

Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

25 June 2021

New internal displacement following clashes in CAR

Besides the notable incident on the Chadian border, the security situation remains extremely volatile in important parts of CAR, particularly in the North-West, Centre and South-East of the country where an additional 38,000 internally displaced persons have been recorded by national authorities at the end of May 2021.

Joint UN-AU-ECCAS-EU mission to support peace and reconciliation in CAR

Following the killing of Chadian soldiers on the border between Chad and CAR at the end of May, a joint United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of Central African States and European Union mission arrived in Bangui on 2 June for high-level consultations with the national authorities on the current situation in CAR and in support of the peace process.

Severe deterioration of the protection environment across CAR

UNHCR's protection monitoring indicates a severe deterioration of the protection situation in CAR with a spike in various forms of abuse including instances of gender-based violence, violations of the rights to property, freedom and life as a direct result of the post-electoral crisis and the increased insecurity and violence across the country.

KEY INDICATORS

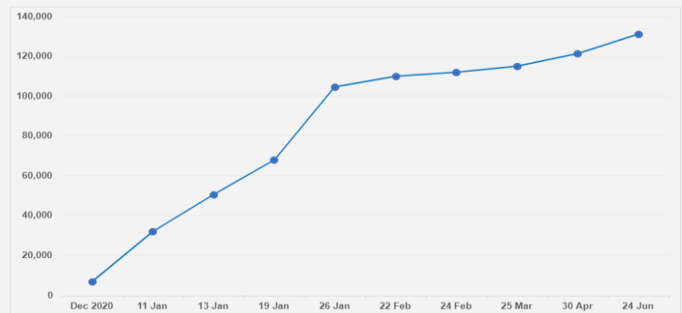
213,000*

Total number of new Internally Displaced Persons in CAR since the beginning of the electoral crisis.

131,275 **

People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, Republic of the Congo (RoC), Chad and Democratic Republic of the Congo DRC since the beginning of the electoral crisis, as of 30. April 2021.

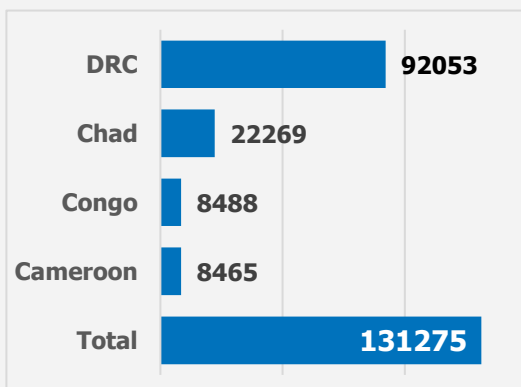
NEW DISPLACEMENT TREND (2021)



