

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

UPDATE ON THE CAR REFUGEE SITUATION

February 2017

KEY FIGURES

103,420

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 28 Feb 2017)

57,792

Of these refugees living in five camps (as of 28 Feb 2017)

FUNDING

USD 55.3 mio.

requested for the operation



Funded
5%

Gap
95%

PRIORITIES

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

HIGHLIGHTS



Refugee children from Mole camp during a French grammar lesson in the Instant Network Classroom @UNHCR/C. Cavalcanti

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) conducted missions to prepare for biometric registration of refugees living in host communities in North Ubangi province (Bosobolo and Mobay Mbongo territories). The number of refugees living in the area was estimated at 8,000 for Bosobolo territory (Bili) and at 16,000 in Mobya Mbongo territory (Gbadolite). The biometric registration was planned for the beginning of March. During the mission, sensitization was carried out via local media inviting refugees to participate.
- In 2017, the construction of 400 transitional shelters and 260 family latrines is planned in the four camps of Mole, Boyabu, Bili and Inke using a Cash Based Intervention (CBI).
- The project of Instant Network Schools became operational in Mole and Boyabu camps. The project is funded by Vodafone Foundation and supported by Vodacom and aims to give children and teachers access to digital education contents and to the internet using tablet PCs. All primary school levels benefitted from two classes per week of digital education together with their teachers and supervised by trained IT coaches. INS classes touch upon a wide variety of topics, from grammar to science to new technologies. In Inke camp, the construction of the INS classroom is completed, equipment and an IT coach will be available soon.
- 8 km2 of land were made available by the chief of Kpasagba groupment (Inke camp) to create community fields for refugees and host community.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and CNR met local authorities of North Ubangi province on February 7th. The aim of the meeting was to illustrate achievements in the refugee response (including number of interventions that benefit host communities as well) since 2013 and to explain the decision of ending with *prima facie* recognition. The strategy for 2017, based on self-reliance activities was also presented. Local authorities shared their concern about regular movements of refugees between DRC and CAR that could impact negatively on security at the border. Sensitization of refugees against such movements was recommended.
- On 24th February, a Congolese family of 10 people returned voluntarily from Bangui (CAR) to Gbadolite. They have been assisted by UNHCR and CNR.
- 18 households of 44 asylum seekers arrived between December 2016 and February 2017 in Bili were interviewed by UNHCR Protection team on February 22nd. These are preliminary interviews to collect protection information (family size, vulnerabilities, etc.) while awaiting CNR interviews for refugee status determination. Asylum seekers are temporarily accommodated with their relatives in the camp and out of camp thus benefiting from basic services but they are not assisted in food and Non-Food Items. CNR introduced individual refugee status determination in December 2016, as the *prima facie* refugee status recognition has been suspended.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- At Boyabu camp, 1,504 primary school students received school uniforms from social partner ADSSE on February 7th. Moreover, school fees have been paid for 469 students (204 girls and 265 boys) who attend secondary schools out of the camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mole camp, just 300 students who attend secondary schools out of the camp received assistance from the partner ADSSE against 399 students identified due to lack of funds.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- From 23rd to 25th February, 6,537 children received vaccinations against polio in the four camps of North and South Ubangi (2,990 in Inke camp, 1,005 in Bili camp, 1,372 in Boyabu camp and 1,170 in Mole camp). The vaccination campaign was organized by the Ministry of Health and the *Programme Elargi de Vaccination* (PEV) with the support of UNICEF and WHO.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Bas-Uele province, nurses of Mboti health center expressed their concern about the difficulties encountered by refugee parents living in the area to pay the fees for healthcare provided to their children, as they are not fully self-reliant yet. The Health Center was rehabilitated by INGO *Terres Sans Frontières* (TSF) and handed over to the authorities.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR donated 3,000 doses of vaccine to Zongo municipality, since in the area an epidemic killed dozens of domestic animals (sheep, pigs and chicken), causing food insecurity among refugees and local population. At Mole camp, the situation is under control as medical partner ADES isolated and treated sick animals.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between UNHCR, WFP and ADES on malnutrition. This would allow, among other activities, the regular provision of nutritional supplements to treat moderate malnutrition (MAM) in the four camps of North and South Ubangi province (Inke, Bili, Mole and Boyabu).

