

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012

JUNE 1, 2012

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- While security improvements in 2011 caused some populations previously displaced by conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) to return to areas of origin—and humanitarian organizations to shift efforts toward early recovery—emergency needs persist, particularly in communities affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). As of March, more than 25,000 people remained displaced in CAR due to LRA-related violence, including approximately 5,300 refugees who fled LRA activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- The LRA significantly increased activity in southeastern CAR between January and March, according to OCHA. Twenty attacks, six deaths, and 39 abductions were reported during the first quarter of 2012, while 24 attacks were reported in all of 2011. OCHA reports that most populations in affected areas cannot travel more than 5 km outside of major towns due to insecurity.
- On May 12, Ugandan forces captured Caesar Acellam, a senior LRA commander, near the border between CAR and DRC, according to international media sources.
- In early February, representatives from USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the
 U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), and the U.S. Embassy in
 Bangui traveled to LRA-affected areas in southeastern CAR to monitor ongoing programs and assess humanitarian
 and security conditions. The USG team confirmed a continued need for emergency assistance, particularly basic
 health care, water and sanitation infrastructure, protection interventions for unaccompanied minors, and relief
 supplies for internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- In FY 2012 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$19.5 million in humanitarian assistance to CAR. USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.2 million to facilitate delivery of emergency relief supplies and meet emergency health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among LRA-affected populations in CAR, as well as to support humanitarian coordination and information management. USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has contributed approximately 4,990 metric tons (MT) of in-kind emergency food aid, valued at \$10 million, while State/PRM has provided more than \$7.3 million for multi-sectoral refugee assistance and protection activities—including in gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response—countrywide.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
LRA-Induced IDPs in CAR	20,362	OCHA – March 2012
Refugees Residing in CAR ¹	19,867	OCHA – April 2012
Total Refugees from CAR Residing in Other Countries	152,432	OCHA – April 2012
In Cameroon	85,092	OCHA – April 2012
In Chad	65,364	OCHA – April 2012
In the DRC	943	OCHA – April 2012
In South Sudan	1,033	OCHA – April 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ²	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to CAR	\$2,222,013
USAID/FFP Assistance to CAR	\$10,000,000
State/PRM Assistance to CAR	\$7,325,000
Total USAID and State Assistance to CAR	\$19,547,013

¹ The majority of refugees residing in CAR originate from Sudan and DRC.

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

Context

- Chronic underdevelopment persists throughout CAR, resulting in emergency-level conditions even in parts of the country unaffected by conflict. Approximately 30 percent of the population of CAR has access to safe drinking water, while an even smaller percentage uses family latrines, according to the U.N. Humanitarian actors continue to provide basic health care in many parts of CAR due to insufficient qualified medical staff, inadequate medicine and other supplies, and lack of infrastructure required to re-supply health facilities in remote areas. Poor baseline conditions confound the distinction between humanitarian and development needs, creating additional challenges for relief agencies engaging in humanitarian response.
- Ongoing conflict between the Government of CAR and armed opposition groups, widespread banditry, and criminal
 activity continue to result in population displacement countrywide. As of April 30, more than 75,000 IDPs remained
 displaced throughout 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, resulting in displacement and new humanitarian needs.
- On October 11, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Laurence D. Wohlers redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in CAR. USAID/OFDA staff in Washington, D.C., and Nairobi, Kenya, continue to monitor humanitarian and security conditions in CAR and develop appropriate response options in coordination with State/PRM and the U.S. Embassy in Bangui.

Conflict and Population Movements

- At the end of March, more than 20,000 people remained internally displaced within CAR due to LRA activity, according to OCHA. Between January and March, the LRA committed twenty attacks in the affected prefectures of Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou, resulting in six deaths and 39 abductions. OCHA reports that LRA-related insecurity has confined most populations in affected areas to within 5 km of major towns.
- Through Mercy Corps, USAID/OFDA is supporting the distribution of relief supply kits to approximately 3,500
 LRA-affected IDPs in Mbomou Prefecture. Each kit includes blankets, cooking and eating utensils, personal hygiene
 products, sleeping mats, plastic sheets for shelter, and water containers. The distribution augments relief supply kits
 provided to the IDP population in Mbomou Prefecture in 2010 and 2011, replacing expended items and reaching
 additional households.
- As of April 2012, CAR hosted nearly 20,000 refugees, the majority of whom fled violence in the DRC and South Sudan, according to OCHA. Through more than \$7.2 million in support to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR), State/PRM provides life-saving, emergency assistance to refugees throughout CAR.

