

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 62

1 September – 20 November 2015

KEY FIGURES

447,487

IDPs in CAR

456,866

Central African refugees in
Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Congo

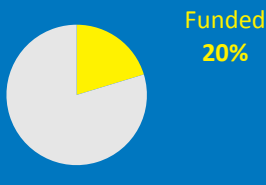
7,431

Refugees and asylum seekers in
Central African Republic

FUNDING

USD 241 million

required for the situation in 2015



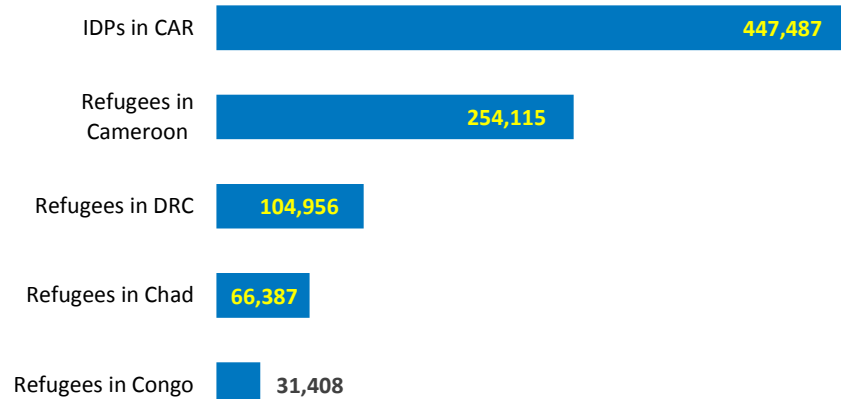
PRIORITIES

- **CAR:** Acceleration of assistance to newly displaced populations; continue to conduct protection monitoring
- **Cameroon:** Facilitation of voter registration for refugees; biometric registration
- **Chad:** Facilitation of voter registration for refugees
- **DRC:** Relocation of refugees to existing sites; verification of out of camps refugees
- **RoC:** Ensure registration and documentation of new CAR refugees; biometric registration exercise

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR facilitates the registration of Central African refugees in Chad, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo to enable them to vote for the elections planned at the end of December.
- Following the upsurge of violence in Bangui and in other parts of the Central African Republic, causing new waves of mass displacement in the country and the region, UNHCR and its partners continue to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and ensure protection of people of concern.
- Access and security constraints continue to hinder the delivery of vital assistance in the north-east region of CAR and urban enclaves such as PK5.
- Critical funding shortfalls are hampering UNHCR's efforts to provide basic assistance to newly displaced families in CAR and relocate thousands of new arrivals to safer areas inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo.

904,353 persons of concern



New arrivals of IDPs to UNHCR's camp in Pladama OUaka, the Central African Republic. © UNHCR/Gneneman Soro

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

The security and political situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains unpredictable and volatile. During the reporting period, attempts to destabilize the political transition and elections were marked by an upsurge of violence, most notably in Bangui, with more localized incidents in Bambari. The intra-communal fighting between elements of the anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka armed groups, starting in September and flaring up again in late October and November, led to large waves of displacement, adding pressure on already overstretched resources and further reducing local capacity to meet the needs of a growing IDP and refugee population. The situation remains fluid and any new security incident leads immediately to a new wave of displacement, whether preventive or in response to violence. In this context, civilian populations and humanitarian organizations have been increasingly targeted since September; at least 10 organizations have had their offices and warehouses looted and staff attacked, making it more challenging to operate on the ground.

Inside CAR, intercommunal strife left more than 75,000 people displaced, setting back progress achieved in promoting voluntary returns. In the capital Bangui, it is estimated that 42,000 individuals have been newly displaced and amongst them, a large number have sought refuge within host families. This situation has created a phenomenon of overpopulation where basic services are already limited. Neighborhoods where people have sought safety require assistance for shelter and accommodation as well as non-food items. In Bambari town, renewed violence displaced more than 30,000 persons. A new IDP site was spontaneously erected 12 km away from Bambari town, next to the Pladama Ouaka Sudanese refugee camp, with 1,534 IDPs from villages located in a 25 km radius from Pladama Ouaka commune. Serious security issues were also recorded in several other parts of the country, in particular in seven key prefectures out of the 16 prefectures established countrywide, namely Kemo, Ombella M'Poko, Nana Gribizi, Nana Mambere, Ouaka, Ouham and Pende. Overall, whilst the number of internally displaced rose 18 per cent from 378,400 in early September to almost 447,500 in mid-November, new refugee arrivals are also being registered in bordering countries, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo.

