



Reporting Period: July-August 2021

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Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation

Report No. 4



for every child

During July and August, CAR continued to experience clashes and conflicts, resulting in a new spike in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In particular, during the month of August the general trend recorded from February to July (a small preponderance of returns versus new movements) was again reversed bringing the number of IDPs to 712,945.

In this context, where the population bears the brunt of the sustained tensions and increased armed violence and most people are hardly accessible to humanitarian workers,

- more than 19,000 conflict affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and 406 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups received reintegration services;
- 31,067 children and mothers received free essential care;
- 7,890 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated;
- about 3,500 people gained access to safe drinking water and
- about 14,566 households assisted with essential household items and 9,096 households benefited of WASH assistance.

Situation in Numbers

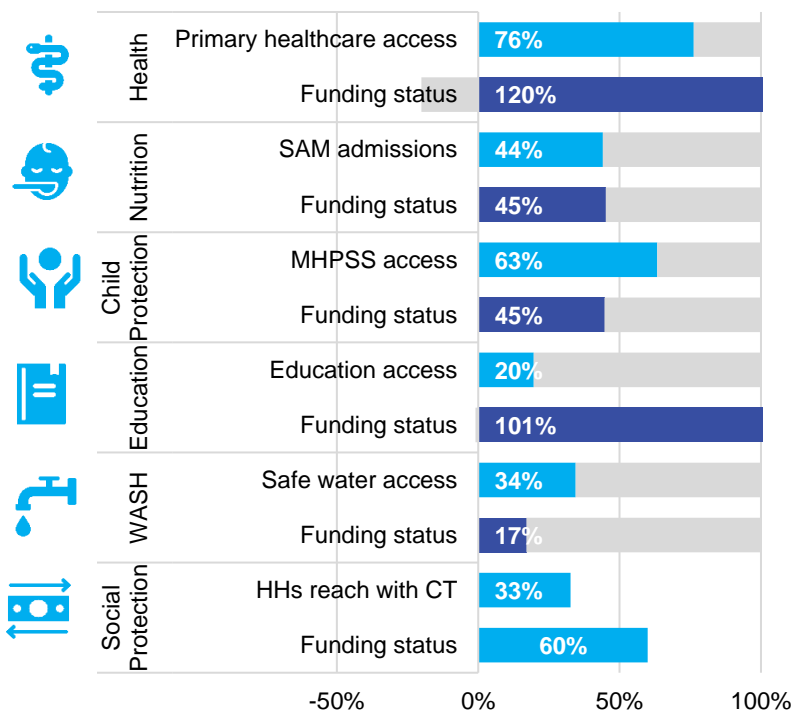
1,300,000
children in need of humanitarian assistance

2,800,000
people in need
(OCHA, August 2021)

712,945
Internally displaced people (IDPs)

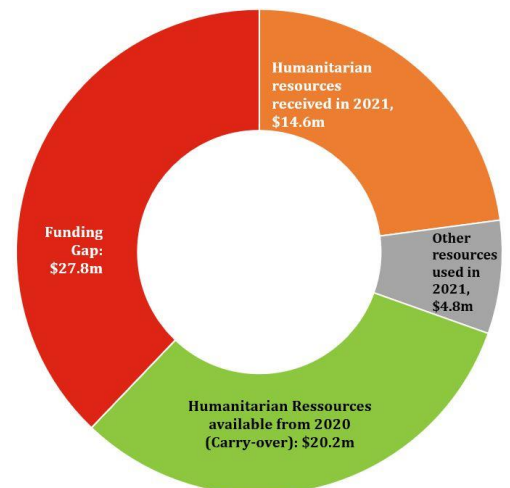
709,425
pending and registered refugees
(UNHCR, August 2021)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 66.5 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

In July and August, a new contribution was received from the Global Fund Education Cannot Wait to improve access to education for displaced and returnee crisis-affected children. In addition, a contribution from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) coupled with additional Thematic funding generously contributed to scale up life-saving interventions in all the HAC's sector. Moreover, funding from the Spanish Committee for UNICEF contributed to protect conflict affected children including those associated with armed groups and, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, supported the polio campaign.

