

# Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

26 March 2021

## Ma Mbi Si Listen to me too

UNHCR, in collaboration with COOPI, has launched "Ma Mbi Si" project, with the primary purpose of bringing support to GBV survivors through listening centers. The program is managed by a team of psychosocial specialists and community focal points and offers case management support, legal and medical referrals with financial support, dignity kits, community support, and group activities led by local women.

## Challenges reaching remote locations in the DRC

New asylum-seekers in the DRC are settled in more than 40 sites along a border spanning thousands of kilometres. Roads are in very poor condition or absent. Canoe rafts and makeshift bridges are often used to transport critical supplies and humanitarian staff.

## Legislative elections results

On 21 March, the National Electoral Authority (ANE) published the provisional results of the legislative elections, declaring a total of 90 winners out of 140 contested sitting at the newly elected parliament. These results are pending validation by the constitutional court.

### KEY INDICATORS

# 132,810\*

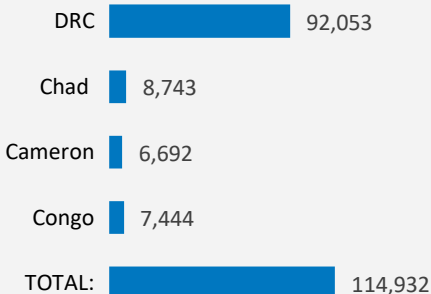
Total number of new Internally displaced persons in CAR since the beginning of the electoral crisis.

# 114,932 \*\*

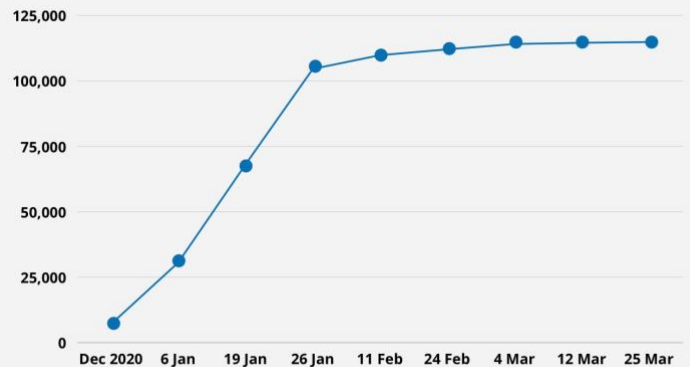
People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, RoC, Chad and DRC until 12 March 2021, since the beginning of the electoral crisis.

### DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

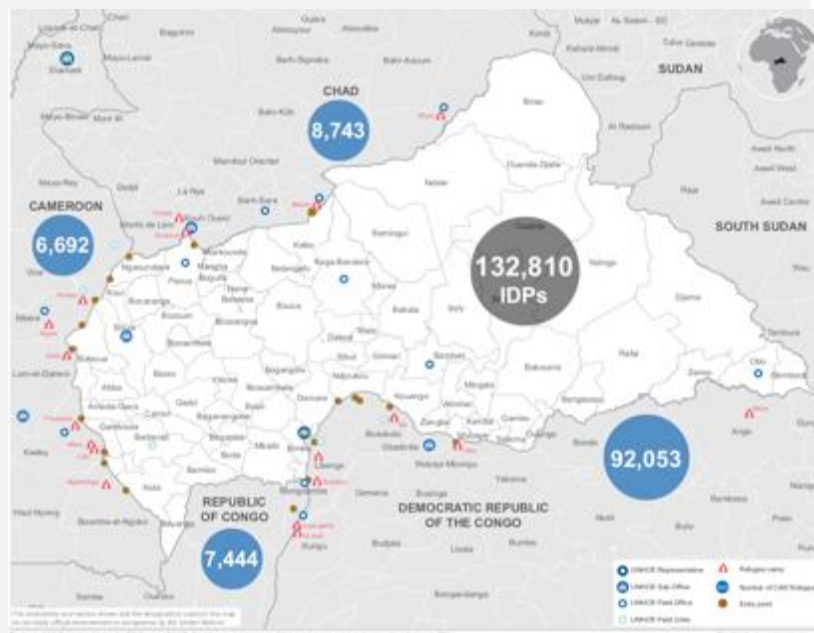
#### New arrivals



### REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TREND



### CAR REGIONAL SITUATION MAP



\* [Foot note] Announced by la Commission de Mouvement de population of 28 February 2021.  
 \*\* [Foot note] Data as reported by local authorities of 04 March 2021.  
 \*\* In Cameroon, movements suggest that the actual figures are higher than the statistics.  
 \*\* DRC figure is provided by local authorities. UNHCR is conducting biometric registration jointly with government to confirm.

