

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

## UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 65

1 – 29 February 2016

### KEY FIGURES

**472,864**

Central African refugees in  
Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Congo

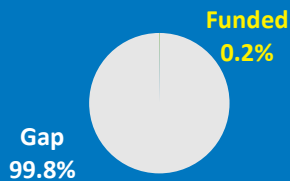
**25%**

IDPs in CAR located in the capital  
Bangui

### FUNDING

**USD 243.8 million**

required for the situation in 2016



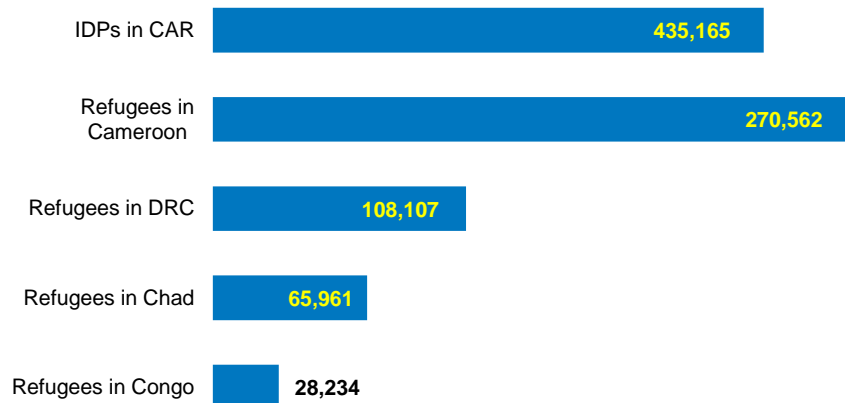
### PRIORITIES

- **CAR:** Reinforce protection mechanisms from sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthen coordination with relevant actors.
- **Cameroon:** Continue biometric registration; strengthen the WASH response in all refugee sites.
- **Chad:** Strengthen advocacy to improve refugees' access to arable land; promote refugee's self-sufficiency.
- **DRC** Continue shelter construction; provide anti-malaria drugs in all camps.
- **RoC:** Ensure registration and documentation of all CAR refugees strengthen protection

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In the Central African Republic, UNHCR finalized the IDP registration exercise in the capital city Bangui and provided emergency assistance to displaced families affected by multiple fire outbreaks in IDP sites;
- UNHCR launched a youth community project in Chad, an initiative providing young Central African refugees with the opportunity to develop their own projects;
- The biometric registration of urban refugees in Cameroon is completed in the capital Yaoundé and ongoing in the city of Douala;
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNHCR registered 4,376 Central African refugees living on several islands in the Ubangi River;
- Refugees benefit from a country-wide vaccination campaign in the Republic of the Congo.
- The persistent dire funding situation of UNHCR's operations in all countries is worrisome and additional contributions are required immediately to meet urgent protection and humanitarian needs.

