

# **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION**

# **UNHCR EXTERNAL REGIONAL UPDATE 19**

6-12 June 2014

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

**551,600** IDPs including

126.600

in Bangui

374,191

Total number of **CAR refugees** in neighbouring countries

137,405

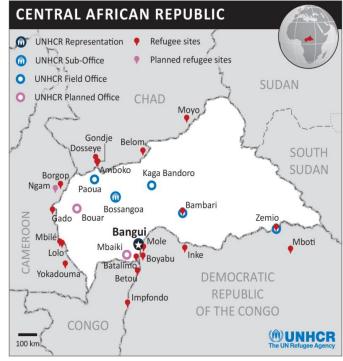
New CAR refugees in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013 US\$239 million

UNHCR requested for the Regional Situation

10,667

Refugees and asylum seekers in CAR<sup>1</sup>

- On 10 June, WFP again stressed the need for an increase in funds for assistance programmes to refugees that have fled the Central African Republic (CAR), especially those arriving in Cameroon. Some \$15 million is needed until the end of year to respond to the refugees that are continuing to arrive in Cameroon.
- The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Ms. Janet Lim, is currently on a 4 day mission to Cameroon to meet with Cameroonian authorities and international actors on the ground in order to see how to improve coordination and quality of response to the refugee influx from CAR. Ms. Liz Ahua, the Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) for the CAR Situation is travelling with Ms. Lim to the field office in Batouri as well as to the entry point of Gbiti and the refugee site of Mbilé.
- Following recent security incidents in Bangui, the CCCM Cluster is monitoring humanitarian response in 44 IDP sites in order to provide necessary assistance. The seven most populated sites accommodate about 68% of the IDP community, with the largest site being M'Poko Airport Site and currently hosting more than 42,000 IDPs.

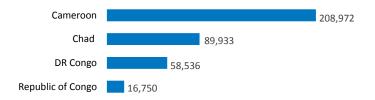


Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Creation date: 22 May 2014.

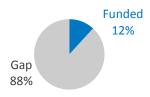
## Population of concern

A total of 374,191 people of concern



#### Funding against the CAR situation

US\$239 million requested



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Current estimation.

# **Operational Context**

- UNHCR is seeking clarification of reports that people trying to flee CAR are being denied entry into Chad. Reports suggest that people (numbers not yet clear) seeking safety in Chad may recently have been turned back at the border entry point of Sido. Those reportedly being turned back are said to either be CAR nationals or Chadians who failed to prove their nationality to border guards. If the reports are correct, it would be of serious concern and run contrary to the principle under international law of non-refoulement (no forced returns).UNHCR is in touch with the authorities in Chad at this time and is also asking all neighbouring countries, Chad included, to maintain open borders to allow refugees and other individuals access to safe haven.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> IOM Return Intention Survey has been released. Information was collected from 19-23 May (before the attack on Notre Dame de Fatima Church on 28 May). IOM site facilitators interviewed a total of 575 displaced persons in 34 sites in Bangui. According to IOM, 77% of the displaced persons left their place of origin in December 2013. A total of 27% of those interviewed indicated their intention to stay at their displacement site (a decrease from 32% in the fourth survey in April). In addition, some 11% of the displaced persons expressed their desire to be relocated to another region within CAR. According to the survey, lack of financial means, damaged and destroyed houses, and the prevailing insecurity in some neighbourhoods are preventing a possible return.

# **Recent Developments**



## **Central African Republic:**

#### **IDP** Response

- There are currently an estimated 551,600 Central Africans displaced within their country including 126,600 in Bangui spread over 44 sites.
- UNHCR is expanding its capacity to carry out protection and border monitoring activities in the north, west and southern parts of CAR. During the reporting period, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) for protection monitoring activities in southern CAR.
- As of 9 June, there were a reported 21,225 individuals still stranded in communities in 12 locations across the country. According to the Protection Cluser, six of these locations have been assessed as being "very high risk" (Boda, PK5 (Bangui), Yaloke, Boganangone, Berberati, and Bozoum), two at "high risk" (Bouar and Baoro) and four at "risk". This number and the locations are constantly evolving.

#### Cameroon:

- A total of 101,731 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013, with the majority located, in the East and Adamawa regions.
- The relocation process of new arrivals from the border to refugee sites granted by local authorities is ongoing, and a total of 35,751 refugees have been relocated thus far to six established refugee sites: Gado Badzere (10,943), Lolo (10,405), Timangolo (1,775), Yokadouma (344) and Mbilé (4,670) in the East region and Borgop (7,614) in the Adamawa region.
- Plans are being made to increase the rate of relocations from border entry points, currently at 2,500 individuals per week, in order to reduce major concentration points of refugees in Gbiti, Kentzou, Garoua Boulai and Ngaoui.
- In Borgop, 35 members of the camp security committee participated in an information session on sexual violence, the physical and psychological effects and the services available on site to respond to such incidents.

