



Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation Report unicef

March 2015

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- The Children’s Forum was held in Bangui on 12-13 March, attended by approximately 500 children, government officials, civil society members, and international partner agencies. The Forum aimed at ensuring that the voices and concerns of children will be heard during the Bangui Forum in April and embodied a message of hope for the future of the children of CAR.
- The humanitarian situation in the central regions remains acute, with over 160,000 displaced people situated in minimal survival conditions in Batangafo, Kaga Bandaro, Bambari and greater Kouango on the DRC border.
- Overall student participation in temporary learning spaces increased by 13 per cent from 27,319 (13,454 girls) students in February to 30,937 (14,681 girls) in March.
- Despite volatile security, UNICEF school bags containing essential school supplies reached 11,848 students in the provinces of Ouaka and Nana Gribizi.
- Over 4,400 pregnant women received HIV/AIDS counselling via antenatal care services, and 3,786 were screened for HIV/AIDS.
- With UNICEF support, over 10,000 people in four IDP sites received 376,000 litres of safe drinking water, and support to SODECA provided safe water to an estimated 442,000 in Bangui.

10 April 2015

2.4 million

CHILDREN AFFECTED
(2015 Strategic Response Plan)

4.8 million

PEOPLE AFFECTED
(2015 Strategic Response Plan)

2.7 million

PEOPLE WHO NEED
ASSISTANCE (OCHA 18 March 2015)

436,000

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
(OCHA 18 March 2015)

455,000

REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES (CHAD, CAMEROON, DRC, CONGO), UNHCR 20 March 2015

UNICEF Appeal 2015

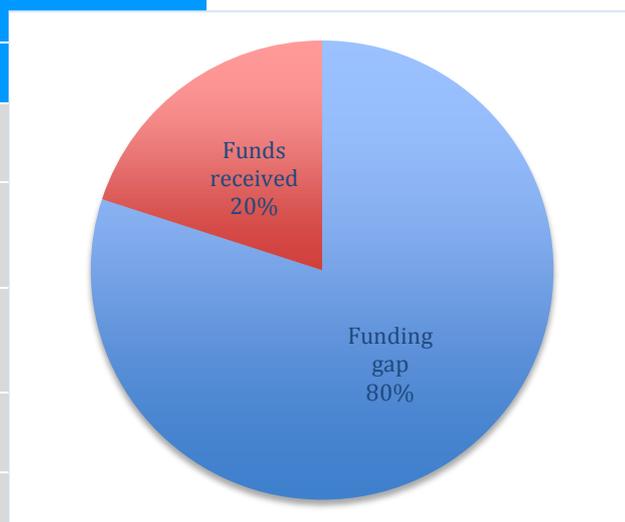
US\$ 73.9 million

Funds received as of 31 March 2015

US\$ 15 million

UNICEF’s Key Results with Partners

| | UNICEF | | Cluster | |
|---|---------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | UNICEF Target | Cumulative results (#) | Cluster Target | Cumulative results (#) |
| Number of children with SAM admitted for treatment | 22,700 | 3,716 | 22,700 | 3,716 |
| Number of internally displaced persons and returnees who have access to improved sanitation | 170,000 | 114,615 | 388,000 | NA |
| Number of people that access basic health services and medicines in the affected areas | 1,171,400 | 728,755 | 1,472,000 | 728,755 |
| Number of children who received learning and playing materials | 300,000 | 129,332 | 350,000 | 154,483 |
| Number of children participating in temporary learning spaces | 60,000 | 30,937 | 60,000 | 30,937 |



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

UNICEF remains gravely concerned about the continuing acute humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR). An estimated 436,000 people are still internally displaced, including 49,000 people in Bangui (OCHA, 18 March – 1 April). According to the UNHCR Regional update on 26 March, the total number of refugees in the neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo and DRC) is estimated at 455,000 people, with over 217,000 refugees having arrived since December 2013.

The trend of less intense conflict continues in the south west and some areas of western CAR, where triggers more often involve armed pastoralists and settled communities, reactions against anti-Balaka extortion efforts and clashes over control of natural resources, markets, livestock, and mining. In the southeast, the situation is generally quiet. A recommendation has been made to DSS to allow road movement without escort from Zemio to Bangassou and Obo.

Of greatest concern is the humanitarian situation across the central regions where there are now over 160,000 displaced people, situated in minimal survival conditions in four main areas: Batangafo, Kaga Bandaro, Bambari and greater Kouango on the DRC border. This represents the conflict line between Anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka militia groups with international forces, mostly MINUSCA, trying to separate the two. Conflict dynamics also include control of natural resources. In the northwest, cross-border raiding by armed groups from Chad continues to render a number of sous-prefectures highly insecure in northern Ouham and Ouham Pende.

After extended delay and following a joint DSS/OCHA Cimcord mission to Kouango, a joint UN humanitarian mission, including UNICEF Bambari-based health, WASH, education and child protection staff with programme supplies, safely arrived by road on 31 March to set up an extended humanitarian response for the affected population. Up to 30,000 people have been displaced in this region, which borders DRC, as a result of protracted conflict between ex-Seleka and Anti-Balaka groups and the targeting of civilian populations by both sides.

As the primary emergency early action mechanism in the country, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) has assisted 26,000 people in the first quarter of 2015, based on 31 alerts, 35 exploratory and assessment missions and 12 responses completed.

