UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

July - September 2025
Central African Republic (CAR)

In collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and the humanitarian community, UNHCR continues to provide multi-sectoral assistance covering protection, shelter, health, education, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) to 26,728 Sudanese refugees in Korsi, a government-identified neighbourhood in the town of Birao (Vakaga prefecture), 65 km from the border with Sudan.

STATISTICS / MAPS

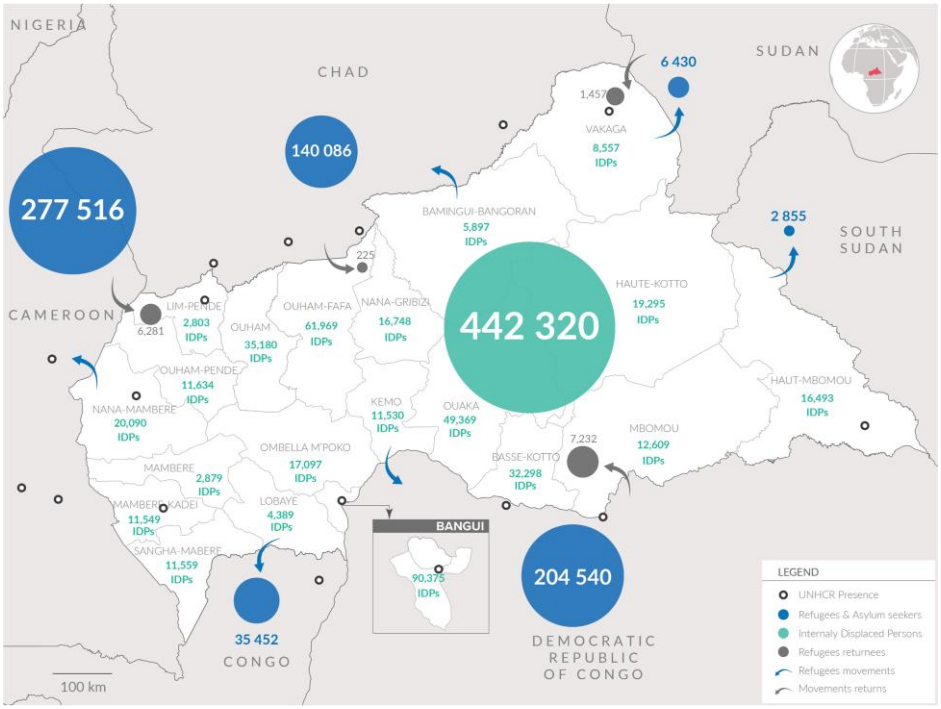
1 202 392
Forcibly displaced population

442 320
Internally displaced persons

62 602
Central African refugees and asylum seekers

30 591
Persons repatriated from neighbouring countries since January 2024

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



1,189 refugees Sudanese have been registered

773 households received cash assistance

1,975 people affected by The floods were assisted by non-food item kits

991 households Returning IDPs received shelter kits

1,392 households Returnees received hygiene kits

4,250 Central Africans have been voluntary repatriated from Cameroon and DRC to CAR since January 2025

Salam Gerard, father of 9 children and the Chief of the Yandomo district of returnees in Bria, in the Haute Kotto in the Central African Republic. He is a role model in his community for his dedication to the common good, his leadership, availability, and above all, his transparency in promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion. A small ruminant breeder, he benefits from the IOM–UNHCR joint project supporting the construction of sustainable shelters, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to assist returnees. ©UNHCR/Stella Fatime

Operating context

Since April 2023, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been hosting thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the conflict, mainly via the Am Dafock border crossing, as well as Chadian refugees. This situation is putting increasing pressure on limited local resources. In collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), UNHCR ensures their reception, registration and border protection monitoring. With the support of the humanitarian community, UNHCR is providing them with essential services, including protection, food assistance, shelter, health care and education, including in Korsi, Vakaga Prefecture.

As of September 30, 2025, the Central African Republic hosted 52,724 Refugees and Asylum Seekers, including 44,4671 Refugees and 8,257 Asylum Seekers, mainly from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, South Sudan, and Rwanda.