To date, UNICEF has received nearly 40 million USD against the 66.5 million USD required. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for the contributions received.

However, critical funding gaps remain, notably in WASH, Cluster coordination sectors, Nutrition, Child Protection and RRM. It's worth noting that, given the intensified armed conflict across the country, in the first four months of the new RRM 10 cycle, approximately half of the planned beneficiaries for the entire cycle have already been assisted.

In the face of the ongoing humanitarian situation in CAR continued donors' support remains vital to deliver life-saving services for women and children.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Highlights

As of 31 August, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Central African Republic (CAR) is estimated at 712,945 individuals (Commission Mouvement de Populations-CMP). While the number of IDPs increased continuously from December 2020 to February 2021 in the context of the election and post-election crisis, from March to July the overall trend of population movements began to reverse with a small preponderance of returns over new movements.

The month of August saw a surge in new displacements, particularly due to the determination of the national army and allied bilateral forces to regain ground on armed groups. New displacements due to natural disasters, such as the floods that destroyed houses in several locations, were also recorded in the month of August.

In this context, the population continues to live in fear of clashes, attacks and abuses, which limits their mobility and access to fields, harvesting or hunting. Nutrition and food security indicators, which were already bleak for the lean season, deteriorated further in July and August: 80,000 children under five were at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), an increase of 29 per cent compared to the end of 2020 figures and about 2.6 million people were food insecure, an increase of 13 per cent. Of those, one million were classified as being in an emergency (IPC 4), and out of those, more than 250,000 in urgent need of assistance and largely inaccessible.

In fact, to make the situation even worse, these people are largely inaccessible to humanitarian workers. Humanitarian access to the northwest (Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures) and southeast (Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures) is hampered by active conflict, shifting front lines and the presence of explosive devices.

In the first eight months of 2021, 314 incidents affecting humanitarian workers were recorded, compared to 267 in the same period in 2020 according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and VIH

During the reporting period, 31,067 children and women received free essential care in UNICEF supported health facilities. The most common illnesses among children under 5 were malaria (50 per cent), acute respiratory infections (34 per cent) and diarrhoeal diseases (11 per cent). Skin diseases and intestinal parasitosis diagnosed in 2,295 children account for 5% of cases.

Among the 9,498 pregnant women treated in UNICEF-supported health centres in the last two months, more than 60 per cent had their first prenatal consultation, 95 per cent were tested for HIV and 2 per cent were tested HIV positive and put on Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

Nutrition

During July and August, 7,890 children aged 6-59 months, including children from IDPs sites and IPC4 areas, were admitted to treatment units and treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

The quality of the SAM treatment programs is above the SPHERE minimum standards: a cure rate of 90.2 per cent, a death rate of 1.73 per cent, the defaulter rate of 6.42 per cent, and non-respond rate of 1.65 per cent (<15%) discontinued treatment.

Most of the regions affected by SAM are those with high levels of insecurity, food insecurity and limited access to essential social services and where the nutritional response has limited coverage. UNICEF continues to pre-position

nutritional supplies in the field offices in Bouar, Bossangoa, Kaga-Bandoro and Bambari. A projected 12,000 children will be treated in the coming months with the nutritional supplies already distributed to partners the past two months.

WASH

During the reporting period, UNICEF ensured access to safe drinking water to 3,500 IDPs affected by the floods through the construction of four boreholes equipped with handpumps and the rehabilitation of three boreholes in IDP sites in the Nana Gribizi prefecture and in Bangui.

In total 76 families living in Sibut Hospital IDP site (Kemo prefecture) or victims of the last floods in Tédoua (Nana-Mambéré prefecture) received WASH-Dignity kits, including 58 women and 18 girls who received also menstrual hygiene kit.

As part of the WASH COVID-19 response, 12 hand washing devices with soaps were installed in IDP sites in Kaga Bandoro reaching 1,359 households. 25 additional schools - 9,457 students - benefitted from hygiene and COVID sensitization, distribution of hygiene kits and training for the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. 726 girls attended sessions on menstrual hygiene management and received a Menstrual Hygiene Management Kit.

