

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

## Situation Report No. 54 (as of 13 May 2015)



This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 28 April and 12 May 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 27 May 2015.

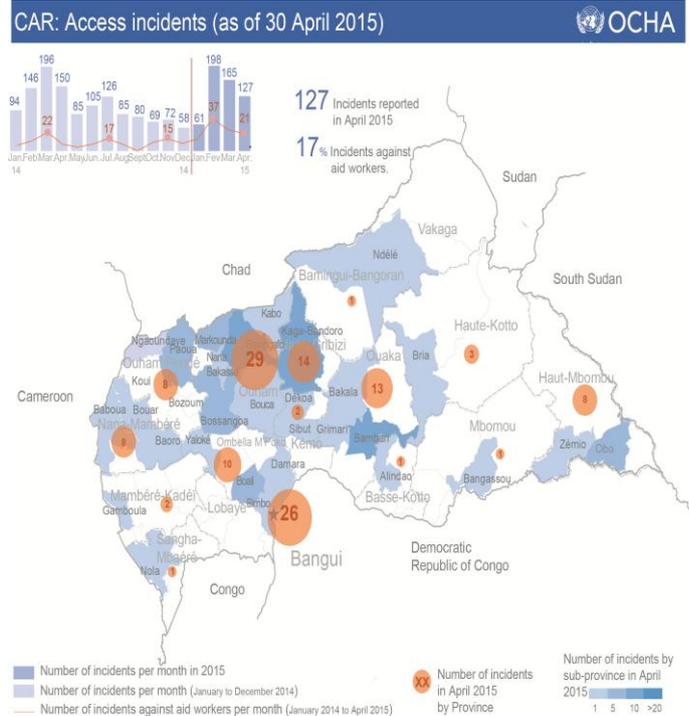
## Highlights

- On 5 May, leaders of armed groups agreed to release all children associated with their forces and to immediately end any new child recruitment.
- On 10 May, representatives of rival armed groups signed a peace accord including provisions on disarmament and accountability for war crimes.
- The return and reinsertion process for IDPs at the Bangui M'poko site has started. A total of 687 households have been deregistered and will access a one-time cash payment and a reinsertion package.
- For the first time in more than two years, 263 children in Bianga village (Ouaka Province) received polio vaccines.

**436,300**  
IDPs in CAR,  
including  
**43,500**  
in 34 sites in  
Bangui

**18%**  
(Funding available  
US\$110 million  
against the SRP  
2015 requirements  
of \$613 million)

**4.6 million**  
Population of  
CAR  
**2.7 million**  
People who  
need  
assistance



Sources: OCHA, UNSS and ACLED

## Situation Overview

Violent attacks against civilians and insecurity persist in CAR. In April, 127 security incidents were reported, of which 21 (17 per cent) were against aid workers. Humanitarian access continues to be hindered by active hostilities, violence against civilians, attacks against aid workers and assets, and interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities.

On 5 May, leaders of armed groups agreed to release all children associated with their forces and to immediately end any new child recruitment. An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 children are currently associated with the country's armed factions. The figure includes those serving as combatants and used for sexual purposes, as well as those working as cooks, messengers and in other roles. Following the signing of the declaration, the parties will agree on a schedule for the children's release, for their reunification with their families and communities, and for the provision of protection and support to help them rebuild their lives. The leaders of the armed groups have also agreed to give UNICEF and its partners immediate and unrestricted access to the areas under their control in order to identify and verify the number of affected children and plan the release process.

The Bangui National Forum was held from 4 to 11 May and produced the Republican Pact for Peace, National Reconciliation and Reconstruction. The Transitional Authorities and the armed groups signed an agreement on the principles for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration within the forum's framework and calls for its swift and full implementation. Participants requested the extension of the deadline for elections until the end of 2015.

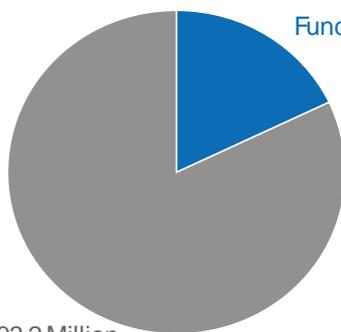
Food reserves in rural areas are 40 to 50 per cent lower than average, and 264,000 crisis-affected households, including farmers, returnees and host families, require immediate assistance.