IDP conditions in Batangafo and Bambari are marked by serious overcrowding and a lack of confidence of populations to return to their homes.

In Bangui, the government insists on closure of the M’Poko airport IDP site (estimated at 18,000 IDPs) by mid-April, before the Bangui Forum. UN agencies agree on the unsustainability of the site and increasing risk of disease outbreak as the rainy season approaches. A plan has been updated based on the progressive assisted return of IDPs to their quarters of preference (either origin or alternate locations). This is complicated by the position of some NGOs who see the process as a compromise of humanitarian principles. UNICEF is working on training child rights monitors for the exercise and will provide software assistance to returnees such as well chlorination, hygiene promotion and latrine construction. WASH interventions have already begun in the zones of return. Education is also a major focus; there are nine temporary learning spaces (TLS) presently in place at the M’Poko site for populations to be relocated where access to fixed education services will not otherwise exist. The main challenge in many parts of the city remains the lack of qualified teachers.

Based on the lessons of Yaloke, UNICEF and the Child Protection sub-cluster are taking measures to systematically monitor and register all cases of separated/unaccompanied children in the six other principal enclaves as the basis for assistance and reunification. A consultancy exercise (funded and supported by WCARO) to enable the CO to draw lessons learned from the Yaloke IDP response has completed in-country meetings including a site visit.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The CO has initiated an emergency risk assessment exercise inspired by the on-line EWEA system. The focus is on identifying major threats facing children and women in CAR in 2015 that may trigger new emergencies, likely humanitarian consequences, possible triggers and magnitude. The exercise will inform CO emergency response preparedness planning for the rest of the year.

It was agreed by the HCT that a ‘Humanitarian Declaration’ will be distributed to participants of the upcoming Bangui Forum for the purpose of emphasizing obligations to international humanitarian law, humanitarian principles and

related standards and conventions applicable to humanitarian assistance and protection. It was originally considered that the document be presented for signature by parties expected to attend the Bangui Forum.

In consultation with the UNICEF Global Cluster Coordination Support Unit in Geneva, the CO is considering appropriate modalities for the continuity of Cluster Coordination capacities in 2015 in anticipation of an increasingly difficult funding environment.

The UNICEF-led RRM held a high level steering committee meeting on 28 March and subsequently briefed the HCT on key outcomes on 30 March. RRM operations have progressively scaled up over the last six weeks and the RRM strategy (DRC, CAR, South Sudan, Iraq, etc.) was highlighted as a critical example of humanitarian delivery during a global Webinar conducted by the IASC Senior Transformative Agenda Team on 16 March.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

In March, UNICEF continued to scale up coverage of community-based management of acute malnutrition services outside of Bangui despite the challenging situation, with the official opening of three In-patient Therapeutic Units (IPTs) respectively in Mbaiki Hospital, Safa and Mongoumba health facilities. UNICEF continued to support nutrition interventions in enclaves including Yaloke, where up to 20 health staff have been trained on the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).



Since 1 January 2015, a total of 3,716 children have been admitted for SAM treatment across the country. This represents 16 per cent of the annual target of 22,700 children suffering from SAM. According to the available data up to day, the overall performance indicators of case management remained within global standards with an average recovery rate of 86.04 per cent (≥ 75 per cent) and death rate of 1.00 per cent (< 10 per cent). The defaulter's rate remains slightly high at 12.96 per cent (standard < 15 per cent), especially in areas still affected by insecurity and population displacement. However, these indicators hide the regional disparities: for example, the death rate is 6.8 per cent in Bangui, while the defaulter's rate in Ouham is approaching 20 per cent.

During the reporting period, a total of 1,281 cartons of RUTF were distributed to implementing partners and prepositioned in zonal offices for use in health and nutrition facilities of remote areas. In addition, 631 packets of 50 long lasting mosquito nets have been distributed to existing IPTs and Out-Patient Therapeutic Units (OPTs). These mosquito nets will cover the 2015 needs for nutrition facilities and beneficiaries in the nutrition programme. Instructions on appropriate utilisation for the prevention of malaria in children/households has been shared with implementing partners.



Health

In March, the distribution of long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) continued at IDP sites in the health prefectures of Ouham, Nana Grebizi and Ouaka. Updated results show that a total of 36,198 LLINs were distributed to 17,317 households as follows:

- Ouham: 18 IDP sites hosting 7,056 households were reached with the distribution of 15,954 LLINs.
- Nana Grebizi: 14 IDP sites hosting 525 households were reached with the distribution of 1,050 LLINs.
- Ouaka: 9,736 households received 19,194 LLINs.

UNICEF also provided the following: (i) ACTs, malaria rapid diagnostic tests and other commodities for the treatment of 500,000 uncomplicated and 49,500 complicated cases of malaria in health facilities in Ouham and Nana Grebizi prefectures; (ii) 30,000 LLINs were sent to these health prefectures for routine distribution to pregnant women and children under one year; and (iii) training on malaria prevention and treatment for 145 health service providers.

Deployment of micro-planning facilitators who were trained last month was completed in health regions 4, 5 and 6 in preparation for the upcoming polio immunisation campaigns to be conducted starting next month.

