

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR EXTERNAL REGIONAL UPDATE 18

30 May – 5 June 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

558,500

IDPs including

133,500

in Bangui

369,289

Total number of **CAR refugees** in neighbouring countries

133,731

New **CAR refugees** in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013

US\$239

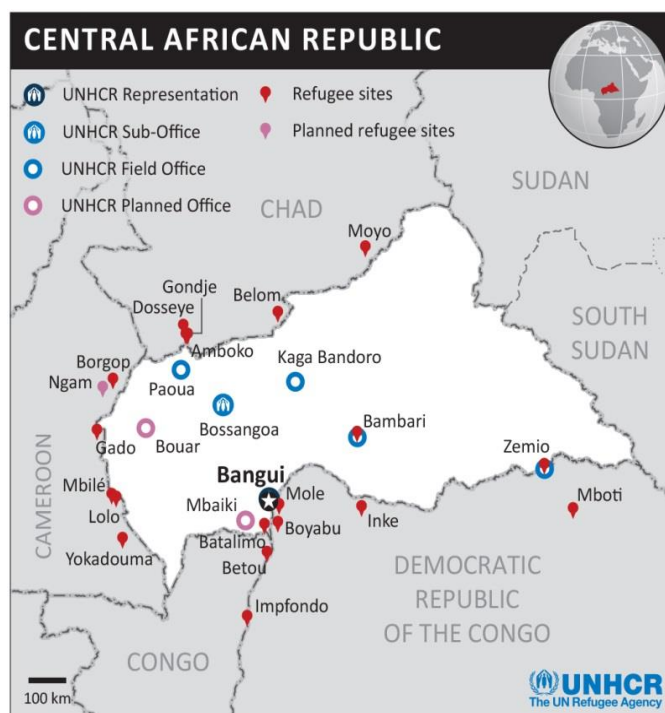
million

UNHCR requested for the Regional Situation

10,667

Refugees and asylum seekers in CAR¹

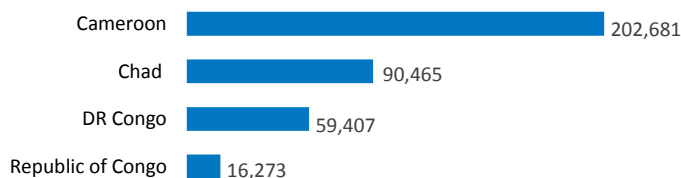
- On 4 June, during a meeting in Rome, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres and the Executive Director of WFP, Ms. Ertharin Cousin stressed the necessity of increased funding in order to urgently respond to the needs of Central Africans arriving in neighbouring countries, particularly Cameroon, requiring life-saving health and nutritional assistance.
- The security situation at the M'Poko Airport site – the largest IDP site in the Central African Republic – has been worsening and is hindering efforts for UNHCR and partners to provide protection and assistance. UNHCR is working with its partners and the government to protect people at M'Poko, but insecurity, with continued reports of theft, violence, assassinations and abductions, by various armed groups, remains a concern.
- The preliminary report of the UN international commission of inquiry, appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in January, states that there is "ample evidence" that both sides in the conflict in the Central African Republic have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.



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: 22 May 2014.

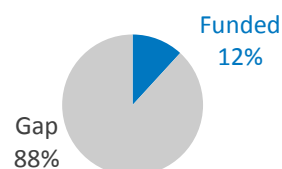
Population of concern

A total of **369,289** people of concern



Funding against the CAR situation

US\$239 million requested



¹ Current estimation.

Operational Context

- On 28 May, the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Ms. Janet Lim, convened an emergency meeting in Geneva on the critical condition of Central African refugees arriving in Cameroon. The meeting was attended by various partners, some already working alongside UNHCR in Cameroon. UNHCR convened the meeting in order to garner immediate support for the response at the border entry points, sites, and host communities. UNHCR seeks to encourage partners to scale-up their existing programmes in Cameroon (or for those not yet in Cameroon, to consider initiating new programmes) in especially health, nutrition and shelter. As with other agencies, UNHCR is greatly under-funded for the CAR situation (12% funded) and is using emergency financing to cover immediate needs (\$9 million was released from its emergency fund).
- During the week of 26-31 May, over 9,000 new Central African refugees were registered in Cameroon – the highest number recorded during the month of May, with the majority of them women and children. They continue to report that they have walked for weeks, even months, to reach the Cameroonian border.