#### Chad:

#### Refugee response

- Some 14,000 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013.
- During the week of 2-6 June, 553 new arrivals were registered in refugee camps in southern Chad: 383 individuals in Dosseye, 101 in Gondje and 69 in Amboko.
- In addition, the registration operation of 610 Central African refugees and 122 families transferred from Bekoninga entry point to Dosseye ended after three days on 3 June.

#### Returnees

- According to IOM, as of 2 June, 101,752 migrants from CAR had been registered in Chad (98,262 by IOM and 3,490 by partners). In addition, a total of 49,849 Chadian returnees, third country nationals (TCNs) and refugees are still in transit centres and require humanitarian assistance - 4,252 returnees are in Ndjamena and 45,957 are in the South, according to IOM.
- Efforts to accelerate the construction of two camps Danamadja with a capacity of 15,000 people and Maingama with a capacity of 30,000 people - in the south of the country are underway with UNHCR leading site planning and UNICEF WASH activities. The sites are being prepared to host the habitants from the existing transit sites of Doyaba, Doba, Sido, Mbitoye and Mbaibokoum. Relocation to Danamadja began on 7 April and hosts some 11,200 people; relocation to Maingama was due to begin this week.
- One camp, in Ndjamena, Zafaye, is already fully built and hosts 4,252 people.
- Serious gaps in assistance remain, notably in shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This poses particular concern as the rainy season has begun.
- Underfunding continues to hamper the ability to provide the required life-saving response in the sites.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

- Some 15,000 Central African refugees have been registered since December 2013 and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province but also Oriental Province.
- In Mole camp, SGBV awareness raising campaigns have been organized and carried out for political and administrative authorities, refugees and representatives of different civil society groups in an effort to combat SGBV incidents. To date, 201 people have benefited from such campaigns on the combat against SGBV (105 women and 96 men).
- In Boyabu camp, 37 individuals from 22 households from CAR arrived from Batanga transit centre.

#### **Republic of Congo:**

- Some 6,500 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013.
- As of 8 June, 73% of Central African refugees were registered and settled in the district of Betou and 19% in Brazzaville. They have also settled in Impfondo and Pointe Noire.
- The results obtained from the UNHCR and WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in Betou are currently being assessed. Preliminary results show that the majority of the head of households are male individuals (58%).
- UNHCR met with immigration services and the Comité National d' Assistance aux Refugiés (CNAR) to reorganize the activities of pre-registration and registration at the border for refugees arriving in the country and to ensure their immediate screening and registration by UNHCR and CNAR.



# Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)

#### **Central African Republic:**

The CCCM Cluster continues to work closely with state and city officials to seek alternatives solutions for IDPs living in sites at risk of flooding. After reviewing the results from multi-sectoral assessments (WASH, CCCM, Shelter and Protection), the security issue in the Boganda II site will be assessed shortly. An implementing partner is also being identified to clean-up the site before WASH and Shelter partners can begin their activities.

- The CCCM Cluster is involved in the Bangui working group to support the voluntary return of IDPs settled in M'Poko site and is contributing to the development of a comprehensive return strategy. As part of the return strategy, the Cluster is disseminating information on the situation in the neighbourhoods of origin.
- CCCM activities are operational in Bossangoa, Kaga Bandoro, Kabo, Moyen Sido and Boda. In addition, the Cluster is in the process of extending its scope around the country in order to better serve the IDPs in terms of community mobilization and coordination of assistance and protection in sites.



#### Cameroon:

In preparation of the integration of refugee children in public schools at the beginning of the school year, UNHCR, Plan International and regional educational authorities, have defined the selection criteria of school teachers, and village chiefs have expressed their agreement to house teachers whilst awaiting the construction of their lodging.

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

Educational inspectors from Bangui have arrived in Libenge, to carry out a joint assessment with UNHCR and the Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement (ADSSE), to evaluate ongoing programmes, as well as challenges, such as the lack of school books and the difficulties organizing examinations for students finishing primary school. A working session with UNHCR, ADSSE and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) was held. Concurrently, the teachers and their programmes were evaluated.

