

HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily attacks against humanitarian organizations persist in Kaga Bandoro.
- Humanitarian access to affected populations is restored through the Security Bubble initiative.
- Internally displaced persons face imminent threats of eviction from sites.
- Outbreak of a Monkey Pox epidemic in CAR.

FIGURES

# of IDPs	385,000
# of refugees outside the country	466,000
Population in need of aid	2,3 M
Population affected by food insecurity	2,5 M

For more information, please visit
www.unocha.org/car or
www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/operations/central-african-republic/ or

[www.twitter.com/OCHA_CAR](https://twitter.com/OCHA_CAR)



Source: OCHA/Fultang

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The respect of humanitarian principles is crucial countrywide

Insecurity persists in Kaga Bandoro (Nana Gribizi province) since the incursion of armed men into the local hospital on 12 September, demanding medical care for an injured element. Medical personnel were assaulted causing patients to flee from the hospital in search of refuge. The Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim, Michel Yao condemned this violation of international humanitarian law and called for the respect of health institutions and staff. He also recalled medical personnel of the need to respect humanitarian principles towards ensuring peacebuilding and social cohesion. Following the intervention of the humanitarian community and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), health services have resumed at the hospital.

Since the incident, there has been an upsurge of attacks, particularly burglaries on the NGO premises and private homes of humanitarian staff in Kaga Bandoro. Those involved include national staff. Between 9 and 17 September, 15 incidences of armed attacks were reported. Between 23 and 25 September, there were three successive attacks on humanitarian organizations in Kaga Bandoro. Humanitarian access to the people in need is also hindered by the erection of checkpoints by armed groups in the region. Attacks on humanitarian convoys have also been frequent. These robberies and attacks are adversely affecting humanitarian assistance in the region due to regular temporary suspension of activities by affected organizations and the restriction of movement on some roads such as the Ouandago axis. To this effect, MINUSCA reinforced its presence in Kaga Bandoro with an objective of normalizing the situation. Troops from Gabon, Burundi and Rwandan Formed Police Units were deployed immediately to bring the situation under control.

Repeated attacks on the humanitarians made them to suspend their work temporarily until the security situation improves in the region. Following the decision, more than 120,000 persons who rely on humanitarian assistance were affected. Given the situation, the Humanitarian Coordinator for CAR, Fabrizio Hoshchild, visited Kaga Bandoro to assess the situation. He asked the authorities to exercise their right to ensure unimpeded and unconditional access to the aid workers as well as respect for the International Humanitarian Law.

Against the backdrop of daily attacks in Kaga Bandoro, on 26 September, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) issued a press release deploring the deterioration in the protection of civilians in CAR. OCHA reminded that violence against aid workers is a serious breach of International Humanitarian Law likewise obstruction of humanitarian access. OCHA also highlighted the negative impact such actions would have particularly on vulnerable populations that are still in dire need of humanitarian aid.

CAR is one of the countries most affected by violent attacks targeting humanitarian workers.

Humanitarian activities are anchored around the four fundamental principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. They are central to establishing and maintaining access to affected people, in a natural disaster or a complex emergency, such as armed conflict. Promoting and ensuring compliance with the principles is an essential element to ensure that a humanitarian response respects the 'do no harm' principle particularly in armed conflict situations.

Humanitarian negotiations even with non-state actors are essential to sensitize them to respect the International Humanitarian Law and accord unhindered access. Considering that humanitarian principles govern the conduct of humanitarian actors, compliance also enhances credibility and accountability towards the people affected by the crisis. The respect of humanitarian principles by all parties to the conflict and humanitarian organizations is crucial to ensure an effective response to the persisting crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Humanitarian assistance is restored in Ouham province through the Security Bubble initiative

Recurrent violent attacks on humanitarian convoys in Ouham province on the Kabo-Moyen Sido axis led to the suspension of humanitarian activities over a two-month period. These attacks hindered humanitarian organisations from reaching displaced persons and returnees with assistance. This access constraint called for a newly initiated security bubble system to be tested.

This innovative and unique system in CAR capitalizes on the added value provided by the presence of MINUSCA Forces; through the coordination of military patrols with humanitarian movements on targeted axis. Initiated by OCHA, the security bubble initiative enables humanitarian organisations to adapt their routes to coincide with MINUSCA patrols; giving a ten minute interval between both. This initiative prevents having an escort at close proximity while preserving humanitarian space. It also ensures neutrality and enables safe access to vulnerable people.

OCHA facilitates coordination with MINUSCA Forces in all regions. However, in the towns where OCHA is not present, it liaises with the designated focal points representing humanitarian organisations requesting to use the security bubble initiative.