Of these, 48% live in rural areas, particularly in the prefectures of Vakaga, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto, Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Nana Gribizi, Mbomou, Lim Pende and Haut-Mbomou.

The overall number of refugees and asylum seekers increased slightly by 0.3% compared to July (52,582). This is mainly due to the continued arrival of Sudanese refugees.

In addition, more than 6,360 Central Africans who were living as refugees in Darfur, Sudan have spontaneously returned to CAR under difficult conditions.

Since 2013, crises in CAR have displaced 679,566 Central Africans to neighbouring countries. In addition, as of 30 September 2025, CAR has 445,536 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including 67,664 in the 78 sites and gathering places (15%), and 374,656 (85%) in host families.

In the south-eastern locality of Zemio, Obo, Bangassou, Rafai and Bambouti, the security and protection situation has deteriorated due to sporadic attacks by elements of non-state armed groups against the civilian population, leading to the displacement of 60,000 people in the sub-prefecture of Zémio to the DRC as refugees last May.

In the meantime, some areas have been deemed suitable for voluntary return, and UNHCR supports durable solutions for the returnees. To this end, a national strategy on durable solutions has been developed and adopted in collaboration with the government to promote the return of internally displaced persons and Central African refugees in 2024.

Since the start of voluntary repatriations in 2017, UNHCR has supported the government in receiving 57,206 people repatriated from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo to CAR, including 16,265 in 2024.

As of 28 September, 14,326 Central Africans have been voluntarily repatriated to Bangui, as well as to the prefectures of Nana Membéré and Membéré Kadéï in the CAR since January 2025. The activities related to voluntary repatriation are continuing with a planning target of 20,000 people to be repatriated in 2025. The main return areas include Bangui, Bimbo, Baboua, Baoro, Berbérati, Bouar, Bossemptélé, Carnot, Mbaïki and Mongoumba.

Key achievements

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

The security situation in Vakaga prefecture, particularly near the Sudanese border, has remained volatile since July 2025 except for the town of Birao, which hosts around 27,000 Sudanese refugees in the relatively calm Korsi district. The border area of Am-Dafock has seen a drastic deterioration in the security situation, with an increase in incursions and deadly attacks on towns and villages by unidentified armed individuals.

These attacks have sparked inter-communal clashes, resulting in kidnappings, killings and massive forced displacement of populations.

Also, the free movement of people between Am-Dafock and Birao remains difficult, especially during the rainy season when road access is limited

In addition, local and cross-border trade activities in border areas have been halted due to insecurity, which has led to an increase in the prices of basic necessities and exacerbated the vulnerability of the population.

Registration and Documentation

Between July and September, new arrivals of Sudanese in Birao remained low, with fewer than 100 people recorded. This sustained decline is likely due to the ongoing rainy season, which has worsened road conditions and rendered some areas near the border inaccessible.

However, with the end of the rainy season in October, the number of new arrivals is expected to increase amid continued insecurity in Sudan.

As of 30 September, UNHCR and CNR have registered 26,924 Sudanese refugees (10,708 families) in Kosi, of whom 56 per cent are women and girls, and 44 per cent are men and boys. In addition, some 12,140 Sudanese refugees remain in other, often difficult-to-access, areas in the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou.

Water, hygiene and sanitation

Despite ongoing humanitarian efforts in the Korsi neighbourhood of Birao, significant gaps persist in sustainable support for Sudanese refugees and host communities. Water and sanitation conditions in the Korsi remained below emergency standards between July and September, despite the rehabilitation and maintenance of water supply facilities by UNICEF partner Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH) and UN Women partner All for Peace and Dignity (APADE).

The average daily water supply was still about 11 liters per person, well below the Sphere standard of 15 liters, in part due to vandalism from some boreholes. Sanitary conditions remained critical, with 52 people per latrine. More than 16,440 refugees still lack access to adequate sanitation facilities, and an estimated 822 additional latrines are urgently needed.

