

Central African Republic (CAR)

June 2024

As of 30 June, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR was estimated at **453,301**, of whom **80,032** (18%) were living in camps and **373,269** (82%) were living with host families.

As of 30 June, Korsi in Birao was hosting **13,562 Sudanese refugees** (5,933 families), mainly women and children.

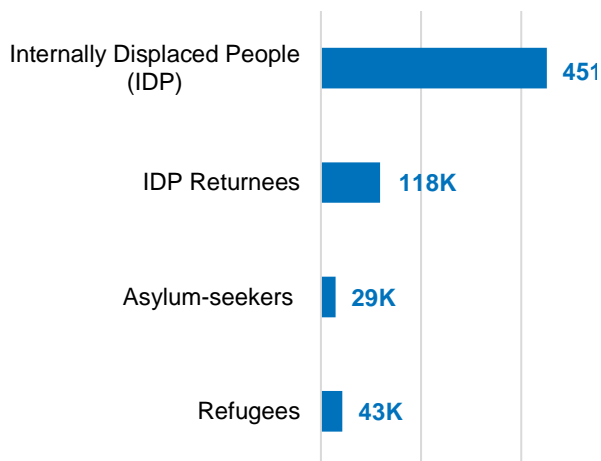
Some 10,281 refugees have arrived in Korsi since 1st of January.

A further 14,596 Sudanese refugees are reported to be living in extremely precarious conditions in 14 hard-to-reach locations.

On 20 June, the Central African government granted **prima facie refugee status to 3,194 Chadians living in Betoko**, who entered the CAR following inter-communal conflicts in the Logone Orientale region of Chad in April 2023 and settled in the Mia-Pendé prefecture.

FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN CAR

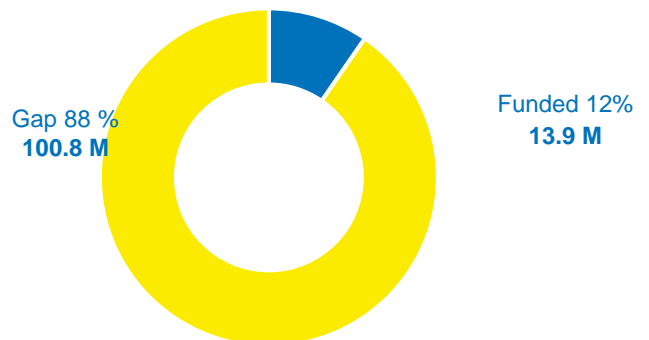
Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, and other forcibly displaced persons.



FUNDING UPDATE AS OF 30 JUNE 2024

USD 114.8 M

UNHCR's financial requirements in 2024



Voluntary repatriation convoy of Central Africans from Cameroon to the locality of Berberati in the Mambéré Kadei in CAR. @UNHCR RCA. Ph. Insa Wawa Diatta

Operational context

Since mid-April, following the outbreak of violence in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the Central African Republic (CAR) has received thousands of Sudanese refugees through several entry points, most of them through Am Dafock in the Vakaga region of CAR.

UNHCR and the Commission Nationale Pour les Réfugiés (CNR) coordinate border surveillance, reception, screening, and registration of new arrivals. In cooperation with the CNR and the humanitarian community (including UN agencies and international and local NGOs), UNHCR is providing essential assistance, including protection services, food and non-food items, emergency shelter, health care, and education in Korsi, a government-designated neighbourhood in the town of Birao, Vakaga prefecture, 65 km from the Am Dafock border.

Some 10,000 Sudanese refugees are also scattered in hard-to-reach areas outside Vakaga prefecture and need assistance and protection. In addition, more than 6,500 Central Africans living as refugees in Darfur have been forced to return to the Central African Republic under challenging conditions.

As of 30 June, 72,522 refugees and asylum-seekers were in the country, representing 20,306 families. The refugee community includes various nationalities, including Sudanese, South Sudanese, Chadians, Rwandans, and others. Most (69%) live in rural areas, particularly in the prefectures of Vakaga, Ouaka, Haut Mbomou, Mbomou, Haute Kotto, and Bamingui Bangoran.

While the number of forcibly displaced persons in the CAR is increasing, with the arrival of Sudanese and Chadian refugees since April 2023 and the urgent need to provide them with a multi-sectoral response, UNHCR's financial and human resources are becoming increasingly limited.

On the other hand, the successive crises experienced by the CAR since 2013 have led to population displacement both within and outside the country. The number of Central African refugees in neighbouring host countries is around 664,225.

