

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 50

14-20 February 2015

KEY FIGURES

442,495

IDPs including

50,281

in Bangui in 34 sites

451,251

Central African refugees in
Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Congo
including

191,171

New arrivals since Dec. 2013

8,103

Refugees and asylum seekers in the
Central African Republic

PRIORITIES

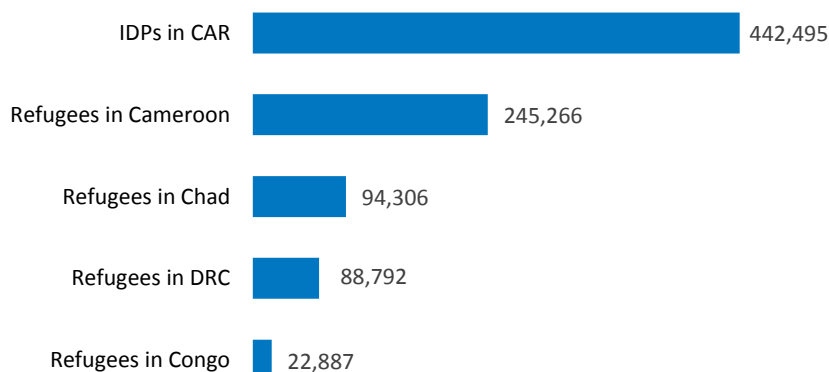
- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

HIGHLIGHTS

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):** Since December 2014, the DRC has seen an influx of some 19,000 Central African refugees that have entered the Bosobolo territory in Equateur Province and this due to continued violence between anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka militias in Kouanga district (Ouaka prefecture). In addition, since 15 February, another influx of some 2,400 refugees was reported in the Mobayi and Bosobolo territories. UNHCR and its partners are currently on the ground to set up a new refugee site in the area of Bili to host the newly arrived refugees and organize their transport from the border where they have settled. Emergency assistance is also being organized for refugees in the sectors of health, including mobile clinics, and access to potable water while preparing their transfer to the refugee site. However, logistical constraints and lack of services are making the work more difficult.
- Cameroon:** UNHCR conducted border monitoring and registered new arrivals in the border town of Gbiti following reports of 2,000 new Central African refugees. Due to logistical difficulties in accessing certain areas where refugees are reportedly located, UNHCR has only been able to physically verify and register 215 individuals (58 families) so far. All are settled in villages around Gbiti and do not wish to be transferred to refugee sites.

Population of concern

A total of **893,746** people of concern



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- Twelve days of public consultations in the eight districts of Bangui concluded on 13 February. Major issues raised included: forced disarmament and employment in the 1st and 4th districts, security, reconciliation and compensation issues for victims in the 6th district, impunity, child soldiers, compensation and repatriation of the mercenaries in the 7th district. Good governance, restoration of state authority, education and transparent elections were at the heart of the debates in the 4th, 5th and 8th districts. According to MINUSCA, 77% of the country's territory has been reached for the public consultations with a 67.6% success rate. The uncovered areas are some of ex-Seleka strongholds in the prefectures of Vakaga, Nana Gribizi, Haute Kotto and Ouaka. The aim of the consultations was to seek the views of the population on the ongoing conflict and solutions to be discussed during the Bangui Forum. The same process is being carried out in countries hosting Central African refugees.

Protection

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 442,495 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 50,281 in Bangui in 34 sites.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Protection Cluster met with MINUSCA to follow-up on the protection situation of civilians in the top priority areas identified as hotspots. Based on the protection matrix of 19 February, Bambari, Kouango, Batangafo, Bangui (3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th districts) and Mbrès are still the highest priorities in terms of protection of civilians. The Protection Cluster advocated for the immediate protection and strengthening of the MINUSCA presence in these areas. Moreover, in order to facilitate the return of IDPs to their homes, the Protection Cluster advocated for securing not only cities but also the routes they would use.
- On 19 February, the Protection Cluster resumed with its training and sensitization campaign on protection issues and protection mainstreaming in emergency situations. Through this initiative, the Coordination team of the Cluster will provide a series of trainings targeting hundreds of staff from national NGOs and national staff from UN agencies and international NGOs, in order to build their capacity in protection. The session focused on the following topics: what is protection in an emergency situation; protection threats; vulnerability and national and international frameworks of protection.

