

Central African Republic Situation

Regional Update - 7 to 12 February 2014 #2

HIGHLIGHTS

- The High Commissioner of UNHCR visited the Central African Republic on the 11-12 February. He said he "witnessed a humanitarian catastrophe of unspeakable proportions" and called for the international community to re-establish security, law and order for the people of the Central African Republic, as safety and security is the most urgent priority.
- During the reporting period, close to 4,000 Central Africans fled their country into Cameroon, benefiting from returning WFP trucks headed to Garoua Boulai, escorted by the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA). According to MISCA, there are more Central Africans waiting in Bouar, hoping to go to Cameroon.
- Security remained calm in the **Republic of Congo**; however border police, government authorities and UNHCR remained alert to developments in neighbouring Central African Republic.
- Elements of the ex-Seleka arrived in Doba, southern **Chad** (approximately 200). The Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for the minors among this group with support from UNICEF. Chadian adults that are a part of this group will be transferred to Ndjamena where the Ministry of Justice is working closely with ICRC to determine their situation. Central African nationals have been handed over to the international community (ICRC and UNDP).
- The continued presence of the two conflicting forces (ex-Seleka and the anti-Balaka militia) has been observed in the Basse-Kotto, Kemo-Ngribingi, and Ouaka regions of the Central African Republic. As a result, a portion of the Central African population which is predominantly composed of women and children, continued to flee to the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, particularly to Equateur (North West) and Orientale (North East) provinces. _____

714,000

IDPs

including

288,964

IN BANGUI

280,654

in neighbouring countries

\$40.1M

Additional funds required for the first three months of 2014 through the Supplementary Budget appeal

populations of concern

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries	Arrivals since 1 December 2013	Total
Cameroon	22,560	119,930
Chad	6,555	86,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	12,768	60,678
Republic of the Congo	5,063	14,046*
Grand Total:	46,946	280,654

12,310 of which are registered by UNHCR

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in CAR	Pop.
DRC	12,386
Sudan	2,683
Chad	1,862
Others	552
Grand Total:	17,705

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Political Developments

- Although Governmental and international forces have been working towards re-establishing military control in the country, reprisals and exactions against Muslim populations by Anti-Balaka continued with daily reports of armed incidents in the 3rd, 5th, and 8th arrondissements of Bangui.
- The Chadian army continued to evacuate Chadian and Muslim individuals and relocated large groups from the capital but also from Bossemptele, Yaloké and Mbaïki to Bangui's Military Airport. In addition to this there have also been a large numbers of spontaneous returns. Religious leaders expressed their concern over those isolated Muslim communities remaining in Bangui, as they are increasingly targeted by Anti-Balaka or caught in clashes amongst the latter and Ex-Seleka.
- In the town of Boda, at least 75 people (Christians and Muslims) were killed causing 1,500 people to seek protection in a local church.
- The prosecutor of the international Criminal Court said investigations on War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity committed in the country would be carried out.

IDPs

PROTECTION

- Evacuations by the Chadian army have led the Anti-Balaka to reinforce their presence on the axis leading to Chad thus encouraging evacuations from cities located on this axis such as Boali and Yaloké. However, Chadian presence has caused tension amongst communities it has been assisting, namely in Boda. Secondly, the military airport site used by Sudanese and Chadian Governments to repatriate their nationals, has left many non-nationals (mainly Peuhls) on location, in extremely vulnerable states with no immediate assistance available.
- Due to the sporadic nature of clashes between armed factions, the Protection Cluster advocated with MISCA and Sangaris forces that they be positioned pre-emptively in order to compensate for the lack of military presence in the country.
- In Bangui the 'Safe Haven' project in the 5th arrondissement has been finalised with the construction of latrines and community shelters for 300 persons. As well as determining which populations would be best adapted to living there, MSF and ACTED are reinforcing their humanitarian activities and assistance in this district by setting up dispensaries and income generating activities for youth, respectively.