In addition, hand washing devices have been installed in public places in Mambere Kadei and Nana Mambere prefectures reaching approximately 20,600 people and 491 vulnerable households.

During the period of July and August, the WASH Cluster maintained strategic and operational meetings with partners to support coordination for an effective response to the needs of affected people.

To date, UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners have provided safe drinking water to more than 492,415 people and sanitation facilities to 103,610.

Child Protection

In July and August, more than 19,000 conflict affected children were enrolled in UNICEF supported Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and benefited from integrated psycho-social support in Nana Mambere, Nana Gribizi, Vakaga, Haute Kotto, Ouham and Ouham Pende prefectures. UNICEF's mobile child protection teams led by UNICEF partner Warchild UK identified and documented 2,267 children affected by conflict in Kabo and Kabo Sido (Ouham). All of them received an appropriate response based on their protection needs. Another mobile team was deployed to Birao (Vakaga), where 255 newly verified children associated with armed forces and groups and 195 former children received socioeconomic reintegration services along with 281 other vulnerable children affected by the conflict.

Social Protection

During the reporting period, three cash distributions were organised. In the framework of the Cash + Nutrition project, which aims to financially support families with malnourished children, two distributions took place and an amount of 130 USD were distributed to 423 households in Bouar and Baboua (Nana Mambere). In Bambari, 350 households received 65 USD to support the education of disabled children and girls not attending school. UNICEF has decided to scale up the coverage of this latest project, extending the geographical coverage to the prefecture of Ouaka and increasing the number of beneficiaries to 700 families.

As part of the first post distribution monitoring (PDM) of the Cash + Nutrition project, 199 households were interviewed. This survey showed that 88 per cent of beneficiaries surveyed were satisfied with the assistance they received and 75 per cent mentioned that the amount of money received was sufficient to support coverage of their basic needs. As a result of this distribution, the food diversity score increased by 23 per cent and 91 per cent of the children covered by this program are now eating at least 2 meals a day.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In July and August, a total of 30 alerts were published and shared with the humanitarian community. 50 per cent were related to violence and conflict, 33 per cent to persons returning to their homes and 17 per cent to natural disasters. The shocks mainly occurred in the west (Ouham Pende and Nana Mambere prefectures) and central (Ouham, Bamingui-Bangora and Nana Gribizi prefectures) regions of the country.

In July and August, RRM partners assisted 14,566 households (about 66,000 persons, including 14,000 children under 5) with essential household items and 9,096 households (including more than 1,700 children under 5) have benefited from WASH assistance.

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

Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

In anticipation of the nationwide poliomyelitis immunization campaign that will be launched next year and that will include the introduction of a new vaccine, UNICEF trained 10 authorities of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and WHO on how to properly communicate the introduction of this new vaccine and mitigate the risk of rumors spreading in the population.

In addition, in support of the maternal tetanus vaccination campaign that ran from 6 to 10 August, 3,337 community mobilizers were deployed for 3 days, visited 465,320 households, and sensitized 1,156,600 people.

To strengthen UNICEF's commitment to ensuring that communities are meaningfully and continuously involved in decisions that directly impact their lives, UNICEF partners collected and answered around 1,687 feedbacks and complaints.

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

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

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Annex A

Sector		UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Indicator	Disaggregation						