Recent Developments



Protection

Central African Republic:

IDP Response

- There are currently an estimated 558,500 Central Africans displaced within their country – including 133,500 in Bangui spread over 44 sites.
- The Protection Cluster has finalized an action plan for Kabo and Moyon Sido stressing the need to increase protection by presence and border monitoring activities in these locations.
- On 27-31 May, a joint inter-agency mission composed of UNHCR, UNFPA and INTERSOS, assessed the protection situation of communities at risk in Boda (Lobaye prefecture). Key findings of the mission outlined that the entire IDP population is still unable to move freely and is at risk of targeted killings and physical violence. According to OCHA, a total of 89 Muslim IDPs are reportedly confined in a church in Boganagone (60 km away from Boda). The mission was unable to assess the situation of this community due to the security situation.
- Key recommendations made by the mission included advocacy for the return and deployment of local authorities in Boda and Boganagone; advocacy with local authorities and military forces including MISCA, to enable IDPs to move freely; encourage inter-communal dialogue among the communities, ensure regular protection monitoring of the communities; strengthen humanitarian interventions through the implementation of the plan of action on Boda; and to support social cohesion initiatives.
- On 29 May, a joint mission composed of UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDSS to Nangha-Boguila to assess the humanitarian situation and needs in the town. The mission outlined the need to increase school facilities as well as medical staff in the local hospital. The mission made the following key recommendations: advocate for increasing the police force in Nangha-Boguila in order to secure the town, increase the number of humanitarian actors, especially for the child protection and SGBV sectors, and evaluate the shelter and NFI needs.
- On 29 May, 40 local authorities, MISCA representatives and participants from local civil society were trained by UNHCR on international protection, UNHCR's mandate and its activities in CAR.
- On 2 June, a joint mission composed of UNHCR, OCHA, DRC, Mentor, and COOPI assessed the situation of 2,400 IDPs who have returned to Bemal, Betoko and Bedaya villages. They had fled following security incidents in early May and have been progressively returning to their home villages. The mission will continue to evaluate the conditions upon return of the population until 5 June. Preliminary key findings of the mission highlighted the need for NFIs, shelter rehabilitation and food assistance.

Cameroon:

- A total of 95,420 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013, with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

- The relocation process of new arrivals from the border to refugee sites granted by local authorities is ongoing, and a total of 33,431 refugees have been relocated thus far. Relocations in the Adamawa region amount to 6,926 towards Borgop site and 26,505 in the East region towards Gabo, Mbilé, Yokadouma, Timangolo and Lolo sites. As the Gado site has now reached full capacity, local authorities in Garoua Boulai have granted another site - Gado II.
- In view of reinforcing child protection mechanisms in refugee sites, a child protection committee was established in Borgop and Gado. Coordination and referral mechanisms were also established in these sites to avoid duplication and facilitate efficient responses to child protection issues. In addition, a systematic mechanism for collecting data on births was established and parents have been sensitized on the importance to declare births. So far, 16 birth certificates have been issued in Borgop and 149 are in the process of being issued in Gado. The same process is underway in other refugee sites.
- Prevention activities against SGBV within refugee communities are ongoing. In Borgop, a mass awareness campaign against rape and penalties according to national law was organized last week targeting 997 refugees.

Chad:

- Some 14,000 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013.
- On 29 May, UNHCR organized the transfer of 610 new Central African refugees (122 households) to Dosseye camp in collaboration with the *Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR), the *Centre de Support en Santé Internationale* (CSSI) and the *Détachement pour la Protection des Humanitaires et Réfugiés* (DPHR).
- UNHCR and CNARR continued with pre-registration in four host villages of Yamodo where a total of 2,373 people have found refuge.
- Newly-registered CAR refugees in Gore are warned of the risks of remaining close to the border. Refugees are advised to relocate to camps or host villages, but within a reasonable distance of at least 50 km from the border.

