



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

## UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 52

7-20 March 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**436,256**

IDPs including

**49,113**

in Bangui in 35 sites

**455,134**

Central African refugees in Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Congo including

**215,735**

New arrivals since Dec. 2013

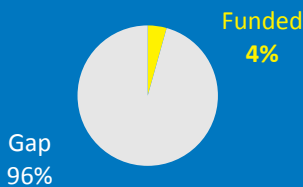
**8,103**

Refugees and asylum seekers in the Central African Republic

### FUNDING

**USD 241 million**

requested for the situation



### PRIORITIES

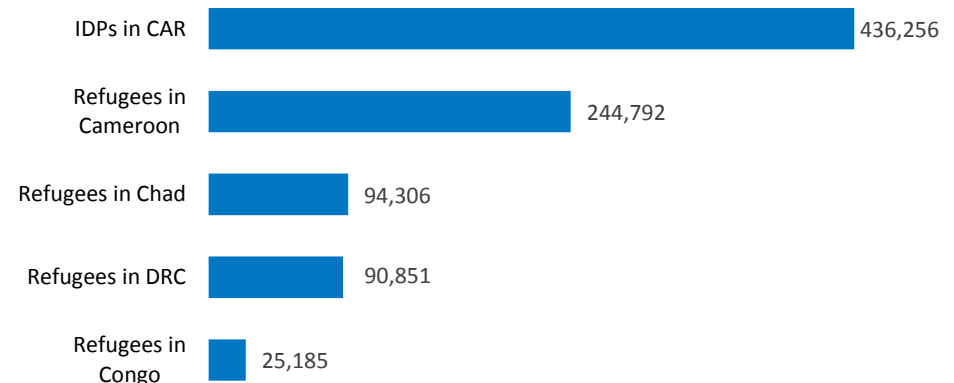
- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: ensure registration and documentation of all CAR refugees.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 16 March, the International Contact Group on Central African Republic (ICG-CAR) appealed to the international community for USD 3 million to assist in the country's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme (DDR). The group made the appeal during its seventh meeting held in Brazzaville. Participants insisted that this is a key requirement for peace and stability in CAR and reminded those who made financial pledges to deliver on commitments made. Recommendations also mentioned that the transitional authorities and the National Authority for Elections increase efforts for the holding of "free, transparent and credible elections by August 2015".
- The US Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Linda Thomas-Greenfield visited CAR from 17-19 March, her third visit since December 2013 when violence in the country escalated. Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield met in Bangui with the Transitional President Catherine Samba-Panza, members of the Transitional Government, the Transitional National Council, the Preparatory Committee for the Bangui Forum, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA), and members of civil society, to discuss the evolution of the crisis.

### Population of concern

A total of **891,390** people of concern



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### Operational Context

- The European Union has launched an advisory military mission (EUMAM) in the Central African Republic (CAR) to help the country rebuild its army. The EU mission aims to advise the country's military on reforms to make it "professional, democratically controlled and ethnically representative." This follows the withdrawal of European Forces (EUFOR) from CAR on 15 March.
- On 23 March, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched an urgent appeal to help provide farmers in CAR with seeds and tools for the country's upcoming planting season, warning that without additional assistance "vulnerable populations risked a further deterioration of their livelihoods". Some 1.5 million people in CAR remain food insecure amid ongoing hostilities throughout the country and warned that the figure was likely to increase should immediate support not be provided.

### Protection

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population (CMP)* there are an estimated 436,256 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 49,113 in Bangui in 35 sites.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Protection Cluster continues to advocate for the protection of civilians and particularly in areas identified as hotspots for actions by the peacekeeping forces based on warning systems and various reports. The following areas are the highest priorities in terms of protection of civilians: the Batangafo-Bouca route, Mbrès, Kabo, Moyen-Sido, Ngaoundaye, Bambari, Kouango and Bangui (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts). The Protection Cluster Coordinator met with MINUSCA to discuss how to strengthen community engagement, warning systems and rapid response processes in coordination with humanitarian actors and civilian components of MINUSCA in order to impact on the POC situation in hotspots.

#### CAMEROON

- An estimated 137,655 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to verify and register refugees who have not yet been pre-registered in villages and to update registration information for spontaneous movements and family reunifications between sites and villages. From 2- 8 March, 489 refugees were registered in Garoua Boulai and in the refugee sites of Lolo and Borgop. During this time, UNHCR also issued 228 refugee attestations to newly registered refugee families in Meiganga, Garoua Boulai and Borgop. A total 47,156 attestations have been distributed since the beginning of the operation.