## 917,131 persons of concern

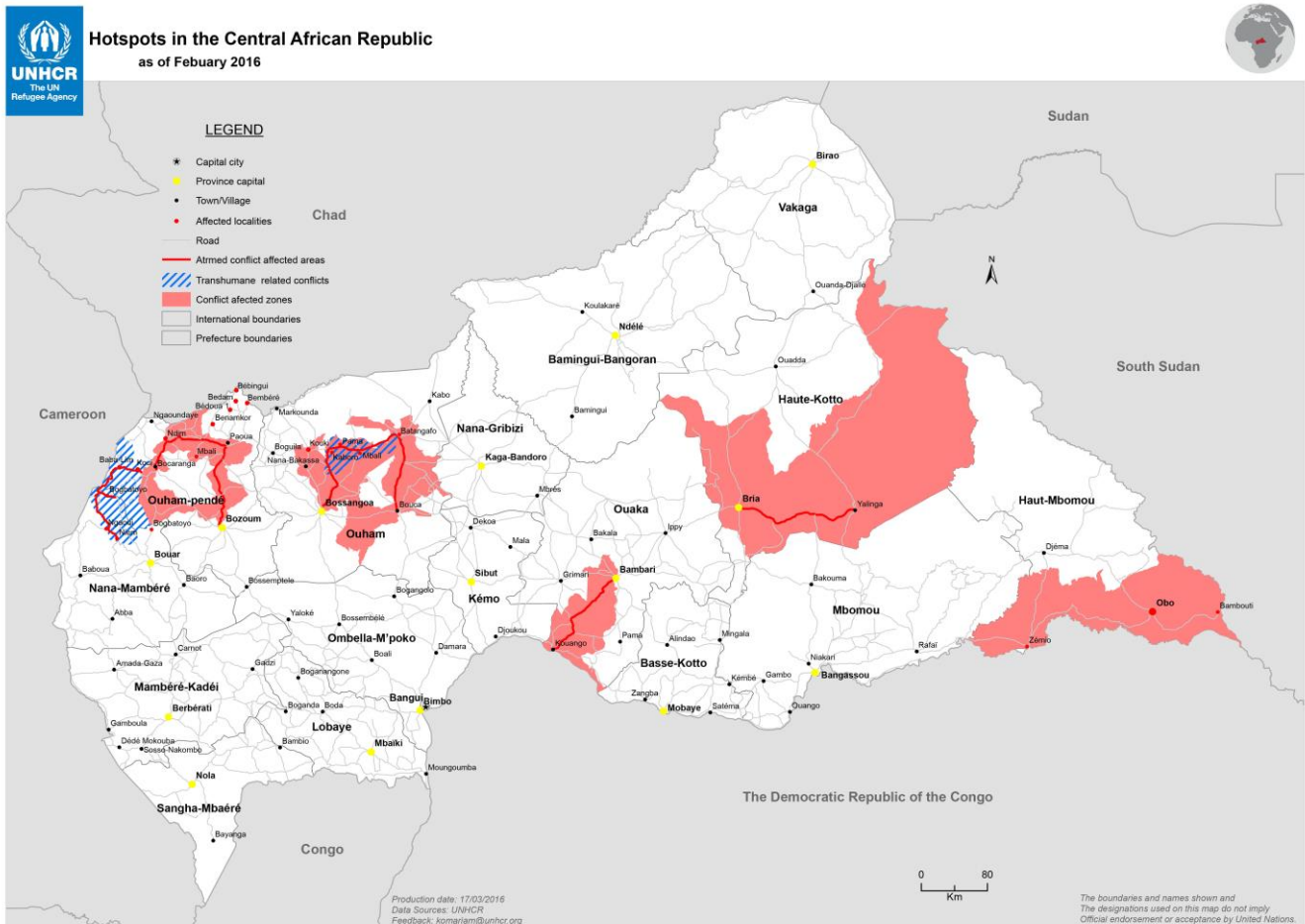


In DRC, Viviane spends a few days at the Transit Center of Batanga, waiting to be relocated to Boyabu refugee camp. Widowed with two children, Viviane left CAR following the recent election rounds that she feared might have put her family in danger. "My husband got killed a year ago by the militias", she adds, "I don't want this to happen again to my loved ones." © UNHCR/F. Salvi

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

## Operational Context

- In the Central African Republic (CAR)**, the largely peaceful presidential and legislative elections contributed to achieving important progress in the protection environment in CAR, however, the ongoing fragmentation of the Séléka and anti-Balaka armed factions will prove challenging for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. Furthermore, attacks and hostilities between various armed groups, and between these groups and international peacekeepers, continue to pose a threat to civilians. In this regard, some hotspots in Haut Mbomou, Haute Kotto, Ouham and Ouham Pendé regions remain of concern (see map). In the northern prefecture of Ouham Pendé, violence between nomadic pastoralists and settled agriculturalist communities in the transhumance corridor continues whilst in Paoua and Kouï sub-prefectures a coalition of armed groups are reportedly attacking villages. It must be noted that, overall, access in CAR is improving along with the gradual stabilisation of the general security situation. However, access challenges persist preventing large segments of the population from accessing aid, and protection and aid agencies from reaching them.



