

Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

15 March 2021

Second round of legislative elections in CAR

The Central African Republic (CAR) held the second-round legislative elections on 14 March, while the situation across the country is generally calm, tensions persist in the Lobaye area, forcing more refugees to flee into the Republic of the Congo (RoC).

Increase in rate of new arrivals into the Republic of the Congo

The rate of new asylum-seekers arriving to the Republic of the Congo reached about 1,000 people per week at the beginning of March. Cameroon, Chad and the DRC have reported no significant increases in new arrivals.

New wave of violence puts education on hold for displaced Central African children

Refugees and internally displaced Central African children have been deprived of their fundamental right to education. During this crisis, UNHCR is working with local authorities and partners to develop alternative options and ensure newly arriving children have educational opportunities.

KEY INDICATORS

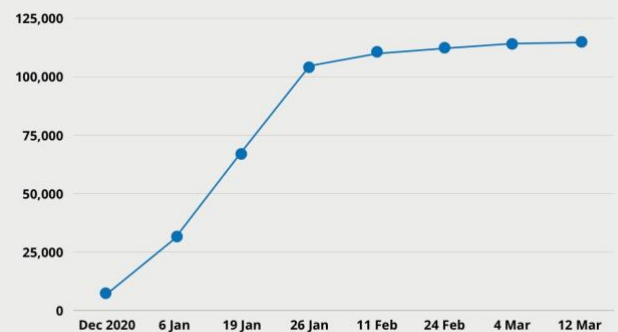
132,810*

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

114,626 **

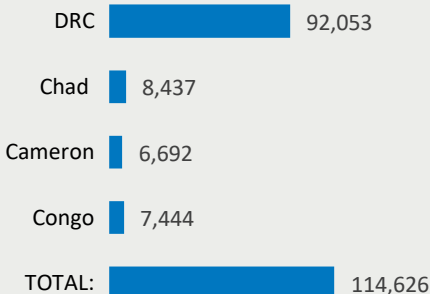
People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, RoC, Chad and DRC until 12 March 2021, due to the election situation.

REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TREND

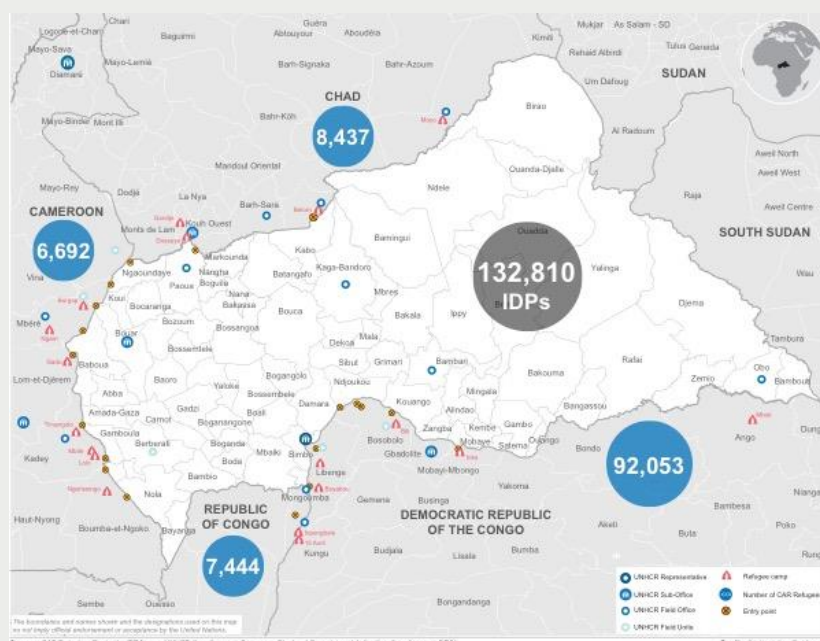


DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

New arrivals



CAR SITUATION MAP



* [Foot note] Announced by la Commission de 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.

Operational Context

Political and security situation in Central African Republic (CAR)



The security situation remains relatively calm in the District of Bangui and in most prefectures. Gadzi, Mbali, Sam-Ouandja, Yalinga, and Boganangone continue to be an exception, as the presence of armed groups and possible attacks have been reported.



OCHA reports: “nearly a dozen lootings and robberies attributed to armed groups have targeted humanitarian actors in Bossangoa. Humanitarian organizations have relocated their employees or reduced their presence, thus affecting their response capacity significantly.”



Patrols continued along the National Route MSR1. Truck movement is becoming more fluid, supported by FACA escorts, while humanitarian convoys have travelled safely between Bangui and Bouar without an escort.



The CAR government issued the National deployment and vaccination plan for the COVID-19 vaccine last week. The Plan targets both refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a prioritized population.



