



**INTER-AGENCY REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REFUGEE EMERGENCY
IN THE NORTHERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**

MARCH-DECEMBER 2021

NOTE:

The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

All statistics are provisional and subject to change. Except where indicated otherwise, all population figures provided in this report are as of March 2021.

PHOTO CONTENT:

Central African refugees departing a Core Relief Item distribution in Yakoma, Democratic Republic of the Congo © UNHCR/Helene Caux

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Foreword

The new refugee influx from the Central African Republic (CAR), underlines the cyclical nature of this humanitarian crisis, with influxes recurring every four years, which calls for a deeper reflection on how to respond. Conflict and insecurity inside CAR continue to cause significant forced displacement both within CAR and into neighboring countries, particularly affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The deterioration of the security situation coinciding with rising tensions during election years (2013, 2017 and 2020) has now left about five per cent of the entire population of the CAR displaced inside the DRC. In the recent influx, according to local authorities in the DRC, some 92,000 Central African refugees fled to the DRC giving rise to a new and complex emergency. This is in addition to the existing CAR population already living in northern DRC.

This **Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** seeks to address the complex needs of an increasing number of CAR refugees and asylum-seekers situated in a vast area that poses huge logistical challenges.

The protracted nature of the crisis is also heavily impacting the host populations with refugees situated in some of the most poverty stricken and underserved areas of the DRC that lack adequate access to services. While the local community has been generous, this refugee crisis compounds protection risks to refugees and asylum-seekers as it creates fertile ground for tensions over resources between refugees and host communities.

The Government of the DRC and RRP partners have scaled up efforts to provide protection and humanitarian assistance, save lives, improve living conditions and reinforce the resilience of Central African refugees and their host communities.

A comprehensive humanitarian response has been developed that addresses life-threatening needs and promotes, as much as possible, sustainable approaches and builds on an out-of-camp approach to benefit refugee and host communities alike. The RRP partners do so by enhancing synergies, ensuring compatibility with planned development activities in the region, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees. Making this link is critical due to the challenges the region faces, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the significant logistical challenges in the areas where the refugees have settled.

In this Inter-Agency plan, coordinated by UNHCR and the DRC Government, RRP partners are appealing for a total of US\$ 69 million to assist around 92,000 new refugees and close to 100,000 host community members in 2021.

As part of this RRP, 16 partners will strive to jointly use their resources and bring their expertise to bear. Funding for this Inter-Agency plan will determine the amount of assistance that can be provided by RRP partners. Therefore, we count on the much-needed support of international community to realize the activities as set out in this Inter-Agency Response Plan, to address the unfolding emergency.

Eric Malu Mukandila

Permanent Secretary, National Commission for
Refugees, Ministry of the Interior, Democratic
Republic of the Congo

Liz Kpam Ahua

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PLANNED RESPONSE

MARCH – DECEMBER 2021



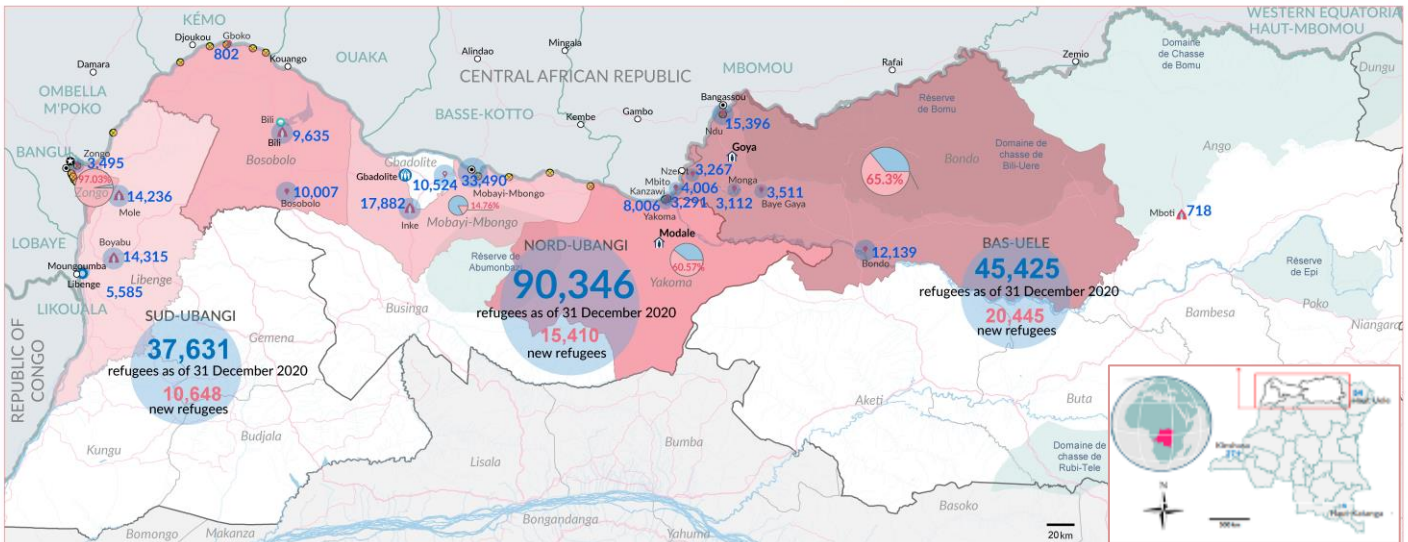
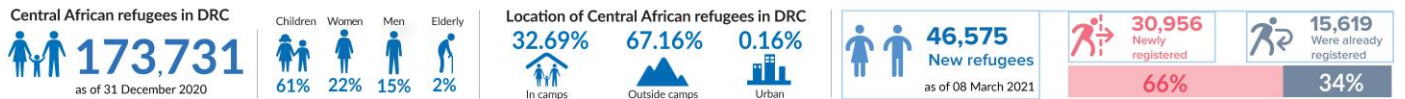
92,000
PROJECTED
REFUGEE
POPULATION¹