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- A total of 14,957 Central African refugees have been registered since December 2013 and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province but also Oriental Province.
- The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for the DRC and other representatives of the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) visited Mole camp (Zongo) to assess the general situation of Central African refugees. The SRSG expressed his solidarity and empathy with the refugees and affirmed the support of the UN in providing protection and humanitarian assistance whilst in search of peace in CAR. The SRSG met with refugees in the camp, including the Women's Committee who raised issues they face, particularly the lack of NFIs, hygienic kits, and full-time ambulances serving the camp.
- UNHCR, the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR), and IEDA-Relief, have been jointly monitoring the movement of refugees in the North Ubangui district, from which they have noted spontaneous departures. According to the DRC's *Direction Générale de la Migration* and certain refugees, these departures involve refugees who are drawn by the relative calm situation in the zones controlled by the anti-Balaka, particularly in Ombella M'Poko and Kemo prefectures.

Republic of Congo:

- Some 9,354 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013.
- In contrast to previous weeks, most Central African refugees during the reporting period were registered in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire while none were registered in the Betou area.
- UNHCR partner, *Agence d'Assistance aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés au Congo* (AARREC) organized several awareness sessions regarding SGBV, education of girls and peaceful cohabitation. The sessions took place in the market of Betou as well as in the *Centre Féminin d'Ecoute* of Betou and Ikpengbele.
- One of the main issues for Central African refugees relates to their limitation of freedom of movement when wanting to travel to Brazzaville. In addition, in Brazzaville, the registration and documentation of CAR refugees

is made difficult by the requirement to have present with them the owner of where they reside in order to proceed with their registration and documentation.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)

Central African Republic:

- The CCCM Cluster continues to update statistics on displaced people, enhance coordination and provide support to the sites' managers.
- The CCCM Cluster is monitoring the situation in 40 out of the 44 displacement sites in Bangui. It is estimated that seven different sites each host more than 2,000 newly displaced people. On 1 June, the CCCM Cluster participated in an inter-cluster mission in four sites (out of the 44), located mostly in the Bimbo area, not far from Bangui.
- Under CCCM coordination, an evaluation of nine additional prioritized sites is underway by IOM in Bimbo and in the Third district in the capital where newly displaced people have found refuge.
- After reviewing the results from multi-sectoral assessments (WASH, CCCM, Shelter and Protection), two of the four suggested alternative sites for IDPs living in M'Poko and other high risk sites have been approved by the Minister of Health and Humanitarian Action. Construction on the Boganda II site is expected to start shortly: the Shelter/NFI Cluster is working on the site planning and Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI) plans to build 25 community shelters.



Education

Cameroon:

- In order to integrate refugee children into school, UNHCR, Plan International and regional educational authorities, met with the chiefs of Gado, Mbilé and Lolo villages to discuss necessary measures to be taken to allow the beginning of education activities next September.
- Pending the construction of additional classrooms in the existing public schools, the identification of children of school age is ongoing - over 6,000 children were already identified in Gado and Borgop.

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- In Inke, 56 students finishing primary school (11 girls and 45 boys) are preparing their secondary school entry exams in conformity with the Central African national curriculum.
- In Mole, primary school instructors from the camp schools conducted a door-to-door sensitization on school absenteeism.
- In the Mboti camp, out of 24 students registered in secondary school, only 15 are in regular attendance. Multiple reasons can explain this irregular school attendance, including insufficient food rations, as well as a lack of clothing and shoes. Some of these absent students have turned to income-generating activities in order to further support their families.

