



Central African Republic Situation

External Regional Update #5 – 27 February-5 March 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 3 March, the U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that the situation in the Central African Republic had changed "drastically". He recommended that the Security Council authorize a U.N. peacekeeping force of up to 10,000 military personnel and 1,820 police to be deployed to protect civilians and restore stability.
- On 6 March the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres briefed the UN Security Council on the increasingly dire situation in the Central African Republic and the potentially destabilizing factor it could have on the whole region. He said that the response was "dramatically underfunded" and called for robust international financial support to respond to the enormous needs of the new arrivals and to support the host communities that have so generously taken them in.
- According to Abdou Dieng, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic, a food crisis is looming in the country after nearly a year of violence. Funds pledged to help the crisis at a donor conference in Brussels in January have not materialised. He said the current unrest has compounded long-standing economic problems, noting that many of the Muslims who fled had been truck drivers who took goods to markets, and many others were shopkeepers who left behind shops that were looted and torched.



Central African refugee in a make-shift shelter in Garoua Boulai, Cameroon.
UNHCR - D. Mbaïorem

657,000

IDPs

including

232,000

IN BANGUI

296,164

CAR refugees
in
neighbouring
countries

16,581

Refugees and
Asylum Seekers
in CAR

\$40.1M

Additional
funds required
for the first
three months
of 2014



POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Central African refugees in neighbouring countries	Arrivals since 1 December 2013	Total
Cameroon	36,587	133,957
Chad	8,000	86,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	16,077	63,255
Republic of the Congo	5,629	12,952*
Grand Total:	66,293	296,164

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Central African Republic	Pop.
Bambari Camp (Sudanese refugees)	1,967
Batalimo Camp (DRC refugees)	6,060
Obo and Mboki (DRC Outside Camps)	590
Zemio Camp (DRC refugees)	3,423
Bangui (Refugees and asylum-seekers)	4,541
Grand Total:	16,581

* An additional 1,452 new arrivals await registration.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Overview

- As of 4 March, 657,000 people had been displaced in the Central African Republic since the escalation of violence in December 2013. Approximately 232,000 are in 57 sites in Bangui.
- There are 16,581 refugees in the Central African Republic, essentially coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan. UNHCR assisted over 500 refugees to return to their places of origin, mostly in the DRC.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) issued its report on intentions of return of IDPs, based on interviews with 609 displaced persons in 40 sites in Bangui. According to the survey, 88% of the displaced left their places of origin in December 2013, with 99% having left for security reasons. According to the survey, 66% of the displaced people intend to return to their places of origin within the coming 4 weeks, while 19% want to stay at the displacement site, either because of lack of means to return, insecurity at home or because their homes and belongings have been destroyed.



Protection Cluster

- On 3 March, the Protection Cluster finalized a strategy to protect communities at risk in the Central African Republic. The strategy is hinged on mediation, deployment of international troops and relocation of populations at risk as a last resort.
- An inter-agency mission composed of UNHCR, UNICEF and the Danish Refugee Council took place on 4 March to Bouba and M'Baiki, in the south-west where a group of people at risk had been attacked on 15 February and had been living in the bush ever since. UNHCR, UNICEF and the Danish Refugee Council are now identifying the best solution for this group of 267 people, which includes 168 children. The inter-agency mission met with local authorities and the MISCA military force in M'Baiki. The people wanted to be evacuated as many are sick and lacking food and water.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)

- A meeting between the CCCM cluster, international forces (MISCA and Sangaris), and IDPs in M'Poko displacement site took place on 3 March to discuss security issues in the neighbourhoods as well as other projects carried out by humanitarians to facilitate the return of IDPs to their neighborhoods of origin.



