

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mounting humanitarian needs: US \$ 531 million are needed to respond.
- The Bozoum agricultural fair gives farmers the opportunity to sell their produce while learning new skills.
- Air transportation is key for the delivery of aid due to security and logistics constraints.
- Hundreds of families are affected by recurrent fire outbreaks on IDP sites.

FIGURES

# of IDPs	435,000
# of refugees outside the country	470,000
Population in need of aid	2,3 M
Population affected by food insecurity	2,1 M

FUNDING

531 million
requested (US\$)

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/Cortes

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Humanitarian partners seek US\$531 million for CAR in 2016

In 2016, UN agencies and humanitarian partners in the Central African Republic (CAR) are requesting US\$531 million to provide vital assistance to millions of people affected by the crisis through its Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

In January, there has been a 4 percent reduction of the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), with 435,000 IDPs countrywide, including 67,000 IDPs in Bangui, compared to 452,000 IDPs in December 2015, according to figures provided by the Population Movement Commission.

“After two long years of instability, the magnitude and complexity of the humanitarian crisis in CAR are unprecedented, the majority of the population remains extremely affected, vulnerable and exposed to general poverty and insecurity as the basic indicators remain alarming in the areas of nutrition, health, food security, and education and serious violations of human rights,” said Aurélien Agbénonci, CAR Humanitarian Coordinator.

Half of the population in need of assistance



January 2016. Boda, CAR. ALIMA ensures emergency health services for rural communities. Source: OCHA/Gemma Cortes

people caught in the crisis,” added Mr. Agbénonci.

Half the population of CAR – about 2.1 million people- are food insecure and 2,3 million require emergency assistance. Acute malnutrition will threaten the lives and development of 2 million people. “Conflict has devastated hundreds of thousands of people, trapping them in conflict areas and denying them access to basic provisions and healthcare. The HRP, if fully funded, can help us to provide the relief required. CAR is a difficult and dangerous place to work but the humanitarian community remains committed to helping the most vulnerable

The emergency in CAR remains one of the worst protection crises faced by the international community at the global level, causing enormous humanitarian needs. The protection of civilians remains the outmost priority. Summary executions of men are reported while violence against women is rampant. Between 6,000 and 10,000 boys and girls have been forcibly recruited by armed groups. Many cases of gender based violence are being reported, including among IDPs. These are generally instigated by armed men.

Thousands of people have been killed in violence since December 2013 and more than 187,000 refugees have fled to neighbouring countries since the start of the crisis, bringing the total number of CAR refugees in the region to over 470,000 as of 18 February. The CAR crisis is adversely affecting the security and economic situation in neighbouring countries.

The crisis also impedes the population's access to the already limited basic social services. Public health facilities lack essential medicine and medical equipment. More than 50 per cent of the population lives with food insecurity and lacks access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation. The level of chronic malnutrition among children has increased and is currently among the highest in the world (around 40 per cent of the under 5-year old population). Safe drinking water is scarce. Less than 35 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.

Humanitarian action in 2016

Based on assessed humanitarian needs and identified response priorities, in 2016, humanitarian partners plan to assist 1,9 million food-insecure people and over 435,000 IDPs. Assistance will also be provided to 1 million people in need of access to basic healthcare services including the prevention and fight against epidemics and to treat 85,000 acutely malnourished people. Access to water and hygiene will also be provided to about 1.4 million people countrywide. Considering that CAR is facing a protection crisis, this year, protection assistance is targeting 1.88 million people including survivors of gender-based violence, people affected by the protracted inter-community violence and children in need of protection. The HRP supports the efforts made by national authorities –whose capacity has been severely undermined by the conflict- to provide safety-nets for the most vulnerable communities.

The three main objectives of the HRP are:

1. Promote the respect of basic rights.
2. Save lives - Affected populations have access to an integrated emergency assistance to ensure their survival while preserving their security and dignity.
3. Preserve human dignity - Ensure that people affected and at risk have improved access to basic social services; their basic safety nets and coping mechanisms are strengthened and preserved.

Humanitarian results in 2015

In 2015, the humanitarian community in CAR provided life-saving assistance to an estimated 2.7 million people in need of humanitarian aid, but it was undermined by severe underfunding. The 2015 HRP requesting \$612.9 million only received \$315.9 million or just 52 per cent of the required funds. Available funds were used to respond to the multi-sectoral needs of the most vulnerable people countrywide.