Republic of the Congo:

- The end-of-school-year examinations will take place from 9 to 15 June. In Betou, 81 CAR refugees, including 27 girls, are registered to take the end of primary school exam.
- UNHCR awaits the decision, following its submission to the US Embassy, regarding the 'Julia Taft Refugee Fund' – which plans to award scholarships to refugee students allowing some CAR refugee students to pursue their studies.



Health

Cameroon:

- Despite a measles vaccination campaign done in the East and Adamawa regions for all refugee children, cases of measles are still being reported. Discussions are underway with regional health authorities to use the remaining stock of vaccines for the immunization campaign in the Mbilé refugee site, where most cases were reported.

- Immunization campaigns against poliomyelitis were launched at national level and were started on 30 May at the entry point of Gbiti, targeting all children below 5 years old before their transfer to refugee sites.



Food Security and Nutrition

Cameroon:

- On 22 May, WFP started a monthly food distribution targeting all refugees. By 31 May, 46,125 people had received a total of 758 tons of food in refugee sites of Gado, Lolo, Mbile, Borgop and Timangolo, as well as at the border entry points of Garoua Boulai, and Gbiti. Distribution continues at the entry points of Kentzou, Garoua Boulai (East region) and Mbai Mboum (North region).
- Despite attempts to reinforce the capacity of health structures, health and nutritional needs are on the rise, and health and feeding centres are overflowed by the huge number of patients.
- In Gbiti, increasing cases of malnutrition continue to be reported with 88 new admissions in Batouri feeding center. During the reporting period, 56 children under 5 years old were screened and 13 children were found to have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 11 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- In Borgop, a hundred cases including, both SAM and MAM, were admitted in to a mobile feeding center. Pending the creation of a feeding center in Mbilé, the capacity of the health post is being increased.
- In Lolo, the extension of the health center is ongoing. Discussions are underway with the French Red Cross to manage the feeding center of Kette and surrounding villages.
- In Timangolo, a training session on the identification and referral of malnutrition cases was organized for 24 community workers.
- An inter-agency mission (UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF) is currently on the ground to look into malnutrition issues, and will share the findings by the end of this week.
- In addition, a Food Supplementary Program was organized from 29-31 May, and reached 4,175 children from 6 to 59 months. A total of 1,152 pregnant and breast-feeding women were also assisted in sites and entry points. The Program is ongoing. In addition, WFP continued to supply nutritional products (Plumpy Sup and CSB) in health centers for the treatment of MAM. Food is also provided for the people who accompany children suffering from SAM who are hospitalized in the feeding centers.

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- In Inke camp and villages neighbouring the town of Gbadolite, a joint mission composed of UNHCR, WFP, the Ministry of Health and the *Programme National de Nutrition* (PRONANUT) was carried out to research nutrition levels.
- Also in Inke, the June monthly food ration distribution started on 26 May, which consists of 400 gr/day/pers of rice; 120gr/day/pers green peas, 30 gr of vegetable oil and 5 gr of salt /day/pers. By 30 May, 117,483 tons of WFP rations were distributed to 7,056 persons (2,122 households).

Republic of Congo:

- The medical and nutritional screening and vaccinations are done for all new CAR refugees accommodated in the departure centre.
- During the reporting period, 168 children ages 6-59 were screened - 9 cases of MAM and 2 cases of SAM were reported.
- As per these latest results, the overall malnutrition rate and severe malnutrition rate are in conformity with the standards for an emergency situation (less than 10% and less than 2% respectively).



Water and Sanitation

Cameroon:

- Reinforcement of the water infrastructure has improved the access to water in all refugee sites. An average of 13,8l per person per day is available, and efforts are being made to increase the quantity of water distributed in the sites.

- To date, 36 boreholes and 546 latrines have been constructed in all refugee sites. This includes: 30 boreholes and 382 latrines by UNHCR, and 4 boreholes and 192 latrines by UNICEF through their respective partners, and 2 boreholes by Plan International with their own funds.
- Negotiations are underway with other WASH partners to increase the response capacity in this sector.

