SUDAN SITUATION – Central African Republic (CAR)

December 2025

Distribution of non-food items to Sudanese refugees in Korsi (Birao). @UNHCR/ Ph. Stella Fatime

Situation and Operational Response

Highlights

In December, the security environment in the Vakaga prefecture close to the border with Sudan remained relatively calm but fragile, despite ongoing voluntary disarmament efforts and a peace agreement between Sudanese and Central African communities. Although the security in urban areas in Birao were relatively stable, refugees and host communities continued to face violence, extortion, and movement restrictions by non-state armed groups along key routes, disrupting livelihoods and increasing the cost of basic goods.

Thanks to joint advocacy by UNHCR, its partners and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), local authorities in Birao have allocated an additional 100-hectare plot to expand the Korsi refugee neighbourhood, improving its capacity to accommodate potential new arrivals. This land will provide housing for refugees and support market gardening and agricultural activities to strengthen refugee and host communities' self-reliance, while enhancing resilience and social cohesion. The site currently hosts around 27,000 Sudanese refugees.

Despite ongoing inter-agency assistance, significant gaps persist for Sudanese refugees and host communities. Water supply in the Korsi refugee neighbourhood remains below emergency standards with around 10.4 litres per person per day, and the latrine conditions remain critical with 52 people per latrine, heightening risks of diseases.

Population Movement and Registration

As of December 2025, 40,332 Sudanese refugees have fled to the Central African Republic since the conflict started in April 2023. 83 per cent of them are women and girls. Among these refugees, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have registered 26,981 people in Korsi and Birao, while 13,351 Sudanese refugees remain in other, often hard-to-reach areas across the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou, and Haut-Mbomou.

A few new arrivals—slightly over 100 individuals—were documented in the Ouandja-Kotto sub-prefecture. A joint UNHCR-CNR mission to hard-to-reach areas in the localities of Bakouma, Pombolo, Bangassou and Rafai in the Southeast also continued in December.

Protection

In December, UNHCR's partner CIAUD recorded 91 protection incidents in Vakaga prefecture. The incidents were primarily attributed to non-state armed groups along transit routes, nearby localities, and peripheral areas of urban centers. Localities such as Ouandja/Sekikédé, Ouanda-Djallé, Boromata and Birao were the most affected.

These protection incidents affected both refugees and host community members, with adult men constituting most victims (77 per cent) due to their mobility while seeking livelihoods, followed by adult women (18 per cent) and children (5 per cent). Most of these incidents were violations of property rights (47 per cent), including extortion, illegal taxation, and theft, followed by arbitrary arrests and restriction of movements (37 per cent).

To mitigate and respond to protection-related risks and incidents, UNHCR and its partner CIAUD continued protection monitoring, case management and strengthening of community-based protection and vigilance committees.

Accountability to affected populations (AAP)

UNHCR and its partner CIAUD continued to strengthen accountability to affected populations in Korsi through regular feedback collection, referral, awareness raising and follow-up of complaints and feedback. The complaints collected mainly concerned cash distribution for food, WASH, shelters, and livelihood. UNHCR and partners referred cases to relevant actors and followed up to ensure timely assistance.

Community-based awareness-raising sessions continued to be conducted by CIAUD on complaint mechanisms, feedback procedures and accountability processes, reaching hundreds of refugees. These activities reinforced refugees' understanding of their rights and responsibilities, encouraged participation, and helped ensure that assistance was delivered more effectively and equitably.

Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) and to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

UNHCR's partner CIAUD continued to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Vakaga prefecture. Throughout December, incidents of GBV continued to be reported, including physical assault, sexual abuse, psychological violence, and denial of resources, with many incidents occurring in domestic settings. All GBV survivors received psychosocial support at safe spaces; 42 per cent received dignity kits, 13 per cent received cash

assistance to cover urgent needs, and 15 per cent were referred to medical facilities based on their individual needs.

Meanwhile, life-skills and capacity-building sessions continued, with 22 refugee women participating in weekly counselling sessions focused on stress management, self-confidence, and positive coping strategies. Community awareness activities reached 52 participants, covering topics such as psychological violence, sexual assault, and available reporting and referral mechanisms for GBV and PSEA. Additionally, UNHCR, CIAUD, and IMC conducted the 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender-Based Violence reaching 1,467 people.

In December, UNHCR trained 42 refugee women from the YA RAHAMANE women association in female leadership and micro-enterprise management to help them manage income-generating activities. UNHCR and partners also conducted a joint monitoring visit to the construction site of the association's upcoming catering restaurant. This activity aimed to foster women's economic empowerment and self-reliance.

