

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

## UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 49

7-13 February 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**442,495**

IDPs including

**50,281**

in Bangui in 34 sites

**430,837**

Total number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

**190,472**

New CAR refugees in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013

**8,103**

Refugees and asylum seekers in CAR

### PRIORITIES

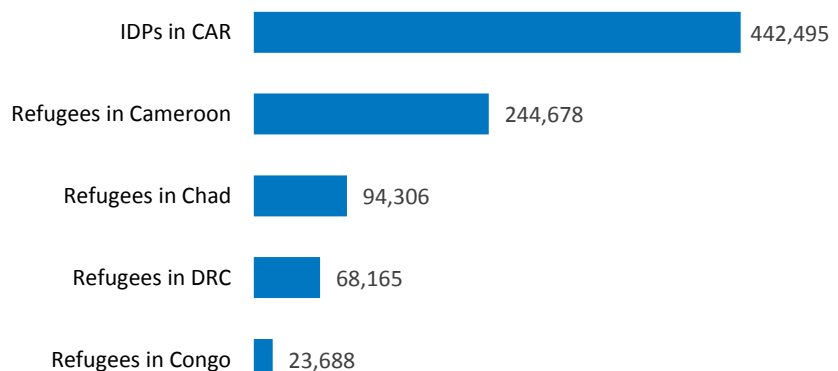
- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Central African Republic (CAR): The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Mr. Chaloka Beyani visited CAR from 10-15 February. UNHCR participated in the delegation's visit to communities in Bambari (Ouaka prefecture), Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko prefecture) and the Mpoko airport site in Bangui. On 12 February, UNHCR met with Mr. Beyani and discussed a broad range of protection concerns including UNHCR's position regarding the enclave of Yaloke and the closure of Mpoko site.
- Cameroon: A Central African delegation visited refugees in Cameroon to discuss national dialogue and reconciliation in CAR. The delegation visited Douala and the refugee site of Lolo to exchange with refugees on the peace process to restore dialogue and advance national reconciliation. In Lolo, discussions were held in the presence of refugee representatives from Mbile, Timangolo and Kentzou. During the visit, refugees shared with the delegation their views on preconditions for reconciliation and their eventual return to CAR.

#### Population of concern

A total of **873,332** people of concern



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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### Operational Context

- The high-level UN mission to CAR drew attention to the human suffering in the country and called for greater access to and better protection of vulnerable communities. Ms. Kang stated that “improved and reliable communication with all communities is key in this situation of deep fear and mistrust”. The delegation stated that it counts on the collaboration between humanitarian actors and the authorities to find alternative solutions for IDPs in Mpoko site. Mr. Beyani, stressed that “all Central Africans must enjoy the same rights, including freedom of movement for all. This applies to all displaced populations too. No one should be stopped from moving within the country, to cross borders on their way out or back in. People have the choice to choose solutions best suited to their needs and situation and their choices must be supported and respected”.
- Local consultations are being held inside CAR and have started in neighbouring countries hosting CAR refugees. In order to ensure inclusive local consultations and a broad range of issues to discuss during the forthcoming Bangui Forum, UNHCR met on 7 February with the Central African Minister for Public Service, ambassadors from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo and MINUSCA. UNHCR informed CAR authorities and MINUSCA of the number of refugees and their locations in neighbouring countries and mentioned the importance of the Central African government to channel information related to such visits through the diplomatic representations of the different countries in CAR.

### Protection

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 442,495 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 50,281 in Bangui in 34 sites.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR held a meeting with IEDA Relief and the National Commission for Refugees in order to determine roles, responsibilities and collaboration between the three stakeholders for the identification and registration of spontaneous returns. IEDA Relief’s border monitoring questionnaire has been reviewed to respond to new requirements.

#### CAMEROON

- An estimated 137,822 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

#### Achievements and Impact

- This week, UNHCR registered 224 new arrivals (64 families) in Gbiti and 293 new arrivals (95 families) at the transit site in Garoua Boulai in the East region.
- UNHCR also continues to verify and update registration information for spontaneous movements and family reunifications between sites and villages. During the week, 183 spontaneous arrivals (74 families) were verified and registered in Lolo refugee site in the East region. In addition, 224 refugee documents were distributed by UNHCR to new and spontaneous arrivals in these sites, while 51 refugee identification cards were renewed and distributed to old caseload refugees in Mbile and Lolo.
- During the week, UNHCR transferred 342 refugees (108 families) from the transit site in Garoua Boulai to the refugee site in Gado.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- An estimated 22,214 Central African refugees have entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo since December 2013 (as at 31 October) and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province.