- Serious rainfall foreshadowed complications that are predicted to take on impairing proportions during the rainy season in April. Following the rapid assessment which took place as a result of this rainfall, three main points were highlighted. The first concerns the non-viability of many sites such as the M'Poko Airport; the second is that although relative security has returned to the capital, the vast majority of inhabitants will not be able to return in the short term; and the third stresses the need for dedicated coordination and communication support for site managers throughout Bangui.
- Immediate and medium term response plans were consequently set up, the latter of which encompasses three options. The first would involve improving and developing the area in connecting the airport and 5th arrondissement; the second would facilitate the return of populations towards calmer and more secure neighbourhoods and the third would aim at relocating IDPs towards other sites.
- In Bossangoa, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continued its Camp Management capacity building project, working with 26 animators to monitor sites, share information and ensure appropriate complaint

mechanisms are taking place. Furthermore, estimates of current site populations were conducted by hut-tohut surveys, and a mission is currently being undertaken by the CCCM Cluster to evaluate response requirements in Bossangoa.





NFI SHELTER/NFIS CLUSTER

BANGUI

- The Global Shelter Cluster deployed a team of technicians that have been working on the ground for three weeks and carrying out site planning evaluations to assess each site's capacity to absorb heavy rainfall.
- There is a need for over 190,000 pieces of soap to cover approximately 60,750 households in Bangui as soap was only distributed to 12 sites in December 2013.

BOSSANGOA

- A multi-sectoral need assessment is currently ongoing in Ouham province. Six villages were visited on the first day of assessment. The needs are enormous in villages such as Zere and Wikamo, where 99% of buildings are destroyed.
- A rapid response plan was developed and 234 households were assisted in Wikamo village.

REFUGEES

- Some 160 DRC refugees were repatriated to their country origin, namely to the Equateur province. The repatriation took place by boat from Bangui to Zongo where the Mayor received them. Before continuing to Gemena, Gbadolite and Bozene, the refugees spent the night in a transit centre.
- After the recent evacuation of a large number of Chadian refugees from the Ecole Liberté site in Bossangoa, 225 Muslim families who had refused to return to Chad were left isolated. Following a request from these persons and Christians living at the Evêché site, joint training was organised by UNHCR on IDP guiding principles for both communities. Further sessions are to take place and this first sitting was made possible by UNHCR's effort to gain communities' confidence in the effort towards the reconciliation process.



Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, some 22,560 refugees from the Central African Republic have entered Cameroon and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in Cameroon is over 119,930 individuals.
- There were reports of an alleged attack by the anti-Balaka militia on asylum-seekers sleeping in the open air on the streets of Garoua Boulai. Local authorities are investigating the incident especially as it took place only a kilometre away from the registration post of asylum-seekers.
- The security authorities say they will transfer the asylum-seekers to a location further away from the border.

Operational Highlights



Protection

- Since January 2014, the majority of Central African refugees have entered and registered in the East and Adamawa regions. The main entry points in the Eastern region are Garoua Boulai and Kentzou, and in the Adamawa region, they enter through Ngaoui and Yamba. They are predominantly Muslim originating mainly from the towns of Bouar, Baoro, Boda, Berberati, Bossemptele, Bossembele, as well as Bangui.
- Protection interviews revealed that refugees were fleeing violence between ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka militias as well as between the civilian populations in Nana Mambere and Ouham Pende, prefectures in north-western CAR.
- The increasing number of new arrivals in border locations is having both socio-economic and health concerns amongst the host communities, including the increase in cost of living, difficulty accessing drinking water, increased risk of epidemics and overcrowding.
- Sites have been identified in both regions for transfer of refugees, these include Lolo and Mborguene in the Eastern region and Ngam and Borgop in the Adamawa region.
- Approximately 7,400 Third-Country Nationals (TCNs), predominantly Muslims, have also fled the CAR into Cameroon. They include nationals of Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Niger, RoC, Senegal, Sudan. UNHCR has contacted IOM and their respective embassies to take over the management of these groups of persons.



