

# Central African refugee situation

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

September 2017

### Highlights

- Asylum seekers from the Central African Republic continued to arrive in Bas-Uele and Nord Ubangi provinces. National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR have data on 64,000 new asylum seekers who arrived between mid-May and August, while local authorities reported tens of thousands more arrivals in areas of difficult access. This new influx started mid-May and was triggered by violence, tensions and fear about imminent attacks in border areas.
- Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, UNHCR distributed relief items through its partner ADSSE to 4,731 new arrivals in the area of Ndu, (Bas-Uele province), where a big group of new arrivals are located but it is also one of the most difficult areas to be reached. Due to the lack of roads, the relief items had to be transported on bicycles for 115 km.
- A team from partner ADES was deployed in the area of Ndu to identify existing water sources before proceeding with the setup of additional wells and construction of latrines. The teams also carried drugs that were delivered to Ndu medical center and conducted awareness sessions on hygiene and sanitation practices.
- H. R. H. the Princess of Hanover visited Gbadolite on September 26<sup>th</sup> to launch the project “Dignité pour les femmes”. This project aims at improving the access to sanitary pads for vulnerable populations by producing them locally in a sustainable manner, using papyrus and recycled paper has been established in Inke camp (near Gbadolite) thanks to contribution of external partners (AMADE Mondiale, UNWOMEN, Sofibank) and to the support of Brazilian Embassy in Kinshasa. Both refugees and host community will benefit from the project.

#### KEY INDICATORS

## 167,353

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

## 59,526

Of them **living in five camps** (as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

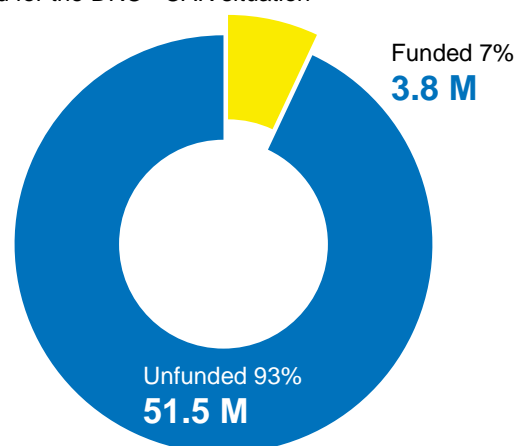
## 64,000

New arrivals starting from mid- May 2017, according to CNR and UNHCR estimates. Figure to be verified.

#### FUNDING (AS OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2017)

## USD 55.3 M

requested for the DRC - CAR situation



## Operational Context

New arrivals from CAR are mainly settled along the rivers Ubangi and Mbomou that constitute the border between CAR and DRC. Access to these areas is extremely difficult, because of lack of infrastructures (most of the bridges are destroyed or missing) and in some cases because of the security situation. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and other armed groups are operating in Bas Uele province.



*Transport of relief items to Ndu by bike because of lack of roads suitable for vehicles © UNHCR/G. Nentobo*



*H.R.H. Princess of Hanover visiting Inke camp © UNHCR/A. Kirchhof*

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- Due to the difficult conditions that new arrivals faced, some refugees were crossing back to CAR on regular basis to reach their fields, which exposed them to high risks. UNHCR, CNR and local authorities are carrying out sensitizations about possible dangers.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 38 refugees from Muslim community installed in Satema (Nord Ubangi province) reported to have been threatened by other refugees and forced to abandon the locality for a nearby village. UNHCR is planning a mission to visit the group.
- A group of 3,000 refugees installed on the shores of Ubangi river moved to Yomba, around 70 km from Gbadolite, after having received threats from CAR armed groups, which had asked them to return home.



### HEALTH

#### Achievements and Impact

- From 13<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September, an inter-agency mission (UNHCR, WHO, IMA, World Vision, DRC Red Cross, ADES and provincial division for Health) was conducted to assess the situation in the Health Zones of Gbadolite, Mobayi Mbongo and Yakoma, where new arrivals are settled. The mission highlighted urgent needs in terms of access to drinking water, basic measures of hygiene, access to health care, shelter and relief items.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) donated 29 boxes of drugs and medical equipment to health zones of Gbadolite, Mobayi Mbongo and Yakoma, that will be supported by UNHCR through its partner ADES in collaboration with Ministry of Health. UNHCR facilitate transport of the boxes. This will benefit both refugee and host community.
- In Mole camp, medical partner ADES distributed treated mosquito nets and buckets to 113 refugee and local women engaged in income generating activities, as well as to 396 persons with specific needs.
- A distribution of treated mosquito nets was ongoing in Mole (8,178) and Boyabu (4,234) camps as well as among out-of-camp refugees (429).
- National Ministry of Health donated medical equipment to UNHCR Zongo, namely an incubator and a fridge for blood bank. This provision will allow to improve healthcare for both refugees and host communities.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- In order to provide a response to the urgent need in food provision for new arrivals in the area of Ndu (Bas-Uele province), partner ADES deployed teams to Ndu and Monga to identify farmers among the refugees and to support them in the preparation of the next agricultural season.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- 600 latrines are planned to be constructed by UNHCR by the end of 2017 in the villages hosting new arrivals in the territories of Yakoma, Mobay Mbongo and Bondo as well as 12 water wells with pumps, among which one is already completed in Mobay.
- 4 water pumps in Bili camp have been rehabilitated and other three have been constructed in surrounding villages.
- 423 family latrines (in addition to the 260 planned and completed for 2017) are planned to be constructed by refugee households, supported by a cash grant, in the four camps of Bili, Mole, Inke and Boyabu.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, UNHCR distributed relief items (mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, plastic sheets) to 4,731 new arrivals in the area of Ndu (Bas-Uele province). This distribution targeted the most vulnerable among both refugee and local communities.
- For refugee households who collected construction materials for building their own shelter but that could not benefit from the first round of assistance for shelter in 2017, a second round of cash assistance is planned to support 500 additional households to build their own shelters in the four camps of Bili, Mole, Inke and Boyabu. Selection of beneficiaries is ongoing.
- 634 emergency shelters and 600 latrines are planned to be constructed for new arrivals in the territories of Yakoma, Mobay Mbongo and Bondo.
- 17 containers of clothing, donated by the Japanese fashion firm UNIQLO have started to be dispatched from Zongo to the four camps of Mole (4 containers), Boyabu (4 containers), Bili (3 containers) and Inke (2 out of 6). Social partner ADSSE is carrying out inventory, before planning the distribution to refugees and host community.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More relief items for new arrivals are needed. Humanitarian actors present in the area are pulling together efforts under UNHCR coordination in order to strengthen the emergency response. Additional relief items arrived in Dungu (Haut-Uele) from Kampala at the beginning of July are still on the road due to the bad road conditions, although arrival in the targeted localities of Monga, Kanzawi and Ndu (Bas-Uele province) is scheduled in the coming days.

### 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, TSF, WFP and WORLD VISION.

### External / Donors Relations

#### Donors for CAR refugee response in DRC in 2017

Japan (2.5 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

#### Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (28.4 M) | Belgium (1.5 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 M) | France (0.5 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.05 M)

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### LINKS

[Regional portal for CAR situation](#) - [DRC page for CAR situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#) – [UNHCR Story: Home is close, but so far away for Central African Republic refugees](#)