



COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Countries: Central African Republic & Chad

Planning Year: 2004

Part 1: Executive summary

Central African Republic (CAR)

(a) Context and beneficiary populations

The series of offensive and counter-offensive between the Central African Republic army backed by the Congolese troops of Jean Pierre Bemba on one hand and the rebels of the former chief of the army staff General Bozize on the other, ended up invading on the 15 of March 2003. President Patasse who was outside the country was overthrown. Bangui plunged in state of lawlessness characterised by massive looting, many cases of killings and rapes for almost a week were observed. General Bozize became the new President, he appointed a new government of 28 ministers from various political parties and established a curfew from 10pm to 6 am. The CEMAC forces were then reinforced by the arrival of a contingent from the Chadian army. These Chadian troops are now in charge of restoring the order and security in Bangui and restructuring of the army. Indeed at the time of writing, the overall security situation in CAR is very fragile as some pockets of Jean Pierre Bemba rebels are still stranded in the North and sporadic looting and killings are reported in Bangui. The former leaders of Patasse regime found refuge at French Embassy and at the CEMAC Office. About 200 Congolese and some Chadian refugees fled their house and found refuge in UNHCR premises. The insecurity prevailing in Bangui at this moment pushed many Congolese to express their strong desire to be repatriated as soon as possible by UNHCR, about 300 of them have already registered for repatriation to DRC. UNHCR CAR is currently striving to prepare this repatriation and also to resettle the 4 Chadian Political refugees who found refuge in the Office.

Given the crises that the country has gone through these past years it will take at least 3 to 4 months for the new government to put the country on the beginning of the right track. In view of the normalisation of situation in the coming month the priority for UNHCR would be to prepare for the repatriation of some Congolese refugees from Bangui, and to prepare for the return to CAR of all the CAR refugees except those who fled recently to Chad who will have to wait for the pacification of the North.

In DRC, some progress has been made in the inter-Congolese dialogue, the situation may become conducive for the facilitated repatriation of many Congolese refugees who are willing to return home. Therefore UNHCR will facilitate the return of those who wish to return where feasible, and continue to assist the remaining caseload.

In South Sudan, the civil war continues despite several rounds of peace talks initiated in Machakos, Kenya

In the north, the ongoing war has resulted in thousand of Chadians and Centraficans refugees fleeing into Chad. The residual caseload of Chadian refugees in North CAR might have fled to Chad.

Regarding the 300 Rwandan refugees in CAR, a tripartite agreement for their voluntary repatriation was signed between CAR, Rwanda and UNHCR in 2002. But the majority of the Rwandan refugees in CAR are still reluctant to return home.

UNHCR will continue to seek prospect of resettlement possibilities in 2004.

UNHCR will continue in 2004 to search for durable solutions such as resettlement, repatriation and local settlement for the urban refugees.

In 2002 a Refugee Act was drafted by the Government with UNHCR support, the document is now finalised and will be submitted to the parliament in 2003 for approval.

In 2003/2004 UNHCR programmes in CAR will be implemented by three Implementing Partners: the CNR (Commission Nationale pour les Refugies), COOPI (the Italian Co-operation) and Caritas Mbaiki.

UNHCR CAR will also continue in 2004 to provide admin and logistic support to Zongo and Betou field Offices in DRC and RoC.

As in the past, UNHCR will request for the contribution of other UN agencies in the refugee programme in CAR in 2004.

UNHCR CAR will co-ordinate all the activities related to the protection and assistance to refugees through monthly inter-agency meetings and regular contact with UN agencies, Government and NGOs. UNHCR will participate actively in UNDAF/CCA process in 2004.

In co-ordination with UNFPA and UNAIDS, UNHCR will continue to combat HIV/AIDS in the refugee sites.

In providing assistance and protection to the Sudanese, Congolese, Rwandan and urban refugees in CAR in 2004, UNHCR will put a particular emphasis on the self-reliance project such as agriculture, fisheries, and vocational training.

