Central African Republic
Humanitarian SitRep

Central African Republic's constitutional court has certified results from the first round of the country's long-awaited presidential vote, confirming that two former prime ministers will compete in a runoff. On 26 January, the constitutional court ruled that December's parliamentary elections must be re-run due to irregularities.

The Commission Mouvement Populations (CMP) set the total number of IDPs at 451,986 as of 31 December 2015. As compared to November, this is a decrease of 17,311 people (4%), mainly due to the smooth progress of the electoral process until now and to a relative calm especially in Bangui. The number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries stands at 452,000 people.

UNICEF continued efforts to manage the monkey pox outbreak in Bangassou. As of 25 January, 11 cases have been reported with two deaths in children aged under-five.

Unconfirmed reports from civilian sources reported that several large groups of LRA rebels have crossed the border into eastern CAR from South Sudan following tensions between the LRA and South Sudanese communities (including poachers).

GBV service providers have received 32 new cases of sexual violence, including 5 cases against girls in Ouham and Ouham Pende prefectures and Bangui. Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) involving peacekeepers were newly documented at the Mpoko IDP site in Bangui (7) and Bambari (4), all involving girls aged between 13 and 17. This is in addition to the five cases documented in Bangui in December.

168 temporary learning spaces (TLS) were established for 20,640 children (49% girls) in Bangui and six other provinces (Ombella M’poko, Ouham, Ouaka, Basse Kotto, Nana Gribizi and Haute Kotto).

UNICEF APPEAL 2016
US$ 55.6 million
Funds received as of 1 January 2016
US$ 14.3 million

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REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 JANUARY 2016

Highlights

- 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 DECEMBER 2015)
- 452,000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (CMP DECEMBER 2015)
- 452,000 REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES (CHAD, CAMEROON, DRC, CONGO) (OCHA, DECEMBER 2015)
Central African Republic's constitutional court has certified results from the first round of the country's long-awaited presidential vote, confirming that two former prime ministers will compete in a runoff. The results certified on 25 January gave the leading candidate, Anicet Dologué, nearly 24% of the vote while second-place finisher Faustin Touadéra received 19%. The runoff, initially scheduled for 31 January, is now expected no sooner than 14 February. The winner of the election will take over from a transitional government that came to power in 2014.

On 25 January, the constitutional court ruled that December’s parliamentary elections must be rerun due to irregularities. This comes after more than 400 complaints were lodged with the country’s election authority about issues such as spoilt ballot papers. The constitutional court’s decision will leave the country with a new president but no new parliament until 31 March, the date set by the Economic Community of Central African States as the end of the Transition.

An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) by the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners reveals that half the population in CAR, nearly 2.5 million people, faces food insecurity, effectively twice the number of people as last year, as conflict and insecurity have led to limited access to and availability of food.

The Commission Mouvement Populations (CMP) set the total number of IDPs at 451,986 as of 31 December 2015. As compared to November 2015, this means a decrease of 17,311 people (4%), mainly due to the smooth progress of the electoral process until now and to a relative calm especially in Bangui, Nana Grebizi prefecture (Ouandago and Kaga Bandoro). The number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries stands at 452,000 people.

During the reporting period, a sudden escalation of alleged Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) activity in the eastern and south eastern part of the country was observed. Unconfirmed reports from civilian sources reported that several large groups of LRA rebels have crossed the border into eastern CAR from South Sudan following tensions between the LRA and South Sudanese communities (including poachers). Since November 2015, LRA forces have abducted 58 people in 21 attacks in this area. Some 2,200 IDPs have found refuge in Bria after having fled areas affected by the attacks.

In Ouham Pende and Ouham prefectures a number of armed groups continue to fight along transhumance corridors with disastrous consequences for the inhabitants of concerned areas. In Kambakota (Ouham) and Paoua (Ouham Pende) humanitarian partners registered some 4,000 displaced persons stranded in remote areas with limited humanitarian access due to logistical and security issues. Furthermore, in Yelewa, in the west of the country, recent clashes between different armed groups located along transhumance corridors have resulted in the displacement of 2,000 people.

On 28 December 2015, a monkey pox epidemic was declared by the Minister of Health in Bangassou in Mbomou prefecture, following the confirmation of two cases by the Institute Pasteur of Bangui Laboratory. WHO support was solicited for investigation and response. Since 4 December 2015, suspected cases of eruptive disease were reported by an international NGO. Follow up investigations and field visits confirmed that there were 11 cases including two children aged 15 months and 4 years who died later on. A Crisis Response Cell led by the Ministry and humanitarian actors including WHO, UNICEF and relevant government representative was activated after the official declaration to ensure management of the outbreak. UNICEF has provided 10 m³ of medicine, personal protective equipment and two tents for the isolation wards.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) Committee recommended the organisation of the first standard allocation for 2016. On the basis of available funds, US$ 9 million are available for this allocation. This allocation is aligned with the strategic objectives of the HRP 2016 and its specific priorities identified in sector response plans. The main objective of this allocation is to meet urgent and critical humanitarian needs, providing immediate humanitarian assistance targeting the most at-risk populations in areas affected by the crisis or characterised by recent population movements where needs are the most pressing. Proposed strategies include inter-community violence reduction and improvement in access to basic services.
Summary Analysis of Programme response

