

Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

8 March 2021

Women and girls are the main victims of the conflict in CAR

Since the beginning of the crisis, UNHCR and partners have recorded 40 cases of rape (22 girls and 18 women) in Bouar, a market town in western CAR, including 95 per cent allegedly victimized by armed groups. The latest crisis has exacerbated the gender-based violence across the country.

Out of resources: CAR underfunded emergency

The situation in CAR has, for years, been one of the most consistently overlooked and underfunded in the world, forcing UNHCR and its humanitarian partners to reduce critical activities. This year, and this emergency, is unfortunately no different.

Preventing COVID-19 from spreading within communities

In recent weeks, positive COVID-19 cases have been identified among CAR refugees, especially in Cameroon. Prevention measures are being prioritized both to protect the displaced population and to prevent the spread of the virus in host communities.

KEY INDICATORS

132,810*

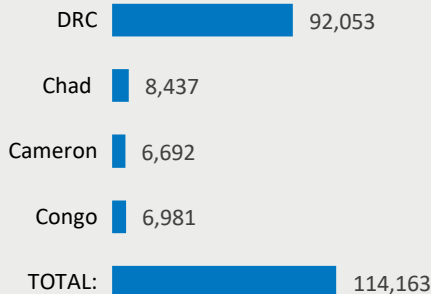
Total number of Internally displaced persons in CAR due to the election situation.

114,163**

People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, RoC, Chad and DRC until 4 March 2021, due to the election situation.

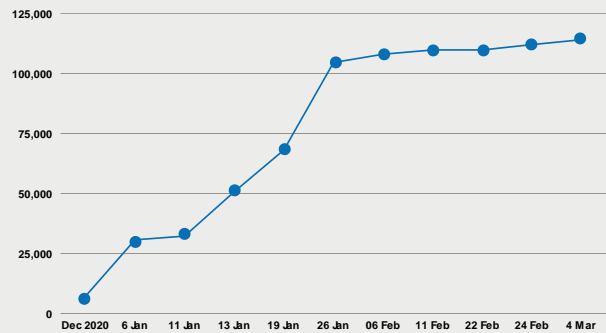
DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

New arrivals

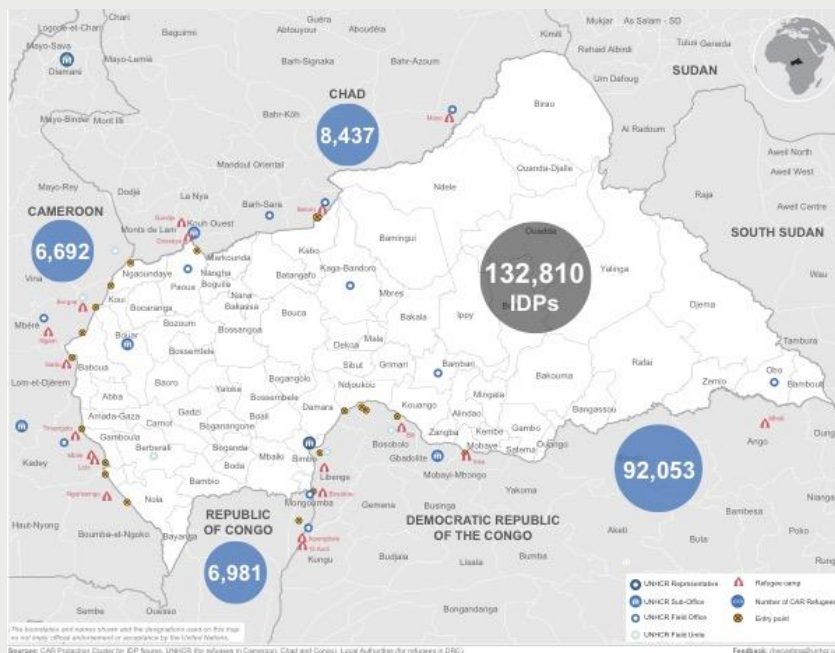


* [Foot note] Announced by la Commission Mouvement de population of 28 February 2021.
 ** [Foot note] Data as reported by local authorities of 04 March 2021.
 ** In Cameroon, movements suggest that the actual figures are higher than the statistics.
 ** DRC displacement figure is a government estimate. UNHCR is conducting biometric registration jointly with government to confirm it.

REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TREND



CAR SITUATION MAP



Operational Context

Political and security situation in Central African Republic (CAR)



The Central Africa Armed Forces (FACA) and their bilateral allies have progressed; however, security conditions remain volatile in CAR. Crime is the main security threat.



