CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 51

21 February-6 March 2015

KEY FIGURES

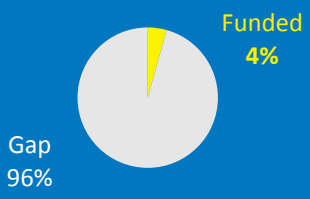
436,256
IDPs including
49,113
in Bangui in 35 sites

451,429
Central African refugees in Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Congo including
191,616
New arrivals since Dec. 2013

8,103
Refugees and asylum seekers in the Central African Republic

FUNDING

USD 241 million
requested for the situation



PRIORITIES

- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verfication exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

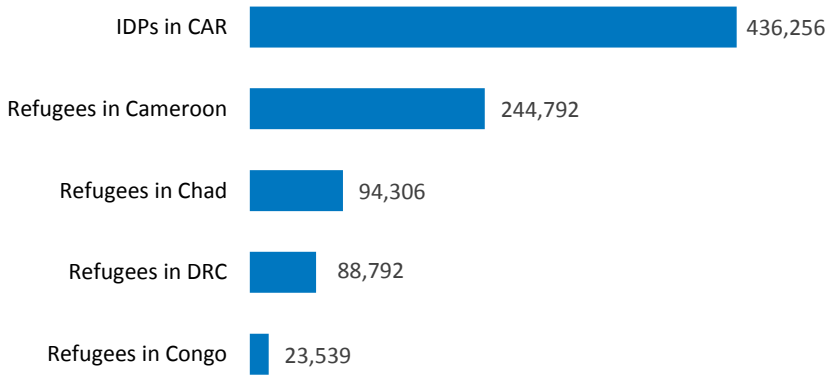
HIGHLIGHTS

- Members of the United Nations Security Council will undertake a mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) from 10-12 March. This will be the Council's first visit to the country, six months after the deployment of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) in September 2014. The mission will try to seek a better understanding of the challenges facing MINUSCA in carrying out its mandate. Members will meet with the transitional authorities and religious leaders to discuss the political process and assess the humanitarian and human rights situations.

- The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of MINUSCA in CAR, Babacar Gaye, undertook a mission to Bossangoa during the reporting period in order to assess the overall security situation in the area. Mr. Gaye reiterated the United Nations commitment to continue supporting the peace process and restoration of state authority. A number of administrative authorities have progressively resumed duty in Bossangoa.

Population of concern

A total of **887,685** people of concern



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- On 23 February, the Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) from CAR and Cameroon met in Yaoundé with government authorities from both countries to discuss the latest developments in the humanitarian and security situation and conditions for the potential return of Central African refugees settled in Cameroon. The HCTs and authorities agreed to strengthen cooperation between the two countries through coordination mechanisms, including continued information sharing and cross border monitoring missions.

Protection

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 436,256 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 49,113 in Bangui in 35 sites.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The protection cluster continues to advocate for the protection of civilians, particularly in areas identified as hotspots, for actions to be carried out by peacekeeping forces such as temporary deployment, regular patrols or strengthening existing capacity on ground. Based on the protection matrix of 5 March, the highest priorities in terms of protection of civilians remain the Batangafo-Bouca axis; south of Batangafo; Mbrès; Bambari; the Bambari-Ngakobo axis; the Bambari-Grimari axis and Bangui (3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th districts). The Protection Cluster advocated for the immediate protection and strengthening of the MINUSCA presence in these areas.

Figure 1: A woman walks across the Ouaka bridge that divides the town of Bambari, CAR. UNHCR.

CAMEROON

- An estimated 138,855 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to verify and register refugees who have not yet been pre-registered in villages (mainly in the Adamawa region) and to update registration information for spontaneous movements and family reunifications between sites and villages. From 16 February to 8 March, 2,188 refugees were registered in Ngaoundal, Garoua Boulai, Meiganga and in the sites of Lolo, Borgo and Ngam. UNHCR also issued 882 refugee documents to newly registered refugee families in these sites. In addition, UNHCR renewed 292 refugee identity cards for old caseload refugees in Toktoyo, Kentzou, Nyabi and Meiganga.
- To facilitate the establishment of birth certificates for refugee children born in Cameroon, UNHCR held a meeting with health administrators at the health centre in Gado to reinforce the importance of registering births of refugee children born in health centres and at home. During the meeting, 24 birth registrations were filed in view to establish birth certificates with civil status registration authorities. In Lolo, IEDA Relief also

identified 612 children without birth registration or birth certificates; discussions are currently underway with local health administrators to establish birth registrations.