US\$ 69 M
REQUIREMENTS

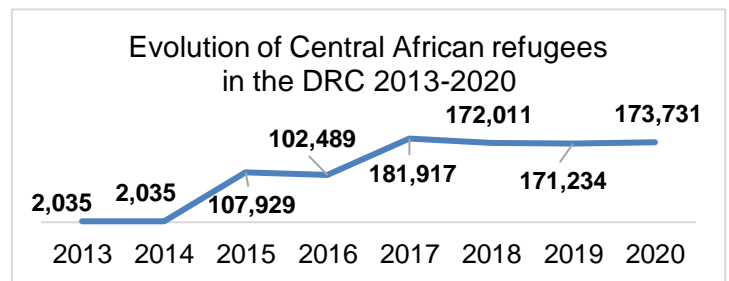
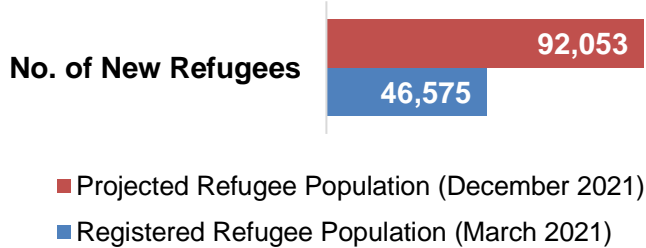


16
PARTNERS
INVOLVED²

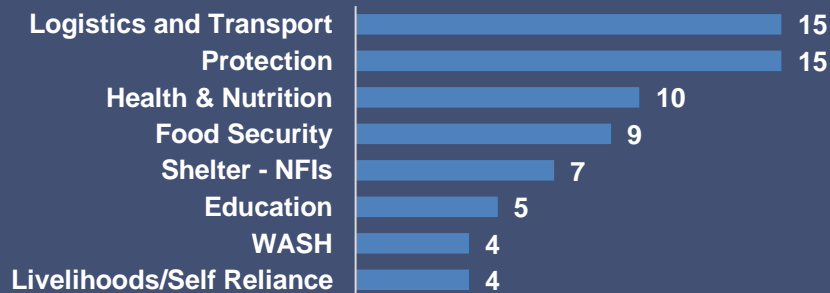


Printing date: 8 March 2021 | Sources: UNHCR, partners and RGC | Author: UNHCR - Kinshasa | Feedback: codfdr@drc.unhcr.org | The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Refugee Population Trends



Requirements by Sector | in millions \$



¹ The figure 92,000 is expected to be the number of new Central African Refugees that will be registered by UNHCR by the end of 2021 based on the estimate of the DRC authorities (totalling 92,053), which is additional to the existing caseload of 173,731 CAR refugees living in the DRC

² This includes the four appealing partners in this RRP, and in addition those implementing partners who are working together for the implementation of the response activities.

Situation Overview

Situation in the Central Africa Republic (Country of Origin)

A resurgence of violence in the southern Central African Republic in December 2020, led to refugee outflows into the northern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The outflows were an addition to the CAR refugees already residing in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas-Uele, that had arrived in 2013 and 2017.

Situation in the DRC (Country of Asylum)

As of 31 December 2021, a total of 173,931 refugees were registered in the North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas-Uele provinces of the DRC. By 31 January 2021 however, some 92,053 new CAR refugees had crossed over into the three DRC provinces, according to border authorities' sources. The security situation in parts of Bas Uele province, host to 70,000 refugees (40,000 registered by UNHCR) is challenging due to the presence of armed groups, although their activities are further to the east of the province and are very unlikely to impact the new arrivals.

Operational Context in the DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is plagued by continued instability and is classified as the 8th Least Developed Country (LDC) with 72 per cent of its population living on less than \$1.60 a day in 2018.³ Refugees from the Central African Republic reside in some of the most underserved areas in the DRC with poor road networks and limited access to basic services. Although it is possible to use the waterways for transport purposes, attacks by armed groups along the Ubangi and Mbomou rivers have made such a prospect increasingly difficult. The social infrastructure is also incapable of sustaining large population increases with some areas completely devoid of any social infrastructure. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has weakened coping mechanisms among refugees and host communities, as many people have lost their sources of livelihoods. In addition, the area is prone to flooding during the rainy season (late March to early November), which significantly hampers transport and makes it difficult to access markets.

