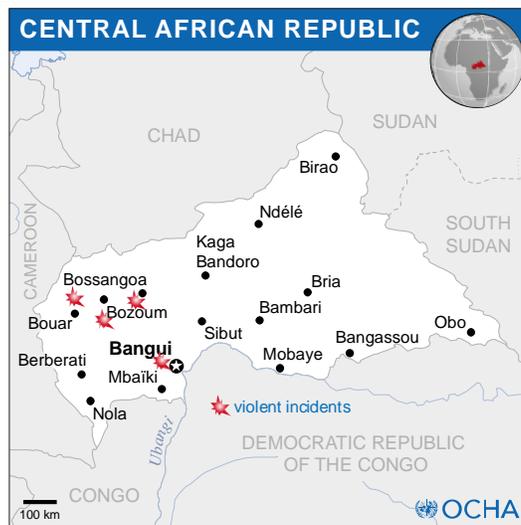




This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 17 to 20 December. The next report will be issued on or around 23 December.

Highlights

- The security situation remains volatile countrywide, pushing people to flee their homes: more than 232,000 people have sought refuge in neighboring countries and over 639,000 others are internally displaced, of whom 213,000 in Bangui.
- On 19 December, the AU International Support Mission to CAR (MISCA) took over from the ECCAS Mission for the Consolidation of Peace (FOMAC/MICOPAX), as per the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council communiqué of 19 July 2013, with French support as outlined in UN Security Council resolution 2127 of 5 December 2013.
- Since the outbreak of violence on 5 December, WFP has provided a total of nearly 1,100 mt of food to 160,000 people.
- UNHCR has distributed NFI kits to 300 households at the airport IDP site.
- UNHCR is developing a strategy to separate armed elements from IDP sites after verifying a report of their presence in some locations.



Map Sources: ESRI, Europa Technologies, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Map created in Oct 2011.

639,000

IDPs in CAR, 214,000 in Bangui alone.

232,697

Refugees from CAR are in neighboring countries, including 68,225 new refugees.

52%

CAP Funded (current requirement of \$195 million)

4.6 m

Population of CAR

2.0 m

People in need of assistance

1.1m

People food insecure (HFSA, October 2013)