*Figure 1: Fatimatou, a traditional doctor, collecting her dry herbs and roots in Timangolo site, eastern Cameroon. UNHCR/O. Laban-Mattei*

## CHAD

- A total 17,078 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013 and are predominantly in the southern part of the country.

### Returns

- IOM facilitated the transfer of 75 returnees (16 families) from Sido to Maingama where UNHCR, through its partner, the Chadian Red Cross, have provided with family shelters. The relocation of returnees from Sido to the site of Maingama has considerably reduced as returnees express reluctance to move. While authorities insist that returnees should transfer to Maingama, returnee leaders state that they will not vacate the land as they have greater access to income-generating opportunities in Sido.
- UNHCR continued the profiling of returnees in Sido transit site. From 27 February to 6 March, 1,511 individuals (331 families) in Sido were profiled bringing the total number of those profiled to 15,625 individuals (4,149 families) since the beginning of the exercise.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- An estimated 46,147 Central African refugees have entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo since December 2013 and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province. The registration and verification operation is still ongoing to determine the number of refugees in and out of camps.

### Achievements and Impact

- On 12 March, UNHCR and local authorities opened Bili camp and received the first transfer of refugees relocated. To date, 107 refugees are in the camp where 220 shelters have been built. The new camp was required in light of the recent influx into the Bosobolo area of Equateur province.
- UNHCR registered 568 new refugees who were then relocated to Boyabu camp (pop. 15,776) from Batanga transit centre. Another 109 refugees were relocated to Inke camp (pop. 13,648) from Pangoma transit centre, and 339 refugees were transferred to Mole camp (pop.16,287).



Figure 2: A young Central African refugee girl arrives in Boyabu camp, DRC, after being relocated from a transit centre. UNHCR

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 14,855 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area. During the reporting period, 734 new arrivals were registered in Betou, Impfondo and Brazzaville by UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale d'Assistance pour les Réfugiés* (CNAR).

## Education

### CAMEROON

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, continued to support the Ministry of Education to ensure continued access to education for all refugee children. To date, 112 Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPes) programme have been constructed and 92 teachers have been recruited and trained providing access to education for 16,738 refugee children and from the host communities.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a lack of school supplies, uniforms and classroom equipment in some refugee hosting areas.
- There is a need to expand capacity—in terms of infrastructure, equipment, materials and staffing— of local public schools to integrate refugee children into the national curriculum.



## Health

### CAMEROON

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF and WHO supported the government's second national vaccination campaign from 27 February to 1 March for children in refugee sites and those amongst the local communities in the East and Adamawa regions. A total 95% of those requiring vaccinations were assisted (422,112 children).
- In Gado, Lolo, and Timangolo, UNHCR's implementing partner, CARE International, continued to conduct mental health activities, including individual counselling (psychosocial and psychological), group therapy and community sensitizations. These activities reached 2,043 people.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is an urgent need to strengthen healthcare and nutrition activities in host communities.
- There remains a lack of qualified medical personnel (i.e. doctors, paramedics, nurses) and need for additional technical equipment and facilities in health centres in host communities.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The mobile clinics of the *Association de Développement Economique et Social (ADES)* continue to monitor the spontaneous refugee sites along the Oubangi river in order to provide medical assistance. Many new cases of malaria have been determined amongst new arrivals in the Bosobolo area. ADES finalized the recruitment of its medical staff for Bili camp increasing the health centre's capacity.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC


#### Achievements and Impact

- WFP started its first food vouchers programme in CAR during the reporting period. The programme in CAR aims to assist more than 100,000 people affected by conflict country wide. Food vouchers allow for more flexibility in the choice of food items which contributes to a greater sense of responsibility among beneficiaries. The vouchers, valued at US\$10, will complement WFP distributions of rice, pulses and oil. On 18 March, WFP conducted the country's first food voucher programme in Yaloke enclave.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP completed its cash distribution in the camp of Boyabu reaching 15,467 refugees and amounting to USD 232,005. Cash grants for the month of March were also distributed in Mole camp where each refugee received USD 15.
- WFP also conducted its bi-monthly distribution during the reporting period and provided 19 tonnes of maize flour, peas, salt and vegetable oil were distributed to refugees in Mboti camp (pop. 585).