“Children are increasingly exposed to recruitment by armed men for about \$30. **Armed groups have recruited nearly 3,000 children in Central African Republic (CAR) since violence flared over a Dec**”, said David Manan, country director for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).



There has been a rise in protection incidents in the center of the country, where cases of reported sexual and gender-based violence remain a concern of displaced communities. In 2020, 9,216 GBV reported incidents according to the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS).



Population movements and border monitoring

- Only the border of the Republic of Congo 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.
- In recent weeks, there have been reports of pendular movements from Bas Uele Province, DRC. According to local authorities, several of the CAR asylum-seekers camped by the riverside in Ndu make a daily trip to Bangassou in pursuit of food and livelihoods and return to Ndu in the evening to sleep as it is still perceived to be safer in the DRC.
- 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.
- As of 28 February 2021, la Commission de Mouvement de Populations reported that at least 35,178 new IDPs and 26,492 IDPs returned last month. Since 2014, a total of 740,000 IDPs have been registered in CAR.
- UNHCR has been prioritizing support to persons with specific needs throughout the response, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of gender-based violence.
- The 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.

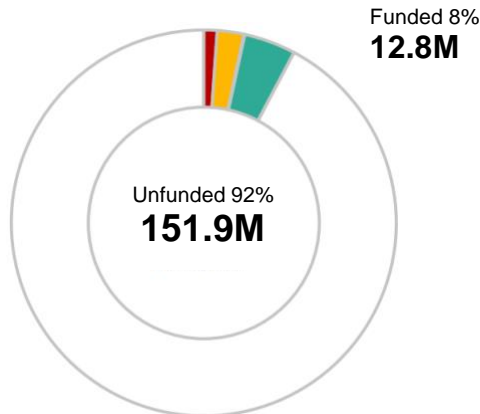


CAR situation Funding Update

FUNDING (AS OF 9 MARCH 2021)

USD 164.7 M

requested for the Central African Republic situation



■ Tightly earmarked
■ Earmarked
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
■ Funding gap (indicative)

- As of 9 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. Read the full appeal [here](#).

UNHCR Emergency Response L1 and L2 Emergency Declaration

- 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.

Contributions earmarked to the CAR Situation 2021

UN Programme on HIV / AIDS 260,890 | Other private donors 74,843

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

Stories

Violence forces Central African family into exile once more

Less than a year after returning home following a first spell in exile, Paul and his family again sought refuge in DRC following the latest wave of violence in the Central African Republic.

On 13 January, Paul woke up to the sound of gunfire as rebels reached Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR). He knew it would not be long before they got to his neighbourhood.

"It was happening again," said Paul, 28, who realized he would be forced to flee CAR for the second time.

Paul has now joined thousands of other refugees in Zongo, a town across the river from Bangui in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Paul sits with his family as Pascaline prepares food over a fire outside their shelter. © UNHCR/Adrienne Surprenant

- Read the full article [here](#)



Country Operation Central African Republic

Operational Environment

- Of the 19 UNHCR containers stuck in Douala containing 18,000 NFIs, seven have been dispatched and are at the border of Garoua Boulai pending the escort schedule to 20 March.
- UNHCR and its partners organized focus group discussions with affected populations, and GBV survivors, to consult them on their priorities for assistance in order to strengthen its response package to GBV.
- About 14,000 IDPs had been reported at the beginning of March on two sites in the city center of Bossangoa following armed movements and clashes. It was reported that most of the IDPs have left the sites, but several reported incidents indicate that the protection environment has deteriorated. UNHCR is deploying a team.
- UNHCR has registered at least 1,075 IDPs (231 households) in Berberati who are very vulnerable and in need of urgent assistance, including food and NFI kits to support the IDPs and the host families that have welcomed them. Through coordination with partners, UNHCR has already assisted 195 households with NFI kits.



To improve access to health care for people living in OBO (CAR), handed over an ambulance and medicines to the Haut-Mbomou health district. @UNHCR CAR

Assistance provided

- UNHCR donated two 4x4 vehicles to the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation to facilitate their mobility in the field.
- UNHCR delivered 657 kits to our governmental partner PARET to assist 2,606 people displaced on the site of Liton in preparation for their return to their villages of origin in Zado, Bondocpko and Behere.
- Following the confirmation of seven COVID-19 cases in Batangafo – including cases among the IDP population – UNHCR, in partnership with INTERSOS, distributed 100 handwashing devices for IDPs in the 7 Batangafo sites. This assistance is benefitting a total of 23,986 IDPs (6,150 households).
- 78 house-to-house sensitization sessions reached 632 people (112 women, 87 men, 84 girls and 75 boys) in the Lapago (Bambari) neighbourhood about the importance of timely management of rape cases and the availability of care services.
- 115 NFI kits were distributed to 115 IDP households, including 100 at the livestock site and 15 at the aviation site.
- UNHCR provided partner organization COOPI with a vehicle, an ICT and VSAT kit, and various materials to facilitate the establishment of a presence in Bangassou. COOPI's CCCM team has started to set up diverse community structures for the management of IDP sites.

