

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The humanitarian situation in the north-west
- Health assessments in Bambouti
- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster

**Background and security**

**The humanitarian situation in the north-west**

On 24 January, the Chadian national army (ANT) and the Central African army (FACA) launched a joint attack on the Front Populaire pour le Redressement (FPR) in the central-north. Following this attack, humanitarian organisations are providing assistance to an estimated 16,000 people who have been internally displaced. This number is likely to change since some regions still remain inaccessible.

The needs assessment carried out by humanitarian organisations reveals that, Kabo appears to be the most affected zone. According to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) the internally displaced persons (IDPs) have the following identified needs: non-food items, shelter and food. There is limited access to water in the city, particularly on the IDP sites and latrines are insufficient.

Other vulnerable IDP groups have been registered and are receiving assistance in Nana Outa and Farazala between Kabo and Kaga-Bandoro.

In Kabo, and Kaga-Bandoro, humanitarian organizations are currently providing health care and access to water.

**Humanitarian / Development activities**

**Health assessments in Bambouti**

From 5 to 21 December, two national NGOs Initiative Développement Centrafrique (IDC) and Dispensaire le Peuple Santé Pour Tous (DPST), visited the Bambouti sub-prefecture (south-east) to assess the needs of the population; particularly with regards to water and sanitation and health.

Water and sanitation:

The population consumes water from wells which are mostly muddy and contaminated. Bambouti has a total of 12 wells, located in various parts of the town. Very few households have latrines which are mostly unprotected and built unprofessionally.

The mission sensitized the population on: the importance of boiling water for at least 15 to 30 minutes before consumption; and water purification through the use of a locally made filter (a perforated container, sand and charcoal) was also taught.

Health:

The Bambouti health post is composed of a first aid nurse and a midwife. Both of them have received training from IDC and DPST on: patient care, the use of therapeutic treatment guidelines and the management of medications. The mission also delivered a medical stock and equipment to the health post. This will ensure basic medical services.

With the amount of 400 CFA francs (equivalent to less than US\$ 1), the population can have access to the following services: consultation, laboratory and pharmacy. The most vulnerable people including the elderly, orphans, widows and widowers living alone have free access to these services. The Mayor and Heads of districts have provided a list of these vulnerable persons. This list consists of 27 people. From 11 to 13 December, the health post recorded nearly 127 consultations.

The most common diseases are:

Diseases	Registered cases
Malaria	41
Intestinal parasites	30
Pelvic infections	17
Acute respiratory infections	15
Sexually transmitted infections	10
Dermatosis	8
Onchocerciasis	6

Apart from these recurrent pathologies, diseases such as leprosy and onchocerciasis require the establishment of an extensive screening program, treatment of diagnosed cases and prevention.

Recommendations:

- Establishing an IDC liaison office in Obo;
- Implementing multisectoral programs in Bambouti by other humanitarian actors;
- Rehabilitating the road between Obo and Bambouti;
- Rehabilitating and equipping the health post, in order to ensure effective health care;
- Increase the number of staff in the health post.

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### 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bozoum fair

From 28 to 29 January, with funding from the European Union, the NGO Solidarités International, in partnership with Caritas Bozoum, organized the 8<sup>th</sup> Agro-pastoral Bozoum Fair (north-west). The objective of this annual fair is to promote exchanges between producers and consumers, and between producer groups. Solidarités International, Caritas and other NGOs support these groups throughout the year. This eighth edition assembled about 127 groups from various areas and villages of the Ouham-Pende prefecture. These include: Bocaranga Bossemtélé, Bozoum Kouï, Ndim, Ngaoundaye and Paoua. Groups were able to exhibit their products, exchange seeds, discover different varieties and to also sell their produce. More than 60 tons of products such as peanuts (12 tons), pumpkin seeds (2 tons), beans (20 tons), corn (5 tons), rice (2.5 tons), sesame (1.5 tons), millet (5 tons), yams, cassava, onions, potatoes, soybeans and other vegetables were exhibited.



An overview of the fair. Photo: M. Sabet-Azad Solidarités International

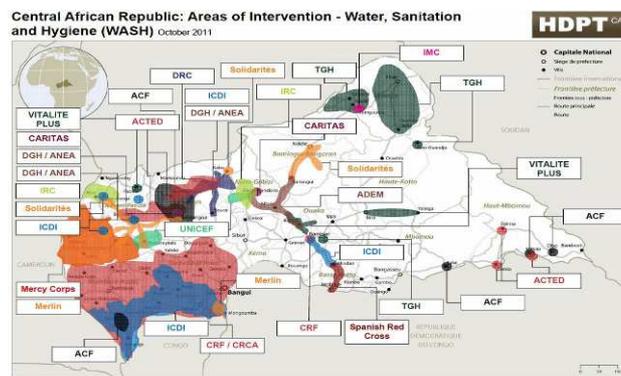
The total sale made by groups is estimated at 40 million CFA francs (equivalent of US\$ 80,000) against 29.5 million CFA francs (equivalent of US\$ 58,000) in 2011.

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### Coordination

#### The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene cluster aims to: 1) provide access to drinking water; 2) provide basic sanitation; 3) improve the target population's knowledge of hygiene and daily practices; 4) strengthen the capacity of local communities in terms of construction, maintenance and WASH infrastructure management.



#### The achievements:

- Out of 506 planned, 590 (117%) water points within institutions (schools / health posts) have been rehabilitated (boreholes / protected wells / mini distribution networks);
- Out of 5,500, planned 4,680 (84%) family sanitation structures (latrines) have been rehabilitated and are culturally acceptable and also respect gender mainstreaming;
- Out of 385 planned, 340 (88%) community sanitation facilities (latrines) have been rehabilitated and are culturally acceptable and also respect gender mainstreaming;
- Out of 232,000 planned, 118,050 (51%) people attended a training session on hygiene promotion;
- Out of 607 planned, 524 (86%) water point committees were created and reactivated.

#### 2012 prospects:

The cluster's objectives and targets remain unchanged and will be adapted according to geographical and humanitarian priorities.

The cluster will particularly focus on:

- Increasing the capacity of mechanical drilling;
- Finding low cost and high impact sanitation solutions such as the washing of hands with soap, the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programme and manual drilling;
- Prevention and emergency response;
- Capacity building of national NGOs;
- Integration of the transition from emergency funds into development funds.

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