPC.
- On October 21, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2022 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>			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, In-Kind Food Aid; Health; Nutrition; WASH	Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouham-Pende	\$5,500,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, In-Kind Food Aid; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management (HCIMA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Countrywide, Haut-Mbomou, Haut-Kotto, Mbomou, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$10,000,000
CONCERN	Agriculture, Food Assistance—In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition, WASH	Basse-Kotto, Ouaka	\$3,000,000
Danish Refugee Council	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ouham, Ouham-Pende	\$2,500,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$5,000,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui Commune, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Nana-Grebizi, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende	\$1,000,000

International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Health, Protection	Bamingui-Bangoran, Nana-Grebizi	\$2,500,000
MENTOR	Health	Ouham	\$291,075
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, Food Assistance–Food Vouchers	Ouaka	\$4,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,127,050
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUJ)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
Solidarites	Agriculture, Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, In-Kind Food Aid	Bamingui-Bangoran, Kemo, Nana-Grebizi, Ouham	\$3,500,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Nana-Grebizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham	\$6,000,000
	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,676,883
	Protection	Haute-Kotto, Nana-Grebizi, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Vakaga	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance–U.S. In-Kind Food Aid <sup>2</sup>	Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Countrywide, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Kémo, Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Péndé, Sangha-Mbaéré, Vakaga	\$27,704,595
	Food Assistance–Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers	Bangui Commune, Countrywide, Haute-Kotto, Mambéré-Kadéï, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouham-Péndé	\$9,250,000
World Vision, Inc.	Agriculture, Food Assistance–Cash, Nutrition, WASH	Mbomou, Ouaka,	\$3,000,000
	Program Support		\$5,404
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$108,555,007</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
CARE	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$1,974,468
Danish Refugee Council	Livelihoods	Cameroon	\$2,000,000
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	CAR	\$10,400,000
Jesuit Refugee Service, USA	Livelihoods	Cameroon	\$1,500,000
Julia V. Taft Refugee Fund Awardee	Livelihoods	DRC	\$24,992
	WASH	Cameroon	\$24,800
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cameroon	\$9,260,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	CAR	\$13,000,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Chad	\$11,275,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	DRC	\$15,400,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	RoC	\$4,000,000

World Vision	Multi-Sector Assistance	DRC	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$71,359,260</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$179,914,267</b>

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Handicap International	Logistics	Basse-Kotto, Mbomou	\$929,978
IMC	Protection	Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Vakaga	\$1,100,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui Commune, Countryside, Mambere-Kadei, Mbomou, Nana-Grebizi, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham-Pende	\$2,400,000
Oxfam Intermón	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Basse-Kotto, Kemo, Ouaka, Ouham	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, International Procurement (LRIP)	Basse-Kotto, Ouaka, Ouham-Pende	\$3,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$12,429,978</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021 AND FY 2022</b>			<b>\$192,344,245</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 September 30, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of November 23, 2021.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations 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)