Regional support

The regional protection team facilitates the formulation and implementation of a project to strengthen the CAR operation response package to gender-based violence cases and ensure a holistic response is provided through a victim-centered approach.



Country Operation

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Operational Environment

- Biometric registration continues in three provinces of northern DRC and in the capital Kinshasa. As of 8 March, 46,575 new arrivals from CAR were registered, including 15,410 people in North Ubangi Province, 20,445 in Bas Uele Province, 10,648 people in South Ubangi Province and 72 in Kinshasa.
- UNHCR, the government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR), and local immigration authorities in Bas Uele Province are monitoring reported pendular movements of new arrivals in Ndu. Some are reportedly returning during the day to nearby Bangassou in CAR, as food and livelihoods opportunities are scarce in Ndu.
- 1,993 women at risk and 1,401 unaccompanied or separated children have been identified. Among these there are 101 cases of GBV, including early marriages, unwanted pregnancies, and sexual violence, mostly perpetrated in CAR.
- The North Ubangi Provincial Health Division has granted access to free healthcare in ten districts for Central African children under five and for pregnant women. Refugees are being informed of this development, and advocacy is ongoing South Ubangi Province to secure a similar agreement.

Regional Support

The Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA) is providing technical support to strengthen the health response in the DRC. RBSA is supporting the operation with procurement of health kits and essential medicines, as well as COVID-19 testing kits.



Central Africans crossing Oubangui the river to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ©UNHCR/ Adrienne Surprenant

Assistance provided

- UNHCR and CNR are conducting a survey of Central African refugees interested in relocating to the new site in Modale, North Ubangi Province. The 108-hectare site has been allocated by local authorities and is being cleared for the construction of an access road and a transit centre ahead of the relocation of refugees currently staying in Yakoma near the border. Plan are in progress to rehabilitate schools and the Modale health centre for use by both refugees and host community.
- Medical and nutritional screening continue. As of 8 March, 33,220 people (including 9,930 children under five and 2,928 pregnant and lactating women) have been screened in North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Bas Uele provinces. UNHCR partner AIDES is administering treatment and referring cases of malaria, respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea, and intestinal parasites. About 115 cases of malnutrition have also been identified and are receiving treatment.
- An increasing number of suspected measles cases are being reported in North Ubangi Province. UNHCR and other health partners are advocating with the provincial health division for new arrivals to be included in a planned vaccination drive. Less than 30 per cent of CAR refugee children in these zones are immunized. Meanwhile, UNHCR is participating in provincial coordination meetings advocating for the inclusion of CAR refugees in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces in mass vaccination drives, including one for polio in March and one for yellow fever in June.
- Almost 10,000 children of school-going age have been identified by UNHCR partner ADSSE. Central African refugees are being informed of the recent reopening of schools across the DRC and COVID-19 preventive measures established by the government.
- UNHCR partner ADSSE has distributed water and sanitation kits comprising water containers, soap, and buckets to 18,202 Central Africans and 500 Congolese in the host community in North Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces.
- To improve access to villages hosting new arrivals, UNHCR partner AIRD has started repairing bridges and extremely degraded stretches of the Gbadolite-Yakoma road.



Country Operation Cameroon



UN representatives listen new refugees in the East. @UNHCR/HelenNghoh. 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 22-24 February 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 Cameroonian 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. Security conditions on the MRS1 remain volatile.
- On 15 February, three people tested positive for COVID-19 among the new arrivals. They are being cared for at the COVID isolation center.

Assistance provided

- COVID-19 prevention activities involved 71 households and 313 people, including 262 adults (201 women and 61 men) and 51 children (31 girls and 20 boys).
- 74 vulnerable women have been referred to partners for further assistance, including two elderly women, two chronically ill women, three GBV survivors, three women with severe disability, 64 single women with children. Partners IMC-GBV and AIRD-CCCM are providing support and distributing dignity kits offered by UNFP.
- Eight cases of GBV were identified and managed (including seven cases of rape) within a 72-hour period. Survivors received additional medical assistance, psychosocial support, and medical certificates.
- 300 emergency shelters were built, and 85 transitional shelters were opened. The shelters have provided housing for 1,227 new refugees (404 households) who were transferred to Gado.
- The 1,227 refugees (404 households) transferred to Gado 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 230 primary school pupils (132 girls and 98 boys) and 46 secondary school students (19 girls and 27 boys).

Regional support

The Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (RBWCA) is providing technical support to strengthen coordination and put together an inter-agency refugee response plan (RRP) for Central African refugees in eastern Cameroon.