🛂 Health & Nutrition

- During the reporting period, 1,240 were screened for malnutrition in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai with 43 severe cases and 123 moderate cases being identified.
- In Kentzou, 461 consultations were undertaken with severe cases referred to the Batouri and Kentzou hospitals.
- In Garoua Boualai, refugees in need of medical assistance are identified by IFRC, who then refer them to MSF stationed at the Garoua Boulai district hospital for treatment.
- In Gbatoua-Godole and Yamba, 53 community volunteers have been trained to provide support in caring for malnourished individuals.



Shelter

■ Tents have been pitched in Garoua Boulai to shelter the most vulnerable refugees, in particular pregnant women and children between 0-5 years.



CHAD

Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, 6,555 Central African refugees have entered Chad and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and other partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in Chad is approximately 86,000 individuals.
- UNHCR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior (MOI) requesting identification of villages/sites (not camps) where new refugees may be accommodated as existing refugee camps have reached saturation level.
- UNHCR advocated for improved services in Transit Centers, temporarily housing Chadian returnees and

Central African refugees. Three deaths were reported in the Transit Centers. Services will be improved and expanded to include addressing the mental and physical health of returnees.

Operational Highlights



Protection

- UNHCR assisted the Chadian government in developing its strategy on Chadian returnees who have vicarious links to Chad because they have been in CAR for a long time. This assistance will avert the risk of statelessness.
- UNHCR joined an inter-ministerial mission to Doba following a request from the Prime Minister to review and discuss the issue of disarmed members of the 250 ex-SELEKA who have arrived in Doba.
- Following the mission to Doba, a meeting called by the Ministry of Interior (MoI), was held on 8 February in Ndjamena with the participation of Government authorities (Minister of Social Affairs, Minister for Human Rights, Secretary General for the MoI as well as the RC/HC, Representatives of UHNCR, UNICEF, IOM and ICRC). Conclusions included reducing the length of stay at the Transit Centers to 10 days including discontinuation of meals provided in these locations (as of 15 February the Government will no longer provide meals at the transit centers). They also included ensuring assistance to the vulnerable, addressing the needs of 2nd and 3rd generation Chadians without links to the country, and identifying and coordinating support of UN agencies, the international community and others regarding future arrivals from the Central African Republic.
- UNHCR Protection visited the various transit centers in Ndjamena where more than 500 individuals from the Central African Republic have been identified by IOM out of a population of more than 800 individuals. In-depth interviews and registration were conducted before their transfer to the South.
- UNHCR Protection organized two training sessions on international protection. Topics included the UNHCR mandate, the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and roles and responsibilities of various actors in this regard. It also discussed durable solutions, SGBV prevention and response as well as psycho-social counselling for refugees. Participants included 54 magistrates and personnel of the Chadian Gendarmerie, the Police, and Airport officials.



Shelter

- UNHCR has deployed a Site Planner to Moundou to help establish a newly identified site for Chadian nationals returning from the Central African Republic. UNHCR is providing material and technical support to the Government and IOM with the construction of 5 compartmentalized hangars (for 400 individuals) as temporary accommodation.
- The Chadian returnees who have lost all links to their country will be ably accommodated allowing them the time for family tracing.
- UNICEF assisted with WASH activities in areas where Chadian returnees without links will be accommodated.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Overview

• Since 1 December 2013, approximately 12,768 Central African refugees have entered the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and other partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in the DRC has grown to 60,678 individuals.

Operational Highlights



Protection

- In order to address the sharp influx of refugees in Gbadolite, registration and transportation of new arrivals has been reinforced through close contact with local authorities as well as the use of an extra vehicle in the locality of Mobayi Mbongo.
- The capacity of the SGBV committee in Mole camp will be reinforced.



