

Global Humanitarian Assistance

Central African Republic

The forgotten crisis

Kerry Smith
Sophia Swithern

December 2013



**Global Humanitarian
Assistance**

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE 

Background**Background**

Central African Republic (CAR) has long been a ‘neglected emergency’: a relatively low recipient of humanitarian assistance despite high levels of humanitarian need. In September 2013 Samantha Power, the United States (US) ambassador to the United Nations (UN), commented that the situation in CAR was “[the worst crisis most people have never heard of](#)”. In 2013 CAR was one of nine crises that featured in the ECHO’s [Forgotten Crisis Assessment \(FCA\)](#) and it is ranked top in ECHO’s 2013-2014 [Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment Final Index](#).

In 2012 CAR ranked 180 out of 186 countries in the [Human Development Index](#) scoring 0.352, which represents little progress against a similar score of 0.312 in 1990. Life expectancy at birth is 49.1 years, compared with 48.8 years in 1980 and it is estimated that 62.8% of the population lives on less than US\$1.25 a day.

In March 2013, approximately 42% of the population (1.3 million) were [food insecure](#), caused by a combination of conflict and natural hazards. Now the UN estimates that the entire population have been affected by this conflict and that 1.6 million people – or one third of the population – are in dire need of protection, food, health, clean water and sanitation or shelter. It is estimated that over half a million people have been internally displaced within in the country, and approximately 180,000 have been displaced in recent weeks ([ACAPS](#)). Still, funding to the protection cluster remains low (US\$5.2 million).

The ongoing violence is linked to internal political factors as well as spill-over from neighbouring crises in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, including attacks by Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) against the civilian population. Conflict and displacement within CAR has increased significantly in the nine months since the March 2013 coup in which the ‘Seleka’ rebel group ousted then President Francois Bozize from office. In recent months there have been severe [attacks](#) in a number of villages in the north-west leading to significant displacement of villagers as well as hundreds of fatalities and casualties.

On 25 November 2013, Jan Eliasson, the UN Deputy Secretary General, [briefed the UN Security Council](#), following a UN Technical Assessment mission to CAR. He said that “a country in the heart of Africa is descending into complete chaos before our eyes” and called both for urgent international action to respond to the escalating humanitarian needs, as well as to support the African-led International Support Mission to the CAR (MISCA).

In early December 2013, in response to sectarian violence, France scaled up its military presence by sending 1,600 soldiers to CAR and officially received authorisation from the UN Security Council to support African Union (AU) peacekeepers, who have subsequently increased their presence from 3,500 to 6,000 men. Obama has offered support to France and AU and the US Defense Secretary has authorised military transport aircrafts to carry troops to the country from Burundi ([ACAPS](#)).

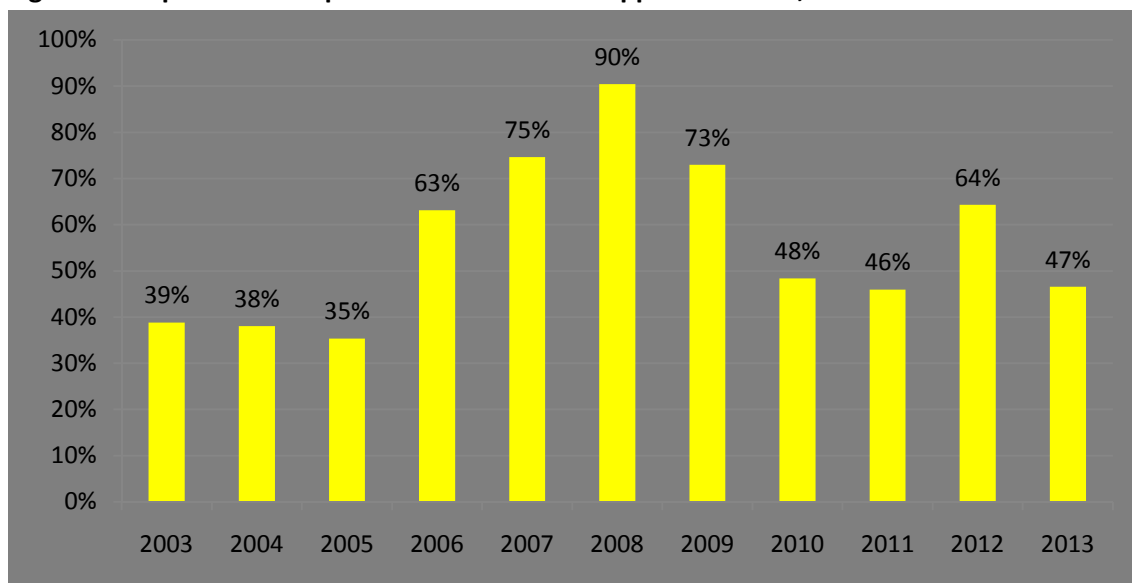
For more analysis of funding to CAR please visit our country profile [page](#).

