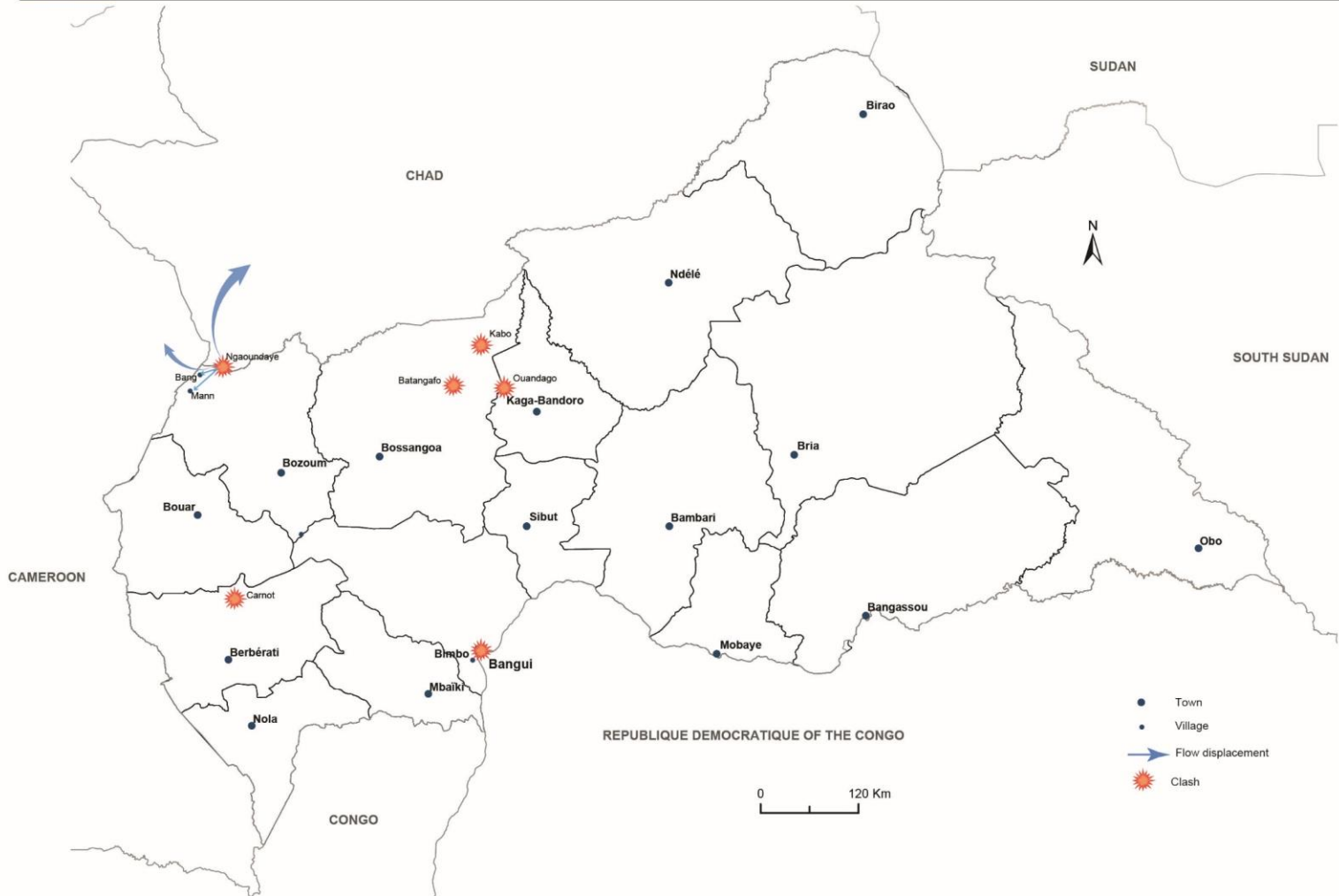


Volatile situation in CAR from 11 June 2016



HOTSPOTS FROM 11 TO 22 JUN



The boundaries and names shown and the designation used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Sources: UNHCR

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The security situation in Bangui, Carnot, Ngaoundaye and other parts of Ouham Pende and Ouham province is highly volatile with serious security incidents that may further deteriorate in the coming days. Armed clashes either oppose ex seleka factions as in Kaba, Batangafo areas of Ouham or oppose ex seleka element with alleged anti balaka groups or national forces and international forces as currently the case in Bangui. While all incidents seem so far to have no logic links with one another, their simultaneity questions the relative stability reported for months now especially in Bangui. It appears that the recurrence and nature of these incidents are all somehow linked to the absence of state authority in CAR even with the deployment of some individuals who cannot restore rule of law for lack of means and also lack of independence vis a vis armed groups still in control of great parts of

CAR. Unless state authority is fully restored, there will be self-defense mechanisms whom populations, traders, herders will look at as their protectors. Moreover, the resumption of legal diamond exploitation and trade in Berberati (and currently under way in Carnot) through the green zone declaration by the Kimberley process will trigger conflicts among populations and armed elements who are currently not in favor of the return of those who used to control the diamond business. Over 6,000 people have been internally displaced due to the recent unrest in the concerned localities, 2,000 have fled to Chad and 76 to Cameroon and an unknown number has reportedly fled in the bush in Ngaoundaye sub prefecture.

