

Central African Republic (CAR)

September 2024

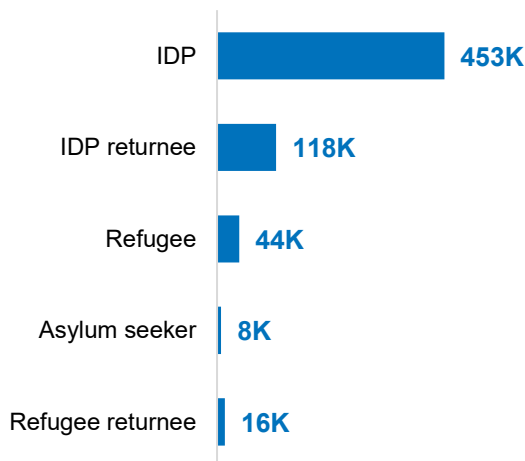
As of 30 September 2024, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR is estimated at **453,533** individuals, including **75,725** people living in the IDP sites (17%), and **379,808** people living with host families (83%).

In collaboration with the CNR and the humanitarian partners, UNHCR is providing life-saving assistance such as protection, shelter, health and education to **14,683 Sudanese refugees** in Korsi, a government-identified neighbourhood in the town of Birao (Vakaga).

UNHCR, together with the government and partners, is also assisting IDPs and other refugees, such as Chadians and South Sudanese, while supporting the **return of CAR refugees** for durable solutions.

POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR

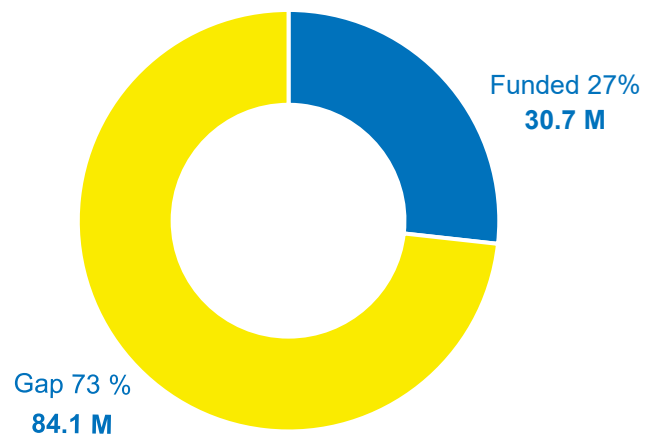
Refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, returnees, refugees, and other forcibly displaced persons.



FUNDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

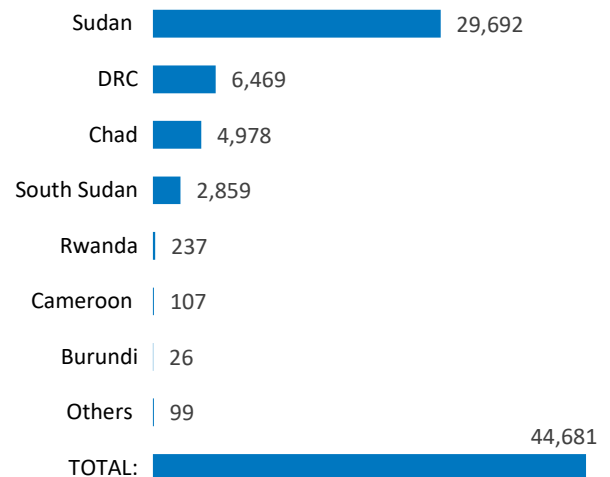
\$114.8M

Required by UNHCR's operation in CAR in 2024



Biometric registration of Sudanese refugees in the Korsi - Birao district. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime

REFUGEES' COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Operational context

Since April 2023, CAR has been hosting thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the conflict, mainly via Am Dafock. UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) are coordinating their reception, registration, border monitoring, and, together with the humanitarian community, are providing essential services such as protection, food, shelter, health care and education in Korsi, a government-identified neighbourhood in the town of Birao, in Vakaga prefecture, 65 km from the border with Sudan.

Some 14,596 Sudanese refugees are in hard-to-reach areas outside the Vakaga and need assistance and protection. In addition, more than 6,500 Central African refugees in Darfur have returned to CAR in adverse circumstances.

As of September 30, 2024, CAR hosts 52,724 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly Sudanese, South Sudanese, Chadian, and Rwandan, 48% of whom are in rural areas, including Vakaga, Ouaka, and Haut Mbomou. With the continued arrival of Sudanese and Chadian refugees since April 2023, due to conflict and intercommunal violence, UNHCR's resources are dwindling in the face of growing needs.

Since 2013, the crises in CAR have caused the displacement of 664,225 Central Africans to neighbouring countries. In addition, as of 30 September 2024, CAR has 453,533 IDPs, of whom 75,725 are living in IDP sites (17%) and 379,808 in host families (83%). However, some areas have been deemed suitable for the promotion of voluntary repatriation, and UNHCR supports the voluntary repatriation of CAR refugees, considering return as a durable solution. A national strategy has been put in place with the government for IDPs and returnees.

Since the start of voluntary repatriation in 2017, UNHCR has supported the government in welcoming the return of 49,114 people, including 15,804 in 2024 (12,426 facilitated returns, mainly from Cameroon and the DRC and 3,378 spontaneously or in adverse circumstances from Sudan and Chad) as of 30 September. The main areas of return are Bangui, Baboua, Baoro, Berbérati, Bouar, Bossemptele, Carnot, Mbaiki and Mongoumba.

