

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE – CAR SITUATION

23 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2015

KEY FIGURES

137

Unaccompanied minors assisted by UNHCR

20,138

NFIs distributed since the beginning of the CAR emergency

92

SGBV survivors who have received support from UNHCR

FUNDING

USD 10,865,000
requested for
the operation

USD 2,110,000
received

PRIORITIES

- Operational priority 1 in the coming weeks: ensure registration and documentation of all CAR refugees
- Operational priority 2 in the coming weeks: lifesaving activities for CAR refugees living in northern Congo
- Operational priority 3 in the coming weeks: reduce exposition to SGBV, especially in camps
- Operational priority 4 in the coming weeks: reinforce assistance for education, including secondary education and vocational activities.



CAR ASYLUM SEEKERS NEWLY ARRIVED AT BETOU, NOVEMBER 2015.

STATISTICS

368 CAR asylum seekers and 16 CAR refugees were registered from October 14 to November 03, 2015. Betou is currently receiving a regular flow of new refugees. Following recent outbreaks of the armed conflict in Bangui, Betou has been receiving an influx of new refugees. **240** new CAR asylum seekers were registered in Progress and by CNAR Bétou and Immigration services.

Up to **11 November 2015**, **30, 902** CAR refugees and asylum seekers were registered in the Republic of Congo, including **19,473** who arrived after 5 December 2013.

Statistics of the refugee population- 11 NOVEMBER 2015

| Locality | 31/12/2013 | 22/10/2015 | Arrivals | 11/11/2015 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Betou | 8,002 | 19,818 | 240 | 19,818 |
| Impfondo | 435 | 1,535 | 0 | 1,535 |
| Brazzaville | 1,547 | 7,546 | 384 | 7,930 |
| Ouessou/Pokola | 0 | 445 | 0 | 445 |
| Pointe Noire | 100 | 899 | 0 | 899 |
| Total | 10,084 | 30,278 | 624 | 30,902 |

In addition, 912 refugees were pre-registered by the immigration services of Betou but not yet registered in ProGres. This number has however to be reassessed as it is expected that many of these individuals have then relocated to Brazzaville and were registered there while others may have returned to CAR.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Political & security situation in ROC

Congolese citizens were called to the polls on Sunday 25 October to decide on a constitutional change. More than 92% Republic of Congo citizens voted in favor of changing the current constitution to enable President Denis Sassou Nguesso to extend his rule. Prelude to the elections, a huge meeting has been held on October 23, at Impfondo under the supervision of Likouala department's prefect. Given the importance of this meeting, local authorities ordered inactivity in Impfondo's city. Opposition demonstrators have rallied on the streets of the capital Brazzaville and in Pointe Noire last week to protest the president's plan to cling to power under the cry "Sassoufit", a pun on the French expression "ça suffit", or "that's enough". "There were no crowds or enthusiasm," all around the country, reported international Medias. Presidential election is scheduled for 2016. Official results announced on October 27 are in favor of changing constitution.

A joint electoral registration mission is being conducted by ANE (agence nationale des elections) and MINUSCA in Betou

From 19 to 21 October, visit of Mr Serge Ruso at Brazzaville and Bétou

Deputy Representative in charge of Africa area at UNHCR Geneva, Mr Serge Ruso went to direct contact with the various players involved in UNHCR operations at Betou, he visited all refugees sites to witness their living conditions. Complaints of 3 groups of refugees can be summarized as follow:

- Lack of food aid, with impact on the children's health (severe malnutrition)
- Poor housing conditions
- Improving living conditions, access to water and wells
- Lack of wells and latrines
- Failure to take in charge refugee children admitted to secondary school

To these complaints, CAR refugees committees have proposed solutions:

- Facilitation by UNHCR in order for local authority's to help refugees' access to lands
- Improving living conditions, access to water and wells

