



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

This is the final Central African Republic fact sheet for FY 2012.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 1, Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels abducted 19 civilians and killed two in southeastern Central African Republic (CAR). The ongoing threat of violence and abduction as a result of LRA presence in southeastern CAR and active armed groups in northern areas of the country has displaced nearly 27,000 people in 2012, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Erratic and insufficient rainfall during 2012 will likely result in low agriculture production and crop yields, negatively impacting the more than 30 percent of CAR’s population already experiencing food insecurity, OCHA reports. In addition, ongoing displacement of farming communities resulting from persistent localized conflict has disrupted livelihoods and put pressure on the already limited resources of host communities.
- In FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$23 million in humanitarian assistance for CAR. USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided more than \$3 million to facilitate the delivery of emergency relief supplies and meet emergency food security, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among LRA-affected populations in CAR. In addition, USAID East Africa provided \$1 million in funds to support an existing USAID/OFDA program addressing the protection and reintegration needs of LRA survivors. In FY 2012, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) contributed approximately 4,990 metric tons (MT) of in-kind emergency food aid, valued at more than \$10 million, while the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$8.7 million for multi-sectoral assistance and protection targeting refugees, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Total IDPs ¹ in CAR	65,533	OCHA – July 31, 2012
LRA-Induced IDPs in CAR	20,269	OCHA – July 16, 2012
Refugees Residing in CAR ²	17,623	OCHA – July 31, 2012
Total Refugees from CAR Residing in Other Countries	152,509	OCHA – July 31, 2012
In Cameroon	85,092	OCHA – July 31, 2012
In Chad	65,364	OCHA – July 31, 2012
In the DRC	910	OCHA – July 31, 2012
In South Sudan	1,143	OCHA – July 31, 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ³	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to CAR	\$3,052,013
USAID/FFP Assistance to CAR	\$10,027,900
USAID/East Africa Assistance to CAR	\$1,000,000 ⁴
State/PRM Assistance to CAR	\$8,725,000
Total USAID and State Assistance to CAR	\$22,804,913

Context

- Chronic underdevelopment persists throughout CAR, resulting in elevated humanitarian indicators, even in areas of the country unaffected by conflict. Poor baseline conditions confound the distinction between humanitarian and development needs, creating additional challenges for relief agencies engaging in humanitarian response activities.

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² The majority of refugees residing in CAR originate from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

³ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

⁴ This figure represents funding programmed through USAID/OFDA to support an existing protection and reintegration program and is not inclusive of non-humanitarian funding provided by USAID/East Africa for LRA-affected individuals in CAR.

- In early 2010, the LRA—a militant group formed in 1987 as part of an armed rebellion against the Government of Uganda—moved into Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures in southeastern CAR, causing increased displacement and humanitarian needs. In addition, ongoing conflict between the Government of CAR and CAR-based armed opposition groups continues to impact communities throughout the country.
- On October 11, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Laurence D. Wohlers reissued a disaster declaration due to the ongoing complex emergency in CAR. In addition, on June 16, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Laurence D. Wohlers declared a disaster due to food insecurity in northeastern CAR. USAID/OFDA staff in Washington, D.C., and Nairobi, Kenya, continue to assess the humanitarian and security situation in CAR and develop appropriate response options in coordination with USAID/FFP, State/PRM, and the U.S. Embassy in Bangui.

Conflict and Population Movements

- As of July 31, more than 65,000 people remained internally displaced within CAR, including nearly 27,000 people newly displaced in 2012, according to OCHA. Neighboring countries, including Chad, Cameroon, the DRC, and South Sudan, continue to host more than 152,000 refugees who have fled insecurity and conflict in CAR. In addition, nearly 18,000 refugees from Sudan and the DRC, as well as asylum seekers from various other countries, resided in CAR as of late August, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- OCHA reports that the LRA conducted 33 attacks on civilians in CAR between January and June while also abducting 44 people and killing 12 others. The majority of attacks in 2012 occurred in Mbomou Prefecture. The total number of LRA attacks in CAR during the first half of 2012 is higher than the total 24 attacks that occurred in 2011. As of June 30, OCHA reported that the presence of the LRA had resulted in the displacement of nearly 20,300 people in CAR. LRA-related insecurity has confined most populations in affected areas to within 5 km of major towns, according to OCHA.