## Operational Context

Political and security situation in Central African Republic (CAR)



According to the National Electoral Authority (ANE), the second round of the legislative elections scheduled on 2 May 2021 has been postponed later due to the National Assembly's inaugural session and the ANE's desire to be better prepared.



**Human Rights Council** reported that 358 incidents of human rights violations and abuses affecting 609 victims were documented from 1 October 2020 to 28 February 2021. These figures represented an increase of over 40 per cent compared to the preceding five-month period.



Traffic on the main supply road (MSR1) continues to improve due to the military offensive conducted by the FACAs and supported by the Russian and Rwandan allies. During this period, MINUSCA resumed escorting UN convoys from Cameroon's border, Garoua - Boulai to Bangui (CAR).



Only one in three Central Africans has access to clean water, a toilet, and a shower, reported **OCHA**. Access to water and sanitation is particularly problematic at the many sites where the 235,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) live, often in crowded makeshift shelters where physical distancing for COVID-19 prevention is not possible.



**UNAIDS** reports that the CAR has made significant progress in its response to HIV over the past four years. New HIV infections continue to decline. Despite this progress, less than half of the 100,00 people living with HIV have access to treatment and the government estimates that less than 20 per cent of people on treatment have an undetectable viral load.



"Ma Mbi Si" means "listen to me too" in Sango and is the name chosen by CAR women for the new GBV centers. The listening center team provides a holistic service to reach GBV survivors, included a mobile unit and a hotline, "Ma Mbi Si," that facilitates remote case management and psychosocial support.



## Population movements and border monitoring

- During this period, approximately 50 new asylum-seekers crossed into the DRC through Nzakara, 30km from Gbadolite. Two monitoring missions in the CAR and Chad border counted 306 Central African asylum-seekers. Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo have not registered new displacements since the beginning of the month.
- Most new arrivals from CAR are being hosted in areas where the needs of the populations continue to be unmet, and resources are stretched thin. Newly arrived refugees require humanitarian assistance and support for sexual and gender-based violence, child protection and documentation.
- As of 28 February 2021, **la Commission de Mouvement de Populations** reported at least 35,178 new internally displaced persons (IDP). The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR was estimated to be 741,879, consisting of 235,498 persons in sites and 506,381 persons in host families.
- Throughout the response, UNHCR continues to prioritize support to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of gender-based violence.
- The new displacement of more than 245,000 people adds to the 1.3 million Central Africans already uprooted in the region, bringing the overall number of displaced Central Africans (IDPs and refugees) to over 1.5 million – almost a third of the country's total population.

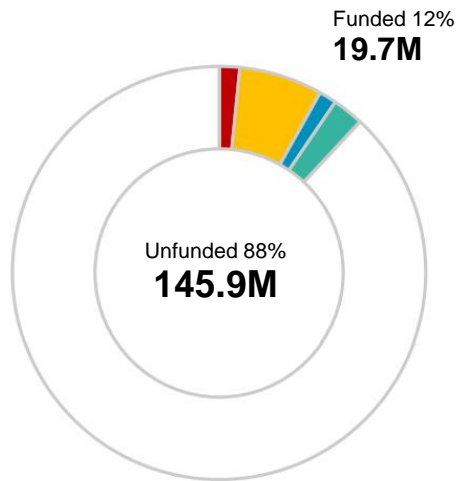


## CAR Situation Funding Update

FUNDING (AS OF 24 MARCH 2021)

# USD 164.7 M

requested for the Central African Republic situation



■ Tightly earmarked  
■ Earmarked  
■ Softly earmarked (ini  
■ Unearmarked (indica  
■ Funding gap (indicative)

- As of 24 March 2021, the **Central African Republic situation** has received **12% of the \$164.7 million required**. In light of the unfolding emergency, softly earmarked funding for the CAR situation is the most valuable financial support donors can provide and will allow UNHCR to respond to the most urgent needs in the most timely and efficient manner.
- **UNHCR emergency appeal** to address the Central African Republic crisis.
- **The Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan for Central African refugees in the DRC** aims to provide protection and assistance for up to 92,000 refugees. Partners are appealing for US\$ 69 million for the implementation of the multi-sectoral response.