## Water and Sanitation

### CAMEROON

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average supply of water within the seven refugee sites in the East and Adamawa regions remains within recommended standards at 20 litres per person per day (l/p/d). As part of the 2015 response strategy, construction work continues in villages, particularly public infrastructures such as schools and health centres, outside of refugee sites so as to establish additional water points and increase the supply of potable water in areas hosting large populations of refugees. Sanitation and hygiene standards remain satisfactory with average ratios of 19 people per latrine and 24 people per shower.
- UNHCR and its implementing partners have constructed 79 boreholes (out of a total 97 already completed), as well as 2,366 latrines (out of 3,244) and 1,645 showers (out of 2,238) in all sites.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average supply of water in Gado (15l) and Mbile (17l) remains below UNHCR standards.
- A total 54 boreholes, 865 latrines and 1,123 showers are necessary in order to cover the needs of refugees in all sites. An additional 389 boreholes and 828 latrines in host villages also need to be constructed.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Achievements and Impact

- WASH activities are currently ongoing in the Bosobolo area; soap and water chlorination products are being distributed in the spontaneous refugee sites along the Oubangi river.
- Refugees in Bili camp now have access to 30,000l of water. Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 11 litres per person per day (l/p/d), severely below UNHCR standards.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production this week was 305,000l and provided 21 l/p/d. The water is provided by 20 water points, 3 wells with manual pumps and one emergency well.
- In Inke camp, the level of water production stood at 1,471,100l and which provided 14 l/p/d.
- In Mboti refugee camp, the daily production of water was 9,489m<sup>3</sup> and provided 16l/p/d.



## Shelter/ NFIs and CCCM

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR (through INTERSOS) and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM through *Solidarité Internationale*) allowed for the distribution of NFIs to 8,114 people (1,487 households) of which 599 households are at *Evêché*, *Nativité* and *Bissingalé* sites and 888 households identified living with host families by INTERSOS. This population, from Botto and Chute Nana localities, have been displaced since end of February following clashes between opposing farmers/villagers and Peulh cattle herders.

### CAMEROON

#### Achievements and Impact

- *Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), UNHCR's implementing partner, has resumed construction of 100 temporary shelters. Refugees will be able to move into these shelters as of April 2015. In Timangolo and Mbile, PU-AMI has begun construction work of 40 semi-durable shelters on each site due to be finalized by the end of the month. In Borgop, 82 family shelters were constructed.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Over 2,568 family shelters remain to be constructed for 5,367 refugees living in community shelters. Another 9,500 semi-permanent family shelters need to be constructed in all refugee sites.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Achievements and Impact

- The development of Bili camp is ongoing; so far 200 shelters, 76 latrines and 75 garbage pits have been constructed in the camp, as well as the reception centre and an administrative centre. Furthermore, 110 hectares out of the 160 hectares in the new camp area have been cleared.

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Achievements and Impact

- African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), UNHCR's implementing partner, is currently constructing 11 classrooms in three (3) public schools in Betou. Another three classrooms as well as a vocational centre are also being constructed in the refugee site of Ikpengbele.
- Local authorities have given their agreement for the extension of the *15 avril* site in Betou. So far, 380 shelters, out of 400 initially planned have been finalized.



*Figure 3: Refugees cross the Oubangi river to Gbadakila spontaneous site in Equateur Province, DRC. In the distance, smoke rises as villages are burnt in Kouango, CAR, by armed groups. UNHCR/B. Sokol.*

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

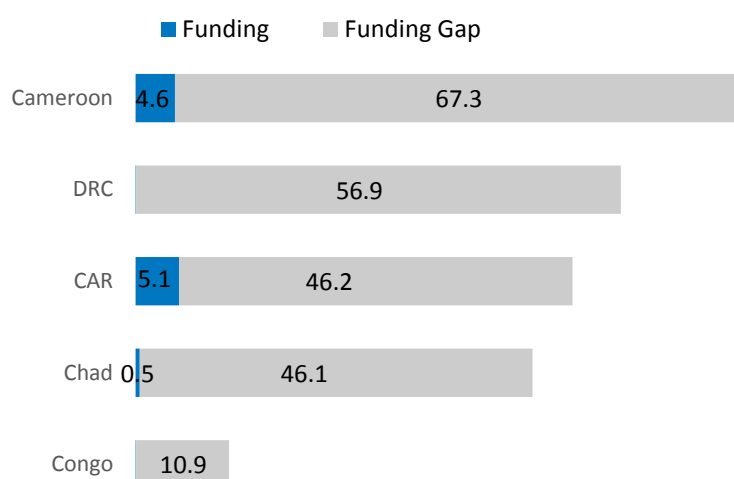
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation in 2014. Below are UNHCR's 2015 financial needs for providing protection and assistance to Central African refugees in the neighbouring countries, as well as discharging its responsibilities in the inter-agency framework to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in the Central African Republic. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation currently amounts to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries from January to December 2015, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 23 January 2015. **The overall needs are currently funded at 4%.**