Protection Analysis

Two main trends can be observed in the influx of Central African refugees: some claim to have fled as a preventive measure, while a large majority have been forced to flee after being subjected to exactions and looting of their property by rebels. Today, these new arrivals are settled along the border rivers with CAR, exposing themselves to serious security risks, including physical attacks and retaliation that could be perpetrated in the very likely event of incursions by CAR rebels into these spontaneous sites. Other refugees live with host families who are themselves already facing severe poverty, but who make the sacrifice of sharing extremely scarce resources.

The refugee community is predominantly consisting of women and children. The population also includes many persons with specific needs, such as persons with serious medical conditions, unaccompanied or separated children, women at-risk, elderly at-risk, and survivors of SGBV. The participatory assessments conducted with focus groups of refugee men, women, and children, revealed that some of these new arrivals are still very traumatized by the events they experienced before and during their flight to the DRC: some of them still have physical after-effects. Nevertheless, the new arrivals face the lack of basic services in the sites where they found shelter. In general, children do not have access to education and the majority of refugees have very difficult access to various resources (material, financial). The deprivation they face can be a contributing factor to harmful coping mechanisms, including survival sex.

Although the newly arrived refugees were welcomed by the host community, the fact that there are more refugees in some reception sites than members of the host communities is potentially a conflict-generating factor that requires effective protection monitoring, as well as the establishment of efficient programmes for peaceful coexistence in the short term. New arrivals are considered by the government as asylum seekers and therefore the documentation they receive upon registration is the "*Attestation de Demandeur d'Asile*", which is valid for only three months. UNHCR has advocated to the Government of the DRC that all new arrivals be granted prima facie refugee status.

³ Source: World Bank

Risk Analysis

The arrival of the ex-president Francois Bozize, and his intention to participate in the 27 December 2020 elections in CAR led to an escalation of tensions immediately before and following the elections. This resulted in the prevalent insurgency which is expected to continue in the future. The capital Bangui remains relatively stable although this could change and result in the forced displacement of more than 100,000 persons in the DRC.

Since their arrival, refugees have spontaneously settled on the riverbanks along the border with CAR, until a more permanent relocation can be arranged further away from the border in keeping with Government policy. Despite the current numbers of new arrivals (of 92,053 as per the Government of the DRC), local authorities do not favour prima facie recognition and prefer individual refugee status determination. This could negatively impact the right to freedom of movement of the refugees and given the very short duration of the identification documentation they hold, in particular the " asylum seekers' certificates, valid for 3 months".

Other risks with a high probability of occurrence include:

- Exposure to and high prevalence of water-borne, endemic, and epidemic diseases, including COVID-19
- Abuse and exploitation including cases of GBV
- Loss of the civilian character of refugee camps/areas/villages
- Conflict between refugees and host communities
- Lack of biometric registration could lead to some host community members included in assistance

RRP partners will prioritise mitigation of these risks through advocacy, capacity support to the CNR and legal institutions, and ensuring that refugees have documentation. In addition, border surveillance- and protection monitoring will be reinforced

Entry Points into the DRC

CAR refugees and asylum seekers are spread along the borders and clustered around both official border crossings and at least 30 unofficial entry points between the DRC and the CAR.

In **North Ubangi Province**, the entry points for CAR refugees and asylum seekers from the prefectures of Basse-Kotto, Ouaka and Kemo in the Central African Republic are:

- Pandu, Gboko, Dokove, Gboduna, Sidi, Gbangi and Dula in Bosobolo
- Bangaloko, Lembo, Mobayi-Mbongo, Nzakara, Gbiaka, Yomba and Satema in Mobayi-Mbongo
- Kpetene, Mogoro, and Kambo in Gbadolite council area
- Limassa, Legon, and Yakoma

In **South Ubangi Province**, the entry points are:

- Zongo (Congo River, Port REGIDESO, Mbayi, Maba, Ngele and the surrounding areas) due to its proximity to Bangui
- Libenge and Worobe
- Batanga (for refugees coming from an influx from the prefecture of Lobaye)

In **Bas-Uele Province**, the entry points are:

- Kanzawi, Nzeret, Ndu, Bakpolo, Dengu, Adama, Bulumasi in Bondo
- Zapay in Ango

Central African refugees prepare breakfast early morning in Ndu, DRC. © UNHCR/Hélène Caux



Inter-Agency Response

This **Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** for the Central African refugees in the DRC outlines the multi-partner comprehensive response strategy and related financial requirements of 16 partners supporting the Congolese authorities to provide protection and assistance to 92,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in need of urgent protection and assistance in 2021.

In the biometric registration conducted by UNHCR in conjunction with the CNR as of 9 March 2021 some 46,575 refugees have been biometrically registered. They are settled in Bas Uele (Ndu, Yele, Bangalo, Ibangu, and Nyanji areas), North Ubangi (Yakoma area) and South Ubangi (Sagila area). According to the Government of the DRC, some 92,000 CAR refugees have arrived in the DRC. UNHCR will work with RRP partners to relocate at least 25,000 of these refugees within the first 12 months of the response. An intentions survey will be conducted to assess the uptake of the relocation.

All organizations involved in this RRP, led by UNHCR and the Government of the DRC, are committed to ensuring that CAR refugees and asylum-seekers in the DRC have access to protection and humanitarian assistance, in keeping with the UNHCR Protection Strategy (2020 – 2025 and the Government of the DRC National Strategic Development Plan, 2019 – 2023 (NSDP). In line with the NSDP, the RRP partners will work with the Government to include refugees in the national protection system, and in the development and security plans and promote a comprehensive implementation of the emergency response plan.