- In asylum countries**, most refugees are hosted in areas where they experience an increased competition for natural resources. The lack of access to livelihood opportunities is likely to contribute to inter-community tensions, notably at a time when many of the World Food Programme's food assistance operations in the region face severe cuts because of funding shortfalls. During the month, widespread bushfires took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Sud-Ubangi, where over 2,600 hectares of crops were destroyed and will likely affect the food security situation in the area. In Chad, refugees living in host villages in the south are starting to move from village to village in search of fertile land available. This situation raises the questions of the need to invest in socio-community infrastructures in the new villages such as shelters, water wells, schools, health facilities, etc. Currently, some 5,500 refugees live in 21 host villages and receive some form of assistance that contributes to their self-reliance.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Achievements and Impact

- With support from the camp coordination and camp management/shelter/non-food item cluster, UNHCR finalized the verification and registration exercise of internally displaced persons (IDPs) hosted in Bangui. The aim is to provide disaggregated data for a proper protection and assistance response and prepare the ground for return provided that the security situation improves following the election period. Final results show that 54,791 displaced persons live in 30 sites spread across the capital city. M'Poko International Airport hosts over 51 per cent of them. Around half of the IDPs reported not being able to return to their area of origin due to housing and security issues. In addition, some 20 per cent of families have at least one person with specific needs and 40 per cent of elderly people do not have any family support.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR conducted monitoring missions to Yaloke and Boda towns as well as in surrounding villages in order to assess the protection situation of Muslim minorities. In Yaloke, while over a hundred IDPs have left in the past five months, 96 of them still live in the site due to fear of attacks and the lack of disarmament of armed groups. UNHCR's recommendations include the reassessment of the potential for local integration in Yaloke, the rehabilitation of IDPs' houses, and the implementation of income-generating activities.
- In Boda, civilians enjoy freedom of movement, however, children in the community are not going to public schools due to a persistent fear of being assaulted or attacked. The mission also noted that families dependent on scarce humanitarian assistance were progressively leaving Boda to Bangui given the lack of livelihoods opportunities. Recommendations include to increase advocacy efforts towards the humanitarian community to support self-reliance and livelihoods projects and to scale-up the health and education response.
- Following several cases of sexual-exploitation and abuse in Bambari and Batangafo, UNHCR made several recommendations to establish prevention mechanisms, including: the implementation of the protection cluster's guidance on the preservation of the civilian character of sites; the establishment of a civil-military coordination in Batafango; and the reinforcement of MINUSCA troops in Batangafo and Kabo areas. Bambari and Batangafo are two major displacement hubs with over 30,000 IDPs in each town. Both cities host armed groups and militias who fight for territorial control, putting civilians under siege and jeopardizing the civilian character of IDP sites.



UNHCR staff discussing with the Muslim Community of Boda. © UNHCR/I. Muhammad.