### Donors:

European Union  
Japan  
Private donors Canada  
Private donors Italy  
Private donors Japan  
Private donors Kuwait  
Private donors Switzerland  
Private donors USA  
Spain  
Switzerland  
UN Development Programme  
UN Population Fund  
UN Prog on HIV/AIDS  
Holy See

### Funding:

A total of **USD 10.4 million** has been funded



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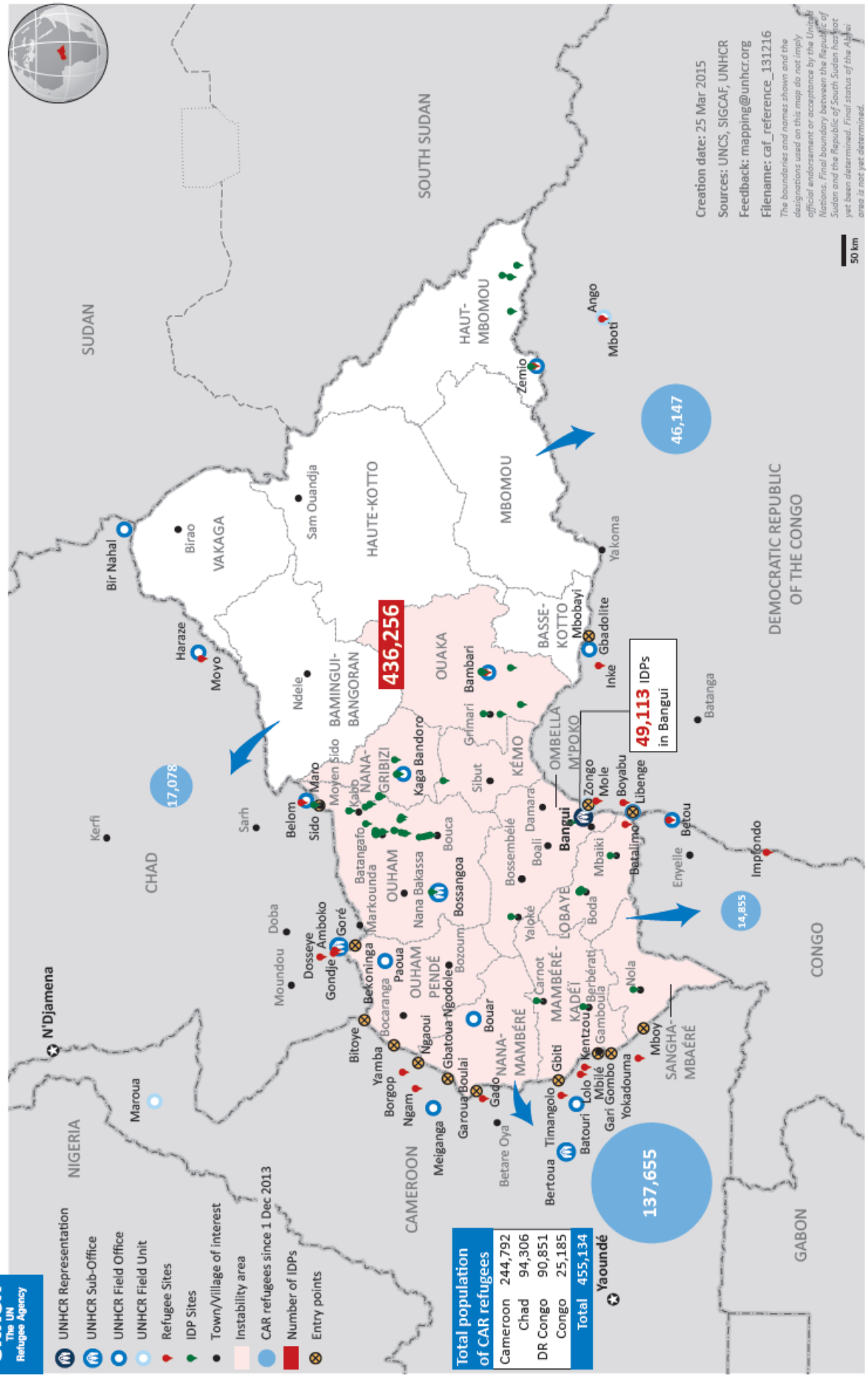
### Links:

CAR regional webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

# Central African Republic Emergency Situation

as of 20 March 2015



Creation date: 25 Mar 2015  
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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.