### UNHCR Emergency Response L1 and L2 Emergency Declaration

- UNHCR declared on 21 January 2021 a Level 2 emergency for its operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a Level 1 emergency for its Operations in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, and the Republic of the Congo.

#### Contributions earmarked to the CAR Situation 2021

Latter Day Saints 281,709 UN Programme on HIV / AIDS 260,890 | Other private donors 76,858

#### Softly earmarked contributions

United States of America 35.6 million | Sweden 7.6 million | Japan 6.2 million

#### Unearmarked contributions 2021

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million  
 Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million  
 Private donors Spain 13.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

### Stories

## Race against time to help thousands of Central African refugees

As the rainy season approaches, the race is on to get aid to thousands seeking safety in a remote village in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Joseph and thousands of others found safety in Ndu, a remote village located on the other side of the Mbomou river. Most of them arrived exhausted after crossing the border river, with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

Makeshift shelters that offer little protection from rain, wind, and the scorching sun have mushroomed along the main road in Ndu. Some families have taken refuge in abandoned houses and the village's cramped school, while others have no option but to sleep out in the open.



Central African refugee Boris, 37, sits with his wife Christine and their two children outside their makeshift shelter in Ndu village, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. © UNHCR/Fabien Faivre

- Read the full article [here](#).





## Country Operation Central African Republic

### Operational Environment

- UNHCR published the Second Protection Monitoring Report for the current electoral crisis. The report indicates that human rights violations remain common throughout the country. The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) has also confirmed this trend since January 2021.
- UNHCR has reported a rise in property rights violations such as illegal taxes imposed by armed groups on the civilian population, including illegal occupation of civilian dwellings. The report highlights the increase in rapes attributed to armed elements.
- The security situation remains tense in several areas of CAR, and humanitarians' access remains difficult. A Humanitarian mission to Bakouma in the Bangassou area, was stopped by armed groups who then went ahead to seize all the vehicles and other communications equipment, amongst other items, on 23 March. They allowed all 37 humanitarian workers to return to Bangassou onboard a truck that was part of the convoy.
- Last week, two field missions were organized to visit the Listening Centres in Bambari and Obo to conduct focus groups with women. A few women openly shared how the current crisis and the difficulties encountered in accessing food have exposed them to survival sex.
- Multifunctional teams, which include UNHCR staff, carried out a protection assessment in Niakari (Mbomou) and Bossangoa (Ouham). A response plan was developed based on the needs of the affected population.

### Regional support

The RBWCA continues supporting the CAR operation with a professional specialist in GBV. As a result, the Ma Mbi Si project was launched and started working with communities.



UNHCR assistance to internally displaced persons at a site in Batangafo, Rebuilding lives from branches and a plastic sheet @UNHCR CAR 2021

### Assistance provided

- According to the last record of camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) actors covering informal settlements, an estimated 211,350 persons across 105 sites have shelter, out of a total of 234,498 people and 133. In Haut - Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham, Baminigui - Bangora, around 24,000 persons were located in shelters.
- UNHCR is expecting the first eight containers of NFIs at the border this week. UNHCR, in liaison with MINUSCA, will ensure the dispatch of the remaining containers to Bouar and Bangui. The twelve remaining containers are expected in the coming weeks, which will complete the 18,650 Kits awaited since 20 December.
- UNHCR has a dispatch plan to provide NFI kits to the field offices. A convoy for Obo is planned to leave next week with a large portion of 3000 NFI kits and raw materials for the construction of the UNHCR Guest house/office.
- To accelerate self-governance, awareness sessions about GBV and fire-prevention took place in the the Kaga-Bandoro sites. Despite the limited NFI kits, 19 households, who were victims of the fire in Batangafo, received assistance.