CAR REGIONAL SITUATION MAP

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

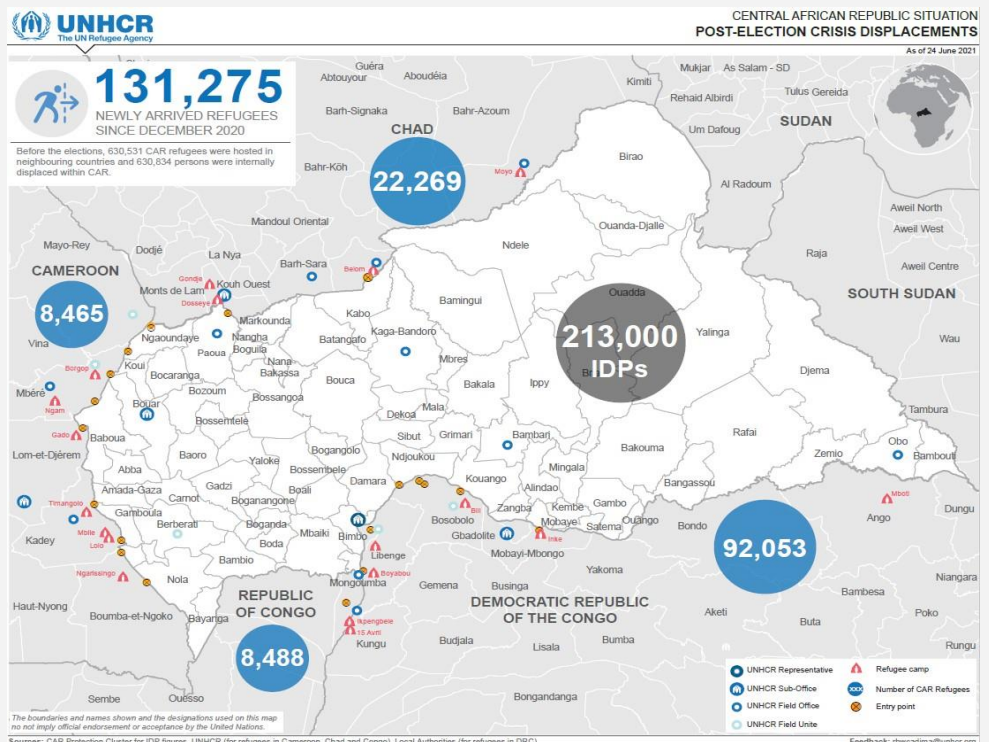
New refugee arrivals



* Commission de Mouvement de Population as at 16 June 2021.

** Data as reported by local authorities of 25 June 2021.

** DRC figure is provided by local authorities. UNHCR is conducting biometric registration jointly with government to confirm.



Operational Context

Population movements and border monitoring

- According to the Commission des mouvements de population (CMP), 38,000 new IDPs were recorded at the end of May, mostly in the areas of the North-West, Centre and South-East of the country. Over 39,000 returns were also recorded in May, in the areas of Bangassou and Bakouma (South-East) and in Markounda and Nangha-Boguila (North-West). In total, 213,000 persons have been displaced as a result of the electoral and post-electoral crisis in CAR, and a total of 727,000 IDPs were recorded at the end of May.
- Most new arrivals from CAR are being hosted in remote areas where host populations already face precarious living conditions and limited resources. Besides shelter, water and sanitation infrastructure and food, newly arrived refugees continue to face major protection issues including lack of documentation, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection.
- The new displacement of over 300,000 IDPs and refugees 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.
- While sustaining its presence and response in the main hosting areas, UNHCR continues to prioritize support to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of GBV.



Internally displaced family in a site in Bambari in the Ouaka region of CAR. To help them return to their place origin, they were provided with a package of 50,000 CFA francs to help start a small business. UNHCR/ Photo Stella Fatime

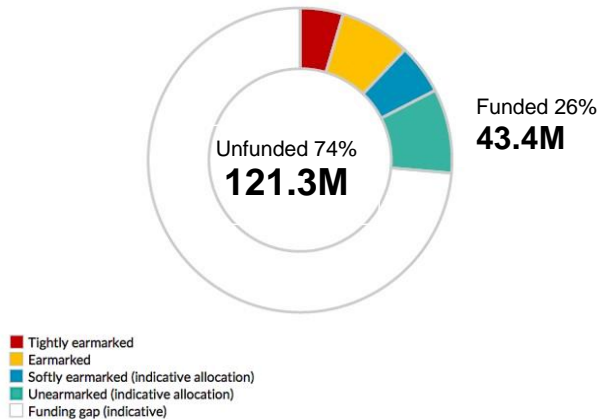


CAR Situation Funding Update

FUNDING (AS OF 22 June 2021)

USD 164.7 M

requested for the Central African Republic situation



Contributions earmarked to the CAR Situation 2021 (USD)

Denmark 2.9 million | Japan 2 million | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe 1.2 million | Education Cannot Wait 1 million | France 1 million | European Union 968,523 | UN Programme on HIV / AIDS 395,547 | Latter Day Saints 281,709 | Toyota Tsusho Corporation 101,742