**Country Operations**
Chad**Operational Environment**

- In the last three weeks, there have been no reports of new arrivals at the border.
- The security situation on the border between Chad and the Central African Republic is reportedly calm. There are no reports of clashes between CAR government forces and rebels.
- No positive COVID-19 cases or alerts have been reported, and awareness-raising on COVID-19 prevention in the camps, sites and health structures continues. Around 1,307 people (270 households) have been processed through the quarantine center.
- 3,002 children have arrived since the (1,474 girls and 1,528 boys), At least 1,444 of them (48 per cent) were enrolled in school in CAR.
- During the reporting period, 12 separated children and 10 unaccompanied children were identified. The EAE registered 48 children between three and five years old, and new refugees, including 30 girls.
- Most new arrivals are children (63 per cent) and women (56 per cent). 1,727 individuals with specific needs were registered, including breastfeeding women, women at danger of other GBV, single-parent families, unaccompanied children and elderly persons. There are also 39 separated children and 14 unaccompanied minors. Three GVB cases were registered.
- HIV-AIDS: 78 new refugees were tested for HIV for various reasons, including 11 women who tested positive: two from rape, one for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and eight for medical complications.
- 11 new cases of persons with mental health needs were diagnosed.

Assistance provided

- A participatory assessment was conducted by focus group discussion with 44 women, (25 from Doholo camp and 19 from Gondje camp). Immediate needs identified include hygiene kits, food assistance, medical attention and school kits.
- Six rape victims were closely monitored in the Doholo camp and received psychological support, legal assistance from the APLFT and treatment after examination by the CSSI partner.
- The awareness campaign on GBV reached 85 asylum seekers, including 72 women and 13 men.
- As of 22 February, 4,969 people (1,497 households) received assistance in NFIs (blankets, mats, jerry cans, kitchen kits, mosquito nets) and received a hot meal during transfer.
- A total of 1,269 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 (714 girls and 784 boys) were enrolled in school. Most of these students do not have school supplies.
- 13 refugee boys have been enrolled at the secondary school in Doholo.
- Since the beginning of the new influx, 6,859 people (1,949 households) have received food rations. During this period, 164 refugees (71 households) already in Gondje camp received food assistance. 544 beneficiaries (97 households) in the Gore confinement center also received food. Food distribution will continue at the Dosseye Containment Center.
- Out of 2,200 shelters planned, 1,400 shelters finalized in Doholo camp and 300 in Gondje (77 per cent of total planned) for 4,938 people (1,484 households) were installed.
- Eight hangars and a 320-meter fence wall have been constructed in Doholo.
- 4,471 people (59 per cent of new arrivals) have already been transferred to the Doholo camp.
- 1,307 people (270 households) passed for the quarantine center. Follow-up with the medical partner and hot meal assistance continues.



Country Operation Republic of the Congo

Operational Environment

- Tensions persist in the Lobaye area in CAR, and refugees continue to flee into the Republic of the Congo (RoC). As of 10 March, 7,444 individuals have been registered. UNHCR and the government's National Committee for Refugee Assistance (CNAR), began emergency registration in Betou, on 6 March.
- UNHAS is resuming flights in RoC to facilitate humanitarian access to Central African refugees in areas that are difficult to reach by road.

Assistance Provided

- UNHCR partner TSF continues to conduct medical and nutrition screening in conjunction with the registration process. So far, 69 children have been identified with malnutrition, including 63 cases that are considered moderate and six that are considered severe. Just over 100 children are also reported to be at risk of malnutrition and have been admitted to appropriate care programmes.
- Based on information gathered during registration and assessments, 27 per cent of adults amongst the new arrivals are farmers. Additionally, 1,729 children of school-going age have not been enrolled in classes due to a lack of funds to pay the required fees. Additional assistance is required to support the continuation of their education.



Health screening for new arrivals from the Central African Republic, conducted alongside registration in Betou, Republic of the Congo ©UNHCR / Marc Foukou

Regional Support

The Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA) is helping to step-up the health response in RoC, and strengthen coordination. A key element of this support includes procuring COVID-19 test kits, as well as of health kits and essential medicines.

CONTACTS

Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa (covering Cameroon, CAR and Chad)

Fatoumate Lejeune - Kaba, Head of External Engagement, lejeunek@unhcr.org, Tel: +221 78 620 12 07

Johnny Meneses Paz, Reporting Officer, menesep@unhcr.org, Tel: +221 77 644 68 94

[TWITTER](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)

Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (covering DRC and RoC)

Joan Allison, Head of External Engagement, allison@unhcr.org, Tel: +271 27 627 516

Miranda Gaanderse, Reporting Officer, gaanders@unhcr.org, Tel: +271 27 627 501

[TWITTER](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#)