Humanitarian efforts remain limited despite a decrease in clashes as the FACA and its allied bilateral forces continue to regain control of areas lost since mid-December.



Patrols continue along the MSR1 National Route. The traffic is gradually becoming fluid. MINUSCA has secured humanitarian convoys.



UNHCR and partners continue to enhance awareness of COVID-19 and prevention measures as well as the distribution of hand sanitisers, and the establishment of quarantine centres.



On 23 February, the Humanitarian Coordinator and **UNICEF reported** that 50% of the children in CAR can not attend school due to violence. 999 schools can not operate due to insecurity and 26 schools have been occupied by armed groups.



UNHCR and partners have referred 98 GBV cases and provided psychosocial support to 44 survivors during the months of January and February, despite limited humanitarian access and protection capacity on the ground.



Population movements and border monitoring

- Only the Republic of Congo border has reported an increase in arrivals of Central Africans during the reporting period. Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo have reported no significant changes.
- Most new arrivals from CAR are being hosted in areas where the needs of the populations continue to be unmet and resources are stretched thin. Newly arrived refugees require humanitarian assistance and support for sexual and gender-based violence, child protection and documentation.
- UNHCR continues to coordinate with local authorities and partners to scale up border and protection monitoring to identify asylum-seekers, address their most pressing needs, and provide urgent assistance.
- Throughout the response, UNHCR has been prioritizing support to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of gender-based violence.
- New displacement of more than 200,000 people adds to the 1.3 million Central Africans already uprooted in the region, bringing the overall number of displaced Central Africans (IDPs and refugees) to over 1.5 million – almost a third of the country's total population.

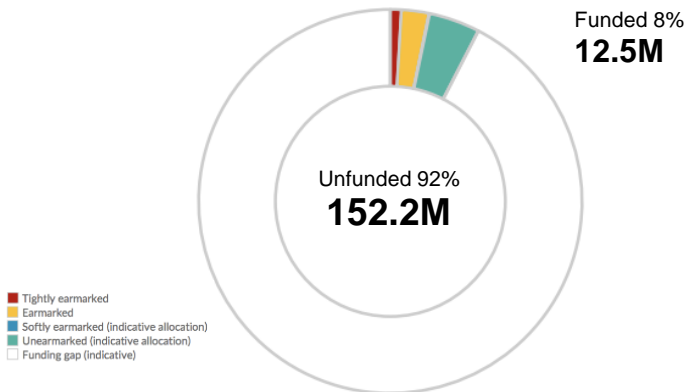


Out of resources: CAR underfunded emergency

FUNDING (AS OF 2 MARCH 2021)

USD 164.7 M

requested for the Central African Republic situation



- As of 2 March 2021, the Central African Republic situation has received only 8% of the \$164.7 million required. In light of the unfolding emergency, softly earmarked funding for the CAR situation is the most valuable financial support donors can provide and will allow UNHCR to respond to the most urgent needs in the most timely and efficient manner.
- On 25 February UNHCR launched an [emergency appeal](#) to address the Central African Republic crisis. UNHCR is appealing for \$164.7 million, of which \$13.1 million are new needs resulting from the latest wave of displacement, for Central African Republic and neighboring countries.
- Read the full appeal [here](#).

Contributions earmarked to the CAR Situation 2021

UN Programme on HIV / AIDS 107,990 | Other private donors 63,766

Softly earmarked contributions

Sweden 7.6 million | Japan 6.2 million

Unearmarked contributions 2021

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million
 Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million
 Private donors Spain 13.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million



UNHCR Emergency Response L1 and L2 Emergency Declaration

- Since the crisis began in December 2020, UNHCR has stepped up its emergency response in CAR and the four main refugee-hosting countries. To reinforce its emergency response and preparation activities, UNHCR declared on 21 January 2021 a Level 2 emergency for its Operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a Level 1 emergency for its Operations in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, and the Republic of the Congo.
- UNHCR's response involves coordination between its Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, which covers CAR, Cameroon and Chad, and its Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, which covers the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.



Country Operation Central African Republic

Operational Environment

- Government forces and their allies have been leading an offensive against armed groups, driving them out of cities such as Boda, Boali, Bossembélé, Bossemptélé, Yaloké, Beloko and Bossangoa. Reports indicate that populations who previously fled have started to return home under government control.
- During the month of February, UNHCR and its partner documented at least 236 protection incidents in the centre of the country (Ouham, Nana-Gribizi, Kemo, Haute Kotoo and Ouaka) .
- Since 21 February, more than 14,000 people have been displaced in Bossangoa, in the north-west of the country, fearing the clash between the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and their bilateral allies, and the armed elements of the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC) who were previously holding the town. The humanitarian situation on the two IDP sites urgently requires humanitarian intervention and UNHCR is scaling up its presence.