Shelter/NFIs Cluster

- To date, 85,000 people have received shelter support through the Shelter Cluster and some 350,000 people received emergency assistance and/or returnee support. The Shelter Cluster together with CCCM and WASH are assessing alternative sites for those IDPs who cannot return to their homes before the beginning of the rainy season.
- During the reporting period, 6,020 families at Bangui's M'Poko airport received relief items,, including mats, blankets, jerry cans and soap. An additional 1,860 families received NFI kits from UNHCR, including families in the night shelter in the 5th arrondissement through ACTED.

- An additional site to set up a night shelter was identified by the Shelter Cluster, Sangaris, MISCA and local authorities in the 5th arrondissement.
- In Ouham province, a progressive return of displaced persons has been observed and a series of distributions are underway in some targeted communities in order to support IDP return and make it more sustainable.



CAMEROON

Overview

- Since 1 December 2013, 36,587 refugees from the Central African Republic have entered Cameroon and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in Cameroon has increased to 133,957.



Protection

- New arrivals are arriving at a rate of 3,500-4,000 per week at different entry points in the Eastern and Adamawa regions. Registration continued at the different entry points and arrival areas.
- The growing number of arrivals in border locations is causing hardship on the host communities and Cameroonian authorities.
- On 3 March, two trucks carrying some 600 refugees from CAR arrived in Kentzou (Eastern region). Transfer from Kentzou to Lolo site is ongoing, and 1,707 refugees have been relocated. A further 2,111 were transferred from Garoua Boulai bringing the total number of people transferred to 3,818.
- The remaining refugees in Garoua Boulai will be transferred to the site of Gado. While they await their transfer, UNHCR has erected tents and four community shelters. Two blocs of latrines were also built for the refugees and third country nationals waiting to be transferred.
- In addition, 364 Central African refugees were registered in Yaoundé and Douala.
- In parallel, Third Country Nationals continue to arrive. As of today, 8,925 were registered, including 5,615 Chadians. Some 2,700 Chadians have been repatriated by their government and IOM will repatriate the remaining Chadians.



Health & Nutrition

- During a mission to the Eastern and Adamawa entry points and arrival areas, UNHCR observed that an estimated 80% of newly arrived Central African refugees are in urgent need of healthcare, and 60% of children are malnourished. Refugees continued to arrive in a state of desperation and trauma.
- The response capacities of national services such as health centers and water points are limited by a dramatic increase in the population number.



CHAD

Overview

- **Since 1 December 2013, some 8,000 Central African refugees have entered Chad** and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and other partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in Chad is approximately 86,000 individuals.

Protection

- UNHCR continued to verify and pre-register Central African refugees who have arrived on flights to N'djamena facilitated by the Government of Chad or IOM.
- UN Agencies are finalizing a Plan of Action intended to serve as a guideline to support the Government of Chad to provide assistance to the refugee population. This Plan reflects suggested actions to be taken, the relevant agencies to support the Government and a timeline. Once finalized, the UN will share this with the Government for discussions and feedback.
- This week a total of 966 Central African refugees (315 families) were relocated to Dosseye camp. This included a convoy of 246 Central African refugees (104 families) who left N'djamena, 605 people (159 families) from Bekoninga and 115 individuals (52 families) from Bitoye.
- Between 1 January and 28 February 2014, UNHCR facilitated the transfer and relocation of 2,893 Central African refugees mainly to Dosseye (2,548 individuals) and Belom (419 individuals) but also to Amboko (2 individuals), Gondje (1 person) and Moyo (3 individuals) in the South.
- It should be noted that while a number of newly-arrived Central African refugees have opted to relocate to a camp many have also chosen to remain closer to the border.
- UNHCR continued to urge the Government of Chad and local authorities regarding the recognition of 2nd and 3rd generation Chadian nationals and the issuance of identification documents.

Education

- UNHCR has reported the arrival of many urban educated Central African refugees in Chad, adding a new dimension to the profile of the refugee population which prior consisted largely of farmers and livestock herders in the camps in the south.
- Nurses, students, and teachers are among those who have recently arrived from Bangui. UNHCR, along with its governmental counterparts are exploring appropriate ways to assist this skilled group with education and employment opportunities.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Overview

- **Since 1 December 2013, approximately 16,077 Central African refugees have entered the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and other partners. The overall number of Central African refugees in the DRC is now 63,255 individuals of whom 53% are living in the 4 camps.