The Sudanese:

The Sudanese are the biggest caseload in CAR. As of December 2002, the number of Sudanese refugees in CAR was 36,352 according to the Government counterpart (CNR) statistics. They all came from southern Sudan and are mainly from the ethnic groups of Zande, Dinka, Yei, and the Balanda. Farmers, few civil servants and former SPLA combatants make up the population essentially. They live in the site of Mboki located 1200kms-east Bangui with a very difficult access by road. Frequent invasion of poachers, SPLA combatants and armed bandits have increased the level of insecurity in the Mboki area to the extent that the UNHCR closed the field office in December 2002.

The refugees in Mboki are self sufficient; however they continue to be assisted partially in the health, education and environmental sectors. This assistance will be pursued in 2004 through the CNR.

The Congolese:

According to the CNR statistics, the number of Congolese (DRC) refugees in CAR was 10,798 as of December 2002. Roughly 3,000 of them live in Molangue camp located 150kms south Bangui and the others live in Bangui. They came mainly from the region of Equator in DRC. They are essentially Mbaka, Monzombo, Yakoma, and Mbaka-Mandja by tribe. They are made up of farmers, fishermen and former civil servants. UNHCR will continue to consolidate the local settlement of the Congolese

of Molangue camp and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the urban Congolese in 2003/2004.

The urban refugees:

They are mainly composed of Congolese, Chadians, Sudanese, Rwandese, and Burundians. Only the students and few vulnerable cases are materially assisted. With the recent development in the conflict in CAR, more and more Congolese are registering with UNHCR for voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin. UNHCR will continue to facilitate their departure as the situation in their countries permit. For the Rwandese and the others small group of refugees, resettlement possibilities will be sought.

Overview of each beneficiary population in CAR.

| Country of origin | Refugee Numbers in 2003 | Themes |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sudan | 36,352 | Local settlement |
| Congo DRC | 2,980 | Local settlement |
| Chad | 641 | Local settlement |
| Urban refugees | 10,231 | Care and maintenance and repatriation |
| Total | 50,204 | |

b) Programme goals and objectives:

| Name of the beneficiary population: the Sudanese refugees in Mboki | |
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| Goals: Work toward self- reliance in sector such as health, education and crop production by end of year 2003 while strengthening the CNR capacities to implement these activities. | |
| Main Objectives | Related outputs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees are able to cover education and health basic costs related to their families. • Refugees and local populations participate to their environment protection through tree planting and development of new agricultural techniques. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hospital and the schools are functional and the workers paid regularly. • Refugees and local populations live in harmony in a safe environment. |

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| Name of the beneficiary population: the Congolese refugees in Molangue camp | |
| Goals: Consolidate local settlement through self- reliance projects such as agriculture, fisheries and income generating activities, provide simultaneously care and maintenance to vulnerable groups. | |
| Main Objectives | Related outputs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees on site produce sufficient basic food in quantity to enable them to feed themselves and cover part of their others needs. • Refugees have access to health and education structure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land, seeds, tools, fishing materials distributed and loan/grants for income generating activity administered.. • The health centre and the schools are functional.. |

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| Name of the beneficiary population: the urban refugees | |
| Goals: Support the government in the implementation of a Refugee National Legislation and strengthen the National Eligibility Commission .Facilitate voluntary repatriation where requested and feasible. | |
| Main Objectives | Related outputs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All asylum seekers have access to Refugee Status Determination with no discrimination and in accordance with international standards. • All asylum seekers and recognised refugees benefit from national legislation in conformity with international standards. • Refugees can circulate without hindrance. • Refugee rights are respected. • Resettlement in third countries of eligible refugees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Eligibility Commission is fully functioning. System for monitoring RSD procedures/consultative role of UNHCR established. Government official responsible for RSD trained. • Refugee and asylum seekers have access to law enforcement mechanism. • ID cards are issued to refugees. • Government officials , police and militaries are trained on refugee rights. • A procedure of registration and identification of candidates to resettlement is put in place. |

Republic of CHAD:

a. Context and beneficiary populations

The overall political situation has been relatively calm in Chad, the government initiated a National Dialogue with all the political parties and the with the main armed rebel group of the north, the Mouvement pour la Justice et la Democratie au Tchad (MDJT). After the death of its leader Youssouf Togoymi at the end of year 2002, the MDJT split into two factions, a faction in favour of the national dialogue and another for the continuation of the war. An armed conflict arose in the north in November 2002 between the latter group and the national army. The national army rapidly controlled the situation. On the economy side, there is great hope that the incomes generated by the oil discovered in the south will help develop the country and reduce the poverty of the Chadian people.

