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Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report



January 2019

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assisted 17,461 individuals with NFI kits and 4,845 with WASH interventions; beneficiaries were mostly IDPs having fled armed group violence in Amada Gaza area (Mambere-Kadei, West), Alindao area (Basse-Kotto, Southeast), and Bakouma (Haut-Mbomou, southeast); in Alindao, the RRM also conducted its first distribution of WFP-provided high energy biscuits alongside NFI kits.
- 9,034 crisis-affected children, including 3,882 girls, were newly admitted in child-friendly spaces (CFS) to benefit from psychosocial, recreational and educational activities in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Basse-Kotto, Ouham and Ombella-Mpoko prefectures.
- In Batangafo, 6,873 children including 2,912 girls along with 63 teachers (8 women) were back to school with UNICEF support.

UNICEF's Response with Partners

Key Programme Indicators	Sector/Cluster		UNICEF	
	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)
WASH: Crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	771,224	99,650	400,000	5,650
Education: Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	NA	11,760	100,500	11,760
Health: People and children under 5 in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines.	N/A		82,068	5,713
Nutrition: Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	30,570	662	30,570	662
Child Protection: Children (boys and girls) released from armed forces and armed groups who participate in a community reintegration programme.	4,874	978	3,500	913

31 January 2019

1.5 million

of children in need of humanitarian assistance

2.9 million

of people in need

(OCHA, December 2018)

640,969

of Internally displaced persons

(CMP, December 2018)

Outside CAR

576,926

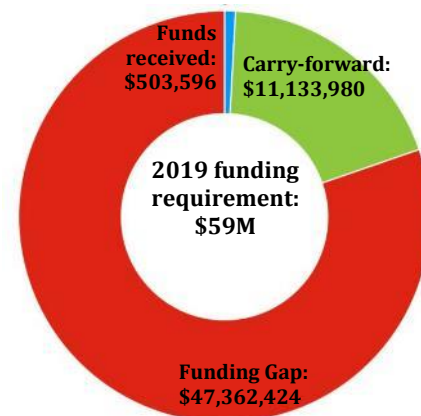
of registered CAR refugees

(UNHCR, December 2018)

2019 UNICEF Appeal

US\$ 59 million

Funding status* (\$US)



*Funds available include funding received for the current appeal year as well as the carry-forward from the previous year.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation remained very volatile in January, with an increase in tensions on the ground ahead of the African Union-UN led peace talks between the Government and 14 armed groups, which eventually started in Khartoum (Soudan) on 24 January. Several attacks and waves of displacement linked to the peak of the transhumance season were also reported.

On 31 December and 1 January, the town of Bakouma (Haut-Mbomou, Southeast) was attacked and ransacked by an armed group, resulting in an unconfirmed number of casualties and causing the entire population of about 18,000 (including about 5,000 IDPs) to flee. The attackers also reportedly threw corpses into most of the town's wells. About 10,000 people fled south to Bangassou, and the rest scattered in the bush and in some villages around town. The southeast has been heavily affected by the crisis and is among the least accessible areas for humanitarian actors, due to high insecurity and extremely poor roads.

Since December, a cycle of violence has emerged in Mambere-Kadei prefecture (West), in an area usually relatively calm. Several transhumance-related attacks were reported, including in Zaoro-Sangou village (east of Carnot) where 17 people were killed. These attacks against civilians resulted in the displacement of 4,673 people from villages along the eastern axis of Carnot-Gadzi and Carnot-Baoro to Carnot. These attacks also revived intercommunal tensions between Christians and Muslims in the area. Smaller-scale attacks and incidents related to transhumance were also reported elsewhere, especially in Ouham and Nana Gribizi prefectures.

Fighting between an armed group and the peacekeeping force broke out again in Bambari, on 9 January shortly before the President was expected to visit the town (the visit was cancelled). Several administrative buildings were looted, at least 20 people were treated for injuries at the Bambari hospital, and pendular population movements were observed. Following this episode, the peacekeeping force attacked and destroyed the armed group's headquarters' outside of Bambari.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

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 facilitate 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. The national Child Protection Sub-Cluster covers all prefectures directly or indirectly. 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. Finally, the Cash Working Group, led by OCHA has recently been reactivated and UNICEF participates actively.

