

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Situation Report No. 46 (as of 21 January 2015)



This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 6 and 21 January 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 4 February 2015.

Highlights

- The humanitarian community in CAR strongly condemns the abduction of humanitarian workers.
- Nearly 10,000 Central Africans have fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 16 December.
- Malnutrition persists among the nearly 500 members of the Fulani (aka “Pheul”) community displaced in Yaloké.

440,000

IDPs in CAR, including

51,100

in 34 sites Bangui (as of 6 January)

68%

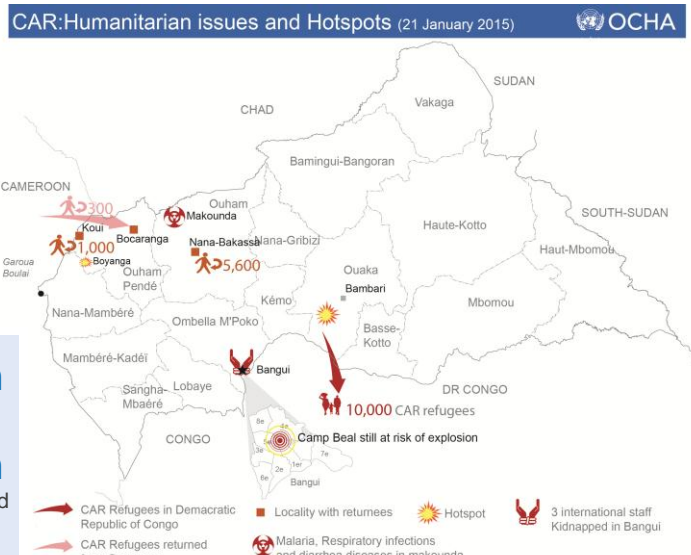
Funding available (about US\$337 million) against the revised SRP 2014 requirements of \$555 million

4.6 million

Population of CAR

2.7 million

People who need assistance



Sources: UNDSS, OCHA, CCCM, UNHCR and MSF

Situation Overview

The security situation in CAR remains volatile and unpredictable following the latest incidents of kidnapping, looting and banditry. Since January 2014, 18 humanitarian workers have been killed and more than 142 security incidents involving humanitarian workers have been documented.

On 20 January, following the previous day's abduction of a French humanitarian aid worker and a priest in Bangui, the interim Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), Mohamed Malick Fall, called upon the perpetrators for the immediate and safe release, that took place on 23 January. The HC and the humanitarian community are deeply concerned by this kidnapping and strongly condemn such acts against the humanitarian community. Parties to the conflict must refrain from violence against all civilians, including humanitarian aid workers, and abide to International Humanitarian Law.

On 19 January, a MINUSCA staff was also kidnapped and released later in the day.

On 8 January, armed groups reportedly based in Cameroon attacked Boyango village, west of Kouï (Ouham Pende Province). One person was killed and another injured, and houses were burned. This also led to the displacement of people fleeing the violence.

The stockpile of 6 tons of explosive devices in Bangui's Beal camp remains a high risk to people living in the vicinity. Therefore, the humanitarian community developed a contingency plan should the detonation threat be carried out. It established a task force to support Civil Protection, while the communications group is supporting a sensitization campaign.

UNHCR reported that nearly 10,000 additional CAR refugees had moved to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 16 December, fleeing violent clashes between armed groups in the Ouaka Province. UNHCR indicates that as of 4 January, there are 424,707 CAR refugees in DRC (68,165), Cameroon (241,514), Chad (93,474) and the Republic of Congo (21,554).

Local authorities indicate that as of 11 January, some 300 CAR refugee households in Cameroon had returned progressively to Bocaranga (Ouham Pende Province). Those whose homes were destroyed are living with host families. The Sub-Prefect mentioned that no social issues have been reported in relation to the reintegration of returnees. Nevertheless, assistance in reconstructing destroyed shelters is required.