Humanitarian assistance

In December 2012, the UN launched a flash appeal for CAR with revised requirements of US\$195 million. Although there has been an increase in the volume of humanitarian assistance since 2012, as of 12 December 2013 only 47% of the appeal has been funded – making the CAR UN appeal the fifth most underfunded appeal in the world.¹

The largest contributions to the UN appeal so far in 2013 are the US (US\$17.9 million), the EC (US\$11.1 million) and CERF (US\$7.1 million). Total funding (inside and outside the UN appeal) reported through the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) reached US\$136 million, up US\$40 million since 2012. ECHO was the largest donor, contributing just under US\$27 million.

Figure 1: Proportion of requirements met for UN appeals for CAR, 2003-2013



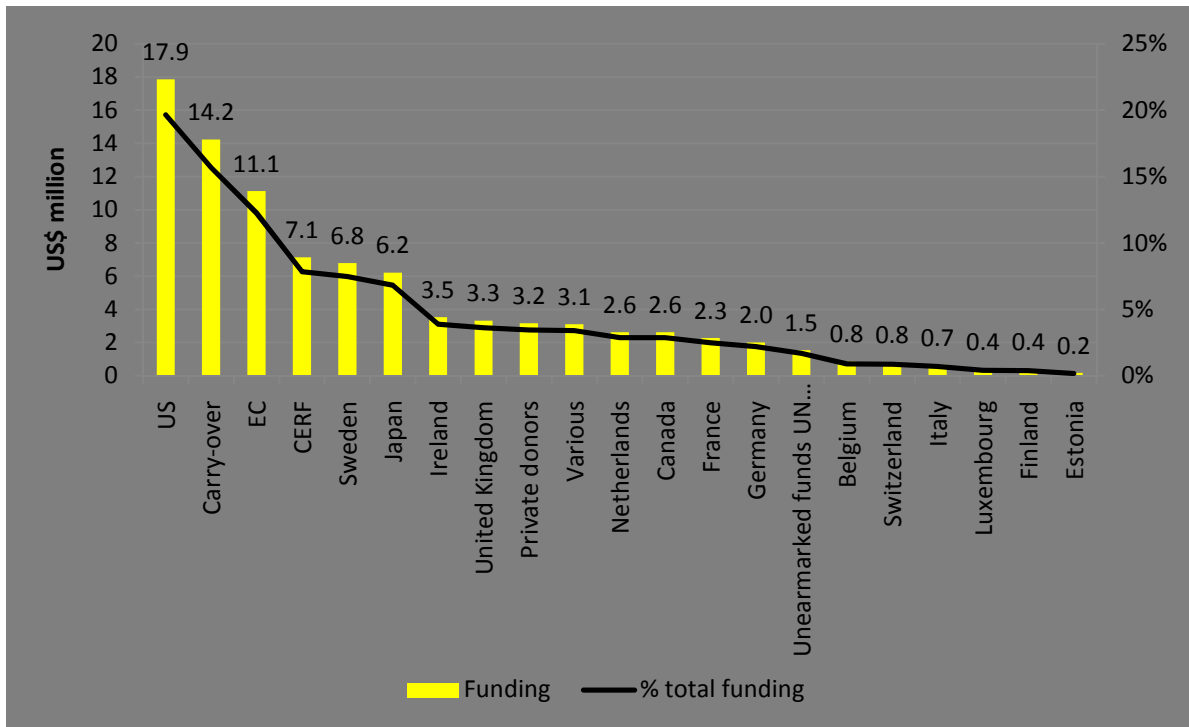
Source UN OCHA FTS

Note: 2013 data downloaded on 12 December 2013 and is likely to change

Since 2003, six of the eleven UN consolidated appeals process (CAP) for CAR have received less than 50% of funding requirements. These same appeals also featured in the top ten most underfunded appeals in those years.

