

Central African Situation

Regional Update (External) - December 2013/6 February 2014



OVERVIEW

- The Central African Republic (CAR) has seen an increase in violence due to intensifying clashes and exactions between Seleka and Anti-Balaka militia since
 5 December, which has contributed to an aggregate displacement of close to 20% of the country's population.
- Catherine Samba Panza was nominated as the country's transitional president on 23 January and André Nzapayeké selected by the latter as prime minister on 25 January.
- UNHCR is providing assistance to 17,865 refugees in CAR, all of whom are receiving assistance through UNHCR's IPs.
- UNHCR is providing protection and assistance to 268,779 CAR refugees in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.
- In addition to its offices in Bangui, Paoua, Bambari and Zémio. A new sub-office
 was recently opened in in Bossangoa and two field offices are planned for Bouar
 and Mbaïki to enhance UNHCR response to IDPs.

833,000

IDPs

400,341

IN BANGUI

268,779

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Neighbouring countries	Arrivals since 1 December 2013	Total
Cameroon	16,684	114,054
Chad	2000*	81,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	12,017	59,932
Republic of the Congo	3,709	13,793
Grand Total:	34,410	268,779

^{\$40.1}M

Additional funds required through the Supplementary Budget appeal

^{*}estimate, actual figures are larger but unconfirmed as of POC.



Comité National Pour les Réfugiés (CNR) | Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI)





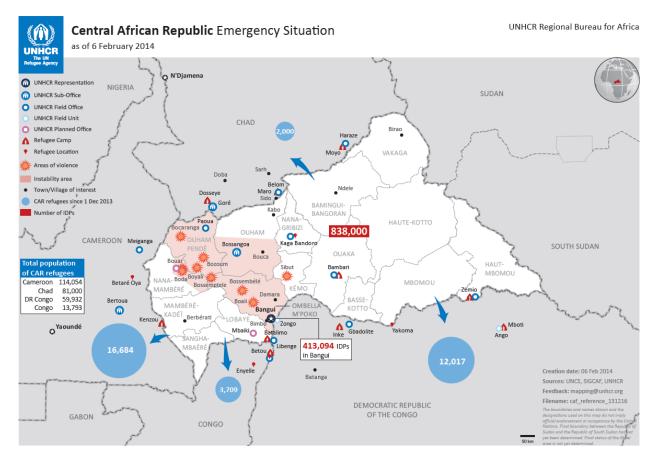


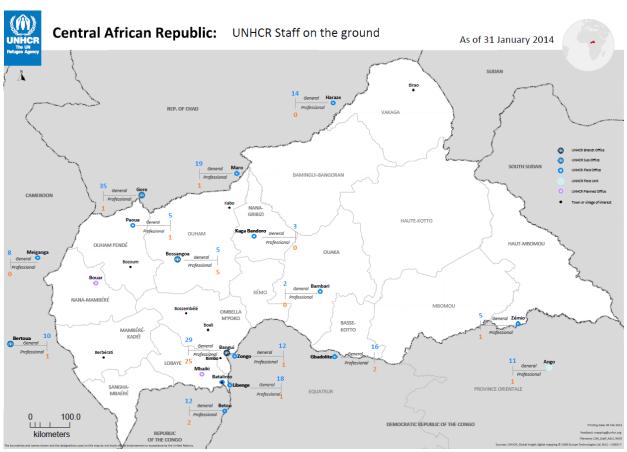






OPERATIONS & STAFFING





OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

IDP RESPONSE

X OVERALL COORDINATION

- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster with a co-facilitation agreement with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The Protection Cluster has several sub-clusters namely, the Child Protection sub-cluster led by UNICEF and Cooperazione Internationale (COOPI) and the Gender Based Violence (GBV) cluster co-led by UNFPA and Mercy Corps.
- UNHCR is the Secretariat of the *Commission Mouvement de Population* and works closely with OCHA and other clusters to harmonise collection of data shared with all concerned sectors.
- UNHCR leads the Shelter/NFIs Cluster with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) as co-lead.
- The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM) is being lead by UNHCR with IOM as co-facilitator. Capacity building and training is ongoing and UNHCR has been designated as coordinator of multi-sector assistance at the Airport IDP site.

