

World Watch Research

Central African Republic: Background Information

September 2024



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

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research@od.org

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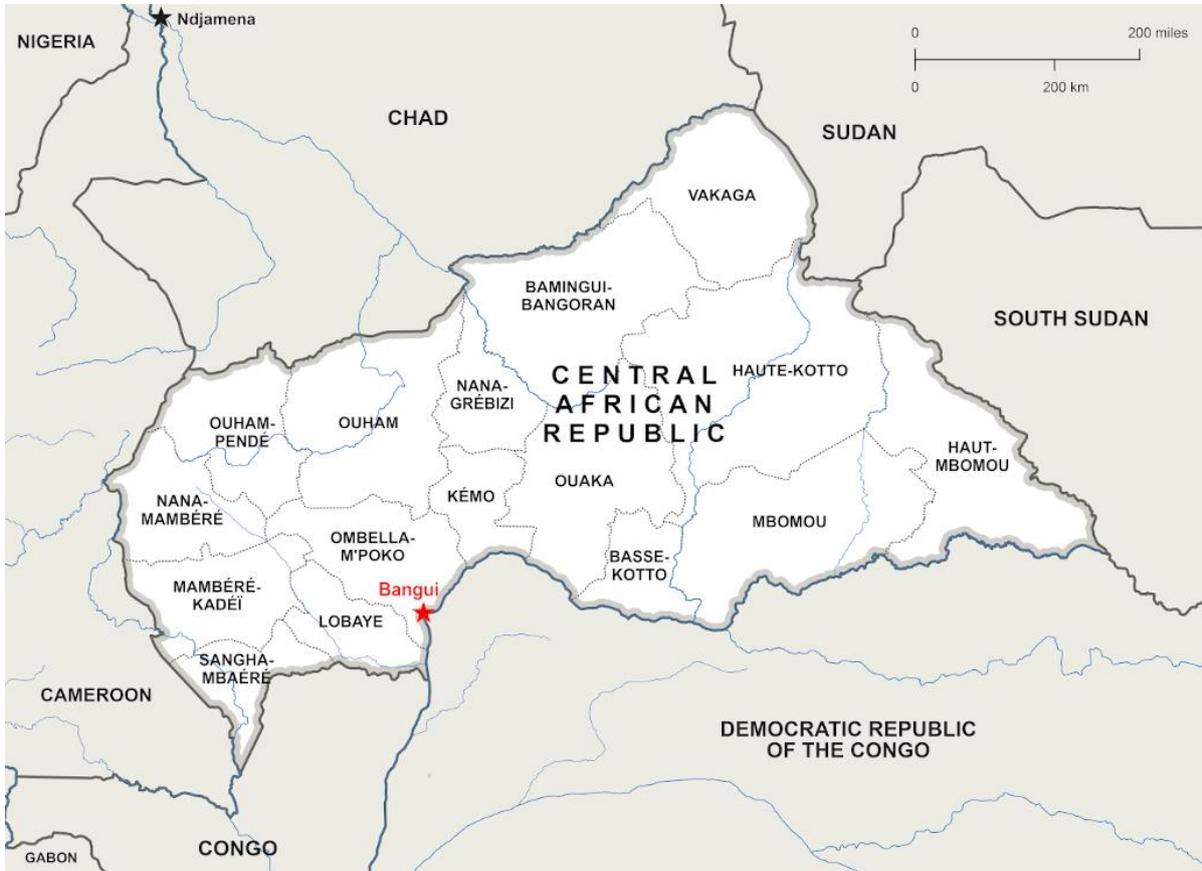
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World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- Background country information (published annually in summer)
- Persecution dynamics (published annually in January).

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Map of country



Central African Republic: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
5,916,000	4,433,000	74.9

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Recent history

The Central African Republic (CAR) used to be a French colony known as Ubangi-Shari, which gained independence in 1960. Since then, the country has been mired in cycles of violence. These cycles have been driven by overlapping tensions between armed groups, religious and ethnic groups, and herders and farmers. As a result, CAR has endured repeated outbreaks of conflict, population displacement, alarming food insecurity, and limited access to basic services and economic opportunities.