Softly earmarked contributions 2021 (USD)

United States of America 35.6 million | Sweden 7.6 million | Canada 6.9 million | Private donors Australia 4.8 million

Unearmarked contributions 2021 (USD)

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Private donors Spain 35.4 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | France 20 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Japan 10.9

- As of 22 June 2021, the Central African Republic situation has received 26 per cent of the USD 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.
- UNHCR's [Emergency Appeal](#) to address the Central African Republic crisis covers needs in CAR, DRC, RoC, Cameroon and Chad.
- The [Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan for Central African refugees in the DRC](#) aims to provide protection and assistance for up to 92,000 refugees. Partners are appealing for USD 69 million for the implementation of the multi-sectoral response.

UNHCR Emergency Response L1 and L2 Emergency Declaration

- On 21 January 2021, UNHCR declared 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.

Highlight

UNHCR Protection Monitoring Report – Q1 2021

UNHCR published its 2021 first quarter protection monitoring report for CAR, which indicated a deterioration of the protection environment across the country. In a country where the protection situation was already dire, the crisis has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, particularly among women and children with an increase in gender-based violence.

About 37% of the GBV incidents reported through UNHCR's protection monitoring were of sexual nature and 50% of these were perpetrated by armed men. UNHCR has therefore strengthened its GBV prevention and response through a service called "Ma Mbi Si" ("Listen to Me" in Sango) providing survivors with a holistic support. UNHCR and its partners are also mobilizing the community structures to provide support to survivors who wish to participate in local women's groups.

In the first quarter of 2021 only, they supported close to 500 survivors of GBV, offered case management to close to 300 persons and prevention session to 1,500 beneficiaries including 1,100 women and girls.



Monitoring de protection République Centrafricaine

Analyse trimestrielle
Janvier - Mars 2021



Read full report [here](#).



Country Operation

Central African Republic



Distribution of non-food items to internally displaced persons in Bambari. ©UNHCR CAR

Operational Environment

- **Persisting insecurity and violence.** Besides the notable incident on the Chadian border, the security situation remains extremely volatile in important parts of CAR, particularly in the western region of Bouar and Berberati and the central region of Bria where several clashes have been reported in the past month. Improvised explosives and mines continue to be a major concern, along road axes in the border areas with Cameroun and Chad, hindering humanitarian access. To address this issue, a Working Group on Access and Mines has been established by the UN Country Team and awareness raising and training sessions are being delivered to UN personnel including in UNHCR.
- **New internal displacement and IDP returns.** According to the Commission des mouvements de population (CMP), 38,000 new IDPs were recorded at the end of May, mostly in the areas of the North-West, Centre and South-East of the country. Over 39,000 returns were also recorded in May, in the areas of Bangassou and Bakouma (South-East) and in Markounda and Nangha-Boguila (North-West). In total, 213,000 persons have been displaced as a result of the electoral and post-electoral crisis in CAR, and a total of 727,000 IDPs were recorded at the end of May.
- **Rising food insecurity.** According to the latest OCHA data on food insecurity released at the end of May, the situation in CAR is of great concern with a majority of the country presenting being at risk of 'Severe Food Insecurity' in 2021.