Food

- In Mole, refugees who were waiting to be registered and relocated received their food rations from the WFP.
- Registration of refugees took place in Gbadolite and they are now waiting to be allocated a plot of land to cultivate staples. UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR), the local government authorities are exploring the possibility of obtaining more agricultural land of the refugees.



NFIs

■ In Gbadolite, 965 individuals/396 households received NFIs, including kitchen sets, jerrycans, mosquito nets, mats, and blankets.



Shelter

• A total of 1,743 shelters were completed in Gbadlolite, of which 1,564 were constructed from tarpaulins and 179 out of straw.



🖣 WASH

- An additional reservoir was installed in the Mole camp. At the moment, 9 water points and 54 taps cover the refugee population, but given the camp's recent growth, these are deemed insufficient.
- In Gbadolité, 190 out of 220 latrines were filled and need replacement. Therefore, hygienists are giving sensitizations on latrine-sanitation to households in order to modify behavior.



Health & Nutrition

• Four persons living with HIV/AIDS in Mole camp were in need of antiretroviral medication; they have been going without the medication for 8 weeks. In the same camp, the HIV testing and counseling (HTC) services are no longer functional because of a shortage of facilities.



Logistics

- UNHCR in Mole received 3,200 liters of gasoil to facilitate programme delivery.
- In Gbadolité, 50,421 tons of WFP rations were transported for eventual distribution.
- Constraints in Gbadolité persisted such as the inadequacy of the vehicle fleet, the shortage of spare parts, and the extensive degradation of the roads.
- A total of 1,845 blankets and 850 mats and other NFIs were transferred from Douala, Cameroon to Libenge.



Education

A shortage of teachers and school material for secondary school students remained in all camps - at least 1,426 students in camps are waiting to receive secondary school education.



REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (ROC)

Overview

 Since 1 December 2013, some 5,063 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and other partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in the Republic of Congo rose to approximately 14,046 individuals, 12,310 of which are registered by UNHCR.



- Over the course of the reporting period, 75 new Central African refugees were identified during border monitoring missions in Gouga, Ngongo, Kpakaya, and Bongounba. They were relocated to Betou.
- Relocation preparations of 502 pre-registered new arrivals in Enyele district (Mouale and Lola) are ongoing.
- A training session in refugee protection was given to 40 local authorities, including the police, military forces, immigration officials, village chiefs, and heads of public schools.

Shelter

- In Betou, the majority of Central African refugees stay with host families. Others are located in the Departure center, and the Ikpengbele and 15 avril sites. Some are also located in Impfondo, Pointe Noire and Brazzaville.
- Three temporary hangars with the capacity of 100 persons have been erected in the 15 avril site. This brings the total number of temporary hangars to 10.
- The construction of 130 traditional shelters and 10 communal kitchens is ongoing.



- No NFIs were distributed during the reporting period.
- UNHCR requested the release of items that were lacking such as kitchen sets, buckets and plastic tarpaulins from stockpiles in Douala and Ackra
- As a result, 5,000 plastic tarpaulins and 5,000 kitchen sets were authorized to be released from the stockpile in Douala, Cameroon.



Food

- UNHCR continued to wait for the shipment of 200 tonnes of rice, provided by WFP for refugees in Betou.
- In the meantime, UNHCR has provided daily hot meals to more than 750 newly arrived refugees temporarily settled in the transit center and 15 avril site in Betou.



- Nutritional and medical screenings were performed for all new Central African refugees accommodated in the departure center.
- As Betou is an endemic cholera zone, the existing monitoring mechanism has been strengthened in order to keep the health conditions of the population under close observation.



Education

- Primary education: UNHCR Betou prepared after school classes for new Central African refugee children in order to make up for their lost academic year.
- Following various monitoring activities, it was discovered that only 979 children (of a total of 2,157 children in the Betou area), of age to attend primary school actually attended. Teacher have reported that absence of Central African pupils may be due to the movement of families to small villages in search of food and pursuant of livelihood activities.
- Vocational training for women in tailoring, knitting and hairdressing begun for the tentative period of 6 months.