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- **Electoral registration of CAR refugees in Betou :** As part of the presidential elections to be held by the end of 2015, a joint mission is currently staying in the District of Betou. They will proceed, with the support of the Congolese local authorities and UNHCR to the registration of CAR refugees' in order to participate to December 2015's elections in CAR.
- During a working session organized by UNHCR Bétou and which included CAR Committee, CAR refugees and humanitarian community, authorities of the sub-prefecture and Betou mayor invited them to be more vigilant following the subversive behavior of some CAR refugees living on 15 Avril and that is not likely to ensure social cohesion between CAR sons and daughters.
- **Regular flow of new refugees:** While Bangui is experiencing a new outbreak of violence, growing insecurity and various violations of human rights, CAR asylum seekers are crossing borders to join Congo. Since the beginning of October, Betou and Enyelle in the Department of Likouala, recorded significant arrivals of new CAR asylum-seekers. During the week ends, CNAR Bétou with the support of UNHCR has registered hundreds of families under asylum seeker status. But unfortunately, in the localities of Enyelle Centre, Mouale, Mokabi, protective action hasn't been taken. Local authorities of Betou and Enyelle districts reported some new CAR arrivals in the above mentioned districts. Newcomers always crossing every day the border with CAR before reaching the villages of Betou and Moualé. The steps with the authorities are ongoing for registration.
- **Biometric registration operation:** latecomers in Bétou areas are being received at UNHCR office from 03 November, arriving from isolated localities and districts of Betou Enyelle. In collaboration with CNAR, UNHCR Bétou recorded more than a hundred families. Biometric registration team is currently operating at Ibenga where 389 CAR refugees are expected and Dongou.
- As part of the celebration of the **1st anniversary of the campaign #I BELONG (#J'APPARTIENS)** in order to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR office in Betou organized with CNAR, UNFPA, CSI agents and public sector actors, a show at the local community radio. Facilitators expressed views among others subjects, on international legal instruments including the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In order to reach a wide audience, facilitators / communicators have developed several subjects among the statelessness's causes, its consequences and preventive measures. Examples from the realities on the ground illustrated their talk. All delivered messages were broadcast in Lingala and Sango, and simple French.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Establishment of birth certificates for children born on Congolese territory (Betou and Enyelle). Indeed, birth certificates are not available in Betou areas including Moualé and Mokabi.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- 2015/2016 academic year: Bétou's public College is no longer delivering educational courses for all students accountable for October fees including CAR refugees. It was reported that the CAR pupils have a considerable absence rates at school, this is due to the movement of families toward small villages in order to find food through fishing or other small livelihood informal activities.
- General distribution to primary school students in Betou Centre took place and 14 CAR students including 05 girls received at Impfondo School Kits (Omar BONGO and Marien NGOUABI schools) through UNHCR partner AARREC.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to overabundant classes in public schools, children refugees admitted to high school are struggling in order to pursue their studies.



Health and nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- The main cases of morbidity are related to malaria and respiratory infections and thus the same that in the local population or other refugees communities. However, some cases of malnutrition have been reported as always.
- Two cases of self-referencing at Impfondo hospital were reported during the month. Those beneficiaries often leave their site, without informing the medical partner, in order to be hospitalized in private medical centers, particularly HELP's hospital. When they are no longer able to take care of medical expenses, the refugees come to UNHCR or TSF to ask support for the medical care or the reimbursement of medical expenses. On this subject, the partner was encouraged to continue awareness campaigns, using even the local radio to warn our beneficiaries on the usual procedures.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Shortage of anti-TBs and blood transfusion as well as immunization for Hepatitis B. **it is important to find urgently antigens because many deaths are due to anemia**
- Lack of leisure and playful activities for children under medical observation at the nutritional center at Bétou
- End of the UNICEF project 'Espace Amis des Enfants'
- Ambulance Service fails to meet care standard
- Lack of midwives
- Lack of beds and mattresses in the maternity ward



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, the latrines have been disinfected and the water treated in 15 Avril site. Awareness sessions on water and hygiene and conservation of food have been conducted to refugees in 15 Avril site. Moreover, AAREC undertook the organization of health committees for the latrines and wells committees at 15 Avril.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- A meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2015 and will bring together WFP and UNHCR at Bétou concerning distribution of dry uncooked rations.
- There has not been any distribution of NFIs during the reported period. In October, specialized food was distributed to 1693 beneficiaries in Betou. Nutritional activities are facing food shortfall (CSB).