

[a] Operational Highlight

- **Public Advocacy:** On 25 February, UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards in Geneva called for stepped up security to protect people at risk in CAR that are surrounded by armed groups across the north-west and south-west of Central African Republic. You can find the press briefing here: <http://www.unhcr.org/530c772e6.html>
- **HCT Visit to Bambari:** On 15 February, the HCT¹ undertook a mission to the city of Bambari in order to familiarize themselves with local UN efforts and to become familiar with local peace initiatives.
- **Refugee Assistance:** Sub-agreements with the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* as the government counterpart for refugee protection, CSSI for healthcare for urban refugees have just been concluded. International Medical Corps (health care) and COOPI (education), with which agreements had been signed last month, have started activities in the three refugee camps in Central African Republic.
- **Response Plan for Populations at Risk: Onward Movement Strategy:** The Protection Cluster is finalizing a strategy to facilitate the onward movement of population at risk to safe places. This strategy is currently being discussed with populations at risks in two locations: PK-12 and Bossangoa.
- **UNHCR Mission to Zémio Refugee camps:** On the 25 February, a UNHCR team visited FO Zémio in order to meet with refugees, follow up on implementation of partnerships, and provide support to UNHCR team in the field.
- **AGDM:** On the 27 of February, over 200 refugees participated in the AGDM process organized in UNHCR's Bangui office.

IDPs in the Central African Republic	657,000²
IDPs in Bangui	232,000³
Prefectures covered by UNHCR protection monitoring⁴	Ouham Ouham Pendé Ombella M'poko Lobaye
IDP households assisted with a standard NFI kit in 2014⁵	21,217
Number of refugees repatriated in 2014	564
2014 funding level for the operation	22%

¹ Please note that this is referring to the Humanitarian Country Team established with the declaration of L3 in CAR.

² Please note that these figures are regularly updated on our webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

³ Please note that these figures are regularly updated on our webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

⁴ UNHCR's protection monitoring activities in these provinces feed into the larger Protection Cluster monitoring systems that covers all provinces except Vakaga and Haute Kotto.

⁵ There are two standard NFI kits, one for Bangui and another for outside Bangui. A standard NFI kit inside Bangui includes one sleeping mat, one blanket, one jerrycan OR one bucket, two mosquito domes and four 400 gr bar of soap. The standard NFI kit outside Bangui (villages etc...) includes two sleeping mats, two blankets, one jerrycan AND one bucket, six 400 gr bar of soap, two mosquito domes and one kitchen set. It is important note that these differs from the global standard. In December 2013, 4,600 IDP households were provided with NFIs and shelter in IDP sites in Bangui and in Bossangoa.

[b] Overview of the Operation

Internally Displaced in CAR

657,000

IDPs in Central African Republic (estimated), with

232,000

Located in Bangui in (Sites + Host Families + Transit Centers)

57 Sites

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in CAR

Locations (Nationalities)	N#
Bambari Camp (Sudanese Refugees)	1,967
Batalimo Camp (DRC Refugees)	6,060
Obo and Mboki (DRC Outside Camps)	590
Zémio Camp (DRC Refugees)	3,423
Bangui (Refugees)	1,937
Bangui (Asylum-Seekers)	2,604
Total	16,581