Protection

Preparations for the elections – Over the reporting period, the out of country voter registration of Central African refugees progressed slowly. By mid-November, about 24 per cent out of the total estimated number of 198,000 Central African refugees eligible to vote had registered: 33,366 in Cameroun, 11,265 in Chad, and 6,875 in the Republic of Congo. Late approval by the National Transitional Authorities to include refugees' participation in the elections resulted in delays in refugee registration. Subsequently, this led to further delays in signing of agreements with asylum countries and in deploying meaningful logistical and financial means to register refugees.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- **Achievements and Impact.** In response to new displacement created by the upsurge of violence, UNHCR launched the rehabilitation and construction of some 15 community shelters and distributed basic household items. Almost 32,000 newly internally displaced persons in Bangui and Bambari received emergency kits including tents and emergency shelter, tarpaulins, mats, blankets and kitchen sets. In Bambari, distributions were carried out in the Cotonnerie and PK8 new sites; and also in the Notre Dame de Victoire and Alternatif sites. Meanwhile in Bangui, distributions took place in the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th Districts. Unfortunately, distributions in Bangui were suspended temporarily due to renewed violence and will resume when the security situation permits. Since the beginning of 2015, UNHCR has provided basic items and emergency shelter to 120,000 IDPs in eight provinces countrywide.
- Access constraints continued to hinder the delivery of vital humanitarian assistance in several parts of the country. In particular, widespread insecurity and the presence of armed groups continued to prevent deliveries in the north-east region. The protection cluster, including UNICEF, OCHA and UNHCR, continued to work closely with MINUSCA to identify and address access and protection issues, especially in enclaves such as PK5 in Bangui, where people have been trapped with little or no access to assistance since September.
- **Needs and Remaining Gaps.** The rapid movement of populations towards IDP sites and host families created new protection needs. Newly displaced communities are unlikely to return to their respective neighborhoods or alternative

areas anytime soon. In fact, the majority of new IDPs will likely remain displaced for several months (probably until the end of the election process), as insecurity conditions will continue.

- Over the reporting period, some 36,000 persons of concern (PoCs) were still at risk and living in confinement in seven enclaves across the country. These minorities are confined to small perimeters with restricted freedom of movement for more than two years now (PK5 example, Yaloke, etc.). In the PK5 enclave, the only location in Bangui hosting Muslim communities, the situation has worsened with armed gangs surrounding the area. The perimeter where members of the Muslim community were able to circulate has further shrunk. Civilians suffer from their isolation and the lack of access to the city and to public services.

CHAD

- Achievements and Impact.** In view of ensuring the protection of refugees and promoting their rights in the country, UNHCR organized, jointly with its government counterpart, the *Commission nationale d'accueil, de réinsertion des réfugiés et des rapatriés* (CNARR), various training sessions in Sarh, Doba and Moissala on international protection for the gendarmerie and the administrative and military authorities from the region of Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari and Mandoul.
- The profiling exercise of refugee households was completed in Gore and Belom camps to gather additional information in order to identify durable solutions. Out of 678 households profiled, 68 per cent (465 families) expressed their preference for resettlement, while 25 per cent (167 families) preferred voluntary repatriation, and 6 per cent (42 families) local integration (4 families remained undecided).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Needs and Remaining Gaps.** Central African refugees continued to cross the Oubangui River as a consequence of the outbreak of violence in September. During the first three weeks of November, UNHCR registered 1,236 refugees in Equateur province, most of them new arrivals and many were female-headed families. Refugees told UNHCR they had fled reprisal attacks between armed groups, which also targeted the civilian population. Some reported that their houses had been destroyed, their property looted and family members killed.
- Amid sporadic, disquieting reports in November of border incursions from CAR, the Congolese army has advised some refugees to move away from the border. However, a lack of funding is hampering UNHCR efforts to provide basic aid and relocate thousands of CAR refugees to safer areas.



A UNHCR staff enters a hangar in Mole camp (DRC). Refugees spend the night in such communal shelters due to the lack of individual houses in the camp. © UNHCR/C.Delfosse

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Needs and Remaining Gaps.** Daily refugee outflows were observed into the Republic of Congo (Betou and Mouale villages) following the upsurge of violence in Bangui. Between the end of October and mid-November, 640 new asylum seekers from CAR were registered in the country. Biometric registration that started in August will soon be finalized after the completion of the exercise in Ibenga and Dongou.



Health

CAMEROON

- Achievements and Impact.** In order to strengthen the hospital's reception capacities in District Touboro and improve the quality of patient care, UNHCR handed over seven hospital beds and accessories (mattresses, sheets, cover, etc.).