CAMEROON

- An estimated 138,410 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to verify and update registration information for spontaneous movements and family reunifications between sites and villages. During the week, 123 refugees (27 families), who had originally settled in Kette, were verified and registered in Meiganga and immediately transferred to Ngam. In addition, UNHCR registered 116 refugees this week in Timangolo.
- As part of SGBV prevention activities, International Medical Corps (IMC), UNHCR's implementing partner, carried out 20 sensitization sessions with 1,081 refugees (705 women/girls and 376 men/boys) and 497 local residents (255 women/girls and 242 men/boys) in Gado, Borgop and Ngam on topics related to sexual assault and rape. In addition, 14 sensitization sessions were conducted for traditional and religious leaders on the same topics.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- A significant number of new arrivals are continuing to cross the border into the DRC. Most are being relocated to the transit centres of Gbadolite and Pangoma.
- A national NGO, *Solidarité pour la Promotion sociale et la Paix* (SOPROP) continued with sensitization on SGBV. Six spontaneous sites along the Oubangui river were covered (Gbangara, Gbagbalu, Akoya, Dula centre, Gbatibo and Gbakingi). Also, the *Association de Développement Economique et Social* (ADES) conducted SGBV sensitizations along the Bili-South axis.
- In and outside Boyabu camp, SGBV sensitizations were held with varied themes, reaching a total of 1,758 people (702 women and 1,056 men).

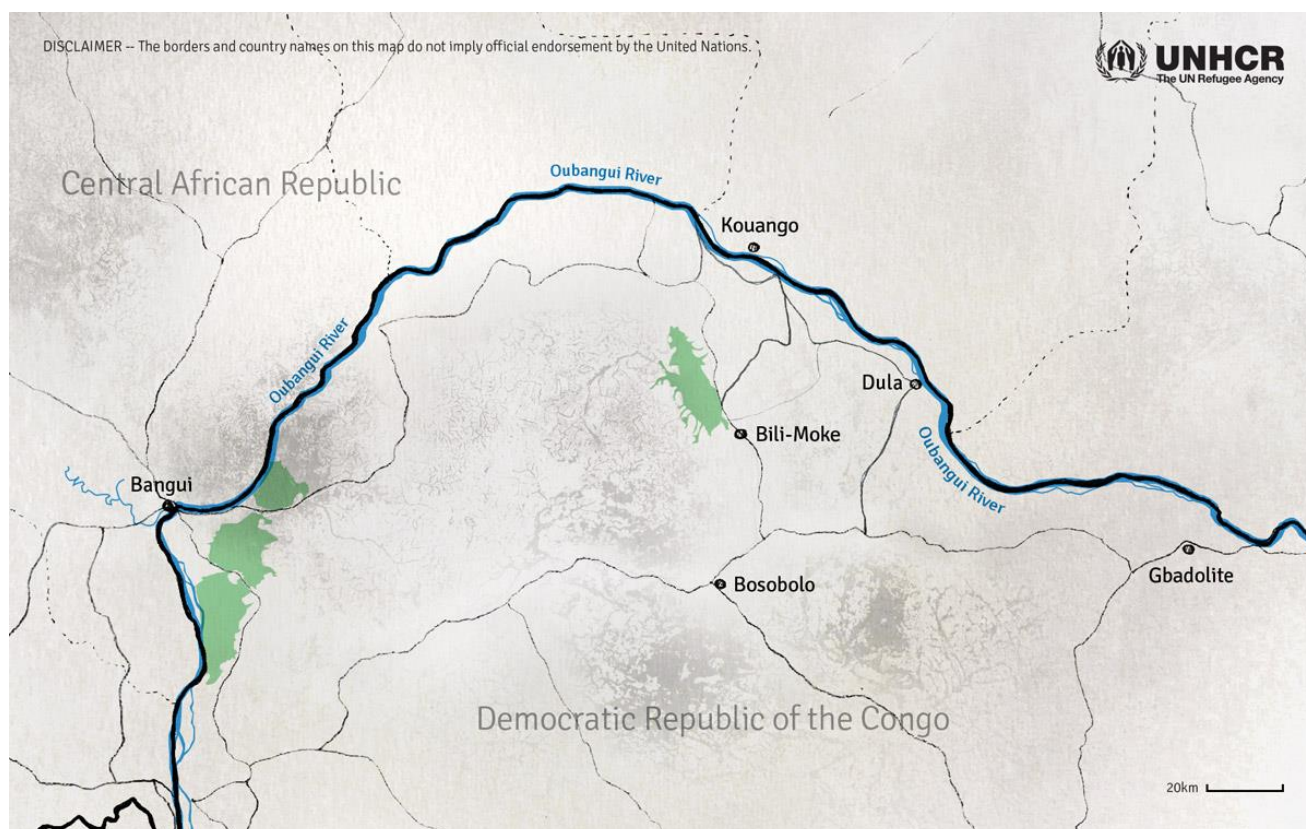


Figure 1: Map of the area where new arrivals from CAR have arrived in the DRC, after crossing the Oubangui river. UNHCR/Y.Lee

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 13,469 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area. During the reporting period, 111 new arrivals were registered in Betou, Impfondo and Brazzaville.