Food security and livelihoods

As part of efforts to strengthen the self-reliance of vulnerable communities through agricultural income-generating activities (IGAs) and to promote dialogue on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in Birao (Vakaga), a technician from the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development is supporting Sudanese refugees and host community members in market gardening. @Photo UNHCR / Stella FATIME

During the reporting period, food and livelihood assistance continued in Korsi. In mid-September, WFP and UNHCR with its partner NOURRIR provided dry food rations to 6,012 families of 12,830 Sudanese refugees. In addition, 4,189 households of 12,063 people benefited from cash assistance for food in Birao.

In addition, market gardening and agricultural activities continue in Birao to help refugees generate income, strengthen the self-reliance and economic inclusion of both refugees and host communities, and promote sustainable livelihoods and peaceful coexistence.

As part of the UNHCR-supported livelihood project, 1,125 households received food and market garden seeds, as well as training on cultivation techniques and community

participation. The beneficiaries have also started clearing land for the cultivation of sesame and watermelon.

Education and child protection

From July to September, UNHCR and its partners, Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) (CSSI) and Olivier l'Homme de Galilée pour le Développement Social (OHG DS), in collaboration with the Academic Inspectorate of the Vakaga Prefecture, continued to support the integration of refugees into the national education system with a focus on the preparation of a safe and inclusive learning environment for internally displaced children (IDPs), refugee children, including about thirty students enrolled at the University of Bangui with the support of the Mastercard Foundation, and those of the host communities.

French classes at Birao have seen an increase in attendance, reaching 396 learners across three levels, with an additional classroom for beginners. 450 school kits were distributed to learners.

A safe and inclusive learning environment for refugees and the host community in Birao (Vakaga). @Photo UNHCR / Stella FATIME

Throughout the months of July to September, community outreach activities were conducted in Korsi to promote school enrollment and reinforce the importance of education. Door-to-door visits, conducted with the support of trained community relays, informed parents about the enrolment of their children, especially the youngest, and identified out-of-school children in the neighbourhood. Meetings with members of Parents' Associations (PTAs) focused on the maintenance of school facilities and the role of families in supporting a safe and conducive learning environment.

In Korsi, the child-friendly space welcomed 580 children (315 boys and 265 girls) through recreational, creative and cultural activities (dance, games, singing), contributing to their psychosocial well-being in a safe and inclusive environment.

Shelter and non-food items

"My children are all healthy and my environment has improved significantly," said Haram Mahamat, a Sudanese refugee, widow and mother of five who has regained her dignity after receiving a semi-durable shelter in Korsi (Birao) in CAR. @ UNHCR / Stella FATIME

UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR completed the construction of 51 semi-durable shelters for Sudanese refugees in Kosi in September, while 30 more are still under construction. However, the persistent shortage of fired bricks on the local market has slowed down construction work. To address this, alternative suppliers have been identified, local brick production has been encouraged, and coordination and technical monitoring have been strengthened.

Health and nutrition

In the third quarter of the year, medical teams from the CSSI and the International Medical Corps (IMC), coordinated by the Vakaga Health District, provided an average of 6,200 medical consultations in Korsi, of which approximately 72 per cent were for refugees and 28 per cent for the host community. Children aged 0 to 59 months accounted for nearly 29% of patients.

As in previous months, the most common diagnosed conditions remain malaria (46%), followed by intestinal parasitic diseases (14%) and respiratory infections (12%).

In September, 137 women received prenatal consultations, 17 received postnatal consultations, 33 received gynecological consultations and 23 women received reproductive health care. Seven new births were registered at the Korsi health facility, for a total of 129 births in 2025. 100 per cent of the new childbirths were assisted by qualified health workers at the hospital.
In September, 636 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition, including 21 cases (3.3%) of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 10 cases (1.6%) of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) identified and treated. So far in 2025, 336 cases of AMS and 134 cases of SAM have been treated among 7,358 children screened.

Twenty-four new mental health cases were recorded and treated in September, including refugees and members of the host community, for a total of 262 cases since the beginning of the year.

Throughout reporting period, community awareness on the prevention of malaria, measles and digestive infections continued, with a focus on the use of mosquito nets, the elimination of standing water, the vaccination of children, handwashing, and food and water hygiene practices.