HIV/AIDS

In an effort to support national efforts in the fight against the HIV pandemic, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, CNLS and other partners, UNICEF conducted a training for community based organisation members, leaders and health workers in four prefectures (Bouar, Bossangoa, Bangassou and Bambari) in March. This training aimed at increasing the capacities of partners at the community level in advocacy and social mobilisation for HIV prevention and care. As a result, a total of 121 members and leaders of community-based organisations and 61 health workers were trained on PMTCT and paediatric care.

In addition, UNICEF launched youth and adolescent activities in Bambari through a “Youth Talent” initiative. A total of 1,165 adolescents received information on HIV prevention and were tested for HIV. 4,411 pregnant women received HIV/AIDS counselling via antenatal care services, and 3,786 (or 86 per cent) were screened for HIV/AIDS. 227 HIV positive pregnant women are benefiting from comprehensive PMTCT-ARV prophylaxis, and 144 children born from HIV positive mothers were treated with ARV prophylaxis.

WASH

In Bangui, in collaboration with UNICEF, Oxfam provided 400 litres of diesel to pump water in four IDP sites (Carmel,  Padre Pio, Camboni and Grand Séminaire). This support allowed the supply of 376,000 litres of safe drinking water to 10,333 people, or 9.09 liters per person per day.

Support (chemicals and fuel) provided to the national water authority, SODECA, has allowed for the production of 1 million m³ of water for an estimated population of 442,000 people in Bangui.

Through Agence Nationale de l’Eau et de l’Assainissement (ANEA), Oxfam and ACTED, UNICEF contributed to improving access to sanitation for 39,045 people in 25 sites in Bangui. Actions included cleaning and rehabilitation of 1,716 latrines. ANEA, Oxfam and ACTED promoted hand washing and basic hygiene to 7,230 people.

Through partnership with ACTED, UNICEF contributed to improve hygiene conditions in the Bangui sites by collecting 658 m³ of waste.

In Boda, UNICEF contributed to improve access to sanitation for approximately 9,000 displaced populations in six sites by distributing cleaning products for latrines via ANEA.

In Bambari, with support from UNICEF, Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) continues to produce 150,000 liters of drinking water per day and chlorination of water from 45 wells in the town of Bambari including 17 near IDP sites (nine at Notre Dame de la Victoire, four at MINUSCA and four at Sangaris). The following activities have been carried out:

- Sangaris site (9,866 IDPs): water trucking (60,000 litres per day) and chlorination points (6,850 litres per day) resulting in a ratio of 6.8 litres per day per person ;
- MINUSCA site (2,614 IDPs): Water trucking (20,000 litres per day) and chlorination points (6,850 litres per day) resulting in a ratio of 10 litres per day per person;
- Notre Dame de la Victoire site (8,785 IDPs): Water trucking (20,000 litres per day) and chlorination points (15,400 litres per day) and drilling (7,500 litres per day) resulting in a ratio of 4.0 litres per day per person;
- Muslim neighbourhoods (Hadji and Bornu) with approximately 9,400 people (guests and IDPs): water trucking (20,000 litres per day) for a ratio of 2.2 litres per person per day. These IDPs use other wells and a borehole in the district to meet their water needs;
- Aerodrome (7,904 IDPs and host): two boreholes drilled by ANEA require additional equipment for the production of water. With funding from UNICEF, TGH has installed four chlorination points around the water sources used by IDPs and host community.

In Grimari, the TGH partnership allows distribution of 30,000 litres of drinking water daily by water trucking in addition to two functional boreholes and other alternative sources (river, traditional wells) for 7,000 people (IDPs and returnees). TGH and ANEA planned to repair nine boreholes in the city of Grimari before the end of March.

With regard to sanitation, the UNICEF-TGH partnership ensured following activities on the various sites:

Sangaris site (9,866 IDPs)

- In total, there are 150 gender-segregated, functional and regularly maintained latrines for adults, 150 showers for adults and 90 functional latrines for children, resulting in the ratio of 42 persons per latrine and 66 persons per shower;
- 18 waste pits are available for household waste management;
- Establishment of a garbage collection campaign through the sanitation committee (three days per week).

MINUSCA site (2,614 IDPs)

- In total, there are 90 gender-segregated, functional and regularly maintained latrines, for a ratio of 30 persons per latrine;
- 50 gender-segregated showers have been installed on the site, for a ratio of 52 persons per shower;
- Six waste pits are available on site.

Notre Dame de la Victoire site (8,785 IDPs)

- In total, there are 115 gender separated, functional and regularly maintained latrines available for adults and 25 for children, resulting in a ratio of 63 persons per latrine. There are also 70 gender separated showers for adults with a ratio of 125 persons per shower;
- Establishment of a garbage collection campaign (three days per week);
- 10 waste pits are available on site.

Ngakobo site (7,965 IDPs)

- The UNICEF-TGH partnership ensures sanitation and hygiene on the site. Water supply is provided by SUCAF.
- Regular maintenance of 75 latrines for adults, 46 latrines for children and 70 showers (with a ratio of 66 persons per latrine and 114 persons per shower). In total, there are eight functional waste pits on the site.

Aerodrome site (5,000 IDPs +Hosts)

The UNICEF-Vitalite Plus partnership and ANEA carried out the following activities:

- Construction of 80 gender-segregated latrines for IDPs and host communities by Vitalite Plus (50 latrines) and ANEA (30 latrines);
- Ongoing construction of 80 new gender-segregated latrines for adults, 32 new latrines for children in the site (IDPs and hosts) and 10 gender-segregated latrines in the school, 85 showers and eight waste pits;
- Hygiene Promotion: TGH and Vitalite Plus trained 30 community volunteers to promote hygiene on the Aerodrome site. At same time, TGH conducted awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices in Hadji and Bornu neighbourhoods, reaching 4,000 people.