Country Operation

## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



A Central African woman holds her baby as she waits at a registration for new asylum-seekers in Sambolala, Democratic Republic of the Congo ©UNHCR / Adrienne Surprenant

### Operational Environment

- As of 20 March, 51,890 people have been biometrically registered in the Provinces of North and South Ubangi and in the Bas Uele Province, out of an estimated figure of 92,050 people pre-registered by local authorities. Among these, 21,097 individuals have been registered in Bas Uélé Province; 19,871 individuals in North Ubangi Province; 10,794 individuals in South Ubangi Province and 128 individuals in the capital Kinshasa.
- On 21 March 2021, approximately 50 new asylum-seekers crossed into the DRC through Nzakara, 30km from Gbadolite. The group comes from the locality of Mboma and fled their homes following rumours of forces advancing towards their village in the context of a disarmament campaign.
- An assessment has been carried out by UNHCR and the government National Commission of Refugees (CNR) of three potential sites in Bosobolo Territory, North Ubangi Province, for the relocation of newly arrived refugees residing close to the border. As a result of the assessment, it has been recommended to establish two relocation sites rather than one, due to logistical challenges and taking into consideration preferences of refugees and local communities.

### Assistance provided

- A vaccination campaign against polio was launched by the Ministry of Health on 25 March in the Provinces of North and South Ubangi and Bas Uélé. Refugee and asylum-seeker children under 5 years of age living in and outside of camps have been included on equal footing with children from host communities. This includes newly arrived refugees from CAR, as well as with those already residing in the DRC. This is the result of an advocacy effort by UNHCR with key stakeholders in the vaccination roll-out.
- Emergency sanitary facilities are being built in Bas Uélé Province by UNHCR partner ADSSE. The facilities are for both local communities and new arrivals from CAR staying in the spontaneous site of Yabongo, three kilometres from Ndu. 40 blocks of two latrines each are being built, of which 30 blocks will be in the Yabongo site and 10 blocks will be in the host communities.
- UNHCR has procured 79 tonnes of detergent destined for refugee hosting sites. 35 tonnes are being transported by UHNCR partner AIRD to Yakoma, North Ubangi Province, and Ndu Bas Uélé Province, while another 15 tonnes have been directed to Libenge, in South Ubangi Province. The remaining 29 tonnes are being prepositioned in the warehouse in Gbadolite to respond to emerging needs. These detergents will help to respond not only to household needs such as washing dishes and clothing but will also serve to improve handwashing practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### Regional Support

- The Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA) continues to provide technical support for the health response in the DRC. A focus in the past week has been on challenges in delivering vaccinations for COVID-19 and other illnesses, as well as strengthening dialogue between UNHCR and key stakeholders in the delivery of vaccines to people of concern to UNHCR.



## Country Operation Cameroon

### Operational Environment

- As of 25 March, 6,692 individuals within 2,082 households have crossed the border. No new asylum seekers have been recorded since the beginning of the month.
- As of 26 March, 78 cases of COVID-19 have been reported among CAR refugees since 31 January 2021. 54 have recovered, 17 are active while one person has died. There were six cases where the follow-up has yet been conducted.
- The security situation at the Cameroon - CAR border remains calm. Civilian activities have resumed along the border at Garoua-Boulai. There are no longer any obstacles on the road linking Garoua-Boulai and the CAR capital, Bangui.
- The village of Nandoungue is the first locality designated for the settlement of refugees arriving after the events of December 2020. Transfers to the village were expected to begin on 1 April. However, those plans have been temporarily halted at the request of the Governor of the East Region to clarify some points on the out-of-camp approach. Follow-up is ongoing. Registration activities continue.
- UNHCR partner AHA carried out a needs-assessment at the Nadoungue hospital, to prepare an adequate response to the medical needs of refugees who will settle there. Preparations are underway for the arrival of the first refugees to the village.

### Assistance provided

- Following advocacy, 30 hectares of land have been allocated for agriculture by the Chief of Gado-Badzéré. Among the new CAR refugees who have indicated a willingness to engage in agriculture, 65 households (258 individuals) will receive a farming plot of 0.25 hectares each. The purchase of seeds and agricultural tools is underway.
- 200 individuals sorted into 20 groups of 10 (four men and six women) have been identified for small scale income-generating activities. These include starting up a beauty salon and petty trading in fish, processing cassava, refining oil, growing peanuts and potatoes, and selling pre-owned clothing.
- 16 young people (nine men and seven women) will receive training in hairdressing, carpentry, bakery, catering, screen printing, driving, sewing, cold and air conditioning, knitting, IT and nursing aide.

