

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR EXTERNAL REGIONAL UPDATE 14

2-8 May 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

567,635
IDPs including

142,635

in Bangui

360,763

Total number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

115,524

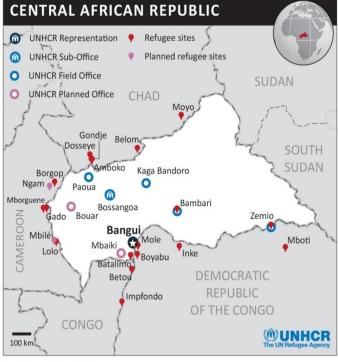
New CAR refugees in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013 US\$214 million

UNHCR requested in the Regional Response Plan

15,616

Refugees and asylum seekers in the CAR¹

- UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordination, Ms. Valerie Amos visited Chad this week and met Central African refugees that had fled violence in their country. Ms. Amos visited a transit site for refugees in Gaoui, near Ndjamena, where refugees are receiving food, medical care and other support from UN agencies and partners. She was accompanied by Mr. Robert Piper, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel.
- During her visit to Cameroon earlier this week, EU Commissioner for international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, announced a decision of the EU to increase humanitarian aid to \$8 million to assist refugees and host communities in the neighbouring counties of Cameroon and Chad.
- A team from the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrived in the Central African Republic on 8 May on their first fact-finding mission to investigate crimes committed in the country since 2012. This first mission, since a preliminary probe was launched earlier this year, comes amid continued ethnic and religious violence.

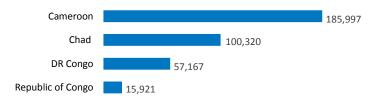


Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Creation date: 03 Apr 2014

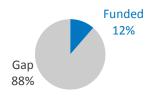
Population of concern

A total of 360,763 people of concern



Funding against the CAR situation

US\$214 million requested



¹ Current estimation pending the end of the voluntary repatriation programme of Congolese refugees from Batalimo (CAR) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Operational Context

- Central African Republic: On 1 May, security incidents and attacks were reported in Bemal (Ouham Pende prefecture) resulting in the displacement of 640 individuals to Paoua, and a further 1,000 displaced to the bush. UNHCR teams in Paoua registered a total of 640 persons (including 281 men, 358 women, 178 children and 11 elderly people) and assessed their needs. Also on 1 May, attacks occurred in Markounda (Ouham Pende prefecture), leading to the displacement of nearly 3,000 people close to the Chadian border and a further 250 into Chad.
- Since the launch of the voluntary repatriation operation on 10 April, 6,231 Congolese refugees, settled in Batalimo refugee camp, have been repatriated to Libenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; this as of 6 May. The voluntary repatriation operation is due to end on 9 May. The operation is being carried out with the support of the National Commission for Refugees in the Central African Republic and Congolese Government officials.
- An IOM mission in Betou, Republic of Congo, finalized the identification exercise of Chadian citizens newly arrived from the CAR and willing to repatriate to Chad. UNHCR met with the IOM mission to understand the objective of their mission. IOM will launch a three months project to repatriate all persons identified; this will mainly concern Chadian citizens but other nationalities may be assisted if they express their intention of return. Priority will be given to persons with specific needs. UNHCR and the Commission Nationale des Réfugiés (CNAR) are closely collaborating with the mission. Some 700-800 individuals may be concerned by this project.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has accelerated its operations in the Central African Republic, distributing "60% more food in April than in March". As of 29 April, it is reported that almost "200,000 people had received food assistance including 24,700 children who received special nutrients".

Recent Developments



Central African Republic:

- There are currently an estimated 570,000 Central Africans displaced within their country including 140,000 in Bangui in 42 sites.
- Following the deterioration of the security in the north of the Central African Republic, the Protection Cluster coordinated with UNHCR Chad for purposes of urging the Chadian authorities to keep its borders open for Central Africans in need of protection.
- The Protection Cluster continued to assess the situation of communities at risk and as of 5 May, there were over 21,000 people considered at risk in 11 locations, predominantly in the west of the Central African Republic.

Cameroon:

- Over 80,000 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013, with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.
- Several thousand refugees still remain at entry points such as 19,000 in Gbiti and another 11,000 in Kentzou that need to be relocated to one of the sites in the East region or to host villages.
- UNHCR encourages refugees to relocate to sites where there is a greater presence of UNHCR and partners to
 provide assistance. Two additional sites have been identified and preparations underway for them to be able
 to host new arrivals.
- Protection and Community Services partners are in need in the East and Adamawa regions.