### Achievements and Impact

- This number of new arrivals is supplemented by a recent influx of Central African refugees that entered the Bosobolo territory in Equateur Province. Last week, a UNHCR and *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) registration mission (level 1) concluded that 19,289 refugees had crossed into the DRC. In addition, another influx of over 400 refugees was registered in the Bosobolo territory on 15 February 2015. Central African refugees are reportedly entering the DRC near Lembo (25km from Gbadolite) of which 65% are children. UNHCR immediately relocated refugees to the transit centre the same day.
- This reporting period, 457 Central African refugees were pre-registered and relocated to Boyabu refugee camp from Batanga.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 13,358 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area. During the reporting period, 164 new arrivals were registered in Betou, Impfondo and Brazzaville.
- The US Bureau for Population and Refugees and Migration (BPRM) conducted a mission to Betou and Brazzaville from 6-9 February. The mission was composed of BPRM officers from Washington and Kampala and the Political Advisor of the U.S Embassy in Brazzaville. The delegation visited the two refugee sites in Betou (*15 Avril* and *Ikpengbele*) where they held focus group discussions with refugees. In Brazzaville, the delegation held discussions with other UN agencies implementing activities in the Likouala Department.

## Education

### CAMEROON

#### Achievements and Impact

- In Mbile, the attendance rate of students within the Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPES) increased from 1,055 students to 1,450 students this week following several sensitization campaigns carried out by UNHCR and partners on the importance of education. Plan Cameroon has also increased their staff on site to better monitor education activities.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a lack of school supplies, uniforms and classroom equipment in some refugee hosting areas.
- There is a need to expand capacity—in terms of infrastructure, equipment, materials and staffing— of local public schools to integrate refugee children into the national curriculum.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Achievements and Impact

- In Mole camp, 617 children (225 girls and 158 boys), aged 12-17 years have registered to attend the *Centre de Rattrapage Scolaire* which will provide catch-up classes for students that were unable to attend primary school back home.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Newly arrived refugees in Equateur province have no access to education, which is one of the reasons why they are being advised to relocate to the camps as soon as possible.

- Lack of secondary education still remains a challenge for all camps in the DRC.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a lack of qualified teachers in the localities of Betou and Ikpengbele. The current ratio is 1 teacher per 100 students.



## Health

## CAMEROON

### Achievements and Impact

- International Medical Corps (IMC), UNHCR's implementing partner, has begun stocking supplies at six health centres in Adamawa region that were recently constructed with the support of UNHCR and BPRM. Material included medical supplies and medicine, and nurses have already been dispatched to operationalize these health centres under the supervision local authorities.
- In Lolo, Mbile and Timangolo, UNHCR's implementing partner, CARE International, continues to conduct mental health activities, including individual counselling (psychosocial and psychological), group therapy and community sensitizations.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Lack of mosquito nets, HIV and malaria tests, and tricycles to ensure access to healthcare for vulnerable persons.
- Need to strengthen healthcare and nutrition activities in host communities.
- Lack of qualified medical personnel (i.e. doctors, paramedics, nurses) and need for additional technical equipment and facilities in health centres in host communities.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The hospital in the town of Bili, where new arrivals are located, only has 15 beds and lacks the right equipment. The hospital needs to be enhanced in terms of capacity and general status, so that it can be used as a referral hospital for those refugees in Bili that require secondary health care.



## Food Security and Nutrition

## CAMEROON

### Achievements and Impact

- In Mbile, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), UNHCR's implementing partner, has started providing nutrition activities in host communities around the site. In addition, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), also UNHCR's implementing partner, is effectively using health posts that have been constructed throughout the site to better monitor the health and nutrition status of refugees.
- To support pregnant and lactating women, ACF organized 11 discussions groups in Timangolo to provide support and advice on breastfeeding and prevention of diseases. In addition, 118 home visits were carried out to monitor the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women at the site.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A total 320 refugees are admitted to the nutritional programme in Mole camp, out of which 87 are pregnant and lactating women. A total 201 children are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 32 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). *Association de Développement Economique et Social (ADES)* distributed 714 packets of plumpy nut to children with SAM and 1,484 packets to refugees with MAM, as well as 159 kg of Corn Soy Blend (CSB) to pregnant and lactating women.
- In Inke camp, there are 201 malnourished refugees, out of which 151 are admitted to the nutritional programme (including 100 children below the age of 5).
- In Boyabu camp, 380 refugees are admitted to the nutritional support programme including 175 children of which 28 have SAM and 149 MAM. ADES distributed 603 packets of plumpy nut to children suffering from SAM and 359 packets of plumpy sup to only 77 with MAM.
- The emergency mission in Bosobolo territory reported the prevalence of malnourished children to be 27,4 % following a middle-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening including 19,1 % with MAM. The prevalence of malnourished pregnant and lactating women is 11,3 % (MUAC). Blanket supplementary feeding has been recommended to be conducted in health centres.