In Bouar, the following activities were carried out:

- The new electric pump (45KVA, 85 m³/h) purchased by UNICEF and made available to SODECA provides 400 m³ of water per day to 52,000 people;
- A total of 6 pumps were repaired during a pump repair campaign in six villages;
- Identification of sites for the production of eight new drillings: Baboua (two), Village Foro (two), Beloko (four);
- Distribution of WASH items (soap and jerry cans).

In Batangafo, the following activities were carried by Danish Refugee Council for 30,000 IDPs:

- 43 sanitary units (consisting of showers and latrines) were built;
- 360 latrines are in service and kept in good condition; 120 filled latrines were closed;
- 184 showers are functional and kept in good condition; 10 showers were closed;
- Strengthening of 52 slabs and replacement of 100 superstructures for latrines;
- Draining of 40 wells and the replacement of 32 superstructures for showers;
- Draining of four blocks (eight doors) of VIP latrines;
- Construction of 16 latrine gates for children;
- Removal of 858 m³ of solid waste.

To improve hygiene practices, the following activities were conducted:

- Training of 100 hygiene educators responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of latrines/showers.
- 100 hygiene educators were equipped with sanitation kits.
- 2,434 people have been sensitised on handwashing, personal hygiene, use of latrines to end open air defecation, water management (maintenance of water points and containers of pumping and storage).

In Kaga-Bandoro, in collaboration with ICRC and Caritas, 190,000 litres of safe drinking water were provided to the Evêché site, where 12,500 IDPs benefit from WASH services.

ANEA distributed WASH NFI Items provided by UNICEF (soap, Jerrycan, 20 litres bucket with taps, Aquatabs, etc.) to 55 households in Kaba village site.

ANEA has rehabilitated nine hand pumps, benefiting around 4,500 people, in the districts of Kaga Bandoro (Kpakaya, Damayo, Kodibon, etc.). Since January, a total of 42 hand pumps have been rehabilitated with partners (ANEA and IRC), covering the needs of 21,000 people in targeted areas.

ANEA presented a first draft of a hand pump mapping exercise in Nana Grebizi and reported a total of 169 existing water points with hand pumps, including 27 requiring repair. About 84 per cent of these water points are still working and 47 of them have a water management committee.

Child Protection

Children and the national reconciliation process: the Bangui Forum

On 13 March, approximately 500 participants - diplomats, heads of UN agencies, ministers, religious leaders, NGO representatives, and children - attended the closing ceremony of the Children's Forum at the National Transitional Council, presided over by President Catherine Samba Panza. The Forum was held from 12 to 13 March in Bangui, with delegates from 12 districts (Bangui, Kemo, Ouaka, Haute Kotto, Haut Mbomou, Mbomou, Ouham, Ouham Mpende, Nana Gribizi, Mambere Kadei, Nana Mambere, and Ombella Mpoko), from IDP sites, enclaves and returnee communities. Children voiced concerns about the killing of members of their families, destruction of schools and hospitals in the villages, rape and other type of violence, family separation, and recruitment and use of children by armed groups. The President responded to the children by stating that she had heard their voices and was working hard to restore security and peace not just as a President, but "also as a mother and a grandmother".

The Forum built on grassroots consultations that took place between January to March 2015 involving over 300 children, both Muslim and Christian, from some of the worst hotspots in CAR. The children were encouraged to discuss their experiences during guided group discussions designed for children as well as to make recommendations to the political leaders and leaders of armed groups who will gather in April 2015 for the Bangui Forum.

The Children's Forum was initiated by UNICEF with a large coalition of other partners such as Save the Children, Mercy Corps, MINUSCA, Plan International, INETRROS, AFEB and NDA, under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Gender and Humanitarian Assistance and the Ministry of National Reconciliation.

UNICEF is using the results of the Children's Forum to contribute to the preparatory commissions of the Bangui Forum in three thematic areas: the prevention and response to the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups; justice for children, including transitional justice; and the need to reform civil registration, including the birth registration system in CAR. The Bangui Forum is expected to take place on 25 April 2015.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) and children associated with armed forces and groups

The MRM Taskforce on grave violations against children held its quarterly meeting on 6 March. The meeting was co-chaired by the UNICEF Representative and the SRSG of MINUSCA. After reviewing 2014 MRM results, the Taskforce encouraged the technical committee to strengthen monitoring and reporting capacity by training all MINUSCA human rights officers, UN agency staff and NGO partners on MRM.

Between 25-29 March, 136 protection actors benefited from sensitisation sessions on grave violations against children organised by the UNICEF office in Bambari in Alindao, Mobaye and Zangba in Basse-Kotto district. During the training sessions, ex-Seleka commanders under the command of General Ali Darrassa Mahmat of Unity for Peace (UPC) admitted to having children in their ranks, and stated that they are willing to release them to humanitarian organisations. On 20 March, the UPC General renewed the military order to his field commanders to refrain from using children in their ranks, and ordered them to release the children. In the absence of an overall chain of command of various armed groups, such orders from an armed group leader in charge of at least three districts is critical to securing the release of children by ex-Seleka.