Nutrition
A CERF funded project to ensure nutrition emergency response to areas most affected by the peak in violence in September 2015 was launched in January. Up to 600 cartons of therapeutic milk, anthropometric equipment and essential drugs were procured to replace implementing partners’ looted stock. These supplies will reach around 1,200 children affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications. A Programme Cooperation Agreement with partner ACF was finalized in order to re-open four outpatient therapeutic units and reactivate ten mobile outpatient therapeutic units in different IDP sites and in areas most affected around Bangui. In remote areas, rapid response has been maintained in the enclaves in Boda, Yaloke, Dekoa and Batangafo and Kouango sites. 18 health workers from the Kouango health centre were trained to provide an integrated package of CMAM and immunization activities, allowing Kouango sub-prefecture to extend nutrition response from 3 to 7 health centres.

Final data for 2015 are now available. From January to December 2015, a total of 26,156 children were admitted for SAM treatment, including children from host populations, IDP sites and enclaves. The 97% coverage target for CMAM for 2015 was achieved (26,889). SAM cases with complications represented 16% (4,153) of cases at inpatient therapeutic units and 84% (22,003) of cases in outpatient therapeutic programmes. The annual performance indicators for SAM treatment were in line with international norms, with an 86.96% cured rate, a 2.07% death rate and a 10.97% defaulter’s rate. Data for January 2016 is not yet available and will be reflected in February.

Education
In January 2016, UNICEF education interventions focused on improving the quality of ongoing education services including the Education in Emergency (EiE) programmes for children in areas affected by the going crisis. In close collaboration with authorities from the Ministry of Education and NGO partners, 168 temporary learning spaces (TLS) were established for 20,640 children (49% girls) in Bangui and six other provinces (Ombella M’poko, Ouham, Ouaka, Basse Kotto, Nana Gribizi and Haute Kotto). In mid-January, 110 teachers in the TLS participated in training which included information on basic pedagogical skills, EiE programming, psychosocial support, positive discipline for children, hygiene promotion and Ebola awareness and prevention. A local education committee has been set up in each displacement site to monitor the education activities in the TLS including the regular presence of teachers and the maintenance of a safe, protective and clean learning environment. Following its official launch with the Ministry of Education in December 2015, the first EduTrack survey, an innovative and real-time school data collection service using SMS, was conducted from 11 to 15 January to assess the number of teachers present in 87 schools in Bangui. To support students who returned to schools after the end-of-year vacation, school supplies and recreational kits were provided to 624 students in three schools in the central region of the country.

Health
UNICEF supported the training of 22 health workers on routine immunisation in Kouango sub-prefecture. In addition, the health prefectures of Ouaka and Nana-Gribizi received 30 bicycles to implement outreach strategies in routine immunization in order to increase access and continuity of immunisation services for equity. Deployment and installation of solar refrigerators and distribution of other cold chain materials continues with nine solar refrigerators installed in Health Region 4. UNICEF provided 2,444,260 doses of the measles vaccine and supported deployment of an international public health consultant for the national measles follow up supplementary immunisation activities planned for March and April 2016. In addition, UNICEF contributed to efforts to manage the monkey pox outbreak in Bangassou. As of 25 January, 11 cases have been reported with 2 deaths in children aged under-five. UNICEF has provided medicine, personal protective equipment and two tents for the isolation wards in Bangassou and Bakouma. UNICEF also provided technical assistance on the development and validation of case management protocol.

HIV and AIDS
During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide support to the Ministry of Health to improve HIV response among target populations (pregnant women, exposed children and youth) through PMTCT and pediatric AIDS activities
in health facilities and communities. UNICEF organized a one week joint mission with the Department of Endemic Diseases in Bambari prefecture and trained 26 social workers and 18 members of community-based organizations from Bambara, Grimari, Kouango, Ippy and Bakala on community awareness approaches. In Bambari city, 1,761 people were screened for HIV, and 0.8% were found to be HIV positive (14 out of 1,761).

**WASH**

In Bangui, some 5,162,040 litres of water were distributed in IDP sites through the SODECA network. The construction of boreholes allowed for increased access to water for 13,236 IDPs at a coverage rate of 13 litres per person per day. Maintenance work near the central mosque resulted in access to improved sanitation for 2,187 persons, who also were reached with sensitization sessions on basic hygiene. In Yaloke, some 1,126 persons gained improved access to water after the repair of two pumps. In Bambari, with UNICEF support, the NGO Triangle Génération Humanitaire distributed 5,700 cubic metres of potable water for almost 41,000 IDPs at the NDV site. Some 2,600 displaced persons at the PK-8 site gained increased access to improved sanitation through the rehabilitation of 24 latrines. In Bossangoa, with support from UNICEF, SODECA provided 7,200 cubic metres of water, reaching an estimated 35,000 persons. Some 6,200 persons gained increased access to water through the rehabilitation of pumps and reactivation of water point committees. UNICEF also supported strengthening the monitoring of activities at field level by donating two vehicles and eight motorcycles to the Ministry of Hydraulic Energy at the National Water and Sanitation Authority.

