

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 42

29 November – 5 December 2014

KEY FIGURES

430,000

IDPs including

61,244

in Bangui in 36 sites

424,070

Total number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

188,339

New CAR refugees in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013

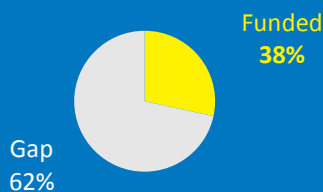
8,012

Refugees and asylum seekers in CAR

FUNDING

USD 255 million

requested for the situation



PRIORITIES

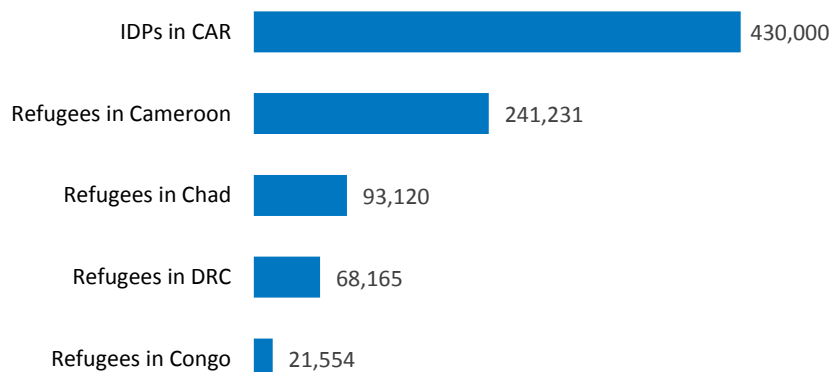
- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

HIGHLIGHTS

- A year after the anti-Balaka militia overran Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, more than 854,000 people, or nearly one-fifth of the country's population of 4.5 million, remain displaced – including 430,000 IDPs and over 424,000 refugees in the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo. On 5 December last year, Bangui and the town of Bossangoa, until then in the hands of the rebel Seleka movement, fell to the anti-Balaka, further escalating the violence and the displacement crisis. The CAR situation remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, yet it is at risk of becoming overshadowed by other pressing crises if more support is not provided.
- On 26 November, a ministerial meeting on the Global Strategy of Reconciliation was chaired by the Central African Prime Minister Mahamat Kamoun in Bangui. Amongst the participants were representatives from MINUSCA, the French Embassy and the African Union. They were informed of the key elements of the Global Strategy in terms of process, institutions and coordination as well as the pillars of the urgent plan: sensitization, dialogue with armed groups, community transformation, refugees and IDPs. The Bangui Forum, to be held in early 2015, was also mentioned as a key element of the Global Strategy and will cover three themes: dialogue, truth, justice and national reconciliation; peace and security; and governance.

Population of concern

A total of **854,070** people of concern



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- Violence was reported in Bambari town (Ouaka prefecture) on 4 December causing at least 14 deaths, more than a dozen wounded and several houses were burned. MINUSCA is particularly concerned about the nature of intercommunal violence which started because of the murder of a non-Muslim individual followed by the murder of a Muslim individual and acts of retaliation from the Muslim community against the non-Muslim community. MINUSCA recalled that these crimes are serious violations of human rights and will not go unpunished. As part of its mission to protect civilians and respect for human rights, MINUSCA reported that a fact-finding mission will be dispatched to Bambari to evaluate the situation.
- The security situation in Zemio and surroundings (Haut Mbomou prefecture) remained unpredictable following the attack by unidentified armed men on 1 December on Bahr village, located 40km away from Zemio, and causing the death of 3 people, 2 injured people and 42 houses were burned. Since 15 November, incidents have resulted in the death of 5 people and the burning of 120 houses.

Protection

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 430,000 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 61,244 in Bangui in 36 sites.
- A two-day protection monitoring workshop was organized in Bangui with UNHCR and partners working up country and in the capital city with the aim to readjust the community based monitoring questionnaire according to newly identified needs. Several partners participated in the session namely the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), INTERSOS, *Cooperazione* (COOPI), Mercy Corps and International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief). In addition, Housing Land and Property Rights actors such as the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and two partners working towards social cohesion also participated. As a result of this workshop, the inclusion of housing and land issues was incorporated in the questionnaire as it is related to the return dynamics.