Humanitarian Strategy

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 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, and provides people with access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities. UNICEF focuses on protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups and their 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 capacity in the humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. In coordination with UNICEF regular programmes, the emergency responses contribute day to day in

increasing people's access to basic services. Therefore, UNICEF aims at ensuring the best linkage between its humanitarian and development mandates and capacities to ensure the most effective synergy between its emergency and recovery programmes.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

About 38,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2019, and 51,700 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). This number could rise further, given ongoing aggravating factors such as displacement, poor food security, deteriorated access to clean water and sanitation, increased morbidity and lack of health-care services.

With support from Nutrition partners, in January 2,678 children aged from 6 to 59 months received Vitamin A, 1,043 aged 12 to 59 months deworming and 501 pregnant and lactating women were counselled on infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Six outpatient therapeutic programs (OTP) sites in Bakouma and nine OTPs sites in Mingala remain closed as a result of ongoing insecurity, looting and displacement of medical staff. Nutrition partners are scaling up their interventions in the South-East in order actively search and treat more malnourish children who may currently living in hard to reach areas. Two mobiles clinics have been set-up by nutrition partners in Niakari-Bakouma axis and Kitika-Ndenguilo axis to increase nutrition coverage and interventions. In addition, five mobile clinics are being set-up in Alindao, Elim, Kongbo, Datoko, Pavika and Bandadeka, also in hard-to-reach, heavily affected locations in the Southeast.

Health

In January, 5,713 children benefited from preventive and curative care provided by health facilities in affected areas with the support of UNICEF and other partners (WHO and NGOs). In the Alindao-Mingala Health District, 2,478 children aged 0-23 months were immunized between December 2018 and January 2019 with multidose antigens (Penta, Polio and PCV13) and 892 against measles and yellow fever during the two rounds of vaccine activities organized to improve the low immunization coverage rates recorded from January to October 2018 (34 percent for Pent3 and 49 percent for VAR). Curative care was provided to 2,343 children under 5 in the Bambari IDP sites and in the Nana-Gribizi Health Districts (1,242 children suffered from malaria, 633 from acute respiratory infections and 468 cases of other diseases including diarrhea).

HIV & AIDS

50 children and adolescents (37 orphans) out of 53 under antiretroviral treatment (ART) in Kaga-Bandoro. Also 45 new pregnant women have been diagnosed for HIV and put on ARV treatment. Similarly, 7 children born from HIV-positive mothers were put under ARV prophylaxis in emergency areas (health regions 3, 4, 5 and 6).

WASH

As part of the WASH response to the ongoing viral hepatitis E epidemic in the Northwest, water trucking continued in Bocaranga in collaboration with Cordaid for 2,396 beneficiaries. Additionally, in the sub-prefectures of Ngaoundaye and Bocaranga, seven boreholes were rehabilitated for 3,500 beneficiaries and three water point caretakers were trained and equipped. 1,000 people were sensitized to good hygiene practices in Bocaranga.

In Bambari, Caritas distributed water purification products for household water treatment to 1,600 lppy's returnees, which will cover their basic water needs for a period of one month. Additionally, 50,000 water purification tablets were distributed in villages to serve 100 households (about 550 people). Before the distributions, the population was sensitised on the correct use of the purification products.

In Bambari, with the collaboration of the C4D section, activities on essential family practices were conducted: 1,700 people were sensitized in both Notre Dame de la Victoire and PK8 IDP sites.

In 2019, the Cluster has planned to assist 1,4 million people. As of the end of January, more than 100,000 people have received assistance in terms of access to safe water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene. This assistance has been provided essentially to IDPs leaving in the sites (50,000 in BRIA by OXFAM, 23,000 in Bambari by Triangle, 20,000 in Alindao jointly by ACF and CORDAID and 1,500 by ACF in Amada Gaza) and 10,000 people in Bocaranga by CORDAID in response to the Hepatitis Outbreak. Funds mobilization will likely remain the main challenge in 2019.

