Cyclical armed violence seriously affects thousands of people in Alindao.

**Bangui, 6 July 2021** – The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic (CAR), Ms. Denise Brown, strongly condemns the armed violence compounded by serious violations of international humanitarian law which has left at least two civilians dead, caused the displacement of thousands of already displaced Central Africans, injured a humanitarian worker and led to a significant reduction in humanitarian assistance in Alindao in the south of the country. Since one week, growing insecurity has prevented any assistance to those affected by this upsurge in violence.

« For the past week, the lives of thousands of civilians have been in imminent danger due to a series of armed clashes in Alindao where some groups of the population have been particularly targeted. These civilians who live from day to day are now cut off from their small source of income, food is increasingly scarce. They live in fear and are traumatized », the Humanitarian Coordinator is concerned.

Significant population movements have been recorded towards the District Hospital, existing IDP sites, MINUSCA bases and surrounding villages. Due to the persistent insecurity, assistance in town and on the axes has been significantly reduced with the exception of health services and provision of safe drinking water. Burning of houses and looting of property of a population already battered by years of conflict were also recorded, as well as attempted break-ins to humanitarian premises.

« All parties to the conflict must stop all violence against civilians, civilian infrastructure, humanitarian actors and respect international humanitarian law », said Ms. Denise Brown.

Every month, humanitarian actors provide multisectoral assistance to thousands of vulnerable people in the Basse-Kotto Prefecture. 86 aid workers have been relocated thus affecting this capacity. Food insecurity in Alindao is in the severe phase. More than 266,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the region, making Basse-Kotto the fourth prefecture with the highest number of people in need in 2021.

Following the surge in violence since mid-December 2020, 727,000 people are currently displaced in the country, a level never reached since 2014. This violence has exponentially increased humanitarian needs which already far exceeded existing capacities. 2.8 million people - 57% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. 1.9 million of them would not survive without the required assistance.