Some 439 children associated with Anti-Balaka were identified by UNICEF partners in the following areas of Ouaka and Ouham prefectures: Ngakobo (Ouaka), and Bouca, Boguila, Bossangoa Nana-Bakassa (Ouham). Verification missions are planned in April to ensure the release and reintegration of children in these areas.

Gender-Based Violence

During the reporting period, 108 GBV survivors gained access to psychological support, medical assistance and legal assistance from UNICEF partners such as IRC, Mercy Corps and the Central African Women Lawyers' Association. Medical assistance provided to survivors of sexual violence aims at preventing sexually transmitted diseases including HIV. In addition, 2,118 people participated in information sessions organised by IRC and Mercy Corps on the prevention of GBV in Bocaranga, Bangui, Bangassou and Rafai.

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

Two unaccompanied and separated children were reunited with their families in Cameroun after spending four months in the Yaloke IDP site. This brings the number of UASC reunited from Yaloke to four.

The preliminary identification of unaccompanied children was carried out by the Child Protection sub-cluster in the different enclaves. The results are as follows but still to be confirmed during the upcoming identification campaign:

- Three in PK5 Bangui.
- 250 (figures provided by IOM) in Boda.
- None in enclave but one in town Berberati.
- 20 in Carnot.
- 36 in enclave and 21 in Bouar city.
- No available figures for Dekoa enclave.
- 14 in Yaloke: to join their families in Cameroon while the other four are to go Chad. UNHCR traced the families of these four children to be reunited in Chad pending authorisation from the Chadian authorities.

Justice for children and street children

On 25 March 2015, UNICEF met the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Public Safety, who oversees the police. The issue of street children being subjected to arbitrary arrest and illegal detention by local police for 72 hours without coordination with and knowledge of the police child protection unit was raised. The Ministry took note of the issue and requested assistance, including training of police officers on international standards applicable to children.

Education

In March 2015, UNICEF continued to provide access to much-needed education opportunities to children in areas affected by the ongoing crisis. 20 additional temporary learning spaces (TLS) were opened in areas where violence persists and schools are not able to open; Bangui, Kaga Bandoro, Batangafo, Bambari, Grimari, Yaloke, Dekoa, Bégoua, Ngakobo and Bouca. UNICEF increased the number of TLS in Bambari and Batangafo by eight and seven respectively, while setting up 15 new ETAPES in Bouca. As a result, the overall student participation in TLS increased by 13 per cent from 27,319 (13,454 girls, 49 per cent) students in February to 30,937 (14,681 girls, 47 per cent) in March. So far, 1,634 students (757 girls, 46 per cent) from TLS have been integrated into five public schools in Bangui, Bégoua and Ngakobo but these schools are facing difficulties due to lack of teachers. UNICEF continues to advocate for the assignment of qualified teachers to these schools.

As the current Global Partnership for Education (GPE) accelerated funding programme is coming to an end, the launch of the new three year GPE programme is underway. At the end of the month, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoE organized a three-day review session in Bangui to draw lessons learned from implementation of the accelerated funding and highlight opportunities and potential bottlenecks for the new programme. A representative from the GPE Secretariat in Washington D.C. was able to attend this meeting along with other education stakeholders including current and potential implementing partners.

In order to ensure the quality of remaining activities under GPE accelerated funding, in particular the light rehabilitation of damaged school buildings and delivery of student desks and blackboards, four external consultants (three for school furniture and one for rehabilitation) recruited by UNICEF increased the number of their missions to travel to the interior to assure quality assembly of benches and to assist partners to complete rehabilitation work. Distribution activities continued as well, with the delivery of 421 student desks and 15 blackboards to GPE schools in

the province of Ouaka. UNICEF school bags containing essential school supplies reached 11,848 students in the provinces of Ouaka and Nana Gribizi despite volatile security. Total distribution to date is as follows:

- 112,210 school bags were delivered to children in GPE targeted provinces;
- 37,779 students received school materials with the distribution of 400 School-in-a-carton in 30 schools in Bangui;
- 5,121 desks (out of 6,615 to be delivered) and 439 blackboards were delivered (out of 732) to 159 schools in GPE targeted areas.

UNICEF continued the distribution of recreational kits to improve the learning environment and motivate children's return to school by providing important recreation and playing materials. UNICEF distributed 38 recreational kits for 14,583 students in 38 schools in Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye in March.

The national education survey, which is being conducted by the Education Cluster, made notable progress throughout the month despite some difficulties caused by limited communication and logistical conditions. The collection of data was finalised at the end of the month during which the education situation in approximately 300 sample schools was assessed either by phone or by field visit. Following refinement and analysis of the data, the final report will be available in mid to late April. The survey will provide a detailed overview of the current education situation across the country including whether schools are open and functioning, student enrolment and attendance, teacher presence and attendance, and condition of infrastructure.

UNICEF is actively assisting the MoE with the implementation of an innovative data collection system, EduTrac. Using SMS technology to collect information on the attendance of teachers and students in classroom as well as exam results, EduTrac reinforces the MoE's capacity and complements the existing system by enabling fast data collection that can serve as the basis of important decision making. UNICEF began holding regular working sessions with the MoE and defined key indicators and the initial one-year roadmap. UNICEF also supported the MoE to present EduTrac to members of the Financial and Technical Group and the Education Cluster.