Child protection

UNHCR and partners continued child protection activities in Korsi, with a focus on promoting children's rights, psychosocial well-being, and social cohesion. 545 refugee children (266 girls, 49 per cent) were newly enrolled at the Korsi Child Friendly Space during the month of December. They participated in creative, recreational, and educational activities, including sports, dance, and games. These activities provided a safe and inclusive environment that supported children's emotional well-being, encouraged social interaction, and promoted positive behaviors, while fostering a sense of belonging and community among participants. Since the start of 2025, a total of 3,885 children (1,777 girls, 46%) has participated in activities at the Child Friendly Space, including 413 children (170 girls, 41%) from the host community.

UNHCR conducted capacity-building and awareness sessions for around 30 adolescent girls in Korsi, including 15 Sudanese refugees, covering early and forced marriage, its impact on girls, the role of education in preventing such marriages, and adolescent reproductive health. The sessions aimed at empowering these teenage girls as role models to lead peer-to-peer awareness campaigns.

Education

In December, UNHCR and its partners, the Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and local NGO Olivier l'Homme de Galilée pour le Développement Social (OHG DS), in collaboration with the Academic Inspection of the Vakaga prefecture, continued supporting refugees' integration into the national education system.

French language courses remained a key component of education activities, reaching a total of 501 learners over the month, including 391 refugees and 110 host community members. While the majority of participants were adolescents and youth, seeking to learn French to be able to reinforce their secondary or tertiary education, a small proportion of participants were also adult learners from 36 to 60 years old, underscoring the interest and need for adult language learning. Women represented 52 per cent and men 48 per cent, highlighting the improved engagement of female students compared to earlier in the year when female participation remained less than half. Children made up 38 per cent, underscoring the need to further support and adapt the programme for younger learners.

Capacity-building complemented the language courses, with 33 Parents' Association members trained in their roles in schools, and 29 teachers and parent-teachers trained in

gender-based violence prevention, psychosocial first aid and child protection. These initiatives aimed to strengthen the quality of education and ensure the safety and inclusion of all learners.

Community engagement remained a priority, with the newly constructed preschool classrooms officially handed over to local authorities, a step in expanding access to education to promote early childhood education for both refugees and host community children.

Livelihood support was linked to education through the distribution of 50 goats and veterinary supplies to 10 Parents' Association members, reflecting an integrated approach to learning, community participation, and self-reliance.

Food security and livelihood

In December, WFP in coordination with CNR, UNHCR and its partner NOURRIR continued food assistance through cash distribution in Korsi reaching 12,879 Sudanese refugees.

UNHCR and its partner CIAUD continued implementing the livelihood projects aimed at enhancing self-reliance and economic inclusion of refugees and host communities. In December, 50 people were trained in income-generating activities (small-scale trade) and 100 people received training in livestock-rearing techniques, while preparations for vocational training and the livestock market continued.

Ccommunity-based awareness-raising activities, focusing on harvest management, self-reliance, financial management, community responsibility, and peaceful coexistence reached a total of 1,210 people, including members of the Village Savings and Loan Associations (AVEC). By the end of December, four AVEC groups were active in Korsi, Nguerendomo, and Songo, each comprising approximately 25 members, with regular savings contributions reported.

Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

In Korsi, 273 vulnerable refugee households received tarpaulins to support the rehabilitation of their shelters, providing them with safer and more durable living conditions. UNHCR also continued the construction of semi-durable shelters for refugees. In addition, 1,623 vulnerable households received essential non-food items, including mats, rechargeable torches, soap, mosquito nets, and second-hand clothing, helping to improve their daily living conditions and resilience.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In December, hygiene promotion activities by UNHCR's partner NOURRIR reached a total of 11,764 people (4,464 households) in Korsi. These activities included focus group discussions, cleaning of communal spaces such as health posts and water points and door-to-door awareness-raising on safe water management, latrine use, waste disposal, and environmental hygiene. Fifteen new waste pits were dug, and sanitation committees were revitalized to enhance waste management and community involvement. These combined efforts strengthened good hygiene practices, reduced risks of waterborne diseases, and promoted safe use and management of water points despite limited WASH infrastructure.

Health and Nutrition

Medical teams from the CSSI and International Medical Corps (IMC), coordinated by the Vakaga health district, carried out 1,440 consultations throughout the month, with refugees accounting for 83 per cent and members of the host community at 17 percent. Children aged 0–59 months represented around 29 per cent of patients. The most common conditions diagnosed were malaria (37 per cent), followed by respiratory infections (20 per cent), and intestinal parasitic diseases (14 per cent).

Reproductive health services continued to be provided in Korsi with 147 women receiving family planning and gynecological consultations. 17 childbirths were recorded, totaling 169 births in 2025. One hundred per cent of births were assisted by qualified birth attendants at the hospital.

In December, 387 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition; 23 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and eight cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified and treated. So far in 2025, 407 MAM and 163 SAM cases have been treated among 9,192 children screened.

Health promotion and prevention continued in Birao in December, with a focus on malaria, cholera, measles, Mpox, and good hygiene practices. Key activities included distributing mosquito nets, raising awareness of handwashing and safe food preparation, conducting vaccination campaigns, and providing guidance on avoiding exposure to Mpox and rabies.

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