Assistance Provided

- **Responding to Gender-Based Violence.** Addressing GBV is a priority for UNHCR in CAR. Between 7 and 8 June, a GBV capacity building mission was organized in Bangassou for partner staff and community relays in charge of UNHCR's GBV response "Ma Mbi Si" in the area. The workshop focused on the basic concepts of GBV (typologies, causes and consequences), safe reporting, psychological first aid and the assessment of GBV survivors' urgent needs, the steps of GBV case management (face-to-face and remote), as well as a specific presentation of the "Ma Mbi Si" service and the ways to communicate about it.
- **Distribution of Shelter/Non-Food Items.** As co-lead of the CCCM/Shelter/NFI cluster, UNHCR continues to implement emergency shelter interventions and non-food items (NFI) kit distributions to assist newly displaced IDPs. In response to the forced displacement in Bambari, UNHCR distributed NFIs (kitchen sets, soap, blankets, mats and mosquito nets) to 2,561 households (8,575 individuals) in the past month. On June 2, UNHCR and its partners, PARET and Intersos, organized an NFI kit distribution to urgently respond to the needs of 252 newly displaced households in the region of Kaga-Bandoro.
- **Coordination of the protection response.** As lead of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR continues to coordinate the protection response to the IDP situation. UNHCR took part in a joint mission with OCHA and UNICEF in the Bambari area to support an in-depth evaluation of protection needs and define the appropriate response to the needs of the local IDP population.

Joint UN-AU-ECCAS-EU mission to support peace and reconciliation

Following the skirmishes that caused the death of six Chadian soldiers on the border between Chad and CAR at the end of May, a joint United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of Central African States and European Union mission arrived in Bangui on 2 June for high-level consultations with the national authorities on the current situation in CAR and in support of the peace process.

A joint UN-AU-ECCAS-EU communiqué was issued at the end of these consultations, calling for the resumption of dialogue between the parties in conflicts and emphasized coordination of all the efforts underway by CAR's partners in support of the peace and reconciliation process.



Country Operation

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)


Central African refugees arrive in Modale site, after traveling in trucks for several hours from Yakoma, at the CAR-DRC border. ©UNHCR/ H. Caux

Assistance Provided

- **Biometric registration** of new Central African asylum-seekers continued in North Ubangi Province. Approximately 11,879 individuals were registered in six locations in Bosobolo Territory in May before the exercise was suspended for technical reasons. A total of 71,559 new arrivals from CAR have been registered in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces and in Kinshasa since the beginning of the influx in December 2020.
- To mitigate and respond to GBV, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), UNHCR and partner AIDES held awareness-raising sessions reaching 308 people who recently relocated to the Modale settlement. Additionally, between 24 and 28 May, UNHCR partner AIDES and UNICEF partner LIZADEEL held six GBV awareness-raising sessions in North Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces, reaching an estimated 950 refugees and people in the host community.
- UNHCR and partners relocated 385 Central African refugees between 1 and 15 June from Yakoma to the new Modale settlement in North Ubangi Province where construction work on emergency shelters, latrines and water points continues to accommodate the increasing number of refugees arriving at the site. A total of 125 shared family latrines and bathing rooms were built, as well as 408 of the 700 emergency shelters planned, all of which are now occupied by refugee families. Since April, a total of 1,909 people relocated to Modale and provided with shelter and CRIs upon arrival.
- During the relocations, partner ADSSE has been identifying children of school-going age, and so far facilitated the enrolment of 383 refugee children in the Wele primary school in Modale. UNHCR and partners are supporting the primary school to accommodate more pupils by constructing two blocks of six classrooms using emergency materials and providing 200 benches to increase class capacity. However, the space in classrooms remains insufficient, construction of larger long-term classrooms is in the planning stages.

Regional Support

A Situational Emergency Training was held in the DRC for 30 participants from UNHCR, Government and NGO staff. The training focused on further enhancing emergency response capacity in the operation. The training was supported by UNHCR HQ and the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa.

