

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

UPDATE ON THE CAR REFUGEE SITUATION

March 2017

KEY FIGURES

103,617

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 31 March 2017)

57,989

Of these refugees living in five camps (as of 31 March 2017)

FUNDING

USD 55.3 mio.

requested for the operation



Funded
5%

Gap
95%

PRIORITIES

- Promote self-reliance activities.
- Reinforce host community structures (health centers, schools, etc.) used also by refugees.
- Explore possibilities for durable solutions.

HIGHLIGHTS



CNR distributing refugee certificates after biometric registration in the locality of Banga Loko (North Ubangi province) ©UNHCR/G. Nentobo

- Biometric registration of refugees living in host communities was carried out in Mobay Mbongo territory (North Ubangi province) during the month, starting from the locality of Nzakara, 30 km away from Gbadolite. The operation was preceded by an information campaign carried out through local media. 2,054 households of 8,071 refugees were registered as of 30th March 2017. The operation is meant to continue in Bosobolo territory during April.
- On 28th March, an incursion of an armed group in the village of Gbabato (CAR) pushed around 700 people to cross into DRC, in the locality of Gbamandela (Bosobolo territory), according to information of immigration services (DGM). An UNHCR assessment mission was scheduled for beginning of April.
- USAID visited four refugee camps in North and South Ubangi provinces (Inke, Bili, Mole and Boyabu) in the framework of their support to WFP intervention for CAR refugees. USAID support to WFP for food aid will be complementary to the support for multisectorial support to refugees from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), UNHCR's main donor in DRC and worldwide.
- The airstrip nearby Bili camp (North Ubangi) is now cleared by UNHAS, following the test flight carried on 29th march with a DASH 8. The flight made also possible the delivery of two water pumps that will resolve water supply problems of Bili camp. Access to Bili camp by land is extremely difficult due to the poor state of roads.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- During the period under review, security situation in North and South Ubangi provinces, as well as in Bas-Uélé province, was generally calm. However, several raids of alleged LRA (Lord Resistance Army) elements were reported in Gaya Chiefdom (Bondo territory, Haut-Uele province). They looted mining sites and abducted people to transport the stolen goods.
- Refugees of Inke camp (Gbadolite) requested to receive cash grants instead of food vouchers for the month of April. WFP was planning to shift to cash grant as it is already the case for other refugee camps in the region, but the procedure was still ongoing.
- In Bas-Uélé province, the Congolese National Police (PNC) moved away a camp of Mbororo shepherds, who installed themselves close to Mboti refugee camp. Police around the camp carries out patrols to ensure security.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- On 3rd March, a multi-sectorial Pooled-Fund funded project, was presented at the premises of NGO Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) in Libenge (South Ubangi province). Around 20% of refugees living out of camp will benefit from the project.
- CNR distributed 150 refugee certificates out of 194 printed after regularization of pending cases (family reunifications, newborns, etc.) in the database at Boyabu camp (Libenge). In Zongo, CNR managed to collect from civil registry 108 birth certificates obtained after supplementary judgments in December 2016. The delay in certificate deliverance was due to disagreement around additional fees demanded by civil authorities. Additional fees will be integrated, if this is proven to be necessary, for the next supplementary judgment.
- In Zongo, 17 foster families of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) received food (peanuts, palm oil and manioc) that could be sold in order to start small trade. This will help the families to sustain themselves.
- On 9th- 10th March, a training in international protection was held for local authorities and members of civil society from Bosobolo territory. Refugees, partner staff and staff from NGOs like MSF and ACTED participated as well. The role and mandate of National Commission for Refugees (CNR) was explained as well. Information material was distributed for staff that could not attend.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 100 asylum seekers hosted in Batanga transit center (Libenge) were waiting since four months for decisions on their asylum claims, in the context of the shift to individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) by the authorities. Due to budget constraints, assistance is given on a case-by-case basis to extremely vulnerable persons.
- 28 new arrivals presented themselves at Bili camp expressing their will to be reunified with family members. As they need to be recognized as refugees following individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD), they are temporarily hosted in the camp waiting for individual interviews but they are not entitled to receive assistance.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Libenge, school fees payment was ongoing for refugee students living out of camp. 238 students were assisted out of 350 targeted.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mole camp, students lacked means to pay fees for the final national exam of primary school (TENAFEP). They could not be assisted due to lack of funds.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- On March 9th, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided different types of reproductive health kits to UNHCR Field Unit Libenge (for safe deliveries, gynecological exams and other small chirurgic interventions). This donation is part of UNFPA support to Libenge Health Zone in terms of reproductive health. These kits will benefit up to 30,000 people for three months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Zongo, necessary treatment to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to child was out of stock in the healthcare structures of Zongo health zone. This could imply serious consequences for the newborn from HIV positive mothers.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Bili camp, construction of transitional shelters using cash transfer started during the month. 55 shelters out of 80 planned are at different levels of construction. Construction of 20 transitional shelters for people with specific needs by partner AIRD is planned to start in April.
- In Inke camp, 12 unaccompanied and separated children received clothes, shoes, bed sheets and mattress.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- From 14th to 16th March, in Inke camp and in Inke village, partner ADES carried out sensitizations among refugees and host community about self-reliance activities and about creation of mixed agricultural associations. 270 hectares of land had been given by local landowners for such activities. This approach was highly appreciated by both refugee and host communities who started already to work together.
- In Bili camp, 30 refugees and 30 locals were selected by partner ADES to take part in an agricultural association.
- In Bili camp, partner ADES distributed agricultural tools to 155 refugee households for agricultural activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mole and Mboti camp and in the villages around, seedlings and agricultural tools were insufficient for all the households who demanded them, although the land was available.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- The airstrip nearby Bili camp is now cleared by UNHAS, following the test flight carried on 29th march with a DASH 8. The flight made also possible the delivery of two water pumps that will resolve water supply problems of Bili camp. Access to Bili camp by land is extremely difficult due to the poor state of roads.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR coordinates its assistance with a variety of humanitarian actors, working together to ensure refugees benefit from dignified and efficient protection mechanisms.

- For this operation, UNHCR partners are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, ADSSE and AIDES. Other partners include CARITAS, COOPI, MSF, WFP and WORLD VISION.



Initial phase of biometric registration by UNHCR in the locality of Banga Loko(North Ubangi province)© UNHCR/G.Nentobo



Recording of fingerprints during the registration © UNHCR/G.Nentobo

Donors for CAR refugee response in DRC in 2017

Japan (2.5 M) | UN Fund for Intl Partnerships (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (20.2 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | Belgium (0.3 M)| Private Donors Spain (0.06 M)

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