

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 46

27 December 2014 – 16 January 2015

KEY FIGURES

438,538

IDPs including

51,058

in Bangui in 34 sites

425,977

Total number of CAR refugees in
neighbouring countries

189,802

New CAR refugees in neighbouring
countries since Dec. 2013

7,966

Refugees and asylum seekers in
CAR

FUNDING

USD 255 million

requested for the situation

Gap
54%



Funded
46%

PRIORITIES

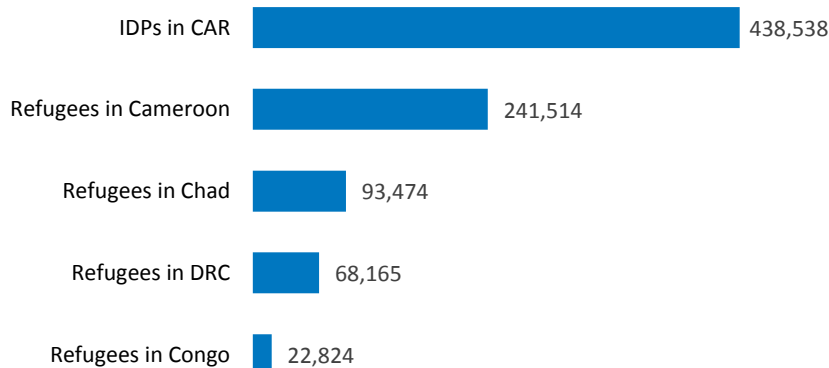
- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

HIGHLIGHTS

- A report published by the Central African Republic Commission of Inquiry determined that Christian militia have carried out ethnic cleansing of Muslim civilians during the country's ongoing civil war, but that there is no proof of genocidal intent. According to the Commission, "human rights violations and abuses were committed by all parties. The Seleka coalition and the anti-balaka are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity". According to the investigators, the priority for Central African authorities is to put an end to impunity enjoyed by those who perpetrated exactions and atrocities. Among the recommendations is the need to create a "witness protection programme" and a procedure to compensate victims of ethnic cleansing.
- The mandate of the transitional government was officially extended for six months (till mid-August 2015) by the international mediator of the Central African Republic crisis, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo. The mandate was due to expire in February 2015, but was extended until the holding of presidential elections, due to take place no later than August 2015.
- On 23 January, UNHCR and several partners will launch the 2015 Central African Regional Refugee Response Plan (CAR RRRP). The 2015 CAR RRRP plans to cover the needs of all CAR refugees in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo, including those that arrived prior to the emergency.

Population of concern

A total of **864,515** people of concern



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- On 26 December, the Central African Prime Minister, Mahamat Kamoun, presented the government's new roadmap before the National Transitional Council. The top priorities of the government were reshuffled as the political process and governance came as the first priority, followed respectively by security, economic recovery and finally humanitarian assistance. The Prime Minister also talked about the importance of increasing the national authorities' visits to refugees in neighbouring countries and to IDP camps.
- The French president, François Hollande, announced on 14 January, that France will withdraw some 1,200 troops by the autumn of this year as MINUSCA troops reach full capacity. It will keep a limited presence (800 troops), essentially in Bangui, to support MINUSCA.

Protection

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 438,538 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 51,058 in Bangui in 34 sites.
- In collaboration with the Kaga Bando Committee on Dialogue, Peace and Reconciliation, Search for Common Ground (SCG), UNHCR's partner, organized cultural and sports activities aiming at bringing together communities and promoting social cohesion (traditional dances, theatre, races, football). Around 8,000 people attended and participated.
- *Cooperazione* (COOPI) organized awareness-raising sessions on SGBV for IDPs in *Notre Dame de la Victoire* site in Bambari. During the reporting period, 25 SGBV cases received medical and/or psychosocial counselling.