Chad:

- The Chadian border with the Central African Republic has been closed. Increasing insecurity in the Central African Republic, in particular in the north near the border with Chad, has prompted the Government of Chad to also deploy additional security forces to the south.
- A joint mission composed of UNHCR, the Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR), the Détachement pour la Protection des Humanitaires et des Réfugiés (DPHR) and the Centre de Support en Santé International (CSSI), visited the village of Komba in the sous-prefecture of Yamodo, about 1 km from the Central African border and 50 km from Gore, to verify newly-arrived Central African refugees in the area. The mission identified a total of 201 refugees (33 families) consisting of mainly women and children, all of them Peuhls and orginating from Bossangoa, Batangafo, Boali and Bossembele in the CAR. This group of refugees indicated that they had walked for close to two months to reach the Chadian border. The length of this journey was visible in the poor state of health, overall weakness and fatigue among the refugees. CSSI, identified cases of malaria, conjunctivitis, dysentery and scabies as well as 28 cases of malnutrition and 3 cases of bullet wounds requiring specialized surgery. CSSI assisted refugees with medical attention and contacted MSF who will provide medical attention to those in need of surgery. Refugees indicated their intentions to remain in Chad and have opted to live in host villages for now. Refugees and Chadian returnees were provided food and non-food assistance by the government authorities as well as the Yamodo Islamic Committee.
- As an initiative to identify and register refugees living inside as well as outside camps, UNHCR, together with CNARR, DPHR and CARE, conducted a mission to Daha and Massambagne (75 from Haraze) in the Haraze area of Salamat, to verify refugees living among the local population. The mission verified a total of 21 refugees (10 families) in Massambagne, 1,681 refugees (214 families) in Daha 1 and 739 individuals (235 families) in Daha 2 bringing the total number of refugees identified in the region to 2,441 individuals (459 families). The total number of Central African refugees in the Haraze area (Salamat), including those living in Moyo camp, stands at 10,416 individuals (2,977 families).

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Nearly 14,000 Central African refugees have been registered since December 2013 and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province but also Oriental Province.
- In Libenge, UNHCR continued with the relocation of Central African refugees as well as the reception of Congolese returnees from Batalimo in the Central African Republic.
- During the reporting period, a joint security assessment mission in the northern part of Equateur province took place, consisting of UNHCR, MONUSCO and government forces (FARDC). The objective of the mission was to obtain a better understanding of the security situation in that area which hosts refugee camps, and to take necessary steps to strengthen security presence.

Republic of Congo:

- Over 8,000 Central African refugees have been registered since December 2013 and are predominantly in the
- UNHCR relocated 63 Central African refugees from the remote localities of Mouale, Mokabi and Moungoungui (Enyelle district) to Betou Centre. Upon relocation, these families were hosted in the departure centre of Betou and assisted with food and NFIs.
- There are 47 registered unaccompanied minors/separated children (UAM/SC) in Betou and Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) have been conducted for all of them. The tracing is ongoing with the support of the Congolese Red Cross. In Impfondo, 22 children were pre-registered as UAM/SC. However, BIAs remain to be conducted to confirm their status.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)

Central African Republic:

The CCCM Cluster continued to work with state and city officials to seek solutions for the large number of people living in sites at risk of flooding, such as M'Poko site. Four viable sites have been identified for IDPs at M'Poko and assessments are being conducted by the different sectors including WASH, Shelter and Protection.

- On 1 May, a data verification exercise was launched in the displacement sites in Bangui in to verify and validate data included in the monthly site profiles. The exercise will improve the quality of information on IDPs, including numbers disaggregated by sex and age, location and living conditions and their basic needs for better targeting of interventions. CCCM actors are also working on the possibility to extend the exercise to sites outside Bangui.
- The fourth IOM return intention survey has been published. IOM site facilitators interviewed some 588 displaced persons in 22 sites in Bangui. According to IOM, 57% of the persons interviewed indicated their intention to return to their place of origin within the next four weeks and 32% of displaced persons indicated their intention to remain at their displacement site. According to the survey, reasons preventing displaced people from returning to their place of origin are: belongings being stolen, lack of financial means, insecurity in their neighbourhood (lack of security forces).

Chad:

The Shelter/CCCM Cluster has been activated in Chad upon the agreement of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The Cluster will be led by UNHCR and co-led by IOM for a period of 6 months. It will allow for a better coordination in these two important inter-related areas and is seen as essential in ensuring the necessary increase in delivery and maximizing limited resources.

Education

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

There are a total of 5,651 school aged refugee children in the three camps of Boyabu, Mole and Inke, of which 3,108 attend primary education in temporary schools in the camps. Camp education follows the Central African curriculum.