On 13 January, WFP revealed that 30 per cent of the total population (some 1.5 million people) were considered as being in a moderate-to-severe food security situation. The assessment was carried out from 13 to 25 September 2014, based on data collected from 2,166 households and covering all provinces. The report states the long-term negative effects that food insecurity may have on children's growth and people's means of income, noting that displaced people living with host families and in camps were among the most vulnerable groups.

A humanitarian assessment carried out by MSF-H in Markounda (Ouham Province) on 10 January revealed that the most common health issues faced by the population are malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases. Due to the lack of health services, the population is heavily dependent on traditional treatments, including the traditional "uvula cut", which led to the deaths of three children under age 5 in December 2014. The mission recommended that MSF support the people of Markounda with basic health-care services.

The Transitional Authorities' intention to accelerate the relocation of approximately 20,000 IDPs at Mpoko International Airport remains a matter of concern for the humanitarian community. The Humanitarian Country Team, along with donor counterparts, urged the CAR Transitional Authorities to ensure that IDPs' returns are voluntary and in full compliance with International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and the Kampala Convention.

Funding

The 2015 SRP is requesting nearly \$613 million to deliver humanitarian assistance to an estimated 2 million people of the 2.7 million people in need in CAR. A total of \$298 million is also needed to assist nearly 461,200 CAR refugees in Chad, Cameroon, DRC and the Republic of the Congo through the CAR Regional Refugee Response Plan 2015. The number of people who need humanitarian assistance has increased from 2.5 million to 2.7 million over the past year.

On 14 January, the Senior HC launched the first Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) standard allocation of 2015 for \$10 million. This allocation allows a separate window for capacity-building projects for national NGOs. Clusters were requested to suggest new organizations to become CHF partners. An introduction to the online Grant Management System for those potentially new partners was held on 17 January.

An Irish Aid delegation, one of the two donors that continue to fund the CHF in CAR since its inception, visited CAR from 17 to 20 January. Its objectives were to better understand how the CHF works and the situation in the country. A mission was undertaken to Batangafo where the CHF is funding a CCCM project of the Danish Refugee Council.

Humanitarian Response



Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- Twenty-three pallets of ETC equipment have been cleared from customs.
- The deployment of an ETC VSAT to Ndele is being scheduled in coordination with hosting partners.

Gaps and constraints:

- Staffing of radio rooms is required in the common compounds in Ndele, Bambari and Bouar that were established by the ETC to provide daily tracking.
- Additional funding is required to maintain operations at their current level. The ETC and Logistics Cluster are preparing a budget revision to address these gaps.

- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictrepr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

Food Security

Needs:

- According to the November 2014 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, an estimated 1.5 million people require food assistance, of whom 1.3 million are in the rural areas and 210,000 in Bangui.
- Due to widespread insecurity, looting and slaughtering, crop production in 2014 was 58 per cent lower than the pre-crisis average.
- Food reserves in rural areas are 40 to 50 per cent lower than average, and the lean season is expected to start as early as March. Life-saving assistance to severely food insecure people will be key in the coming months to support households towards the lean season.
- Support to boost food production will be critical to save livelihoods and reduce vulnerable farming families' dependence on humanitarian aid. Promotion of vegetable production, small-livestock rearing and fish farming are priorities. Funds will be urgently released to begin the distribution of seeds and tools in time for the first growing season in March.

1.2 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015

Response:

- As of 18 January, WFP has reached nearly 110,000 people with 975 mt of food, corresponding to 21 per cent of the January plan.
- FAO is organizing a seeds-availability assessment in preparation for the crop season around April.
- As part of field farmer schools schemes, 5,310 households, members of Parents' Associations, are supported through 13 schools in Bria and Boda.
- In partnership with NGOs, four schools in Bangui will be supported through school gardens programmes.

Gaps and constraints:

- Insecurity along roads and at distribution sites, threats, and theft of relief items and agricultural inputs in warehouses are still the main constraints, hindering assistance to affected people.
- Funds are urgently needed to start food security programmes as soon as possible, especially for agricultural activities. They include seed distributions to ensure preparedness ahead of the planting season.

