

Central African Republic Situation

August 2017

Continued violence in the Central African Republic has triggered **new levels of displacement**. In August 2017, the number of Central African refugees in neighbouring countries reached **the highest number of CAR refugees seen since the start of the crisis in 2013**. In addition to the refugees, the number of internally displaced people remained close to 600,000 by the end of August, 2017. With more than **1.1 million people displaced inside CAR or as refugees** in neighbouring countries, **the overall population displacement is at its highest level since 2013**. **Support is critical** both to save lives and to complement ongoing development initiatives in CAR and the sub-region. Despite the **insecure and complex environment** combined with mounting protection issues, UNHCR and its partners are laying special focus on bolstering humanitarian funding, working to overcome logistical impediments and alleviate the suffering of displaced populations in need of critical assistance.

KEY FIGURES

513,686

CAR refugees in the sub-region (as of 31 August, 2017)

35,630

Central African refugees have spontaneously returned to the country (31 August, 2017)

592,254

IDPs in CAR (31 August, 2017)

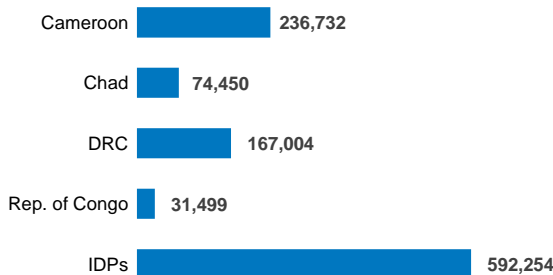
 Source: *Commission Mouvement de Populations*

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the **Central African Republic**, UNHCR has maintained a presence in Bria to respond to the urgent and increasing protection needs of the 41,600 IDPs in the town.
- In **Cameroon**, UNHCR continued to register and assist new arrivals. During the month, another 300 new Central Africans crossed the border bringing the total number of new arrivals to more than 7,300 since July 2017
- In **Chad** another 200 new arrivals were received during the month bringing the total number of new arrivals to 2,500 since April 2017. UNHCR has started registering them in addition to distributing NFI kits, relief items, and shelters.
- In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, registration of new arrivals has proven to be difficult due to accessibility issues, while 64,000 new asylum seekers have been received since May 2017.
- In the **Republic of Congo**, as new 300 new asylum seekers have arrived since July 2017, the Government is working on conducting accelerated refugee status determination.

POPULATION OF CONCERN* (as of end of August, 2017)

Countries

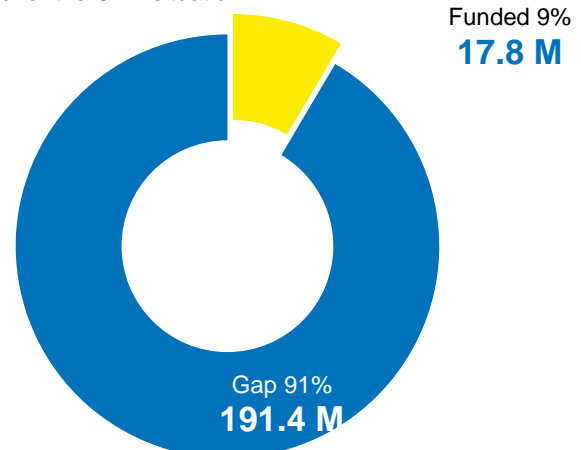


* Smaller numbers of CAR refugees are also in Sudan (2,144 as at end of August) and South Sudan (1,857 as at end of August).

FUNDING (as of 12 September, 2017)