In the interior, OCHA's regional offices are in charge of implementing the security bubble while at the national level, the office in Bangui and in a dialogue with the Force, discusses the targeted regions through the civil-military coordination system. This system enables humanitarian actors in the provinces to coordinate their activities according to the identified needs.

Over 400 acts of violence against aid workers since 2014

Today, CAR is one of the countries most affected by violent attacks against humanitarian workers globally. These attacks by armed men greatly impede humanitarian access and pose a threat to humanitarian staff. Humanitarian access continues to be hindered by various constraints, particularly violence against civilians including aid workers and their assets, interference in the implementation of



humanitarian activities and active hostilities. Since January 2014 more than 2,811 security

incidents have been recorded, including 420 acts of violence against humanitarian partners. In August, out of the 34 reported incidents, 29 per cent were acts of violence against aid workers. This represents a 3 per cent decrease from 35 in July to 34 in August. In September, another 33 were registered.

Armed groups seek to control the roads to ensure a source of income for themselves through the illegal collection of taxes and robbery of commercial and humanitarian convoys. The high market value and operational nature of vehicles used by humanitarian workers makes them regular targets for robbery. This insecurity is compounded by the proliferation of weapons and armed groups in CAR.

With a weak State presence countrywide, there is a lack of effective functional judicial systems and law enforcement officers. These loopholes are conducive for prevailing impunity in the country. Moreover, an increase in the number of armed men carrying out criminal activities and the lack of command structures render humanitarian access negotiations challenging; limiting the capacity of actors to provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations.

On some axis, the high level of insecurity has led to the suspension of humanitarian activities for several months. The implementation of the security bubble alleviates the security concerns of humanitarian workers while respecting the guiding principles of their work. Nevertheless, the security bubble does not guarantee a secure and safe access and it is not the absolute solution to the problems hindering humanitarian access in CAR and caution is always advised.

With the progressive return of IDPs to their regions of origin or to new locations, the number of displaced persons countrywide has reduced from over 800,000 in 2014 to 385,000 in 2016.

Internally displaced persons face eviction threats from sites

The outbreak of the CAR crisis in December 2013 led to a massive wave of displacement and the immediate eruption of make-shift shelters in over 92 spontaneous sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) countrywide. Most of these sites, particularly those in the nation's capital Bangui, are located within the property of various religious denominations. Out of the 26 IDP sites in Bangui and its surroundings, 22 are hosted in private premises and the remaining 4 sites are situated on public or government owned land. With the exception of Bangui's M'poko IDP site at the airport, the rest are set-up in proximity to existing infrastructures including churches, mosque, schools and other community facilities. Consequently, there are frequent interactions between IDPs and host communities, mainly parishioners and students. However, the relationship between both groups has become strenuous over a period of time and tension is reported in some of the premises; leading up to evictions and or threats.



Bangui, CAR. July 2016. A displaced family at the Bangui M'poko IDP site. Source: OCHA/Laura Fultang

With the progressive return of IDPs to their regions of origin or to new locations, the number of displaced persons countrywide has reduced from over 800,000 in 2014 to 385,000 in 2016. Meanwhile, some IDPs continue to occupy various premises. Some property owners are now demanding the departure of IDPs from their land. Between January and August 2015, 1,451 IDPs in 13 sites were under threats of eviction. Religious

authorities in-charge of these premises claimed that most of the remaining IDPs were residents from the surrounding neighborhoods who were commuting between their homes

and the sites. According to the Shelter and NFI / Camp Coordination and Camp Management (Shelter/NFI/CCCM) cluster, most infrastructures on these sites are dilapidated, without portable water and latrines, and any attempt to rehabilitate them were not fruitful as religious continue to push for the departure of the IDPs. As a result, during the month of August 2015, 114 IDPs were evicted from the Galabadja site by parishioners and the local police force.

According to land proprietors, some IDPs are maintaining their shelters on site in order to benefit from humanitarian assistance and are expecting to receive return packages. Parent teachers associations also feel that the presence of IDPs in school premises does not allow for a conducive learning environment. Other issues that reinforce eviction threats include: promiscuity and disregard for basic religious principles, vandalism, increased consumption of basic services (water and electricity); rendering churches unable to pay for utility bills.

Despite a relatively peaceful situation in the capital, most IDPs remain reluctant to return to their homes due to the fear of new attacks. As eviction threats persist, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) including the Shelter/NFI/CCCM and Protection Clusters continue to mediate, negotiate and advocate for the voluntary return of these IDPs.

