

OPERATIONAL UPDATE
October – November 2024
Central African Republic (CAR)



In collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and the humanitarian community, UNHCR is providing multi-sectoral assistance including protection, shelter, health and education to 15,798 Sudanese refugees in Korsi, a government-designated neighborhood in the town of Birao (Vakaga), 65km from the border with Sudan.

STATISTICS / MAP



1 155 218

Forcibly displaced people



469 892

Internally displaced people



684 490

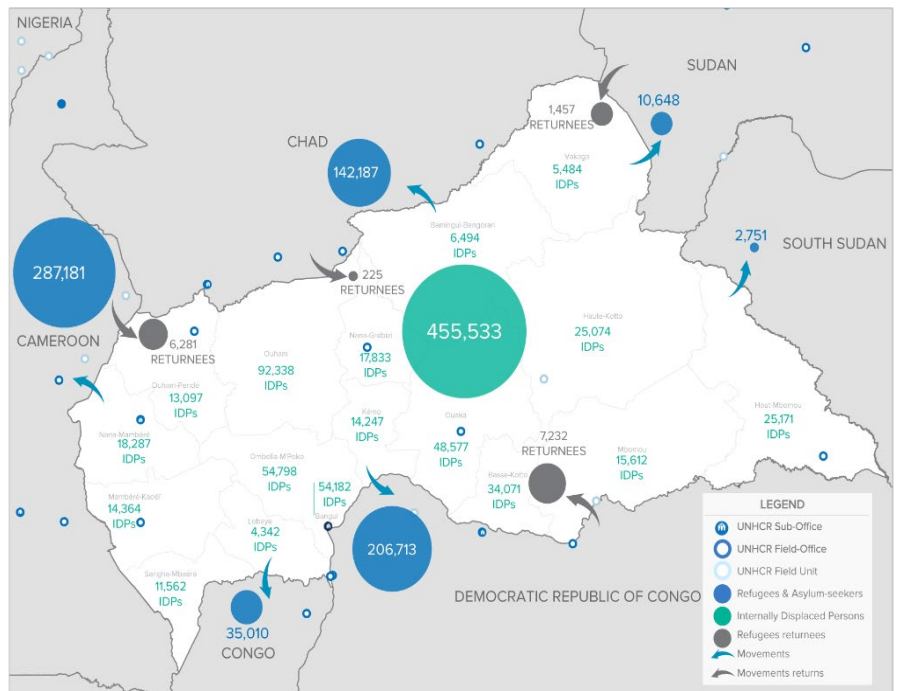
Refugees and asylum-seekers from the Central African Republic



15 195

Returnees from neighboring countries since January 2024

The government, UNHCR and its partners are providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), Chadian, Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees, while supporting the return of Central African refugees as part of durable solutions for refugees.



1 189 Sudanese refugees were registered

773 families received cash assistance

620 refugees have been informed about the procedures of the Central African education system and the new school year

991 families of IDP returnees received shelter kits

1 392 families of returnees received hygiene kits

1 975 people affected by floods received non-food item kits



After losing her husband in airstrikes, Ashta fled Nyala at night with her three kids with nothing but the clothes on their back. "There is nothing left." She is one of the Sudanese refugees who found safety in Korsi as the conflict in Sudan continues. ©UNHCR/Ying HU

Operational Context

Since April 2023, the Central African Republic has been hosting thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the conflict mainly via the Am Dafock border, as well as Chadian refugees, putting increasing pressure on UNHCR's limited resources. UNHCR and the CNR are coordinating the reception and registration of refugees and border monitoring. In collaboration with the humanitarian community, they are providing essential services, including protection, food, shelter, healthcare and education in Korsi, Vakaga.

Outside of Vakaga, 14,793 Sudanese refugees are living in hard-to-reach areas and require urgent assistance and protection. Additionally, over 6,500 Central African refugees in Darfur have been forced to return to CAR under precarious conditions.

As of 30 November, CAR hosts 54,011 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Chad, South Sudan, the Sudan, and Rwanda. Of these, 47 per cent reside in rural areas, particularly in Vakaga, Ouaka, and Haut-Mbomou.

Since 2013, the crises in CAR have caused the displacement of 676,177 Central Africans to

neighboring countries. In addition, as of 30 November, CAR has 469,892 IDPs, with 77,657 (17 per cent) living in displacement sites and 392,253 (83 per cent) hosted by families. However, certain areas have been deemed suitable for voluntary return, and the UNHCR supports this durable solution for refugees. A national strategy for the return of IDPs and Central African refugees has been developed and adopted in collaboration with the government.

Since voluntary repatriation began in 2017, UNHCR has supported the government in receiving 49,772 returnees, including 16,567 in 2024 (13,081 facilitated repatriations, mainly from Cameroon and the DRC, and 3,486 spontaneous returns or returns under precarious conditions from Sudan and Chad). In October and November, 659 Central Africans have returned. The main return areas included Bangui, Baboua, Baoro, Berbérati, Bouar, Bossemptele, Carnot, Mbaïki, and Mongoumba.