However, certain areas have been identified as suitable for promoting voluntary repatriation. UNHCR supports Central African refugees in exercising their right to return as the leading durable solution to their situation.

To this end, UNHCR, the Central African Government and humanitarian actors have jointly developed a national strategy for durable solutions to the problems of internally displaced persons and returnees in the Central African Republic.

Since the start of voluntary repatriation in 2017, UNHCR has supported the government in welcoming back 45,516 people, including 12,203 repatriated by 30 June. The main areas of return are Bangui, Baboua, Baoro, Berbérati, Bouar, Bossemptele, Carnot, Mbaiki, and Mongoumba.

Main achievements

Protection activities for South Sudanese and Congolese refugees and IDPs in Obo

The National Commission for Refugees, UNHCR and other partners continue to support South Sudanese and Congolese (DRC) refugees living in Obo in the Haut-Mbomou region.

A group discussion was held for 20 refugee girls, 15 IDP girls and 15 girls from the host community to discuss "how to manage menstruation healthily".

In May, 239 identity cards were issued to refugees living in Obo. This documentation is part of the legal protection for people forced to flee to Obo.



Menstrual hygiene awareness in Obo. @UNHCR

Between May and June, UNHCR and its partner COOPI conducted a caravan to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene in the different neighbourhoods of Obo, the IDP site and the refugee camp. The caravan reached 2,393 people, including 942 women, 427 men, 554 girls and 470 boys. This activity aimed to raise community awareness and break the taboo around menstruation and gender discrimination.

As part of the protection monitoring and response to cases of gender-based violence (GBV), UNHCR and its partner COOPI continue a series of missions and visits to neighbourhoods, IDP sites and the refugee camp to collect protection incidents. Following the collection of incidents, psychosocial support was provided through rehabilitation sessions in safe spaces and occupational therapy activities.

As part of its response to cases of gender-based violence in Haut-Mbomou, UNHCR handed over 60 dignity kits to its partner COOPI. These kits will be distributed in Ma Mbi Si safe spaces.

The situation of Sudanese refugees

Context: The security situation in Vakaga and other prefectures hosting Sudanese refugees remains worrying and volatile due to the presence and activities of non-state armed groups in various localities.

Given the ongoing security problems and growing humanitarian needs, the situation in Korsi and other areas hosting refugees, such as Ndélé, Ippy, or Rafaï, remains complex.

Efforts continue to meet the needs of the refugee population, particularly shelter, non-food items, food, water, sanitation, health care, education, and protection.

Multisectoral response

Population movements and registration

As of 30 June, the number of refugees in Korsi was 13,562, including 849 resettled persons and 12,713 spontaneous arrivals. UNHCR has carried out biometric registration of all new arrivals. The refugee population in Korsi remains 55% female and 45% male.

Since April 2023, some 34,316 forcibly displaced persons from Sudan have arrived in CAR, including 28,158 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees (former Central African refugees in Sudan). A total of 20,189 (7,831 households) Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered and live in 15 locations, mainly in hard-to-reach areas outside the Vakaga prefecture. They need protection and assistance.

Two registration teams registered 3,500 Sudanese refugees in Bria and Sam Ouandja (Haute Kotto prefecture), Ippy (Ouaka prefecture) and Mboki (Haut-Mbomou prefecture).

Protection

The Central African Republic (CAR) continued to keep its borders open to allow access to refugees and asylum-seekers. The presence of new arrivals was confirmed everywhere, particularly in the prefectures of Mbomou/Rafai (Mbiro, Ngutiforo and Dembia), Bamingui-Bangoran (Ndele, Akoursoulbak Zobossinda, Koundji), Haute-Kotto (Sam-Ouandja and Bria) and Ouaka (Bambari and Ippy), where the government, through the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), and local authorities deployed their teams to pre-register and document new arrivals.

The number of Sudanese refugees crossing from Sudan into the CAR continued to increase in the town of Ndele and the villages of the Ngarba axis (Akroussoulback, Kundji and Zobossinda) in the Bamingui Bangoran region.

The registration of some 3,500 newly arrived refugees continues in Bria and Sam Ouandja (Haute Kotto prefecture), Ippy (Ouaka prefecture) and Mboki (Haut-Mbomou prefecture).

As part of the protection response, UNHCR, in collaboration with the CNR, has organised the distribution of basic necessities, shelter and dignity kits to Sudanese refugees who have recently arrived in the region following their registration.