**Child Protection**

UNICEF and its implementing partners continue their activities for children released from armed groups established in 2015. A total of 18 children including four girls, who were released from Anti-Balaka on 26 December in Damala, are now attending the school run by UNICEF partner Don Bosco. During the reporting period, a total of 3,041 children in host communities and IDP sites were reached with psychosocial support. Three training sessions on psychosocial support for 53 participants (including 25 women) from government social services, national and international NGOs were conducted strengthen the capacity of child protection partners in CAR.

In January, GBV service providers received 32 new cases of sexual violence, including 5 cases against girls in Ouham and Ouham Pende prefectures and Bangui. Psychosocial, medical and legal support for GBV survivors registered in 2015 as well as raising awareness at the 14 established listening centres throughout the country is ongoing. Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) involving peacekeepers were newly documented at the Mpoko IDP site in Bangui (7) and Bambari (4), all involving girls aged between 13 and 17. This is in addition to the five cases documented in Bangui in December. Under the leadership of the MINUSCA SRSG, a joint SEA prevention team has been established to leverage the full capacity of MINUSCA, the UN system and its partners (NGOs, community groups, national authorities) to identify and mitigate potential risks for SEA by UN personnel. In addition, a radio campaign informing people how to report and denounce SEA was launched by Radio Ndekeluka in Bangui and partner radio stations in the rest of the country, broadcasting two messages daily.

**Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**

During the reporting period, the four implementing RRM partners (ACF, ACTED, PU-AMI, Solidarités International) undertook four exploratory missions in two different prefectures (Nana-Mambere and Mambere-Kadei), and five Multi-Sectorial Assessments (MSAs) in Ouaka, Nana-Mambéré, Mamberé-Kadei, Haut-Kotto and Basse-Kotto. MSAs were undertaken following alerts on attacks by armed groups in three locations, a process of return of IDPs in Mbandjifolo and a fire in an IDP camp near Bambari. An NFI and WASH intervention took place in Bayanga (Sangha Mbaere) for victims of flooding that occurred in December 2015. A total of 1,438 persons were assisted with NFI and WASH activities. Two interventions for spontaneous returnees occurred in Marali and Marze (Ouham), reaching 3,378 persons with NFIs and 1,502 persons with WASH activities. Finally, an NFI intervention took place in Obo (Haut Mbomou) for 1,120 IDPs who fled their village due to an attack by an armed group affiliated with the LRA. Some areas remain difficult to access, and as such, advocacy efforts are being deployed to secure targeted zones (borders with Cameroon and Chad) and rehabilitate road infrastructure.
External Communication and Fundraising
During the reporting period, the communications team supported a Radio France International report on children’s trauma by taking a journalist to Bambari to meet with children formerly associated with armed groups and organising an interview with a UNICEF international psychologist in Bangui. The team visited temporary learning spaces in Bangui IDP camps and organised a visit by an AFP video journalist to temporary learning spaces in Mpoko. The team also worked on visibility, in particular by training staff on EU programme visibility and started drafting appeals on children’s rights, welfare and education for presidential candidates. The Facebook and Twitter pages were updated on a regular basis, attracting a growing level of interest and interactions.

Supply and Logistics
Since mid-December, the flow of containers from Douala to Bangui has improved. The huge challenges faced in 2015 in the areas of shipping and customs clearance are still ongoing.

Security
During the month of January, the overall situation was relatively calm, but remains unpredictable and volatile. For the moment it seems that all parties are accepting the results and decisions of the December elections. In the Douala corridor, there have been no attacks against convoys since 16 December 2015. However, in the region of Paoua, the situation remains extremely unstable. In the centre of the country, transhumance is causing tension near Nana-Bakassa and Batangafo. In the east, the Lord’s Resistance Army has become increasingly active in the last two weeks.

Funding
UNICEF wishes to express its deep gratitude to all public and private sector donors for the contributions and pledges received, which have made the current response possible. Continued donor support is critical to continue scaling up the response in emergency and early recovery response. As of 31 January, UNICEF has received over $14 million against the $55.6 million in the 2016 HAC requirements. Details are provided in the below sectoral table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>7,200,000</td>
<td>4,041,872</td>
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<td>Health and HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>9,647,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>497,661</td>
<td>5,620,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Response Mechanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55,695,000</td>
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<td>41,319,146</td>
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Next SitRep: 29 February 2016

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