Donor Funding

Donors

Japan 1,500,000

UNAIDS 30,000

United States of America 10,200,000

Total Funded 11,730,000

Percentages 21.52%

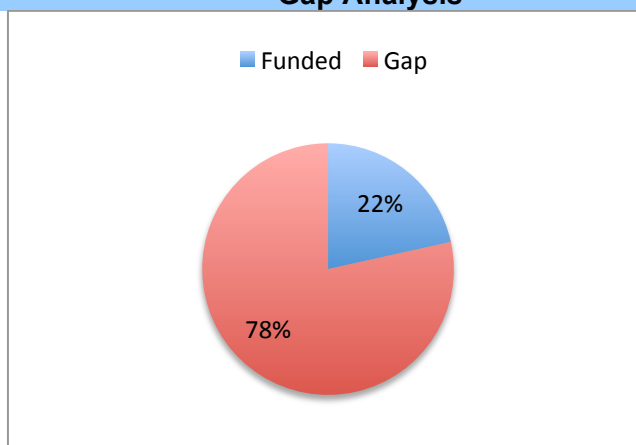
Gap 42,771,573

Percentages 78.48%

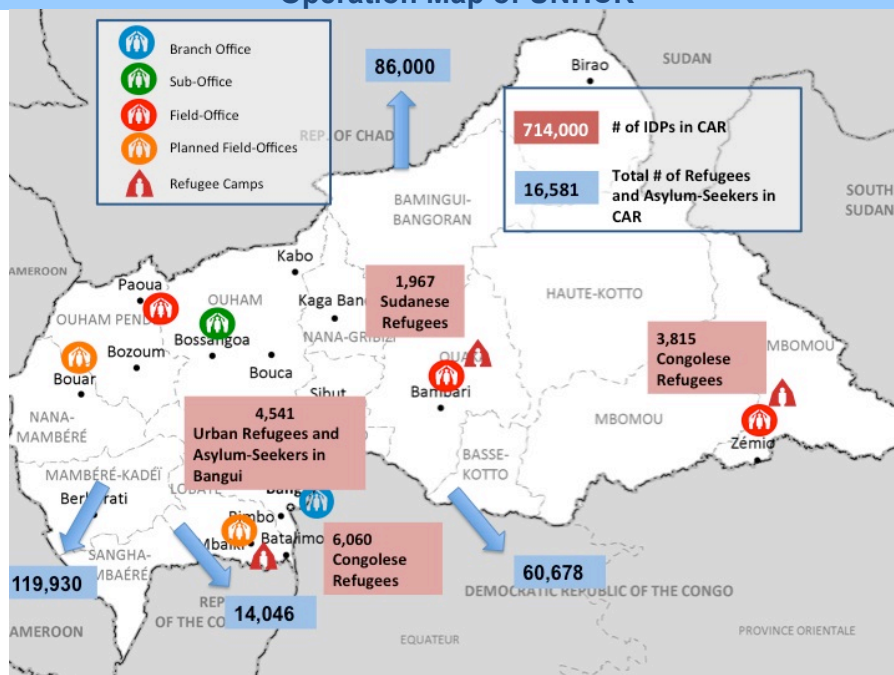
Budget 54,501,573

* Please note that this table considers donors to the Central African Republic UNHCR operation only, and not to the entire CAR Situation.

Gap Analysis



Operation Map of UNHCR





Multi-Sectorial Response to Refugees

Repatriation: In preparation of future repatriations, 69 Chadian families have registered. As previously noted, UNHCR is currently preparing a repatriation of around 6,000 refugees in Batalimo camp back to RDC. UNHCR has recently met with various stakeholders in order to prepare for this repatriation.

Education: During the reporting period, in partnership with UNHCR, **COOPI** started the school year in all three camps (Batalimo, Bambari and Zémio camps). In total, 3,889 children (51% girls / 49% boys) are enrolled, including 836 in pre-school; 2,909 in primary school and 134 in secondary school.

School year has started in refugee camps in CAR!



Secondary school students pose in front of their new school built by COOPI in Zémio camp. H. Reichenberger/UNHCR.

Healthcare: in partnership with UNHCR, the **International Medical Corps** resumed activities in all three refugee camps. In Zémio camp, a nutrition screening was initiated on 18 February jointly with a vaccination against measles of all children under five. So far, 308 children were screened of which, five were moderately malnourished with no cases of severe acute malnutrition. Routine immunization has also been organized in camps with sensitization and incentives to mothers and caretakers to bring children to health centres for vaccinations (soap were provided). In Bambari camp, 174 consultations were organized during the reporting period, of these, 55 were children under five.

Livelihoods: In Bambari camp, the main obstacle for livelihood activities for the Sudanese refugees is security. As they are traditional farmers, security is needed for them to access their fields.

Mission to Zémio: On 26 February, a UNHCR team visited the Field Office of Zémio. They visited the refugee camp, met with refugee leaders, local authorities and local implementing partners including: the **Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR)**, **COOPI** and the **International Medical Corps**. During the meeting with refugees, they expressed a need for more income generating activities as well as to re-start food distribution.

