

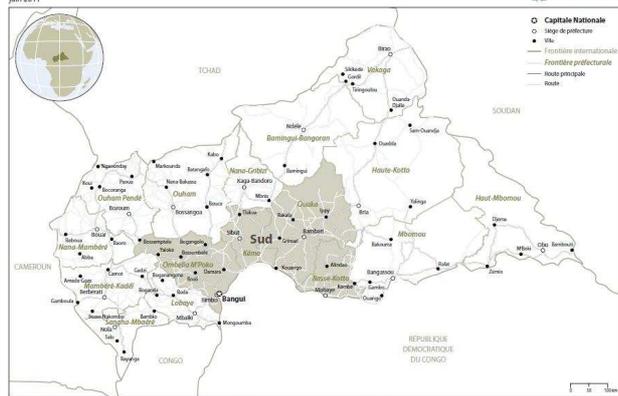
HIGHLIGHTS

- Incursion of armed men in the south
- Results of the joint assessment in Kabo
- A new Humanitarian Coordinator in Bangui

Background and Security

Incursion of armed men in the south

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On 25 January, a group of armed elements suspected to belong to the Seleka coalition made a foray into the market of Satema, 70 km south of the Kembé sub-prefecture (south). These elements seized goods and individuals' personal property.

On 27 January, the same group returned to the city, seized an abandoned vehicle belonging to the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), and motorcycles belonging to a young tradesman. These attacks provoked the flight of the population into the bush and across the border to Democratic Republic of Congo.

Appointment of the Government of National Unity

On 3 February, the presidential decree appointing new members of the Government of National Unity (GNU) has been transmitted on the National Radio. The appointments came 15 days after designating Nicolas Tiangaye as Prime Minister. A total of 33 Ministers were appointed from the five parties as defined by the Libreville Agreement signed on 11 January 2013. These include the Seleka, the democratic opposition, the unarmed politico-military groups, the civil society and the presidential majority.

One new condition defined under the GNU is that the Prime Minister also holds the Finance and Budget portfolio. Out of the 33 ministers, there are two Deputy Prime Ministers including Seleka leader, Michel Dotodjia Am Nondroko who is also in charge of the National Defense, the restructuring of the military, veterans and victims of war. Then there is only one Minister of State, 22 Ministers and seven Ministers delegates.

Women's representation in the new government is very low. Three head the ministries for Rural Development; Health; and Social.

Humanitarian/Development activities

Results of the joint assessment in Kabo

The NGOs Solidarités International (SI) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted a joint mission to Kabo and Batangafo-Kabo-Ouandago triangle from 16 to 18 January. This region has been particularly weakened following the latest security events that occurred in December 2012.

General findings include: access to water has remained stable and the population has continued to benefit from medical care provided by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the Kabo area. During the joint mission, regular and short population movements (2 or 3 days in the bush) were observed. Clashes from 11 to 13 January, between the Christian and Muslim communities, followed by the setting up of a Seleka contingent in Kabo have led to more massive and sustainable displacements.

A major food crisis is a concern for the coming months. Floods and security incidents over the last six months have exhausted the population's food reserves and coping capacities. The population, previously affected by armed conflicts in recent years is again traumatized. Support in terms of protection and mental health is essential.

On 25 January, SI and DRC reopened their respective sub-offices in Kabo and Ndélé. The SI team will strive to monitor market prices, loss assessment of farmer groups, while preparing for the implementation of new programs on Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Food Security in the region.

DRC will restart the legal clinics activities while the following objectives:

- revitalize protection committees and collect information;
- raise awareness for the reopening of schools and the demobilization of child soldiers;
- Conduct advocacy for data collection in order to reduce protection incidents.

Contact Caroline Bouvard: rca.cdm@solidarites-rca.org or Rodolphe Moinaux: drccar@drccar.dk for more information.

The 10th edition of the Bozoum fair

On 26 and 27 January, Caritas-Bouar organized an agricultural fair in Bozoum (north-west). 205 farmers groups from several Ouham-Pende prefectures attended the fair. The groups showcased their products, exchanged seeds, discovered new seed varieties and also sold their products.

The fair brought in an estimated 55 million FCFA fifteen million more than in 2012. This fair has conveyed a message of hope in the country, recently marked by conflict.

Contact Father Aurelio Gazzera: caritas@bozoum.com for more information.

Joint mission in Ndélé

On 23 January, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) conducted a joint mission to Ndélé (north-central), composed of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department of Safety and the United Nations Security (UNDSS), DRC and the European Community Humanitarian aid Office (ECHO).

The purposes of the mission were to:

- continue the advocacy phase with the Seleka coalition for the resumption of international organizations' activities;
- assess the impact of the crisis on people's live and on organizations' facilities based in Ndélé.

The mission met with officials of the Multinational Force for Central Africa (FOMAC), the Seleka Coalition senior military and the Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix (CPJP).

The coalition meanwhile renewed its commitment and determination to ensure the safety of humanitarian actors as discussed in previous meetings with humanitarian while on mission in Bria (south-east), Damara (south-west) and Kaga-Bandoro (center-north).

The 10 December attack of the city of Ndélé caused significant population movement into the bush or to surrounding communities. Progressively life is returning to some semblance of normal, including the Ndélé market.



A view of the Ndélé market. Photo: Sylvain Yakara-OCHA

However, several sectors (education, administration, trade, etc.) remained paralyzed because of the crisis. MSF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continue to provide assistance to the population of Ndélé and its surroundings. The United Nations compound has been completely looted.

Ndélé was the first town to be attacked on 10 December 2012, by the Union des Forces Democratique pour le

Redressement (UFDR), which then formed a coalition with the CSPK and the CPJP known as Seleka. The city remains under the control of the Seleka and CPJP.

Contact Sylvain Yakara: yakara@un.org for more information.

Coordination

Humanitarian funding in 2012

CAR received US\$98.7 million in 2012. Projects included in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) were funded to 76.5 US dollars, covering 65% of the needs identified. Nearly 18 donors have funded projects from 35 organizations. Additional information on humanitarian funding for CAR is available on the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) website: <http://fts.unocha.org/>.

A new Humanitarian Coordinator in Bangui

The new United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative in Central African Republic arrived in Bangui on 23 January.

Appointed on 11 December 2012 by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, Ms. Kaarina Immonen, will also serve as the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in CAR and UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator.

Ms. Immonen succeeds Modibo Ibrahim Toure who left CAR in December 2012.

For more information or to contribute to this bulletin, please contact: **UNOCHA Bangui, CAR**

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