

CHAD EMERGENCY UPDATE

Influx of Central African refugees in the South (Logone Oriental Province)

<h2>7,406</h2> <p>Total number of new arrivals since 22 December</p>	<h2>2,208</h2> <p>Total number of households</p>	<h2>3,131</h2> <p>Individuals transferred to Doholo camp (42%)</p>
--	--	--

LEVEL 1 REGISTRATION IN GORE

KEY INDICATORS

4,727 (64%)

CHILDREN (Below 18 years old)

4,163 (56%)

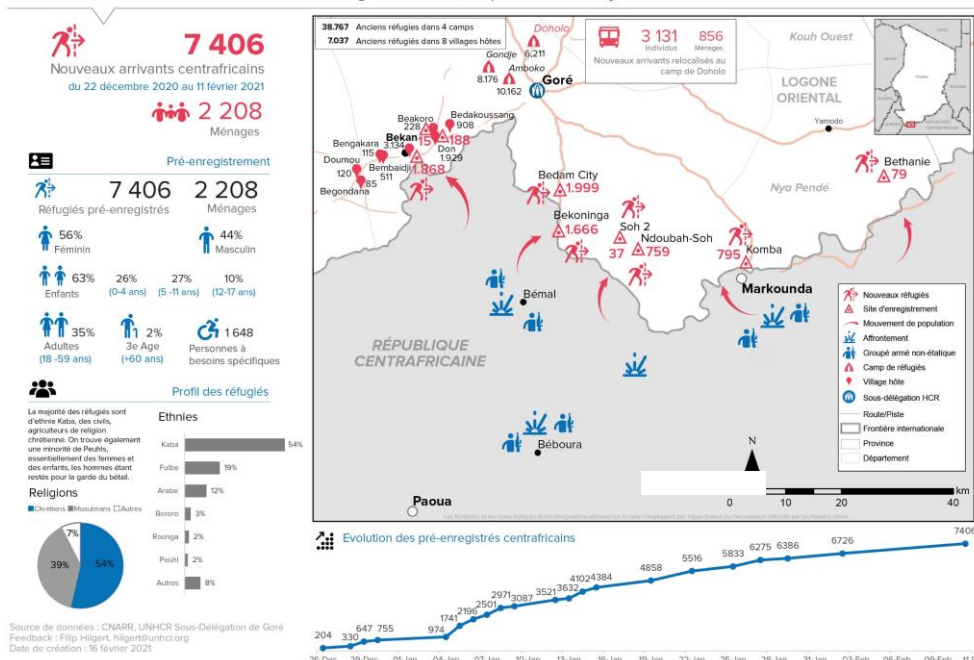
WOMEN AND GIRLS

124 (2%)

ELDERLY



New arrivals transferred to Doholo camp ©UNHCR/ N. Benaibey



OVERVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY AND RESPONSE

On 22 December 2020, few days before the presidential elections of 27 December in the Central African Republic, armed violence broke out causing thousands of people to flee to neighbouring countries. In Chad, the new arrivals entered through the Logone Province in several villages surrounding the border including Ndoubasoh, Kombat, Bethanie and Bekoninga. Some people among the new arrivals arrived from Markounda, in its surrounding localities and other Central African towns. Reportedly, they had come to work in the mining sites of Markounda and fled the country due to clashes between Seleka and Révolution-Justice armed groups which were fighting over the collection of taxes on users and the occupation of various localities such as Beboura and Bemal. According to new arrivals, the fight of Seleka armed group evolves and occupies new localities forcing people to flee to Chad. The majority of them are farmers from kaba ethnic group while the minority is composed of Peuhl breeders.

From the end of January 2021, a decline was observed in the number of new arrivals from the Central African Republic. The border at Bekoninga was re-open on 5 February and public transport between the two countries (Chad-RCA) resumed. It is worth mentioning that the border was closed since 2014.

From 9 to 11 February, **212** households/**680** new arrivals were registered in Beka. According to the last people who arrived, attacks by the Central African Armed Forces in Bouar and Bossangoa in early February forced them to flee to Chad. The households crossed the borders in small groups of 2 to 3 people, mostly women and children of Kaba and Peul ethnicity.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN GORE

Protection

Level 1 biometric registration exercise of new arrivals started on 26 December and continues in close collaboration with the Chadian government authorities.