Livelihood

- A total of 100 family microcredit projects were granted to new Central African women refugees settled in the Betou area. They are currently managing small, informal businesses of items needed in the market and often purchased by the population.
- Local authorities have given refugees arable land (32 hectares) for them to undertake horticulture and agriculture activities in Betou departure center.
- The construction of sheepfolds and goat farms started in the 15 avril site for breeding activities. The land was donated by the municipality of Betou.
- The livelihood of the new Central African refugees is both rudimentary and limited.



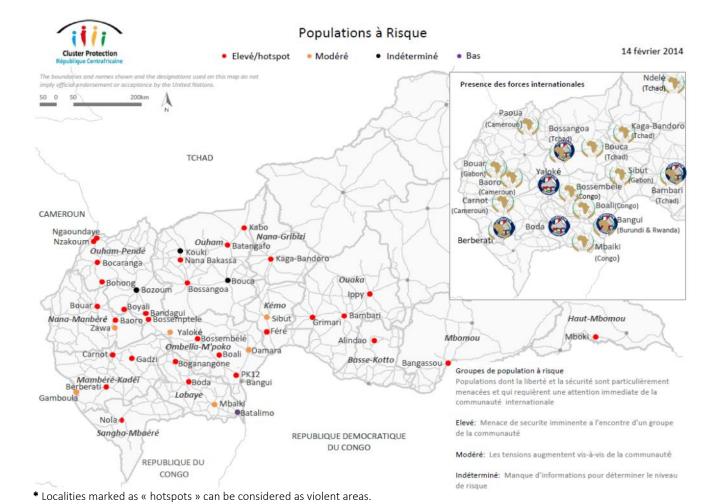
Logistics

- The supply unit in Brazzaville managed to send two boats transporting items to support the operational activities in the North. These items included: soap, sanitary pads and underwear purchased by the Regional Office in Kinshasa; fuel (60m³ of petrol and 10m³ of diesel); and a storage tank of 20m³ to increase fuel storage capacity.
- The boats also transported NFIs from UNHCR's warehouse in Brazzaville to the warehouse in Betou.
- As the level of water will be too low to access these offices by boat from now until another 6 months, UNHCR will have to rely on the limited cargo capacity of UNHAS flights to supply the necessary items to field offices.



\$ Funding

• The reaction to the submission of a project proposal to CERF is still awaited.



Financial requirements for the CAR Situation (Supplementary Budget Appeal January 2014)

The new waves of displacement caused by the violence in the Central African Republic since December 2013, led to additional financial needs that had not been planned for the 2014 comprehensive needs budgets approved by the Executive Committee (ExCom) in October 2013. This Appeal presents UNHCR's additional requirements related to the current emergency for the period from January to March 2014 and should be read in conjunction with the information in UNHCR's Global Appeal 2014-2015 on its programmes for Cameroon, CAR, Chad, the Congo, and the DRC.

		CAR Situation Budget		
Operations	2014 ExCom-approved budget	Portion of the 2014 ExCom budget dedicated to the CAR Situation	Additional requirements	Total requirements (as of 14 January)
Central African	24,355,141	24,355,141	28,174,236	52,529,377
Republic Chad	197,069,508	8,498,504	2,566,390	199,635,898
Congo	29,948,467	-	1,500,000	31,448,467
Democratic Republic of Congo	176,969,980	21,823,472	5,000,000	181,969,980
Cameroon	25,010,536	17,078,515	-	25,010,536
Headquarters	11,153,923	-	319,555	11,473,478
TOTAL	464,507,555	71,755,632	37,560,181	502,067,736
Support costs (7%)			2,629,213	2,629,213
GRAND TOTAL	464,507,555	71,755,632	40,189,394	504,696,949