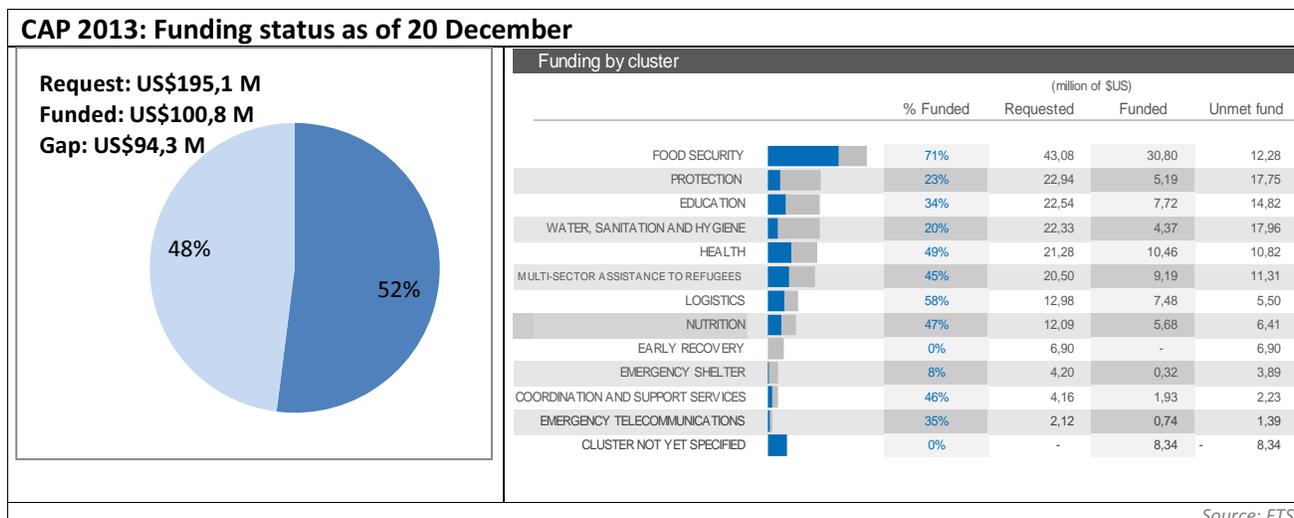
Sources: OCHA, UNHCR, FTS, WFP, FAO

Situation Overview

- The security conditions remain volatile in Bangui and in the north-western part of the country, resulting in continued displacement. The situation in Bangui remains mixed, with a semblance of life returning to normal in some areas while displacement continues on the outskirts of the city due to targeted attacks. More than 214,000 people are estimated to be displaced in and around 50 IDP sites in Bangui, representing approximately a-third of the displaced throughout the country. Around 33,000 people have sought refuge at the Bangui International Airport, raising concerns over their safety. Fighting and rumours of movement of armed men in and around Paoua on 17 December caused displacement. In Bossangoa, intercommunity tensions remain high and several protection incidents, including targeted burning of houses, continue to be reported.
- The French military operation *Sangaris* continues with the disarmament of different armed groups in Bangui and in some north-western towns. Following the arrival of French soldiers in Bozoum on 17 December, many IDPs, especially those who sought refuge in a local church, have returned home.
- As part of the international community's effort to improve security in the country and reinforce the protection of civilians, MISCA took over from FOMAC/MICOPAX II on 19 December, as per the AU PSC and UN Security Council resolution 2127 of 5 December 2013. In addition to French forces, under the *Sangaris* operation, about 3,500 African troops are already deployed in CAR and more are expected in the coming weeks; –the authorized troop strength is 6,000 elements–.

Funding

Despite the significant increase in scale, the CAR crisis remains among the least funded 2013 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). As of 20 December, FTS has registered only 52 per cent of contributions against the total requirement of US\$195 million. In response to needs, US\$ 13 million is being released through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF- Rapid Response) to INGOs and UN agencies, funds and programmes.



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

Humanitarian response

Humanitarian actors are scaling up assistance to reach people affected throughout the country and humanitarian personnel are being deployed countrywide, despite persistent insecurity, to ensure that an adequate response is provided to those in need.

On 19 December, UNHCR launched a multi-sector needs assessment in all IDP sites in Bangui (except the airport). Several teams covering protection, NFIs, shelter and WASH were deployed to identify the needs of the IDPs.

Following inter-communal violence in Bohong, Bozoum and Bouar (northwestern CAR), an inter-agency rapid multi-sectoral assessment mission is scheduled from 20 to 24 December. The mission will also deliver medical kits for the Bouar hospital.



Food Security

Needs:

- Due to the fluidity of the situation in Bangui, food needs have to be re-evaluated on a frequent basis in order to provide an appropriate response.
- The recent crisis has further increased the need for food assistance.

1.1 million

People food insecure

Response:

- Between 7 and 18 December, WFP provided 483 mt of food to 113,486 people in Bangui where the second round of 10-day rations was distributed to 3,000 people.
- In Bossangoa, WFP has provided 469 mt of food to 32,430 people since the end of November, of which 454mt for 31,213 IDPs who received a one-month ration. The remaining beneficiaries were 478 children and 483 women with moderate acute malnutrition and 106 caretakers of people suffering from severe acute malnutrition who received food under the targeted supplementary feeding program, and 150 hospitalized patients.
- The Food Security Cluster and UNICEF have organized meetings between senior UN officials and religious leaders in the PK5 neighborhood of Bangui.

- In Bouar, the general food distribution resumed on 16 December; 45 mt of food were provided to a new IDP site with 3,073 beneficiaries and 92 mt of food were distributed to 6,300 *persons* in another site. In addition, emergency school feeding was carried out on 12 December in Bouar area and 10 mt of food were provided to 3,836 children. In total, WFP has assisted 13,209 people in Bouar with 147 mt of food since the beginning of the month.
- The Cluster continues to closely coordinate its activities with other international and national humanitarian organizations to cover some of the current gaps in the food response in Bangui.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WFP is looking for implementing partners for food distributions and assessments in several displacement sites in Bangui.
- NGOs and UN organizations have to quickly redeploy staff and resources to all parts of the country to facilitate the response.



Health

Needs:

- People affected by armed conflict are in dire need of healthcare services in the IDPs sites and host communities.

30 IDP sites

Provided with medical assistance in Bangui

Response:

- WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and health partners continue to provide medical supplies to hospitals, health centers and dispensaries in IDP sites. Supplies include medicines, surgical kits, malaria kits, individual delivery kits, delivery beds, condoms and dignity kits. Medical assistance has also been provided to over 30 IDP sites in Bangui.
- As part of the effort to prevent targeted attacks within health structures, the international forces in the CAR have agreed to reinforce security at some important hospitals in Bangui.
- MSF is providing medical care at the Community Hospital in Bangui and has treated more than 292 injured.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Merlin and Save the Children are evaluating re-opening the *Hopital de la Amitie*. It has not been operational since 5 December when ex-Seleka elements took 10 patients out of the hospital and executed them at the entrance. The security of patients also needs to be assured.
- Most sites require malaria kits.



Nutrition

Needs:

- The suspension of activities at 12 Nutritional Therapy Outpatient Units (NTOU), most of which are integrated into the national health system, in areas affected by insecurity in Bangui and its surroundings has led to the loss of monitoring of more than 950 cases of severe acute malnutrition.
- The number of children in need of malnutrition treatment has increased in some areas affected by conflict and population displacement.
- A mechanism is required to collect, centralize and manage nutritional data, disaggregated by category of severity and gender.