In line with the out-of-camp policy, existing villages and localities with administrative structures are being selected jointly with local authorities to serve as relocation sites, or so-called “Settlements of Hope” where refugees will be settled jointly with the host communities. The choice of these villages is based on the fact that they are part of the national development plans, and sectoral plans for health and education for instance. Here, RRP partners will improve existing social services to a level that will permit a better absorption of the population increase due to the relocation exercise”. This is in line with the Global Compact on Refugees approach that has been embraced by the DRC Government, UN Agencies and the humanitarian community.

Given the previous agreement between UNHCR and the Government of the DRC that aims to ensure that all refugees are relocated away from border⁴, RRP partners will support implementation of activities to facilitate the relocation of some 25,000 new refugees away from the border areas to more secure areas in Modale (10,000), Bosobolo (10,000) and Zongo (5,000). A three-phased approach has been adopted, starting with reception and temporary settlement of new arrivals, relocation of refugees to new sites and assistance of refugees at new sites. Within this context, some of the refugees, particularly the most vulnerable, will be moved to already existing refugee sites, while others will be settled in the “Settlements of Hope”.

A further 10,000 from the Bondo area, who were initially supposed to be relocated to Goya, will be catered to within the Bondo communities through community-based approaches. The RRP partners envisage that despite awareness-raising on the dangers involved in residing close to the border, there will be a significant number of refugees (mainly fishermen/ women) who may opt to stay along the riverbanks at the border.

Following the relocation exercise, emphasis will be placed on improving coping mechanisms, including livelihoods, access to community and social infrastructures and establishing a good quality of public services (mostly health and WASH services), as well as means of production (agricultural lands and farming tools). These actions are area-based and the various assessments that took place⁵ have shown the most urgent needs to be: Protection, including registration and documentation, child protection and prevention and response to SGBV; shelter; access to water, sanitation and hygiene; access to health and education services; availability of food and non-food items; security and peaceful coexistence; nutrition, and support for persons with specific needs.

In line with the Government of the DRC directives concerning COVID-19, all activities will, as much as possible, be implemented in compliance with COVID-19 prevention and response measures, including social distancing measures, wearing of masks, regular washing of hands, and other hygiene protocols. The RRP


⁴ UNHCR 2020-2025 Protection Strategy (UNHCR and the Government of the DRC aim to relocate some refugees to at least 50km away from international borders to ensure minimum protection risks).






⁵ For instance, the joint multisectoral evaluation mission of CNR/UNHCR/WFP in Yakoma, 18-29 January 2021.

partners will also strictly comply with the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies.

Protection monitoring will also be strengthened to monitor and minimize human rights violations and other protection risks faced by refugees, particularly in the border areas.

Beneficiaries

	CAR Refugee Population as of Dec. 2020	New Influx (Registered) as of 9 March 2021	No. of new Asylum Seekers (Local Government Figures)	Projected New Arrivals / Population by the end of 2021 ⁶
Assisted Refugee Population				
CAR Refugees in the DRC	173,731	46,575	92,053	92,000
Assisted Host Population				
	100,000	-	-	100,000
Total	273,731	46,575	92,053	192,000

Disaggregated Data		% of the projected new arrivals / refugee population (based on the profile of the current refugee population)		
Women and girls	Men and boys	Children (0-17)	Elderly (60+)	Persons with disabilities
				
55%	45%	63%	2.5%	2%

⁶ The figure 92,000 is expected to be the number of new Central African Refugees that will be registered by UNHCR by the end of 2021 based on the estimate of the DRC authorities (totalling 92,053), which is additional to the existing caseload of 173,731 CAR refugees living in the DRC



Needs Analysis

The lack of documentation, challenges with registration, proximity to the border with CAR, threats to the civilian character of the settlements, and the risk of refoulement are key risks that increase vulnerability. Based on the local authorities' estimate of 92,000 new arrivals, about 55 per cent of the new arrivals are not yet biometrically registered. The number of identified survivors of SGBV, as well as large numbers of unaccompanied and separated children are a major cause for concern. The three provinces hosting the refugees, namely Sud Ubangi, Nord Ubangi and Bas Uele are among the most underserved areas in the DRC, with limited access to basic social infrastructure and lack of access to opportunities and livelihoods. This dearth of access to livelihoods, the economic standing of the local population and the financial vulnerabilities exhibited by refugees in combination with potential tensions with host communities pose a significant threat to providing meaningful assistance to the refugees. The lack of schools means that children of school going age have no access to education and limited protective spaces for children. Low enrollment rates could lead to child pregnancies and other child protection issues.

On average, each refugee receives as little as 5 to 8 liters of potable water per day. Latrine coverage is insufficient and could get worse with the rainy season (March – November) due to floods causing latrines to collapse. The average latrine coverage is 120 persons per latrine as opposed to one latrine per household in some camps. Open defecation is a serious problem that is compounded by inadequate hygiene practices, in part due to lack of provision of soap and water. The health and nutrition status of many of the new arrivals is problematic with very limited health screening services at the entry points and reception centres. Indeed, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) around the reception areas is over 10 per cent which is also a cause for great concern. This is a risk factor for the outbreak of measles, polio and yellow fever among other epidemics. Children have also exhibited high rates of anemia, which requires urgent treatment.

