

# REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 – 30 April 2016

### KEY FIGURES

**169**

Unaccompanied minors assisted by UNHCR

**57,401**

NFIs distributed

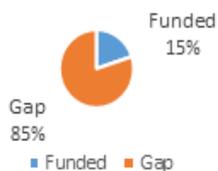
**103**

SGBV survivors who have received support from UNHCR

### FUNDING

**USD 14,113,280**

requested for the operation



### 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.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the beginning of April no distributions of NFIS were made.
- A supplementary feeding program has been provided for 610 CAR children aged 0 to 59 months, including 338 girls.

LOCALITIES	NUMBER
Bétou	17.075
Impfondo	1.206
Ouéssou/Pokola	607
Brazzaville	8.434
Pointe noire	1.469
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.791</b>

# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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## Operational Context

On Monday 04 April, despite the deleterious political and security climate, the Constitutional Court finally published the presidential election results of 20 March. It proclaimed incumbent President Denis Sassou-Nguesso elected at the first round with 60.19%. The security situation didn't impact on the normal course of humanitarian activities.

At the inauguration ceremony which took place on April 16 in Brazzaville and attended by several African heads of state and United Nations Representatives, the newly elect Denis Sassou Nguesso vowed to focus on boosting the economy and tackling youth unemployment.

In the aftermath of President's confirmation as the elected candidate, on April 4, heavy fighting erupted in southern Brazzaville districts between ruling party members and opposition. The army was deployed and thousands of residents fled their homes. Despite heavy security arrangements throughout April month throughout the country, any kind of incident to disrupt the smooth running of UNHCR activities were reported.

## Achievements



### Protection

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#### Achievements and Impact

- From 15 to 22 April 2016, a joint CNAR/UNHCR mission was conducted in localities bordering CAR where CAR refugees were identified and registered during the last verification exercise. The mission was an occasion to meet 2.983 CAR refugees in Thanry, Lopola, Mokabi, Mouale and Lompo. Refugees raised issues related to freedom of movement which is currently being restricted by immigration officers. Birth registration issues have also been identified in all the localities hosting CAR refugees including Betou. The Head of CNAR who was part of the mission raised these issues with departmental authorities in order to find relevant solutions. During this mission, refugees were also sensitized against their involvement in illegal activities such as poaching and illegal traffic between Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.
- SGVB awareness session with 207 CAR refugees at the site of 15 Avril on different types of violence.



### Education

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#### Achievements and Impact

- For 2016 school year, 3,268 CAR refugees including 1,604 girls are enrolled in primary school in the public schools of Bétou Centre and Ikpengbéle. Since the beginning of refugee's student's school integration process in local public schools, UNHCR through its education partner has recruited 60 teachers among which 12 women who receives a monthly salary taken by the partner on UNHCR budget. Each year the partner distributes school supplies to all registered students. It provides a timely and substantial material support to the directions of schools with students.
- UNHCR has built 23 classrooms in 11 school buildings, to which must be added administrative blocks; rehabilitation or building of school latrines, equipping new buildings benches tables and desks for teachers, support for teaching materials.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Overcrowdings in classrooms. The current ratio is 102 students per class and per teacher, whereas the standard according to UNESCO is 45 students per class and teachers.



## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to provide primary health care and essential drugs to health centres through its implementing medical partner Terre Sans Frontières.
- supplementation on Vitamin A and a systematic elimination or treatment of parasites
- The supplementation program have been effective in April 2016. Following a lack of nutritional supplements (plumpy sup, CSB and oil) from World Food Program (WFP) who are currently facing nutritional supplement stock out, WFP country office with the collaboration of UNHCR in Brazzaville took logistical arrangements to issue these commodities in Bétou by river or land routes. Plumpy Sup is a nutritional supplement based on lipids with a high content of vitamins and is designed for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Children meeting the criteria of moderate acute malnutrition need this suitable diet for them to recover normal nutritional status. This plan specifically consider the high needs of nutrients and energy. In late April 2016, the MAM program helped 610 CAR children aged 0 to 59 months, including 338 girls.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Ambulance for emergency management broken down since 52 days
- Lack of adequate number of male and female condoms, Immunocomb serological test and delivery kits.
- Malnutrition remains a serious public health concern in the rural areas. Seven (7) moderate acute malnourished children (MAM) became severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

- Several works were carried out: the construction of 04 wells with hand pumps, one drilling in Ikpembele and 18 wells including 11 with manual pumps and 07 open wells at the site 15 Avril. 04 wells are under construction in the above two sites. At the site of 15 Avril, the average consumption is 11 liters per person/per day. At Ikpembele, the average consumption was 9 liters increased to 13 liters due to the repair of the water pump.
- 475 CAR refugees living in the site of 15 Avril, including 322 adults and 153 children were sensitized to sanitation and food hygiene standards.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The lack of maintenance budget (works on digging and cleaning) wells onto the partner AAREC does not facilitate regular maintenance of wells and poses serious problems of drinking water supply. Decreased level of water during low water on the river Oubangui, affecting wells water table with result the resurgence of diseases linked to water consumption in both sites. With the lower water levels in wells, people tend to use the river for drinking water. This increases the number of cases of diarrhea which represented the last two weeks 12% of medical appointments.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Since the beginning of April no distributions were made. It must be emphasized that the rain season in the area Bétou is a major natural handicap and that it adds transport-related difficulties (outdated trucks with recurring breakdowns) to supply the construction of straw shelters.
- The truck for the transportation of NFIs is old and in bad condition. Weak budget allocated for distribution cannot cover regular distributions; despite the distribution partner 04 staffs dedicated team. Contractors (handlers / distributors) must be recruited for their implementation.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- General food distributions to all CAR refugees, the food basket consisting of cereals (rice), legumes (beans), oil (fortified lives in A and D) iodized salt and super cereals (CSB ++), for a total of 2100 kcal

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The low-water period enables practice of the river only between May and November. That impedes food availability on ground and provisions must be made during that period to make sure rations are available on time for distribution.
- Reduced ration are distributed to refugees

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR activities with broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation.

However, support for higher education requires more funds in the Republic of Congo. The lack of resources to support CAR students enrolled in secondary education led to interruption of their studies at the primary level.

Moreover, UNHCR in the Republic of Congo currently covers less than 30% of needs in NFIs.

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#### Links:

UNHCR operation page

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