UNHCR assists the displaced people of Bouca. @UNHCR CAR

Assistance provided

- In February 2021, UNHCR provided a total of 1,065 emergency NFI kits (including tarpaulins, blankets, mats, jerry cans, buckets and soaps) in Bouar, Batangafo, Bambari and Rafai. 1,500 more NFI kits are stored in Birao to meet the needs in the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga.
- After 508 shelters were destroyed during an incident at the new Bongonon site (close to the town of Batangafo where UNHCR has newly established its presence), UNHCR distributed more than 70 bundles of clothing, and installed hand washing stations. RRM/ACF supplemented this assistance with 108 NFI kits.
- UNHCR continued to support the Central African Red Cross at sites in Bangui by assisting IDPs with 372 kitchen sets.
- In Obo, WFP distributed food assistance to vulnerable persons: a total of 14,925 IDPs living on sites and 2,145 refugees. The food assistance consisted of a 20-day ration with a basket consisting of oil, corn, salt and beans.
- In Batangafo, UNHCR facilitated 15 awareness-raising sessions on "Mechanism and importance of referral of cases within 72 hours and prevention of cases of GBV during transhumance", benefitting a total of 174 participants, including 69 women and 105 girls.

Regional support

- The Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa and its protection team are conducting a mission to support the CAR operation to strengthen its response to gender-based violence cases. Psychosocial and health care are priorities.



Country Operations

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Operational Environment

- Local authorities estimate 92,053 new asylum-seekers from CAR have crossed into northern DRC since December 2020. These figures are being verified through biometric registration carried out by UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR). As of 3 March, 42,530 individuals (12,188 households) have been registered, including 19,705 in Bas Uele Province, 12,436 in North Ubangi Province, and 10,346 in South Ubangi Province.
- Most new arrivals have stayed close to the border in about 40 villages along the Ubangi and Mbomou rivers. Most of the zones hosting refugees are hard to reach due to extremely bad or non-existing roads, while other locations cannot be accessed at all by vehicles or aircrafts. To reach villages hosting refugees, UNHCR and partners travel by motor bike, trekking, or tying together dugout canoes into a platform to transport vehicles across the river.
- UNHCR and partners are carrying out protection screening at registration sites, having so far identified 5,517 people with specific needs. This includes 1,378 separated or unaccompanied children, women at risk, people with disabilities and serious medical conditions.



Central African refugees collect core relief items at a UNHCR distribution in Yakoma, Democratic Republic of the Congo ©UNHCR / Helene Caux

Assistance provided

- UNHCR and the government's National Refugee Commission (CNR) have signed agreements to develop the Modale site near Yakoma, North Ubangi Province, for 10,000 refugees. The site will receive refugees relocated from areas of Yakoma that are very close to the border in order to provide them with a safer environment.
- UNHCR has set up community protection structures in refugee hosting sites, while local NGOs are carrying out awareness raising. In the past week, GAPROF has reached 1,000 persons in Ndu through such sessions.
- UNHCR partner APEE is running child protection activities in North Ubangi Province. Two child-friendly spaces have been set up, and sporting and recreational activities have been organized for 1,080 refugee and host community children in the area of Yakoma.
- 80 cases of GBV have been identified in Ndu, Nzomboto, Vigilant, Sagila and most recently, Yakoma. All but one of the incidents occurred in CAR prior to arriving in the DRC. AIDES is providing psychosocial support to survivors, who are also being referred to medical and legal services where possible.
- UNHCR estimates that about 45,000 new arrivals need immediate WASH assistance including safe drinking water, sanitary structures and hygiene materials, especially at government-allocated relocation sites at Modale and Goya.

Regional Support

- A Senior-Level Joint Mission in support of the L2 emergency in the DRC was undertaken by Deputy Directors of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA); the Division of International Protection; and the Division of Emergency, Security and Supply.
- RBSA supported strengthened public information on the influx from CAR, with a joint communications mission to raise awareness and understanding of the situation amongst the public globally.



Country Operation Cameroon



UN representatives listen new refugees in the East.@UNHCR/HelenNgoh. 2021

Operational Environment

- The Garoua Boulai-Bouar-Bangui area remains dangerous; several trucks remain at the border awaiting further improvement in security. UNHCR staff in Garoua Boulai remain on maximum alert, as limited movement along the Garoua Boulai-Bouar-Bangui corridor continues.
- In Gari Gombo and Bombete, calm prevails at the borders areas where the military maintains a reinforced presence. A protection/registration mission was conducted there from February 22 to 24, 2021 and took into account reported newcomers.
- Local authorities have identified 170 FACA soldiers have crossing the border from CAR.
- After a meeting between the Cameroon and Central African transport ministers, the injunction on Cameroonian trucks and truckers entering CAR was lifted with Cameroonian-owned trucks will be included in future convoys. MRS1 security conditions remain volatile.
- On 15 February, three people tested positive for COVID-19 among the new arrivals and are being cared at the COVID isolation center.