Regarding the nutrition status, the new arrivals show high levels of food insecurity which is exacerbated by delays in commencement of food supply to them. The refugees are heavily dependent on harvesting firewood from the nearby forest to help them with cooking and lighting. They also depend on the same forest to gather

materials for the construction of their houses but face significant dangers from lawless elements. Reliance on wood from the forest is also likely to lead to deforestation and increase tensions with host communities. The need for shelter remains significant while Non-Food Items for refugees are critical. Given the economic status of host communities, and the limited resources they have to share with refugees, RRP partners plan to implement some Quick Impact Projects to benefit the refugees as well as host communities to ensure peaceful co-existence.

Response Strategy and Priorities

Under the overall coordination of the Government of the DRC (through the CNR) and UNHCR, this RRP is a multi-sectoral and protection-centred response that promotes access to territory and asylum, protection from effects of armed conflict, humanitarian assistance and opportunities for durable solutions and self-reliance.

The focus will be on the following three overarching strategic objectives:

Strategic Objective (1): Assist the Congolese Government in ensuring that refugees benefit from a favourable protection environment and are able to enjoy asylum, in line with international protection standards.

Strategic Objective (2): Provide access to basic goods and essential services (health, nutrition, WASH, education, shelters, CRIs, food) for the newly arrived Central African refugees, including the host community whenever applicable.

Strategic Objective (3): Promote equitable access to opportunities and increasing self-sufficiency for refugees and host communities to better cope with shocks.

In line with these three **strategic objectives**, the RRP is structured following a **multi-sectoral approach**:

Protection

Reception and Registration, Documentation

RRP partners will work with the CNR and other partners to establish reception areas to receive refugees. Transit centres will be equipped to ensure that refugees with specific needs receive the necessary assistance and food and water during relocation from the border areas and that COVID-19 responses are taken into account in planning. RRP partners will advocate with the government to recognize the new Central Africans as refugees on a “*prima facie*” basis. However, at this moment, the Government of the DRC foresees the use of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for some special cases. Biometric registration of refugees will be done to safeguard the accuracy and authenticity of statistics. The identification of persons with specific needs will be done during the registration process, with the participation of the implementing partners involved in the social and medical fields. Referral systems will also be established for refugees. The refugees will be registered on an individual basis, relocated, and provided with multi-sectoral assistance, in the form of CBIs, Shelters, CRIs, Food, WASH, Health and HIV services, and Education.

Areas of Settlement

RRP partners plan to use a dual camps and out-of-camps approach to ensure that refugees are protected. Camps and new sites/settlements in North and South Ubangi provinces will be prepared to receive some newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. Modale, Bosobolo and Zongo areas have been identified as relocation sites or “Settlements of Hope” and are being developed to host the refugees. RRP partners will advocate with local authorities/traditional rulers for the provision of agricultural sites for the new arrivals prior to their relocation in the “Settlements of Hope”.

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of the DRC, refugees must relocate from the border areas to villages meeting the minimum standards of security. The CNR and local authorities will take the lead in the awareness-raising and communication with refugees about their relocation to the identified settlements. All practical ways will be used to move refugees to new sites, considering the extreme challenges in transportation and logistics, including the bad conditions of roads and poor quality of bridges.

Child Protection

Given the risks faced by children during flight (such as violence, abuse, and exploitation), as well as difficulties in accessing education, basic social services and recreational activities, emphasis will be put on protecting children. The Protection/ Education thematic group will put in place a coordination mechanism specifically for child protection that will focus on inclusion in local child protection systems, while filling gaps to address the needs of children particularly at risk, including separated and unaccompanied children, and supporting family reunification and alternative care where needed, guided by best interest principles.

Child protection interventions, especially mental health and psychosocial support through mobile and fixed child friendly spaces, will target refugee children as well as children from the host communities. Partners will assess the risks of forced recruitment and coordinate access to country level rights and reporting mechanisms.

GBV Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response

Reports of gender-based violence (GBV) coming from CAR have been worrying. Partners will engage in GBV prevention, mitigation and response with a survivor centred approach and strengthening quality services and referrals, to ensure that all newly identified survivors are taken care of immediately, and that where they settle is safe.

Partners will coordinate their efforts in the prevention of GBV, ensuring zero tolerance is always promoted, setting up effective inter-sectoral community feedback mechanisms and informing communities on where to report.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

All RRP partners have zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and will not tolerate its staff, volunteers, associates of any type or their designates engaging sexual exploitation or abuse. RRP partners recognize that women, children, persons with specific needs and other vulnerable adults are particularly at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and are committed to protecting them and their communities at large from SEA.

This will be done by ensuring confidentiality, ensuring zero tolerance and maximising respect for survivors and refugees in general. RRP partners will also be encouraged to create a safe culture at the workplace where staff members can speak out against unethical behaviour. They will ensure coordination with the national level PSEA network.

Protection of Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

Persons with Specific Needs will need to be identified upon arrival to plan assistance and address protection needs. Thus far, pre-registration has allowed identification of separated and unaccompanied children, older persons, women single parents, persons living with disabilities and chronically ill, who all need special assistance and protection. Community structures and protection focal points will continue with the identification work once the refugees have settled. Participatory Assessments based on Age, Gender and Diversity will help in understanding the nature of the challenges newly arriving refugees face and how best to address them.

