



Reporting Period: March-April 2021

© UNICEF

In Central African Republic (CAR), the months of March and April were marked by a decrease in armed violence as the national army and the allies gradually regained control of areas previously occupied by the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC).

As a result, people are partially returning to their homes and the number of displaced people is slightly declining, as confirmed by figures from the Commission Mouvement de Populations (CMP). However, despite these encouraging trends, the security situation in the country is still tense, the state of emergency and national curfew still in place, and according to OCHA, the number of people with acute needs remains the highest in five years.

During the reporting period:

- More than 7,000 conflict affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and 53 separated and unaccompanied children were identified and provided with temporary care in foster families;
- 2,960 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated;
- About 40,000 IDPs and returnees gained access to safe drinking water.

# Central African Republic

## Humanitarian Situation Report

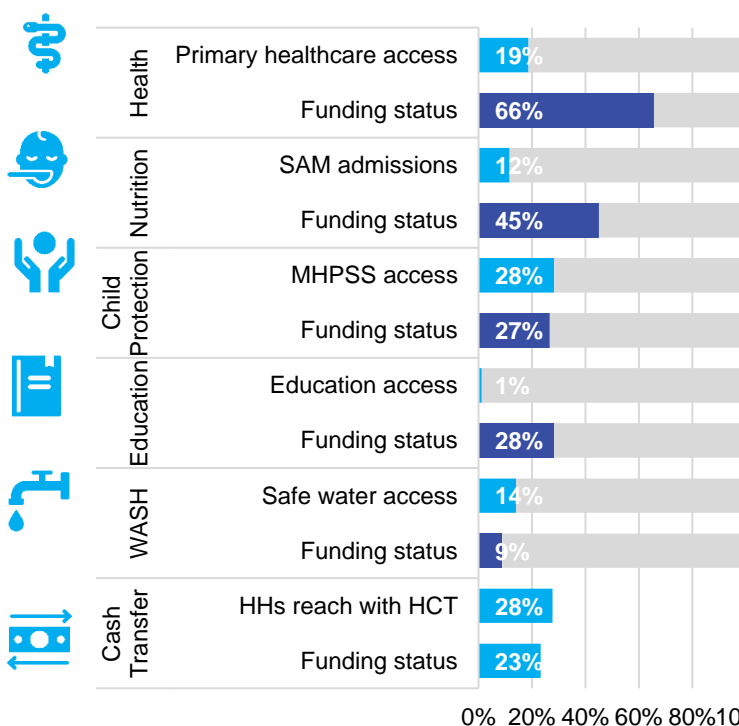
### March and April

unicef   
for every child

### Situation in Numbers

-  **1,300,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
-  **2,800,000** people in need (OCHA Feb 2021)
-  **729,005** Internally displaced people (IDPs)
-  **672,729** pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, 30 April 2021)

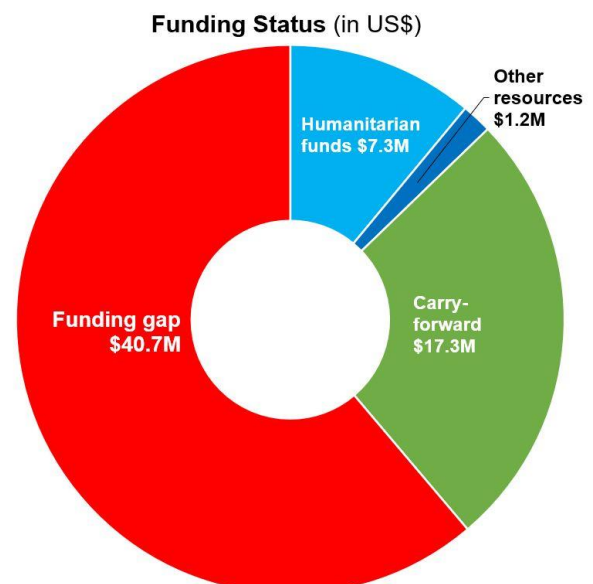
## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



\*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

## UNICEF Appeal 2021

### US\$ 66.5 million



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for 66.5millionUSD to sustain provision of life-saving services for women and children in CAR. In March and April new funding received from France, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) have generously contributed to UNICEF CAR humanitarian response.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for the contributions received. However, the 2021 HAC still has a funding gap of 61 per cent. In March and April, to meet the immediate response needs, UNICEF has reallocated about 1,182,000 USD from regular and other resources to support the clusters coordination and life-saving interventions.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