950 cases

Of severe acute malnutrition not treated due to the closure of nutritional centers

Response:

- ACF in collaboration with UNICEF are taking a huge effort to reopen the closed NTOU in Bangui and its surroundings and to train teams for working at the operating NTOU. To date, 5 NTOU have resumed activities and 422 cases, representing 44 per cent of lost cases, have been tracked down.
- MSF and IMC (Airport, Monastery Boy Rabe and Saint Paul) are operating Mobile Nutritional Care Units (MNCU) at IDP sites. ACF also launched eight more MNCUs on 19 December. These MNCUs will accelerate the active search of lost cases while accurately measuring the level of incidence of new cases.
- UNICEF has provided 12.7 mt of Plumpy nut and therapeutic milk to meet specific nutritional needs in Bangui and its surroundings.
- UNICEF and ACT established a system for daily monitoring of new cases at the Bangui Pediatric Centre to be managed jointly by both organizations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- MSF Belgium carried out an assessment at the Lycee Ama site in Bangui on 14 December, which revealed some cases of malnutrition.

**Needs:**

- Psychosocial support for IDPs and prevention of gender based violence.
- Reconciliation and social cohesion is crucial for communities affected by conflict.

4,040

Hotline for protection issues

Response:

- Protection Cluster members are providing some degree of protection by their presence in various IDP sites. Key actions undertaken include advocacy towards IDP communities to (re) organize themselves to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance; identification of individual cases of victims of physical violence and other abuses and referral for medical and psycho-social support; identification and provision of assistance to unaccompanied/separated children in various IDP sites.
- In Bangui, Damara, Sibut, Grimari, Bambari, Kabo, Ouadago and Buka, UNHCR continues to undertake the monitoring of the protection situation through its implementing partners, Mercy Corps and the Danish Refugee Council with 21 monitors who provide protection counseling to women and children as well as other persons at risk. Several cases of traumatized women and men have been identified during the reporting period.
- UNHCR reported the presence of armed elements in IDP sites. UNHCR met with OCHA to elaborate a strategy separate militaries and/or armed elements from civilians in order to maintain the civilian character of IDP sites.
- In Bossangoa, UNHCR team continues to ensure protection by presence. Between 16 and 17 December, two cases of protection incidents were reported.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Cluster needs more site facilitators.
- Security constraints in some sites including the airport.
- Presence of armed elements among civilians in IDP sites.

**Emergency shelter, water sanitation hygiene (WASH) and NFI****Needs:**

- Sanitation services for Bangui and Bossangoa IDPs. NFIs for IDPs.
- High concentration of persons in IDP sites requires urgent Hygiene Promotion activities.

300 households

At airport site received NFI

Response:

- UNHCR distribution of shelter items (plastic sheeting and tents) and NFIs (kitchen sets and soaps) at the airport site resumed on 18 December, after four days of interruption due to the tense security environment at the site.
- UNHCR also distributed sleeping mats, plastic sheeting and covers to almost 300 households at the airport site. However, the distribution had to be interrupted due to a security incident.
- In Saint Joseph IDP site, on 17 December, IRC built 16 latrines and showers and two defecation areas, and provided shelter for 756 people. NGO Solidarites distributed soaps, blankets, plastic mats and jerrycans to 8,500 persons on 19 December, with UNICEF support.
- NGO ACTED distributed with UNICEF support blankets and sleeping mats to 4,000 persons in Eglise Elimes IDP Site on 19 December and IRC installed 14 latrines and showers on 17 December in Grand Séminaire IDP site.
- ACTED continues building latrine in Saint Bernard IDP site and Solidarites in Lycée Ama IDP site, with UNICEF-RRM support.
- UNHCR installed ten tents for ten households on 17 December in Boy Rabe Monastery. UNHCR also set up five tents and distributed five plastic sheeting for community kitchens on 18 December in Saint Paul.

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

- UNHCR also provided eight tents to Save the Children on 17 December for the establishment of child-friendly spaces;

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of additional space at the Catholic Mission in Bossangoa to decongest the site. In Bangui, lack of soap, blankets, mosquito nets and plastic sheeting.
- The rapid scale up of sanitation to reach SPHERE standards is difficult due to space constraints and a limited number of actors.

**Logistics****Needs:**

- Over 65 organizations depend on the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) for flights to over 27 destinations in CAR.

US\$9 millionRequired for UNHAS
funding in 2014**Response:**

- The European Commission will discontinue its humanitarian air service between Douala, Cameroon and Bangui effective 22 December as commercial flight services have resumed. ECHO daily rotations between Bangui and Douala were established to maintain a humanitarian air bridge to ferry humanitarian goods and personnel into and out of the country.
- UNHAS is operating in-country flights, medical evacuations, passenger flights between Douala and Bangui and fret services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Although UNHAS is fully funded until December 2013, it will require US\$9 million to maintain critical air services through 2014.