CAMEROON

- An estimated 135,093 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to verify and update registration information for spontaneous movements between sites and villages. During the week, 119 spontaneous arrivals (43 families) were registered in Mbilé—many of whom had moved to reunite with extended family members. Verification and registration of spontaneous movements is due to continue next week in the East region.
- UNHCR issued 1,221 identification documents to refugee families in Kentzou, Timangolo, Gado, Borgop and Ngam. To date, a total of 47,113 identification documents have been issued by UNHCR to refugee families and refugees of at least 18 years of age in order to ensure their freedom of movement.

CHAD

- An estimated 20,000 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013 and are predominantly in the southern part of the country.
- On 16 January, a delegation from the Government of CAR visited UNHCR for a briefing on the situation of CAR refugees in the country. The delegation intended to visit Gore, meet with refugees, discuss with them their living conditions, needs, intentions of return (if any), expectations upon return and to reassure them of the improvement of situation in CAR as well as the Government's concern for its citizens currently living in Chad.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- An estimated 22,214 Central African refugees have entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo since December 2013 (as at 31 October) and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province. The registration and verification operation is still ongoing to determine the number of refugees in and out of camps. New statistics will be published once the entire operation is finalized.

Achievements and Impact

- In Zongo, Equateur Province a final evaluation of the activities implemented by the partners in 2014 was conducted. UNHCR met with its partners to review the operations under the sub-agreements in order to identify the progress and constraints recorded, as well as the outlook for 2015.
- During the reporting period, a total of 100 SGBV survivors in Libenge (50 in camp and 50 outside camp context) received soap bars, sugar and palm oil.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 12,495 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area.

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, 324 new arrivals were registered in Betou and Brazzaville.
- UNHCR conducted a monitoring mission in Gouga, on the northern axis of Betou. According to local authorities, the rate of new arrivals has steadily decreased in the past weeks.

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- In Gado, Timangolo, Mbilé, Lolo and Borgop, a total of 9,269 refugee children (3,323 girls and 5,949 boys) are participating in education activities within the Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPes). In Gado, Plan Cameroon distributed school kits to 159 refugee children (61 girls and 98 boys), including notebooks, pens, pencils and writing slates.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR procured 520 tables and benches to distribute to public schools in refugee hosting areas in the East region.
- UNHCR's partner, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), visited the ETAPE in Lolo to train teachers on various teaching methods and to sensitize children on non-violence and respect for others. In addition, IFRC distributed 350 school uniforms to refugee and host community students in public schools in Gbiti, Betare, Sabongari, Nandoungue, and Borongo in the East region.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a lack of school supplies, uniforms and classroom equipment.
- There is a need to expand capacity—in terms of infrastructure, equipment, materials and staffing— of local public schools to integrate refugee children into the national curriculum.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mole camp, out of the 2,230 school-aged children only 1,194 children are going to primary school (610 girls and 584 boys). UNHCR is looking at ways to provide non-formal education for those children aged 12-17 that still are at primary school level.

- Young refugees in Mole camp, part of Club RFI, have worked on a submission for the UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund. The protection issue that they would like to address is peaceful cohabitation between Christian and Muslim refugees in and outside Mole camp.
- Twenty-two certificates were awarded to refugees that finished the IT course at the Multimedia and Educational Centre in Mole camp. The IT course will now be open to a new group of students.



Health

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNICEF and WHO continue to conduct routine polio and measles vaccinations in the border towns of Kentzou, Garoua Boulai, Tocktoyo and Gbiti. During the reporting period, 58 children of less than five years received oral polio vaccinations while 25 children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years were vaccinated against measles.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- In Mole camp, a total of 634 refugees (377 women and 257 men) received medical care in the health clinic. In addition, 30 children below the age of one received routine vaccinations.
- In the health centre in Boyabu, 274 patients sought treatment (166 women and 108 men).

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, the health clinic in Betou conducted with the routine vaccination of 281 refugee children and 67 pregnant women.