- International Medical Corps (IMC), UNHCR's implementing partner, carried out home visits and individual counselling session to monitor 92 survivors of SGBV in the sites of Gado, Borgop and Ngam. As part of SGBV prevention activities in these sites, IMC also carried out 32 sensitization sessions with 2,403 refugees (863 women and 1,540 men) on topics related to early and forced marriages, peaceful coexistence and the importance of girls' education. Sensitizations were also organized with traditional and religious leaders.

CHAD

- A total 17,078 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013 and are predominantly in the southern part of the country.

Achievements and Impact

- On 26 February, UNHCR verified and registered 88 Central African refugees (21 families) in the camp of Amboko (which currently hosts some 11,800 refugees). This population had arrived in 2014 but had not informed the *Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) or UNHCR.
- A joint CNARR and *Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad* (APLFT) mission was conducted to Mandoul and Barh Sara to raise awareness among authorities and importantly to refugees regarding the commencement of a project to issue birth certificates, promote peaceful coexistence and to follow up on protection issues related to refugees living in the hosting communities in the area.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- New arrivals are still crossing into the DRC. Since 15 February, 2,433 new refugees have entered the country.
- UNHCR registered 197 refugees during this reporting period (mainly newly born refugees). In addition, 571 refugees were relocated to Boyabu camp from Batanga transit centre and 800 refugees were relocated to Inke camp from Pangoma transit centre.
- SGBV sensitization activities were organized for refugees living in spontaneous refugee sites in the Bosobolo area. UNHCR's implementing partner, *Actions et Interventions pour le Développement et l'Encadrement Social* (AIDES) organized 24 different sessions in Sidi for 1,778 refugees and members of the host community, as well as 10 sessions in Gbangi, for 2,246 persons. The NGO, *Solidarité pour la Promotion de la Paix* (SOPROP) is conducting similar sensitizations along the Dula axis.

Figure 2: Central African refugees cross the Oubangi River to Gbadakila spontaneous site in the DRC. UNHCR/B. Sokol

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 13,469 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area. During the reporting period, 652 new arrivals were registered in Betou, Impfondo and Brazzaville by UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale d'Assistance pour les Réfugiés* (CNAR).

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, continued to support the Ministry of Education to ensure continued access to education for all refugee children. As part of the Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPEs) programme, UNICEF finalized the construction of six classrooms in Ngam and Lolo. In addition, 25 volunteer teachers in the East and Adamawa regions were trained on education in emergencies, with the support of UNICEF and Plan Cameroon. To date, 108 ETAPEs have been constructed, and 91 teachers have been recruited and trained. Currently, 15,962 refugee children are attending classes and participating in activities in the ETAPE programme in the East and Adamawa region.
- During the reporting period, 361 refugees (218 women and 143 men) participated in literacy courses in the sites of Gado, Borgop and Ngam.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a lack of school supplies, uniforms and classroom equipment in some refugee hosting areas.
- There is a need to expand capacity—in terms of infrastructure, equipment, materials and staffing— of local public schools to integrate refugee children into the national curriculum.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- The *Centre de Rattrapage Scolaire* in Mole officially opened on 23 February.
- The literary classes in Mole are currently attended by 318 refugee students that are learning how to read and write (212 women and 106 men).

Health

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- In Lolo, Mbile and Timangolo, UNHCR's implementing partner, CARE International, continued to conduct mental health activities, including individual counselling (psychosocial and psychological), group therapy and community sensitizations. In Lolo, CARE carried out sensitizations on mental health and early pregnancies for 237 refugees, including 91 men and 86 women, 28 girls and 32 boys.
- UNICEF and its partners facilitated the vaccination of 58 children between the ages of 0 and 5 against polio and for 192 refugee children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years against measles at the entry points of Kentzou, Garoua Boulai, Tocktoyo and Gbiti.
- To promote better health and hygiene practices, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), UNHCR's implementing, organized 57 discussion groups for 752 refugees. In addition, 30 community outreach sessions were organized for 492 beneficiaries, mainly including pregnant and lactating women. ACF also organized 117 counselling sessions on infant and child feeding practices.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is an urgent need to strengthen healthcare and nutrition activities in host communities.
- There is a lack of mosquito nets, HIV and malaria tests and tricycles to ensure access to healthcare for vulnerable persons.
- There remains a lack of qualified medical personnel (i.e. doctors, paramedics, nurses) and need for additional technical equipment and facilities in health centres in host communities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Most needs and gaps are related to the influx in the Bosobolo area in Equateur. Partners are finding it difficult to treat the significant number of new arrivals.
- The mobile clinics of the *Association de Développement Economique et Social* (ADES) continue to monitor the spontaneous refugee sites along the Oubangi river in order to provide medical assistance.