General François Bozizé seized power in a 2003 coup backed by neighboring Chad. The following years saw intermittent fighting between the government and various rebel groups. In 2013, a militia called Séléka (widely perceived as a coalition of Muslim fighters) took control of the capital Bangui and their leader Michel Djotodia became the first Muslim president in CAR's history. However, that same year President Djotodia resigned due to intense pressure from the international community and was replaced by Catherine Samba-Panza, who served as interim president from 2013-2014 until elections were held.

After much delay, in February 2016 the Interim Government managed to hold the election that was supposed to be a significant milestone in the country's history. Faustin-Archange Touadéra won the election and was sworn in as a president. He immediately made peace and reconciliation his priority, but clashes continued in some parts of the country involving the mainly Muslim Séléka and the self-defense groups, called Anti-Balaka. Although these latter groups are frequently referred to as Christian, they are mostly made up of Animists and churches have strongly disassociated themselves from them. Due to the obvious religious overtones of the conflict, both Christian and Muslim civilians are victims of the violence perpetrated by the Séléka and Anti-Balaka militants.

Attempts by both UN peacekeepers and government forces failed to stop the conflict, which has continued with attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers and peacekeeping forces. In February 2019, yet another agreement - the Political Accord for Peace and Reconciliation - was signed with more than a dozen rebel groups. This gave hope that there might indeed be light at the end of the tunnel.

According to the [UN Security Council Report](#) of 31 January 2020: Since the signing of the Political Peace Agreement on 6 February 2019, "there has been a notable decrease, compared to the previous year, in military confrontations between armed groups, CAR security forces, and MINUSCA and in human rights violations linked to the conflict. However, the final report of the Panel of Experts assisting the 2127 CAR Sanctions Committee, which was presented to the committee on 2 December 2019, determined that the implementation of the peace agreement 'remained limited'."

According to the [UN Security Council Report](#) of 31 January 2020: "The return of former presidents François Bozizé and Michel Djotodia to the CAR on 15 December 2019 and 10 January, respectively, has raised concerns about their possible destabilizing effect on the already fragile political climate". Despite the danger of instability, elections went ahead on 27 December 2020. The elections were held amid outbreaks of violence as rebels belonging to the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) sought to disrupt the process across the country by burning ballot boxes and intimidating voters. In roughly a dozen towns, including Bozizé's stronghold of Bossangoa, residents were unable to vote at all. Several opposition presidential candidates called for the results to be annulled, claiming widespread fraud. Despite this, the head of the National Elections Authority declared that incumbent President Touadéra had won re-election, gaining an absolute majority of 53.9% of the vote in the first round. The wave of violence that preceded the elections continued, having worsened since the beginning of 2021. The post-election period saw a surge in attacks by armed groups seeking to overthrow President Touadéra. In light of the rising violence, on 21 January 2021, a state of emergency was announced after CPC forces attempted to blockade the country's capital, Bangui.

According to the [BTI report 2022 CAR](#) (covering the year 2021): "The International Criminal Court continued its investigations into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed since 2012 and made its first arrest since 2018 in January 2021. The country's own Special Criminal Court also continued its investigations."

Some major developments regard atrocities and judicial accountability:

In March 2022, Chad handed over Maxime Mokom, a former anti-balaka military coordinator, to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mokom had sought refuge in Chad after being involved in the CPC's failed attempt to seize Bangui in 2020.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Wagner Group continued its combat operations in Chad, despite facing accusations of committing atrocities against civilians during their operations.

In August 2022, the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for the arrest of Nouredine Adam, a former number 2 commander of the Seleka militia. He is wanted on charges of crimes against humanity.

The ICC trial of Seleka commander Mahamat Said Abdel Kani commenced in September 2022 in The Hague. Said is facing allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Bangui in 2013. He was identified as an "immediate subordinate" to Nouredine Adam.

In April 2022, the Special Criminal Court (SCC), which benefits from significant international assistance, initiated its first trial. The case involved three suspects from the 3R rebel group: Issa Sallet Adoum, Ousman Yaouba, and Tahir Mahamat. They were accused of perpetrating war crimes and crimes against humanity in Koundjili and Lemouna, Ouham Pende province, in May 2019.

On 31 October 2022, the court found the three men guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, marking a significant step in seeking justice for the atrocities committed in Chad.

As reported in the [BBC country profile CAR](#) (last updated 22 August 2023): "In August 2023, the country's top court approved the outcome of a July referendum, increasing the length of a presidential term to seven years and removing limits on re-election." This significantly undermines the country's democratic governance.