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Preparations for the launch of the SENS/SMART nutrition survey began this week. From January 9-10, surveyors participated in training sessions with a focus on standardizing monitoring and evaluation in sites and villages. Data collection will launch in Timangolo and Kette in the East region on 11 January and will continue through 17 January. Preliminary results of the survey are expected in February.
- General food distributions for the month of January were launched in sites and villages in the East and Adamawa regions, and distributions remain ongoing. For this round, WFP plans to distribute 2,165 tonnes of food to 100,699 refugees, representing a 13% increase compared to the previous round, as well as 17,261 old caseload refugees (according to vulnerability criteria).
- In Lolo, Mbilé and Timangolo, UNHCR provided 60 cartons of nutritional supplements (BP5) to distribute to nursing mothers. In these sites, 51 mothers of new born babies continue to be monitored so as to reduce the risk of malnutrition and to support breastfeeding practices.
- During the reporting period, a total of 111 new admissions were registered in mobile nutrition clinics and 80 in nutrition centres. Currently, 1,296 beneficiaries are being treated in mobile nutrition clinics and nutrition centres.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- From 26-31 December 2014 cash grants, provided by WFP, were distributed to 15,804 refugees (6,743 households) in Mole camp, costing a total of US\$237,060,00.

- A total 366 malnourished refugees are currently admitted to the nutritional programme in Mole camp, including 99 pregnant and lactating women, 226 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 41 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- The *Association de Développement Economique et Social* (ADES) distributed 861 packages of plumpy nut to refugees suffering from SAM in Mole camp. In addition, 125 kgs of Corn-Soy Blend (CSB) were distributed to pregnant and lactating women.
- In Boyabu, 502 packages of plumpy nut were distributed to 29 children with SAM although 149 children with MAM still have not been assisted due to lack of supplies. Ten bags of CSB, 5 bottles of refined oil were distributed to 68 pregnant and lactating women with MAM. A total of 150 kgs of sugar were distributed to 72 children with MAM and 61 pregnant and lactating women. In Boyabu camp, 373 refugees are currently receiving nutritional support, including 173 children and 147 adults.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Due to the low level of water on the River Oubangui, WFP is facing important delays in the transportation of food to the remote localities of Betou and Impfondo that are only accessible by boat.



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR conducted an evaluation of water and sanitation needs in host villages, which highlighted the following needs for refugees living outside of sites and host communities: 398 new boreholes to be constructed, 247 boreholes to be rehabilitated and 828 latrines to be constructed in public facilities, including schools and health centres.
- Within the seven refugee sites, the average supply of water is 17.6l/p/d (compared to UNHCR's standard of 20l/p/d). During the reporting period, 3 water pumps were finalized in Borgop by *Premiere Urgence – Aide Medicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), UNHCR's partner. The average supply of water in Borgop is now 19l/p/d. To date, UNHCR and its implementing partners have constructed 64 water pumps in refugee sites (out of 82 planned).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- This week, Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 10,8l/p/d. Out of the 16 planned wells for Mole camp, 14 have been constructed. In addition, 786 latrines have been constructed out of 1,333 planned.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production was at 18l/p/d, meeting the minimum water emergency standards. The water continues to be provided by 18 wells (including 3 with manual pumps).
- In Inke camp, the level of water production currently stands at 1,246,900l and which provided 10.2/p/day – below the required standard of 20l/p/d.
- In Mboti refugee camp, the daily water production level stands at 15l/p/d.



Shelter and NFIs

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- A note conveying the vision for the joint cluster, was presented to members of the Strategic Advisory Groups, the co-lead agencies (ACTED and IOM) and the members of the Humanitarian Country Team. The great majority welcomed the merger provided recommendations to the Cluster's vision and strategies and the composition of the team. The main recommendation was to ensure a consistent capacity for emergency response along with the focus on durable solutions. Recruitments for team members are on-going and should be accelerated in order for the Cluster to keep a solid response capacity.