Figure 3: A nutrition expert on the joint UNHCR/WFP mission checks a child for signs of malnutrition at the Akoya spontaneous site along the banks of the Oubangi river, the DRC. UNHCR/B. Sokol

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners launched the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) nutritional survey in Gado. Prior to beginning the process of collecting information, UNHCR met with local administrative and health authorities in Garoua Boulai, conducted training for survey staff, and sensitized community leaders on the objectives of the survey. UNHCR is also meeting with administrative authorities in Djohong to prepare the next step of the SENS survey in Borgop and Ngam.
- A total 53 new admissions were registered in nutrition centres and mobile clinics. Since January, nutrition centres have registered a total of 780 new admissions.
- WFP monthly food distributions for February were completed on 18 February and reached a total 119,245 refugees, including 102,050 new refugees and 17,195 old caseload refugees.
- Monthly food distributions for March, initially planned to begin 7 March, were postponed to 15 March due to logistical delays from the Douala port. For this round of distribution, WFP plans to provide rations for 133,919 beneficiaries. The increase from the last round of distributions will take into account new refugees in villages where old caseload refugees are also settled.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The total number of refugees admitted to the nutritional programme in Mole has declined from 320 to 241 refugees, and includes 70 pregnant and lactating women and 141 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 30 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In order to fight malnutrition, ADES distributed 609 packets of plumpy nut to children with SAM; 1,183 packages of plumpy sup to children with MAM and 148 kg of Corn Soy Blend (CSB) to pregnant and lactating women.
- Boyabu has 143 refugees admitted to the nutritional support programme, including 113 children (20 with SAM and 93 with MAM) and 30 adults. ADES distributed 457 packets of plumpy nut to children with SAM, 639 packets of pumpy sup to 93 children with MAM and two bags of CSB were given to pregnant and lactating women with MAM.
- In Inke, 145 refugees are admitted to the nutritional programme including 70 children under the age of 5.

Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average supply of water within the seven refugee sites in the East and Adamawa regions remains within recommended standards at 20 litres per person per day (l/p/d). As part of the 2015 response strategy,

construction work continues in villages, particularly public infrastructures such as schools and health centres, outside of refugee sites so as to establish additional water points and increase the supply of potable water in areas hosting large populations of refugees. Sanitation and hygiene standards remain satisfactory with average ratios of 19 people per latrine and 24 people per shower.

- During the reporting period, CARE, partner of UNHCR, finalized construction of three new boreholes in Mbile, and two boreholes were repaired in Lolo.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average supply of water in Gado (15l) and Mbile (17l) remains below UNHCR standards.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- WASH activities are currently ongoing in the Bosobolo area; soap and water chlorination products are being distributed in the spontaneous refugee sites along the Oubangi river.
- Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 11 litres per person per day (l/p/d), severely below UNHCR standards.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production this week was 305,000l and provided 21 l/p/d. The water is provided by 20 water points, 3 wells with manual pumps and one emergency well.
- In Inke camp, the level of water production stood at 1,544,700l and which provided 15.9 l/p/d.
- In Mboti refugee camp, the daily production of water was 9,489m^3 and provided 16l/p/d.

Shelter/ NFIs and CCCM

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- Construction of semi-permanent shelters continues in sites with the production of bricks via Hydraform machines. In Borgop, 3,000 bricks have been finalized to begin shelter construction. Currently, 98 families (389 refugees) are living in newly constructed durable shelters. In Gado, 24 semi-durable shelters were finalized by Soldarités and assigned to 27 families (104 refugees); another 18 shelters are currently under construction.
- *Premiere Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), UNHCR's implementing partner, has resumed construction of temporary shelters. During the reporting period, 100 family shelters were finalized in Borgop. A total of 7,443 family shelters have been constructed in the East and Adamawa regions. In Timangolo and Mbile, PU-AMI has begun construction work for 80 semi-durable shelters due to be finalized by the end of the month.
- In Ngarisingo, construction of family shelters at the new extension site is currently underway by IEDA Relief, UNHCR's implementing partner. UNHCR is conducting an evaluation to identify other possibilities to extend the site. IEDA Relief also distributed soap and sanitary napkins to 713 refugees, including 134 persons with special needs.

