



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

September 2014

KEY FIGURES

487,580

IDPs in CAR as of 23 July including 65,580 in 35 sites in Bangui

8,012

Refugees in CAR mostly from DRC, Chad and Sudan

317,809

Equivalent to 31,781 kits NFIs distributed since December 2013

860

860 CCCM stakeholders participated in 40 training sessions of which 3 were inter-agency training seminars from the global CCCM cluster

8

out of the 10 conflict affected prefectures in CAR covered by UNHCR protection monitoring and response activities through 4 INGOs

FUNDING

USD 76.4 million

Requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Effective Protection monitoring and response in 8 prefectures
- Close monitoring of the situation of communities at risk in Boda and Yaloke
- Contribute in building safe conditions for return in affected areas in CAR
- Continuous search for durable solutions for refugees in CAR

HIGHLIGHTS

- The official transfer of authority from the African Union Support Mission in CAR (MISCA) to the UN Mission MINUSCA took place on 15 September at Mpoko military base. The DSRSG/Head of the peacekeeping operations stated that the restoration of judicial authorities in CAR is one of the priorities set by the Mission. Among the temporary measures agreed upon with the CAR government, the DSRSG stated that the Mission will provide the country with Judges, Inspectors and prison guards as he believes that “the human right remains a key issue for CAR’s future”. As per the first phase of the deployment of the Mission, 3 main MINUSCA bases will be set in Bouar (Nana Mambere prefecture), Kaga Bandoro (Nana Gribizi prefecture) and Bria (Haute-Kotto prefecture).
- The Deputy National Coordinator of the anti-Balaka movement Sébastien Wénézoui announced during a press conference on 24 September the upcoming Constitutive General Assembly to commute their movement to a political party called “Mouvement Patriotique pour l’Avenir-I kwe” (MPA-IK). Sebastien Wénézoui stated that “the religious or cultural divergences between the daughters and sons of Central African Republic should no more be an obstacle to peace and reconstruction” and called for all Central Africans of Muslim and Christian faith to join in the Constitutive General Assembly.
- 3 Ministers (Planning, Public works and Housing) visited Bossangoa on 13 September to assess the level of implementation of the ongoing rehabilitation of public infrastructures in the capital city of Ouham prefecture. During the meeting held with members of the Inter Cluster in Bossangoa, the Protection Cluster advocated for the return and capacitation of public forces along with judicial power whose presence is necessary to reduce impunity and therefore might not be dependent on completion of infrastructures. The Prosecutor returned back to Bossangoa on 16 September.

Population of concern

A total of **495,592** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The Brazzaville agreement is yet to be implemented by signatory parties and monitoring mechanisms for the actual implementation of the agreement at national and provincial levels are yet to be set. Meanwhile clashes continue between armed groups in particular in-country resulting in casualties against civilians

In September 2014, there were several hotspots which affected UNHCR and partners' activities notably on the Bouar-Garoua Boulai axis (in Nana Mambere prefecture to the border with Cameroon) which is a supply route jeopardizing timely procurement, on the Kaga Bandoro-Dekoa-Sibut axis (Nana Gribizi and Kemo prefectures) with various acts of banditry which presaged possible acts of retaliation in the coming days. In Ouham prefecture, clashes between armed groups and international forces in August 2014 and early September jeopardized the implementation of UNHCR support for shelter reconstruction project by the Danish Refugee Council.

In Bambari town the security situation remained relatively calm following violent clashes due to divergences within an armed group. The security of the Sudanese refugees in Pladama Ouaka remains threatened by the presence of an armed group which is more and more demanding towards refugees. A refugee was kidnapped on September 14 and held hostage for 3 days by an armed group as he denied a goat to the group. The assailants asked thereafter for a ransom which refugees eventually paid for. With the transfer of authority, UNHCR hopes to get more attention on the issue of securing the camp from the MINUSCA whose main mandate of protection of civilians includes protection of refugees.

Achievements

Protection for internally displaced people

Protection Cluster

- The strategy and action plan of the Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team on 8 July 2014.

The number of locations where communities at risk have been identified by the Protection Cluster has now decreased to 9 in Bangui and Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko), Boda and Boganangone (Lobaye prefecture), Berberati and Carnot (Mambere Kadei prefecture), Bouar (Nana Mambere prefecture) and Bocaranga (Ouham Pende prefecture) due to peaceful coexistence efforts within some communities and the departure of many of the communities to Cameroon and Chad. At the end of August, the following estimated figures were reported per location: Boda (9,000); Bangui/PK5 (2,800); Carnot (521); Berberati (321); Yaloké (499); Bouar (1600); Boganangone (91); Ngotto (47); Bocaranga (310). The increase of the estimated number in PK5 (Bangui) is due to recent return movements of some hundreds CAR nationals from Cameroon.