## CHAD

- Achievements and Impact.** A community project supported by UNHCR and initiated by the youth in Amboko and Gondje camps was launched in February. The project focuses on sensitization activities implemented by young refugees to fight against discrimination, early and forced marriages and narcotics consumption. The project is part of the UNHCR-run "Youth Initiative Fund" piloted in 2013, aiming to address some of the concerns around the lack of programmes and opportunities for youth, by providing young refugees with the opportunity to develop their own protection projects.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Achievements and Impact.** Following a mission to the localities of Gbiaka, Gbobo, Nganza and Yomba, UNHCR identified and pre-registered 4,376 refugees living on several islands in the Ubangi River, along the border between CAR and DRC. Some of these refugees are reported to be living there since 2013. In addition, a thorough screening of the refugees' registration files started in Boyabu camp. This exercise aims at having a better understanding of refugees' needs in terms of food and non-food items.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Achievements and Impact.** Continuous registration of Central African refugees remained a priority during the reporting period, in particular through the biometric registration system. Furthermore, UNHCR continued to raise awareness on sexual and gender-based violence during food distributions.
- Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.** CAR refugees continued to be victim of frequent arbitrary arrests and detentions, and a few cases of *refoulement* were reported. This is particularly the case in the areas where UNHCR and its government partner the *Comité national d'assistance aux réfugiés* (CNAR) have no presence. In addition, persistent lack of funding continued to hamper UNHCR's capacity to conduct regular protection monitoring in remote areas where refugees are exposed to police abuse.

## Education

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** The construction of the primary school of Bondo, a town in Bas-Uele District, has been finalized and will be now accessible to refugees living in the camp of Ango/Mboti.
- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.** In Boyabu refugee camp, the construction of a school canteen is required in order to improve attendance rates in the two elementary schools. The school director mentioned that forthcoming donations will address this gap.



## Health

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** In Mboti, refugee children aged 0-11 months were vaccinated against polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis, yellow fever, measles and pneumonia. In Boyabu camp, malaria nets with insecticides were distributed to pregnant women and children and regular sensitization activities were conducted.
- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.** In Mole refugee camp, the maternal center lacks appropriate equipment to assist pregnant women during childbirth. In particular, suitable smocks would ensure that birth are conducted with appropriate hygienic standards.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### CHAD

- **Achievements and Impact.** In February, some 5,300 refugees living in host villages in southern Chad received targeted food assistance from the World Food Programme. In order to address the high prevalence of anemia and prevent global acute malnutrition in refugee camps, 1,170 boxes of Nutributter were distributed in six camps (Dosseye, Amboko Doholo, Gondje and Belom) for children aged between 6 and 24 months.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** Thanks to fresh funding contributions, hot meals – made up of rice and beans – were provided to some 190 newly arrived refugees at the Transit Centers of Bili and Boyabu camps as well as to people with specific needs in Ango and Libenge. In Ango, food assistance to refugees has been provided through cash-based transfers since July 2015.
- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.** Persistent cuts in WFP food assistance programmes were experienced in camps in Nord and Sud-Ubangi Provinces. Since December 2015, food assistance to Central African refugees has been provided at 80 per cent as of result of funding gaps. In addition, in Boyabu camp, there is a consistent lack of Plumpy Nut, a nutritional product that is used to treat severe and acute malnutrition. This issue is of particular concern as malnourished children not receiving this support are experiencing rapidly deteriorating health conditions.



*A refugee mother brings her baby for a visit at the nutritional center of Boyabu refugee camp in Libenge, DRC © UNHCR/F. Salvi*



## Water and Sanitation

### CAMEROON

- **Achievements and Impact.** As part of the water and sanitation response, 121 boreholes, 4,225 latrines and 3,065 showers were built in all the sites by UNICEF, Plan Cameroon, CARE, and *Solidarités Internationales*. As a consequence, an average ratio of 18 liters of water per person per day (below standard) are being provided as well as 21 people per latrine (above standard) and 24 people per shower (above standard).
- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.** Despite efforts made by actors intervening in the water and sanitation sector, an additional 12 boreholes, 1,700 latrines and 2,700 showers are required to cover the needs of refugees in all camps. The construction of boreholes and latrines in host villages is also required.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- **Achievements and Impact.** UNHCR's partner *Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement* (ADSSE) started rehabilitating the Transit Center of Bili camp, specifically the hangars, the latrines and the showers. Furthermore, fresh funding contributions allowed the construction of 600 emergency shelters in Mole, Boyabu and Inke camps.
- **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.** Several shelters and food stocks were damaged following a storm that hit Inke camp on 19 February. During the same day, several infrastructures at Mole camp have been damaged and need urgent fixing following strong wind and heavy rains. An assessment of the situation revealed that over the last week of February, 533 emergency shelters, 17 semi-permanent shelters, and 6 primary school classrooms and the recreational area were damaged. Bili and Inke camps have been similarly affected. UNHCR's partners have been solicited to start rehabilitation works.