#### Republic of the Congo:

- The Agence d'Assistance aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés au Congo (AARREC) has finalized the construction of four classrooms in the four public schools (one additional classroom in each school) of Betou, to be used by both refugee children and the local population.
- The absence of assistance to secondary education remains an important concern, especially as the refugee population is largely composed of young students who had to drop their studies due to the lack of funding. In this regard, UNHCR still awaits a response to its submission to the US Embassy, regarding the 'Julia Taft Refugee Fund' which plans to award scholarships to refugee students allowing some refugee students to pursue their secondary school studies.
- Literacy classes continued to take place with AARREC. The importance of such classes has been underlined by the recent JAM results which revealed that approximately 38% of Central African refugee adults living in Betou are illiterate.



#### Health

#### Cameroon:

- In view of providing assistance to neo-natal care, obstetrics and reproductive health, UNFPA provided 500 birth kits, 50 caesarean kits, and 4 emergency medical cases to health centres in Batouri, Garoua Boulai, Gbiti, Kentzou, Lolo, Mbilé and Timangolo. Three tents were erected at the *Centre Nutritionnels Thérapeutiques Intégrés* (CNTI) of Gado, Kentzou and Lolo to allow for the development of community activities related to neo-natal care and reproductive health.
- During the reporting period, 3,072 children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis in Gado.
- MSF has begun the construction of an additional wing of the CNTI in Garoua Boulai to increase the reception of patients by 50 additional beds.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

In Inke camp, the main illnesses reported this week were malaria (168 cases), intestinal parasites (103 cases), acute respiratory infections (82 cases), and acute diarrhea (68 cases). In total 314 consultations were recorded for 285 refugees.

In Mole camp, 74 children (aged 6-15) received vaccinations against measles upon arrival and registration in Mole camp.



# Food Security and Nutrition

#### Cameroon:

- Between 22 May and 8 June, WFP distributed a monthly food ration to 62,777 people at refugee sites and border entry points in the East and Adamawa regions.
- A supplementary feeding programme was organized between 29 May and 4 June and reached 9,268 children (6-59 months) and 2,237 pregnant and lactating women.
- WFP also provides nutritional feeding (plumpy sup and CSB) at health centers in order to treat cases of both moderate and acute malnutrition.
- Whilst new arrivals await their monthly food basket from WFP, UNHCR has been providing warm meals in the refugee sites of Gado (1,047 refugees) and Lolo (3,500 refugees).
- In view of reinforcing support, International Medical Corps (IMC) has deployed two additional nurses to the CNTI of the hospital of the District of Djohong where a number of cases of malnourished children were reported.
- Between May and June, an exhaustive Middle Upper Arm Circumference screening (MUAC) was conducted during a blanket feeding exercise in three sites, revealing the following situation: in Lolo, as at 3 June, a total of 1,659 under-five children underwent MUAC screening where the proxy MAM rate (moderately malnourished) was found to be 13.62% while the proxy SAM rate (severely malnourished) was 1.87%; in Gado: as at 27 May 2014, a total of 1,738 under-five children underwent MUAC screening where the proxy MAM rate was 17.78% and the proxy SAM rate 4.32%; and finally, in Mbilé as at 4 June, out of a total of 626 under-five children that were screened, the proxy MAM rate was 17.57% and the proxy SAM rate 0.48%.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

- During the reporting period, WFP distributed monthly food rations to 8,030 refugees in Inke camp (a total of 133,356 tonnes of food).
- In Boyabu camp, a total of 125 children are following a nutritional programme, of which 7 children suffer from SAM. There are also 57 children with MAM. Another 15 pregnant women and 35 lactating women with MAM were admitted to the programme. Also in Boyabu, 773 plumpy nut bags were distributed to 109 children and six bags of 25kgs of Corn-Soy Blend (CSB) were given to 49 pregnant and lactating women who suffer from malnutrition and to 62 at risk of becoming acutely malnourished.
- In Mole camp, 162 malnourished refugees are receiving assistance, of which 53 are pregnant and lactating women, 96 children suffering from MAM and 13 with SAM.

### **Republic of Congo:**

• During the reporting period, 273 children ages 6-59 months were screened - 7 cases of SAM were detected for a rate of 2,5% which is slightly over the standards for an emergency situation (2%).



