

HIGHLIGHTS

442,495

IDPs in CAR, including 50,281 in 34 sites in Bangui (as of 3 February)

4,526

Owner-driven shelter reconstructions supported for 4,526 returning households/29,419 persons

9

out of the 10 conflict affected prefectures in CAR covered by UNHCR protection monitoring

269,730

internally displaced persons/53,946 households benefitted from NFIs distribution in 2014

PRIORITIES

In CAR, UNHCR's work focuses on the protection and assistance of refugees (8,103) as well as internally displaced persons (442,495 IDPs) and vulnerable people affected by the ongoing conflict. Within the context of the Cluster approach, UNHCR leads and coordinates three clusters: Protection, Shelter/Non Food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM). In addition to its cluster coordination role, UNHCR has 4 main priorities that revolve around the following areas of intervention (i) **Protection of IDPs**, (ii) **Emergency Response to internal displacements**, (iii) **Durable solutions and special life saving measures** and (iv) **Protection and Multisectoral assistance to refugees**.

Protection of Internally Displaced People

- **Protection by presence and Protection monitoring:** UNHCR has 1 Branch Office in Bangui, 1 Sub-Office in Bossangoa, and 5 Field Offices in Zemio, Bouar, Paoua, Kaga Bandoro and Bambari. With 4 International NGOs (COOPI, INTERSOS, Danish Refugee Council and Mercy Corps) and its own interventions, UNHCR covers 9 sub prefectures of the 10 most affected by conflict as of 31 December in order to have regular updates on the protection situation for appropriate response. The most critical protection issues in CAR are indiscriminate attacks on civilians, killings, lootings, torture, destruction of property (villages burnt down), impunity, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR has a strong Information Management team which develops protection tools (Maps, Dashboards etc.) that ease UNHCR's and the Protection Cluster's advocacy role towards the Humanitarian Country Team, the CAR Government, MINUSCA and the United Nations Country Team in CAR. Further info can be found on <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional>
- **Dialogue and Social Cohesion:** The widespread violence has torn the social fabric of the Central African Republic. Recognizing the importance to restore dialogue between communities, UNHCR's partner for social cohesion Search For Common Ground has established peace communities, peace education programmes, community discussions and awareness raising activities such as participative theatre and radio programmes, in Bangui, Kaga- Bandoro and Bossangoa.
- **Prevention and Response to SGBV (Sexual and Gender based violence)** is incorporated in UNHCR's and its partners' protection monitoring activities. It includes medical referral, psychosocial support and income generating activities to GBV survivors in addition to setting reference pathway in accordance with the Gender Based Violence Information Management Systems (GBVIMS) for a holistic care.

Emergency Response to Internal Displacement

As of 3 February 2015, there are currently 442,495 IDPs in CAR of which 50,281 in 34 sites of Bangui. 73 sites identified outside of Bangui are hosting 128,202.

Over 225,009 IDPs are in host families and 39,003 live in the bush. In Bangui, the 5 biggest sites currently host 37,464 IDPs and 7 sites host less than 100 IDPs each.

UNHCR's response to internal displacement includes:

- **Provision of Emergency shelter and Non Food Items:** Through the provision of plastic sheeting, 9 IDP sites in Bangui (including 1 former site offering night shelters to returning IDPs in the 5th District) and 6 IDP sites up country set throughout 2014 to provide IDPs with emergency shelters. 269,730 IDPs in 53,946 households were assisted with Non Food Items of the overall 148,392 households assisted in 2014.
- Partnership with 2 International NGOs namely the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMI) for the **Coordination and Management** of 8 IDPs sites in Bangui hosting 80% of the total 50,281 IDPs in the capital city. In addition to Bangui, UNHCR supports the DRC's CCCM project in Batangafo (Ouham Pende) with over 33,000 IDPs in 7 sites.
- **Site planning:** 2 International Site Planners dedicated to IDP site planning in Bangui and up country
- **Capacity building in CCCM:** 951 CCCM stakeholders including IDPs participated in **41 training sessions** which has helped in capacitating stakeholders, especially IDPs, to coordinate and manage sites where there are no dedicated CCCM actors.