Due to the lack of funding, Mentor Initiative is reducing its malaria-control activities in health facilities by 60 per cent in the Paoua and Markounda sub-regions, where nearly 150,000 people require access to free malaria treatment.

The return and reinsertion process for IDPs at the Bangui M'poko IDP site began on 5 May as the first step following the Transitional Government's decision to close the site. The site currently hosts more than 18,000 IDPs, of whom 77 per cent are from the 3rd district of Bangui. To date, IOM has deregistered 687 IDP households, of which 381 households have been re-registered and received badges, giving them access to a one-time cash payment and reinsertion package.

On 2 and May, the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator, Claire Bourgeois, held meetings with key stakeholders to discuss the respect of humanitarian action in CAR, including basic humanitarian principles, protection of civilians, humanitarian access and stakeholders' various responsibilities. The information was broadcast on main radio stations and through the distribution of leaflets and other sensitization documents across the country.

## Funding



Unmet: \$ 503,2 Million

Funded : \$ 109,8 Million

As of 13 May, the Strategic Response Plan is 18 per cent funded, with \$110 million allocated. This represents a significant increase over the past two weeks, as the total reported contribution has increased by 5 per cent (\$30 million). It is anticipated that the ongoing periodic monitoring exercise of the Humanitarian Response Plan will help further refine the financial overview of the needs and funding gaps.

The Common Humanitarian Fund has launched a mini appeal under the reserve modality to support contingency measures for the upcoming rainy season, notably for the procurement of shelter, non-food items, seeds and tools.

Timely reporting of contributions to the OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) is critical, either by e-mail to [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org) or through the online contribution report form at [fts.unocha.org](http://fts.unocha.org). Donors and partners are strongly encouraged to continue reporting their contributions on FTS on a regular basis.

## Humanitarian Response



### Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)



### Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

#### Needs:

- ACF identified a need for NFI distribution in Kouki and Bowara (Nana-Bakassa – Ouham prefecture) due to the emergency situation and the coming rainy season. About 1,000 households need assistance.
- PU-AMI identified a need for NFI distribution in Mbali and Evêché displacement sites in Berbérati (Mambéré-Kadei). About 800 houses are destroyed in Mbali and 11 households need NFI assistance in the Evêché site.

**600,000**

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency shelter and NFIs.

#### Response:

- On 5 May, IOM began the return and reinsertion process for IDPs at the Bangui M'poko IDP site, adjacent to the international airport's runway. To date, IOM has deregistered 687 IDP households, of which 381 have been re-registered and received badges, giving them access to a one-time cash payment and reinsertion package. Throughout this process, IOM continues to lead focus group discussions among IDPs at M'poko to raise awareness on the return process.
- With regards to IOM's community-stabilization project, about 44 infrastructure projects are being implemented, of which 28 have been completed. Nine are in progress and seven are planned. These include the

rehabilitation of maternity wards in Bangui's 3<sup>rd</sup> district, construction of a footbridge in the 5<sup>th</sup> district and a school in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district.

- Cash-for-work rotations continue in Bangui's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts. Cash-for-work activities support the immediate recovery of conflict-affected communities by encouraging the revitalization of the local economy. Cash-for-work rotations in the 5<sup>th</sup> district remain suspended due to ongoing insecurity in the area. Activities will resume on 18 May. More than 12,976 beneficiaries have participated in the programme, and there is a waitlist of 9,250 people.
- In Kabo, IOM continues to track displacement movements and the needs of 3,605 IDPs at sites and 5,200 IDPs in host families.
- In Bambari, UNHCR's partner COOPI has completed the fence at the alternative IDP site. Six-hundred households out of 714 have been transferred to the new site.
- In Markounda (Ouham), UNHCR has assisted 1,256 households with NFI kits.
- In Bangui, the cluster worked with IDEAL NGO and the Central African Red Cross to develop budgets to rehabilitate collective emergency shelters in identified IDP sites in Bangui.

## Education

### Needs:

- Temporary safe learning spaces (ETAPes) with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities are needed for 60,000 children.
- Ensure that 568,500 students have returned to school by the end of the 2014-2015 school year. About 660,000 students countrywide were enrolled in schools prior to the crisis.
- Vocational training is required for 2,000 youths by the end of 2015.
- School-feeding activities, particularly in provinces with a low return rate of students, are required for 250,000 people.

