



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Central African Republic – LRA-Related Displacement

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

May 11, 2011

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between January 1 and March 7, nine Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) attacks resulted in at least 15 deaths and 24 abductions, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, the LRA killed at least six people and abducted approximately 30 others during a March 13 attack in Nzako town in Mbomou Prefecture, according to international media sources. LRA attacks have displaced more than 2,000 people in the Central African Republic (CAR), bringing the total number of LRA-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country to nearly 18,700 individuals.
- While compared to the same time period in 2010 the number of LRA-related fatalities decreased by 24 percent and abductions decreased by 70 percent, the security and humanitarian situation remain fluid.
- Between October 16 and 30, 2010, USAID/OFDA staff assessed humanitarian and security conditions in LRA-affected areas of southeastern CAR, observing significant gaps in humanitarian assistance due to insecurity, poor infrastructure, and competing humanitarian requirements in other areas of the country.
- To date in FY 2011, the U.S. Government has provided nearly \$11 million to support conflict-affected people in CAR, including those affected by the LRA. USAID/OFDA has provided \$2 million for emergency health, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives that support LRA-affected populations in southeastern CAR.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
LRA-Affected IDPs	18,667 people	OCHA – April 7, 2011
LRA-Affected Refugees Residing in CAR	5,648 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	OCHA – March 31, 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to CAR.....	\$2,000,000
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to CAR	\$6,500,000
State/PRM² Assistance to CAR	\$2,450,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to CAR.....	\$10,950,000

CONTEXT

- The LRA is a militant group, originally formed in 1987 as part of an armed rebellion against the Government of Uganda. LRA violence has spread to neighboring countries with sporadic attacks, killings, and abductions. Since 2008, LRA attacks have resulted in displacement and increased humanitarian needs along the CAR–DRC border.
- The LRA moved into Haute-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures in southeastern CAR in early 2010. In 2010, the number of IDPs in CAR increased from an estimated 168,000 to 192,000 due largely to LRA attacks, according to OCHA. In addition, approximately 5,600 Congolese refugees reside in southeastern CAR, the area most affected by LRA violence.
- On January 27, U.S. Ambassador Laurence D. Wohlers declared a disaster due to LRA-related humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA staff in Washington, D.C., and Nairobi, Kenya, continue to monitor the humanitarian and security conditions in CAR and develop appropriate response options in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Bangui.

Health

- Insecurity and limited government capacity have resulted in a poorly functioning public health care system, particularly in isolated areas of southeastern CAR, where health workers often depart posts due to the frequent looting of health centers and general insecurity, according to OCHA. In October 2010, USAID/OFDA reported that local government, non-governmental organization (NGO), and church-managed health centers provided limited medical care in assessed areas.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

- As of March, the countrywide doctor-to-patient ratio was one doctor for 3,000 people, while the nurse-to-patient ratio was one nurse for 1,000 people, according to OCHA. Hepatitis, malaria, measles, meningitis, polio, and yellow fever affect populations throughout CAR, according to OCHA
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided support to Merlin and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for health projects in Haute-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures. Merlin works with the health prefecture of Mbomou to extend primary health care services to more than 26,000 LRA-affected IDPs and host community members. UNICEF's activities include assisting the Government of CAR to coordinate health activities, and building local health worker capacity to respond to HIV, gender-based violence, and child abuse. Additional USAID/OFDA-funded initiatives include mobile health clinics, vaccination campaigns, the provision of essential medicines and equipment, and pre- and post-natal care.

Emergency Food Assistance

- As of October 2010, more than 159,000 people residing in LRA-affected Haute-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures remained severely food insecure, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Despite the availability of cultivable land in southeastern CAR, food availability remains precarious due to insecurity that limits access to fields and markets, refugee and IDP influxes, and localized flooding.
- Food assistance in LRA-affected southeastern CAR has been limited due to logistical and security constraints, according to USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP assessments conducted in late 2010. Populations are located in isolated areas separated by poor roads, hindering response efforts. In addition, Central African Armed Forces (FACA) presence remains insufficient to protect civilians.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have provided the majority of food assistance in LRA-affected areas. As of October 2010, WFP and ICRC had completed four rounds of food distributions to LRA-affected populations. However, as of December 2010, the majority of LRA-affected refugees and IDPs continued to work in host community members' fields and sell limited food rations and non-food items for food, according to the USAID/FFP assessment.
- In response to food insecurity throughout CAR, USAID/FFP has provided approximately 3,980 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to date in FY 2011 through WFP to support conflict-affected IDPs and refugees countrywide. WFP is using a portion of the contribution to feed an estimated 24,000 IDPs and up to 6,000 Congolese refugees affected by LRA violence.

WASH

- As of November 2010, an estimated 30 percent of people in CAR had access to safe drinking water, while approximately 5 percent of the population used household latrines, according to OCHA.
- In October 2010, USAID/OFDA staff noted that many LRA-affected individuals in southeastern CAR continued to access water from rivers, increasing their risk of contracting water-borne diseases.
- In response to WASH-related humanitarian needs, USAID/OFDA supports UNICEF to distribute soap and buckets to approximately 15,000 conflict-affected IDPs and increase access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of 10 water points. UNICEF is also training mechanics and creating community-based WASH management committees to repair and manage water infrastructure.

Protection

- The LRA often abducts women and children during attacks, later abusing abductees or incorporating children into their ranks. After escape or release, former abductees frequently suffer from psychosocial trauma and require assistance reintegrating into their communities.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA provided support to UNICEF to engage more than 6,800 LRA-affected children in play therapy activities, as well as to provide psychosocial support to victims of abduction and violence.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR

FY 2011			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Merlin	Health	Mbomou Prefecture	\$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Haute-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures	\$1,500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,000,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	3,980 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$6,500,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Support to Displaced Populations	Countrywide	\$900,000
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Support to Displaced Populations	Countrywide	\$800,000
WFP/U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Support to Displaced Populations	Countrywide	\$750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,450,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAR IN FY 2011			\$10,950,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 11, 2011.

²Estimated 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 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, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly 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: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/