The four main objectives of the 2015 HRP were: -To improve the living conditions of newly displaced people, ensuring their protection and providing them with basic social services. - To reinforce the protection of civilians, including their basic rights, particularly the rights of children and women. -To increase access to basic services and means of subsistence for vulnerable men and women. -To facilitate sustainable solutions for displaced individuals and refugees particularly in areas of return or reintegration. With the limited funding obtained in 2015 and various humanitarian access constraints including poor road infrastructure and persisting insecurity, the humanitarian community in CAR obtained the following results:

Health: Target indicator – 80 per cent of new displacement sites covered by a health facility. Result – 100 per cent

Objective 1
 Promote the respect of basic rights

Objective 2
 Save lives

Objective 3
 Preserve human dignity

In 2015, 67 per cent of the targeted 165,000 men and women received water, hygiene and sanitation assistance.

Means of subsistence and community stabilization: Target indicator – 160,000 people have access to income-generating activities or to recapitalization of their productive capital. Result – 31 per cent.

Protection: Target indicator – 5,600 boys and girls associated with armed groups and forces that have begun a demobilization and reintegration process. Result – 38 per cent.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation: Target indicator – 165,000 men and women receive WASH assistance in compliance with the required standards within a month following a crisis outbreak. Result – 67 per cent.

Food Security: Target indicator – 1,070,500 people receive emergency food assistance. Result – 53 per cent.

Emergency Shelter and NFIs: Target indicator – 259,736 displaced persons have access to emergency shelter. Result – 74 per cent.

Nutrition: Target indicator – 26,889 children aged between 6 and 59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition are admitted for therapeutic care. Result – 97 per cent.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management: Target indicator – 171,000 displaced people receive regular monitoring of assistance and protection on IDP sites. Result – 78 per cent.

Education: Target indicator – 70,000 displaced children and youth have access to educational activities in temporary learning spaces and host schools. Result – 100 per cent.

In 2015, 53 per cent of the targeted 1,070,500 people received emergency food assistance.

Bozoum 12th Agricultural Fair: A platform for trade and agricultural knowledge sharing

At the end of the harvest season, farmers in and around Bozoum faced the dilemma of how and where to sell their perishable fruits and vegetables. In a country marred by armed violence and political instability, farmers anticipated a bleak outcome. However, they regained hope when humanitarian actors decided to support the organization of an agricultural fair.

Located in CAR's north-western region, the city of Bozoum hosted its twelfth agricultural fair from 23 to 24 January. The fair served not only as a lucrative economic activity, but also as an avenue for the sharing of knowledge and technical expertise in Ouham Pendé province.

Bozoum is a dynamic town which continued to hold annual gatherings of agricultural cooperatives with a common purpose to boost agricultural activities. Despite the presence of armed groups and persisting insecurity in the province, the local population still has access to farms in some regions.

The 2016 fair was jointly organized by Caritas, Cordaid, ACF, WFP and FAO. Hundreds of groups and agricultural cooperatives participated in the fair; bringing a wide variety of agricultural produce from the towns of: Bocaranga, Kouï, Ngaoundaye, Paoua and Boguila. The agricultural fair in Bozoum is a local initiative which began 13 years ago and has been supported by international humanitarian organizations over the past few years to boost the impact.

Cordaid's emergency coordinator in CAR, Mr. Volkert Doop, said "40 of the 140 farmer cooperatives that were at the market are supported by Cordaid. The aim of this initiative

is to boost the local trade and economy. Looking at the buzzing activity, we succeeded in doing that”.



January 2016. Bozoum, CAR. Agricultural Cooperatives display a variety of food items during the fair. Source: Cordaid/Volkert Doop

“Despite the crisis, we never stopped farming since in our region, agriculture is our only treasure...” said Mathieu Gbada, Head of the Bozoum Rice Cooperative.

Farming against the odds

According to participants, the Bozoum agricultural fair is also a crucial opportunity to trade-off products that have been stored for several months because of the lack of a market outlet. “Despite the crisis, we never stopped farming since in our region, agriculture is our only treasure ... we know that one day, people will come from all over to buy our produce and give us the opportunity to revive our agricultural sector. It was a dream but today it has become a reality” said Sylviane, a member of the “Na Gui

Maboko” group who arrived from Bocaranga with various agricultural items worth about 900,000 CFA francs (equivalent of about \$1,500).