Bangui: On 18 June, at the northern entrance to Bangui called PK12, a commercial convoy escorted by MINUSCA was stopped by CAR Security Forces who suspected that weapons were hidden in one of the vehicles. No weapons were found. Some of the civilians who were on the convoy were however reportedly arrested and taken to Bangui for “identity verification”. Ten of them were released on 19 June, the others still detained. As a protest to the detention, six policemen were abducted by presumed members of a self-defence group “named 50/50” in PK5, the Muslim neighbourhood in Bangui. The abductors demanded the release of an unconfirmed number of their kinsmen detained by the CAR Security Forces. From 19 to 20 June, after negotiations failed to release the 6 policemen and to release those detained by the security forces, the self-defense group and MINUSCA Force exchanged fire in PK5 neighborhood resulting in the death of 7 people in PK5 (3 civilian and 4 armed men) and one peacekeeper injured by a grenade. The number of casualties is still being determined. Following the incident a hostile crowd has erected barricades and burnt tires in PK5. The situation is still tense in Bangui and curfew has been set from 8.00pm to 5.00 am. Restrictions of movements to PK5 is observed and restricted working hours have been temporally established for all UN staff in Bangui by the CAR Security Management Team for the day of 21st June According to CCCM/Shelter/NFI cluster, 35 households have been displaced from a neighborhood close to PK5 to Mpoko airport IDP site.

Ngaoundaye sub prefecture, Ouham Pende province: the herders’ movements back North or to Cameroon and Chad trigger a series of security incidents. Ouham Pende province is very much affected by clashes between herders’ armed escort and anti balaka elements. On 11 June, a group of herders conveying over 700 cows to Cameroon escorted by a coalition of ex seleta of *Mouvement Patriotique Centrafricain* (MPC) elements and *Revolution Justice* (RJ) stopped in Ngaoundaye surroundings while 9 emissaries were reportedly sent to Ngaoundaye town to pay requested taxes to local authorities under MINSUCA force escort and after being disarmed. The 9 emissaries were reportedly killed by anti balaka elements and anti balaka attacked the herders and the rest of the escort which resulted in the death of 6 other men and 100 cows taken. The MPC leader in the area is claiming the return of 14 weapons reportedly stolen from his kinsmen killed and complained about MINUSCA partiality. UNHCR’s Field Safety adviser based in Bouar on a fact finding mission to Ngaoundaye sub prefecture along with MINUSCA head of Paoua Field office reported population displacement in Mann, Bang, and Mbere Pont and in the bush not to mention over 2,000 refugees recently arrived in Chad and 76 registered in Touboro locality, Cameroon. The situation is tense and may further deteriorate. A protection assessment mission is scheduled to take place from 22 June by UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council, UNHCR’s partner in Ouham Pende for protection monitoring as well as other humanitarian actors.

It is worth mentioning that Inter-community relationship has been very difficult during the past months between herders and farmers in all transhumance areas and corridors. According to a recent note on the protection of civilians’ situation in CAR issued by the Protection Cluster, since October 2015, around 60% of protection incidents in transhumance corridors are linked to clashes between herders and armed groups/bandits.

Kabo and Batangafo in Ouham province: the situation in Kabo, Batangafo and along the axes has reportedly been tense for months. Since April 2016, several cases of hold ups and payment of illegal taxes at checkpoints have been reported including on humanitarian convoys which resulted in the temporary suspension of programs along the Kabo and Ouandago axes of Intersos, Solidarités, MSF and OIM. On 20 June, clashes were reported in Batangafo between ex seleka faction (FPRC/MPC against UPC) resulting in the secondary displacement of over 3,000 IDPs in Batangafo. The ex seleka factions seem to have been in disagreement for a while over the control of different parts of Nana Gribizi and Ouham provinces.

Carnot, Mambere Kadei province: On 21 June, UNHCR received reports of exactions of anti balaka elements on Muslim population who went back in their neighbourhood after a mediation by local authorities. While there is little information on the situation in Carnot so far, UNHCR's team currently in Berberati is on its way to Carnot for further information on the prevailing protection situation. The return of populations of the community at risk in Carnot to their neighbourhood has proved to have been a premature decision.