Protection activities in Obo for South Sudanese and Congolese refugees

During the third quarter of the year, the protection situation gradually improved in the localities of Mbomou and Haut Mbomou. This is due to the presence of security and law enforcement agencies based in large cities which are increasing patrols to mitigate protection risks.

UNHCR, ITS partner Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD)and the CNR continue to closely monitor the cross-border movement of South Sudanese asylum seekers to the localities of Bambouti and Obo. The ongoing inter-communal conflict in South Sudan, more specifically in the Tamboura area, have caused population movements to the Central African Republic. According to local authorities, hundreds of asylum seekers have arrived in Bambouti. Other people are believed to have crossed the border and made their way to the town of Obo. Local authorities, UNHCR and partners are planning a verification mission in the area.

During the reporting period, UNHCR, CIAUD and the CNR continued to conduct follow-up protection visits in the towns of Obo, Bema, Bangassou, Ouango and Rafai in the localities of Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou, help collect information, identify the challenges faced by people with specific needs, and refer refugees to available assistance services. Following the field visit to Obo, 29 older persons with disabilities were identified in the refugee camp. Following these assessements, psychosocial care was provided through rehabilitation sessions in safe spaces and occupational therapeutic activities.

In addition, eight awareness-raising sessions on combatting community stigmatization and providingsupport for forcibly displaced people facing gender-based violence, including physical assaults, were organized in Obo, Rafai, Bangassou and Ouango. These sessions brought together 1,140 participants.

Situation of Chadian refugees

In April 2023, communal conflicts in Chad forced more than 38,000 people to flee to the Central African Republic, including 31,779 Chadian refugees and 6,235 spontaneous Central African returnees.

Following monitoring activities in border villages (Bedaka, Bembere, and Benamkor) hosting Chadian asylum seekers, the CNR and UNHCR estimated that approximately 2,515 households comprising 6,712 individuals were living with host families. In the 3rd quarter of 2025, 3,458 Chadian refugees from 909 households are registered and enrolled with biometrics in Betoko, including 1,584 men and 1,874 women. Among them, 424 people have specific needs, including:

- unaccompanied children,
- pregnant or breastfeeding women,

- elderly with medical conditions
- people living with disabilities,
- and people with worrying medical conditions.

During the reporting period, cash assistance of 42,000 CFA francs per household was provided by World Vision with technical support from UNHCR to Chadian refugee households in Betoko in Lim Pendé. A total of 886 households have benefited from this cash assistance, for a total amount of more than 37 million CFA francs.

In addition, 300 Chadian refugee households received non-food items and hygiene kits in Betoko. The kits consist of laundry soap, toilet soap, 25-liter plastic buckets, 25-liter cans, loincloths, 500-milliliter cups, fillings for women of childbearing age and baby jars that will allow them to meet basic needs.

Activities for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child

The CNR UNHCR and partners are continuing protection monitoring activities in the localities of Bossangoa, Paoua, Betoko, Bocaranga, Ngaoundaye and Bozoum. The protective environment is generally favorable during the reporting period. However, in Bossangoa and some localities in the Ouham prefecture, heavy and repeated rainfall accompanied by strong winds risk leading to the collapse of many houses.

As part of the educational and socio-recreational activities at the Children's Friendly Space in Betoko between July and September 2025, about 1,000 children, including 594 girls and 406 boyts participated in the activities such as sports, games, dance, theater, reading, and drawing.

Health & Nutrition

Between July and September, a total of about 3,500 medical consultations were carried out, more than half of which were for Chadian refugees, i.e. 54 per cent and 47 per cent for the host community.

The three main causes of morbidity in the locality remain malaria with about 47 % of cases, followed by digestive infections and respiratory infections.

Durable solutions for internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees

During the reporting period, there was a general improvement in the security situation in the major cities and main roads in the Central African Republic, resulting in the spontaneous return of 75,800 internally displaced persons within the country.

During September in Vakaga, more than 11,109 Central African nationals were displaced from Amdafock and seven other border villages to find refuge around the Temporary Base of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA). This comes in the wake of cross-border attacks by suspected RSF elements on villages around Amdafock, bringing the total number of internally displaced person in Vakaga prefecture to 21,880 people as of 30 September 2025.