Political and legal landscape

The [2016 Constitution](#) provides for freedom of religion under conditions set by law and equal protection under the law regardless of religion - and this is generally respected in practice.

Most analysts agree that family bloodlines, local ethnic politics and rebel militancy have been key in shaping politics in CAR. Several tribes have been waging war against each other, aggravated by the political and economic situation and social issues. Northern tribes are dominantly Islamic; before the coup by Bozizé in 2003 they fought each other for power but joined forces under the umbrella of Séléka prior to staging the 2013 coup. Across the country, relations have been tense among the various tribes, and conflicts between them have led to considerable loss of life over the years.

Freedom House's [Freedom in the World Index 2023 Niger](#) states:

- (Section B4): "Due to the long-lasting tribalization of politics, the country's public institutions and army are dominated by its ethnic majority, the Gbaya, to which former President Bozizé belongs. President Touadéra has also promoted members of his groups, the Mbaka-Mandja, to key senior positions and to the presidential guard."
- (Section B1): "While political parties are legally able to form and operate, party members conducting political activities risk intimidation and violence by the national police and progovernment militias in Bangui, and by armed groups and security forces outside the capital."

- (Key developments in 2022): "In August, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra announced a constitutional referendum as part of his efforts to seek a third term. In September, the Constitutional Court ruled that the creation of a drafting committee was unconstitutional; Touadéra dismissed court chief Danièle Darlan by decree in October."

According to [HRW 2024 country chapter CAR](#):

- "The country veered toward authoritarianism with crackdowns on civil society, the media, and opposition political parties ahead of a constitutional referendum designed to remove term limits for the president, Faustin-Archange Touadéra. The referendum passed in July with diverging accounts of voter turnout."
- "The next presidential vote is due in 2025."

Gender perspective

Under CAR's family code, men and women have equal rights in relation to marriage, divorce and child guardianship. According to traditional law however, in cases of divorce women are expected to leave the home and leave their children under the guardianship of the father; practices vary by territory and according to the religious affiliations of communities. CAR has the second highest prevalence of child marriage globally, with 61% of girls marrying before 18 and 26% before the age of 15. The figure is also high for boys, at 28% ([Girls not Brides CAR](#), accessed 8 August 2024). Driving factors include poverty, lack of education and opportunities and insecurity. Whilst the minimum age of marriage is 18 years under the [Family Code 1998](#), individuals can marry under this age with parental consent. This loophole could be exploited for the purpose of religious persecution, particularly for female converts to Christianity.

On 10 May 2024, the government adopted a national strategy to end child marriage ([UNICEF press release, 13 May 2024](#)).

Rape and domestic violence are outlawed, although gaps remain in legislation, for example in failing to recognize economic violence as a form of domestic violence. One of the characteristics of countries in crisis is that men play a significant role both in initiating and participating in conflicts. The natural flow from this is that any negotiation or settlement puts men at a better position in terms of political power. Even though it is difficult to know the role of religion in the final analysis of political power-sharing, it can be assumed that women are not on equal terms with men.

Religious landscape

Central African Republic: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	4,433,000	74.9
Muslim	800,000	13.5
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	0	0.0
Ethnic religionist	628,000	10.6
Jewish	0	0.0
Bahai	14,300	0.2
Atheist	770	0.0
Agnostic	39,500	0.7
Other	0	0.0
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

CAR is a predominantly Christian country; although relations between Muslims and Christians appeared good on the surface in previous years, tension had been growing under the surface. In particular, converts from Islam to Christianity have always faced persecution. Male converts most commonly experience physical violence, whereas female converts risk being forcibly married to a Muslim. Christians living in Muslim-dominated areas in northern, eastern and western regions have reported discrimination and other forms of social pressure. Many Christians (and Muslims) intermix their faith with several ethno-religious practices including sorcery and witchcraft.

According to WCD 2024 estimates, Christians constitute 74.9% of the population and Muslims 13.5%. Islam has shown significant growth in the last decade - rising from 5% to almost 14% - and has been strengthened by groups settling from Chad and Sudan. Dissatisfaction at the perceived marginalization of northern Muslims was one of the root causes for the coup in March 2013 that gave rise to a deadly conflict along religious and ethnic lines. The Christian community is very concerned about the Islamic inroads being established in the country and church leaders have repeatedly pointed out that the rebellion that led to the coup had a religious agenda.