### Highlights

It's been just over a year since the Minister of Health of the Central African Republic (CAR) announced the first case of COVID-19 on 14 March 2020. According to the Ministry of Health, one year later (as of 30 April), 6,542 people have tested positive and 91 have died from the virus, with an upward trend of new cases reported since mid-March 2021. The pandemic is challenging a country already weakened by long-standing armed conflict and underdevelopment that is, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), among the countries least prepared to deal with the pandemic. Socio-economic activities continue to be negatively impacted by the pandemic, some businesses remain closed and transport prices high. Prices of imported products have fallen due to the partial recovery of the main supply route, but reduced household income continues to adversely affect household purchasing power.

COVID-19 also has an impact on food security and nutrition. According to the latest update of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), almost half of the Central African population (2.29 M people) will be acutely food insecure during the next months, with a total of 633,000 people in Phase 4 (emergency) compared to the 525,000 found in previous projections.

Furthermore, CAR continued to experience clashes and conflicts forcing 729,005 people to flee their home. However, with the progress of the military operations of the national army and allied bilateral forces aimed at regaining the areas previously occupied by the CPC, the number of IDPs is slightly decreasing. Moreover, during the months of March and April, the 'Commission Mouvement de Populations (CMP)' estimates that during these months, the number of returnees (22,311) has been higher than the number of new internally displaced people (13,037).

Humanitarian access remains a major concern: the upward trend in the number of incidents against aid workers recorded since the end of last year was also confirmed for the month of March - with 53 accidents recorded - while there was a reversal in April, with 34 accidents recorded.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health and VIH

During reporting period, 8,604 people, including 4,335 children under 5 years, 1,901 children between 5 and 15 years, 518 vulnerable people and 1,800 pregnant women and 50 lactating mothers, were treated in health centres and IDPs sites in Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi), Dekoa (Kémo), Bossangoa (Ouham), and Bangassou (Mbomou).

The most common illnesses among children under 5 years were malaria (49 percent), acute respiratory infections (25 percent), and diarrheal diseases (17 percent). Among the 1,800 pregnant women, more than 80 per cent had their first prenatal consultation, 70 per cent were tested for HIV and 3 per cent were tested HIV positive and put on Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. Among 50 lactating mothers, 40 were also tested for HIV, two tested positive for HIV and were put on ARVs. Two cases of gender-based violence among adolescents were treated by the health mobile team in Bangassou.

### Nutrition

During the reporting period, out of 33,789 children under 5 screened, a total of 2,960 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) received treatment. The quality of SAM treatment programme is in line with the SPHERE minimum standards, with a cure rate of 82 percent, a mortality rate of 1 percent, a defaulter rate of 12.30 percent and a non-response rate of 4.94 percent.

In addition, 10,005 children aged 6-59 months were supplemented with vitamin A. Moreover, 4,816 pregnant and lactating women were reached with key education and promotion messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners have carried out a rapid SMART survey in Tilo and Guiffa, Dekoa sous-prefecture. Figures showed a GAM rate of 10.7 per cent and a SAM rate of 3.2 per cent in Tilo and GAM rate of 10.3 per cent and a SAM rate of 2.5 per cent in Guiffa.

Although there has been a slow resumption of activities since March, Nutrition Cluster figures show that nutrition services in most areas continue to be negatively impacted by the conflict. 81 nutrition units and 30 health facilities were closed in the first four months of the year, 14 of which were attacked, and a dozen mobile clinics remain suspended across the country. Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF has provided over 12,000 cartons of therapeutic food for severely malnourished children in 16 prefectures and Bangui.

## WASH

UNICEF and its partners (Agence Nationale de l'Eau de et l'Assainissement (ANEA), the Direction Générale des Ressources Hydrauliques (DGRH) and the NGO Triangle Génération Humanitaire ensured access to safe drinking water to 39,320 IDPs and returnees in Bouar (Nana-Mambéré), Bossangoa (Ouham), Dékoa (Kémo), Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) and Bambari (Ouaka) through the rehabilitation of 78 water points.

16,440 returnees in Bambari and Bossangoa gained access to basic sanitation through the construction of 322 family latrines and 200 emergency latrines.