## Water and Sanitation

#### Cameroon:

- In Borgop, 23 community mobilizers from Première Urgence (PU-AMI) ensure regular information sessions on good hygiene practices.
- In Gado, International Relief and Development (IRD) continue to ensure the maintenance of latrines and showers, as well as awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices.
- At the border entry point of Garoua Boulai, MSF continues to ensure maintenance of latrines and showers, but will soon hand over all WASH related responsibilities to IRD.
- UNICEF announced the availability of funds to continue its WASH activities in all refugee sites.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

- From 1 -5 June, a mission was carried out by the UNHCR WASH officer, who met with the local communities and was joined by the CNR. Local communities expressed their satisfaction with the ongoing drillings of boreholes and their willingness to collaborate further with UNHCR.
- In Boyabu camp, 449 latrines (20 people per latrine) and 405 showers are operational. The planned construction of 750 new latrines has started and 96 are already complete. Collective sanitation work continues to ensure the camp remains proper. The overall water provision rate is 13l per person/per day.
- In Mboti camp, activities related to water chlorination, the maintenance of water points, hygiene and sanitation in the camp, continued.



# Shelter and NFIs

## **Central African Republic:**

- Since the beginning of the crisis in December 2013, the Shelter and NFI Cluster and partners have supported a total of 500,695 people with relief items and emergency shelter, including 266,396 people directly assisted by UNHCR representing 53% of the distribution within the country.
- Results of the tracking of NFIs and emergency shelter distribution outlined that 63.5% of the distribution was essentially in Bangui and the sub-prefecture of Bimbo. There is a significant need for tarpaulins, mosquito nets, jerry cans, mats and kitchen sets.
- The Shelter and NFI Cluster identified a need to support the reconstruction of 19,409 houses, out of which only 15,828 are currently financed by humanitarian programmes. Multi-sectoral assessments carried out from 2-5 June around Paoua, revealed the destruction of 2,186 houses in the region between April and May.
- According to a recent assessment undertaken by Action Contre la Faim (ACF), some 8,000 IDPs are in need of
  assistance in the community of Kouki (Ouham prefecture). These IDPs have suffered from the destruction of
  their homes by armed groups and are currently sheltering in fields and wooded areas.
- A population of 2,500 returnees has been identified in the communities of Ngaounday and Bang in the Ouham Pende prefecture. These returnees are in need of both NFI assistance and support to reconstruct their destroyed houses.
- Through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), and in coordination with UNHCR, Solidarités is providing NFI assistance to 3,000 IDP households in Kaga-Bandoro.
- In Sibut (Kemo prefecture), ACF supported 1,157 IDPs living in host families with the distribution of NFIs.
- From 5-6 June, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) organized a training session on the issue of the Housing Land and Property (HLP) in Bangui. A total of 22 participants attended this two-day capacity building training including six national and international NGOs who have worked on shelter issues and are members of the Shelter/NFI Cluster. The participants shared experiences on the relevance of HLP rights in shelter interventions and were trained on the introduction to the HLP notion, the international legal framework of the HLP, the HLP and durable solutions in the IDP context, access to houses and land by women and the resolution of disputes relating to HLP. Other training sessions planned during the upcoming weeks will target humanitarian actors, including cluster members, CAR local and national authorities.

#### Cameroon

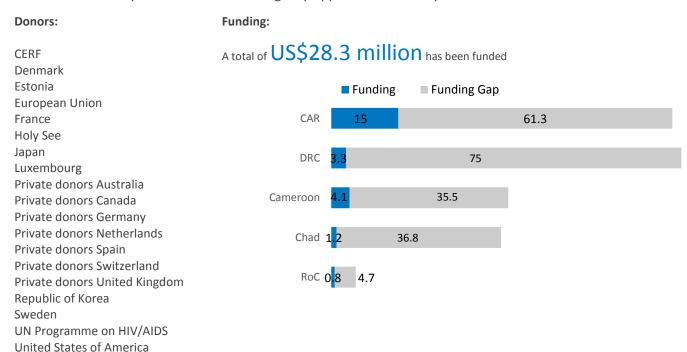
UNHCR distributed NFIs (blankets, mats, soap and kitchen items) to 648 families in Gado. In addition, 1,300 mosquito nets from the World Health Organization (WHO) were distributed by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) to 583 families.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

In Boyabu, 26 individuals (new arrivals) received NFI kits. In addition, 6,273 people received soap and 13 baby kits were distributed. The lack of kitchen sets in the NFI kit created many complaints by refugee women.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation. 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. Following the release on 16 April 2014 of the CAR Regional Response Plan, UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation amount to USD 239 million, including USD 99.8 million of revised additional needs in asylum countries from January to December 2014 as presented in the Inter-Agency Appeal. It is currently funded at 12%.



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Links:

Regional webportal: <a href="http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php">http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php</a>