- On 12 September the CAR Protection Cluster met with a delegation of the UN Independent Expert on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic. Following a briefing of the Cluster Coordinator on the protection situation in CAR, the protection challenges as well as the current protection response, discussions focused on some key issues including gender based violence, children associated with armed groups as well as communities at risk. With regards to communities at risk across the country, the UN Independent Expert encouraged the Protection Cluster to continue communicating on their situation and mobilizing the humanitarian community to ensure protection and assistance. The mission advised the cluster to widely communicate on its scale based on available statistics to enable advocacy at highest level and consequently provide further support to actors in CAR to fight against the phenomenon.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR works in CAR within the context of the Cluster system for the Protection and assistance to IDPs. UNHCR's interventions vis-a-vis IDPs are twofold:
 - Through the support to the Protection Cluster in terms of Coordination, provision of protection expertise, information management and advocacy
 - Through the agency's operational role with (i) protection monitoring by UNHCR and 4 international NGOs (ii) protection response with special focus on communities-at-risk, SGBV and restoration of rule of Law and state authority including issues pertaining to housing, land and property (HLP) rights (iii) peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

Following new partnership agreements signed in July, UNHCR protection monitoring activities currently covers 8 prefectures of CAR over the 10 most critical prefectures affected by the crisis and armed violence. Indeed, 4 International NGOs are reinforcing UNHCR protection monitoring capacities as follows: the DRC dealing with Protection monitoring in Ouham prefecture, SGBV, COOPI dealing with Protection monitoring and SGBV in Lobaye, Sangha Mbaere, Mambere Kadei in the South West, Mercy Corps dealing with Protection monitoring, SGBV and Social cohesion in Baboua, Yaloke, and Baoro (Nana Mambéré and Ombella Mpoko provinces), IEDA Relief dealing with Border Monitoring all along the Chad and Cameroon borders with 3 offices in Ouham Pende, Mambere Kadei and Nana Mambere.

- To date, UNHCR and its partners remain the main contributors to the Protection Cluster's protection monitoring activities. Indeed, partners share directly or through UNHCR channel monitoring reports and flash info especially when a situation requires interventions at a higher level.



Shelter and NFIs for internally displaced people

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The strategy of the Shelter/NFI cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by ACTED was approved by members of the clusters in mid July 2014 and endorsed by the HCT on 2 September 2014
- The Shelter and NFI Cluster published a revised dashboard and map of the distribution of NFIs and community shelter since the beginning of the crisis in December 2013 to end of August 2014 available at <https://www.sheltercluster.org/Africa/CentralAfricanRepublic/Pages/default.aspx>.

Achievements and Impact



- The Ouham, Ouham Pende, Lobaye, Ouaka, Ombella Mpoko prefectures to name but a few have been very much affected by the CAR crisis and assessments (including MIRA) carried out in January 2014 showed that 70% of displaced households in some prefectures could not return due to insecurity and the looting and burning of their properties including their houses, while the last IOM intention survey in IDPs sites in Bangui showed that over 30% of IDPs could not return due to housing challenges. An ongoing survey carried out by the Shelter Cluster members shows a need for 33,127 shelters across CAR in need of support for reconstruction taking into account the seriously damaged shelters out of which 4,500 will be reconstructed through UNHCR partners ACTED, Catholic Relief Service and the Danish Refugee Council

in Ouham, Ouham Pende, Lobaye and Bangui. Efforts for reconstruction should be encouraged as only 47% of the

overall needs identified so far are covered (for a total of 15,898 shelters with the Common Humanitarian Fund followed by UNHCR as the main contributors to reconstruction efforts).

- 79,019 NFIs kits have been distributed from December 2013 to end of August 2014, representing 56% of the cluster's target for 2014 Response Plan. UNHCR CAR is the main contributor to the overall NFIs response in CAR with 40.2% of needs covered by the Organization representing a total of 317,809 NFIs/31,781 NFI kits distributed.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Camp Coordination Camp Management Cluster

- The CCCM cluster in Central Africa Republic is led by UNHCR and co-led by IOM
- There are currently 487,580 estimated IDPs in CAR of which 65,580 are in Bangui as of 23 September 2014. 52 sites have been identified outside Bangui in addition to 35 sites in Bangui as of 23 September 2014. 5 sites were closed in Bangui from August to September 2014 and 9 sites are currently hosting less than 100 IDPs each. UNHCR, through its partner Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale ensures a proper coordination and management of the most populated IDP site in the capital city located at Mpoko airport. Efforts are being made with all stakeholders to seek for durable solutions to IDPs in Bangui and especially those in Mpoko site.
- Under the aegis of the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator's office, the national CCCM cluster in close partnership with province-based CCCM actors and UNHCR Site Planner developed an action plan for the transfer process of IDPs currently settling close to military bases. 2 alternative sites were identified in 2 priority areas (Bambari and Batangafo). Site plans were set accordingly.