PROTECTION PROTECTION

BANGUI

- UNHCR and partners monitor risks and protection concerns of displaced and other affected populations in the provinces most impacted by the crisis to allow for evidence-based decision making. These provinces include Ouham, Ouham Pende and Ombella M'Poko.
- The "Pilot Project for the 5th Arrondissement" is a plan to create three secured zones in the 5th district, protected by international forces (French Sangaris and AU MISCA), where a total of 3,000 persons can spend the night.
- Decongestion of sites such as M'Poko Airport and the accompanying revitalisation of Bangui districts through humanitarian assistance in neighbourhoods is an objective that is being pursued by humanitarian actors.
- A 3W Matrix to map out all the protection-related activities conducted by humanitarian agencies in CAR has been finalized.
- Sensitisation of IDPs on protection related issues in all sites is ongoing.

BOSSANGOA

- The sub-national Protection Cluster was recently activated in Bossangoa and covers the Ouham prefecture.
- UNHCR recently increased its presence in Bossangoa, where it conducts protection monitoring at the Archbishop, Ecole Liberté, and hospital IDP sites. UNHCR and partners have been monitoring the return of several hundred families displaced in the bush, to their village of origin around Bossangoa.

TI SHELTER/NFIS CLUSTER

• The Shelter/NFIs Cluster finalised a strategy that ensures harmonised and prioritised relief item assistance packages. Standards and indicators have been adopted for assistance in both urban and rural areas where different needs have been assessed.

- Since 5 December 2013, UNHCR has delivered NFIs kits and shelter to over 100,000 IDPs in Bangui and Bossangoa.
- The sub-national Shelter/NFIs Cluster was activated on 19 January in Bossangoa, and is now functional.
- The joint assessment mission UNHCR/UNICEF/OCHA of the Bossangoa-Nana-Bakassa axis evaluated 8 villages. On average 20% of the villages' population was present while the remaining 80% have been displaced; many pubic infrastructures have been destroyed. Despite these large numbers, UNHCR has noted initial returns of IDPs to their homes in the 8 villages.
- UNHCR has provided plastic sheeting rolls to Save the Children for the establishment of child-friendly spaces in Bangui.
- UNHCR with its partners plans to distribute NFI kits (sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito domes, jerrycans, plastic sheets) to an additional 15,000 IDP families in Bangui, Bossangoa and in severely affected provinces such as Ombella M'Poko, Ouham, Ouham Pendé and Lobaye. 5 hectares have been demarcated at the Airport IDP site in Bangui for the relocation of 2,400 IDP families to reduce congestion within the site itself. Similarly 4.5 hectares have been demarcated in Bossangoa at the Archbishop site which is home to 41,000 IDPs.

CCCM CLUSTER

- The CCCM cluster is working closely with the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* to develop a harmonised data collection method by facilitators. Data collected at IDP sites contain basic information to help establish a profile of the population with specific data on vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR and partners distribute food and NFI item coupons at the Airport IDP site, section by section, shelter by shelter and register individuals' family names and household size. Families collect relief items at the distribution centre after receiving coupons. To facilitate this process the CCCM cluster meets on a daily basis with humanitarian actors from the site as well as IDP representatives to brief them on the distribution strategy and to seek cooperation for the facilitation of the distribution.
- UNHCR is broadcasting reconciliation messages through local radio stations and via SMS to promote peaceful coexistence and reconciliation within communities to prevent sectarian conflicts.
- UNHCR together with the DRC and IOM has established a green line that beneficiaries can call for free to get information on available assistance.
- UNHCR has deployed CCCM Capacity Building staff in order to reinforce the capacities of NGOs working on ground on activities relating to CCCM.

MULTI SECTOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND STRANDED MIGRANTS

- UNHCR provides multi-sectoral assistance to refugees as well as transportation and repatriation grants for those wanting to return to their country of origin.
- Third country nationals in need of evacuation are referred to IOM while UNHCR provides tents to stranded migrants needing emergency assistance in transit areas.
- More than 27,000 third country nationals have been repatriated since 5 December, the vast majority by the efforts of their countries of origin and some by IOM.

- UNHCR ensures refugees have freedom of movement, access to healthcare NFIs and food. They are provided with proper documentation and legal support in case of detention. SGBV prevention activities are conducted through discussion groups and training.
- UNHCR undertakes Best Interest Determination for children in need of particular attention prior to repatriation.



Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, 16,684 CAR refugees have entered Cameroon and have been assisted by UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF other UN agencies, Governmental counterparts, and other partners.
- Since the resignation of Michel Djotodia on 10 January, more and more clashes between ex-Seleka and Anti-Balaka elements as well as exactions against Muslim populations have been reported. Consequently, large numbers of people have fled from Northern regions of CAR into the Adamaoua and Eastern regions of Cameroon.
- Since the beginning of the crisis in CAR, many armed incursions have taken place on the CAR border in the Eastern and Adamaoua regions namely in Gbiti, Garoua Mboulaï, Toctoyo, Gari Gombo, and Ndélé. Both civilian and military casualties have been reported and an ambient sense of insecurity exists in bordering towns.
- Military presence across the border has intensified, especially at the main entry points, in Kentzou, Gari Gombo, Gbiti, Toktoyo, and Garoua Mboulaï and cases of refoulement for boys over the age of 14 as well as extortion in exchange for entrance into the country have been reported.

Operational Highlights



- In Douala the UNHCR protection team monitors and registers new arrivals every Monday once primary identification and registration has been carried out by local authorities.
- Authorities have taken measures to ensure that the process of asylum seeking is strictly civilian in nature, by separating all armed elements regardless of title or status, from civilians.
- All newly registered arrivals receive appointment dates in order to facilitate the process for the determination of their status.
- The arrivals in Douala are not assisted materially as they are welcomed by host communities but do benefit from basic healthcare.
- Refugee committees and local authorities play a very active role in orienting asylum seekers towards host families, which are predominantly composed of existing refugees.



Food

 Douala is an urban office and persons of concern are directly integrated into host families thus removing the need of providing food assistance.



 During the course of screening missions carried out in Ngaoui from 1 December to 10 January, NFI distribution of 205 pieces of soap, 88 sleeping mats, 111 jerrycans and 30 bowls was carried out for individuals with specific needs.

- On the border (in Eastern and Adamaoua Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has signed a regions), and in Douala, asylum seekers live with Cameroonian nationals, migrants, and refugees from other countries. There has consequently been no NFI distribution.
- UNHCR has sufficient mosquito domes to cover 200 households, and plastic sheets as well as plastic rolls to cover 346 households.
- UNHCR still needs NFIs to cover the assistance packages for 10,000 new refugees/asylum seekers. Additionally, there is a requirement for 4 light vehicles to enhance staff movement.



Shelter

• All CAR asylum seekers who have arrived in Douala to date have been integrated into host communities. No separate infrastructure has been dedicated to them as this would cause friction with host communities and asylum seekers from other countries.



- UNHCR currently has a stock of water tanks. Meiganga in the Adamawa region and can be transferred to Fastern localities in under 24 hours.
- Newly arrived asylum seekers in the Adamaoua UNHCR and the Government. In case emergency, the WASH sector and implementing • FO DOUALA (24): 8 registration officers, 10 DSR partners PU-AMI and IRD are able to intervene immediately to ensure refugees are catered for.
- WASH partners have the ability to construct showers and latrines in case the rate of arrivals escalates further.



UNHCR, implementing and partners, the Régionale de la Santé have elaborated a contingency plan which would allow for a coordination mechanism to be put into place in case of serious influx into the country.

- convention with the Garoua Mboulaï Régionale de la Santé to give free treatment to all patients including refugees in the Garoua Mboulaï district hospital. There is reason to fear this might disrupt UNHCR's free health care to vulnerable cases strategy. MSF's plan is of a temporary nature and UNHCR will have to renew it's sensitisation campaign for vulnerable cases to this effect.
- UNHCR has an emergency stock to fight potential cholera outbreaks and has access to vaccinations against measles and polio that are available through the Régionale de la Santé.
- Asylum seekers benefit from basic healthcare, in accordance with existing procedure.
- The Cameroonian Government has launched a polio vaccination campaign in the Eastern region given the increased exposure of this area to epidemics.



Presence and Staffing

 UNHCR has 4 offices providing assistance to CAR refugees in with a total of 30 staff.

FO Meiganga: 8 national; FO Douala: 2 international These are stored at the UNHCR dispensary in and 4 national; SO Bertoua: 3 international and 10 national; FU Maroua: 3 national.

- UNHCR currently provides assistance to over and Littoral regions can use the hydraulic and 87,000 refugees in 308 sites in the East and purification infrastructures put into place by Adamaoua region. In order to reach and manage of Protection goals, the UNHCR needs:
 - (including 5 in fast track), 2 staff for special needs identification, 2 protection associates.
 - SO BERTOUA (7): 1 protection officer, 1 protection associate, 1 community services associate, 1 registration associate, 1 registration assistant, 2 drivers.
 - FO MEIGANGA (05): 1 protection associate, 1 community services associate, 1 registration assistant, 2 drivers.



Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, more than 2,000* CAR refugees have entered Chad and have been assisted by UNHCR, the Détachement pour la Protection des Humanitaires et Réfugiés (DPHR), UNDP, UNICEF and other partners.
- A total of some 45,000 nationals, mainly of Chadian nationality, have arrived from CAR into Chad since the upsurge in the crisis in December 2013. The Government of Chad is facilitating the transport of its nationals from Bangui via military flights and by road.
- UNHCR is working closely with IOM, the Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR) and local authorities to identify refugees and third country nationals in order to respond to their needs.
- Shelters are under construction in Belom and Dosseye camps to accommodate the large number of new arrivals.
- On 19 January UNHCR received 203 returnees transported in an IOM flight to Chad. UNHCR facilitated their transfer by bus to Gassi where they have access to potable water, shelter, sanitation and basic healthcare through UNHCR partner CSSI.
- UNHCR has distributed NFIs (buckets, mats, kitchen sets, jerrycans, mosquito nets and soap) to the 203 returnees in Ndjamena. In addition they have been provided with 3 hot meals on a daily basis.

Repatriation/Evacuation of Chadians and Third Country Nationals

- UNHCR will ensure that refugees and returnees from CAR are informed of assistance programmes so that families do not try to pass themselves off under other 'categories' for fear of being left unassisted.
- In January, the Government of Chad and IOM provided over 60 flights into Ndjamena and the Government organised land convoys to Sido in the South-West on the CAR border. The Chadian Government will no longer be providing flights but all transfers from Bangui will be carried out by road to Sido. Twenty trucks are currently available and in the process of carrying out further repatriations/ evacuations.
- Some 9,000 of the 11,754 Chadians who arrived in Ndjamena in early January have relocated to their areas of origin.
- Many others have decided to co-locate with relatives who live close to the border. Others, often 2nd or 3rd generation Chadians from CAR do not have ties to Chad and have expressed their intention to return to CAR as soon as the situation permits.
- While these 2nd and 3rd generation CAR Chadians from CAR have been recognised as de facto nationals, UNHCR is working with authorities to formalise this recognition through an official announcement so as to avoid statelessness in the future.
- An inter-agency mission (13-15 January) involving UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, FAO, UNDSS, BPRM, the Swiss Development Corporation, ECHO, and the Ministry of Social Welfare reviewed and evaluated the situation at the border as well as the reception and living conditions in the areas where the newly arrived are located. The missions visited Sido, Sarh, and Gore.

- In Sarh, a former military site has been identified to host up to 5,000 individuals. UNICEF is building basic shelter units in preparation for subsequent influx. There is access to water but health and education facilities will have to be established.
- In Gore, some 2,200 returnees live in and on the premises of a former Tuberculosis hospital. There is access to water and sanitation and the Government plans to relocate this population to Doba.
- Some 90 newly arrived Chadian nationals are living in Haraze area. They have been assisted with food items through a local NGO.



Presence and Staffing

UNHCR has 3 offices providing assistance to CAR refugees in with a total of 70 staff.

SO Gore: 1 international and 35 national; FO Maro: 1 international, 19 national; FO Haraze: 14 national.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, 12,017 CAR refugees have entered the DRC and have been assisted by UNHCR, MONUSCO, WFP, Governmental counterparts such as the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR), and other partners.
- Refugees have joined those who arrived earlier in 4 camps: three in the North-Western Equateur province (Inke, Boyabu and Mole) and one in the North-Eastern Orientale province (Mboti).
- The closure of the CAR/DRC border by CAR authorities since 5 December 2013 has affected commodity prices in Zongo and Gemena in the Equateur province as well as refugee movement into the country. Zongo and areas bordering Bangui are dependent on procurement from the capital (including UNHCR field offices in Equateur).
- Zongo and Libenge in Equateur have been the most affected areas since 5 December as they border Bangui. The number of CAR refugees relocated from outskirts to camps in these areas has almost doubled over the last six weeks.
- About 1,000 CAR refugees who fled exactions by Seleka were found living on the border, 135km North of the Zongo region in Orientale province; 80% have expressed willingness to be relocated.
- Reports of incursions of ex FACA displacing nearly 5,000 Congolese north of Ango in Equateur province have been received.