CHAD

Returnees

- In Kobiteye, 50 shelters were completed by UNHCR's implementing partner ADES bringing the total number of shelters to 770 (out of a planned 800 shelters). According to IOM, the total population of Kobiteye stands at 6,677 individuals.
- A total 2,304 individuals (534 families) were verified on the site of Maingama bringing the total number of persons profiled to 13, 637 individuals (3,768 families). According to IOM statistics, to date there are a total of 15,027 individuals living in Maingama. UNHCR and ADES have constructed a total of 4,076 shelters in Maingama.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- The construction of Bili camp is continuing; so far 200 shelters, 76 latrines and 75 garbage pits have been constructed in the camp, as well as the reception centre and an administrative centre. Furthermore, 110 hectares out of the 160 hectares in the new camp area have been cleared.
- A total 519 refugees (149 households) in Boyabu received the following NFIs: 301 blankets, 301 sleeping mats, 290 mosquito nets and 330 jerry cans.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) and the *Agence d'Assistance pour les Rapatries et les Refugiés au Congo* (AARREC), UNHCR's implementing partners, continued construction of family shelter. To date, 314 have been finalized out of a total of 400 planned shelters.

Community Empowerment and Self-Management

Figure 4: Central African women collecting firewood for cooking near Timangolo refugee site, Cameroon. UNHCR/O. Laban-Mattei

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- In Lolo and Timangolo, International Relief and Development (IRD) continued to assist and train refugees in agriculture activities. During the reporting period, 500 new refugees in Timangolo were registered for agricultural activities following sensitizations that were organized ahead of the next agricultural season. In Lolo, IRD continues to monitor and support 300 beneficiaries in agricultural activities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- In Boyabu camp, 820 refugees are working for one of the 62 associations. Amongst other activities, sensitizations were provided on income generating activities to 38 associations (364 refugees).

- In Mole camp, 39 new agricultural groups have been identified and established employing 381 refugees. For livestock and fishing another 71 new groups have been created, employing 680 refugees. Also for incoming generating activities 23 new groups have been formed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

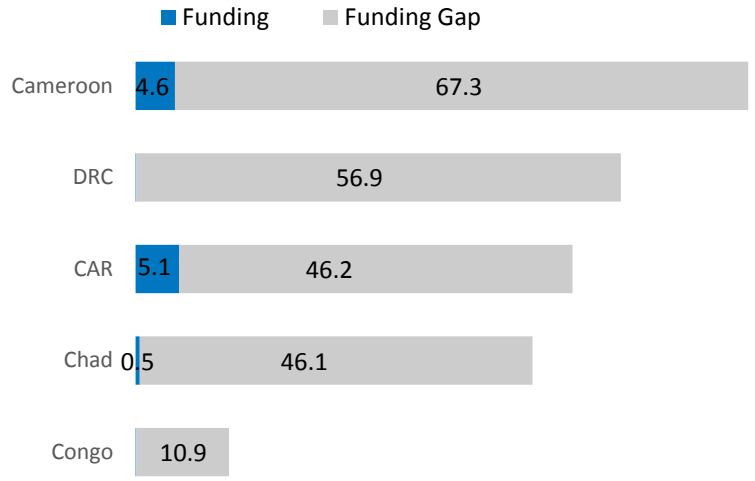
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation in 2014. Below are UNHCR's 2015 financial needs for providing protection and assistance to Central African refugees in the neighbouring countries, as well as discharging its responsibilities in the inter-agency framework to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in the Central African Republic. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation currently amounts to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries from January to December 2015, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 23 January 2015. **The overall needs are currently funded at 4%.**

Donors:

European Union
Japan
Private donors Canada
Private donors Italy
Private donors Japan
Private donors Kuwait
Private donors Switzerland
Private donors USA
Spain
Switzerland
UN Development Programme
UN Population Fund
UN Prog on HIV/AIDS
Holy See

Funding:

