

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE – CAR SITUATION

24-30 AUGUST 2015

KEY FIGURES

109

Unaccompanied minors assisted by UNHCR

18,747

NFIs distributed since the beginning of the CAR emergency

90

SGBV survivors who have received support from UNHCR

FUNDING

USD 10,865,000
requested for
the operation

USD 2,110,000
received

PRIORITIES

- Operational priority 1 in the coming weeks: ensure registration and documentation of all CAR refugees
- Operational priority 2 in the coming weeks: lifesaving activities for CAR refugees living in northern Congo
- Operational priority 3 in the coming weeks: reduce exposition to SGBV, especially in camps
- Operational priority 4 in the coming weeks: reinforce assistance for education, including secondary education and vocational activities.



CAR WOMAN WHO BENEFITED FROM UNHCR'S MEDICAL CARE AND ASSISTANCE. SHE LEFT IMPFONDO TWO WEEKS AGO AS SHE WAS EVACUATED TO BRAZZAVILLE AND NOW MOVED BACK TO IMPFONDO/MULTIFONCTIONNAL TEAM AROUND HER. AUGUST 12, 2015

STATISTICS

230 CAR refugees were registered in Bétou areas and Brazzaville this week. The number of new arrivals, except for the regularization, is currently lower.

Up to **30 august 2015**, **30,114** CAR refugees were registered in the Republic of Congo, including **19,473** who arrived after 5 December 2013.

Statistics of the refugee population- 30 AUGUST 2015

Locality	31/12/2013	23/08/2015	Arrivals	30/08/2015
Betou	8,002	19,784	25	19,809
Impfondo	435	1,535	0	1,535
Brazzaville	1,547	7,221	205	7,426
Ouesso/Pokola	0	445	0	445
Pointe Noire	100	899	0	899
Total	10,084	29,884	230	30,114

In addition, 912 refugees were pre-registered by the immigration services of Betou but not yet registered in ProGres. This number has however to be re-assessed as it is expected that many of these individuals have then relocated to Brazzaville and were registered there while others may have returned to CAR.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

At Impfondo's airport, immigration services are reclaiming all refugees even those holding cards or attestation of refugee to submit a "to whom it may concern" (special request document) issued by CNAR in order to travel. Considering this practice as an infringement to the freedom of movement of refugees on a part of the territory of RoC, UNHCR approached CNAR Impfondo who not only confirmed the practice, but added that the restriction has been decided by CNAR Brazzaville.

Prefect of Likouala arrived on August 24 at Bétou following the national dialogue held on 13 to July 17, 2015 in Sibiti. With UNHCR and partners, the authority visited all UNHCR's achievements in Betou areas including the site of Ikpengbele, Bouaniela, Epena and Liranga. The prefect has expressed his satisfaction regarding the efforts made by UNHCR and its partners in the educational field for example despite of difficulties related to the geographical position. He promised to report to the government.

The biometric registration began on **August 17** in Brazzaville and will last on **September 1st** in the capital. Agents for the biometric registration operation are currently being trained by ICT officers in Bétou and Impfondo. The calendar for CAR refugees living in Brazzaville is from August 25 to September 1st 2015. Launch by UNHCR Betou of a mass awareness campaign through radio and press releases. The biometric operation is scheduled from **11 September to 19 October 2015** in Bétou areas.



The biometric registration operation started on Monday 17 August in Brazzaville. It mobilizes both UNHCR and CNAR protection staff but also other partners. Pictures: CAR children. [Statistics on Wednesday September 03: On a total number of 12560 refugees who have been crosschecked, 5990 are from CAR. On a total number of 11128 refugees registered, 5228 are from CAR.](#)



Achievements and Impact

- Coordination meeting of the focal points SGBV and BID took place at Impfondo this week with UNHCR, TSF and AARREC. SGBV's SOPs has been reviewed and adopted. CNAR who believes they have not enough time to review the document have not signed the adoption and have promised to do so through amendments if necessary.
- Three cases of rape were registered this week in Betou and Impfondo. In Bétou, a girl aged of 21 years complained about her partner's sexual practices. The young woman victim of marital rape has undergone a surgical operation. According to the victim, her husband practiced sodomy on her and sometimes punished (starvation) her. Current statistics: 37 SGBV incidents in Bétou for 2015. 11 occurred in the towns of Mouale and Mokabi. 27 cases of rape were reported by refugees between 1st of January and 31 July 2015. Of the 27 cases, 16 cases were against minors. There were also 2 additional cases of sexual assault/attempted rape (1 on an adult, 1 on a minor).
- Immigration services and CNAR proceeded to the regularization of 30 CAR individuals' status. They arrived in July but were not able to be identified by the local authorities in time.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- At Thanry, Mouale and Mokabi, around 200 CAR children born in this town still do not have birth certificates. No significant progress: the situation in sub-prefecture of Betou, of CAR children who were born since 2013 to this day, still remains difficult too. CAR parents have problems to declare the births of their children. UNHCR should conduct more advocacy activities address to the authorities in order to reduce the risks of statelessness that these children are exposed.



Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's health partner TSF and UNFPA Bétou organized from 17 to 22 August 2015 a training session about reproductive health for their both staff. Many themes were developed including several components of reproductive health like family planning, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.
- After Impfondo last week, UNHCR Office Betou received from August 18 to August 25, UNHCR Public Health coordinator based in Brazzaville. Our colleague worked on making contact with the managers of health structures, CAR community leaders and local authorities. He also visited localities of Mouale/ Thanry/ Mokabi and acquaint himself with the difficult medical situation of CAR refugees over there.



CAR children suffering from malnutrition, severe cases of marasmus and kwashiorkor, Bétou.

- As part of the vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis in the District of Betou, health authorities in the locality have requested from the Betou's UNHCR office, logistical support to carry out this activity, which cares all children aged from 0 to 59 months, meaning less than five years. So, through health partner Terre Sans Frontières, UNHCR provided them with logistical support to cover the localities located on river and road routes including Ikpengbé.



Focus group sessions with CAR refugees in order to collect informations on their health issues conducted by health teams in the field, Ikpengbele, August 12

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The mission from August 10 to August 25 of the UNHCR's Public Health Coordinator at Doungou's health station, Bétou areas and Impfondo's hospital highlighted the lack of human resources and medical equipment. Sick CAR refugees are facing health care issues especially on nights or weekends.
- During this week and the previous one, health activities have particularly decreased and had effect on awareness. Screening tests are not available in the whole country. Screening tests are currently conducting through UNFPA and unfortunately won't be available at Impfondo for example.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- The partner AARREC proceeded to the water chlorination for a total of 36 wells in the district of Betou Centre and the north since the arrival of the CAR refugees including thirteen (13) at the site of 15 Avril and five (05) at Ikpembélé. All wells are functional.
- At Ikpembele, the partner helped election of two (02) management committees of wells, twelve (12) members have been designated including 06 women.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- However with the extension of the site of 15 Avril and considering the arrival of new families, the number of wells is going to become insufficient and does not answer anymore the need for the concerned populations. 123 shelters where CAR refugees are living are under destruction.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- WFP and its partners launched the monthly food distribution for CAR refugee's communities in Bétou, Impfondo, Botéta, Bobonzo, Bokona, Gangania-rivière and Gangania-brousse. They distributed rice, peas, oil, and salt. WFP is also currently working on the nutritional aspect in refugee areas. Number of beneficiaries in the areas of Impfondo: 931 individuals of 351 CAR families. Here is the program distribution for CAR refugees : Rice (350g / day / 30 days) , peas (120g / day / 30 days) , oil (35 g / day / 30 days) ; salt (10g / day / 30 days) .
- At Ikpengbele, the current situation of many shelters in this site of refugee's resettlement remains worrying condition. Indeed, considering the arrival of new families, the number of wells is going to become insufficient and does not answer anymore the need for the concerned populations. 123 shelters where CAR refugees are living are under destruction.
- The construction works related to extension of the site 15 Avril are still ongoing. Construction of six kitchens is also ongoing.
- Half of the streetlights are not functional at Ikpengbele and 15 Avril
- On the site 15 Avril, the partner AIRD constructed 171 shelters on the 254 initially planned. 200 shelters are covered with straw and 195 shelters with doors / windows.
- We can also note recovery of NFIs distribution at Impfondo since last week after more than six months interruption. At Impfondo, Liranga and Loukolela, from 26 august to 02 September 2015, CAR families received soap, mosquito nets, blankets...

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the arrival of new families and extension of the site 15 Avril, additional latrines units to cover the needs are requested in this area and also at Ikpengbele.
- Refugees would like to receive jerry cans with larger capacity for storing drinking water and other household needs.