Most IDPs remain reluctant to return to their homes due to the fear of new attacks



Bangui, CAR. September 2016. Sensitization of IDPs on return options at the FATEB IDP site.
Source: UNHCR/Patience Ntemgwa

Engaging IDPs and religious leaders

In order to address these eviction threats, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs established a platform that brings together IDP representatives and religious authorities on a regular basis. This forum enables dialogue and discussions on various issues including eviction and the return challenges faced by IDPs. On sites, the Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster is carrying out focus group discussions to ensure the participation of the existing structures and committees. The

platform and focus group discussions have been critical in raising awareness on various humanitarian principles and the voluntary nature of returns at all levels. IDPs and religious leaders alike are fully aware that return assistance will not be provided on site but in the areas of return. Discussions also focus on protection needs in the areas of return as the environment must be safe and conducive to allow for return. Engaging IDPs in collecting and updating data on the population of their respective sites has contributed to developing some sense of responsibility and ownership.

As of August 2016, six sites under eviction threats have been closed as a result of the voluntary return of 937 IDPs who dismantled their tents and carried along their belongings to their neighborhoods or to host families. These IDPs were further assisted by UNHCR with NFIs in their areas of return and a mechanism has been set up to monitor the returnees and to advocate for long term assistance and reintegration.

There are another seven sites with 5,270 IDPs still under imminent threat of eviction and the number of sites might gradually increase as the security situation in the neighborhoods improves. Continued engagement of IDPs, religious leaders and government counterparts is critical. These discussions continue to enable IDPs to overcome the feeling of dependence, to empower households and encourage the active participation of all IDPs in decision-making. Returnee monitoring is indispensable and will be useful in planning activities towards sustainable solutions and the reintegration of returnees.

Reducing the risk of waterborne diseases

37 per cent of the CAR population or 2.9 million people do not have access to clean drinking water.

A mobile drilling team operates in CAR to ensure the supply of clean drinking water countrywide. This initiative of the humanitarian community is being implemented by the International NGO Action against Hunger (ACF) through a team which was deployed to the country since in March 2015. The main aim of this deployment is to address the challenges faced by the population with regards to access to potable water and also to fight against waterborne diseases including cholera.

The project's implementation has a two-pronged approach consisting of assessments and interventions when necessary. Potential projects are jointly validated by members of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster. They are prioritized based on the magnitude of displacement, proximity to health facilities and especially the risk of waterborne health crisis.

The inaccessibility of targeted regions, insecurity and logistical difficulties are some of the the major constraints faced by these teams that have already constructed hundreds of wells in the country. In Alindao (Basse-Kotto province) where the need for potable water is crucial, the construction project was repeatedly postponed due to recurring violence on the Sibut-Grimari-axis. The rainy season also hindered the implementation of projects due to floods of the Bangui-Kété river, hindering access by road to some villages. Nevertheless, the construction of six new boreholes and the rehabilitation of seven boreholes were eventually implemented.

2.9 million people do not have access to clean water

Management committees and artisan-repairers were trained and equipped with spare parts



Alindao, CAR. 2016. Mobile drilling team conducts an assessment prior to interventions. Source: ACF

and tools to ensure the sustainable maintenance of boreholes. The team is currently assessing new projects in the Zangba district. These projects are targeting an estimated 22,500 people countrywide. The team plans to drill 18 boreholes and to rehabilitate 27 damaged water points.

The mobile drilling team is intervening in the country and ensuring access to potable water at a very crucial time when CAR is facing a cholera epidemic which was declared on 10 August. Prior to the crisis, the prevalence of diarrhea related diseases was 24 per cent, constituting a major malnutrition risk among children under five years. Considering

that the potable water coverage rate is 37 per cent, or 2.9 million people do not have sufficient access to clean water; improved access to clean drinking water is one of the priority needs that have to be addressed in order to reduce health risks.

Funding situation overview

The CAR Humanitarian Fund launches a US\$12 million allocation to support humanitarian response in CAR. On 14 September, the Humanitarian Coordinator launched the 2016 second standard allocation of the CAR Humanitarian Fund (CAR HF - formerly CHF) for a total amount of \$12 million. The allocation strategy and information about the allocation process are available on the [OCHA CAR](http://ocha.org/car) website.

This allocation has three main strategic objectives:

- 1) Provide immediate response to critical, urgent and emergency humanitarian needs by targeting assistance to the most affected people or areas with recent population displacement and increased needs.

- 2) Facilitate the initial phase of the return and reintegration of returnees into host communities in areas of return or in alternative areas.
- 3) Promote projects involving innovative activities aimed at strengthening humanitarian action and acceptance of humanitarian actors.

In order to contribute towards strengthening humanitarian coordination, which is one of the fund's objectives, an active and regular participation of partners within clusters will be considered during the project selection process. Similarly to the first standard allocation launched in early 2016, projects that include elements relating to strengthening the capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will be highly considered.