Education

In January 2019, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education with the preparation of emergency response in the South-East Zone (Bangassou-Bakouma-Alindao), where about 11,000 children are directly affected. Partners Caritas Alindao and Caritas Bangassou were mobilized to monitor the emergency, collect education-related data to provide immediate response so to ensure continuity of schooling. Learning materials were distributed to children in the three localities.

In Batangafo, 6,873 children including 2,912 girls along with 63 teachers (8 women) were back to school. UNICEF's partner Ideal provided school furniture for 7 schools, including three which also benefitted from light rehabilitation. Ideal also set up 30 UNICEF tents in most of these schools. In the heavily conflict-affected towns of Mbrès (Nana Gribizi) and Bambari 3,972 children (1,662 girls) from 35 schools, received learning materials. Finally, partners organized training in psychosocial support and protective learning environment for 196 teachers, targeting 11,760 children in Ouaka prefecture (Center-Est).

In January, UNICEF and its partners continued to ensure access to education to 80,206 crisis-affected children (47 percent girls) through 296 temporary learning spaces. Campaigns to bring children back to school were also organized in the prefectures of Ouham-Pende, Ouham, Ouaka, Nana-Gribizi, Haute-Kotto, Basse-Kotto, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou.

Child Protection

In January, 135 children including 44 girls were identified as associated with an armed group in Paoua (Ouham-Pende, Northwest) by a mobile child protection team comprising trained NGO partner staff. The mobile team was deployed after 490 children were initially identified after the launch of the national DDDR program in Paoua in December 2018. Cross-checking with past records among child protection actors for verification is ongoing. The verified children will be included into an assistance program by UNICEF partner War Child. In addition, two boys self-demobilized from another armed group in Zemio (Haut-Mbomou, Southeast) are being assisted by UNICEF partner COOPI.

In January, 9,034 crisis-affected children, including 3,882 girls, were newly admitted in child-friendly spaces (CFS) so to benefit from psychosocial, recreational and educational activities in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Basse-Kotto, Ouham and Ombella-Mpoko prefectures. These CFSs are operated by UNICEF partners Esperance, Caritas Bangui, War Child and COOPI. In addition, establishment of CFSs in Kaga-Bandoro, Dekoa and Sibut is ongoing through a new partnership agreement with JRS.

Still in January, 163 unaccompanied and separated children, including 58 girls, were newly registered by UNICEF partners across the country. These children are placed with foster families while family tracing to find their biological families is being carried out. A total of 217 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against girls and boys, including 34 cases of rape, nine child marriages and 174 other cases of GBV were registered and documented across the country. These children received assistance, including medical assistance, psychosocial support and hygiene kits.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

After a period of relative calm in December, the RRM collected 11 new alerts in January, half of them in Ouham prefecture (Northwest). This is largely due to the transhumance season which each year causes tensions between Peuhl herders, local communities and local armed groups, resulting in clashes and attacks, particularly in this area, through which runs one of the country's main transhumance corridors. Following these alerts, RRM partners conducted five exploratory missions (MEX) and four multisector assessments (MSA).

Several interventions were conducted, mostly to assist IDPs, one in Gbambia close to Amada Gaza (Mambere-Kadei, West) benefiting 4,853 individuals with NFI and 3,138 with Wash assistance, one intervention in Pavika and Banda Deka (Basse Kotto, Southeast) benefiting to 3,996 individuals with NFI and 1,707 with Wash assistance. In addition, the first distribution of high energy (HEB) biscuits through the partnership with WFP was conducted alongside the Basse Kotto NFI distributions, benefiting to 3,996 people. Finally, following the attack on Bakouma mentioned at the beginning of this sitrep, the RRM intervened to assist IDPs newly arrived in Bangassou with NFIs. In total, the RRM thus provided NFI assistance to 17,461 individuals and Wash assistance to 4,845 individuals.