Republic of Congo:

- During the reporting period, AARREC organized awareness sessions related to hygiene and treatment of water. They also went forward with the treatment of wells in Betou and its area.
- New latrines have been constructed; however the overall number (166) remains insufficient in view of the number of refugees living in Betou and Ikpengbele. Indeed, the ratio is currently 35 people per latrine while the standard indicator is 20 people.



Shelter and NFIs

Central African Republic:

- In Bangui, the *Ecole Nasridin* IDP site, in the Third district, received several new IDPs, increasing the total number to over 600 people. A community shelter is urgently needed in the school's courtyard. In the 8th district, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) launched a housing reconstruction program, to support some 100 households to rebuild their homes destroyed in the violence.
- In Bossangoa, UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF) supported some 1,510 households (representing 7,790 people) with the distribution of NFIs in Gbakera, Bomayan Kette, Bokago I, Borroll, Bondoro and Bouca.
- Under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), Solidarités has supported more than 15,000 IDPs in Kaga Bandoro with NFIs and in Grimari, ACTED is planning to assist some 6,000 IDPs, also with NFIs.
- In the prefecture of Ouham Pende, some 2,500 IDP returnees have been identified in the communities of Ngaounday and Bang and are in need of NFI and shelter rehabilitation support. In Bang, some 520 homes were reportedly destroyed.

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- In Inke camp, newly arrived refugees received NFIs, including mats, blankets, and jerrycans, but they still await kitchen-sets to complete the package.
- In Mole camp, essential NFIs such as kitchen-sets, soap and sanitary towels for 3,010 women are still out of stock.

Republic of Congo:

- Shelter construction work on the sites of *15 avril* and Ikpengbele is ongoing. Of the 600 new shelters initially planned on these two sites, 476 (79%) have already been built. However, the number of shelters constructed and planned remains insufficient as 300 families are still waiting for a shelter on these sites.



Community Empowerment and Self-Management

Republic of Congo:

- UNHCR and AARREC organized a working session regarding the updating of the tools dedicated to the management, follow-up and assessment of Income Generating Activities. The participants also discussed new strategies to increase the overall recovery rate of microcredits, especially those for refugees for small trade activities.
- AARREC conducted a mission in Betou in order to advise and support the small agricultural and fishing groups recently constituted. The overall impact of these activities is positive but an important challenge remains related to the access to land to cultivate in the area of Betou.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

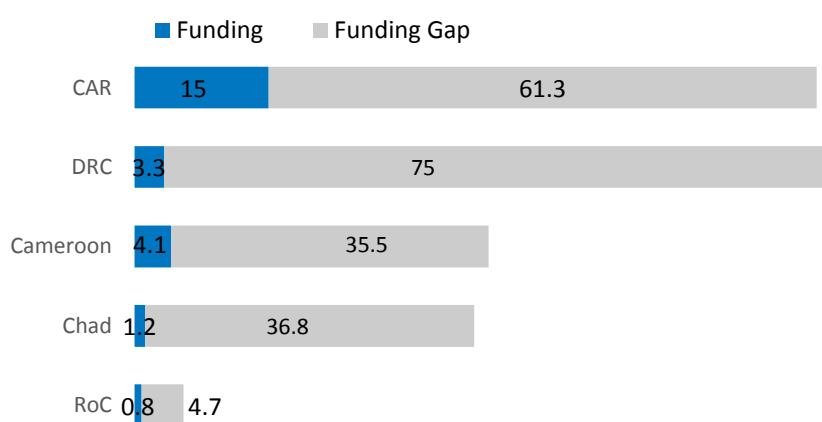
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation. Below are UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance 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 239 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%.

Donors:

CERF
Denmark
Estonia
European Union
France
Holy See
Japan
Luxembourg
Private donors Australia
Private donors Canada
Private donors Germany
Private donors Netherlands
Private donors Spain
Private donors Switzerland
Private donors United Kingdom
Republic of Korea
Sweden
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
United States of America

Funding:

A total of **US\$28.3 million** has been funded



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

Links:

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

as of 6 June 2014