A total of USD 10.4 million has been funded



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Links:
CAR regional webportal: http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php
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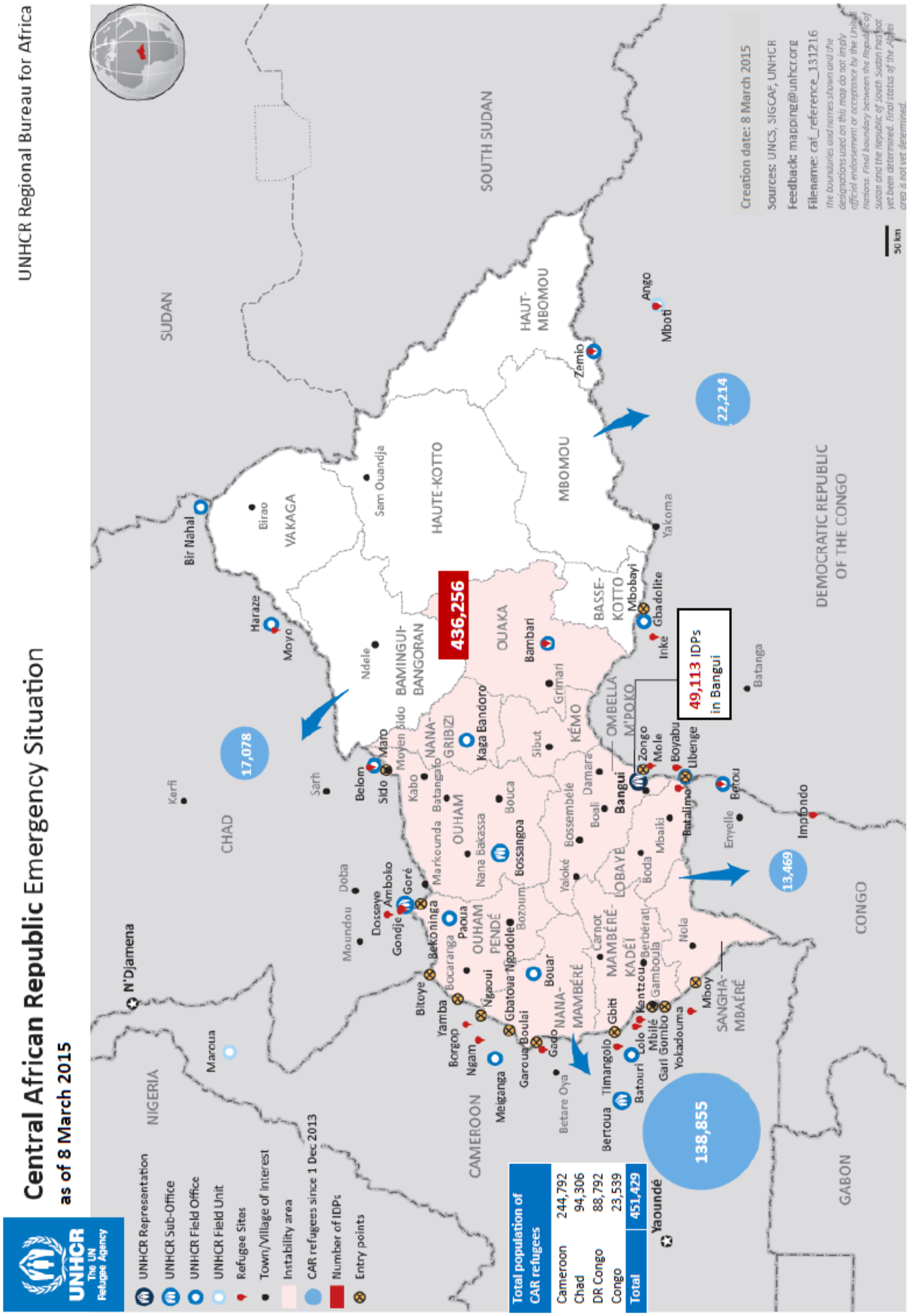
UNHCR Regional Bureau for Africa
Central African Republic Emergency Situation
as of 8 March 2015
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
UNHCR Representation
UNHCR Sub-Office
UNHCR Field Office
UNHCR Field Unit
Refugee Sites
Town/Village of interest
Instability area
CAR refugees since 1 Dec 2013
Number of IDPs
Entry points
Total population of CAR refugees
Cameroon 244,792
Chad 94,306
DR Congo 88,792
Congo 23,539
Total 451,429
436,256
49,113 IDPs in Bangui
138,855
17,078
13,469
22,214
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
CHAD
CAMEROON
NIGERIA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
CONGO
GABON
Bangui
Bambari
Kaga Bandoro
Bossangoa
Bouar
Berbérati
Carnot
Bossembélé
Boali
Damara
Sibut
Grimari
Batangafo
Markounda
Paoua
Bocaranga
Ngaoui
Gbatoua
Ngodole
Boda
Mbaiki
Batalimo
Boyabu
Libenge
Mbobayi
Gbadolite
Inke
Yakoma
Zemio
Mboti
Ango
Batanga
Impfondo
Enyelle
Berou
Mole
Zongo
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Birao
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Belom
Sido
Maro
Moyen Sido
Kabo
Ndele
Sam Ouandja
Mounoudou
Doba
Dossaye
Ambolo
Gondje
Goré
Bekoninga
Yamba
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VAKAGA
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KÉMO
OMBELLA M'POKO
LOBAYE
OUHAM
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MAMBÉRÉ KADÉÏ
SANGHA-MBAÉRÉ
BASSE-KOTTO
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