USD 209.2 M

requested for the CAR situation



Operational Context

- As armed conflict has continued to affect areas in the centre, northwest, east and south-east of CAR – some not previously affected by the conflict, such as Bangassou or Zemio, a large number of IDPs and refugees remain scattered inside the country and its neighboring countries. As a result, massive and long-standing displacements have increased vulnerabilities and added a significant burden on already deprived host communities. For instance, Bria town – which has become one of the hottest spots of the country – was again the scene of inter-communal violence and acts of violence against civilians in August leading to a rise of more than 6,000 in the number of IDPs since fresh clashes erupted on 21 August, 2017. Similar situations are seen in the towns of Zemio, Bangassou, Bantagafo and Alindao where humanitarian needs and serious protection risks have dramatically increased, adding to an already dire situation.
- Since May 2017, new fierce clashes in the Central African Republic between armed groups have wrought increasing destruction of property, agony and death. Many newly displaced people speak of having witnessed fatal attacks, robberies, lootings and kidnappings. Even after reaching safe locations, they often risk assault by armed groups, if they venture outside. Unable to approach aid workers, they barely have access to vital supplies.
- This worsening situation raises concerns over the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in a context where 50 percent of the CAR people depend on humanitarian aid to survive. In many of the affected areas, humanitarian assistance has been limited to strictly life-saving interventions, due to limited access and insecurity. Some of UNHCR's planned deliveries by air have been delayed or blocked during the month due to the armed groups' presence.
- The surge in violence in CAR led the humanitarian community to revise the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, which now requires US\$497 million instead of US\$399.5 (an increase of 24 percent), but is only 27 percent funded. The consequence could be dire if there are no further resources to meet the mounting needs. UNHCR has appealed for US\$209 million in 2017 to assist the internally displaced inside CAR and meet the needs of Central African refugees in the region. Nevertheless, a mere 9 per cent has so far been received – making the CAR situation among the lowest in funding of any humanitarian emergency anywhere.

Country Updates

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- New population movements have become centered in the east and southeast (Bria, Zemio, Bangassou, Alindao) and northwest (Bantagafo). With months of conflict in Haute-Kotto prefecture, the number of IDPs in Bria has been steadily increasing to amount to some 41,600 individuals as of 31 August, 2017. UNHCR continued to assist the displaced populations with a constant presence of staff to ensure protection monitoring. In Zémio, clashes between armed groups on 17 August, 2017 caused the displacement of some 5,000 individuals from Komboli, Bandassi, and the hospital to the Catholic Mission, Muslim Quarter, and a site between the gendarmerie and the MINUSCA base.
- In Bangassou, most of the displaced population was sheltered at the *Petit Seminaire* site with some 1,500 individuals. A joint IOM/UNHCR return intention survey was carried out in August with results showing that 73 per cent would like to remain in Bangassou, but not the *Petit Seminaire* site. While the only alternative would be to create a new site in the Tokoyo neighbourhood, a taskforce comprising the HC/RC, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, MINUSCA, MSF, and ICRC was created to assess this option.
- In Batangafo, following the violence in July 2017, resulting in 20 dead and 25,000 displaced, an inter-agency mission of UNHCR, OCHA, and WFP joined the Minister of Social Affairs in a visit in August 2017. While restrictions on movement have hindered humanitarian access as well as livelihood activities for the population, the mission revealed some concerns about the civilian character of displacement sites and lack of key services besides food rations.

- In towns beyond UNHCR's reach like Alindao (some 300 kilometres northeast of Bangui), UNHCR has prepositioned NFIs in its warehouse in Bambari, ready to be transported to Alindao for distribution to IDPs. It has been difficult to intervene in the past three weeks because the town is encircled by armed groups, which is making it difficult for IDPs to receive assistance or to even venture outside the security perimeter provided by the temporary operation base of MINUSCA.

CAMEROON

- During the month of August 2017, UNHCR witnessed the arrival of some 300 new Central African refugees in the border localities of Ngaoui and Alhamdou in the Adamaoua region of Cameroon, adding to the 7,000 people who arrived to the area of Touboro (North region) last month. UNHCR carried out screening and pre-registration activities, and distributed non-food items to these refugees whilst also continuing to carry out border monitoring activities in and around Ngaoui and at other frequently used entry points to ensure access to asylum.
- The 7,000 new arrivals are now settled with local communities already hosting Central African refugees in the areas of Mbaï-Mboum, Wakasso, Helbao, Barka Lamou, Touboro Center, Bodo, Guigui, Dompla, and Dompta villages in Touboro.
- UNHCR is registering refugees, and its partners are providing medical care and food to the refugees. The health centre in Touboro is being reinforced to improve services and to help assess the needs of the refugees. Current projections are to receive and assist up to 22,000 individuals by the end of December 2017. It is likely that Cameroon will receive additional refugees if the west of CAR is further affected by the current crisis.