In partnership with the DGRH in Bouar, Bambari and Bakala (Ouaka), 175 teachers have been trained to promote COVID-19 prevention measures in schools. More than 47,000 people have also been sensitized on the same topic in Bambari, Dékoa, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa et Paoua. In addition, in Bambari UNICEF partner TGH distributed 1,600 hand washing kits for the benefit of about 10,000 people. Furthermore, the participation survey showed that approximately 5,283 people out of the 6,500 expected, wash their hands every day using the 13 public handwashing devices installed.

During this period, the WASH cluster maintained operational meetings with partners to support effective coordination and response to the needs of affected people, with increased focus on the COVID-19 response given the recrudescence of the pandemic. Humanitarian actors have gradually resumed their activities and in this period 109,006 people benefited from safe water, 28,890 people from sanitation and 76,652 people from handwashing behaviour programs.

## Education

UNICEF ensured that children who have had to flee their homes and are forced to stay out of school have access to alternative learning solutions, such as education via radio or temporary learning spaces.

In Ouaka prefecture, about 5,400 children (including 2,600 girls) had access to education through radio and in Ouham prefecture another 5,400 (including 2,522 girls) have resumed classes in 12 schools and received individual learning materials. In addition, 100 community teachers have been trained in basic pedagogic and psychosocial support in the Haute Kotto prefecture. Meanwhile, UNICEF facilitated the return of teachers to their respective official duty station that they had left during the previous months because of the insecurity.

At cluster level, education partners have mainly implemented activities that aim at ensuring a protective educational environment for children returning to school, strengthening the capacity of community teachers and providing psychosocial assistance to children in an emergency context. In total, more than 53,800 children, teachers and community members have been reached.

## Child Protection

UNICEF and partners continued to provide assistance to boys, girls, women and men in emergency or post-emergency settings, many of them in areas affected by a surge in violence following the elections in December 2020 and March 2021.

53 separated and unaccompanied children were identified and provided with temporary care in foster families and 17 from them were reunified with their families. The number of children identified in March and April is lower than at the beginning of the year, reflecting the decreased in the number of displacements after the government forces and allies have regained the major cities. However, it should be noted that access remains limited in areas outside the main cities that remain under the control of armed groups.

More than 8,200 persons accessed psychosocial support, mainly through child friendly spaces, including more than 4,100 boys and 3,100 girls in Bouar, Bossangoa, Kaga Bandoro, Zemio (Haut-Mbomou), Bria (Haute-Kotto) and Bangui. To strengthen the quality of support provided to children, the community-based approach is to be favoured and during the reporting period 530 men and 438 women had access to psychosocial support and positive parenting activities.

Sexual and gender-based violence continues to be a significant problem. 248 persons including 43 men and 56 women, 61 boys and 88 girls received complete information on sexual and gender-based violence risk mitigation and 23 sexual and gender-based violence survivors accessed a comprehensive package of assistance including psychosocial support, medical assistance and community reintegration support.

139 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups received reintegration services, including 37 girls and 102 boys in Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari, Bossangoa and Bouar sub-prefectures. Children received socio-economic reintegration assistance which includes support in returning into formal schools, skills training and livelihoods support.

## Social Protection

As part of UNICEF's Cash4COVID project to support the most vulnerable families adversely affected by the pandemic, a total of 2,111 families were supported with a 270 USD cash transfer. In addition, to stimulate the market, 30 small traders received a cash transfer aiming at revitalizing their businesses. UNICEF's post-distribution monitoring data showed that 97 percent of the beneficiaries surveyed were satisfied with the program.

Following the stabilization of the security situation in Bambari, the Cash+Education project that aims at supporting the education of disabled children and out-of-school girls in Bambari was able to start and 350 families received their first cash transfer of 65 USD.

Finally, UNICEF officially launched its digital cash platform HOPE in CAR, the first country among all those in which UNICEF operates. Three UNICEF partners were trained, and HOPE is now operational in all UNICEF cash projects.

## Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In March and April, a total of 24 alerts were published and shared with the humanitarian community. 50 per cent were related to violence and conflict in link with the operations conducted by the national army and allied bilateral forces against CPC, mostly in Ouham, Ouham Pende and Ouaka prefectures. One exploratory mission and eight multisector assessments (MSAs) were conducted.