CAMEROON

- An estimated 134,924 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions. Verification exercises are currently being carried out in the East, Adamawa and North regions of registered Central African refugees.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has launched a second series of training workshops on international protection for administrative, military, and police authorities in the East region. During the reporting period, a total of 43 individuals participated in these workshops in Batouri and Kentzou, and training will continue in the border towns of Gbiti, Kette, Toktoyo, Yokadouma, Libongo, and Gari Gombo. During the workshops, authorities raised several concerns regarding the high mobility of refugees and their freedom of movement vis-à-vis growing insecurity in border areas. Authorities also stressed the need to encourage refugee populations settled in border areas to move to refugee sites for enhanced security.
- UNHCR mobile protection teams continued with registration in villages where refugees have been settled for some months but had not yet been formally identified. This week, 307 refugees were verified and pre-registered in the East and Adamawa regions.
- UNHCR issued 357 identification documents to refugee families in Ndokayo, Yamba, Alhamdou and Meiganga in the Adamawa region. To date, a total of 45,585 identification documents have been issued by UNHCR to refugee families and refugees of at least 18 years of age in order to ensure their freedom of movement.

- To facilitate the documentation of newborn refugee children in Cameroon, UNHCR delivered 9 birth certificate registers to local authorities in Dir, Kaladi, and Bagado in the Adamawa region.

CHAD

- An estimated 20,000 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013 and are predominantly in the southern part of the country.

Refugees:

- As part of preparations for the transfer of 412 new Central African refugees to Belom camp from the transit site in Sido, UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) conducted a joint mission to Sido on 24 November to meet with refugees and local authorities. Following the discussions, refugees refused the transfer to Belom camp and will instead settle on land provided to them by local inhabitants.

Returnees:

- The verification exercise in Maingama is ongoing and this week, 406 people (105 households) were verified by UNHCR and the CNARR. A total of 9,405 individuals (2,729 households) have been verified since the beginning of the verification exercise in August 2014.
- This week, four convoys of 985 people (252 households) were transported by IOM from Doyaba transit site to the site of Maingama.

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. The registration and verification operation is still ongoing to determine the number of refugees in and out of camps. New statistics will be published once the entire operation is finalized.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Several activities have been organized in field locations since the launch of the 16 days of activism campaign against gender violence on 25 November. In Mole, 196 people were sensitized on the risks of early marriages and SGBV prevention.
- During this reporting period, 364 persons (91 households) were relocated from the transit centre in Batalimo to Boyabu camp.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 11,201 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area.

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNICEF finalized the two remaining classrooms in Mbilé site as part of the Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPes) programme, completing its target of 87 classrooms. Education activities within the new spaces will begin on 1 December. To date, a total of 8,024 refugee children (2,792 girls and 5,232 boys) are currently participating in education activities in the sites of Gado, Timangolo, Mbilé, Lolo and Borgop. Teaching recruitment for the ETAPes is ongoing in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic Education. To date, 69 teachers have been recruited.
- Plan Cameroon has so far distributed school kits to 7,713 children participating in ETAPes activities and to 69 teachers on the sites. Distributions of school supplies are also ongoing in public schools in host communities

in Gado, Timangolo, Mbilé, Lolo and Borgop; so far 2,636 pupils and 6 teachers have received such kits as well as educational training.

- The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), UNHCR's implementing partner, is assisting in the construction of two temporary shelters for the public schools in Sabal and Ndanga Gbakobo. In addition, they distributed 332 hygiene kits and 295 school kits to girls attending primary and secondary schools in the East and Adamawa regions. The IFRC this week also assisted with school fees for 50 students enrolling in secondary school and the examination fees for 74 primary school students in the East and Adamawa regions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 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.
- There is also the need to equip ETAPes with classroom furniture and additional education material.



Health

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- No new cases of cholera were reported this week, nevertheless, in collaboration with local authorities, UNHCR and partners continue to actively monitor sites and host communities and to carry out sensitizations on prevention methods. In the East region, WHO also provided over 1,000 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) as well as anti-diarrheal and rehydration medication, medical equipment, and material for sensitization activities (i.e. 54 megaphones and 5,000 awareness posters).
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and WHO ensured that 143 children of various ages received oral polio vaccines and 5 children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years were vaccinated against measles in the border town of Kentzou.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mole camp, a total of 562 refugees (388 women and 174 men) received medical care in the health clinic. A total of 13 children below the age of 1 year received routine vaccinations against polio and measles.
- In the health centre in Boyabu, 367 patients sought treatment (153 women and 214 men). Malaria remains the predominant illness with 147 cases (35%) followed by acute respiratory infections with 67 cases (16%).
- A total of 277 patients were treated in Inke camp (271 refugees and 6 from host communities), including 67 refugees under the age of 5 years old (34 boys and 33 girls). At secondary health structures in Gbadolite and Mobayi there are currently 26 patients hospitalized. Malaria also remains the predominant disease in Inke with 158 cases (29%) followed by intestinal parasites with 110 cases (20%) and acute respiratory infections with 85 cases (15%).