Operational Environment

- The risk of **COVID-19** transmission remains high in all three provinces hosting Central African refugees in northern DRC and limited access to hygiene, sanitation and health facilities make refugees more vulnerable to COVID-19. UNHCR and partners continue to provide protective equipments and raise awareness in high-risk zones.
- **Poor living conditions** and insufficient sources of livelihood continue to put newly arrived Central African refugee women and girls at risk of gender-based violence (GBV). In the month of May, 30 more cases of GBV were documented in North and South Ubangi provinces, bringing the total number of identified and documented survivors to 131, since the new influx. UNHCR partner AIDES is providing medical assistance, psycho-social support and distributing core relief items (CRIs) to the survivors.
- **Logistical challenges** remain a major concern, as most hosting locations can only be reached through extremely degraded or non-existing roads. A challenging situation compounded by the rainy season which has started in DRC. To address this issue, UNHCR supported local communities repair a bridge over the Ndokpa river, approximately 21 kilometres from Bili, to facilitate movement of people and equipment to refugee hosting areas in Bosobolo Territory. Additionally, two rafts are being constructed to ease movement of people and goods from Nord Ubangi to Bas Uele Province where over 21,000 refugees were recently registered, and where an estimated 45,000 Central African refugees were residing prior to the new influx.



Country Operation Cameroon



Refugees from the Central African Republic are registered by UNHCR and partner staff at Garoua Boulai transit centre in Cameroon, before being relocated to Gado camp.
©UNHCR/ X. Bourgeois

Operational Environment

- As of 23 June 2021, Bertoua sub-office has registered 7,391 individuals from 3,103 households since the start of the post-electoral crisis in CAR. A total of 137 individuals arrived in the past month.
- Following the clashes that took place on the border between Chad and CAR, Cameroon's police and army have increased their patrols in the area, monitoring unofficial entry points into Cameroon. Despite the increased tensions in the West of CAR, the security situation in Eastern Cameroon remained calm allowing for humanitarian activities to continue unperturbed.
- In Gado settlement, Cameroon local security forces increased nightly patrols to address a recent increase in security incidents and ensure the safety of displaced and host populations in the area.

Assistance Provided

- **Completion of the relocation exercise from Garoua-Boulai to Gado.** The last phase of the relocation of newly arrived Central African refugees from Garoua-Boulai to the Gado site was completed on 18 June, with a total of 347 individuals transferred. The operation proceeded without major incidents and was jointly carried out by UNHCR and implementing partners, local authorities, as well as representatives of the refugee community. In compliance with measures against COVID-19, all refugees aged 12 and above were tested for Covid-19 with no positive cases. All children were vaccinated against measles. Upon arrival at the site, the relocated refugees received information sessions on the services provided. Subsequently, each household received household items before being directed to emergency shelters where hot meals were served.
- **To help boost refugee self-reliance, UNHCR** conducted a series of livelihoods activities in Gado site. On Saturday 22 May, 82 newly arrived refugees received agricultural kits including machetes, shovels, rakes, watering cans, buckets and sprayers. Accompanied by UNHCR partner LWF, they will cultivate profitable crops like maize, groundnuts, beans and vegetables.

Ministerial visit to the main refugee hosting areas

On Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June 2021, Mr Atanga Nji, Minister of Territorial Administration, representing the President of the Republic of Cameroon, visited key hosting areas around Kentzou and Garoua-Boulai to meet refugee newly arrived following the post-electoral crisis in CAR in December 2020. In the presence of UNHCR and members of the humanitarian country team including the Chief Coordinator of the CAR emergency response, gift ceremonies were organized in various locations along the borders. In total, 1000 beneficiaries, including 850 refugees and 150 members of the host community of the localities of Lolo, Mbilé, Kentzou and Garoua-Boulai received a donation consisting of 1000 mattresses, 1000 blankets, 10,000 boxes of mackerel, 10,000 bars of soap, 5,000 bottles of oil, 2,000 buckets, 10,000 kg of rice, and 10,000F XAF/household for transport. In addition to this material support, the Minister of Territorial Administration reassured the refugees of the state's constant attention to their living conditions before concluding with a reminder about the obligation of refugees to respect the laws and regulations of their host country.