212 households/ **680** individuals were registered on 9 February in Beka, bringing the total number of new arrivals to **2,208** households of **7,406** individuals, with women and girls representing 56% of the population. Majority of them are from Ouham and Ouham Pende's prefectures in the localities of Bemal, Paoua, Markounda, and Bangui. **10%** of new arrivals consider to return to their country as soon as the security situation will allow.

109 Unaccompanied or Separated Children were registered since 26 December. Follow-up is being done to identify foster families.

1685 (23%) people with specific needs were identified and psychosocial support was provided to them. **16** out of them were referred to the health centre for medical follow-up.

Relocation

As of 11 February, a total of **856** households of **3,131** persons were transferred from the border areas to Doholo camp. From the start of the influx and in accordance with the prevention measures of COVID 19, new arrivals are subjected to 14 days of quarantine in Dosseye and Gore transit centers before their relocation to Doholo camp. Based on a recent development, local authorities have authorised the direct transfer of all new arrivals who had already spent more than two weeks at the border to Doholo camp subject to a medical screening. Thus, no new arrival was put in quarantine during the reporting period.

508 individuals who completed the quarantine in Gore transit center on 12 february are been transferred to Doholo camp.

Education

Children represent 64% of the new refugee population. Among those already transferred to Doholo camp, there are **993 school-age** children, out of whom **517** (52%) are girls. Advocacy is ongoing for their integration in the national education system.

Shelter

UNHCR's partner ADES is currently building emergency shelters in Doholo camp. Two hectares of land were granted for the construction of new shelters. In total, **790 (66%)** emergency shelters out of **1200** planned were completed.



Emergency shelters under construction in Doholo camp ©UNHCR/ Mindekem Rosine

Food and Core Relief Items

Food assistance (for one month) was provided by WFP to **3,681** new arrivals of **1,089** households from the inception of the crisis. The distribution is ongoing in Began.

792 kits of core reliefs item including mats, jerry cans, kitchen kits, seals and blankets, moskitos, soaps were provided to **792** households transferred to Doholo camp.



Food distribution in Ndouba-soh, transit village for refugees ©UNHCR/ Ndormadingar Benaibey

Health

A health coordination meeting chaired by the Secretary General (Prefect a.i.) was held on 29 January 2021 to discuss about health issues related to Covid-19. Partners organizations recommended to transfer new arrivals, who had already spent more than two weeks close to the border, directly to Doholo camp after a medical screening. Upon arrival, they will ask to remain in self isolation in their emergency shelters in the camp. In addition, awareness-raising sessions are ongoing in the host villages on prevention measures to prevent and mitigate the risk of Covid19 infection.

UNHCR's health partner CSSI continues medical screening/consultations through its Mobile Clinic at different entry points. On average, **140** consultations are carried out daily. The main pathologies are malaria and respiratory infections.

Stockout of food supplement for moderate acute malnutrition and HIV prevention treatments remain a big challenge.

In addition, the only available ambulance can no longer cover all the sites due to the increased needs. A second ambulance is needed to cover not only the needs of new arrivals but also for other refugees.

Wash

An assessment made by UNHCR partner, ADES in the refugee host villages has revealed a lack of boreholes and latrines at almost all entry points. As a follow-up, it was agreed to support host

communities welcoming new arrivals with boreholes and latrines to improve the health and hygiene conditions of the populations.

In the Doholo camp, **140** (46%) latrines out of **300** planned have been completed and are ready for use.



Latrines under construction in Doholo camp ©ADES/ Mbal Innocent

Working in Partnership

In the emergency response, UNHCR is working in partnership with the Government of Chad, the Logone Oriental Provincial authorities, CNARR (*Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés*), World Food Programme (WFP) and CSSI

A joint mission CNARR/HCR was conducted from 6 to 7 February, to assess the new arrivals' living conditions including the impact of their presence on the host community's resources, to raise awareness among leaders and local authorities at the border on peaceful coexistence and the respect of the principle of non-refoulement.

An MSF-Holland emergency team arrived in late January in Gore for an assessment and plans to work in the health and WASH sectors..

Donor Support

Efforts are being made to respond to the urgent needs of new arrivals. Gaps exist primarily in the area of shelter, health and nutrition, education, food and non food items.

Contacts:

- Babacar Samb, HoSo a.i. , samb@unhcr.org
- Roberta Montevecchi, Assistant Representative Operations, montevr@unhcr.org
- Simplicie Kpandji, Com/PI Officer, kpandji@unhcr.org