Community Empowerment

RRP partners will work with local leadership to provide protection assistance and basic needs and essential services, while enhancing opportunities for development of self-sustaining systems across the board. Partners will do this through:

- Strengthening partnerships with refugee and host communities
- Enhancing community leadership
- Ensuring a holistic approach to address protection challenges

- Focusing on enhancing coping mechanism
- Implementing risk-based programming

RRP partners will promote community self-management through the establishment of refugee committees including women, men, youth, and ensure the equal engagement of host communities. They will encourage participation, accountability, and two-way communication.

Health and Nutrition

The health zones in which refugees have settled are difficult to access. They are located and spread over a vast geographical area along the border rivers (1000 Km) resulting in numerous accessibility challenges. The health situation is characterized by a variety of endemic diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, and typhoid fever, as well as risks of epidemics such as ebola, other haemorrhagic fevers, measles, cholera and the COVID-19 pandemic. The weaknesses of the national health system include not having adequate numbers of health facilities to cover the vast geographical area, poor quality of infrastructures, lack of essential medicine, lack of medical equipment, depletion of medical supplies, and few qualified medical practitioners. As a result, the health system is incapable of meeting the challenges and the additional critical health demands posed by the refugee influx. There is also a need to augment referral mechanisms to secondary health and tertiary care and special programmes such as HIV/reproductive health services, Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses (IMCI), Expanded Programme of immunization (EPI), nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and mental health.

Therefore, there is need to improve the health system to cater to the health needs of refugees and host populations, including ensuring optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services and improving their nutritional well-being as well as with contingency capacities of responding potential serious disease outbreaks.

The RRP partners will ensure complementarity of implementation within the context of the national public health framework, minimise duplication and ensure inclusion in the national health care system.

Education

Emphasis will be placed on facilitating access to primary education for school-age refugee and host community children. Capacity support will be provided to existing schools/ learning centres through rehabilitation of classrooms, setting up of temporary learning spaces, and teacher training on psychosocial support and child centred learning, support to teacher salaries, provision of scholastic materials (such as desks, teaching aids and textbooks), and community engagement, awareness campaigns aimed at encouraging parents and children to enrol and to stay in school.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

A comprehensive hydrogeological survey will be conducted to inform sustainable groundwater extraction and minimize the environmental impact. RRP partners aim to ensure the supply of at least 15 liters per day in the short term by upgrading handpumps while targeting a shift to a low cost and low carbon print solar powered water supply distribution network in the long run. They will also increase water storage capacity at household level to 30 litres, by providing core relief items (CRIs) either in cash or in kind. In consultation with community services and refugees' structures, community hygiene promoters will be recruited, trained, and supported (one hygiene promoter to a maximum of 500 individuals) to raise awareness on best hygiene practices, disease, and COVID-19 prevention.

Appropriate handwashing devices will be provided to households to promote proper and frequent hand hygiene at the household level as a COVID-19 preventive measure. Soap will be distributed in-kind at the onset of the emergency. However, considering the enormous logistics challenges, cash will be favoured for long term provision of soap and handwashing facilities. Upgradable emergency cloth-washing points with adequate drainage and lines will be provided. This will subsequently be upgraded to durable structures. A

community-based approach will be facilitated for the cleaning and management of the site. Cash will be provided, at all phases of the response, for the provision of menstrual hygiene kits to women and girls of reproductive age.

NFI Shelter & Core Relief Items

Upon relocation to the sites/ camps, refugees will be accommodated in a transit centres, where they will remain for a period of time, after which they will be provided with family plots and building materials that will allow them to construct transitional shelters. Subsequently they will receive cash grants to transform the shelters to semi-permanent housing.

Food Security

Food is scarce in the area of settlement. RRP partners will therefore provide emergency food assistance to refugees and host communities, while ensuring all affected populations re-build livelihood capacities. Partners will thus work together to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and while enabling host communities to accommodate the new arrivals without impacting their own food security. This assistance will initially take the form of unconditional assistance to meet the most urgent needs, either through cash assistance or direct food assistance. Later and where possible, food-for-work and cash-for-work type assistance will be introduced. After confirmation of the production and delivery capacities of local markets, the food distributed will to the extent possible, be selected and purchased locally.

Livelihoods, Self-reliance, and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Regarding the livelihoods and food security sector, RRP partners are working with local authorities, the private sector, specialised institutions and civil society organisations (CSOs) to support refugees and host communities in order to enhance and strengthen their agricultural livelihoods and improve food availability. Agriculture will be an integral part of the response, to prevent food insecurity and reduce dependency on food assistance. RRP partners will provide essential agricultural kits and support vegetable production through small-scale irrigation. Support to backyard poultry keeping, and fishing activities will also be reinforced. As part of these interventions, RRP partners will ensure prudent natural resource management, environmental protection, and energy saving.

RRP partners will also advocate for equitable access to opportunities in line with the National Strategic Development Plan (2019 – 2023), and other local-level development plans, for both refugees and host communities to enhance their coping mechanisms.