CHAD

- Following successive influxes of refugees registered in south-western Chad since April 2017, another 468 new arrivals were reported in August. While 200 of them were registered, assisted, and settled in Belom camp, the rest were transferred and registered to the new Diba 2 site and received basic assistance such as NFI kits. Diba 2 site is currently equipped for up to 1,000 people with 59 latrines and shower blocks, two boreholes, and a 200 m² warehouse, while the site has a remaining capacity to accommodate 500 people. Current facilities would need to be increased should there be another influx of refugees.
- WFP and UNHCR completed the data collection of the update on the socio-economic categorization of CAR refugees. The exercise is now being expanded to include some 2,500 refugee households living in host villages. A biometric registration of Chadian returnees, led by WFP in partnership with OIM, is also ongoing. It will be completed by socioeconomic profiling to inform the delivery of needs-tailored assistance, including the provision of livelihoods solutions.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Asylum seekers from CAR continued to arrive in Bas-Uele and Nord Ubangi provinces. The National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR estimated that around 64,000 new asylum seekers arrived between mid-May and August, while local authorities reported tens of thousands more arrivals in areas of difficult access. This new influx started mid-May and was triggered by violence, tensions and fear about imminent attacks in border areas. Most of these newly arrivals were women and children and considered to be in extremely precarious condition.
- Individual registration of new arrivals in the provinces of Bas-Uele and Nord-Ubangi continued by the CNR. However, access to the sites where the new arrivals have settled continued to be challenging due to insecurity, heavy rains, poor road conditions, and scattered locations of individuals. DRC's Vice Minister of Interior informed the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations during his mission to the country from 22 to 26 August that DRC plans to grant *prima facie* refugee status to all asylum seekers who will arrive from CAR in DRC within a period of one year from now.
- Between 5 and 8 August, UNHCR distributed relief items to 9,700 individuals in Yakoma, Limasa and Satema localities (Nord-Ubangi province) through its partner *Association pour le Développement Social et le la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement*. Some 7,600 of them were new arrivals, while some 2,100 were registered as out-of-camp refugees. Other distributions of relief items are planned at the beginning of September in the localities of Ndu, Gbobo, Nganza, Yomba and Satema (Nord Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces).

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Over the past two months, UNHCR has recorded more than 300 new arrivals from CAR while critical lack of funding has prevented the organisation from procuring the required NFIs and core relief items they urgently need. Generic and essential medicines purchased only covered the first months of the year, and community health centres continue to lack medicines to properly treat common diseases. Additional resources are needed to provide antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women in order to prevent HIV transmission to newborns.
- UNHCR also requires funding to provide support for access to secondary health care to a number of CAR refugees living in Likouala. The *15 Avril* and *Ikpemgebe* refugee sites need more latrines as well in order to improve shelter, water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) conditions. At least 300 family and community latrines need to be constructed in the refugee sites in order to facilitate access of refugees to sanitation infrastructures and reduce contamination risks. In Mouale, there is a need for at least three additional boreholes to increase the water provision.
- Since September 2015, there have been over 4,700 asylum seekers arriving from CAR in various localities of Likuala in the northern RoC. Of the total, 414 arrived from January 2017. *Prima facie* recognition ended since September 2015; however, the Government (*Commission nationale d'assistance aux réfugiés*) has been conducting accelerated refugee status determination (RSD) for the 4,700 individuals.



Joli, 29, and other Central African refugees congregate in the village of Ndu, Bas Uele province, Democratic Republic of the Congo where thousands fled after fleeing a surge in violence that began in May 2017 @UNHCR/ Lubuku

Financial Information

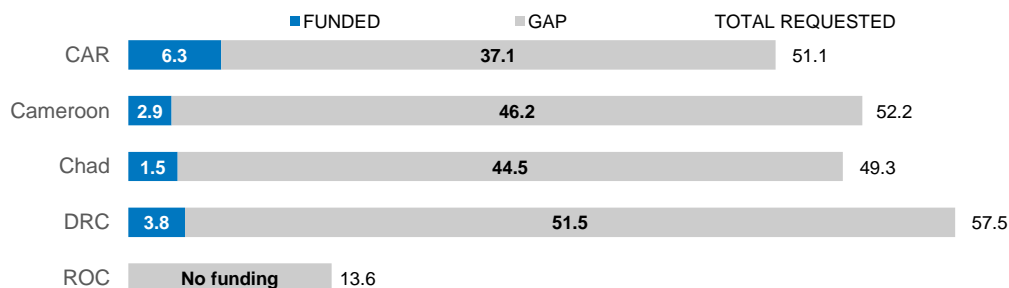
In 2017, UNHCR's requirements amount to \$209.2 million to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of people of concern in Central African Republic and for the refugee response in asylum countries. UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the operation:

- Country-Based Pooled Funds
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- Private Donors Switzerland
- Private Donors USA
- UN Foundation (UNFIP)
- UNIQLO Co., Ltd
- United Kingdom
- Vodafone Foundation