- The government has decided to open a new site, AVICOM, which is located approximately 2 km southwest from M'Poko airport. The camp will be open to all IDPs who cannot return to their place of origin or alternative locations once M'Poko site will be closed. The AVICOM site can accommodate up to 13,000 people. The humanitarian community has clearly expressed that under no circumstances will forced relocation of IDPs be accepted.
- PU-AMI is concentrating its efforts on informing IDPs on the situation in their neighbourhoods of origin. Go & See visits are organized to enable IDPs to visit their neighbourhood, in security. At their return, they convey their observations to other IDPs during debriefing assemblies. Raising awareness amongst the IDP regarding the current state of their neighbourhoods might encourage voluntary return, which is happening rather timidly at present.

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- As part of the 2015 shelter strategy, UNHCR and partners are planning to construct semi-permanent shelters in refugee sites. For this purpose, 3 hydraform machines were procured and will be dispatched to the field to begin the production of bricks, which will involve the participation of refugees.
- In Gado, UNHCR and its partner *Solidarités International* designated plots for the construction of 500 semi-durable shelters. During the reporting period, 72 refugees (16 families) were moved into tents in Gado II, and 136 refugees (37 families) were assigned to family shelters in Gado I.
- In Lolo, IFRC distributed soap and sanitary pads provided by UNHCR to beneficiaries. In addition, 84 jerry cans, 850 blankets, 163 sleeping mats, 137 pots, and 259 mosquito nets were distributed to newly registered households.
- In Mbile, 7,120 bars of soap and 344 blankets were distributed to 7,120 refugees (1,889 families) by IFRC. In addition, sanitary pads were distributed to 1,866 women of childbearing age.
- In Timangolo, IFRC proceeded to distribute hygienic kits to 286 women, consisting of soap and sanitary pads, and WASH kits to 762 families, consisting of a watering can, bucket, kettle, bars of soap, and cups. Also in Timangolo, UNHCR distributed 4,318 bars of soap and 929 sanitary napkins.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- Some 20 semi-durable shelters have been constructed in Mole camp, out of which 4 have been provided to refugees living with special needs.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- In between 29 December and 4 January, NFIs were distributed to 188 Central African refugee families.
- A total of 349 temporary family shelters have been built in Betou since the beginning of the CAR emergency.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

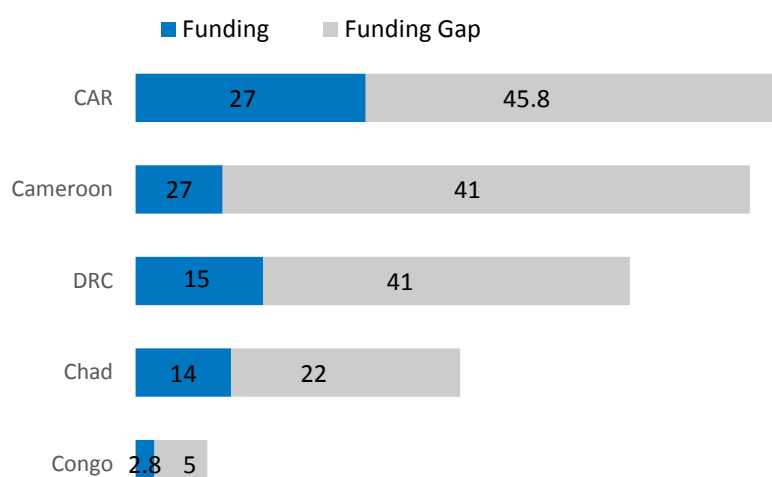
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation. Below are UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance 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. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Regional Situation currently amounts to USD 255 million, including USD 104.5 million of revised additional needs in asylum countries from January to December 2014, as presented in the Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 22 July. **The overall needs are currently funded at 46%.**

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Funding:

A total of **USD 111 million** has been funded



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Links:

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

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

Central African Republic Emergency Situation

as of 16 January 2015