Communication for Development

As a prelude to the Bangui National Forum, UNICEF organised the Children's Forum in Bangui on 12-13 March. The forum was attended by adolescents and young Muslims and Christians from nine prefectures. In order to ensure maximum media coverage, five radio stations were involved in broadcasting 160 messages on children's participation in the peace process, reaching approximately 800,000 people. The children's statement and recommendations were presented during the closing ceremony attended by the President.

The C4D section also worked closely with the Education section to launch an awareness campaign on 18 March. This campaign aims at supporting the return to school for many children. Three mobile phone companies (Azur, Telecel and MOOV) disseminated messages over 14 days to provide information on the availability of free school kits and also underscore the fact that free school kits are intended for children only.

Rapid Response Mechanism

In March, the five implementing RRM partners (ACF, ACTED, DRC, PU-AMI, Solidarités International) conducted 12 exploratory missions in seven different prefectures and five Multi-Sectoral Assessments (MSA) in Lihoto (Ouaka), Kaboro and Bantangafo (Ouham), in Kaga Bandoro in Nana Grebizi prefecture and in the sous-prefecture of Berberati in Mambere-Kadei.

Four interventions took place in Sabewa, Gbabi, the commune of Ben Zambe, and Kaga Bandoro. A total of 2,662 households were provided with NFIs such as plastic sheeting, blankets, soap, buckets and sleeping mats. The total of households reached with NFIs this year is 3,575 households, representing 17,875 people. In the meantime, four other interventions, including an important intervention for 3,000 additional households in the enclaved town of Batangafo, are under preparation.

WASH assistance was provided by RRM partners during the interventions in Sabewa, Gbabi, and Ben Zambe, for a total of 6,461 people, thereby setting the total number of people assisted with WASH interventions this year at 8,156.

Supply and Logistics & Construction

The first draft of the 2015 consolidated Supply Plan (Goods: 21.2 Million USD + Services: 3.7 Million USD) has been released and shared with internal stakeholders (programme and operations sections along with management front office desk).

A new PO for the procurement of 84 MT of water treatment products (Sulfate d'Alumine, Hypochlorine de Calcium, Cigfloc and quick lime) for SODECA has been placed in Cameroon with the support of the Cameroon country office and the Douala hub. Sourcing of the related transportation service has been completed, and transportation is in progress (4 trucks scheduled to arrive by the end of the month).

New strategies on Supply and Logistics services cost reduction have been finalised and the implementation phase has been initiated. Arrangements to implement new LTAs are still in progress. New LTAs have been finalised for the procurement of office stationary and soap. For customs clearance and fuel, TORs were finalized and restricted publication for requests for proposals has been launched with a closing date on 27 March 2015. TORs for venues and catering services have been developed and are under finalization. TORs in various other areas are under finalisation, including construction engineering services, cold chain maintenance, admin services and school furniture. Discussions with potential service providers are still in progress to enable reduction of current number of warehouses. For the New Market Survey, recruitment of an international consultant has been initiated, with the post advertised.

In March 2015 (25 Feb-21 March), US\$ 1,526,845.22 of supplies, composed of essential medical supplies, health kits, nutrition products, NFI, WASH items, and education kits were distributed to UNICEF implementing partners. The stock balance position as of 21 March stands at US\$ 4,322,663.20.

Trucks continued to move under regular MINUSCA escorted convoys from the border to the Bangui haulier terminal. The theoretical schedule of convoy movements to Bangui is Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from Bangui on Thursdays and Sundays.

Extensive follow up of construction for the Paediatric Hospital in Bangui is still ongoing and work is progressing satisfactorily. Monitoring of construction under the Kekereke project in order to close the final stages of completion has been initiated: field missions of consultants have started and partial handovers are in progress with implementing partners.

External Communications and Fundraising

In March, the communications team engaged with local and international media to raise awareness about the UNICEF-supported National Children's Forum, held in Bangui from March 12-13. About 20 journalists participated in the two-day event and provided coverage in the local media. The Forum was also featured internationally as a top story on RFI's morning bulletin and in a story on the RFI website.

A press conference was held with local journalists to launch U-Report, an innovative new system for young people to engage in social issues through SMS texting. The briefing was a key first step in publicizing the new platform across all media. The first U-Report SMS surveys were launched in mid-March. The polls focused on the issues facing delegates at the Bangui Forum – the national peacebuilding forum which will be held in late-April. Results of the polls have been shared with organisers of the Bangui Forum.

The communications team also engaged with key donor media markets to raise awareness of the humanitarian response in CAR, as well as UNICEF's support for the early recovery phase. UNICEF CAR's work was featured in influential Japanese media during a visit to Japan by child protection officer Ryoko Ogawa organized by UNICEF Japan. During the visit, Ryoko also briefed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and key UNICEF supporters about the situation in CAR. In early March, the Government of Japan donated \$4.5 million to UNICEF to support child protection and health projects in CAR.

UNICEF CAR also supported the European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (EU-ECHO) to create a large communications package to mark two years since the coup in CAR on March 24. This included the creation of a photo

essay on the UNICEF-ECHO partnership to improve WASH services and social media promotion of two powerful videos created by EU-ECHO.

In March, the communications team continued to regularly publish blogs on UNICEF Connect. The three blogs this month focused on the impact of the crisis on HIV prevalence, UNICEF’s work re-uniting separated children living in an enclave in Yaloke with their families, and the National Children’s Forum. The blogs were read by nearly 2,000 people.