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In Mboti camp (Bas-Uele province) cash grants for food purchase were distributed by WFP for the month of February to the 704 refugees living in the camp.
- 38 NFI kits including mats, blankets, kitchen tools, buckets and jerry cans were distributed to prisoners (21 refugees and 17 locals) in Gbadolite central prison by social partner ADSSE.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- 8 km² of land were made available by the chief of Kpasagba groupment (Inke camp) to create community fields for refugees and host community. Negotiations are ongoing between the CNR and local authorities to make available additional land for agriculture.
- A professional training center in tailoring opened in Inke camp with the support of UNHCR and social partner ADSSE. 37 students (22 women and 15 men) attended the classes, despite the availability of only three sewing machines. The students had already produced the baby clothes that were included in the baby kit distributed at the maternity ward of the camp.

Logistics

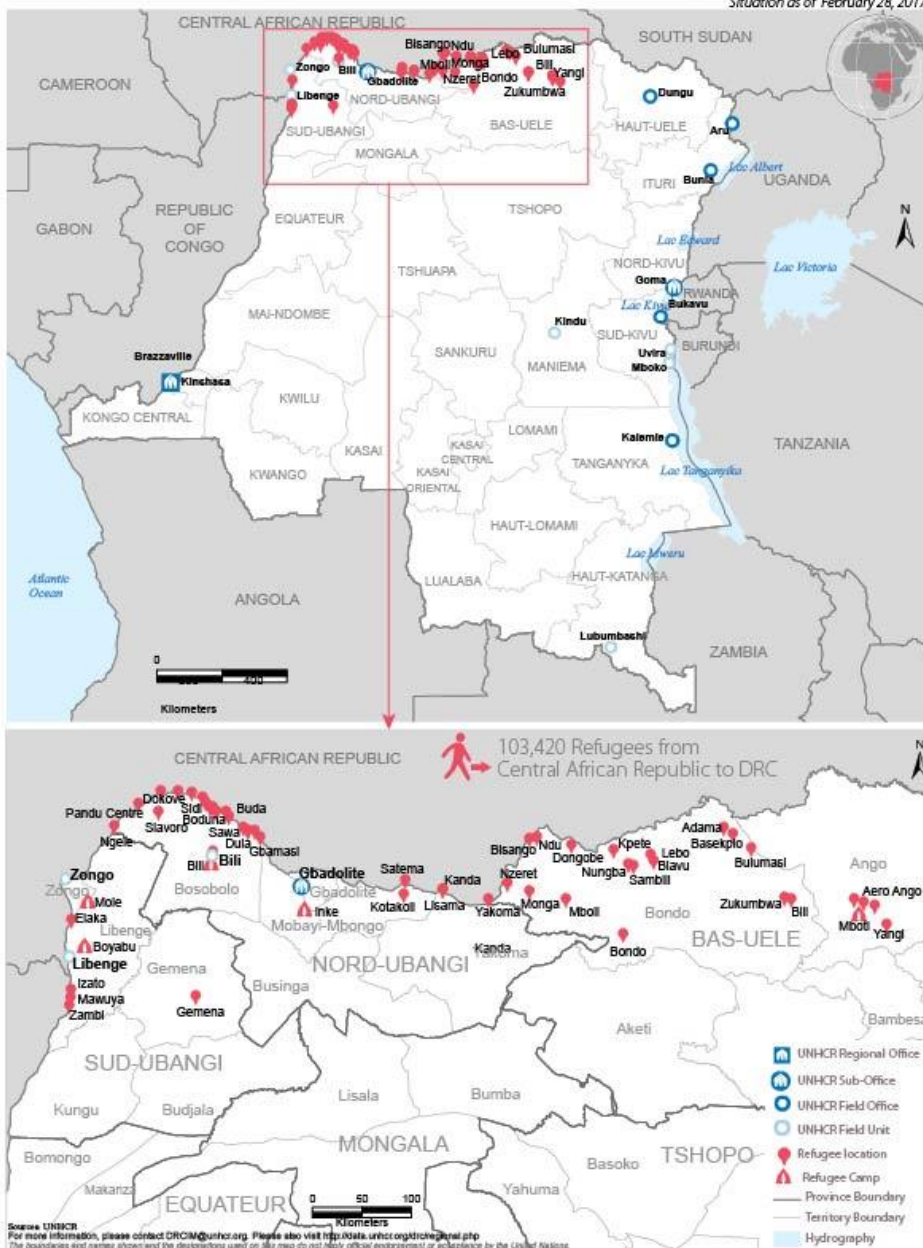
Achievements and Impact

- INGO Acted visited Mole and Boyabu camps in order to collect data on existing infrastructures (geographic data as well as data about infrastructure conditions). The data will be used to produce maps to be used for programming future interventions. This operation was already carried out in the localities of Libenge, Batanga, Elaka and Nduma.

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.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Central African Refugees



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 (3.1 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.06 M)

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