 Country Operations
Chad


Newly arrived refugees from the Central African Republic are received in Chad on 16 April, 2021. © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

Operational Environment

- During the month of June, the arrival of refugees has considerably slowed, with only small groups crossing to Gore, Maro-Sido Moissala (Chad) from the Ouham prefecture in Central African Republic where clashes between armed groups and government forces have continued in the past month.
- Registration continued in eight Chadian border villages, and as of 10 June 2021, a total of 22,269 new Central African asylum-seekers had been registered in Chad, including 9,448 refugees in Gore, 6,560 in Maro 6,261 in Moissala.
- In an effort to manage the influx, UNHCR in partnership with IOM, has deployed teams to Maro and Moissala to register Chadian returnees from the Central African Republic and assist them in their transfer to their place of origin in Chad. To better manage future influxes, UNHCR and IOM have jointly deployed teams to monitor the border and provide rapid assistance to refugees, returnees, asylum and seekers foreigners as well as migrants transiting through Chad from the Central African Republic.

Assistance Provided

- UNHCR partners Ades and WFP have distributed food to 11,075 refugees in Moissala, Maro and Gore. Congruently, WFP also distributed energy cookies to 1,357 newly arrived refugees from Maro and to 1,327 refugees from Moissala, while they waited for assistance to reach them.
- To accommodate newly arrived refugees to be relocated from the Sido transit center to Belom camp, UNHCR is building 20 additional community sheds in Belom camp. UNHCR is also increasing the capacity of the Maro site with 6 additional emergency community shelters with a capacity of 100 people.
- In the transit centers of Sido, Maro and Moissala, where the main causes of morbidity are acute respiratory infections and Malaria, UNHCR's partner ADES assisted 623 new refugees with curative and preventive consultation through the mobile clinics. Children and women represented respectively 56% and 62% of the consultations.



Distribution of Non-Food Items to newly arrived refugees relocated to the Belom site in Southern Chad. © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune


 Country Operation
Republic of the Congo


A mother holds her child as they sit next to their new refugee housing unit. They were recently relocated from Kpakaya to the 15 Avril site in Bétou ©UNHCR/ D. Dieguen

Operational Environment

- As of 15 June, 5,803 asylum-seekers newly arrived from the Central African Republic have been biometrically registered in Bétou, Moualé, Mokabi, Lombo, Lopola and Thanry. This is out of the 8,488 new arrivals who have been recorded through emergency registration.
- The Likouala department, which is hosting the new refugees from CAR, received first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine on 15 June, and the health system is preparing to launch the vaccination campaign the week of 21 June. UNHCR and health partners, along with community workers, are mobilizing humanitarian, refugees, asylum-seekers and the host community for the vaccination campaign.

Assistance Provided

- Awareness campaigns on gender-based violence (GBV)** was organized by UNHCR partner AARREC, along with UNFPA reaching 332 people including 195 women and girls, and 137 men and boys over the past month. Additionally, three social workers and 16 community mobilizers have been recruited to strengthen GBV prevention and response, as well as child protection, in areas hosting Central Africa refugees and asylum-seekers. The community mobilizers have carried out awareness-raising activities, reaching 181 persons (113 women and 68 men) so far.
- Education catch-up sessions** have been rolled out for school-age children who recently arrived from CAR. As of 16 June, 823 students have been identified in the 10 localities that have welcomed the new Central African refugees in Likouala department. Students are being identified through the biometric registration process. So far, 345 primary school pupils have (158 girls and 187 boys) have received school kits including notebooks, slates, pens and chalk.
- Shelter and WASH assistance.** In Mougoungui, UNHCR and its partners distributed essential household items to 330 refugee families among asylum-seekers and host community and 106 newly arrived refugees were provided with 25 refugee housing units. Furthermore, one block of five communal latrines and five communal showers was built and water purification powder were distributed to refugees, asylum seekers and host community in Mougoungui.

Advocating for inclusion

UNHCR organized a joint mission from 19-22 May to Likouala Department with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, WFP and UNFPA to raise awareness about the need for more development actors to operate in the area to ensure inclusion of refugees and host populations into local socio-economic services.

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