RRM partners assisted 5,515 households (about 23,500 individuals including 5,000 children under 5) with essential household items and 32,462 households (including more than 6,200 children under 5) have benefited from WASH assistance.

The latest RRM dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

## Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

A perception survey was conducted by UNICEF's partner Ground Truth Solutions (GTS) to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and related behaviours. 511 people in various neighbourhoods of the urban area of Bangui were interviewed and their responses help to better refine UNICEF vaccination communication strategy.

The results showed that 83 per cent of respondents think that they have received sufficient information on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 but only 27 per cent of respondents said that these measures are respected in their community. When it comes to investigating the impact of the epidemic on daily life, 78 per cent of respondents said that the outbreak of COVID-19 has had a negative impact in their lives, especially from an economic point of view. Many families also mentioned the direct impact of the disease on psychological well-being. In addition, 31 per cent of respondents reported worsening access to health services since the onset of the health crisis due to movement restrictions (36 per cent), high cost of health services (19 per cent) and decreased transportation (15 per cent).

When it comes to vaccination, 81 per cent of respondents are in favour. Those who are unwilling to get vaccinated say they do not trust the vaccine or do not think they need it.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UN Country Team (UNCT), Security Management Team (SMT). UNICEF also participates in the MINUSCA coordination mechanisms such as the Senior Management Group for Protection (SMGP) and the Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse Task Force (PSEA TF) to strengthen the delivery of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF leads WASH, Nutrition, Education Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. The Government is an active member of the WASH, Nutrition, and Education Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. Nutrition is paired with health and works through three Sub-Clusters at the regional level. The Education and WASH Clusters are also functional at the regional level. At the Cluster level, UNICEF is an active member of the Health Cluster and, via the RRM coordinator, of the Shelter/NFI/Camp Management Cluster. Moreover, UNICEF hosts and coordinates the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The RRM Coordinator is a member of the Inter-Cluster Coordination team (ICC) which enables efficient coordination between the RRM program and the humanitarian community.

Working with partners based in the country's most troubled areas, and using prepositioned essential supplies, UNICEF prioritizes child centered life-saving interventions and risk reduction for crisis-affected, displaced and returning people in CAR. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) led by UNICEF carries out multi-sector assessments on new crises, provides non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene support to vulnerable people newly affected by shocks, and coordinates internally as well as with external actors to ensure complementary responses in other essential sectors.

The mechanism also provides UNICEF and partners with quick and reliable information on the affected populations needs. This allows UNICEF to mobilize partners to address preventable childhood illnesses, malaria, HIV and malnutrition. UNICEF focuses on the protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups and reunification with their families when separated or unaccompanied, and provides the appropriate psychosocial support to children affected by the conflict. UNICEF contributes to providing out of school children with access to safe learning spaces and quality education. UNICEF works with line ministries to reinforce the Government's capacity in humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. In coordination with UNICEF development programs, the emergency response contributes day to day to increase people's access to basic services in line with the commitment to strengthen the humanitarian-development continuum.

**UNICEF CAR:** [www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html)

**UNICEF CAR Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR)

**UNICEF CAR Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCAR>

**UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal:** <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.htm>

Who to contact for further information: Fran Equiza  
Representative  
Central African Republic  
Tel: +236 7055 0205  
Email: [fequiza@unicef.org](mailto:fequiza@unicef.org)

Paolo Marchi  
Deputy Representative  
Central African Republic  
Tel: +236 7055 0206  
Email: [pmarchi@unicef.org](mailto:pmarchi@unicef.org)

Frederic Emirian  
Chief Emergency & Field Operations  
Central African Republic  
Tel: +236 7000 9667  
Email: [femirian@unicef.org](mailto:femirian@unicef.org)