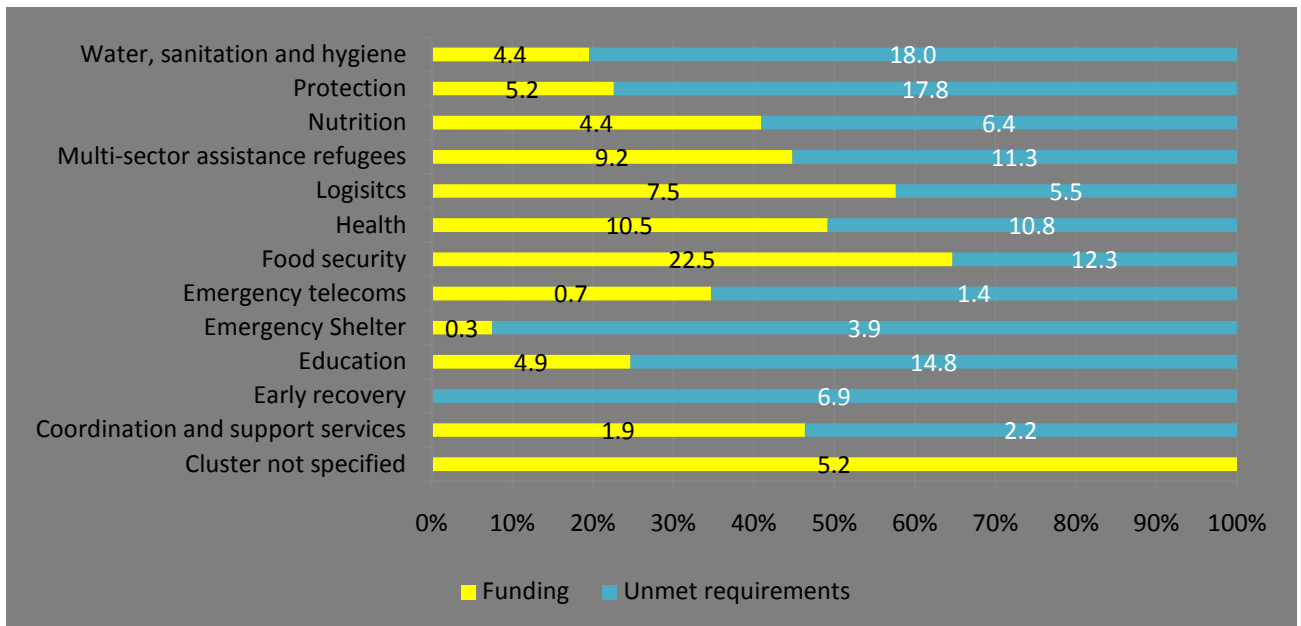
¹ After Philippines – Bohol Earthquake Action Plan (21%), Philippines – Typhoon Haiyan Strategic Response Plan (29%), Djibouti 2013 (36%) and Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan 2013 (43%).

Figure 2: Top donors to UN consolidated appeals process, CAR, 2013



Source UN OCHA FTS

Figure 3: Funding to UN appeal clusters, 2013



Source UN OCHA FTS

Food security is the cluster that has received the largest volume of funding through the UN appeal – US\$22.5 million. Emergency shelter is the most underfunded cluster (8% funded) followed by water, sanitation and hygiene (20%) and protection (23%). Protection has received just US\$5.2 million, while the number of displaced people is estimated at half a million.