Normal church life is very difficult as meetings of Christians in many areas take place under the threat of possible attack; Ex-Séléka groups attack churches in the Muslim-dominated areas of the country and especially target churches that are more involved in openly integrating converts from the Muslim community. Anti-Balaka rebel groups also attack churches and any Christians who oppose their

activities. Both of these rebel groups have involvement in criminal activities. Christians also face frequent harassment in the big cities - especially in Bangui close to the PK5 quarter - and in north-eastern areas.

Economic landscape

Poverty is high in CAR, and the economic is extremely volatile. This economic situation makes room for insecurity as a number of armed actors exploit state vulnerabilities to gain control over mines and other territory for economic reasons. Therefore, Christians are affected by the impacts of poverty and a poor economy. The effects range from economic migration and exploitation, illiteracy, and poor health, all of which make the lives of Christians extremely difficult.

According to the African Development Bank's [2024 Central African Republic Economic Outlook](#) (accessed 8 August 2024):

- **Economic growth:** Although weak since 2020, growth slightly increased from 0.5% in 2022 to 1% in 2023. This modest recovery was primarily driven by the agriculture sector, which grew from 0.3% in 2022 to 1.2% in 2023. The industrial sector also saw growth, rising from a decline of 0.8% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023, and the services sector improved from 0.6% to 0.7% over the same period. The sectoral contributions to GDP were 52% for agriculture, 23% for industry, and 25% for services.
- **Inflation:** Inflation decreased from 7.9% in 2022 to 5.6% in 2023. This reduction was largely attributed to a recovery in agricultural production and the implementation of fuel price subsidies since July 2023.
- **Fiscal deficit:** The budget deficit improved from 5.4% of GDP in 2022 to 3.7% in 2023, reflecting better public revenue collection. Despite this improvement, the risk of external and global debt distress remains high, with the debt-to-GDP ratio at 49% in 2023. The current account deficit also narrowed from 12.4% of GDP in 2022 to 8.5% in 2023, thanks to favorable balances in primary and secondary income accounts.
- **Poverty:** Poverty remains widespread in the Central African Republic, with 68% of the population (approximately 4.2 million people) living below the national poverty line, defined as having an annual income of €401. Additionally, 10% of the non-poor population is vulnerable to poverty and likely to become poor in the event of a shock. The unemployment rate stands at 28% for men and 42.5% for women, with a Gini coefficient of 43, indicating significant income inequality.
- **Outlook and risks** Economic recovery is projected to continue, with growth expected to reach 2.3% in 2024 and 3.1% in 2025. Inflation is anticipated to fall to 4.1% in 2024 and 3.4% in 2025. The budget deficit is projected to further improve to 0.5% in 2024 and 0.2% in 2025, supported by ongoing reforms to boost domestic revenue mobilization. However, risks to this outlook include the potential for renewed internal conflicts, dependency on agricultural performance, and the global economic impact of events such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel–Hammas conflict.

According to the [World Bank Economic Barometer 2024 for Central African Republic](#) (17 June 2024):

- “Economic growth is estimated to have reached 0.9 percent in 2023, compared to 0.5 percent in 2022. CAR's structural vulnerabilities, compounded by external shocks, continue to strain public

finances, and adversely affect growth, food security, and poverty reduction efforts, necessitating bold macro-fiscal reforms. As of 2023, two-thirds of the population lived in extreme poverty, with projections suggesting a one percentage point increase in the next two years due to negative per capita growth”.

This somber sentiment about the country’s economic prospects is reiterated by the private sector. One of the major international banks, Credit Agricole Group, describes [CAR’s economic landscape](#) (accessed 8 August 2024) as follows:

- “The precarious political and security situation that characterizes the Central African Republic (CAR) since 2013 negatively impacts economic growth. From an economic standpoint, the GDP of Central Africa, pegged at XAF 1,530 billion (approximately EUR 2.3 billion) in 2023, stands 20% lower in real terms compared to 2012...Since 2020, the Central African Republic's macro-fiscal vulnerabilities have worsened due to a succession of external shocks, including renewed insecurity and violence, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These shocks have strained public finances, heightened inflationary pressures, endangered food security, and impeded poverty reduction initiatives. Additionally, climate-related shocks such as droughts and floods persist, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation, especially in remote regions. Despite ongoing improvements, the overall fiscal balance remained structurally in deficit in 2023, with public debt increasing to 55.7% of GDP”.