## Annex A

Sector		UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Indicator   Disaggregation							
<b>Health</b>							
#children under five vaccinated against polio	Girls	638,981	0	-			
	Boys		0	-			
#children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	Girls	107,028	6,497	3,084			
	Boys		6,627	3,152			
	Women		5,831	2,134			
	Men		1,052	234			
#health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control	Women	1,980	0	-			
	Men		0	-			
#children under 10 vaccinated against measles	Girls	399,853	0	-			
	Boys		0	-			
#pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy	Women	148	92	34			
#adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV who received the result of last test	Girls	10,725	ND	-			
	Boys		ND	-			
<b>Nutrition</b>							
#children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	Girls	49,862	2,879	1,468	49,862	2,879	1,468
	Boys		2,927	1,492		2,927	1,492
#primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counseling	Women	164,828	10,005	3,067	219,771	10,005	3,067
	Men		2,318	1,749		2,318	1,749
#children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months	Girls	647,226	6,205	4,722	647,226	6,205	4,722
	Boys		6,571	5,283		6,571	5,283
<b>Child Protection</b>							
# children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	120,000	14,383	3,185	145,000	28,173	8,002
	Boys		16,074	4118		31,075	9,224
	Women		1,821	530		2,444	1,153
	Men		1,693	438		2,219	964
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention	Girls	6,000	137	88		416	93
	Boys		3	61		234	61
	Women		40	56			
# children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities	Girls	2,000	65	37	3,125	342	37
	Boys		196	102		706	102
#unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	Girls	1,750	39	17	2,400	134	19
	Boys		85	36		146	37
<b>Education</b>							
#children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	592,000	3,636	2,522	396,242	3,636	2,522
	Boys		3,610	2,873		3,610	2,873
#children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	532,120	2,522	2,522	533,375	2,522	2,522
	Boys		2,873	2,873		2,873	2,873
#schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		800	0	-			
# children/adolescents accessing skills development programmes	Girls	15,000	0	-	25,000	0	0
	Boys		0	-		0	0
	Women		0	-		0	0

	Men		0	-		0	0
# children participating to the distance/home-based learning	Girls	75,000	2,805	2,805	25,000	2,805	2,805
	Boys		2,604	2,604		2,604	2,604
<b>WASH</b>							
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Girls	400,000	13,320	9,044	910,000	35,307	25,072
	Boys		12,699	8,650		33,771	23,981
	Women		15,454	11,010		42,982	30,522
	Men		14,847	10,616		41,897	29,431
# people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	Girls	200,000	5,352	3,781	980,000	11,153	6,645
	Boys		5,119	3,617		10,668	6,356
	Women		6,516	4,603		13,577	8,089
	men		6,283	4,439		13,092	7,800
# girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	Girls	25,000	0	0			
	Women		0	0			
#people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes	Girls	400,000	19,753	10,845	1,120,000	32,342	17,630
	Boys		18,893	10,373		30,935	16,863
	Women		24,047	13,203		39,374	21,463
	Men		23,188	12,731		37,966	20,696
<b>Social Protection</b>							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		9,000	2,491	2,491			
<b>Rapid Response Mechanism</b>							
#Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	Girls	225,000	9,962	7,024			
	Boys		9,827	6,915			
	Women		6,537	4,653			
	Men		6,436	4,878			
#Vulnerable people affected by the crisis benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	Girls	130,000	9,985	8,993			
	Boys		9,884	8,767			
	Women		7,685	6,981			
	Men		7,917	7,721			
<b>Communication for Development(c4d)</b>							
#people reached through messaging on access to services		3,000,000	1,269,554	-			
#people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)	Girls	700,000	0	-			
	Boys		0	-			
	Women		0	-			
	Men		0	-			
#people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Girls	25,000	0	-			
	Boys		0	-			
	Women		245	245			
	Men		266	266			

## Summary of Programme Results

### Annex B

#### Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Other resources used in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	\$	%
<b>Nutrition</b>	15,200,000	1,962,472	0	4,885,742	8,351,786	55%
<b>Health and HIV/AIDS</b>	3,800,000	1,073,914	390,170	1,032,126	1,303,790	34%
<b>WASH</b>	9,000,000	90,000	152,600	559,014	8,198,386	91%
<b>Child Protection</b>	8,200,000	1,453,914	90,735	641,052	6,014,299	73%
<b>Education</b>	10,200,000	0	38,788	2,841,315	7,319,897	72%
<b>Social protection and Cash Transfer</b>	2,400,000	259,250	0	300,000	1,840,750	77%
<b>C4D</b>	2,400,000	0	0	1,461,066	938,934	39%
<b>RRM and Emergencies</b>	13,800,000	2,491,260	145,164	5,619,203	5,544,373	40%
<b>Cluster/sector coordination</b>	1,500,000	0	364,489	0	1,135,511	76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,500,000</b>	<b>7,330,810</b>	<b>1,181,946</b>	<b>17,339,517</b>	<b>40,647,727</b>	<b>61%</b>