

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

UPDATE ON THE CAR REFUGEE SITUATION

April 2017

KEY FIGURES

102,568

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 30 April 2017)

58,262

Of these refugees living in five camps (as of 30 April 2017)

FUNDING

USD 55.3 mio.

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Promote self-reliance activities.
- Reinforce host community structures (health centers, schools, etc.) used also by refugees.
- Explore possibilities for durable solutions.

HIGHLIGHTS



Refugees and locals working in community fields around Inke camp ©UNHCR/A.Kapend

- Biometric registration of refugees living in host communities was completed in the territories of Mobayi Mbongo and Yakoma (North Ubangi province) on 9th April 2017. 3,664 households of 13,939 refugees were registered. The operation is planned to continue in Bosobolo territory (North Ubangi province) in June 2017. Since the beginning of the operation, the provinces of South and North Ubangi had been covered, with a total of 22,104 refugees registered so far.
- A survey on return intentions was carried out in the four camps of North and South Ubangi provinces (Inke, Bili, Mole and Boyabu) on April 10th – 12th. 7,831 refugees were interviewed (13.5% of the total refugee population). Among them, 14% envisage voluntary return during 2017 and 30% in 2018. 56% declared that their return is conditioned by the complete reestablishment of peace in their areas of origin. The camp with the highest rate of people (36%) willing to return during this year is Mole camp (near Zongo, South Ubangi province) which hosts a large number of refugees from CAR's capital, Bangui.
- UNHCR has made progress in fostering self-reliance for CAR refugees in 2017. In this framework, activities such as agriculture, reforestation and fish breeding were being reinforced with additional land, distribution of seedlings and tools in the four camps of Mole, Inke, Bili and Boyabu. Most important, these activities will benefit both refugee and host community, promoting integration and peaceful coexistence.
- In Bas-Uele province, a movement of Central African asylum seekers coming from border localities of Bangassou, Maliko and Yongofondo (Central African Republic), was reported starting from April 30th, according to information given by National Commission for Refugees (CNR). They crossed into villages of Ndu and Sahali (Bondo territory).

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- During the period under review, the security situation in North and South Ubangi provinces, as well as in Bas-Uélé province, was generally calm. However, ongoing disputes over land among local population in the southern area of Libenge territory (South Ubangi province), hosting a large number of refugees, risked to undermine self-reliance efforts of both communities.
- Around Batanga Transit Center (Libenge territory), an insurrectional movement called “Bana Ngulu”, threatening the security and safety of local population and asylum seekers, was dismantled by local authorities.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- An UNHCR cross-border meeting took place in Bangui in order to discuss options for the possible voluntary return of CAR refugees. Many refugees come from Bangui and other areas where the security situation has improved. Information-sharing with refugees in camps on the situation of their areas of origin was initiated. Concerning transport, measures were being taken to accompany those who are ready to return.
- In the aftermath of clashes between armed groups and the army in the locality of Zemio, Central African Republic, a movement of population into DRC was reported. A team of the National Commission of Refugees (CNR) was preparing a border-monitoring mission.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 26 out of 100 asylum seekers hosted in Batanga transit center (Libenge), waiting for months for decision on their asylum claims, decided to return in Central African Republic, while the others were still waiting for the results of their Refugee Status Determination (RSD) demand. In the context of the shift to individual Refugee Status Determination by the authorities, assistance to asylum seekers is given on a case-by-case basis to extremely vulnerable persons.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Mole camp (Zongo), 45 teachers (working in the camp as well as in hosting community) were trained on the use of ICT in education, in the framework of the Instant Network Schools project, supported by Vodafone Foundation and Vodacom. In Boyabu camp, 15 teachers received the same training.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- The second phase of a vaccination campaign against polio took place from 9 to 11 April in the four camps of Mole, Bili, Boyabu and Inke. 9,460 children between 0 and 59 months receive the vaccination.
- The Provincial Minister of Public Health visited the health center of Mole camp and expressed his satisfaction about the services provided. He will therefore facilitate the change in status for the structure to make it *the Centre de Santé de Référence* of the area (meaning that the Center will be able to perform some activities usually provided by Hospitals, offering therefore a larger healthcare coverage to inhabitants).

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Inke camp (Gbadolite), 100 transitional shelters were constructed by refugees themselves with the help of cash grants. This activity incited other refugee households (more than 500) to collect construction material with their own resources in order to build the same kind of shelters.
- In Bili camp (Bosobolo), 66 transitional shelters built by the refugees using cash grants were completed out of 100 planned, as well as 36 latrines out of 65 planned. Moreover, refugees used their own resources to make straw roofs for 409 shelters and to build 25 additional transitional shelters.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- 2,002 people (1,487 refugees and 515 locals) in 147 groups who received agricultural tools and seedlings of peanuts, soja, corn, manioc and niebe from UNHCR, started cultivating 224 ha out of 755 ha given by local authorities.
- In the framework of DRC Pooled Fund project, UNHCR partner AIDES provided 850 households (including 170 refugee households) with seedlings of peanuts and corn.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- 17 containers of clothing, donated by the Japanese fashion company UNIQLO and other donors, were being transported from Bangui. Due to technical problems, only one container was received in Zongo during the period under review.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR coordinates its assistance with a variety of humanitarian actors, working together to ensure refugees benefit from dignified and efficient protection mechanisms.
- For this operation, UNHCR partners are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, ADSSE and AIDES. Other partners include CARITAS, COOPI, MSF, WFP and WORLD VISION.

Donors for CAR refugee response in DRC in 2017

Japan (2.5 M) | UN Fund for Intl Partnerships (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (23.3 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.06 M)

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Links:

Data portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/country.php?id=46>