Protection

- Equateur province continues to receive 50 to 100 CAR refugees per day.
- A verification exercise has been planned to determine the number of out of camp Central African refugees in Equateur and Orientale Provinces, as currently 47 % of the refugees live outside the camps. A mapping of the refugee population will be carried out along with the identification of needs.
- During the reporting period, the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and ECHO visited the camp locations in Equateur province populated by Central African refugees.
- A particular focus was drawn towards the need for livelihood activities, secondary education and semi-durable shelter as part of protection activities.

Food & Nutrition

- WFP's food pipeline problems continued and the organization confirmed it cannot guarantee food assistance from May 2014 onward.
- In Mole camp, 156 refugees were admitted to the malnutrition programme and are receiving nutritional assistance. They included 60 pregnant or breastfeeding women, 85 children living with moderate malnutrition, and 11 children living with severe malnutrition.
- In Boyabu camp, a total of 562 people are in the malnutrition programme, including 112 adults, 298 pregnant or lactating women, 124 children living with moderate malnutrition, and 28 children with severe malnutrition.

Education

- Plans are underway to build a third school in Mole camp in order to accommodate more refugee students.
- In Boyabu camp 56% of school aged refugee children are receiving primary education, but they are still in need of a canteen, school manuals, and school clothes.



REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (ROC)

Overview

- **Since 1 December 2013, 5,629 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo** and have been assisted by UNHCR, UN agencies, governmental counterparts and other partners. The overall number of Central African refugees registered by UNHCR in the Republic of Congo is 12,952. Another 1,452 new arrivals are still awaiting registration bringing the total number of refugees to 14,404.

Protection

- This week 445 new Central African were registered in Republic of Congo.
- More than 80% of the 12,952 Central African refugees registered are settled in the Betou area.
- The local authorities in Likouala district have requested UNHCR to relocate all Central African refugees to official sites in order to reduce the risk of incidents between the local population and the refugees and to avoid any conflicts within the refugee community having an impact on the host community. For this purpose, a new site will have to be identified.

NFI NFIs

- Since the beginning of the emergency, UNHCR has distributed relief items to 2,575 families in Betou and to 143 families in Impfondo.

Education

- Literacy courses for adult refugees started in Betou center and Ikpengbele camp. A total of 95% of those people who attend are women.
- The construction of 12 classrooms in public schools continued in Betou. This support to the local communities is in response to an agreement with local authorities to accept refugee children in public schools.

WASH

- During the reporting period, latrines were disinfected and the water treated in the 15 avril site and departure center.
- Awareness sessions on water and hygiene and the conservation of food were conducted for refugees in the 15 avril site and departure center.

Funding update (in USD)

Below are UNHCR's 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. Total requirements amount to USD 112 million for a period of three months. It is currently funded at 16%.

	Situation	CAR	Cameroon	Chad	Congo	DRC	TOTAL
Financial requirements total:		54,501,573	17,078,515	11,224,540	1,605,000	27,173,472	111,902,655
Funding received/confirmed:							
CERF		1,500,000		499,937			1,999,937
Estonia		67,843					67,843
Japan		1,500,000				2,000,000	3,500,000
Private donors Switzerland	1,053						1,053
UN programme on HIV/AIDS		30,000					30,000
United States of America		10,200,000		700,000	400,000	1,300,000	12,600,000
GRAND TOTAL	1,053	13,297,843		1,199,937	400,000	3,300,000	18,198,833
Funding gap:		41,203,730	17,078,515	10,024,603	1,205,000	23,873,472	93,703,822



Central African Republic Emergency Situation

as of 6 March 2014

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Africa