With reference to the fair’s added value, Mathieu Gbada, Head of the Bozoum Rice Cooperative said “although the objective of the fair is to sell our foodstuff, we also benefit from learning new techniques to improve the quality of our produce. Many of us here have had the opportunity to have fruitful discussions with technicians from FAO and NGOs”. However, Mr. Gbada also explained a few challenges which hinder agricultural activities in the region. “The lack of transportation facilities and poor road infrastructure is the most recurrent complaint made by most farmers” he said. In order to facilitate access to the fair for the farmers participating from other towns, the organizers contributed towards the transportation cost of their produce.

Proceeds of the sold merchandise is estimated at 45,000 euros

At the end of this successful fair, the Director of CARITAS, father Aurelio Gazzera, delightfully explained: “we noticed that with the onset of the crisis, producers were facing many problems. That’s why we took the initiative to organize the fair almost regularly in Bozoum where we bring together farmers, buyers and agricultural technicians. It was a success every single time because the foodstuff was purchased and new networks created”, he said. Bozoum’s 12th agricultural fair ended with the presentation of gifts to the best farmers. These gifts were composed of agricultural tools including: shovels, hoes, wheelbarrows and sprayers. A transformation machine was specifically given to the Bozoum Rice Cooperative for its ability to maintain rice production in the region despite the various challenges and constraints. “The proceeds of the sold merchandise during the fair are estimated at 45,000 euros” said Mr. Doop.

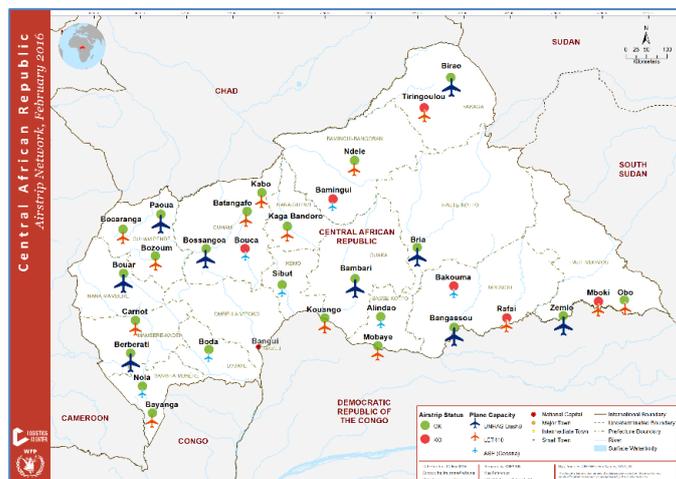
Logistics Cluster Activities in CAR

The Logistics Cluster is a mechanism bringing together organizations responding to humanitarian emergencies. The cluster is responsible for coordination and information management of the logistics response, and, when necessary, facilitates access to common logistics services— provided by WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, or by other organizations—to the humanitarian community. The activities and services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the capacities of individual agencies or organizations, but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and to enhance the response of the humanitarian community and its ability to save lives.

The Logistics Cluster is active in CAR since August 2013. In line with the strategic objectives of the 2016 HRP, the Cluster supports humanitarian organizations in the

country through collecting and sharing logistics information and the production of maps. The Cluster facilitates access to common storage and common transport services; and supports activities aimed at rehabilitating critical infrastructures countrywide; consisting of bridges and airstrips.

Since January, Handicap International's team, supported by the Logistics Cluster and in close collaboration with UNHAS and ASF, has rehabilitated three airstrips in Sibut, Obo and Alindao.



More and safer airstrips

In December 2015, WFP received funds through the Central Emergency Response Fund which is enabling Handicap International, to implement a five-month project. The project aims to: ensure a common storage for humanitarian partners in three locations countrywide; ensure common road transportation from Bangui to all CAR humanitarian hubs;

and to rehabilitate critical airstrips.

Due to security and logistics constraints in CAR, large quantities of humanitarian aid and personnel are transported across the country by air, especially during the rainy season, when the majority of the unpaved roads are inaccessible. Additionally, in case of a sudden deterioration of the security situation, air transportation is strategic to ensure the continued delivery of aid and the security of humanitarian actors.