In the south, the conflict in North CAR has resulted in thousands of refugees in Chad and increased tension between the two countries despite all the numerous reconciliation attempts initiated by the CEMAC and France.

At the time of writing more than 41,000 refugees fleeing the war in north CAR have found refuge in south Chad. In February 2003 the Chadian government launched an appeal to the international community to help it face the situation in the south. In this line UNHCR will resume its presence in Chad and set up an emergency programme in south Chad.

A new emergency is under way in the eastern part of Chad where an estimated 65,000 Sudanese refugees have sought asylum. In addition there is an old caseload of 12,000 Sudanese refugees in Adre in the north and about a thousand urban refugees in Ndjama. These programmes will continue to be implemented by the CONAR (Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Reinsertion des Refugies) and SECADEV (Secours Catholique pour le Development). With the emergency, which is developing in the south and the eastern part of Chad, UNHCR will work with other NGOs such as MSF/B and the Chadian Red Cross and other UN agencies.

CAR refugees:

They started arriving in small numbers in November 2002 when the rebel of Bozize occupied the north of CAR. In February 2003 after a fierce offensive launched by the CAR army on the rebel controlled areas thousands of CAR refugees and Chadians who were living in CAR started pouring in south Chad, mainly in the prefectures Gore and Danamadji. As of end September more than 41,000 have been registered in those prefectures. In addition to refugees, Chadians who had lived in CAR fled with the refugees: UNHCR has not been assisting this latter group. In Gore the authorities have given UNHCR a site to accommodate the refugees.

An emergency programme is now in place in Gore and Danamadji.

The Sudanese

They are in location called Adre in north-east Chad. They were reported to be self-sufficient and locally integrated. They were estimated to be 12,000 in 2002. Since the office closure in 2001 there was no news about them. It is planned to help them repatriate if the situation in South Sudan allows.

The urban refugees:

They are composed mainly of Congolese from DRC, Sudanese, Centrafricans and Rwandese. They are essentially students, traders and former civil servants. They were estimated at a thousand in 2002. UNHCR will continue to facilitate their voluntary repatriation where requested and feasible and to look for resettlement possibilities for them.

Overview of the beneficiary population in Chad.

| Country of Origin | Numbers | Theme |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| CAR | 38,000 (in Progress) | Emergency assistance |
| Sudan | 12,000 | Repatriation |
| Urban Refugees | 1,000 | Repatriation |
| Total | 51,000 | |

b) Programme goals and objectives:

| Name of the beneficiary population: CAR new refugees | |
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| Goals: Provide an emergency assistance to the new arrivals in 2003, build a camp in Gore and Danamadji, plan for a care and maintenance programme in 2004. | |
| Main Objectives | Related outputs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The basic needs of the new arrivals (food, health, water, shelter etc..)• The vulnerable groups are identified and adequately taken care of.• Refugees are registered, issued id cards and allowed to move unhindered• Camp residents enjoy personal security and safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A camp is built, refugees accommodated, a proper programme of assistance in all sectors is set up.• Community services structures are efficient and functional.• Registration exercise successfully undertaken, ID cards and ration cards issued.• Effective enforcement of law and order resulting in civilian character of camps. |

| Name of the beneficiary population: the urban refugees | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Goals: Provide care and maintenance to the urban refugees, facilitate their repatriation where requested and feasible. | |
| Main Objectives | Related outputs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All asylum seekers have access to | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Eligibility Commission is |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Refugee Status Determination with no discrimination and in accordance with international standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All asylum seekers and recognised refugees benefit from national legislation in conformity with international standards. | <p>fully functioning. System for monitoring RSD procedures/consultative role of UNHCR established. Government official responsible for RSD trained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee and asylum seekers have access to law enforcement mechanism. |
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