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

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
OVERVIEW**

- USAID/OFDA has been actively engaged in supporting populations affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) across East and Central Africa for more than a decade, directing humanitarian assistance to communities in need as the LRA shifts geographic location. USAID/OFDA provides immediate, life-saving assistance as well as support to help rebuild the livelihoods of those impacted by LRA violence.



USAID/OFDA  
Photo provided by the

- In 2011, as the LRA became increasingly active in the Central African Republic, USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million for emergency health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives in southeastern CAR. These programs—implemented by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the non-governmental organization Merlin—remain ongoing in 2012.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA recently committed \$200,000 to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The contribution will ensure that OCHA has sufficient resources to open a field office in Zémio, Haut Mbomou Prefecture, to improve coordination in LRA-affected areas. Humanitarian work in CAR is challenging due to the remote locations of the communities affected by the LRA and the relatively light presence of relief agencies over such a vast and isolated area. Better humanitarian coordination and information management will improve the ability of organizations to work together to respond more efficiently to humanitarian needs.
- In southeastern CAR, USAID/OFDA provides mobile health services and delivers essential drugs and medical equipment to health facilities, benefiting people who have been displaced or otherwise had their livelihoods disrupted as a result of LRA attacks. USAID/OFDA assistance to three rural health facilities in Mbomou has allowed affected populations to receive free care, including immunizations, HIV prevention, malaria treatment, and reproductive health services. USAID/OFDA has provided enough medicine in Mbomou and Haut Mbomou prefectures to cover the needs of 20,000 people for one year, representing a substantial portion of the needs among LRA-affected populations. As of late March,

20,362 individuals remained internally displaced as a result of LRA violence in CAR. The medicines distributed in Haut Mbomou supplied the Obo and Zémio hospitals—located in some of the most LRA-affected areas of CAR. This support has benefitted both IDPs and community members who have been unable to maintain typical livelihood activities as a result of LRA attacks, fear of attack, and IDP settlements on agricultural land.



- More than 4,000 people who would not otherwise have potable water now have access to safe drinking water as a result of USAID/OFDA's replacement of broken water pumps. Two mechanics, trained and equipped through USAID/OFDA funding, are available to repair the pumps when needed to ensure the continued availability of fresh water. USAID/OFDA is also distributing soap, water containers, and cups to 15,000 displaced people to enable good hygiene practices, which reduce the risk of waterborne disease.
- USAID/OFDA is engaging more than 6,800 children whose lives were impacted by LRA violence in play therapy activities and life skills training, as well as providing psychosocial support to victims of abduction and violence. Part of providing this support includes sensitizing leaders in the community to the issues of gender-based violence and child rights.
- USAID/OFDA remains committed to providing life-saving support to LRA-affected communities in ways that directly address the various humanitarian needs created by LRA attacks and help individual communities heal and recover.

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