Durable Solutions and Life-saving Measures

- **Supporting IDP returns:** The Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) return intention survey of IDPs in Bangui conducted in July and funded by ECHO and UNHCR show that out of 5,000 IDP households interviewed, 87% would like to return to their home. Insecurity or feeling of insecurity comes first among the reasons preventing IDPs from returning, followed closely by the destruction of their shelters (formerly owned or rented), as well as the lack of functioning basic social services (access to water, schools and healthcare). UNHCR's strategy to support IDPs' voluntary return includes information sharing on areas of return, and facilitation of "go and see" and "come and tell" visits to enable IDPs to go back to their neighbourhoods in order to have a clear idea on the prevailing situation.
- **Support to owner-driven shelter reconstruction:** UNHCR, through partnership with ACTED, the Catholic Relief Service, DRC in Ouham, Ouham Pende and Ombella Mpoko prefectures supported 4,526 owner-driven shelter reconstructions with over 29,000 returning IDPs assisted in 2014. UNHCR remains the second main contributor in terms of support to owner driven reconstruction projects after the Common Humanitarian Fund with approximately 6,000.
- **Housing, Land and property rights:** Through its partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR targets national authorities, local government structures in **Bangui, Begoua and Bimbo**, and traditional, religious and community structures as well as women and youth leaders to capacitate them in the domain of land, housing and property (HLP), and resolve HLP disputes peacefully. NRC provides legal information, counseling, and assistance to IDPs or returnees in Bangui and suburbs.
- **Social Cohesion activities:** Social cohesion activities are designed to respond to widespread violence and prevent further radicalization of hate speech and social division. UNHCR works with SFCG (see information above) in Bangui, Bossangoa and Kaga Bandoro, and Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA) in the Lobaye Prefecture. ASA's approach in order to achieve social cohesion is to reinstate traditional leaders who at local level would play a key role in mediation, conflict management/resolution and local governance for common economic welfare.
- **Relocation/Emergency evacuation:** A sensitive and last resort measure in case people's physical security is at stake. Since the beginning of the crisis in CAR, UNHCR has led the relocations of communities formerly living in Bossembele



and at PK12 in Bangui to safer areas within CAR, and of communities in Bossangoa to Chad. Relocation/evacuation has proved to be an undeniable life saving measure.

- **National IDP law:** CAR signed and ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) on 20 December 2010. UNHCR CAR, with the support of the Global Protection Cluster, deployed in July 2014 a Consultant in CAR who held consultations with national and local authorities, religious leaders, humanitarian actors and IDPs around a National IDP Law. The Consultant finalized a draft bill, produced an analysis of aspects of the convention pertinent to CAR context and initiated a working group led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and co-led by the CAR Protection Cluster. From August to December 2014, the working group has not been operational due to the ministerial reshuffling which completely changes the structures of relevant ministries and focal points. A new government focal point has been designated beginning of January 2015.

Protection and Multi Sectorial assistance to Refugees

UNHCR and its partners currently assist 8,103 refugees mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and Sudan through protection and multi-sectorial assistance in Bangui, Bambari and Zemio camps. Refugees have also been directly affected by the CAR crisis either economically or in their physical integrity which request emergency measures such as: fast track repatriation for voluntary candidates (over 6984 refugees returns facilitated since April 2014), continued advocacy for urgent fast track resettlement of 1,801 Sudanese refugees trapped between two belligerent forces in Bambari, tailored Income Generating activities targeting 79 cooperatives in the 2 camps/1100 members. Despite the highly challenging logistics ahead, UNHCR is currently preparing necessary procedures for the voluntary repatriation of over 500 refugees in Zemio camp who would like to return to DRC after 6 years of exile. These refugees had originally fled the Lord Resistance Army's activism in DRC's Province Orientale.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works with 13 partners in the Central Africa Republic of which 11 International NGOs, one commercial organization (logistics partner) and one governmental partner. Partnerships agreements are signed for IDPs programme with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Search For Common Ground (SFCG), Mercy Corps, IEDA Relief, Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMI), ACTED, Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA) and INTERSOS in addition to Partnership agreements signed for Refugee programme with the "Commission Nationale pour les Refugies" CNR, the Danish Refugee Council, the International Medical Corps (IMC) and Cooperazione Internazionale COOPI.

UNHCR leads 3 clusters in CAR, namely Protection, Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/NFI clusters. The clusters are active in the capital and the provinces. There are currently 4 regional Protection Clusters in Bossangoa, Bouar, Kaga Bandoro and Bambari in addition to the NFI/shelter and CCCM working groups in Bossangoa and the protection working group in Paoua. UNHCR coordinates the work of more than 70 members from UN agencies, national and international NGOs as well as Government institutions who participate in cluster coordination meetings on a weekly basis.

UNHCR Presence: 92 national staff, 25 international staff, 2 UNV, 1 Consultant) in 7 offices located in Bangui, Bossangoa, Zemio, Bambari, Bouar, Kaga Bandoro and Paoua

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