Health and nutrition

In May 2024, NOURRIR and IMC partners conducted 2,909 medical consultations at the Korsi (Birao) health centre, focusing on common health problems and maternal care. These consultations benefited 297 (10.2%) members of the host community and 2,612 Sudanese refugees living in Korsi. Since January 2024, 15,000 medical consultations have been provided in Korsi. Fifty-one deliveries and 54 births have been assisted.

The medical team carried out nutritional screening of children and pregnant and lactating women. 670 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were identified, affecting children between the ages of 06 and 59 months. A total of 1,934 children suffering from MAM and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated since January 2024.

In May, 37 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus, and 60 children received multi-antigen vaccines. Since January 2024, 153 pregnant women have been vaccinated against tetanus, 326 children have received multi-antigen vaccines, and 126 children have been vaccinated against measles.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

From May to June, UNHCR and its partner, NOURRIR, constructed 61 emergency latrines and 62 emergency showers to improve sanitation. The partner also carried out hygiene and sanitation awareness activities in Korsi, benefiting 7,623 newly arrived refugees at the Korsi site. Topics included good drinking water practices (the water chain), treatment with organic products in emergency latrines, and disinfection.

Shelter and Core relief items



In June 2024, 522 kits of essential household items were distributed to 502 households of 1,144 Sudanese refugees in Vakaga, specifically in the Korsi district, and to 20 vulnerable women and girls in the two safe spaces in Korsi and the Birao District Hospital. The kits include a blanket, bucket, jerrycan, kitchen utensils, mosquito net, solar lamp, and mat. Also, 46 dignity kits were distributed to vulnerable women and girls in safe spaces.

In Korsi, 125 new transitional shelters were built, and 550 shelters were rehabilitated to better protect refugee families during the rainy season. To support these vulnerable families, 100 shelter kits were also distributed to 100 households of 308 returnees in Birao town.

As of 30 June, HCR in Bria has provided NFI shelter kits to Sudanese refugees in Ippy. The kits include tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, mats, mosquito nets, soap, second-hand clothes, solar lamps and jerry cans. A total of 95 households and 328 people have

received aid.

Education

During May and June, efforts were made to keep Sudanese refugees in formal schools until the end of the year exams. Refugee enrolment in Birao public schools exceeded 933 children during this period, raising the gross refugee enrolment rate to 39% from 32% at the beginning of the year.

On 14 June, UNHCR, the National Commission for Refugees, and their partners celebrated the 34th International Day of the African Child in Birao, Vakaga, Central African Republic. The event was

organised by the Provincial Education Inspectorate, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Mayor of Birao, and the Provincial Prefect. This year's theme, 'Education for all African children it's now', resonated with the diverse communities of Birao.

Regarding informal education, preparations are underway to start tutoring and French classes during the summer holidays to help refugee children transition to the Central African school curriculum and improve their integration into local public schools. The team from INTERSOS, UNHCR's education partner in Birao, has identified more than 250 refugee and host community children, including returnees and IDPs, who have been out of school due to conflict or displacement. These children will benefit from remedial classes to help them catch up and integrate into the new school year.

Recreational activities and psychosocial support will continue at the Child-friendly spaces in Korsi, with 198 children participating. Teacher support includes monitoring three primary schools in Birao to strengthen psychosocial activities and paying salaries to 23 parent-teachers, including four women, as well as community relays and focal points for the months of May and June.

A training session on promoting education in the community and data collection was organized for community relays and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) in Korsi. It was facilitated by parent-teacher associations under the supervision of qualified psychologists.

During the reporting period, efforts to support children with disabilities included school visits and identifying students to be included in a monitoring system by community relays and focal points. This will ensure their effective re-enrolment, with individual support planned for them in the new school year. In addition, community mobilisation and education awareness sessions were held in Korsi in May, reaching some 884 people, including 214 men, 236 women, 183 boys and 251 girls.

Finally, support for the education authorities included installing solar panels, batteries, and electrical cables in the temporary office of the academic inspector to improve administrative capacity pending the completion of the academic inspectorate building in Vakaga. School construction continues with 18 latrines, two headmasters' offices, six classrooms, and an administrative building for the Vakaga Inspectorate.

Education and mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) activities in schools for Sudanese refugees, as well as support to the education system through local authorities and strengthening of public schools, are made possible thanks to support from Education Cannot Wait funds as part of their support to the Sudan crisis across the region.

Food security

Between May and June, UNHCR partner NOURRIR served 72,233 hot meals in Korsi, an average of 1,184 daily meals. As part of the multi-sectoral response, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food, including rice, beans, oil and salt, to prepare these hot meals. During the same period, 69,650 breakfasts were served to Sudanese refugees, an average of 1,142 daily meals.