CHAD

- Achievements and Impact.** In Belom camp, 416 medical consultations were carried out during the reporting period. The predominant diseases continue to be malaria and acute respiratory infections. Furthermore, two awareness sessions on domestic violence against women and HIV/AIDS prevention were given in favour of 394 PoCs, including 216 women.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** In Boyabu camp, 905 PoCs were sensitized on HIV/AIDS transmission while 981 PoCs, including 462 women participated in an awareness session on anti-retroviral treatment. In Mole camp, household visits were conducted to sensitize 874 PoCs (526 families) on breastfeeding practices. Furthermore, during the reporting period, male condoms were distributed in Boyabu (24,204), Bili (14,556) and Inke (5,800) camps.
- **Needs and Remaining Gaps.** In all camps hosting Central African refugees, malaria remains the predominant disease. In Mboti camp, for example, 35 per cent of 174 persons (refugees and members of the host community) were treated for malaria. However, in Inke camp and in North Ubangi, critical shortages of essential medicines were reported, especially for malaria treatment as well as nevirapine syrup, a drug given to newborns to help protect them from HIV infection.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- **Needs and Remaining Gaps.** The cases of morbidity related to malaria and respiratory infections are equal to those within the local population. In addition, some cases of malnutrition have been reported.



Food Security and Nutrition

CHAD

- **Achievements and Impact.** In October, in Belom camp, ready-to-use supplementary food (Plumpy Doz) was distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and UNHCR, to 3,185 children aged 0-5 years. Targeted food distributions reached 14,821 households, covering their needs for November and December.
- UNHCR participated in a joint mission with WFP, LWF, and local authorities in the area of Moissala where food was distributed to 848 households in Dembo, covering their needs for October, November and December.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** UNHCR provided hot meals to 1,502 PoCs at the Zongo transit center, to 243 beneficiaries in Pangoma transit center and to 63 PoCs at Inke transit center.
- As of the end of October, in Mole camp, the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate is 6.5 per cent, including 4.1 per cent of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 0.6 per cent of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In Inke camp, the GAM rate is 3.2 percent, including 1 percent of SAM. During the reporting period, 88 adults and 122 children under five suffered from malnutrition in the camp. Food shortfalls for Super Cereal and Plumpy Sup, used to treat moderate acute malnutrition, were experienced several times in Bili, Mboti, Inke and Mole refugee camps over the reporting period.



Water and Sanitation

CHAD

- **Achievements and Impact.** The results of the biometric registration exercise led to a reduction of approximately 32 per cent of the total target population, leading to an improvement in the daily water supply per capita (on average 47 litres per person per day – 42.8 in Amboko, 55.7 in Dosseye, 52.2 in Gondje, 38.8 in Moyo, 41.8 in Belom, 49 in Doholo).
- In sanitation, the coverage of family latrines in the camps was 65 per cent (68 per cent in Amboko, 61 per cent in Dosseye; 58 per cent in Gondje, 61 per cent in Moyo, 64 per cent in Belom, 77 per cent in Doholo). The average of people per communal latrine was 10 people per latrine.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** Water production in all camps hosting Central African refugees was below the recommended standard of 20 litres/person/day except in Mboti where 20 l/p/d as of early November (19 l/p/d was provided in Bili; 15.9 in Mole; 10.9 in Inke).
- In November, in Bili camp, 6,594 people, including 3,936 women and 2,658 men, were sensitized by UNHCR on handwashing and hygiene.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** During the reporting period, latrines were disinfected and the water treated in 15 Avril site. Awareness sessions on water and hygiene and conservation of food were conducted for refugees in 15 Avril site. Moreover, UNHCR's partner, the *Agence d'assistance pour les rapatriés et les réfugiés du Congo* (AARREC), undertook the organization of health committees for the latrines and wells at 15 Avril site.