Operational Highlights



Protection

 Cumulatively, 58,175 refugees have been registered at level I (by Government officials) and 24,500 of these, relocated from surrounding localities to the camps in the DRC where each individual is registered in UNHCR's ProGres database (level II).

- Sensitisation campaigns on registration and SGBV are regularly conducted by UNHCR for refugees living in and outside camps.
- 295 separated/unaccompanied children have been identified in the camps and are being taken care of by foster families.
- Few SGBV incidents have been reported, however known victims have received psycho-social support and medical assistance.
- There has been no religious tension reported Awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene between refugees in camps.



Food

WFP is faced with severe funding shortfalls. Food rations in the 3 main camps hosting CAR refugees either lack certain food items or have at best enough food to cover needs until mid-February.

NFI NFIs

- Distribution of NFIs to newly arrived families is ongoing in the 3 refugee camps located in the Equateur province.
- The Boyabu and Mole camps in the Equateur province offices have experienced NFI shortages (namely: kitchen sets, buckets and soap).

Health & Nutrition

- 5 diseases are predominant in the 4 camps: malaria, intestinal parasites, diarrhea, respiratory infections and STDs.
- Referral systems are in place in the 4 camps.
- Nutritional centres are functional except for Mboti camp in province Orientale.
- HIV/AIDS patients receive necessary care but a shortage of second line antiretroviral drugs for and Libenge areas in the Equateur province.
- Awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS and STDs, nutrition, hygiene, malaria and other key areas of concern are carried out in the 4 camps in collaboration with refugee committees.



Shelter

The construction of shelters made of plastic

- sheeting is ongoing in the Equateur camps to accommodate refugee families.
- Discussions are underway, in an effort to adopt the best shelter strategy so as to cover the maximum amount of refugee families as the 2014 resources allocation will not cover current needs.



WASH

- are carried out in the 4 camps by UNHCR on a regular basis.
- Refugee committees for hygiene and water are functional in all 4 camps.
- Water trucking has stopped in all 4 camps as refugees currently receive enough water from installed wells, springs, bore holes and gravity systems.



Presence and Staffing

UNHCR has 4 offices providing assistance to CAR refugees in with a total of 62 staff.

FO Libenge: 1 international and 18 national; FO Gbadolite: 2 international and 16 national; FO Zongo: 1 international, 12 national; FU Ango: 1 international and 11 national.



\$ Funding

Firstly, the implementation of a shelter strategy is urgent as plastic sheeting/emergency shelters and logistical issues related to the procurement of these items are causing much inconvenience. Secondly, funds are also needed to implement a strategy for refugees living outside of camps in order to register them in ProGres and carry out protection monitoring missions. Thirdly, additional NFIs needs exist. WFP needs urgent funding HIV/AIDS patients has been reported in Zongo support to avoid a famine or nutritional deficiencies among the refugee population.



REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (ROC)

Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, 3,709 CAR refugees have entered the RoC and have been assisted by UNHCR, WFP, ICRC, the *Comité National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés* (CNAR) and other partners.
- The security situation remains calm in the country. Government Authorities and UNHCR staff remain alert, should the situation on the CAR border deteriorate any further.
- Approximately 80% of the refugees that have arrived, have settled in Betou district, in the North due to its proximity to the CAR border.

Operational Highlights



- The RoC government has decided to concentrate all non official settlements of CAR refugees in the North-East to the district of Betou. Authorities have been instructed to monitor all movement out of Betou district towards Brazzaville and other regions of Congo. Asylum-Seekers have been registered and assisted by UNHCR and discussions are ongoing to ensure refugee rights are respected and assistance is provided.
- UNHCR is carrying out regular monitoring missions on the border in order to identify and assist new CAR refugees and relocate those groups living on the border who might be at risk of being infiltrated by armed elements from CAR.
- Since mid-December, the UNHCR Field Office in Betou has registered hundreds of Muslim refugees, this differs from the wave which preceded, in that the latter was predominantly composed of Christians. Some incidents of a sectarian nature have been reported and awareness meetings to sensitise refugees on peaceful cohabitation have been organised.
- The RoC government has authorised UNHCR to print refugee cards for all CAR refugees hosted in the country; distribution in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire is ongoing.
- Administrative authorities in the district of Enyelle in the North and Pointe Noire in the South-West have reported the arrival of more than 1000 refugees in the area. UNHCR and CNAR have conducted screening missions in Mouale, Lola and Dongo Missa.
- Authorities in the Likouala province in the North, have asked that UNHCR open a camp in Mouale. With the support of CNAR, discussions are ongoing in order to make authorities aware of the fact that refugees without host families should be transferred to Betou, so as to accede assistance, more easily, as the terrain is very difficult with a vast network of streams.



