

PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REFUGEES IN CAR'S ELECTIONS

Update 14 February 2016



UNHCR'S ROLE

Advocacy: advocated for an inclusive electoral process that takes into account CAR refugees' vote

Technical expertise: shared inputs to amend CAR's electoral law and helped in drafting tripartite agreements between CAR's transitional authorities, asylum countries and UNHCR.

Voter education: disseminated information to CAR refugees in the 3 asylum countries, about the electoral process and the right to vote in a safe environment.

Logistical support: provided support to the National Elections Authority by identifying polling stations, transporting and delivering non-sensitive electoral materials to polling sites. UNHCR staff also helped some voters (especially elderly) to go to the polling stations.



The Constitutional Court validates the results of the Presidential Elections. 2 out of 30 candidates will compete in the second round.

6 National Election Authority requests UNHCR's assistance to facilitate the participation of refugees	12 UNHCR submits the proposed amendments to the electoral law
29 Beginning of voter registration activities in Bangui	30 National Transitional Council (CNT) votes against the refugees participation in the elections
13/14 UNHCR advocate for the participation of the refugees	
10 Signature of tripartite agreement Chad-CAR-UNHCR	20 CNT votes in favor of the participation of refugees in the upcoming elections
29 Signature of tripartite agreement Congo Brazzaville-CAR-UNHCR	28 Beginning of voter registration activities in Chad
2 Signature of tripartite agreement Cameroon-CAR-UNHCR	9 Resignation of the President of the National Election Authority
8 Beginning of voter registration activities in Cameroon	7 Beginning of voter registration activities in Congo Brazzaville
8 Publication of list of eligible candidates ahead of the presidential election	9 Publication of the electoral list in Bangui
30 1ST ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS	13 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM
25 Publication of final results of 1st round. The Constitutional Court disqualifies the results of the legislative elections due to irregularities.	28 By presidential decree, President Samba Panza nominates a new electoral council.
14th FEBRUARY	
2nd ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL NEW 1st ROUND OF LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS	



61% voters turn out rate among refugees (1st round)

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR REFUGEES TO VOTE

- 1 CAR refugees represent 10% of CAR's population. Their participation contributes to ensuring the inclusive character of the electoral process
- 2 These elections are an opportunity to restore trust and broken links between refugees and CAR authorities
- 3 If refugees were not associated, this could have reinforced their feeling of exclusion and jeopardized the prospects for an enduring peace