According to the [2024 Economic Freedom Index](#):

- CAR has an economic freedom score of 41.3, positioning its economy as the 168th freest globally. This score reflects a decline of 2.5 points compared to the previous year.
- In the Sub-Saharan Africa region, CAR is ranked 43rd out of 47 countries, indicating a relatively low level of economic freedom compared to its neighboring nations. Moreover, CAR's overall score falls below both the world and regional averages.
- Unemployment stands at 6.6% and foreign direct investment is at USD 24 million and public debt stands at 52% of GDP.

Gender perspective

CAR performed poorly on Georgetown’s Women, Peace and Security Index 2023, which is mainly due to poor rates of financial inclusion for women ([GIWPS CAR profile](#), accessed 8 August 2024) at rank #175 out of 177 countries.

The labor force participation rate for 2023 stands at 63.4% for women, compared to 77.9% for men (World Bank [Gender Data Portal CAR](#), accessed 8 August 2024).

Many women and girls are economically dependent on their families, which can make them vulnerable if they convert to Christianity.

Social and cultural landscape

According to the [World Factbook CAR](#) (accessed 8 August 2024):

- **Main ethnic groups:** Baya 28.8%, Banda 22.9%, Mandjia 9.9%, Sara 7.9%, Mboum 6%, M'Baka 7.9%, Arab-Fulani (Peul) 6%, Mbum 6%, Ngbanki 5.5%, Zande-Nzakara 3%, other Central African Republic ethnic groups 2%, non-Central African Republic ethnic groups 1%
- **Main languages:** French (official), Sangho (Lingua franca and national language), tribal languages.
- **Population growth rate:** 1.79% (2021 est.)
- **Urban population:** 42.6% of the total population (2021)
- **Rate of urbanization:** 3.32% annual rate of change (2020-2025 est.)
- **Median age:** 17.6 years
- **Expected years of schooling:** 7.6 years (6.2 years for girls, compared to 8.9 years for boys)
- **Literacy rate, adult (15 years and older):** 37.4%
- **Employment to population ratio (15 years and older):** 69.3%
- **Unemployment:** 3.7% of total labor force
- **Youth unemployment (15-24 years):** 5.7%

According to the [World Bank CAR overview](#) (last updated 30 March 2023):

- **Poverty:** Despite gradual increases in private consumption, the poverty rate in the Central African Republic (CAR) is expected to remain high. The medium-term outlook for the country is susceptible to significant external and internal risks. The projection indicates that poverty will remain elevated, with approximately 69.1 percent of the population living in extreme poverty in 2022. This means that a significant portion of the population, about two-thirds, is living below the international poverty line of US\$2.15 per person per day (at 2017 purchasing power parity). The challenge of poverty reduction remains significant in the CAR, requiring sustained efforts and effective policies to raise the living standards of its citizens.

According to the OHCA [Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #3](#), CAR Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (30 June 2023):

- **Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance:** 3.4 million.
- **Projected number of people facing acute food insecurity from April to August 2023:** 2.4 million.

According to [UNOCHA](#) (last updated 11 July 2024):

- **IDPs/Refugees:** "As a result of insecurity, one Central African in five remains displaced either within the country or abroad, mainly in neighboring countries. As of 30 May 2024, the total number of IDPs in CAR is estimated at 451,000 people, of whom 18 per cent were in sites and 82 percent in host families. This corresponds to a 13 per cent drop in displacements compared with April 2024, when the number of IDPs was estimated at 518,000. However, since the beginning of the year, around 5,000 people have been displaced each month due to insecurity. In addition, 750,000 people have taken refuge abroad, mainly in neighboring countries, as a result of insecurity."

According to [UNDP Human Development Report CAR](#) (data updates as of 13 March 2024):

- **Human Development Index (2022):** CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world and one of the 10 poorest in Africa with an HDI ranking #191 out of 193 countries, with an HDI value of 0.387.
- **Average life expectancy at birth:** 54.5years
- **Gender inequality:** CAR has also one of the lowest education and gender equality indicators of the world. However, the GDI (which only covers 182 countries) is not computed for Central African Republic.