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Since the beginning of the emergency response, a total of 8,700 tonnes of food have been distributed to Central African refugees over nine rounds of WFP food distributions. The first round of distribution in March 2014 concerned 30,255 refugees within five sites; today, WFP is distributing food rations to some 86,000 beneficiaries spread across more than 30 refugee sites and villages.
- On 26 November, as part of the blanket feeding programme, WFP and International Medical Corps (IMC), UNHCR's implementing partner, launched the 7th round of distribution of nutritional supplements in the Adamawa region. This round targets 14,936 children and 3,275 pregnant women. In addition, on 27

November, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), UNHCR's implementing partner, launched the 4th round of distribution of nutritional supplements in the East region, targeting 18,950 children and 2,930 pregnant women.

- Nutrition screenings conducted in October reveal an improvement in the nutritional status of refugee children. Among 12,508 children, 2.5% were identified as suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 0.4% with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Among 2,241 on pregnant and lactating women, 5.7% were identified with MAM.
- This week, a total of 91 new admissions were registered in mobile nutrition clinics and 13 in nutrition centres. A total of 6,503 admissions have been recorded since the beginning of the crisis representing 82.2% of expected admissions. Currently, 1,681 beneficiaries are being treated in mobile nutrition clinics (1,532) and nutrition centres (149).

CHAD

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A joint mission was undertaken by UNHCR, the CNARR and the World Lutheran Foundation (LWF) to Moissala, in southern Chad, from 24 to 30 November. Food distributions for the month of November and December were provided for 2,901 Central African refugees (688 households) living with host families in Moissala including 1,024 people (264 households) new arrivals.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Inke camp, the general food distribution that was supposed to take place on 3 November was carried out this week. The delay was due to logistical constraints. A total of 3,222 people (1,212 households) received their food rations.
- There are 324 malnourished refugees admitted to the nutritional programme in Mole, including 82 pregnant and lactating women, as well as 204 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 38 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). A total of 945 plumpy nut packets were distributed by UNHCR's partner *Association de Développement Economique et Social (ADES)* to 53 children and to 158 HIV patients.
- Boyabu currently has 126 people admitted to the nutritional programme. A total of 357 plumpy nut packets were distributed to 20 children suffering from SAM, however, 122 children suffering from MAM have yet to be assisted due to a lack of nutritional supplements.



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The quantity of water supplied per person per day remains below the emergency standard of 15l in the sites of Mbilé, Gado and Borgop.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners finalized the construction of 4 boreholes in Mbilé and Gado. To date, UNHCR has constructed 59 boreholes in refugee sites (out of 82 planned).
- UNHCR and partners continue to construct latrines and showers in refugee sites, which are gradually helping to improve sanitation conditions. During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners finalized 132 latrines and 129 showers in refugee sites. Currently, the ratio is 35 people per latrine (as opposed to UNHCR's standard of 20 people per latrine).
- In Timangolo, UNHCR and partners continue to carry out regular disinfection of communal areas and water chlorination with aquatabs as part of the cholera prevention response. Since the one suspected case reported at the beginning of November, no new cases have been reported.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- This week, Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 10,7l/p/d. Out of the 16 planned wells for Mole camp, 8 have been constructed and of which 3 are currently operational. In addition, 735 latrines out of 1,333 planned have been constructed.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production stands at 228,110l and which provided 17,3l/p/d, meeting the minimum water emergency standards. A total of 61 family latrines were constructed this week by UNHCR's implementing partner, African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD). So far, 651 family latrines have been constructed out of a planned 700.
- In Inke camp, the level of water production currently stands at 827,180l and which provided 9.7l/p/day. In addition, 4,000l of water was provided to the transit centre of Inke and 2,300l for the transit centre in Gbadolite/Pangoma.



Shelter and NFIs

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- In Bossangoa (Ouham prefecture) ACTED distributed 1,126 reconstruction kits consisting of doors, windows and locks through its project to support owner-driven reconstruction of damaged houses in Bossangoa, and on the Gbadé, Gbangayanga and Ouham-Bac route.
- In November, *Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI) constructed 72 collective emergency shelters and repaired 63 collective emergency shelters in Bangui's IDP sites including *Mission Carmel*, *Eglise des frères Castors*, *Centre de Santé Padre Pio*, *Capucins* and *Maison Micheline*. In addition, 38 communal shelters were built in the *St Michel*, *Cotonaf*, *Ecole sous-préfecturale des filles* and *Groupement Sarakporo* sites in Boda.
- The Shelter/NFI Cluster participated in a joint assessment mission to the AVICOM site under the leadership of government officials. AVICOM has been proposed as an alternative site by the government to relocate IDPs from the M'Poko airport site.