Furthermore, the poor conditions of many airstrips hinder humanitarian access to some areas: the plan is to rehabilitate 15 identified critical airstrips countrywide in order to increase to facilitate humanitarian operations and increase the delivery of aid.

Improving humanitarian access by air



January 2016. The Sibut airstrip before it was rehabilitated.

Source: Handicap International

In January 2016, UNHAS, Aviation Sans Frontieres and Handicap International have established a committee to identify airstrips in need of maintenance and to prioritize them according to an agreed set of criteria. In addition, two other main humanitarian aviation operators, Medecins Sans Frontieres and the ICRC are also consulted and participate in the identification and prioritization process.

So far, the committee has identified ten airstrips countrywide in: Sibut, Obo, Bouca, Alindao, Rafai, Bozoum, Bocaranga, Batangafo, Tiringoulou, and Bakouma. These airstrips were prioritized according to the following criteria: usage, the number of humanitarian actors present in the area served by the airstrip; the airstrip's condition and the added value in terms of facilitating access and security evacuations.

Since January, Handicap International's team, supported by the Logistics Cluster and in close collaboration with UNHAS and ASF, has rehabilitated three airstrips in Sibut, Obo and Alindao, daily employing hundreds of local workers, including women.

On 23 January, the Sibut airstrip –that had been closed since 1976- was inaugurated with the landing of an Aviation Sans Frontieres flight that was greeted by the local humanitarian community and national authorities.



January 2016. The Sibut airstrip after it was rehabilitated.

Source: ASF

objective– being as close as possible to those in need” said the Logistics Cluster coordinator.

The reopening of the Sibut airfield will be beneficial to seven INGOs, and eight national NGOs, increasing access and proximity to beneficiaries, and allowing for safer and easier operations.

“Thanks to this project, the humanitarian community will have an easier and more effective access to

the affected population. As humanitarians, this is our priority

In a context where security issues and logistics constraints often hamper the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, the Logistics Cluster remains committed to enhance the response of the humanitarian community.

Portrait of a local organization



CAR, Bangui, Representatives of eight female beneficiary groups in the fifth district. Source OPID

“The Organization to Promote Development Initiatives” (OPID) is a national NGO, established in 2011. This national organization, based in Miskine, Bangui’s 5th district, operates within the agriculture, education and health sectors. OPID opened a kindergarten in Miskine where about a score of vulnerable children are identified and registered. To date, over a hundred children aged between 3 and 5 years have benefited from this project.

Since September 2015, OPID is implementing two projects in Sibut funded by the Common

Humanitarian Fund. The projects are supervised by the International Rescue Committee and each project includes: female literacy for women and girls; entrepreneurship for beneficiaries and lastly support towards the set-up of income generating activities. The project has 70 female beneficiaries in Bangui’s 5th district and 100 women in the town of Sibut.

In December 2015, OPID opened a listening center for children aged between 4 and 10 years in Bangui’s Miskine neighborhood with funds from the French Embassy in CAR. In December 2015, the NGO obtained funding from the French Embassy to open a listening center for children aged between 4 and 10 years in Miskine. This project will run for three months, starting in March 2016.

OPID has 15 employees working in Bangui and three staff in the town of Sibut (Kemo Province). OPID’s main financial and technical partners are: IRC and the French Embassy. OPID is seeking more partnerships in order to strengthen its operational capacity in CAR.

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In brief

CAR humanitarian community provides assistance to IDPs affected by fires

Following multiple fire outbreaks on some IDP sites in CAR due to the extremely dry season, the humanitarian community has rapidly increased support to hundreds of affected families. The fire incidents occurred in January and February in the Bambari (Ouaka province), Batangafo (Ouham province) and Kaga-Bandoro (Nana Gribizi province) regions. Humanitarian actors are providing immediate assistance including tarpaulins, water and sanitation kits, mats and blankets to the people affected. In addition, preventive actions such as the re-structuring of sites are underway to prevent further fire outbreaks.

Humanitarian actors are also increasing awareness campaigns and sensitizing IDPs on the risks of constructing rudimentary make-shift shelters. These actions are being implemented in the affected sites of Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Bambari.

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