Key achievements

Situation of Sudanese refugees in the prefectures of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou

In Birao, WFP has replaced in-kind food aid with cash distribution, promoting the independence and autonomy of the refugees. UNHCR and WFP have been preparing for this transition with awareness raising sessions in Korsi. The distribution, which targets both refugees and host communities, began on 24 August, reaching 14,148 people (6,184 households), and continued in September, when 5,062 households (12,293 refugees) received cash to buy food.

UNHCR has concluded the Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) facilitator training after 12 days of co-facilitation with partner organization INTERSOS. This strategy aims to involve men in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) by promoting responsible behaviours. The goal of this initiative is to encourage gender equality within families and foster change for women and girls.

In Bria, in Haute Kotto, UNHCR conducted a vast "Back to school" awareness-raising campaign among Sudanese refugees for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. The objective of this awareness-raising is to encourage the enrolment of children in school to guarantee their access to education.

Community mobilization efforts have included awareness-raising sessions in Korsi and in the host community on peaceful coexistence. The Education Cannot Wait (ECW) team delivered Protection from Exploitation and Abuse classes in two schools. Construction work continues on a new school in Birao which will include six classrooms, two administrative buildings, two stores for the school canteen and 324 concrete benches.

During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRI) and household kits (blankets, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, buckets, torches and 248 second-hand items) to 93 people (30 households) registered in Korsi from 23 to 25 September.

Agricultural activities among refugees continue in Bria, where 150 households have received tools and seeds to reduce dependence on food aid and improve long-term food security.

Protection activities for South Sudanese refugees, Congolese, and internally displaced persons in Obo

Between August and September, UNHCR and its partner COOPI conducted protection monitoring missions in local neighbourhoods, IDP sites and the refugee camp to collect incidents of GBV. Following the monitoring missions, psychosocial care was provided through rehabilitation sessions in safe spaces and occupational therapeutic activities.

Ten awareness-raising sessions were organized in Obo on the fight against community stigmatization, support for forcibly displaced people against gender-based violence, and the promotion of the green line 4006 of the "Ma Mbi Si" project. These sessions brought together 175 participants, including 47 men, 71 women, 22 boys and 35 girls.

Situation of Chadian refugees

In April 2023, intercommunal violence in Chad led to the arrival of more than 38,000 people in CAR, including 31,779 Chadians and 6,235 spontaneous CAR returnees. As of 30 September 2024, more than 3,458 refugees, from 870 households, have been registered in Betoko, the site designated by the government, and have received shelter and CRI kits from UNHCR.

Between August and September 2024, UNHCR partner Vision to Change the World (VCW), in collaboration with the Betoko health centre, carried out 1,082 medical consultations (including 681 refugees and 401 members of the host community). The primary illnesses identified were malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhea. A total of 1,435 people received training on health, nutrition, the prevention of HIV/AIDS and GBV.

As of 30 September, UNHCR's partner NOURRIR has built 1,150 emergency shelters in Betoko for refugees from Markounda, out of a total of 2,000 planned. 1,250 are ready for occupancy. NOURRIR and UNHCR also distributed 1,000 loincloths to 750 refugee women and 250 members of the host community, as well as 50 bundles of second-hand clothing and 15,000 bars of soap.

On September 25, 2024, World Vision distributed cash assistance to Chadian refugees in Betoko. Each household received 84,000 CFA for the months of August and September (42,000 CFA per month). In total, 825 households were assisted with a total amount of 69,300,000 CFA francs.

Response to internally displaced persons

On the Humanitarian Aid Day, 371 families at the Mbella IDP site in Kaga Bandoro received kits of essential items following flooding and damaged shelters. The kits include tarpaulins, buckets, blankets, ropes, jerry cans, mats, and mosquito nets.

On 24 September, in Bria, Haute Kotto, a joint UNHCR mission, partner INTERSOS and MINUSCA forces visited the village of Boungou 1 to assist internally displaced persons from Alindao and Mouka. A total of 58 families, or 352 people, have received CRI kits.

Sustainable Solutions

In Mongoumba in the Lobaye, training in carpentry, masonry, sewing and welding has been launched to strengthen the capacity of 60 young repatriates thanks to the support of the Peace Building Fund. The project supports both the local community and repatriates to foster social cohesion.

In Baoro, Nana Mambere, UNHCR organized a grassroots consultation with communities, refugee repatriates and IDP returnees as part of the Pôle de Développement project. The participation of the community in the planning and implementation of the project contributes to strengthening local ownership and inclusion in the sustainable solutions framework.

Prevention and Reduction of the Risks of Statelessness

UNHCR continued its surveys on statelessness. During the data collection, a total of 30 in-depth interviews were conducted: 19 with police, judicial and civil registry authorities, 8 with representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and 3 with various ministerial departments. In addition, 4,700 household questionnaires were completed.

Work in partnerships

In the Central African Republic, UNHCR leads the Protection clusters, and co-leads Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/CRI and continues to advocate for the centrality of protection in humanitarian response and the implementation of durable solutions.

UNHCR continues its efforts to develop synergies with government technical services, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and other actors (WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, UN WOMEN, 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, and UNHCR is leading and coordinating the refugee response in collaboration with the government.

UNHCR aims to strengthen relationships with private sector actors, which are essential for stimulating economic growth and job creation, and collaborates with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media. It also works with other government bodies, operational partners, and national and international project-implementation partners.

Finally, UNHCR in CAR is working closely with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) to ensure adequate international protection and multisectoral assistance to people forced to flee.

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

Education Cannot Wait | France | Japan | Luxembourg | United States of America | Switzerland | United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Peacebuilding Fund | Private Donors.

And thank you to the donors who provided flexible funding to UNHCR around the world in 2024

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