## Water and Sanitation

### CAMEROON

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As part of the 2015 response strategy, construction of WASH infrastructure in host community villages will be accelerated so as to reduce tensions between refugees and local populations. In the village of Timangolo, four water pumps are in the process of being finalized, while in Ngam, construction work for two water pumps (one at the public school and another in the village community) have begun. In addition, four new water pumps have been constructed in the border town of Ngaoui, including three at public schools and one within the community. Two blocks of latrines were also constructed at public schools in Ngaoui.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Achievements and Impact

- WASH activities are currently ongoing in the Bosobolo territory; 15 water points have been developed near the proposed new camp in Bili.
- Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 11 litres per person per day (l/p/d), severely below UNHCR standards.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production this week was 307,000l and provided 21 l/p/d. The water is provided by 20 water points, 3 wells with manual pumps and one emergency well.
- In Inke camp, the level of water production stood at 1,471,500l and which provided 18.8 l/p/d.
- In Mboti refugee camp, the daily production of water was 8,450m<sup>3</sup> and provided 15l/p/d.



## Shelter/ NFIs and CCCM

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

#### Achievements and Impact

- From 6-7 February UNHCR in Bambari distributed NFI kits 7,651 IDPs (1,177 households) composed of blankets, kitchen sets, plastic mats, plastic sheeting and jerry cans
- In Batangafo, the Danish Refugee Council distributed another 800 UNHCR NFI kits to newly arrived IDPs in the city while the number of IDP has risen to 33 744 IDP which is close to 8% of the overall number of IDPs in CAR.

- UNHCR, through the Norwegian Refugee Council distributed 2 000 NFI kits in the localities of Nola and Mala (Sangha Mbaere prefecture).

## CAMEROON

### Achievements and Impact

- As part of the response strategy for 2015, UNHCR and partners continue to train volunteers from refugee and host communities with the hydraform machine to produce bricks for the construction of durable shelters. So far, one sample shelter has been constructed, and three family shelters are being finalized in Gado. In the meantime, UNHCR and partners continue to construct non-durable shelters in refugee sites, though remain hindered by a shortage in tarpaulins. During the week, 35 family shelters were finalized in Borgop.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Management

## CAMEROON

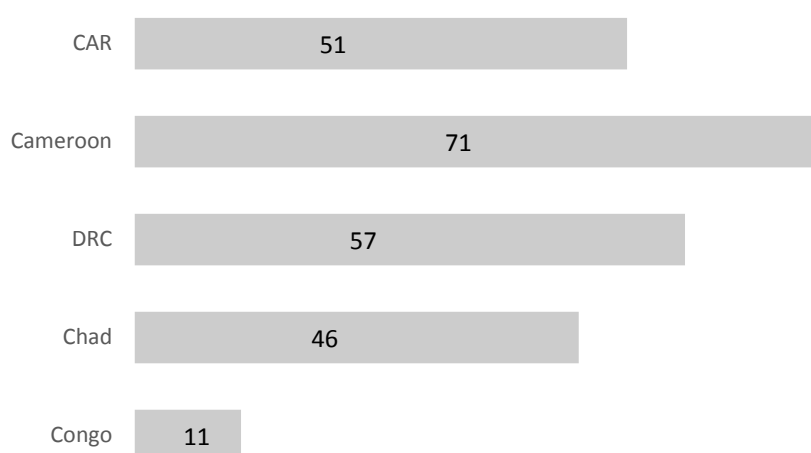
### Achievements and Impact

- To support the empowerment of refugee women in Mbile, UN Women, partner of UNHCR, is training 50 women in soap-making, as well as 200 women in poultry farming and other livelihood activities.
- In Timangolo, IRD continues to support a growing number of beneficiaries in gardening and agricultural activities to produce various crops and food products for sale at the local market. To date, 1,700 refugees (200 families) are registered in agricultural activities at the site. In addition, IRD is also organizing training sessions for refugee women in pastry and soap-making.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation in 2014. Below are UNHCR's 2015 financial needs for providing protection and assistance to Central African refugees in the neighbouring countries, as well as discharging its responsibilities in the inter-agency framework to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in the Central African Republic. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation currently amounts to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries from January to December 2015, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 23 January 2015.