Age-Gender Diversity Mainstreaming: On 27 February multi-functional team began consulting with refugee communities through a UNHCR process known as “Age-Gender-Diversity Mainstreaming”. The overall goals of UNHCR’s AGDM process is to ensure that all refugees, regardless of age, gender and background can be heard and that programmes implemented take into consideration refugees’ concern as well as gender equality and the enjoyment of all persons of their rights, regardless of their age, gender or background. The **Ministry of Social Affairs** and **COOPI** participated with UNHCR in the AGDM process. Over 200 refugees took part.



Refugees discussing their priorities with UNHCR staff in BO Bangui. In total, over 200 refugees participated in the AGDM. H. Reichenberger/UNHCR.



Protection Cluster UNHCR's contribution

The Protection Cluster reported that over 15,000 persons located in 18 locations are in dire humanitarian conditions and are threatened by armed elements, including Anti-Balaka. These pockets of persons at risk are increasingly vulnerable to attacks despite mediation efforts of local leaders and the presence of International Forces. As a response, the Protection Cluster undertakes the following actions to provide protection:

- Information and monitoring on a daily basis of population at risk.

- Increase humanitarian response and protection in areas affected by tensions.
- Advocate with political, humanitarian and security actors and international forces.
- As a measure of last resort: facilitate the onward movement of these people to safe locations (see below).

Public Advocacy: On 25 February, UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards in Geneva called for stepped up security to protect people that are surrounded by armed groups across the northwest and southwest of Central African Republic. Please see the press briefing here:

<http://www.unhcr.org/530c772e6.html>

Onward Movement Strategy: The Protection Cluster is being finalizing a strategy to facilitate the onward movement of population at risk to safe places. This strategy is currently being discussed with populations of concern in two locations: PK-12 and Bossangoa.

→ **Situation in PK-12** continues to be tense (a neighbourhood in Bangui) where some 3,000 Muslims are trapped. The Protection Cluster together with the Humanitarian Coordinator has been visiting PK-12 in order to evaluate the needs as well as find a solution. The mission confirmed the most pressing needs of the site, which include: security and desire to be evacuated; health care; food insecurity and a high number of malnutrition cases; and lack of hygiene.

→ **Situation in Bossangoa:** As a follow up to the mission of Valérie Amos, the Humanitarian Coordinator visited Bossangoa together with the Protection Cluster Coordinator on 27 of February. As a recommendation of the mission, an Action Plan on the possible re-location of persons from the Site Liberté to the city of Beyoke on the border with Chad will be prepared.



Shelter/NFI Cluster UNHCR's contribution

Community shelters: construction targeting 75,000 persons at 19 IDP sites are extending to 30 sites in Bangui due to high demand. To date 526 out of 565 structures, including 12 of shelters for the Muslim community at the Military Airport site, are already hosting IDPs. These are being constructed by PU-AMI, ACTED and SOLIDARITES International through ECHO DG funding.

Distributions: During the reporting period, 6,020 families received emergency response NFI kits in M'Poko Bangui Airport. In Bangui, an additional 1,860 families received kits from UNHCR. These include families located in the Night Shelter in the 5th Arrondissement through **ACTED** (1,000), the Central Mosque (200), the Military Airport (600), and the *Église Adventiste* (60). Outside of Bangui, UNHCR together with **UNICEF**, **Catholic Relief Services**, and **CARITAS** provided 817 families with return kits in the villages of Gba Kotta and Boubo in Ouham Prefecture. These villages have been identified as priority villages in the inter-agency multi-sectoral needs assessment, which took place from 5 to 15 February. Plastic sheets were targeted to those families whose houses were destroyed. UNHCR also provided NFI kits to MSF-France for these to be distributed in PK5 and the general hospital in Bangui, Carnot and Bossemptele.

Night shelters: the Shelter/NFI Cluster has been supporting the initiatives of the Protection Cluster and Return Task Force to create conducive conditions for return through the construction of "night shelters". An additional "night shelter" site was identified by the Shelter Cluster, Sangaris, MISCA and the local authority in the 5th Arrondissement. The Wash and Shelter Clusters jointly conducted technical assessment for suitability. The Shelter Cluster drafted the site plan.