In Korsi, WFP distributed food for May, feeding 6,513 refugees from 2,784 families.

During the same period, 466 families, comprising 2,330 people, were supported to meet the food needs of Sudanese and Chadian refugees in Bamingui Bangoran. WFP and its partner, VERCA, also provided food assistance to 200 families of 855 Sudanese refugees in the Akoursoulbak camp and 66 families of 208 Sudanese refugees in the Zobossinda camp.

WFP and its partner VERCA screened and treated 271 children aged 6-23 months and 70 pregnant and lactating women in Akoursoulbak and Zobossinda camps to prevent malnutrition.

Situation of Chadian refugees

Background: In April 2023, disputes between nomadic Fulani herders and local farmers in Chad triggered intercommunal conflicts, prompting people to flee Chad to villages in CAR. By 30 June 2024, more than 38,014 people had arrived in CAR, including 31,779 Chadians and 6,235 spontaneous returnees, grouped in 3,541 families following these events.

The government has identified a site in Betoko where people fleeing Chad can register and receive multisectoral assistance. On 20 June, the Central African government granted prima facie refugee status to the 3,194 Chadians in Betoko.

On 20 June, World Refugee Day, UNHCR, together with the government through the CNR and local authorities, organised a series of activities, including solidarity marches for refugees, football matches, advocacy activities to promote the socio-economic value of refugees and others.

Multisectoral response

Protection

UNHCR partner Finn Church Aid (FCA) set up a border monitoring system in Betoko and Markounda. In June 2014, 45 protection incidents were documented, compared to 62 in May and 60 in April. Betoko has a safe space (Ma Mbi Si) for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), two child-friendly spaces, and a counselling centre where asylum-seekers can get answers to their questions and concerns.

A training session for protection and GBV partners was held in Paoua on inter-organisational minimum standards for programming responses to gender-based violence in emergencies and protection from sexual abuse and exploitation. The training aimed to help participants understand the importance of prevention and care, which requires coordinated, multi-sectoral action. Forty-four people attended the training, including 11 women and 33 men.

Education

In March, 510 children, including 256 boys and 254 girls, benefited from educational and socio-recreational activities in Finn Church Aid's child-friendly space.

Upon arrival in March, 447 asylum-seeking children, including 230 girls and 217 boys, were enrolled in the two primary schools in Betoko. They benefited from school kits provided by the national organisation Arbre de Vie, a UNICEF partner. There are 39 boys and 24 girls enrolled in Betoko's secondary school.

Health and nutrition

UNHCR's implementing partner, Vision to Change the World (VCW), in collaboration with the Betoko Health Centre, conducted 221 medical consultations in June, including 117 for refugees and 104 for host community members. The most common illnesses were malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhea.

In June, 768 patients were treated at the Betoko health centre, including 444 refugees (57.81%) and 324 host community patients (42.18%).

115 antenatal consultations were carried out, including 59 for refugee women and 56 for women in the host community. In addition, 16 patients were referred from Betoko to Paoua District Hospital for appropriate care.

The VCW team, with its network of community relays, carried out daily awareness-raising, screening and referral of malnutrition cases. 71 children aged 6-59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated.

Awareness-raising activities reached 4,500 people and focused on health/nutrition, GBV, and HIV/AIDS. In addition to awareness-raising activities, 41 home visits were conducted to monitor patients suffering from chronic diseases and malnutrition.

Shelter, Core relief items and food security

By 30 June, UNHCR partner NOURRIR had constructed 1,150 transitional shelters in Betoko to accommodate refugees from Markounda. Of the 2,000 shelters planned, 1,250 are ready for occupancy.

UNHCR partner NOURRIR continues to build an observation room to increase the capacity of the Betoko health centre.

NOURRIR and UNHCR distributed 1,000 loincloths to 750 refugee women and 250 host community women, 50 bales of used clothes and 15,000 bars of soap.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

In Betoko, drinking water is distributed and available thanks to a water tower installed by World Vision. It has five standpipes. In addition, UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR have installed a borehole with a water tower and two standpipes, ensuring optimal access to drinking water for all refugees in Betoko.

Internally Displaced Persons

Background: As of 31 May 2024, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR was 450,673. Of these, 80,487 (18%) were in sites, and 370,186 (82%) were with host families. This represents a significant decrease of 67,402 IDPs (13%) compared to April 2024, when the number of IDPs was estimated at 518,075.

Kaga-Bandoro and Bria

In coordination with the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), UNHCR has been actively assisting the most vulnerable new IDPs by providing non-food items, access to shelter, social protection cash transfers, and other assistance.