Durable Solutions for internally displaced people

Achievements and Impact

- A return and durable solutions working group was reactivated in July 2014 composed of humanitarian and development actors who closely collaborate with local and national authorities and ensure that their action plans goes in line with the different Ministries' work plans.
- 7 pillars have been identified within this working group (i) Security in the districts (led by UNOCHA) (ii) Resumption of Administrative authorities and restoration of State authority (led by UNDP and co-led by MINUSCA) (iii) Resumption of Socio economic activities (led by Danish Refugee Council) (iv) Basic social services (led by UNICEF and co-led by UNFPA) (v) Assistance to return (led by UNHCR and co-led by Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale and ACTED) (vi) Protection (led by UNHCR and co-led by both Norwegian Refugee Council and Danish Refugee Council) (vii) Social Cohesion (led by Mercy Corps and co-led by Search For Common Ground). The Shelter/NFI and CCCM clusters are active members of the Assistance to return pillar and the Protection Cluster of all pillars to ensure protection mainstreaming.

Multi Sectoral assistance to Refugees

- UNHCR and its partners assisted about 8,012 refugees mostly from DRC, Chad and Sudan through protection and multi-sectorial assistance, care and maintenance activities in Bangui, Bambari and Zemio camps. In order to find durable solutions for refugees in Zemio camp (Haut Mbomou prefecture), a verification exercise launched in August 2014 shows that 3,388 Congolese refugees from Orientale Province reside in the camp. These refugees fled to the Central Africa Republic in 2009 following the Ugandan Lord Resistance Army's exactions.

- Since January 2014, a total of 6,983 refugees were voluntary repatriated to their countries of origin, including 700 urban refugees who voluntarily repatriated to Chad, DRC and Sudan through the emergency voluntary repatriation programme, and 6,283 refugees from Batalimo camp to DRC.
- The security situation in Pladama Ouaka refugee camp in Bambari hosting Sudanese refugees is of concern to UNHCR because of various security incidents occurring in the camp during the month of July and on 14 September a refugee was kidnapped by an armed group and released thereafter. There have been no incident leading to death yet lootings and threats by armed group against the refugees continue. In the absence of sufficient public forces in the Central African Republic, UNHCR started advocating for permanent patrols of the UN mission MINUSCA around the camp as their protection of civilians' mandate include refugees.

Working in partnership

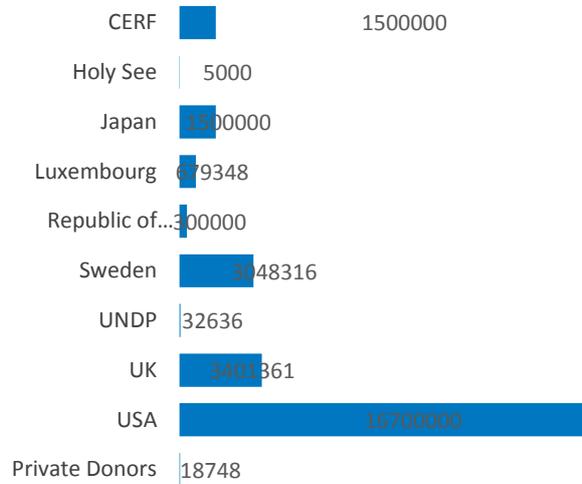
- UNHCR works with 11 partners in Central Africa Republic of which 10 International NGOs and one governmental partner. 9 partnerships agreements are signed for IDPs programme with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Search For Common Ground (SFCG), Mercy Corps , IEDA Relief, Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMI), ACTED, the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) , and Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) in addition to 4 partnership agreements signed for refugee programme with the "Commission Nationale pour les Refugies" CNR, the Danish Refugee Council, the International Medical Corps and Cooperazione Internazionale COOPI.
- UNHCR leads 3 clusters in CAR, namely Protection, Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Non Food Items clusters. There are currently 10 UNHCR staff members fully dedicated to the coordination of the three clusters including 7 international (among which 5 are NRC deployees for UNHCR) and 3 national staff. National clusters at Bangui level are backed in the provinces by province based clusters called subnational clusters; there are currently 3 subnational Protection Clusters in Bossangoa, Bouar and Kaga Bandoro in addition to NFI/shelter and CCCM working groups in Bossangoa. UNHCR led clusters at national and provincial levels coordinate the work of more than 60 members from UN agencies, national and international NGOs and Government institutions who participate in cluster coordination meetings on a weekly basis.
- An entire team composed of 4 UNHCR Information Management staff (4 out of the above mentioned 10 staff) is totally dedicated to ease cluster coordination role through a timely collection and dissemination of information among the humanitarian community.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 27,185,409 million**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD)



ANNEXES

UNHCR offices in CAR

07 offices located in:

Bangui, Bossangoa, Zemio, Bambari, Bouar Paoua and Kaga Bandoro

UNHCR staff in CAR

90 national staff

22 international staff

1 IUNV

1 Consultant

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