REACH Initiative Concludes studies: Through a partnership with REACH, the Shelter/NFI Cluster's Technical Support has finalized an extensive study on the 21 most populated IDP sites in Bangui. Many of the displacement sites in Bangui, including the largest (Airport M'Poko site), have poor soil drainage/absorption properties and have potential of becoming swamps during the heavy rainy season between July and October according to the site vulnerability study. Through coordination of UNHCR, the Shelter/NFI Cluster has been working closely with the CCCM and WASH Clusters to provide appropriate measures in time to ensure that population will not be exposed to water hazards and accompanying health risks e.g. cholera. During the reporting period, site assessment was undertaken to identify contingency sites for potential voluntary relocation from those vulnerable sites alongside a strong advocacy and response effort to create conducive conditions for return.



NFI Kits at the airport ready to be distributed. H. Reichenberger/UNHCR.



CCCM Cluster

UNHCR's contribution

Contingency Planning: In line with HCT priorities, the updated CCCM cluster strategy focuses on: supporting conditions of voluntary return; site remediation measures in anticipation of the rainy season; planning for relocation measures for people remaining in non-viable sites once the rainy season begins and the support of protection measures for the most vulnerable populations. In support of open communication and the sharing of information about activities taking place in the neighbourhoods of origin, the mayor of the 5th Arrondissement recently met with IDP representatives from M'Poko. It is hoped that similar meetings will be arranged between other mayors and in other sites.

Returns: A second survey on intentions of return carried out by IOM during the reporting period indicated that some 85% IDPs wished to return. The greatest barriers to return are economic stability and security, with rehabilitation of property also listed as secondary significant barrier. The security situation remains volatile, but there are signs of improvement in at least four of Bangui's eight arrondissements.

Suspension of Distribution at M'Poko: As a result of continued insecurity for staff and beneficiaries working at the M'Poko displacement site, and a very high incidence of fraud, distribution of food and NFI was suspended on the 25 of February 2014. The suspension was discussed and endorsed at the Inter-Cluster Coordination Meeting and a task force was assigned to explore alternatives for continued support to those most in need. As of 19 February 85% of the M'Poko Airport Site has been served. Population estimates over the last several weeks have shown a 30-40% decrease in the population to fewer than 70,000 persons in the site.

Bossangoa: five CCCM trainings were held in Bossangoa last week for site committees, site management and service provision actors working in the *École Liberté* site and the *Évêché* site. NGO partners **Caritas** and **the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** are playing a key role as site managers as well as accompanying returns of IDPs.

CCCM Training: A two-day CCCM Inter-Agency Training was held and gathered site managers, protection, shelter and WASH service providers and cluster coordinators as well as Red Cross Staff.

Visiting Alternative Sites: Last week, the CCCM Coordinator visited sites identified by REACH as having additional capacity and being potentially viable during the rainy season. The Coordinator assessed conditions and discussed options for the relocation of IDPs who are unable to return before the onset of the rains. Negotiations are underway with the Mayor of Bangui as well as with religious orders in order to make technical assessment of two alternative sites for the potential relocation of IDP before the rainy season. Concrete proposals and budget requirements for the implementation will follow.



Communications/Further Reading - During the Reporting Period, UNHCR in CAR and other offices in the region published the following web stories:

Briefing Notes

- UNHCR says over 15000 CAR civilians facing acute risk, better security urgently needed, 25/02/2014

Link: <http://www.unhcr.org/530c76426.html>

Web Stories

- Thousands flee violence in Central African Republic and seek shelter in southern Chad, 17/02/2014
- Almost 20,000 CAR refugees flood into eastern Cameroon this month, 21/02/2014

Link: <http://www.unhcr.org/53075dd36.html>

- UNHCR seeks stepped up security for 15,000 at risk in Central African Republic, 25/02/2014

Link: <http://www.unhcr.org/530c772e6.html>

Videos

- Central African Republic: Torn Communities, 25/02/2014

Link: <http://bit.ly/1cwprx2>

Flash Infos

Please note that all Flash Infos sent can be found on the following link: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

For additional Information:

Hugo Reichenberger, Reporting Officer	REICHENB@unhcr.org , +236 72 74 50 69
Dalia Al Achi Public Information Officer	ALACHI@unhcr.org +236 72 67 51 86