UNHCR is strengthening community-based protection by working with local women's organisations, IDP organisations, and local NGOs and enhancing their technical and management capacities.

The protection monitoring programme has continued, as has the assessment of protection needs and risks through community structures. INTERSOS, COOPI, and Finn Church Aid implement these activities.

UNHCR provided data on IDPs and returnees to the humanitarian community through the Secretariat of the Commission on Population Movements (CMP) 's management. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS monitored protection, managed IDP sites, and organised the resettlement of IDPs.

At the Mbella site, UNHCR and its partners (IOM, PARET, INTERSOS) sensitised IDPs on the process and the voluntary nature of return as a prelude to assessing their return intentions.

On the Bakala axis, following an assessment by partner Intersos, 28 households of 181 returnees received essential items and emergency shelter. The items included two tarpaulins, a jerrycan, two mosquito nets and a torch.

Sustainable solutions

Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR and the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) have accelerated the return of Central African refugees, mainly from Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As of 30 June, 12,203 people had returned home, including 8,825 voluntary returnees, mainly from Cameroon and DRC, and 3,378 spontaneous returns or returns under unfavorable circumstances from Sudan and Chad.

Since 2017, 45,516 Central African refugees have voluntarily returned to CAR. These include 742 persons with disabilities, 9,776 women, 8,167 men, 13,080 girls, 13,422 boys, and 1,071 elderly people.

The returnees will benefit from a repatriation assistance package from UNHCR and its partners. In addition, the governments of the Congo, the DRC, Cameroon, and the CAR have signed tripartite agreements enabling them to manage, within a legal framework, the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees who wish to do so. Since the signing of the CAR peace agreement, the return of forcibly displaced persons to their places of origin has accelerated. In line with the vision of the Central African Government, a strategy for durable solutions for displaced persons and returnees in CAR has been put in place to progressively create an environment conducive to the return of the populations concerned by 2030. IDPs, returnees, and host communities will gradually benefit from sustainable solutions that are equitable and non-discriminatory.

The voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees from neighboring countries continues.

To date, 4,457 people have returned to CAR 🇨🇦 since March 2024. They have arrived from 🇨🇩 & 🇨🇲.

Repatriation remains the leading durable solution to forced displacement.

🙏 @StatePRM



Preventing and reducing the risk of statelessness

The UNHCR offices in Bouar and Mongoumba organised prefectural advocacy workshops on birth registration and the prevention of statelessness. The workshops were attended by political-administrative and judicial authorities, civil registry offices, socio-medical and gender officers, humanitarian actors (UN agencies, UN missions, and NGOs), representatives of returnees, and civil society actors.

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It is a fundamental right to have a Nationality!

✅ UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, deployed trained enumerators to 04 prefectures to collect Data in order to better understand the risk of statelessness in CAR, with the objective to find solutions



An exercise to identify children without birth certificates was launched in the four sub-prefectures of Nana Mambéré, targeting as a priority the places of return of returnees, except the sub-prefecture of Abba, due to its vulnerability and high protection risks. This operation aims to create a database of repatriated children, returnees and residents without birth certificates to help them obtain these certificates and supplementary birth certificates, with the support of civil registry

services and NGOs running projects on access to civil documentation in the area, under the coordination of the CNR, UNHCR and local authorities.

On 15 May 2024, in Mongoumba, UNHCR signed the surveyors' contracts, handed them tablets, and launched the survey on statelessness in the area.

Working in partnership

In CAR, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, co-leads the Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) and Shelter/NFI clusters, and continues to advocate for the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response and implementation of solutions.

UNHCR continues its efforts to develop synergies with government technical services, the World Bank, ADB and other actors (WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, ONUFEMME, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNAIDS, OCHA, MINUSCA, UNOPS). With the influx of refugees from Sudan and asylum seekers from Chad, the refugee coordination model has been activated. UNHCR is leading and coordinating the refugee response in collaboration with the CNR.

UNHCR seeks to strengthen relations with the private sector, which is essential for stimulating economic growth and job creation, donors, national and international non-governmental organisations, academia, and the media. It also works with other government structures, operational partners, and national and international project partners.

Finally, UNHCR in CAR works closely with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) to ensure adequate international protection and multi-sectoral assistance to those forced to flee.

Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR's CAR operation in 2024.

Education Cannot Wait| France| Japan| United States of America| Switzerland| Luxembourg | United Nations Peacebuilding Fund | United Nations HIV/AIDS Program.

Thank you to the donors who have granted flexible funding to UNHCR worldwide in 2024

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