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, continues to support the Ministry of Basic Education to ensure continued access to education for all refugee children. UNICEF is also in the process of constructing an additional 20 classrooms as part of their Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPes) programme in Ngam, Gado and Timangolo. In addition, 14 teachers are being recruited for these ETAPes.

- UNICEF and Plan Cameroon provided 73 teachers in the ETAPes with teaching and learning material in the six sites of Ngam, Borgop, Gado, Timangolo, Lolo and Mbilé. In addition, 2,072 parents and community leaders were sensitized on the importance of ensuring their children attend school.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a lack of school supplies, uniforms and classroom equipment in some refugee hosting areas.
- There is a need to expand capacity—in terms of infrastructure, equipment, materials and staffing— of local public schools to integrate refugee children into the national curriculum.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Lack of secondary education still remains a challenge for all camps in the DRC.
- There are no water points at the schools in Mole, nor are there school desks for the students in one of the school blocks. Classes remain overcrowded, for example, in Boyabu one class has 248 students.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's implementing partner, the *Agence d'Assistance pour les Rapatriés et les Réfugiés au Congo* (AARREC) started the distribution of school kits for the academic year 2014-2015 in the area of Betou. However, some 2,000 additional kits are still needed to cover the needs of all refugee children attending primary school.
- Following discussion with UNHCR, AARREC will cover the monthly fees of refugee children attending junior high school in Betou for a period of 5 months.



Health

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- In Lolo, Mbilé and Timangolo, UNHCR's implementing partner, CARE International, continues to conduct mental health activities, including individual counselling (psychosocial and psychological), group therapy and community sensitizations. In Lolo, CARE carried out sensitizations particularly on post-migratory depression with 274 participants, including 74 men, 120 women, 35 girls and 45 boys, as well as the refugee youth and women's committees.
- UNICEF and WHO facilitated the vaccination of 94 refugees of all ages against polio and 104 refugee children against measles at the entry points of Kentzou, Garoua Boulai, Tocktoyo and Gbiti from 2-15 February. With the support of WHO, 40,339 refugees have been vaccinated against polio including 20,673 refugee children below the age of 5 during the national vaccination campaign from 30 January to 1 February.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Need to strengthen healthcare and nutrition activities in host communities.
- Lack of qualified medical personnel (i.e. doctors, paramedics, nurses) and need for additional technical equipment and facilities in health centres in host communities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Most needs and gaps are related to the influx in the Bosobolo area in Equateur. Partners are already having difficulty with treating the significant amount of incoming refugees. MSF Belgium has set up a base in the Bosobolo territory for emergency assistance. According to reports, they are already reaching their maximum capacity. Mobile clinics are currently roving through the affected crisis areas to provide emergency health care to the newly arrived refugees.

Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- WFP monthly food distributions for the month of February remain ongoing. So far, all seven refugee sites and some villages have been covered; distribution teams are deploying to other villages that have not yet been reached. To date, 83,263 refugees have received their monthly rations from WFP. During food distributions this month, UNHCR provided support to WFP in the East, Adamawa and North regions to verify distribution lists, update database registration, issue ration cards, register spontaneous movements, as well as other operational support.
- Within the framework of WFP's Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) 5,085 refugee children and 1,204 pregnant and lactating women in Gado and surrounding villages (East region) received nutritional supplements. A total of 20.085 metric tonnes (mt) of nutritional supplements were distributed. In the Adamawa region, 6,702 refugee children and 947 pregnant and lactating women received 26.371mt of nutritional supplements.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A WFP team has arrived in the Bosobolo area to conduct an evaluation of what type of food assistance they will provide to the refugees in Bili (cash voucher, grants or general food distribution). The emergency mission to Bosobolo territory had reported the prevalence of malnourished children to be 27,4 % following a middle-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening including 19,1 % with MAM. The prevalence of malnourished pregnant and lactating women is 11,3 % (MUAC). Blanket supplementary feeding has been recommended to be conducted in health centres.
- In Boyabu camp, 309 refugees are admitted to the nutritional support programme including 104 children. ADES distributed 539 packets of plumpy sup to 77 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition.