Main achievements

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

In Birao, WFP and its partner Ecobank, in collaboration with UNHCR, CNR, NOURRIR, INTERSOS, and refugee committee members, distributed cash assistance in place of dry food rations to 13,537 Sudanese refugees, representing 5,673 households, for October and November.

During the same period, 1,189 Sudanese refugees from 419 households were biometrically registered in Rafai, near the border with the DRC, following a joint registration mission conducted by UNHCR and CNR.

Moreover, in Mbrès, CNR and UNHCR recorded the arrival of 137 Sudanese refugees, from 13 households.

In Sam-Ouandja, the capital of the Ouandja-Kotto sub-prefecture (Haute-Kotto), 773 Sudanese refugee families and 21 households of Central African returnees who had spontaneously returned to the areas of Bria and Ouandja-Kotto received multi-purpose cash assistance from UNHCR. This is the first time UNHCR has provided such assistance in these hard-to-reach areas.

During the reporting period, four awareness sessions were organized in Korsi, bringing together 620 people from both refugee and host communities. These sessions focused on two main topics: the importance of education in society and the start of the new school year.

In Ndélé, in the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture, 766 school-age Sudanese refugee children are continuing their education.

Protection surveys were conducted with newly arrived refugee households in Korsi to better understand their needs and situation in order to better tailor the humanitarian response.

Protection Activities in Obo for South Sudanese Refugees, Congolese Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons

Between October and November, UNHCR and its partner COOPI conducted protection monitoring missions in Obo, covering various neighborhoods, displacement sites, and the refugee site, in order to record incidents of gender-based violence (GBV). Following this data collection, psychosocial support was provided through rehabilitation sessions in safe spaces and occupational therapy activities.

Additionally, ten awareness sessions were held in Obo focusing on combating community stigma, supporting displaced persons facing gender-based violence, and promoting the "Ma Mbi Si" project's green line 4006. These sessions brought together 175 participants,

including 47 men, 71 women, 22 boys, and 35 girls.

In Obo, children from refugee, internally displaced and host communities celebrated the World Children's Rights Day through playful games, and an exchange among children through story-telling, poems and sharing their dreams with each other.

Situation of Chadian refugees

In April 2023, inter-community violence in Chad forced more than 38,000 people to flee to CAR, including 31,779 Chadian refugees and 6,235 spontaneous Central African returnees. As of 30 November, 3,458 refugees from 870 households have been biometrically registered in Betoko, including 1,584 men and 1,874 women. They are receiving shelter and non-food items provided by UNHCR and its partners.

Response for internally displaced persons

As part of support for the return of internally displaced persons to Kaga-Bandoro, in Nana-Gribizi, 1,362 hygiene kits and 991 shelter kits were distributed. This assistance benefited 991 households, representing 4,094 people at the Lazaret site, as well as 371 households (1,406 displaced persons) at the Mbella site. These efforts aim to mitigate the vulnerabilities of displaced persons living in these sites since 2016, while preserving their dignity.

In response to the floods that hit Bangui and Bimbo on 1 November, UNHCR supported the Minister for Humanitarian Action in distributing humanitarian aid to 1,975 people affected by floods. This assistance included non-food items consisting of blankets, mats, tents, mosquito nets, buckets, jerrycans, soap, loincloths and torches, and kitchen sets.

Durable Solutions

The voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees from Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to Bangui, Berberati, Bouar, and Baoro.

By 30 November, UNHCR had facilitated the voluntary return of 16,567 people. Additionally, 3,378 people returned under less favorable conditions from Cameroon, Chad and the Sudan.

Preventing and reducing the risk of statelessness

UNHCR is continuing its efforts to prevent statelessness in CAR. Focus group discussions were held with community leaders, religious representatives, and health and civil registry authorities in Berberati (Mambéré-Kadéï) and Carnot (Nana-Mambéré) to raise awareness on the issue of statelessness.

In addition, 100 children among refugee and IDP returnees as well as host communities in Mongoumba received birth certificates and supplementary judgments, supported by funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. Among other things, this initiative will enable them to enroll in school and work toward a brighter and more stable future.

Work in Partnerships

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

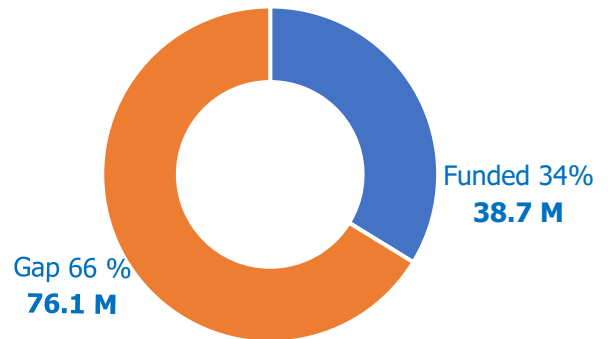
In response to the influx of Sudanese and Chadian refugees, the refugee coordination model has been activated, with UNHCR leading the response in collaboration with the CNR, representing the government.

We would like to thank the donors who contributed to the UNHCR operation in CAR in 2024



FUNDING AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2024

114,8 M \$ Required by UNHCR in CAR in 2024



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