Figure 4: UN appeals, Central African Republic, 2003-2012

Appeal	Revised requirements (US\$m)	% year's total appeal requirements	Funding (US\$m)	% year's total appeal funding	% needs met
CAR 2003	9.1	0.2%	3.5	0.1%	38.8%
CAR 2004	7.6	0.2%	2.9	0.1%	38.0%
CAR 2005	27.9	0.5%	9.8	0.2%	35.3%
CAR 2006	38.0	0.7%	24.0	0.7%	63.1%
CAR 2007	91.4	1.8%	68.2	1.8%	74.6%
CAR 2008	118.7	1.7%	107.3	2.1%	90.4%
CAR 2009	100.4	1.0%	73.3	1.0%	73.0%
CAR 2010	149.9	1.3%	72.5	1.0%	48.4%
CAR 2011	141.9	1.6%	65.2	1.2%	45.9%
CAR 2012	124.0	1.4%	79.7	1.4%	64.3%

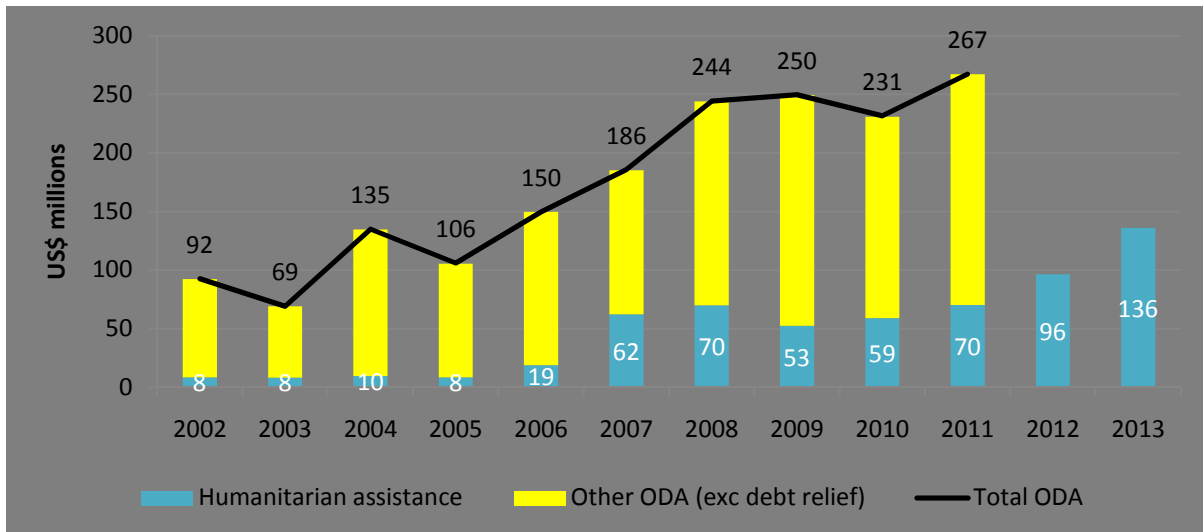
Requirements and actual funding to CAR through the UN appeals process represents only a small proportion of overall funding and requirements to the appeal each year. For example in 2007 revised requirements for CAR reached US\$91.4 million, representing just 1.8% of total requirements for all UN consolidated appeals that year. In 2008 funding to the CAR appeal reached US\$107.3 million, but again only represented 2.1% of total funding to appeals that year.

Figure 5: Top 10 humanitarian donors, 2007-2011

	2007	US\$m	2008	US\$m	2009	US\$m	2010	US\$m	2011	US\$m
1	US	16.3	US	15.0	Sweden	8.3	Sweden	10.8	EU	13.3
2	Sweden	7.4	Sweden	7.9	EU	7.8	EU	10.3	Sweden	11.4
3	Netherlands	5.6	EU	7.7	US	7.5	US	7.9	Japan	10.4
4	EU	5.5	Japan	6.0	Netherlands	4.4	Germany	5.0	US	9.7
5	Ireland	5.1	UK	5.6	Canada	4.3	UK	4.9	Germany	4.9
6	Canada	4.9	Ireland	5.1	UK	4.3	Netherlands	4.1	Canada	4.5
7	Germany	3.2	Netherlands	4.5	Ireland	3.9	Ireland	3.9	Belgium	4.5
8	Finland	2.9	Finland	3.5	Spain	3.7	Spain	3.6	Ireland	3.8
9	Norway	2.9	Canada	3.4	Germany	3.4	Finland	3.5	UK	3.3
10	UK	2.6	Spain	3.0	Finland	3.3	France	2.3	France	2.6