Figure 2: Natasha and Achille with their two surviving children fled violence in CAR and are now in Gbadakila spontaneous site, Equateur province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR/B. Sokol



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average supply of water within the seven refugee sites in the East and Adamawa regions remains within recommended standards at 20 litres per person per day (l/p/d). As part of the 2015 response strategy, construction work continues in villages, particularly public infrastructures such as schools and health centres, outside of refugee sites so as to establish additional water points and increase the supply of potable water in areas hosting large populations of refugees. Sanitation and hygiene standards remain satisfactory with average ratios of 19 people per latrine and 24 people per shower.
- With the support of UNHCR, CARE finalized the construction of a water pump at the hospital in Batouri; another is currently under construction at the regional hospital in Bertoua. In terms of rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, five water pumps were repaired in Lolo, while work continues to restore a water pump in the village of Timangolo.
- CARE also continued with construction work for 100 family latrines in Timangolo as well as latrine blocks at the local market in Timangolo, in the village of Kette and at the public primary school in Mbile. In addition, 100 showers are currently under construction in Timangolo.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average supply of water in Gado (14.3l/p/d) and Mbile (15l/p/d) remains below UNHCR standards, mainly due to technical difficulties of some boreholes at these sites. Repair work is currently underway to resolve these issues.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 11 litres per person per day (l/p/d), severely below UNHCR standards.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production this week was 307,000l and provided 21 l/p/d. The water is provided by 20 water points, 3 wells with manual pumps and one emergency well.
- In Inke camp, the level of water production stood at 1,471,500l and which provided 18.8 l/p/d.
- In Mboti refugee camp, the daily production of water was 9,489m³ and provided 16l/p/d.



Shelter/ NFIs and CCCM

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IOM presented the gaps in the different sites of Bangui and Boda without dedicated CCCM actors. It appears that there is a return trend in many sites. Several needs have been identified in terms of education, WASH and assistance to return. There is a noticeable lack of WASH actors in most of the sites in Bangui and Boda. Most IDP parents are financially unable to send their children to school.

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- Following negotiations led by UNHCR with local authorities regarding an extension site of Ngarisingo (Yokadouma), UNHCR's implementing partner, IEDA Relief, followed up with authorities this week to obtain an additional space near the original site. IEDA Relief has requested that UNHCR develop this space for shelter construction planned for 2015.
- Over the course of the week, UNHCR distributed NFI kits, consisting of buckets, jerry cans, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and soap, to newly arrived refugees in Gbiti.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- African Initiatives for Relief and Development, (AIRD), is currently constructing shelters in Bili camp, which will host the refugees that are currently living on the shores of the Oubangi river in the Bosobolo territory.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- On the 15 avril site, 209 shelters have already been constructed by the partners AARREC and AIRD out of 400 initially planned.
- AARREC distributed NFIs to 174 families of 332 individuals recently registered.



Community Empowerment and Self-Management

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- During the week, 34 persons with special needs (6 widows, 6 women heads of households, as well as 14 men and 8 women with disabilities) have been identified as eligible beneficiaries for livelihood support to begin income generating activities implemented by IEDA Relief, partner of UNHCR.
- In Lolo and Timangolo, IRD continues to assist and train refugees in agriculture activities. During the week, 100 beneficiaries in Lolo were organized into groups, and each group was assigned a half hectare plot of land to begin agricultural activities. In Timangolo, 250 beneficiaries were organized into groups to begin training in gardening activities. In addition, 120 refugee women were identified to begin participating in livelihood activities; 15 young women have already begun sewing activities.

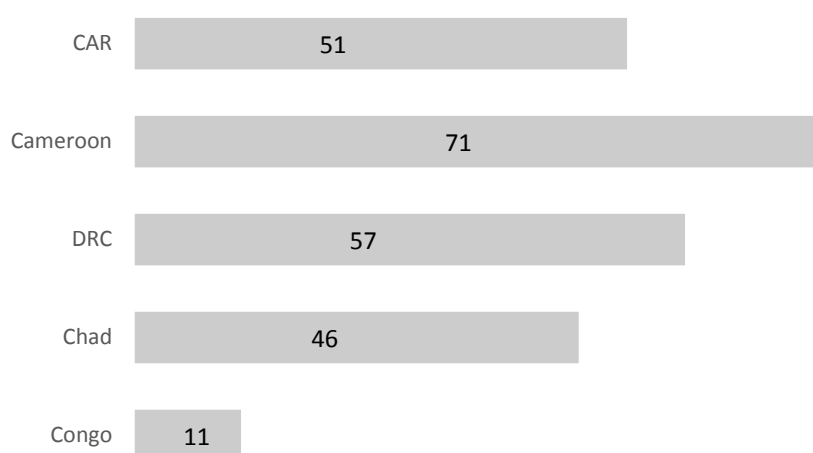


Figure 3: A woman prepares a meal for her children in Gado refugee site, Cameroon. UNHCR/O. Laban-Mattei

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 in 2014. Below are UNHCR's 2015 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. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation currently amounts to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries from January to December 2015, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 23 January 2015.

Funding requirements (USD million)



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Links:

CAR regional webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

as of 20 February 2015