Assistance provided

- COVID-19 prevention activities involved 71 households and 313 people, including 262 adults (61 men and 201 women) and 51 children (20 boys and 31 girls).
- 74 vulnerable women, including two elderly people, two chronically ill, three GBV survivors, three with severe disability, 64 single women with children have been referred to partners IMC-GBV and AIRD-CCCM for the distribution of dignity kits offered by UNFP.
- Eight cases of SGBV were identified and managed (including seven cases of rape) all received within 72 hours. Survivors received additional medical assistance, psychosocial support, and medical certificates.
- 300 emergency shelters were built, and 85 transitional shelters were released. The shelters have provided housing for 1,227 new refugees (404 households.) transferred to Gado.
- The 1,227 refugees (404 households) transferred to the settlement received the second general monthly distribution of food on 24 and 25 February 2021. The food basket consisted of a 60-day ration covering 50 per cent of food needs for cereals, vegetables, oil and salt.
- 276 refugee school children were identified for inclusion in the first six convoys in schools in Gado. There are 46 secondary school students (19 girls and 27 boys); 230 primary school pupils (132 girls and 98 boys.)

Regional support

The Cameroon operation and the Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa are working on improving school enrolment capacities for refugees and host communities.


 Country Operations
Chad
Operational Environment

- Last two weeks, there were no reports of new arrivals at the border.
- No positive cases or COVID19 alerts have been reported, and awareness-raising on COVID19 prevention in the camps, sites and health structures continues. Around 1,307 people (270 households) have been processed through the quarantine centre.
- 3,002 children people have arrived since the beginning of the crisis, including 1474 female, and 1444 of the children (48 per cent) were enrolled in school in CAR.



The arrival of a refugee family in Bekoniga@UNHCR / Pambiang Irene

Assistance provided

- As of 22 February, 1,497 households and 4,969 people received assistance in NFI Kits (blankets, mats, Jerry cans, kitchen kits, mosquito nets) and received a hot meal during transfer.
- A total of 1269 individuals (416 households) received mosquito nets, buckets, mats and jerry cans in Doholo camp and Gore quarantine center.
- As of 2 March, 1,498 students including 714 girls and 784 boys were enrolled in school. The majority of these students do not have school supplies.
- 13 refugee boys have been enrolled at the secondary school in Doholo.
- Since the start of the new influx 6,151 people (1,781 households) have benefited from the food rations. WFP will deliver approximately 43 tonnes of food to the Doholo, Don and Began sites for distribution to 2,378 new arrivals.
- Of the 2,200 shelters planned in Doholo 1,695 (77 per cent) have been. The installed shelters have benefitted 1,484 households (4938 people).
- 4,471 people (59 per cent of new arrivals) have already been transferred to the Doholo camp.
- 270 households of 1,307 people passed for the quarantine center. Follow-up with the medical partner and hot meal assistance continues.
- One case of rape was registered at the CDS in Doholo and was medically and psychologically treated, bringing the total number of GBV cases recorded to six.

**Country Operation**
Republic of the Congo**Operational Environment**

- As of 25 February 2021, UNHCR and government have recorded 6,891 individuals newly arrived from CAR (2,563 families) through emergency registration. Asylum-seekers from CAR are arriving at a rate of about 1,000 individuals per week.
- Information from newly arrived asylum-seekers has indicated that tensions persist in the Lobaye area in CAR, and the influx of Central African into RoC is expected to continue.
- Overcrowding in host localities where new asylum-seekers continue to arrive (Kpakaya for example) continues to pose a risk of an overexploitation of natural resources such as water source and fishing stocks. This has the potential to threaten peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities.

Assistance Provided

- 474 refugees including 429 women and girls, and 45 men and boys, have been identified as having specific needs. This includes underage mothers and other children at risk, who are being assessed and referred for appropriate assistance.
- Five awareness sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) were conducted reaching over 600 people in the localities of Kpakaya and Ndongomissa. The sessions also resulted in the identification of five GBV survivors who are now receiving medical and psychosocial care.



Central African refugees newly arrived to the Republic of the Congo © UNHCR / Field Office Betou

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