C4D

In Bambari, a total of 5,500 IDPs, mostly children, were exposed to messages pertaining to WASH, birth registration, sexual exploitation and abuse, HIV and vaccination. The interventions materialized in the form of performances played by a group of clowns, puppeteers and traditional storytellers at the Notre Dame de Victoire et PK8 IDP sites. These activities took place on 8 and 9 January. Four additional sites could not be covered due to the outbreak of fighting mentioned in the first section of this sitrep.

Media and External Communication

During the reporting period, the External Communications team facilitated a visit to CAR from UNICEF USA CEO Caryl Stern and a NBC News crew. The visit focused on nutrition (Bangui Pediatric Hospital), protection (Meeting with children formerly associated with armed groups) and youth engagement (meeting with the Boy Scouts). The visit also included a trip to Kaga Bandoro. The NBC stories should be aired by the end of February. In January, two stories involving UNICEF were published on global media: NPR about the Boy Scouts and The Guardian on Education in Emergencies.

Funding

Generous contributions were received in January by the United States Fund for UNICEF to scale-up services to reach severely malnourished children living in enclaves and conflict-affected areas. This new funding is coupled with those received at the end of 2018, and carried over in 2019, from donors such as the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Ireland, Poland, UNICEF's Global Thematic Humanitarian Fund, the Spanish National Committee for UNICEF, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. UNICEF emergency appeal of \$59 million for 2019 reflects a continued deterioration in the situation of children in CAR and overwhelming humanitarian needs.

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 2019)					
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available*		Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	10,200,000	490,000	4,352,130	5,357,870	53%
Health & HIV/AIDS	3,800,000	0	309,815	3,490,185	92%
Water, Sanitation, Hygiene	8,400,000	0	455,544	7,944,456	95%
Child Protection	8,700,000	0	1,746,541	6,953,459	80%
Education	11,000,000	0	714,233	10,285,767	94%
Rapid Response Mechanism	15,400,000	13,596	3,277,939	12,108,465	79%
Cluster/sector Coordination	1,500,000	0	277,778	1,222,222	81%
Total	59,000,000	503,596	11,133,980	47,362,424	80%

* Funds available includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year.

UNICEF CAR: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNICEF_CAR

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

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Annex A
SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

	UNICEF and IPs				Cluster Response		
	Overall needs	2019 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2019 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
NUTRITION ¹							
Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	43,055	30,570	662	662	30,570	662	662
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	89.71		≥75%	89.71	
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	380,269	57,580	501	501	71,975	501	501
HEALTH							
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	700,000	700,000	0				
People and children under 5 in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines.	82,068	82,068	5,713				
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	400,000	5,650	5,650	7771,224	99,650	99,650
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	150,000	0	0	428,900	57,000	57,000
Crisis-affected girls/women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	210,006	45,000	0	0	210,006	0	0
CHILD PROTECTION							
Children reached with psychosocial support through child friendly spaces	145,000	110,000	9,034	9,034	145,000	9,034	9,034
Children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support	5,550	3,000	2	2	5,550	2	2
Registered unaccompanied/ separated children supported with reunification services	4,352	1,500	163	163	4,352	163	163
Women and children reached with gender-based violence prevention and response interventions	NA	1,500	217	217	NA	NA	NA
EDUCATION							
Number of Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) in areas affected by crisis accessing education	1,400,000	120,000	6,873	6,873	500,000	6,873	6,873
Children received learning materials	NA	442,500	3,972	3,972	NA	3,972	3,972
Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	NA	100,500	11,760	11,760	NA	11,760	11,760
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM							
Acutely vulnerable people rapidly provided with non-food items after a shock	250,000	160,000	17,461	17,461			
Affected people receiving appropriate WASH interventions after a shock	150,000	70,000	4,845	4,845			

¹ Cluster and UNICEF results are the same as UNICEF is the sole provider of therapeutic nutritional inputs in CAR for all partners