Press releases, videos, and blogs:

- Dear Madame President, a message from the children of CAR
- Lost boys return home
- Crisis in CAR leaves HIV patients at high risk
- Restoring drinking water in CAR
- République Centrafricaine, Associer les jeunes au processus de paix – press release published locally March 11
- Japan contributes US\$9.5 million to United Nations Agencies in the Central African Republic – press release published by Embassy of Japan

Media Highlights:

| Full name of interviewee | Outlet | Topic | Link, if available |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| Jean-Jacques Inchi Suhene | Bloomberg | Central African Republic doctors say war boosting HIV prevalence | http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-16/central-african-republic-doctors-say-war-boosting-hiv-prevalence |
| Enyo Awo Gbedemah | RFI | Children’s Forum in Bangui | http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20150313-reportage-rca-enfants-mobilises-reconciliation/ |
| Bob McCarthy | Thomson Reuters | Humanitarian situation in CAR | |
| Ryoko Ogawa | Sankei Newspaper | DDR | http://www.sankei.com/world/news/150227/wor1502270026-n1.html |
| Ryoko Ogawa | Yomiuri Newspaper | DDR | PDF available |
| Ryoko Ogawa | Asahi newspaper (second largest newspaper in Japan) | DDR | http://digital.asahi.com/articles/DA3S11621186.html?requesturl=articles%2FDA3S11621186.html&irref=comkiji_txt_end_s_kjid_DA3S11621186 |
| Jean-Jacques Inchi Suhene | Mail and Guardian | Central African Republic doctors say war boosting HIV prevalence | http://mgafrica.com/article/2015-03-17-central-african-republic-doctors-say-war-boosting-hiv-prevalence |
| Pablo de Pascual | Agencia EFE | CAR crisis | |
| Jean Lokenga | CCTV | Children recruited into armed groups | |
| Charlotte Helletzgruber | SRF (Swiss TV) | Children recruited into armed groups | http://www.srf.ch/news/international/kindersoldat-en-haben-eine-chance-auf-ein-normales-leben |

Significant stories not reflected above

[Mentioning UNICEF’s work in your country, even if no interviews were done by UNICEF officials]

| Outlet | Headline/Topic | Link, if available |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mail and Guardian | Central African Republic doctors say | http://mgafrica.com/article/2015-03-17-central-african-republic-doctors-say-war-boosting-hiv-prevalence |

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| | war boosting HIV prevalence | |
| Star Africa | CAR children speak out over conditions amidst war | http://en.starafrica.com/news/car-children-speak-out-over-condition-amid-war.html |

Security

The situation in the country during the month of March can be described as unstable and volatile, especially outside of Bangui, with frequent clashes between armed groups and also between factions within armed groups.

Following a combined operation by Sangaris and MINUSCA forces in Bria, public buildings under the control of ex-Seleka forces were returned to the Government in order to restore state authority (Préfets, Sous-Préfets and Commandant de la Gendarmerie). A similar operation took place in Kaga Bandaro.

In Bangui, following intervention of international and national security forces, it has been reported that Anti-Balaka fighters and leaders are leaving the fourth district (Boy-Rabe).

In March, the UN Security Council announced an increase of MINUSCA forces with an additional 750 troops and more than 150 UN police staff members.

Cluster Coordination

UNICEF is leading the WASH, Education and Nutrition clusters and the Child Protection sub-cluster for the CAR emergency response. WASH, Education and Nutrition clusters and the Child Protection sub-cluster have a dedicated cluster coordinator. All clusters meet on a weekly basis.

Funding

As of 31 March, UNICEF had received \$15 million against the \$73.9 million in the 2015 HAC requirements. Details are provided in the below sectoral table.

| Sector | Initial HAC 2015 requirements | Income through UNICEF and donors* | Funding Gap | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| | | | \$ | % |
| Nutrition | 11,500,000 | 2,073,722.69 | 9,426,277.31 | 82% |
| Health and HIV/AIDS | 19,000,000 | 3,691,258.01 | 15,308,741.99 | 81% |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 11,400,000 | 2,716,036.32 | 8,683,963.68 | 76% |
| Child Protection | 10,000,000 | 3,888,053.20 | 6,111,946.80 | 61% |
| Education | 7,000,000 | 1,087,679.24 | 5,912,320.76 | 84% |
| Non Food Items (NFI) | 15,000,000 | 1,635,175.32 | 13,364,824.68 | 89% |
| Total | 73,900,000 | 15,091,924.78 | 58,808,075.22 | 80% |

UNICEF wishes to express gratitude to all public and private sector donors for the contributions and pledges received, which have made the current response possible. UNICEF would especially like to thank National Committees and donors who have contributed 'non-earmarked' funding. "Non-earmarked" funding gives UNICEF essential flexibility to direct resources and ensure the delivery of life-saving supplies and interventions to where they are needed most – especially

in the form of longer-term and predictable funding and in strengthening preparedness and resilience. Continued donor support is critical to continue scaling up the response.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS – as of 31 March 2015