**551,000**

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency education.

### Response:

- Since the 2014-2015 school year began, 34,129 children, including 16,615 girls, have benefited from learning and protection activities in 162 ETAPes in the capital, Bangui, Bimbo and Yaloké (Ombella-Mpoko Province), Batangafo and Bouca (Ouham Province), Dékoa (Kémo Province), Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi Province), Bambari and Grimari (Ouaka Province). These include additional ETAPes in Bambari (eight) and Batangafo (seven) to reinforce the ongoing emergency education activities, as well as 15 new ETAPes in displacement sites in Bouca.
- So far, 195 ETAPes teachers and supervisors have participated in the revised Education in Emergencies training facilitated by members of the Ministry of Education.
- Since the beginning of 2015, 100 teachers have been trained in the educational curriculum for bridging classes.
- School construction and rehabilitation are ongoing in 92 schools countrywide. Since mid-2014, 186 schools have been constructed or rehabilitated.
- Since 2015, 1,038 out-of-school children and youths benefited from literacy classes in Bangui, Kémo and Mambéré-Kadéï.
- Since the 2014-2015 school year began, 302 youths benefited from professional training.
- School-feeding programmes are ongoing for 83,070 children, including 37,702 girls, in 122 schools in Bangui and Kémo, Nana-Grébizi and Ouham-Pendé provinces.

### Gaps and constraints:

- Constant population movements and the volatile security situation in central and eastern provinces, especially in Nana-Grébizi Province, are hindering the provision of structured education, child-protection activities, and the timely delivery and distribution of school supplies.



## Emergency Telecommunications

### Response:

- ETC continues to support humanitarian organizations with issues such as radio programming, technical advice and information sharing.

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

#### Gaps and constraints:

- Outside of Bangui, the lack of radio operators and the security situation are hampering the fulfilment of the C-MOSS requirements for COMCENs. Planned recruitments have been delayed due to funding constraints.



### Food Security

#### Needs:

- According to the November 2014 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), an estimated 1.5 million people require assistance to save lives and livelihoods, of whom 1.3 million are in rural areas and 209,978 in Bangui.
- Due to widespread insecurity, looting and violence, crop production in 2014 was 58 per cent lower than the pre-crisis average. Livestock numbers declined by up to 77 per cent and fish supplies by about 40 per cent.
- Food reserves in rural areas are 40 to 50 per cent lower than average, and 264,000 crisis-affected households, including farmers, returnees and host families, require immediate assistance.
- Life-saving food assistance to severely food insecure people is key to support households during the lean season, which started in March.
- Support to boost agriculture and income-generating activities, including gardening, small-livestock rearing and fish farming, will also be critical to save livelihoods and reduce vulnerable families' dependency on humanitarian aid.

**1.2 million**

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015

#### Response:

- Since January 2015, 540,333 people, or 50 per cent of the targeted 1 million, have received food assistance, mainly through general food distributions and food vouchers.
- About 34,000 households, or 10 per cent of the targeted 410,000 households, have benefitted from activities to restore livelihoods and build resilience.
- At the end of April, WFP carried out the second distribution of vouchers to the Pheul population in Yaloké (Ombella M'poko Province).
- WFP distributed the first seed-protection rations at the end of April in the Bossangoa and Nana Bakassa regions (Ouham Province). It plans to increase coverage in the coming weeks.

#### Gaps and constraints:

- Insecurity along the roads and at distribution sites continues to represent the main constraint. The looting of trucks along certain key routes continues to impede access to people in need.
- While 131,000 households are receiving assistance for the main crop season, \$4.5 million is required to reach the remaining 119,000 households out of the 250,000 targeted households.



### Health

#### Needs

- Nearly 150,000 people require access to free malaria treatment in the Paoua and Markounda sub-regions. Due to the lack of funding, Mentor Initiative is reducing its malaria-control activities in health facilities by 60 per cent in the region.

**1.4 million**

People targeted in 2015

#### Response

- In response to a confirmed measles outbreak in the town of Nzako, Bakouma sub-region, where 900 cases including seven deaths were registered, MSF-Belgium organized a vaccination campaign, during which 85 and 95 per cent of children aged 6 months to 14 years were vaccinated in Nzako and Bakouma respectively.
- The regional Health Cluster in Kaga Bandoro has finalized an emergency response plan and purchased 100 inter-agency emergency health basic kits (IEHK), 65 IEHK malaria basic modules, five delivery kits and 20 PEP kits in response to the needs of affected people in the Mbres sub-region.