The CAR HF multi-donor funding mechanism was established in 2008. Managed by OCHA, it aims to provide rapid and immediate financial assistance to meet the most critical humanitarian needs. In 2016, a total of \$20.6 million was collectively contributed by Germany, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden, placing the CAR HF among the main sources of funding for the humanitarian response plan (HRP).

To contribute to the CAR HF, contact chfcar@un.org. More information on the CAR HF is available on the following website: <http://www.unocha.org/car/about-chf-central-african-republic> <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/HCF10>

A sharp decrease in funding in comparison with 2015: the HRP is only 30 per cent funded at the end of September. As of 20 September, despite the allocation of \$9 million by the Central Emergency Response Fund's (CERF) underfunded emergency response window, only \$161 million has been received in response to the 2016 humanitarian appeal. This amount represents only 30 per cent of the total funding needs identified in the 2016 HRP.

Despite a significant increase in contributions over the past months, this low funding rate is jeopardizing the implementation of humanitarian response. The three main donors of the HRP are: the United States (24.7 per cent), the United Kingdom (13.7 per cent) and the European Union (9.7 per cent). CAR's partners and donors are also strongly encouraged to report their contributions to the [Financial Tracking System](#). For any questions regarding this process, contact: fts@un.org.

Portrait of a local organization

"Women Act for Living Together" (WALT) is a national organization established in February 2014. WALT's mission aims to promote societal values, particularly the well-being of families.



19 August 2016, Bangui, CAR. WALT staff during a humanitarian exhibition on World Humanitarian Day. Source: WALT

WALT's main objectives are to promote: the protection and education of vulnerable children, peace and social cohesion, education and female literacy through learning. It also aims to fight against gender based violence and HIV / AIDS.

In collaboration with its partners and communities, WALT develops and implements various programmes targeting women, youth and children. These programs are implemented in the following regions: Bouar and Baoro (Nana Mambere province) Bouca (Ouham province), Bimbo and Bangui

(Ombella M'Poko province) according to the needs of the people affected by the CAR crisis.

At the end of September, the Humanitarian Response Plan is only 30 per cent funded. The low funding rate is seriously jeopardizing humanitarian response.

At the on-set of its activities in 2014, WALT implemented two programmes, namely: “Guardian Angel”, based on sponsoring vulnerable children at school. WALT provided academic support to six children including three from the Muslim community. Secondly, the parents of these children actively participated in WALT’s integrated social cohesion activities entitled “FOCOJUP” (Fair, social cohesion, justice and peace).

WALT is currently carrying out education activities in Bangui, Bouar and Baoro targeting vulnerable children. Social cohesion and literacy activities for women are also ongoing.

WALT’s partners are: the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation. The NGO’s headquarters is located in Bangui close to the Omnisport Stadium. A sub-office is also located in Bouar. WALT has 12 employees including one in Bangui, Bouca, Baoro and Bouar. Contact WALT by Email: waltcentrafrique@yahoo.fr Telephone: (236) 77 22 00 64 / 75 04 97 02

In brief

Update on the Cholera epidemic response in CAR

As of 19 September, 266 cases and 21 deaths were registered since the declaration of the epidemic on 10 August. The humanitarian community is responding through increased access to potable water, medical treatment, and public sensitization activities. The response has been supported by the CAR Humanitarian Fund with US\$1.5 million, ECHO with 400,000 EUR, ICRC with 237,000 CHF, and UNICEF and WHO with US\$500,000 and US\$135,000 respectively.

Outbreak of a Monkey Pox epidemic

A Monkey Pox epidemic was reported in four villages in the Mingala sub-province (Basse Kotto province). According to the Health Cluster, the first case was registered in August while 14 cases and 1 death were reported on 15 September. Furthermore, 10 deaths of unknown causes were also reported in the villages over the same period. Treatment is being provided at the Irra Banda health center while others were referred to the district hospital. Health partners are supporting the Government in preparing an immediate response to the epidemic including sensitization activities, strengthening the capacity of health services and providing medical supplies.

Over 3,000 people displaced due to armed violence

The incursion of armed groups in Ndometé village (Nana Gribizi province) on 15 September led to the displacement of over 3,000 people in search of refuge in the bush. Homes were looted and five people killed. The protection of civilians remains a major concern in the region. The findings of a joint humanitarian mission revealed healthcare, nutrition, protection, WASH, food security and protection, as priority needs.

Over 3,500 people displaced as a result of violence

Violence between armed groups on the Kouango-Biango axis (Ouaka province) led to the displacement of over 3,500 people into the bush, towards the Oubangui river and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A multisectoral assessment revealed protection, shelter, access to food, water and health services as the IDPs’ priority needs.

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OCHA press releases are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org> or www.reliefweb.int.

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