Health							
#children under five vaccinated against polio	Girls	638,981	0				
	Boys		0				
	Total		0				
#children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	Girls	107,028	22,940	7612			
	Boys		22,952	7,923			
	Women		29,095	12,641			
	Men		6,587	2891			
Total		81,574	31,067				
#health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control	Women	1,980	0	0			
	Men		0	0			
	Total		0	0			
#children under 10 vaccinated against measles	Girls	399,853	0	0			
	Boys		0	0			
	Total		0	0			
#pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy	Girls	148	114	85			
	Women		265	197			
	Total		379	282			
#adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV who received the result of last test	Girls	10,725	ND	ND			
	Boys		ND	ND			
Nutrition							
#children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment *	Girls	49,862	10,538	3,787	49,862	10,538	3,787
	Boys		11,417	4,103		11,417	4,103
	Total		21,955	7,890		21,955	7,890
#primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	Women	164,828	29,948	8,892	219,771	29,948	8,892
	Men		3,766	1,448		3,766	1,448
	Total		33,714	10,340		33,714	10,340
#children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months	Girls	647,226	248,924	2,529	647,226	246,395	0
	Boys		229,763	2,322		227,441	0
	Total		478,687	4,851		473,836	0
Child Protection							
# children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	120,000	33,674	9,087	145,000	31,517	ND
	Boys		37,544	9,963		36,792	ND
	Women		2,489				
	Men		2,222				
Total		75,929	19,050	Total	68,309	ND	
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention	Girls	6,000	551	192		846	146
	Boys		78	11			
	Women		119			302	21
	Men		1				
Total		749	203	Total	1,148	336	
# children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities	Girls	2,000	127	52	3,125	563	22
	Boys		572	354		1,233	83
	Total		699	406		1,796	105
#unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	Girls	1,750	93	19	2,400	175	32
	Boys		115	31		189	27
	Total		208	50		Total	364
Education							
#children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	130,000	11,000	ND	396,242	ND	ND
	Boys		14,541	ND		ND	ND
	Total		25,541	ND			
#children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	360,000	5,909	ND	533,375	2,522	ND
	Boys		8,368	ND		2,873	ND
	Total		14,277	ND			

#schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		800	561	ND			
WASH							
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Girls	300,000	16,272	1,233	910,000	113,230	40,128
	Boys		15,473	1130		108,256	38,334
	Women		18,978	610		137,774	47,960
	Men		18,097	527		133,155	46,186
	Total		68,820	3,500		492,415	172,608
# people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	Girls	150,000	5,352	0	980,000	23,831	6,583
	Boys		5,119	0		22,794	6,296
	Women		6,516	0		29,011	8,014
	men		6,283	0		27,974	7,727
	Total		23,270	0	Total	103,610	28,620
# girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	Girls	25,000	17030	744			
	Women		533	58			
	Total		17563	802			
#people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes	Girls	300,000	153,887	6,937	1,120,000	186,533	18,637
	Boys		174,783	7,700		206,010	18,891
	Women		41,655	12,315		81,400	26,559
	Men		40,648	11,703		78,972	25,438
	Total		410,973	38,655	Total	552,915	89,525
Social Protection							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		9,000	2,938	773			
Rapid Response Mechanism							
#Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	Girls	225,000	48,345	20,451			
	Boys		49,241	20,830			
	Women		30,918	13,079			
	Men		27,932	11,815			
	Total		156,436	66,175			
#Vulnerable people affected by the crisis benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	Girls	130,000	32,796	13,371			
	Boys		33,178	13,527			
	Women		23,163	9,444			
	Men		22,416	9,139			
	Total		111,553	45,481			
Communication for Development(c4d)							
#people reached through messaging on access to services		3,000,000	3,509,515	0			
#people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)	Girls	700,000	98,492	0			
	Boys		84,260	1,053			
	Women		788,009	582,755			
	Men		755,367	572,792			
	Total		1,726,128	1,156,600			
#people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Girls	25,000	0	0			
	Boys		24	12			
	Women		3,079	502			
	Men		3,174	1171			
	Total		6,279	1,687			

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)	\$	%
Nutrition	15,200,000	1,962,472	0	4,885,742	8,351,786	55%
Health and HIV/AIDS	3,800,000	3,143,117	390,170	1,032,126	-	-
WASH	9,000,000	822,691	152,600	559,014	7,465,695	83%
Child Protection	8,200,000	2,809,554	205,735	641,052	4,543,659	55%
Education	10,200,000	1,380,987	3,243,695	5,679,443	-	-
Social protection and Cash Transfer	2,400,000	838,144	300,000	300,000	961,856	40%
C4D	2,400,000	25,000	0	1,461,066	913,934	38%
RRM	13,800,000	3,594,513	145,164	5,619,203	4,441,120	32%
Cluster/sector coordination	1,500,000	0	364,489	0	1,135,511	76%
Total	66,500,000	14,576,478	4,801,853	20,177,646	27,813,561	42%