

Central African refugee situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

August 2017

Highlights

- Asylum seekers from Central African Republic continued to arrive in Bas-Uele and Nord Ubangi provinces. National Commission for Refugees and UNHCR estimated that around 64,000 new asylum seekers arrived between mid-May and August, while local authorities reported tens of thousands more arrivals in areas of difficult access. This new influx started mid-May and was triggered by violence, tensions and fear about imminent attacks in border areas.
- DRC's Vice Minister of Interior has informed the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations in a meeting in Kinshasa that DRC plans to grant *prima facie* refugee status to all asylum seekers who will arrive from CAR in DRC within a period of one year from now.
- Between 5th and 8th August, UNHCR distributed through its partner ADSSE relief items to 9,754 individuals in Yakoma, Limasa and Satema localities (Nord-Ubangi province). 7,598 of them are new arrivals, while 2,156 are registered out-of-camp refugees. Other distributions of relief items are planned at the beginning of September in the localities of Ndu, Gbobo, Nganza, Yomba and Satema (Nord Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces).

KEY INDICATORS

167,004

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 31st August 2017)

59,177

Of them **living in five camps** (as of 31st August 2017)

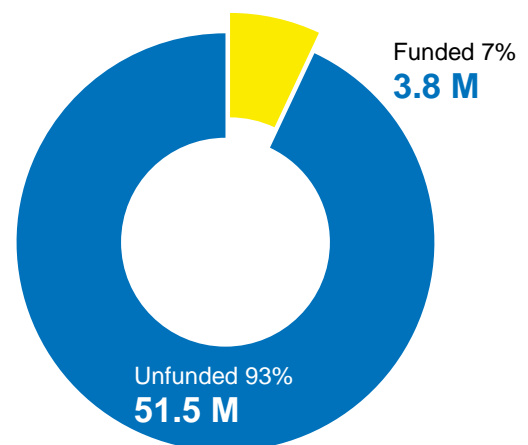
64,000

New arrivals starting from mid- May 2017, according to CNR and UNHCR estimates. Figure to be verified.

FUNDING (AS OF 29 AUGUST 2017)

USD 55.3 M

requested for the DRC - CAR situation



Operational Context

New arrivals from CAR are mainly settled along the rivers Ubangi and Mbomou that marks the border between CAR and DRC. Access to these areas is extremely difficult, because of lack of infrastructures (most of the bridges are destroyed or missing) and in some cases because of the security situation. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) militia and other armed groups are operating in Bas Uele province.

New clashes fighting and attacks by armed groups in some localities of Central African Republic situated at the border with DRC (Gambo, Bema, Satema) pushed civilians to cross the river and to flee into DRC.



Newly arrived refugees received relief items in Yakoma ©UNHCR/G. Nentobo



Training on papyrus harvesting in the framework of the project « Dignite pour les femmes » ©UNHCR/G. Nentobo

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- Asylum seekers from Central African Republic continued to arrive in Bas-Uele and Nord Ubangi provinces. National Commission for Refugees and UNHCR estimated that around 64,000 new asylum seekers arrived between mid-May and August, while local authorities reported tens of thousands more arrivals in areas of difficult access. This new influx started mid-May and was triggered by violence, tensions and fear about imminent attacks in border areas.
- Among them, 26,916 were pre-registered by National Commission for Refugees (CNR) in North Ubangi. Individual pre-registration was also ongoing in Bondo territory (Bas-Uele) by CNR.
- Conditions of new arrivals are extremely precarious: there is lack of shelter, of drinkable water, food, sanitation and healthcare. They arrived with few belongings, and often their houses and property have been burned down or looted. Some of them are working in the fields of host community for little money. Reinforcement of community infrastructures and facilities is planned. Some villages, with arrival of refugees, grew up to ten times their size, therefore host community resources are overstretched and local authorities such as General Direction of Migration (DGM) are overwhelmed.
- In Mole camp (Zongo), 35 households of 136 refugees communicated to UNHCR their willingness to return to CAR. UNHCR is evaluating this request in the light of recent events.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some elements from armed groups coming from Central African Republic are allegedly entering DRC, consequently posing a risk to the civilian character of asylum and creating suspicion among local population.
- Out-of-camp refugees of Bosobolo territory (around Bili camp) were not biometrically registered due to lack of funding.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- On August 16th, Provincial government of South Ubangi provided both health centres of Mole and Boyabu camps of medical equipment, namely an incubator, a fridge and an infrared lamp for each of the centres. This provision will allow to improve healthcare for both refugees and host communities.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- In Mole camp, the programme on babies and young children nutrition is being carried out by camp nutritional unit (managed by partner ADES) through sensitization campaigns, cooking demonstrations, nutritional screening and distribution of nutritional supplements targeting children from 0 to 24 months. The nutritional unit of Mole is currently following up 132 children (82 with moderate malnutrition and 50 with severe malnutrition), 65 pregnant and lactating women and 131 persons with chronic illnesses.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- Between 5th and 8th August, UNHCR distributed relief items (buckets, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, sanitary napkins) to 9,754 among out-of-camp refugees (2,156) and new arrivals (7,598) in Yakoma, Limasa and Satema localities (Nord-Ubangi province).
- In Bili camp, UNHCR partner ADES was constructing three boreholes for areas not yet reached by the water system. Other three boreholes are planned out of camp.
- “Dignité pour les femmes” project started in Gbadolite. This project, consisting in production of sanitary pads using papyrus plants and recycled paper was developed in Uganda under the name of MAKAPADS and now is being replicated in Gbadolite thanks to contribution of external partners (AMADE Mondiale, UNWOMEN, Sofibank) and to the support of Brazilian Embassy in Kinshasa. Both refugees and hosting community will benefit from the project. From 10 to 12 August, a training on papyrus harvesting method was held in the papyrus fields situated in Molegbe (outside Gbadolite). On 27 August, materials to set up the production arrived in Gbadolite. Objectives of the project are to train 80 refugees and locals in pads production, to have them responsible for selling the product, and to reach a production of more than 3 million sanitary pads per year. This project will contribute to refugees’ self-reliance but also will fill the gap in sanitary napkins provision for all the refugee settlements of DRC.
- In Bondo territory, Bas Uele province, 93 transitional shelters for out of camp refugees were completed with the support of Canadian NGO “Terre sans frontiere”. Other 45 planned for the area around Ndu are under construction.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- More relief items for new arrivals are needed. Humanitarian actors present in the area are pulling together efforts under UNHCR coordination in order to strengthen the emergency response.

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, TSF, WFP and WORLD VISION.

External / Donors Relations

Donors for CAR refugee response in DRC in 2017

Japan (2.5 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (28.4 M) | Belgium (1.5 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 M) | France (0.5 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.05 M)

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LINKS

[Regional portal for CAR situation](#) - [DRC page for CAR situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#)