Logistics

Response:

- The CERF contribution of \$600,000 will be used to set up a mobile intervention brigade to conduct rapid assessments for the rehabilitation of 12 vital bridges.
- Updated information was shared on the Logistics Cluster website regarding UNHAS flights and Logistics Cluster information: <http://logcluster.org/ops/caf13a>

Gaps and constraints:

- Poor infrastructure and insecurity along the main roads remain a logistical challenge, hampering the humanitarian logistics chain.
- Access to national service providers remains an issue in Bangui and the provinces.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Some 32,348 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2015, and 78,335 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). These numbers could rise, given ongoing aggravating factors (displacement, poor food security, deteriorated access to clean water and sanitation, increased morbidity and lack of health-care services).
- About 22,700 children suffering from SAM and 47,000 children suffering from MAM are targeted for treatment in 2015.

119,000

Vulnerable people targeted with nutrition services in 2015

Response

- In 2014, 25,986 children have been admitted for SAM treatment in in-patient therapeutic programmes (ITPs) and out-patient therapeutic programmes OTPs. This represents 93 per cent of the 28,000 people in need. The case management performance indicators are as follows: recovery: 84 per cent (≥ 75 per cent); death: rate of 3 per cent (< 10 per cent). The default rate remained slightly high at 13 per cent (standard < 15 per cent), especially for areas affected by insecurity and population displacements.
- A total of 69,596 new beneficiaries were admitted in WFP's targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) programme in 2014, comprising 34,168 children with moderate acute malnutrition aged between 6 and 59 months; 25,248 malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers; and 10,181 caregivers of children with severe acute malnutrition. The overall performance indicators are as follows: recovery: 84.5 per cent, the default rate: 7 per cent and the non-response rate: 3.8 per cent. To prevent spikes in malnutrition, WFP provided large-scale integrated general food distribution and blanket feeding assistance. WFP distributed nutritious Plumpy'Sup to one child under age 5 per household, with a monthly average of 23,803 children reached.
- A total of 218 out of 150 planned OTPs, 37 out of 21 planned ITPs and 112 out of 80 targeted supplementary feeding programmes were functional in CAR as of 31 December.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Coverage of community-based management of acute malnutrition services outside of Bangui remains low due to security constraints and destroyed health facilities.
- The integration of acute nutrition management into the national health system needs to be strengthened.
- There is a gap in the provision of activities to support appropriate infant and young-child feeding.



Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

Needs:

- The following sites require WASH assistance: Bambari site S (10,345 IDPs), M (3,805 IDPs), NDV (8,335 IDPs), Ngakobo (5,000 IDPs), Bambari neighbourhoods of Hadji and Bornou (12,000 IDPs and host communities), Grimari (135 IDPs and 7,000 returnees), Bossangoa (35,000 returnees require water), Petit Seminaire (480 IDPs), site C in Kabo (1,269 IDPs and host communities), Kaga Bandoro site Eveche (12,500 IDPs), Paroisse Nativite (245 IDPs), Kaga Bandoro (2,850 IDPs in host families), Bissingale (212 IDPs), Moyen Sido (2,159 IDPs), Bangui (58,774 IDPs in 37 sites), Carnot (587 IDPs) and Yaloke (562 IDPs).

1,400,000

People targeted in 2015

Response:

- In Bambari, ICRC and TGH are delivering 140 m³ of potable water per day by water trucking, and bucket chlorination to 45 wells in sites and host communities. TGH is maintaining sanitation facilities, ensuring access of 39 to 75 people per latrine and 60 to 120 people per shower. Community-hygiene promoters provide hygiene-promotion services.
- In Ngakobo, water is supplied by the SUCAF water system. TGH is maintaining sanitation facilities, ensuring access of 35 people per latrine and 72 people per shower. Community hygienists have been trained on the site and within the community at risk.
- In Grimari, TGH is supplying 30 m³ of potable water per day and maintaining the sanitation facilities in the IDP site, ensuring fewer than 20 people for each facility.
- In Bossangoa, SODECA (financed by UNICEF) is supplying 564 m³ of potable water per day (with a ratio of 15 litres per person per day) in the Petit Seminaire IDP site.
- ANEA has rehabilitated 14 additional boreholes (cumulative of 18 boreholes) on the road to Bouca to Batangano, serving 7,200 people.