Gender perspective

CAR is heavily shaped by patriarchal norms; men are widely held as the head of the household, whereas women are expected to lead in the domestic sphere. According to a [2016 Tearfund report](#), marital rape and domestic violence are not just common place, but are widely accepted. The study revealed that both men and women believed that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten or disciplined (e.g., by refusing sex to their husband, or being deemed confrontational). Many chose not to report incidents of abuse due to stigma and out of fear of losing their children. According to a [UNDP report published on 15 July 2020](#), gender-based violence (GBV) surged when COVID-19 restrictions were introduced; despite a national strategy aimed at reducing GBV, statistics pre-COVID were already of concern.

Technological landscape

The persistent violence in the Central African Republic and its neighboring countries has hindered the development of technological infrastructure. As a result, the adoption of modern technology in communication, financial services, agriculture and transportation sectors is not well-advanced.

According to [DataReportal Digital: 2024 CAR](#) (23 February 2024) / survey date - January 2024:

- **Internet usage:** 10.6% penetration
- **Social media usage:** 2.7% of the total population
- **Active cellular mobile connections:** 32.0% of the total population

CAR has one of the lowest Internet usage rates in the world, with about only 616.6 thousand Internet users as of 2024, and only about 160,000 social media users, with only 33.3% of those being female. There are only 1.86 million cellular mobile connections in the country.

According to [Reporters Without Borders](#), (accessed 8 August 2024):

- “Only two TV channels exist in the Central African Republic (CAR), where radio remains the dominant source of information, with several dozen radio stations throughout the country. Radio Ndeke Luka, one of the few media outlets that respects facts and sources, the Network of Journalists for Human Rights (RJDH) and associations of bloggers and journalists that do fact-checking are regularly pressured. The print media – consisting of about 60 publications, which are not distributed outside Bangui, the capital – are easily manipulated. Their content often consists of little more than opinion pieces, rumours, and smear campaigns.”

Internet data is very expensive in CAR which is a barrier to access. Data prices in CAR are among the most expensive in the world, at US\$23.70 for 1 GB of data ([Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2024](#)). The shortage of electricity also affects the usage of digital technologies such as computers and phone, which need electricity to operate, including the radio broadcast infrastructure which requires electricity ([Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, CAR country profile, accessed 8 August 2024](#)). According to a [World Bank Press Release](#) (30 June 2022): "Only 14.3% of the country's population has access to electricity, with rates ranging from approximately 35% in Bangui to about 0.4% in rural areas." All these restrictions and bottlenecks in the digital landscape are impactful to religious freedoms.

Security situation

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2024 remains highly volatile and complex, marked by several critical developments. The country is still grappling with the presence of more than 14 armed factions, including domestic and foreign fighters. These groups, motivated by ideological, economic or political goals, continue to fight against the government and each other, causing widespread instability.

Many of these factions, including foreign fighters aiming to establish a Sharia state, while others are driven by greed and power, showing no mercy to those who oppose them. The involvement of Rwandan forces and the Russian Wagner Group has intensified the conflict, particularly affecting the Christian community. Christians face targeted attacks, threats, and the destruction of property. Armed groups have been responsible for numerous atrocities, including attacks on women and girls, and many Christians have been forced to flee their homes, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

The government, primarily in control of the capital, Bangui, struggles to extend its authority beyond the city, with the rest of the country divided among various armed groups. This fragmentation complicates efforts to track and address persecution and human rights abuses.

The peace treaty signed in February 2019 between the government and 14 armed groups has largely collapsed, especially following the contentious December 2020 elections. The influence of Rwanda and the Wagner mercenaries continues to grow, with both entities playing significant roles in the ongoing conflict. Additionally, there have been increasing reports of Chadian military operations within CAR's borders, further complicating the security landscape.

Key events in 2024 highlight the ongoing violence and instability:

- Multiple clashes between government forces, backed by Wagner mercenaries, and various rebel groups, resulting in significant casualties and displacement.
- Increasing political tensions and opposition due to President Touadéra's successful attempt to amend the Constitution to remove presidential term limits, which has led to crackdowns on civil society and opposition.
- Reports of ethnic militias, allegedly supported by South Sudan, further fueling the conflict and targeting specific communities.

The [International Crisis Group](#) and other organizations have documented these developments, underscoring the deteriorating security situation in CAR and the multifaceted nature of the conflict, which severely impacts the Christian population and other vulnerable groups.