Agriculture

RRP partners will support refugees and host communities in implementing sustainable agricultural practices by advocating for access to arable land specifically for the refugees. Partners will also facilitate land use, advise on the use of appropriate technologies and, to the extent possible, promote markets for products. Partners will also encourage sustainable production to guarantee stable food supply at both household and community level.

Fisheries

The two rivers in the refugee hosting sites are fishing sites for refugees and host communities. RRP partners will support fishing activities which play an important role in terms of providing a valuable means of livelihoods for refugees and host communities, most of whom do not possess production assets. Fishing also constitutes a significant level of household food security in the refugee hosting areas. RRP partners will therefore provide technical support and training to refugees and host communities in sustainable fishing, fisheries resource management, ecosystem conservation, food security and livelihoods. It is envisaged that promoting fishing and fishery products will greatly boost the local economy, create livelihoods opportunities, and improve standards of living for refugees and host communities.



Central African refugees next to their shelter in the village of Ndu, Bas Uele Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. © UNHCR/Alexis Huguet

Planned Response Activities

Sector	Response Activities
 <p>Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Overall coordination: registration, documentation, GBV/PSEA, relocation, security, family reunification, PSN, peaceful coexistence, hygiene kits, psychosocial support. • UNICEF: Child protection, creation of child friendly spaces (including "safe spaces" for girls and teenagers), referral and/or assistance of vulnerable children or children victims of violence; psychosocial support, assistance of child victims of violence including GBV; Identification, transitional care, family tracing/reunification for UASC; capacity building of social workers for child protection monitoring. • WVI: Peaceful coexistence, support referral and care of survivors, mental and psychosocial health; support for survivors' socio-economic reintegration.
 <p>Health & Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Coordination, construction of health facilities, evaluation, supply essential drugs, emergency kits, referral mechanisms, capacity building, surveillance of communicable disease/epidemics, support to sexual and reproductive health -HIV services and clinical management of sexual violence.⁷ • UNICEF: Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness (IMNCI), light rehabilitation / equipment of health centres; support to the organization of advanced strategies for free medical care for host communities and refugees; support the implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) activities; SAM case management, emergency infant and young child feeding; support the implementation of nutritional survey; Support Nutritional Surveillance, Food Security and Early Warning (SNSAP). • WFP: Nutrition. • UNFPA: Reproductive health, GBV, PSEA and supply of reproductive health kit. • WHO: Preparedness and response outbreak; institutional capacity of the national health system. • WVI: Assistance with drugs, payment of providers' premiums, support for integrated disease surveillance and response (vaccination, etc.).
 <p>Food Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP: Food Assistance/Distribution. • FAO: Self Reliance in food security (seeds and agricultural/fisheries tools and equipment). • ACTED: Food Assistance/Distribution, Food for Work.
 <p>Shelter & CRIs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Coordination, Shelter construction/rehabilitation, distribution of shelter construction/rehabilitation kits, transit centres and distribution of Core Relief Items.⁸ • IOM: Site Planning and site preparation, shelter construction/rehabilitation.

⁷ In partnership with organizations AIRD and AIDES

⁸ In partnership with AIRD

Sector	Response Activities
 <p>WASH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Coordination, water resource assessment, construct/rehabilitate-install of water supply-distribution points, establish water management teams, conduct water treatment, distribute rehabilitation and construction kits, construct sanitation facilities, distribution construction-rehabilitation kits for sanitation facilities, hygiene promotion campaigns, COVID-19 prevention-response, hygienic kits to women of childbearing age.⁹ • UNICEF: Rehabilitation of water points in host community areas, construction-rehabilitation of sanitation facilities (emergency latrines and showers), hygiene promotion, distribution of emergency WASH kits and personal hygiene kits for women and girls, establishment or revitalization of community committees for the management of water and sanitation infrastructure, construction of latrines with hand washing system and semi-sustainable showers in health facilities and distribution of kits for digging latrines for vulnerable families in host communities. • WVI: Community mobilisation on best practices, construction of water points.
 <p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Coordination, assessment of children of primary school age (materials and resources needed), teacher training, teacher salaries, distribution of school kits, support emergency education for primary school children, improve school infrastructures (equipment / desks / tables / benches, etc.) in camps/ settlements, construction/ rehabilitation of inclusive educational facilities. • UNICEF: Temporary classrooms, scholastic materials (furniture, uniforms, and kits), Psycho-recreational activities, capacity building for teacher, distribution of learning and teaching supplies to students and teachers, community engagement around schools, child protection in schools, establishment of a semi-permanent classroom or classroom rehabilitation and catch up classes.
 <p>Livelihoods and Self-reliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Community mobilization, feedback mechanisms, Participatory needs assessment/planning/evaluation, Multi-Sector Market Assessment and profiling of Population, access to agriculture, livestock/fishery production, advocacy for land, tools, seed and agricultural technics training, sectorial cash grant for business (training, coaching, start-up cash grant for petty trades, Vocational training/technical). • ACTED: Market analysis, IGAs training, IGAs kits distribution, Agricultural training, Agricultural seeds/tools distribution. • WVI: Assistance in agricultural and fishing kits, assistance in value chain activity start-up kits.
 <p>Logistics & Telecoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: Vehicle acquisition and maintenance, warehousing, solar energy equipment, airfreight, water carriers • IOM: Transport/ relocation of refugees

⁹ In partnership with ACTED



Partnership and Coordination

This RRP will encompass 16 partners working together, including nine organizations implementing UNHCR activities. While the implementing partners are not appealing for funds themselves, they are included in the overall number of 16 partners as they play a vital role in the response being on the ground in the remote areas of operation where the refugees are settled. The plan is coordinated by the Government of DRC (Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés - CNR) and UNHCR in the DRC and will be managed in accordance with Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). RRP partners have established a close working relationship with the CNR, which is the Government of the DRC institution entrusted with refugee management. Efforts will be put in place to strengthen coordination and monitoring mechanisms at national, provincial, and local levels.