CAMEROON


Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and its implementing partner PU-AMI continue to build family shelters with the aim of moving refugee families out of community shelters. During the reporting period, 40 family shelters were constructed in Gado and Timangolo. To date, a total of 6,591 shelters have been constructed out of 12,162 planned for all sites.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- Before the destructive winds of 10 November, there were 1,204 shelters and 18 communal kitchens in Boyabu. The wind destroyed 96 shelters, as well as other structures used by the refugee community. AIRD repaired two dormitories as well as 2 blocks of 4 classrooms.
- This week the *Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement* (ADSSE) distributed 30 baby kits and 1 dignity kit to 31 people in Boyabu camp. Furthermore, 232 persons received 230 sleeping mats, 230 blankets, 230 mosquito nets and 232 jerry cans.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- Within the framework of the M'Poko Task Force, an inclusive communication strategy on the future closure of the site and possible durable and alternative options for IDPs, to be implemented by the Government with support of the humanitarian community, is being developed. Protection and security assessments of the alternative site of AVICOM, identified by the government, were carried out by the Protection Cluster and MINUSCA. Both entities expressed protection and security concerns in the identified area and its surrounding environment and the many challenges residing in securing the future site. On 5 December, the Minister of Humanitarian Action announced to the press during a visit to M'Poko site, where she had been invited by IDPs to commemorate the 1 year anniversary of the site that (i) Mpoko will be closed prior to the Bangui forum in early 2015; (ii) there are on-going efforts to facilitate access to durable solutions for IDPs; and (iii) those unable to return would be transferred to the new AVICOM to be set up.



Community Empowerment and Self-Management

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, International Relief and Development (IRD), UNHCR's implementing partner, provided training and financial support to 63 women in Timangolo to begin income generating activities in food production and small commercial activities.
- IRD also continued to train women on the production of enhanced cookstoves. To date, nearly 3,000 cookstoves have been made by refugee women in Timangolo, Lolo, and Mbile and have been distributed to households. IRD is also sensitizing refugees on the benefits of using these cookstoves to reduce refugees' reliance on firewood so as to promote environmental preservation.
- In Lolo, IRD continues to support refugees in gardening and agriculture activities. During the reporting period, 150 women were trained on preparing and harvesting garden plots. However, it has been noted that there are not enough plots for the number of interested beneficiaries at this site. UNHCR has requested an assessment of needs for additional plots so as to increase the number of refugees involved in gardening and agriculture activities. IRD is also distributing fruit trees to be planted in Timangolo, Lolo, and Mbile.
- During the reporting period, IRD distributed livelihood kits to 90 refugee women in Gado and will continue distributions next week to meet its planned target of 150 women beneficiaries.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- Boyabu camp currently has a total of 62 associations that employ 820 refugees and 516 refugees from 24 associations have access to arable land.
- in Inke camp, 584 refugees have benefitted from Income generating activities' starter kits, including 30 bakers, 29 soap makers, 70 carpenters, 75 working in masonry, 60 brickmakers, 130 cassava mills, 16 hairdressers and tailors, 10 food stall owners and 150 other small businesses.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

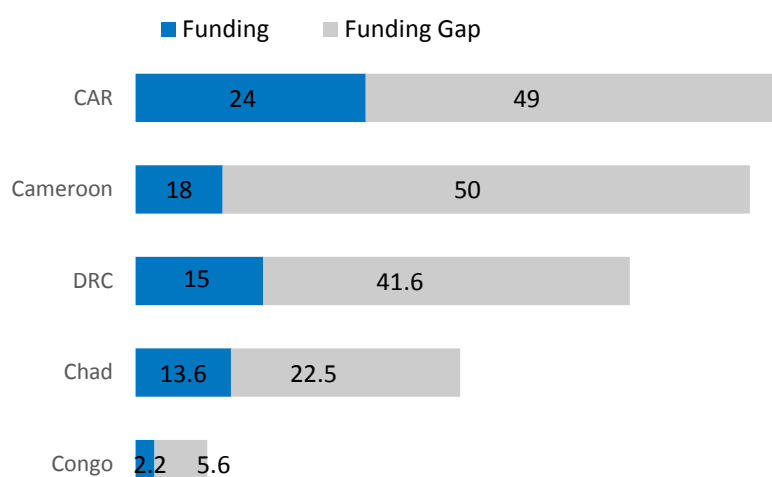
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation. Below are UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance 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. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Regional Situation currently amounts to USD 255 million, including USD 104.5 million of revised additional needs in asylum countries from January to December 2014, as presented in the Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 22 July. **The overall needs are currently funded at 38%.**

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Funding:

A total of **USD 92 million** has been funded



Contacts:

Ms. Kabami Kalumiya, Associate 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

Links:

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

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