### Funding requirements (USD million)



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#### Links:

CAR regional webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

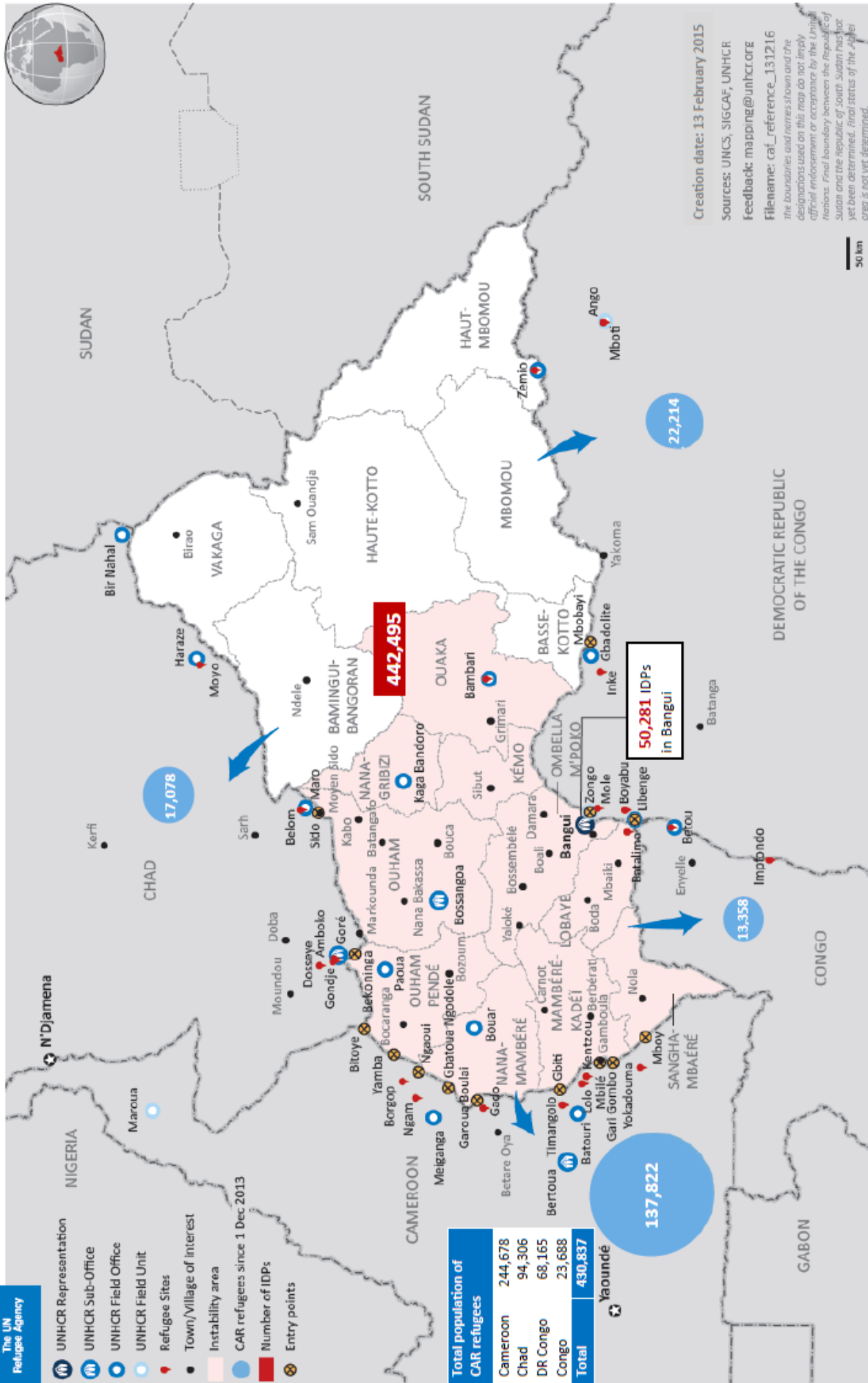
UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

# Central African Republic Emergency Situation

as of 13 February 2015



- UNHCR Representation
- UNHCR Sub-Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- Refugee Sites
- Town/Village of Interest
- Instability area
- CAR refugees since 1 Dec 2013
- Number of IDPs
- Entry points



| Total population of CAR refugees |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Cameroon                         | 244,678        |
| Chad                             | 94,306         |
| DR Congo                         | 68,165         |
| Congo                            | 23,688         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>430,837</b> |

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