UNHCR has positioned itself to support 5,000 displaced people with non-food item kits and continue to monitor protection risks. Other UN agencies and NGOs have also pledged to contribute to the response. However, this is delayed due to the severe restriction in transporting supplies by road during this rainy season.

In Bria in Haute Kotto, in July, as part of the project to support livelihoods and strengthen resilience through the revival of agricultural activities, UNHCR and its partners CIAUD and the national NGO CATDEC, distributed agricultural inputs and agricultural tools to 75 households grouped together in a corporative composed of internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and host communities.

From 1 to 2 July 2025 in Bangui, the High-Level Forum on Forced Displacement and the Role of the Private Sector took place, under the high patronage of His Excellency Professor Faustin Archange TOUADERA, President of the Republic, Head of State, and with the leadership of the Minister of Humanitarian Action. The Forum brought together national, regional and international stakeholders to discuss four key themes: financial inclusion, training and entrepreneurship, agribusiness, and energy/digital infrastructure.

The Forum laid the foundations for a new public-private partnership to make areas of return and displacement levers for inclusive economic growth and community resilience.

Voluntary repatriation activities for Central African refugees from Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo are continuing, to the localities of Bangui, Berberati, Bouar and Baoro.

As of 30 September 2025, UNHCR, with the support of the government, has facilitated the voluntary return of 14,326 people under this programme. Since 2017, 67,282 Central African refugees have returned voluntarily.

Working in partnership

In the Central African Republic, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/NFI clusters.

Within the Protection Cluster, a joint information management and response monitoring team has been established to design a common system, define priority indicators, collect data, develop dashboards, consolidate service mapping, monitor impact, track associated results across the cluster, and measure cluster coordination performance. UNHCR continues to advocate for the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response and for the implementation of durable solutions.

UNHCR in the Central African Republic is strengthening its engagement with strategic partners to pool efforts for forcibly displaced people and their host communities. This includes, among other things, the signing of a MoU with UN Women, the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as close coordination with ministerial departments and local authorities.

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.

Operational efficiency measures in the CAR

In response to reduced funding and broader financial constraints, UNHCR in CAR has undertaken a comprehensive reprioritization of its operations. This has a direct impact on the reduction of its geographical coverage in the country and the continuity of its services.

UNHCR has undertaken a series of reforms and budgetary adjustments at all levels to optimize the use of available resources, while preserving the efficiency and quality of services to forcibly displaced populations.

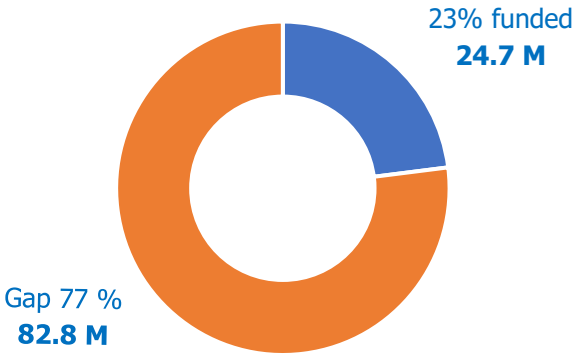
In addition to internal measures, UNHCR is actively involved in a process of pooling resources between UN agencies in CAR. This ongoing project, conducted under the framework of the Working Group on Mutualization (GMR), aims to identify and explore synergies in key areas such as logistics, security, remote site management, information technology and administrative services. The aim is to reduce costs, improve coordination and strengthen operational presence in hard-to-reach areas.

Ultimately, this initiative will allow programs to operate more efficiently at a larger scale while promoting greater coherence in humanitarian and development actions on the ground.

These measures illustrate a clear desire to adapt UNHCR's operations to current budgetary realities, based on levers of efficiency and innovation, while preserving the essential ability to protect and assist populations forced to flee in a complex operational environment. These efforts are also part of a broader dynamic of inter-agency pooling and coordination, in order to amplify the collective impact despite limited resources.

FUNDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

$107.5 million requested by UNHCR in CAR in 2025



We thank the donors who contributed to UNHCR's operation in CAR in 2025

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