| Sector | Indicator | 2015 | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | UNICEF & operational partners | | | Sector / Cluster | | |
| | | UNICEF Target | Cumulative results (#) | % of Target Achieved | Cluster Target | Cumulative results (#) | % of Target Achieved |
| Health | Number and % of children U5 vaccinated against measles (*) | 732,000 | 0 | 0% | 732,000 | 0 | 0% |
| | Number and % of children Under-five provided with Vitamin A (*) | 565,000 | 0 | 0% | 565,000 | 0 | 0% |
| | Number and % of people that access basic health services and medicines in the affected areas | 1,171,400 | 728,755 | 62% | 1,472,000 | 728,755 | 50% |
| UNICEF Operational Partners: ACF, SAVE THE CHILDREN, FRENCH RED CROSS, COLLABORATION WITH MSF, CARITAS | | | | | | | |
| Nutrition | Number and % of children 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care and benefitting from promotion of nutrition practices | 22,700 | 3,716 | 16% | 22,700 | 3,716 | 16% |
| | Number and % of women sensitised on infant and young child feeding practices (*) | 21,000 | 0 | 0% | 21,000 | 0 | 0% |
| | Recovery Rate | >=75% | 92% | NA | >=75% | 92% | NA |
| | Death Rate | <5% | 2% | NA | <5% | 2% | NA |
| | Default Rate | <15% | 6% | NA | <15% | 6% | NA |
| | UNICEF Operational Partners: ACF, COHEB, IMC, MSF-F, MSF-E, MSFH, CARITAS, MERLIN, SAVE THE CHILDREN. Data as of 28 February 2015. | | | | | | |
| WASH | Number and % of affected people that have access to improved sources of water and sufficient quantity | 450,000 | 39,000 | 9% | 1,400,000 | NA | NA |
| | Number and % of internally displaced persons and returnees who have access to improved sanitation | 170,000 | 114,615 | 67% | 388,000 | NA | NA |
| | Number and % of people in affected areas who benefited from WASH NFI distribution | 220,000 | 42,600 | 19% | 388,000 | NA | NA |
| UNICEF Operational Partners: IRC, ACF, ANEA, LIFA, EEA, Caritas-Bambari, ICDI, IMC, OXFAM, SODECA, ICDI, LEAGUE ISLAMIQUE AFRICAINE Standard sphere not yet reached for Bangui sites. Bossangoa Standard Sphere almost reached with the provision of 12 litres of water per person per day. (**) Latrines/defecation fields with hand washing dispositive in the IDPs sites. Bossangoa Sphere standard reached while for Bangui sites the average is 154 per latrines at the airport site and UNICEF supported interventions 1 latrine per 100 persons. (***) Partial data related to the people reached with hygiene communication activities. Please note that target will be revised shortly. | | | | | | | |
| Child Protection | Number and % of displaced and vulnerable children participate in psychosocial activities | 100,000 | 18,251 | 18% | 150,000 | NA | NA |
| | Number and % of children released from armed forces and groups (*) | 3,500 | 0 | 0% | 3,500 | 0 | 0% |
| | Number and % of women and children identified as survivors of sexual violence have access to holistic support | 3,000 | 268 | 9% | 3,000 | 268 | 9% |
| UNICEF Operational Partners: CORDAID, VITALITE PLUS, ECAC, JUPEDEC, COHEB, ECAC, IDEALE, JRS, JUPEDEC, ESF, BSF, COHEB, AIDE, REMOD, IDEALE RCA, CARITAS, Save the Children, IRC, Mercy Corps, NDA, COOPI, OCDH, AFJC, Triangle, Village SOS..... | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|---------|-----|----------------|---------|-----|
| HIV/AIDS | Number and % of pregnant women receiving HIV/AIDS counselling | 46,095 | 6,981 | 15% | Not Applicable | | |
| | Number and % of youth and adolescents who received HIV/AIDS counselling and are tested and referred where necessary | 25,000 | 2,164 | 9% | Not Applicable | | |
| | Number and % of children born to mothers living with HIV receiving appropriate treatment | 3,569 | 201 | 6% | Not Applicable | | |
| UNICEF Operational Partners: MoH. 2014 indicators and targets revised, progress made has been adjusted accordingly. | | | | | | | |
| Education | Number and % of children who received learning and playing materials | 300,000 | 129,332 | 43% | 350,000 | 154,483 | 44% |
| | Number and % of displaced children 3 to 17 years that access relevant education opportunities (*) | 60,000 | 30,937 | 52% | 60,000 | 30,937 | 52% |
| UNICEF Operational Partners: BSF, ESF, IDEAL, CARITAS, REMOD, ACCM, ECAC, Yamacuir, FCA, NRC, CORDAID, SCI (*) 120 ETAPes functional in Bangui, Kaga Bandoro, Batangafo, Bambari, Grimari, Yaloke, Dekoa, Bégoua, and Ngakobo. | | | | | | | |
| C4D | Number and % of parents/tutors of children who are informed about the date before the campaigns (*) | 886,109 | 0 | 0% | Not Applicable | | |
| | Number and % of people exposed to messages related to health, peace, hygiene and sanitation via U-report (*) | 16,000 | 0 | 0% | Not Applicable | | |
| | Number and % of public servants and community associations trained in participative communication related to key family practices and culture of peace (*) | 150 | 0 | 0% | Not Applicable | | |
| RRM | Number and % of highly vulnerable households assisted with WASH interventions/non-food items | 40,000 | 3,575 | 9% | Not Applicable | | |

(*): Activities not yet implemented up to now.

Twitter handle: @UNICEF_CAR, #CARcrisis

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

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

The next CAR Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report will be released on or around 30 April 2015.

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