Funding (in million USD)

A total of \$17.8 million has been funded



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Private Donors Spain (41 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (20 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Private Donors USA (13M) | Germany (12 M) | Private Donors Italy (12 M) | Italy (10 M) | Private Donors of Japan (10 M) |

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CONTACTS

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

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

Elisa Furuta, Associate External Relations Officer
furuta@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 (22) 739 7897

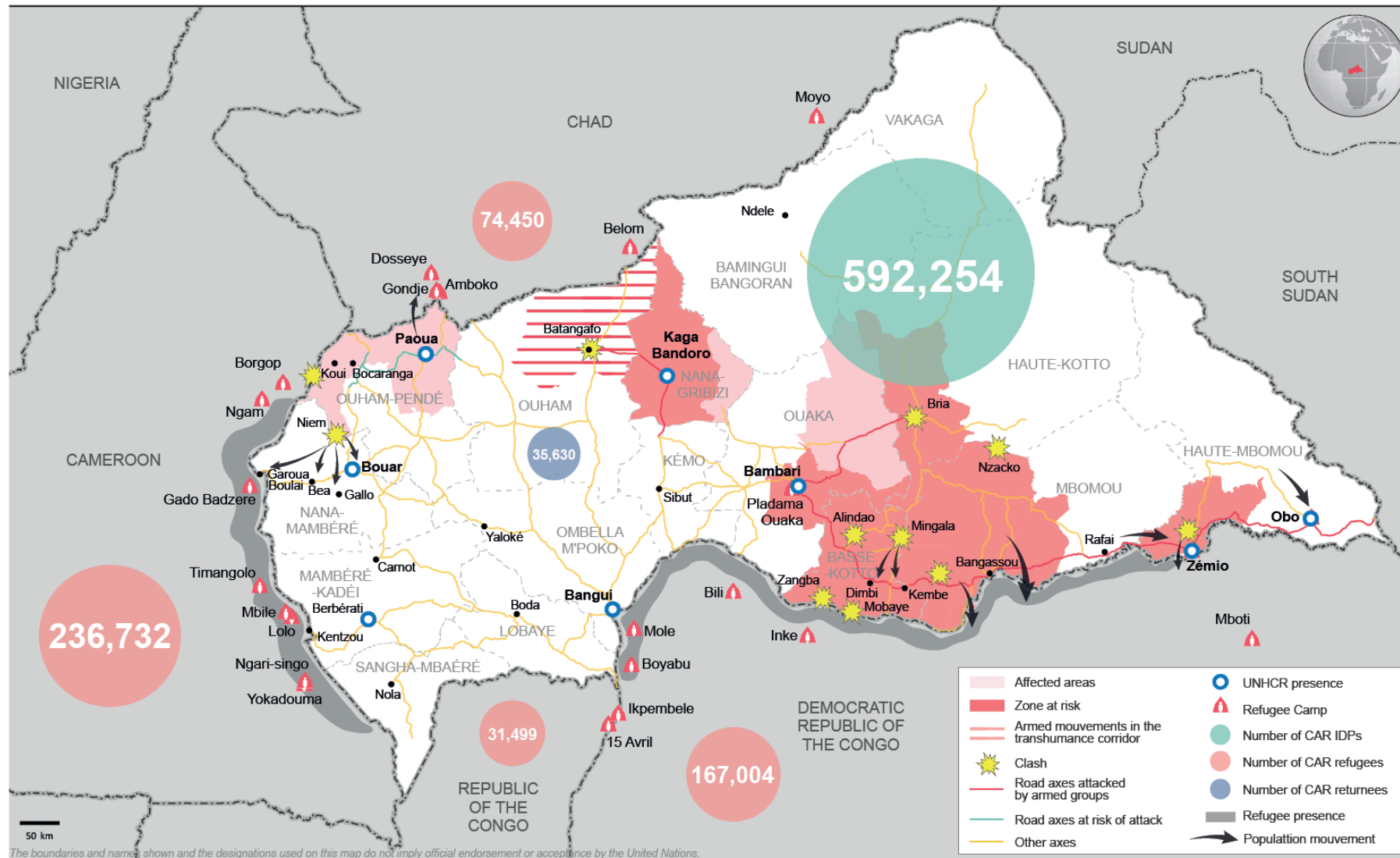
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC REGIONAL SITUATION

Internal Displacement and Refugee Movements

as of 31 August 2017 or latest figures available



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