### Regional support

The Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (RBWCA) is providing technical support to strengthen coordination and put together an inter-agency refugee response plan (RRP) for Central African refugees in eastern Cameroon.



Registration of new refugees in Garoua Boulai @UNHCR. 2021




**Country Operations  
Chad**


Registration of new refugees in Gore camp @UNHCR. 2021

**Operational Environment**

- As at 25 Mars 2021 8,743 CAR new individuals have been registered. CNARR informed UNHCR of 600 asylum- seekers had arrived in Bekan since February. An assessment of their status is ongoing before deciding whether to transfer them to the Doholo site.
- Clashes between rebel groups and government FACA forces and their allies in the northern border town of Markound reported. As a result, Central African and Chadian immigrants had fled the Markounda locality and to the localities of Komba in the Gore prefecture and Maiko and Danmadia in the Mossala prefecture.
- The two border monitoring missions counted 306 new asylum seekers, including 232 in Komba, seven in Maiko, and 67 in Danmadia.
- No positive COVID-19 cases or alerts have been reported, and awareness-raising on COVID-19 prevention in the camps, sites and health structures continues. Around 1,307 people (270 households) have been processed through the quarantine center.
- Around 58 per cent of new arrivals are children, 5,179 have arrived since the December 2020 (2,939 girls and 2,240 boys).

**Assistance provided**

- Follow up support for six rape victims continues at the Doholo camp, through psychological counselling, legal assistance from the APLFT and treatment after examination by the CSSI partner.
- UNICEF has donated NFIs composed of WASH Kit. These NFI were distributed on 24 March jointly between UNHCR-UNICEF and Ades to 2,048 refugees in the Doholo and Gondje camps.
- The World Food Program has agreed to UNHCR's request for 3,000 one-month food rations to be distributed next week.
- Last week, the awareness campaign on GBV reached 605 refugees, including 179 women and 95 men, 128 boys, and 203 girls.
- As of 29 March, 8,437 refugees (2,518 households) received NFI assistance including blankets, mats, jerry cans, kitchen kits, mosquito nets.
- As of 29 March, 1,269 individuals (416 households) received mosquito nets, buckets, mats, and jerry cans in Doholo camp and Gore quarantine center.
- As of 29 March, a total of 1,498 newly-arriving students (714 girls and 784 boys), were enrolled in school, representing around 29% percent of the population. Among them, 24 refugees (18 boys and six girls) are in secondary school in Doholo. Most of these students do not have school supplies.
- Among the total new arrivals), 96 percent (8,437 asylum seekers comprising 2,518 households) have received food rations in the Doholo, Gondje, and the Bekan localities.
- As of 26 March, 53 per cent of new arrivals (4,938 asylum-seekers) have received shelter, including 1,400 finalized in Doholo and 300 in Gondje camp.



## Country Operation **Republic of the Congo**

### Operational Environment

- As of 26 March, 7,444 new arrivals from CAR have been recorded through emergency registration since the beginning of the electoral process. Furthermore, UNHCR and the government National Committee for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) are rolling out biometric registration in Bétou, Moualé, Mokabi, Lombo, Lopola et Thanry with 2,694 refugees registered.
- Individual biometric registration allows UNHCR to refine figures and to record more detail about new arrivals. 366 people with specific needs have been identified so far in this process. The registration process is ongoing in the other host localities.



A household of Central Africans in a makeshift shelter ©UNHCR /Yves Ndobu

### Assistance Provided

- UNHCR continues to supply Kpakaya with drinking water at the rate of 9,000 litres per week to reduce the pressure on local populations.
- To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the various registration centres have been equipped with hand washing stations with chlorinated water, and mass awareness campaigns have been organized to promote mitigation and prevention measures, including social distancing.
- 250 pregnant women, breastfeeding women and girls, and women of childbearing age were reached through focus group discussions to raise awareness on reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including HIV / AIDS. Messaging on COVID-19 prevention was also included in the focus group discussions.

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