Source: OECD DAC data

Figure 6: ODA and humanitarian assistance to CAR



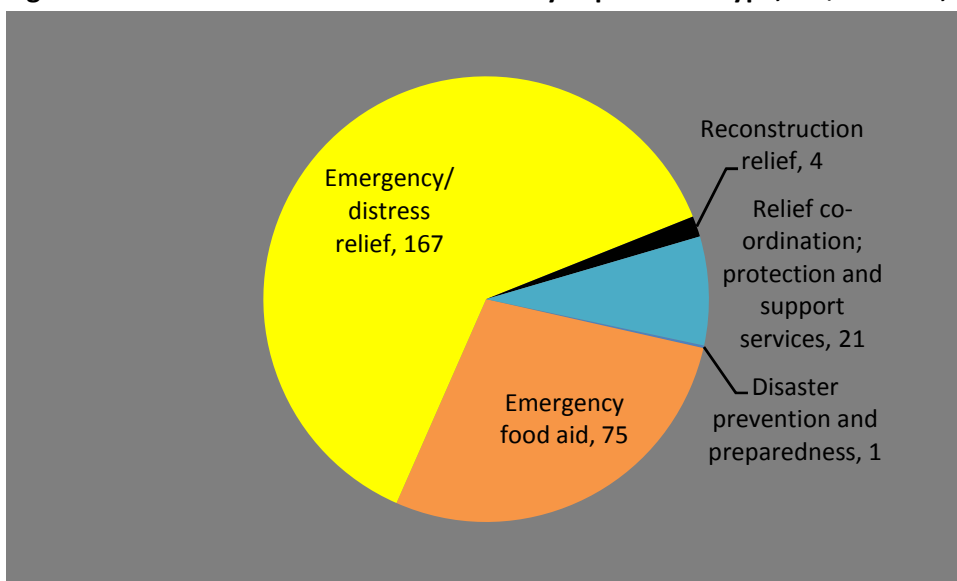
Source: OECD DAC and UN OCHA FTS data

Note: 2012 and 2013 data is from UN OCHA FTS and covers all donors; 2002–2011 is OECD DAC data and reflects OECD DAC donors. 2013 data is partial and not complete. ODA data is not available for 2012–2013.

Official development assistance (ODA) and humanitarian funding to CAR increased after 2006, but overall levels remain low compared to other countries. For example, it is not in the list of top 20 recipient countries for either ODA or humanitarian assistance. In 2011, CAR received US\$267 million in aid, of which US\$70 million was humanitarian assistance, representing just 0.6% of total humanitarian assistance to recipient countries that year. Between 2007 and 2011 the largest donor to CAR was the United States (US), contributing US\$56.3 million.

So far in 2013 CAR has received just US\$136 million in humanitarian assistance, compared to US\$681 million for the Democratic Republic of Congo and US\$897 million for South Sudan.

Figure 7: Bilateral humanitarian assistance by expenditure type, US\$ millions, 2007-2011



Source: OECD DAC

About us

Development Initiatives is an independent organisation committed to ending poverty by 2030. Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) is a data access and transparency programme of Development Initiatives that analyses resource flows to people living in humanitarian crises, and researches and publishes regular analysis. The programme is funded by the governments of Canada, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

For further details on the content of this briefing, please contact the authors Kerry Smith Kerry.smith@devinit.org and Sophia Swithern Sophia.Swithern@devinit.org or email our helpdesk gha@devinit.org

www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org

Data downloaded: 12 December 2013



Global Humanitarian Assistance

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE 

Development Initiatives Ltd, North Quay House, Quay side, Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6FL, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 1179 272 505

W: globalhumanitarianassistance.org

Twitter: [GHA_org](https://twitter.com/GHA_org)