#### Gaps and constraints:

- The regional Health Cluster in Kaga Bandoro requires \$350,000 in emergency funds to support the revitalization of the health sector in the Mbres sub-region.



## Logistics

### Response:

- The Logistics Cluster is consolidating and addressing issues faced by partners with regards to customs, establishing a list of carriers, identifying cargo river transportation between Bangui and Kouango, and preparing the Logistics Cluster strategy in consultation with partners.
- 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 are 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.

**119,900**

Vulnerable people targeted with nutrition services in 2015

### Response:

- Since the beginning of the year, 6,835 children have been admitted for SAM treatment countrywide. This represents 30 per cent of the SRP target of 22,700 children suffering from SAM. Overall performance indicators of case management remain within global standards.
- In the same period, some 34,466 new beneficiaries have been admitted in WFP's nutrition programme, including 12,661 children aged between 6 and 59 months, 18,327 PLW, 1,394 malnourished people living with HIV under ARV treatment and 2,084 caregivers of people with SAM in health facilities.
- To prevent spikes in malnutrition, WFP is carrying out a large-scale integrated general food distribution and blanket feeding intervention.
- There is an increase in coverage with the opening of new in-patient and out-patient therapeutic units. Thirty-nine out of 70 planned OTPs, two out of 14 planned in-patient therapeutic programmes and 25 out of 109 targeted supplementary feeding programmes are functional in CAR.

### 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.

## General Coordination

On 20 April, the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator and the Minister of Humanitarian Action and Social Affairs travelled to Bambari to visit IDPs affected by a fire that burned shelters at the M site on 14 April. An alternative site has already been set up and is equipped to accommodate the people affected. Discussions with local authorities and IDPs also focused on IDP returns to neighbourhoods. According to most IDPs, insecurity and the presence of armed men impedes their voluntary return in dignity to their villages of origin.

From 29 April to 2 May, the OCHA sub-office in Bambari led a joint inter-agency mission to Kouango. The mission's findings revealed that the villages, including those on the Bianga-Kouango axis, have been deserted by the majority of residents, and houses were destroyed or burned by armed groups. About 800 families are seeking refuge in Bianga village and are at risk of food insecurity due to persisting insecurity. For the first time in more than two years, the 263 children in the village received polio vaccines during the mission.

OCHA has prepared a contingency plan for the Mbres sub-province, where residents were affected by armed conflict leading to population displacement. The plan was adopted on 5 May by the humanitarian community in Kaga-Bandoro. This six-month contingency plan aims to respond to the needs of about 11,000 residents in the region and support the voluntary return of IDPs to their villages of origin.

According to findings of an ACF/Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assessment in the region, over 200 households have returned to Kouï (Ouham Pendé Province) from Cameroon since early April. These returnees require access to protection, potable water, and good hygiene and sanitary conditions. Most of them are with host families, particularly those whose houses were destroyed or occupied. The returnees have been integrated into the local community. Only one water point is functional in Kouï for about 35,741 people. A few other cases of returns have been identified along the axis towards the bordering region with Cameroon. ACF/RRM recommends a multi-sectoral assessment and protection monitoring in the region to assess the vulnerability of these returnees.

### Background on the crisis

The coup by the coalition known as Seleka in March 2013, which ousted President Francois Bozize after a 10-year rule, plunged the country into a cycle of escalating violence. Security conditions in CAR further deteriorated on 5 December 2013, when clashes erupted between militants associated with the now dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups, composed of armed fighters that oppose ex-Séléka forces. The conflict has acquired a sectarian dimension taking place between both groups. In April 2013, Michel Djotodia was recognized as the transitional head of Government at a regional summit in N'Djamena. In January 2014, President Djotodia resigned and was replaced by Catherine Samba-Panza, but the conflict continued. In May 2015, representatives of rival armed groups signed a peace agreement, thus committing them to disarm, demobilize, reintegrate and repatriate, and to be held accountable for war crimes committed during the conflict.

In 2015, the security situation throughout CAR remains volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians and humanitarian workers. Relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected people, but ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of CAR, seriously hampering humanitarian space.

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