The CNR and UNHCR have put in place regular coordination meetings with partners at the national level and sector-level meetings at the provincial and local levels to calibrate the intervention in a coherent and cost-effective manner. In that regard, sectoral coordination groups will be co-chaired by RRP partners at provincial and local level in the areas of (i) Protection / Education / Relocation; (ii) Health / Nutrition; (iii) Food security / Livelihood; (iv) Wash / Shelter/ CRIs; (v) Logistics / Supply. Importantly, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator's office has been working closely with RRP partners to enhance synergies and complementarities among UN agencies as well as NGO partners and ensure the best possible outcomes as outlined in this plan.

The strategic objectives were informed by both rapid needs' assessments conducted at field level as well as strategic level Inter-Agency meetings of all RRP partners convened by UNHCR in the DRC.

RRP partners are also working closely with development partners and have held consultations with partners, such the World Bank and the Fond Social de la République Démocratique du Congo (FSRDC). So far, proposed action in support of the response plan by development partners include support to education, prevention of GBV, support to the existing health infrastructure and social economic inclusion.

Partnering by Sector

Organisation ¹⁰	Sector (s)
ACTED	WASH, Food Security, Livelihoods
ADSSE	Education, Peace coexistence, Child Protection and Protection of Persons with Specific Needs
AIDES	Health/Nutrition/HIV, SGBV (medical and psychological assistance), Peace Building Coexistence, Livelihood, Self Reliance, Reproductive health, Livelihoods
AIRD	Shelter, Logistics
FAO	Food Security
IOM	Site Planning, shelter, Transport/Relocation
IEDA-Relief	WASH
MAGNA	Health (mobile clinic), Medical protection, and Psychosocial Activities
MSF-Belgique	Health
UNFPA	Reproductive Health
SFC	Health, protection
TSF	Education
UNHCR	Protection, Health, WASH, Nutrition, NFIs, Livelihoods & Self-reliance,
UNICEF	Child Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH & Education
WFP	Food
WHO	Health
WVI	Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Livelihoods & Self-reliance

¹⁰ This table indicates all partners involved in the response and includes both the appealing partners as well as implementing partners.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This plan has been designed in a manner that allows it to evolve with the changing circumstances on the ground. Monitoring and evaluation remain key components to ensure that key outcomes are met and where necessary corrective action is taken to ensure outcomes and impacts are achieved. Accordingly, the sector working groups will select outcome and output indicators that it deems most appropriate for measuring progress towards strategic objectives and establish key performance targets. It will also develop output level indicators.

The sector working groups will also outline a monitoring framework which will among other actions delineate what information is needed to gauge performance, impact, results and overall success of the response plan. Importantly, the framework will be designed to ensure that vulnerable persons are not being put at greater risk by the implementation of this response plan. It will also establish coordinated and common reporting tools, determine methods of obtaining indicators, assign responsibility for information gathering determine timeframe and frequency of data collection and importantly establish clear mechanisms for knowledge and information sharing. Regular reporting on achievements and implementation will be concluded with an end of year report in early 2022.

In order to maintain Accountability to the Affected Populations (AAP), the existing feedback mechanisms will be strengthened, and new ones will be established as necessary, allowing affected/ target populations and RRP partners to regularly communicate. This is aimed at ensuring that the needs and concerns of affected populations guide the response.



Members of a family of Central African refugees sit in front of their fragile shelter in Ndu. The family has in total eight children. © UNHCR/Hélène Caux

Financial Requirements Summary

Partners are appealing for **\$ 69 million** to meet the urgent and additional needs of the emergency response for the CAR refugees.

Financial Requirements by Sector

Sector	Total Requirements in US\$
Logistics and Transport	14,985,755
Protection	14,569,666
Health & Nutrition	9,552,489
Food Security	9,000,000
Shelter - NFIs	7,268,254
Education	5,341,913
WASH	4,463,556
Livelihoods/Self-Sef Reliance	3,856,469
Total	69,038,102

Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

Organization	Food Security	Health & Nutrition	Protection	Shelter & CRIs	WASH	Education	Livelihoods & Self Reliance	Logistics & Transport	Total
UN-IOM	-	-	-	2,500,000	-	-	-	7,000,000	9,500,000
UN-UNHCR	-	6,873,094	13,892,665	4,768,254	3,121,057	3,186,688	3,856,469	7,985,755	43,683,983
UN-UNICEF	-	2,679,395	677,000	-	1,342,499	2,155,225	-	-	6,854,119
UN-WFP	9,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000,000
Total	9,000,000	9,552,489	14,569,666	7,268,254	4,463,556	5,341,913	3,856,469	14,985,755	69,038,102

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