Food

- WFP has arranged the transportation of 200 tonnes of rice from Pointe Noire to Betou in an effort to meet the needs of newly arriving refugees and cope with the shortages it has been experiencing in the last two months. The shipment should arrive in Betou in the coming week and cover needs for a month.
- Additionally, 1,312 tonnes of corn flour should reach Betou in less than a month's time.
- To combat food shortages, UNHCR is distributing hot meals to some 800 refugees in the "15 Avril" transit centre in Betou.
- The increase of the CAR refugee population in Betou district has pushed up the price of food products available there and considerably limits refugee and low income families' access to all food products.



- More than 90% of the refugees in Betou district have received mats, blankets and mosquito nets.
- UNHCR has initiated the purchase of 5000 kitchen sets, 5000 plastic sheets, and 400 plastic rolls in response to the needs of newly arrived CAR refugees. There is a shortage of kitchen sets, pails and plastic tarpaulins. However, UNHCR's supply service has been contacted to request the release of these items from Douala and Accra.

Shelter

- Refugees not living with host families are temporarily accommodated at the Betou transit centre before being transferred to either Ikpembele site (at 30km) or the "15 Avril" site in Betou village.
- UNHCR has already constructed 129 shelters of the planned 200 for the "15 Avril" site and 200 of the 400 planned for Ikpembele site. Construction of shelters in both sites in ongoing.



- Awareness sessions on water use and hygiene are increasingly conducted by UNHCR to deal with this influx and to avoid the spread of disease and epidemics.
- Since the beginning of the emergency, 6 new blocks of 6 showers and 6 latrines have been built in Ikpembele and "15 Avril" sites. In addition, latrines and showers have been rehabilitated in Ikpembele site to support the arrival of new CAR refugees.

* • Health & Nutrition

- Two health posts that had been closed in January 2013 have been reopened in Ikpembele and "15 Avril" sites to cover the needs of new CAR refugee arrivals.
- Basic preventive and curative health services are provided to refugees in Betou district. Medical and nutritional screening has been completed for all new refugees living at the transit centre. The epidemiological profile shows a preponderance of malaria, respiratory infections, parasites, diarrhea and STDs as the main diseases afflicting the refugees. The incidence of diarrhea cases has doubled

since the beginning of 2014. Because Betou is an endemoepidemic zone for cholera, the existing monitoring system in the area has been strengthened.

Education

- CAR refugee children have been authorised by Ministry of Education to integrate public schools in the RoC. New lists are being created to register newly arriving children in Betou.
- In Betou 1,687 pupils have been registered in 4 public schools. UNHCR has refurbished 12 classes in these schools in order to support the integration of children into the public schooling system.
- 50 new teachers (28 nationals and 22 CAR refugees) have been recruited to supplement the educational system.
- School kits and uniforms have been given to the children attending these schools.
- Adult literacy classes are taking place in Betou centre. 160 CAR refugees are registered and classes last 9 months with 3 learning levels available.



🍢 Livelihood

Family microcredit projects have been granted to 55 new CAR refugee women in Betou area. The latter will manage a small informal commerce of items requested in the market and frequently consumed by the population. To encourage food security among refugees, agro-pastoral and fishing groups composed of the local population and CAR refugees have been created in Betou centre and the Ikpembele site.



Presence and Staffing

• UNHCR has 4 offices providing assistance to CAR refugees in with a total of 58 staff.

FO BRAZZAVILLE: 21 national and 6 international; FO Betou: 2 international and 12 national; FO Impfondo: 2 international and 11 national; FU Loukolela: 4 national.

• In order to provide assistance to the affected refugee population in Betou, UNHCR needs:

FO BETOU (8): 1 associate field protection officer (P2), 1 protection associate (G6), 1 senior field assistant (G5), 1 data entry assistant (G4), 1 community services associate (G6), 2 speed boat drivers (G2).



\$ Funding

UNHCR Brazzaville has shared the first draft of the CERF submission to UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, FAO and OMS and is waiting for review.