Food Security, Nutrition, and WASH

- Ongoing conflict and insecurity restrict access to farming land, while host community food stocks are under pressure from the increased arrival of IDPs and refugees. Poor infrastructure and a lack of household income also limit already vulnerable populations' access to productive farming inputs, such as tools and fertilizers, as well as medicines for livestock.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.1 million for health and nutrition interventions in CAR. For example, USAID/OFDA partner Merlin is working to increase access to primary health care and essential emergency obstetric care services for LRA-affected populations in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures. In addition, USAID/OFDA recently provided funding through the U.S. Embassy in Bangui to the International Medical Corps (IMC) to treat acute malnutrition among the conflict-affected population in Ouandje Commune, Vakaga Prefecture, in northern CAR, in response to high levels of food insecurity.
- In FY 2012, USAID/FFP provided more than \$10 million for in-kind, emergency food aid to IDPs, refugees, and other conflict-affected populations in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures through direct food distributions, emergency school feeding, and food-for-assets programs.

Protection

- Between August 6 and 9, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a GBV survey in the sub-prefectures of Batangafo and Kabo and in the prefecture of Ouham, finding that the main factors leading to increased GBV in CAR include the increased arrival of IDPs to crowded areas and lack of economic opportunities. IRC found that affected individuals often cannot seek emergency medical care due to the lack of health facilities in many areas of the country, insufficient GBV-specific medication and medical supplies, and poor knowledge of how to respond to cases of GBV among health workers.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.8 million for protection activities in CAR, primarily to address child protection needs, as well as to increase prevention and response to gender-based violence among LRA-affected populations in southeastern CAR. Through the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), USAID/OFDA is providing psychosocial care to conflict-affected children, including former abductees, as well as educating key community members about child protection issues and facilitating community groups among adults and older youth that incorporate income-generating activities and skills training. USAID/OFDA partner MERLIN is also providing emergency protection assistance, including GBV prevention, to people driven from their homes by the LRA in Mbomou and Haut Mbomou prefectures.

- In addition, with USAID/OFDA support, Mercy Corps is organizing play-therapy clubs, where youth participate in a soccer league and receive training in communication and conflict resolution skills. The clubs are also intended to serve as a child-friendly space to work through trauma and stress related to conflict and displacement. The program also supports child protection committees, which identify and refer children who need psychosocial support, in addition to providing vocational training and tools to LRA-affected youth and women to promote productive livelihoods.
- In FY 2012, State/PRM supported the protection activities of UNHCR, IMC, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). For example, State/PRM partner IMC is working to prevent and respond to GBV through community sensitization activities, training of first responders, and provision of psychosocial services.

Relief Supplies, Logistics, and Coordination

- Insecurity continues to limit humanitarian access for relief agencies in CAR, while poor transportation and telecommunications infrastructure increases the cost and time required to deliver relief supplies to populations requiring humanitarian assistance.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$650,000 for the delivery of emergency relief items, as well as support for logistics and humanitarian coordination and information management. USAID/OFDA partner Mercy Corps responded to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected communities in southeastern Mbomou Prefecture through the provision of relief commodities, specifically targeting LRA-affected populations. USAID/OFDA also supported OCHA to open a sub-office in Zemio, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, to increase coordination and integrated humanitarian response efforts to LRA-affected communities in CAR. In addition, State/PRM recently provided funding to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to support humanitarian air services countrywide.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- The U.N. launched a Consolidated Appeal (CAP) for CAR in December 2011, originally requesting \$134 million for relief and early recovery programs countrywide. During the mid-year review of the 2012 CAP, 13 new projects were added, primarily to address humanitarian crises in northeastern and southeastern regions of the country. Despite these additional projects, the appeal's overall request decreased to \$124 million. As of September 30, the CAP was nearly 60 percent funded, with contributions totaling more than \$71 million. The U.S. remained the top donor to the CAP, followed by the European Commission, Japan, Belgium, and Sweden.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
IMC	Health	Vakaga Prefecture	\$50,000
Mercy Corps	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection	Mbomou Prefecture	\$522,013
Merlin	Health, Protection	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures	\$780,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures	\$200,000
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures	\$1,500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$3,052,013
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	4,990 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Bambingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé prefectures	\$10,027,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$10,027,900

USAID/EAST AFRICA ASSISTANCE			
UNICEF	Protection and Reintegration	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/EAST AFRICA ASSISTANCE			\$1,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	Health, GBV Prevention and Response	Ouaka Prefecture	\$725,000
ICRC	Multi-Sectoral Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$2,800,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sectoral Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$4,400,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$8,725,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2012			\$22,804,913

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 as of September 30, 2012.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in CAR is available at www.reliefweb.int.
- 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:
The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
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/crises-and-conflict-countries>.