



This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 10 December 2012 to 2 January 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 9 January 2013.

Highlights

- The “Séléka” rebel group alliance has attacked several towns across the Central African Republic, moving from the north-east of the country in the direction of the capital Bangui.
- There are reports of people fleeing their homes for safety from a number of areas, including Bangui, in and around Ndélé where the fighting initially broke out, and across the borders to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to Cameroon.
- There are serious concerns about the protection of civilians amid reports of widespread looting and violence. An estimated 316,000 people are living in the affected areas, and some 700,000 persons in Bangui are at further risk of an escalation in fighting.
- The violence has prompted temporary evacuations of humanitarian staff out of affected areas and has seriously disrupted life-saving humanitarian programmes throughout affected areas. Humanitarian partners are calling for immediate unimpeded access to affected regions.



Situation Overview

A coalition of rebel groups calling itself Séléka (“alliance”) has attacked several key cities across the Central African Republic, moving from the north-east towards the capital Bangui. After attacking four provincial capitals in the north and centre of the country in the last two weeks, the rebels took the central city of Sibut, 184 km from Bangui, on 29 December.

The rebellion started on 10 December when the UFDR rebel group (Union des Forces Démocratiques Pour le Rassemblement) took the strategic cities of Ndélé and Sam-Ouandja in north eastern CAR, seizing weapons and vehicles abandoned by soldiers as they fled. The UFDR was joined by two other rebel groups, dissidents from the CPJP (Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix) and the CPSK (Convention Patriotique pour le Salut Wa Kodro).

Diplomatic initiatives are underway and peace talks have been proposed to take place in Libreville, Gabon. On 27 December 2012, members of the Security Council expressed strong concern about the situation in the CAR, condemning the attacks by the “Séléka” coalition of armed groups, noting that they gravely undermine the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement and threaten the civilian population, as well as the stability of the CAR.

Population displacements have been reported in a number of areas, including Bangui, Ndélé and across the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo from the Mobaye region in CAR and towards Bertoua in Cameroon. There are serious concerns about the protection of civilians across the country amid reports of widespread looting and violence. An estimated 316,000 people are living in the affected areas and some 700,000 persons in Bangui are at further risk of an escalation in fighting.

A few humanitarian partners are responding to the most urgent emergency needs of displaced people in Ndélé and other areas but temporary evacuations of humanitarian staff from affected areas due to the violence has disrupted a number of humanitarian programmes across the country. UNHAS planes are currently grounded pending the stabilization of security conditions across the country. As UNHAS flights are the primary means of transport around CAR, this is strongly limiting the humanitarian response by the partners on the ground. Humanitarians are advocating for immediate humanitarian access to all affected areas, in particular the towns of Ndélé, Bamingui, Kabo, Batangafo, Kaga Bandoro, Sam Ouandja, Bambari, Bria and Sibut.

Humanitarian Response



Health

- MSF has response teams in Kabo, Batangafo and Ndélé, and plans to strengthen monitoring of the situation in Bambari and Bria, as well as Damara and Sibut.
- The ICRC is working with the Central African Red Cross to provide displaced people with water, sanitary facilities and other necessities.
- The International Medical Corps (IMC) has a medical team in Bria, but faces logistical challenges in the transportation of medical kits as a result of the suspension of UNHAS flights for security reasons.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has started a needs assessment in the city of Bangui and a radius of 150 km around it in order to plan a possible response to the population's WASH and nutrition needs.
- The ICRC is providing potable water to displaced people in Ndélé.

Coordination

Following the temporary relocation of UN international staff out of Bangui, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is currently coordinating humanitarian assessments and response out of Yaoundé, Cameroon in close coordination with the humanitarian colleagues remaining in Bangui.

Humanitarian partners are preparing to deploy an assessment team under the UNICEF-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), with a particular emphasis on the towns of Ndélé, Bamingui, Kabo, Batangafo, Kaga Bandoro, Sam Ouandja, Bambari and Bria. The assessment will take place as soon as humanitarian access to the affected areas has been secured, with tentative scheduled dates of 7 January for the RRM and 14 January for the inter-cluster assessment.

Funding

The 2012 Consolidated Appeal for the CAR was 65% funded, with US\$ 80 million covered out of the \$124 million requested for the country prior to the current crisis. Early Recovery (16% funded) and Emergency Shelter (20%) were the lowest-funded clusters, while Emergency Telecommunications and Food Security both were 100% funded.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

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