Health and WASH

• USAID/OFDA is providing emergency health and WASH assistance to LRA-affected populations in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures through the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). In health, UNICEF is increasing the capacity of fixed and mobile clinics by providing essential medicines and supplies and training local health workers. In WASH, UNICEF is rehabilitating water points, training pump mechanics, and supporting the formation of village water management committees to collect and manage funds for pump maintenance. In addition, USAID/OFDA is supporting the distribution of soap and plastic buckets to LRA-affected IDPs.

Protection

- The LRA continues to abduct children throughout the region, often forcing them to carry out violent acts. While many manage to escape and reunite with their families, former abductees often suffer severe psychological distress. Moreover, many community members are unaware of the trauma that results from abduction—and fear of abduction—as well as internationally accepted child rights.
- GBV remains a significant concern in CAR, particularly among populations affected by conflict and displacement, which create family stress that can exacerbate GBV issues. Affected individuals often cannot seek emergency medical care due to the lack of health facilities in many parts of the country, insufficient GBV-specific medicine and supplies, and poor knowledge of GBV response among health workers.
- USAID/OFDA is addressing child protection needs among LRA-affect populations in southeastern CAR through support to UNICEF and Mercy Corps. UNICEF is providing psychosocial care to conflict-affected children, including former abductees, and educating key community members about child rights, HIV/AIDS, and GBV.

Mercy Corps is organizing play-therapy clubs, in which youth participate in a soccer league and receive instruction on HIV/AIDS, conflict resolution, and other psychosocial-related topics before and after games. Mercy Corps also supports child protection committees, which identify and refer children who need psychosocial support to service providers who can help. In addition, Mercy Corps is encouraging productive livelihoods by providing vocational training and tools to LRA-affected youth and women.

Food Security

- Conflict-affected populations continue to experience varying levels of food security, as insecurity has restricted access
 to farming land and IDPs and refugees have increased pressure on host communities' food stores. Additionally, poor
 infrastructure, lack of household income, and conflict have limited vulnerable populations' access to productive
 farming inputs such as tools and fertilizers, as well as medicines for livestock.
- USAID/FFP is providing in-kind, emergency food aid to IDPs, refugees, and other conflict-affected populations in Bambingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé prefectures through direct food distributions and emergency school feeding and food-for-assets programs.

Relief Supplies, Logistics, and Coordination

- Lack of humanitarian access due to insecurity and the remote locations of many affected communities—exacerbated by poor transportation and telecommunications infrastructure—limits the ability of relief agencies to respond to humanitarian needs in CAR. During the rainy season, roads to remote areas become impassable, significantly increasing the cost and time required to deliver relief supplies to newly displaced populations, while insufficient means of information-sharing poses security concerns to relief workers, who need ample time to evacuate in a deteriorating security environment.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$200,000 to OCHA to improve humanitarian coordination in LRA-affected areas. The contribution will ensure that OCHA has sufficient resources to open a field office in Zémio, Haut Mbomou Prefecture. OCHA organizes sector-specific meetings at the national and sub-national levels and produces regular situation reports on the evolving humanitarian situation and response.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- The U.N. launched the Consolidated Appeal (CAP) for CAR in December 2011, requesting \$134 million for relief and early recovery programs countrywide. As of June 1, the CAP remained nearly 36 percent funded, having received a pledged total of more than \$48 million. In addition to the United States, Japan, the European Commission, Belgium, and Canada remained the primary contributors to the CAR CAP.
- On May 17, the World Bank announced a \$28.2 million commitment to strengthen health services in CAR, focusing on improving maternal and child health services in rural areas. Expanded and improved basic service provision through the Government of CAR Ministry of Health would decrease reliance on humanitarian agencies, particularly in secure areas.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR PROVIDED IN FY 20121

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount	
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ²				
Mercy Corps	Logistics and Relief Commodities and Protection	Mbomou	\$522,013	
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou	\$200,000	
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou	\$1,500,000	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA \$2,222,0				
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE ³				
WFP	4,990 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Bambingui-Bangoran, Haut- Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou Ouham, Ouham- Pendé	\$10,000,000	
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$10,000,000	
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE				
IMC	GBV Response and Health	Ouaka	\$125,000	
ICRC	Multi-Sectoral Refugee Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$2,800,000	
UNHCR	Multi-Sectoral Refugee Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$4,400,000	
TOTAL STATE/PRM		\$7,325,000		
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2012			\$19,547,013	

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

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 may be 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.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 1, 2012.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.