### Shelter, Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM)

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- **Achievements and Impact.** Multiple fire outbreaks in IDP sites in Batangafo, Kaga Bandoro, Dekoa and Bambari affected some 13,700 IDPs and destroyed up to 70 per cent of the sites, leaving families homeless and without their belongings. UNHCR responded by distributing NFI kits (kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, mats, etc.) to 50 per cent of the affected IDPs. In addition to the assistance already provided by humanitarian actors, preventive actions such as the re-structuring of sites are underway in Kaga-Bandoro to prevent further fire outbreaks. Humanitarian actors have also conducted awareness campaigns and sensitization sessions targeting IDPs on the risks of constructing rudimentary make-shift shelters. These actions have been implemented in the affected sites of Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Bambari.



UNHCR staff helps IDP upload NFIs. ©UNHCR/Mustapha

#### CAMEROON

- **Achievements and Impact.** In order to improve the living conditions of refugees, UNHCR and its partners continued the construction of durable and semi-durable shelters in refugee sites. Thus far, some 1,300 shelters were built in Borgop site, Ngam, Gado, Lolo, and Mbile Timangolo. Additional durable shelters are being constructed.



### Durable Solutions

#### CHAD

- **Achievements and Impact.** Since July 2015, UNHCR has been conducting a profiling exercise of refugee households in Gore and Maro in search for durable solutions. During the reporting period, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, on mission in Chad, completed the first round of resettlement interviews with candidates who were previously profiled as eligible for resettlement to the United States. A total of 127 Central African families (450 individuals) were interviewed during the reporting period.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

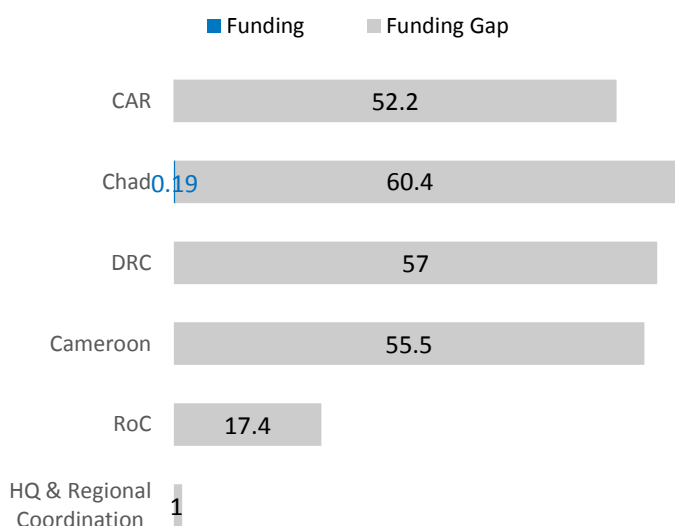
UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Central African Republic Situation, involving operations in CAR and neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo) amount to **USD 243.8 million from January to December 2016**, including USD 191.5 million for the response in asylum countries. As at the end of February 2016, **the overall funding gap is USD 243.4 million**.

Donors who have contributed to the situation in 2016 include:

European Union  
UN Development Programme  
Spain

Funding (USD million):

A total of **USD 0.33 million<sup>1</sup>** has been funded



<sup>1</sup> Includes USD 13,115 received for CAR, USD 0.19 million for Chad and USD 0.12 for the Situation overall

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Links: [UNHCR Webportal](#) | [UNHCR Stories of Refugees and Aid Workers](#) | [UNHCR Voices of Refugees in West and Central Africa](#)