Gender perspective

Within this context of fragility and insecurity, women and girls (especially IDPs) are especially vulnerable to incidences of sexual and gender-based violence at the hands of armed groups ([Human Rights Watch, 21 June 2019](#)). Despite these threats, women are reportedly left out of the peace building process, causing deep frustration among female leaders ([UN, Africa Renewal](#), last accessed 30 January 2023). Men and boys are vulnerable to forced recruitment into militias, as well as to abductions and killings.

Christian origins

Like most African countries, CAR society was dominated by several traditional African religions practiced by different tribes. Most traditional religions in the area were dependent upon the animist tradition with practices differing from one tribe to another. The animist African tradition was more dominant in the southern and central parts of the country. Muslim traders in the northern part of the country introduced Islam to the region. Christianity became dominant in CAR after French colonists took power in the 1880s and became the religion of choice for many - possibly also due to its close association with powerful and respected colonial officials. While Roman Catholic missionaries came as early as the second half of the 19th century, Protestant missionaries (for instance, sent by US Baptists) did not start operating in the country until 1921. (Source: [World Atlas, 12 April 2018](#))

Church spectrum today

Central African Republic: Church networks	Christians	%
Orthodox	0	0.0
Catholic	2,263,000	51.0
Protestant	915,000	20.6
Independent	910,000	20.5
Unaffiliated	345,000	7.8
Doubly-affiliated Christians	0	0.0
Total	4,433,000	100.0
<i>(Any deviation from the total number of Christians stated above is due to the rounding of decimals)</i>		
Evangelical movement	1,644,000	37.1
Pentecostal-Charismatic	1,054,000	23.8

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Orthodox: Eastern (Chalcedonian), Oriental (Pre-Chalcedonian, Non-Chalcedonian, Monophysite), Nestorian (Assyrian), and non-historical Orthodox. **Roman Catholics:** All Christians in communion with the Church of Rome. **Protestants:** Christians in churches originating in or in communion with the Western world's 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Includes Anglicans, Lutherans and Baptists (any of whom may be Charismatic) and denominational Pentecostals, but not Independent traditions such as Independent Baptists nor independent Charismatics. **Independents:** Christians who do not identify with the major Christian traditions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant). **Unaffiliated Christians:** Persons professing publicly to be Christians but who are not affiliated to churches. **Doubly-affiliated Christians:** Persons affiliated to or claimed by 2 denominations at once. **Evangelical movement:** Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. **Pentecostal-Charismatic:** Church members involved in renewal in the Holy Spirit, sometimes known collectively as "Renewalists".

The Roman Catholic Church is by far the largest Christian denomination.

Further useful reports

A selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/>.

These are also available on the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom):

- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/?s=Central African Republic>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/>.

External Links

- Recent history: UN Security Council Report - <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2020-02/central-african-republic-5.php>
- Recent history: UN Security Council Report - <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2020-02/central-african-republic-5.php>
- Recent history: BTI Report 2022 CAR - https://bti-project.org/fileadmin/api/content/en/downloads/reports/country_report_2022_CAF.pdf
- Recent history: BBC country profile CAR - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13150040>
- Political and legal landscape: 2016 Constitution - https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Central_African_Republic_2016.pdf?lang=en
- Political and legal landscape: Freedom in the World Index 2023 Niger - <https://freedomhouse.org/country/niger/freedom-world/2023>
- Political and legal landscape: HRW 2024 country chapter CAR - <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/central-african-republic>
- Political and legal landscape: Girls not Brides CAR - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/central-african-republic/>
- Political and legal landscape: Family Code 1998 - <https://data.unicef.org/crvs/central-african-republic/>
- Political and legal landscape: UNICEF press release, 13 May 2024 - <https://www.unicef.org/car/en/press-releases/new-national-strategy-end-child-marriage>
- Economic landscape: 2024 Central African Republic Economic Outlook - <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/central-africa/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-economic-outlook>
- Economic landscape: World Bank Economic Barometer 2024 for Central African Republic - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/economic-barometer-for-the-central-african-economic-and-monetary-community-spring-2024>
- Economic landscape: CAR's economic landscape - <https://international.groupecreditagricole.com/en/international-support/central-african-republic/economic-overview>
- Economic landscape: 2024 Economic Freedom Index: - <https://www.heritage.org/index/pages/country-pages/central-african-rep>
- Economic landscape: GIWPS CAR profile - <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/country/central-african-republic/>
- Economic landscape: Gender Data Portal CAR - <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/central-african-republic>

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