Republic of the Congo:

- The attendance rate of Central African refugee students in Betou and Impfondo stood at 86.5% for primary school aged students.
- In Betou, after-school classes organized by *Agence d'Assistance au Rapatriés et Refugiés au Congo* (AARREC) are on-going and have proven successful within the Central African refugee community.
- The construction work of new classrooms in the three public schools of Betou is now terminated.
- The main difficulty in Brazzaville and in the refugee sites remained the absence of any assistance for secondary education.
- UNHCR is seeking means to support students in secondary and post-secondary levels. In view of this, the UNHCR has proposed to use the Julia Taft Refugee fund, which would be allocated by the US government to AARREC, in order to support the studies of young refugees of Betou, Impfondo and Brazzaville. It is expected that with this fund, some 30 grants could be awarded. The partner AARREC has prepared a project plan that is currently being reviewed by UNHCR before submission to the US embassy.



Democratic Republic of the Congo:

 Malaria, water-borne diseases, and respiratory tract infections remained the predominant diseases in the refugee hosting camps.

Republic of Congo:

- Medical and nutritional screening and vaccinations were performed on all new Central African refugees accommodated in the departure centre by Medecins d'Afrique (MDA).
- In all the refugee hosting sites, malaria remained the predominant illness affecting 39% of refugees. This was followed by acute respiratory infections affecting 23% of the refugee population.



Food Security and Nutrition

Republic of Congo:

- WFP Betou completed its general food distribution in Betou Centre. The distribution included a 60 day food ration of rice, oil, beans, salt and cornstarch.
- General food distribution continued this week in Impfondo.
- During the reporting week, five cases of malnutrition were registered, including four cases of severe acute malnutrition.



Water and Sanitation

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- In Boyabu camp, the amount of potable drinking water supplied increased from 129,100l to 131,100l, producing an average of 13.2l per person per day for a total of 9,791 individuals. The potable water is provided from six water points. The camp as 490 operational latrines.
- In Mole camp, water supply stood at 910,000l, which is equivalent to 11.8 liters per person per day for 11,081 individuals. There remain 9 water points, and 54 water taps stood. The number of operational latrines increased from 310 to 450.
- In Inke camp, the amount of potable water produced stood at 93,500l, equivalent to 13.5l per person per day for a total of 6,944 individuals.
- In Mboti camp, potable water is provided from four water points and a water bladder supplying a capacity of 10,000l.



Shelter and NFIs

Central African Republic:

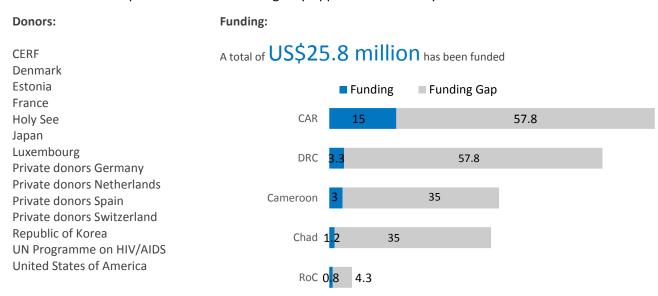
- In Berberati (Mambere Kadei prefecture), an Action Contre la Faim (ACF)/Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) teams undertook rapid needs assessments of the IDP situation and supported 344 new IDP families with relief items.
- On 1 May, in Kaga Bandoro (Nana Gribizi prefecture), an International Rescue Committee (IRC)/RRM team conducted a needs assessment of IDPs in three sites, namely Nativité, Evêché and Bissingale village. In total some 3,700 families were identified in need of relief items.

Republic of Congo:

- In Betou and Ikpengbele, the construction work of shelters the 630 shelters initially planned (in clay and bricks) for Central African refugees continued to face important delays in the delivery due to logistical and financial constraints.
- NFIs were distributed to the 63 refugees relocated from Mouale to Betou during the week.
- So far, 11,213 refugees have been assisted with NFIs since the beginning of the CAR emergency in Betou and Impfondo.

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. Below are UNHCR's 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. Following the release on 16 April 2014 of the CAR Regional Response Plan, UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation amount to USD 214 million, including USD 99.8 million of revised additional needs in asylum countries from January to December 2014 as presented in the Inter-Agency Appeal. It is currently funded at 12%.



Contacts:

Ms. Kabami Kalumiya, Reporting Officer, kalumiya@unhcr.org Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8252

Ms. Wendy Rappeport, Senior External Relations Officer, rappepor@unhcr.org Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8993

Mr. Ulysses Grant, Intern, grantu@unhcr.org_Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8664

Links:

Regional webportal: http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php