Shelter, Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- **Achievements and Impact.** The September violence prompted the creation of new IDP sites (*Ecole Koudoukou*, *Socatel* and *Ecole Maternelle du 3eme arrondissement*) and triggered the reopening of closed sites such as *Four square*, and *St Mathias*, amongst others. In response to the new displacement, UNHCR assisted 4,000 newly displaced IDP households in Mpoko and 7,746 newly displaced IDP households in Bambari and Bangui with NFI kits (kitchen sets, plastic mats, jerry cans, and mosquito nets). Since January 2015, UNHCR distributed 29,309 NFI kits reaching out to 151,870 IDPs and returning IDPs.
- Thus far, UNHCR delivered 52 training sessions on camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) capacity building targeting 1,029 CCCM actors and IDPs themselves in Bangui as well as in the localities of Batangafo, Bambari, Kaga Bando, Zemio and Kouango. As a result, some sites, especially those with less than 1,000 individuals, have developed relative autonomy and self-assessment capacities, allowing for site facilitation by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).
- **Needs and Remaining Gaps.** Increasing insecurity in Bangui between September and October 2015 has negatively impacted the transportation of supplies from Bangui, which may delay programme implementation. It is worth noting that there will still be a gap of 445 houses to reconstruct that the operation will not be able to cover this year.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** In Mboti camp, 41 shelters built by UNHCR's partner *Terre Sans Frontières* were completed in favor of persons with specific needs. In Bondo, the construction of 34 additional housing units is underway for persons with specific needs.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** During October, 980 refugees were assisted in Betou with NFIs, including blankets, mosquito nets, buckets plates, soap).



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

CHAD

- **Achievements and Impact.** In Belom camp, 253 gardeners were identified to start gardening activities, totaling some 415 beneficiaries already engaged in the programme. In addition, 176 agro-pastoralists attended an information session on the importance of cutting and conserving green hay for livestock.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** In Mole camp, 404 individuals, including 272 women, engaged in income-generating activities (soap-making, sewing, masonry, carpentry, amongst others)
- In Bas Uélé and Monga, UNHCR's partner ADES organized a community mobilization campaign and distribution of agricultural tools (machetes, hoes, axes and rakes) to promote food self-sufficiency of refugee farmers living with foster families. In total, 642 people have benefited from this activity.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for the financial support provided by all donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR operations with unearmarked funds and broadly earmarked contributions. UNHCR's financial requirements for the CAR Situation in 2015 amount to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries. **The overall needs are currently funded at 20% only.**

IMPACT OF UNDERFUNDING

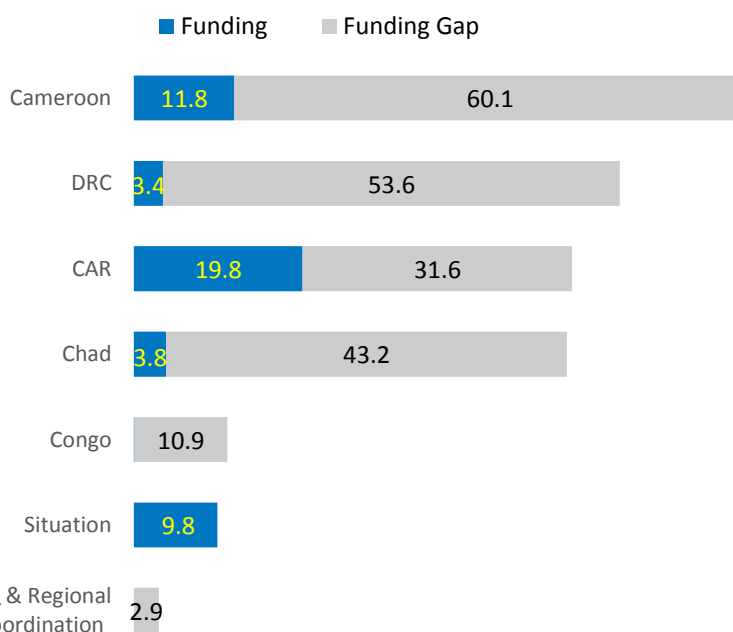
Despite continuous advocacy efforts and the generous support from our donors, UNHCR is forced to cut back and cut down its operations in CAR and affected countries, meaning that the support needed by hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people is not able to reach them. Without sufficient support, displaced populations inside CAR and refugees in the region will be forced to resort to negative coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals consumed per day, borrowing money or using up savings, taking on informal, often exploitative jobs, and removing children from school to help generate additional income. Meanwhile, host countries will be forced to carry an even higher burden, compromising their capacity to cope with the crisis and possibly impacting border policies and their willingness to continue hosting refugees.

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UN Development Programme
UN Foundation
UN Population Fund
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
United Kingdom

Funding:

A total of **USD 48.9 million** has been funded



Contacts:

Mr Alan Mouton, Associate External Relations Officer, mouton@unhcr.org, +41 (0)22 739 8830

Ms Wendy Rappeport, Senior External Relations Officer, rappepor@unhcr.org, +41 (0)22 739 8993

Ms Annette Rehrl, Senior External Relations Officer (CAR crisis), rehrl@unhcr.org, +221 33 867 62 07

Links:

Webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php> | UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org> | UNHCR Kora: <http://kora.unhcr.org>



Central African Republic Emergency Situation

As of 25 November 2015

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Africa