- In Kaga Bandoro, water trucking has been replaced by a borehole equipped with an electric submersible pump. Some 12,500 IDPs have access to 4 litres per person per day. ICRC continues to ensure maintenance and operation of the Eveche site's WASH facilities.
- With UNICEF's support, ANEA has rehabilitated an additional borehole (cumulative of five boreholes serving 2,500 IDPs and host communities) in Bissingale, around the outskirts of Kaga Bandoro.
- In Kaga Bandoro, ANEA and UNICEF distributed soap and jerry cans to 2,720 IDP households in the Eveche site and host communities.
- On the Kaga Bandoro road linking Mbres and Dekoa, IRC carried out hygiene-promotion activities reaching 474 people.
- IOM is maintaining sanitation structures in Moyen Sido.
- In Carnot, potable water is supplied by the SODECA network. MSF is in charge of sanitation (35 people per latrine and 42 per shower).

Gaps and constraints:

- There is a lack of funding for all sites in Bangui and Ouaka Province after contracts ended on 31 December.
- Operational response coordination needs to be strengthened in key areas hosting communities at risk in respect of the 'Do No Harm' approach.
- Semi-permanent WASH infrastructures are required in most IDP sites hosting people for an extensive period.
- More funding and implementing partners are required to maintain WASH infrastructures in IDP sites hosting people for long periods.

General Coordination

On 10 January, UNHCR and OCHA carried out a joint returnees humanitarian assessment mission in Nana-Bakassa and Kouï (Ouham Province). In Nana Bakassa, the mission identified about 8,000 returnees. These IDPs had sought refuge in the bush following attacks in October 2014. In Kouï, where the population took refuge in the bush since May 2014, about 1,000 IDPs have now returned following. Findings revealed that insecurity is the main constraint to returns.

IDPs require assistance in NFIs, shelter (reconstruction or rehabilitation of destroyed/burned houses), livelihoods, health and access to water. The mission made the following recommendations: 1) advocacy with security forces to strengthen security measures; 2) conduct a technical assessment of six non-functional boreholes out of seven for repairs; 3) advocacy with MSF-H or another health actor for mobile clinics in Kouï; 4) organize a shelter/NFI assessment.

A coordination joint mission was held in Bambari (Ouaka Province) from 12 to 16 January to assess the humanitarian situation. It was noted that a new IDP site has been set up close to the Bambari airstrip and Sangaris base following armed conflict on the Ndassima road, north-west of Bambari.

The humanitarian community remains extremely concerned about the situation of 500 members of the Fulani (aka "Peuhl") community displaced in Yaloké, Ombella Mpoko Province. Therefore, a joint mission was organized to the region from 30 December to 17 January to assess the humanitarian response. Malnutrition persists among children and adults despite improved and increased assistance. Advocacy is ongoing to ensure secured freedom of movement through sensitization activities for the local community. The community reiterated their desire to relocate to a safer location within the country, or to regroup with their families who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

Following a HCT meeting on 10 January, a task force was set up to coordinate and facilitate various activities in response to an eventual enforcement of the Mpoko site closure.

For further information, please contact:

Salima Mokrani, Deputy Head of Office a.i., mokranis@un.org, Tel: +236 70 73 87 33

Gemma Cortes, Head of Public Information and Advocacy Section, cortesg@un.org, Tel: +236 70 08 75 65

Laura Fultang, Public Information/Reports Officer, fultangl@un.org, Tel: +236 70 18 80 64

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/car or reliefweb.int