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Reporting Period: January & February 2020

Highlights

In January and February 2020, the overall humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic remained precarious due to enduring tensions and violence. Clashes between armed factions were reported in Vakaga, Haute-Kotto and Basse-Kotto. As a result, the number of internally displaced people reached 702,300 (14% of the country's population) up from 669,906 two months earlier.

In response to the polio (cVDPV2) cases in Berberati and in Bocaranga districts, round 1 of the Polio vaccination was conducted from 31 January to 2 February 2020 in 12 districts, targeting 397,922 children from 0-59 months. Ten UNICEF staff were deployed, 486,240 doses of mOPV2 were supplied and in total 446,837 children were vaccinated. The second round was conducted from 29 Feb to 2 March in the same districts.

As people displaced by the floods continued returning home in Bangui urban area, UNICEF and partners disinfected 1,130 houses and 517 wells, and also built 29 latrines and 18 showers and distributed 598 WASH kits for remaining IDPs on sites.

28,250 conflict-affected children (41% girls) gained access to education and 23,135 (46% girls) participated in UNICEF supported psychosocial activities through Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) throughout the country.

Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation



Situation in Numbers

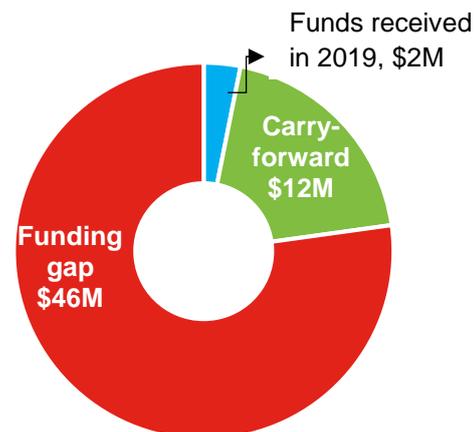
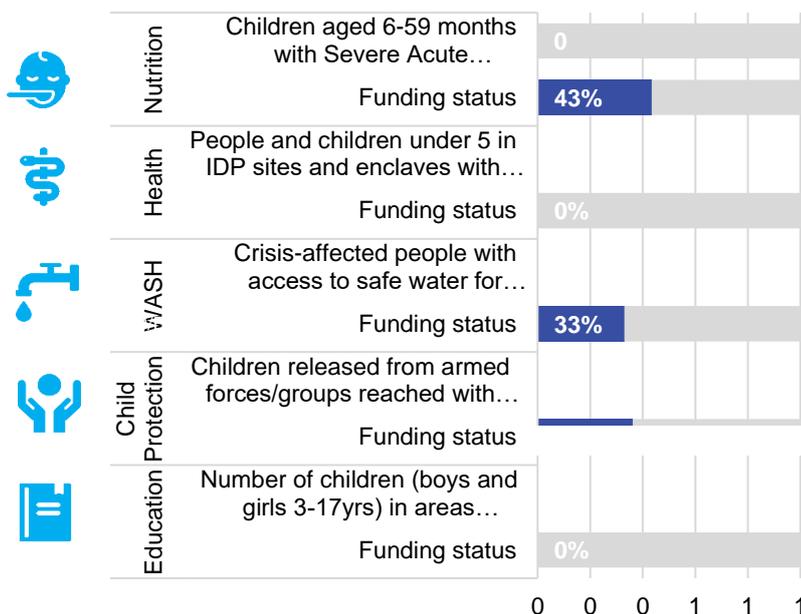
-  **1,200,000**
children in need of humanitarian assistance
-  **2,600,000**
people in need (OCHA, November 2019)
-  **702,348**
Internally displaced people (IDPs) (OCHA, February 2020)
-  **613,207**
of pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, February 2020)

UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 58.2 million

Funding status* (\$US)

UNICEF's Response



*Available funds include those received for the current year of appeal as well as the carry-forward

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In January and February, contributions were received from the Spanish National Committee for UNICEF to scale up Child Protection assistance and from the government of Japan to support WASH assistance in crisis-affected areas. UNICEF wishes to express its deep gratitude to donors for the contributions and pledges received to assist vulnerable children and their families in the country's most troubled areas. As violence-related displacement is again on the increase, continued donor support remains critical.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In January and February 2020, the overall humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remained precarious due to enduring tensions and violence.

Clashes in Vakaga (Northeast) between rival ex-Seleka factions continued, forcing more people to flee and preventing households displaced by earlier clashes, especially in the main town Birao from going home. These tensions spread to Bria (Haute-Kotto, Center-East) at the end of January, where clashes between the same factions displaced over 10,000 people. In Basse-Kotto and Mbomou, another ex-Seleka armed group has become more active, resulting in clashes with newly redeployed national army elements as well as with anti-balaka groups, also forcing the local population from the affected areas to flee.

By the end of February, internally displaced people (IDP) numbers were therefore on the rise again, reaching 702,300 according to OCHA (14% of the country's population), up from 669,906 two months earlier.

In the meantime, CAR declared a national measles epidemic on 24 January. By the end of February, over 5,800 cases had been reported since the beginning of the year, resulting in 56 deaths.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

In January and February, UNICEF and partners treated 1,475 children aged from 6 to 59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). With a SAM cure rate of 90.71 percent, a death rate of 0.53 percent, a defaulter rate of 7.19 percent and a non-response rate of 1.58%, the quality of the response is largely above the SPHERE minimum standards.

In addition, 8,531 children aged from 6 to 59 months received Vitamin A and 9,183 pregnant and lactating women were reached with key education and promotion messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices by UNICEF and nutrition cluster partners.

Health

In response to the polio (cVDPV2) cases in Berberati and in Bocaranga districts, round 1 of the Polio vaccination campaign was conducted from 31 January to 2 February 2020 in 12 districts, targeting 397,922 children from 0-59 months. Ten UNICEF staff were deployed, 486,240 doses of mOPV2 were supplied and in total 446,837 children were vaccinated. The second round was conducted from 29 Feb to 2 March in the same districts.

From January to February 2020, 8,089 people including 5,562 children under 5 years and 1,643 pregnant women were treated at the IDP sites of Lazaret and MINUSCA (Kaga-Bandoro) and in the villages on the Ouango (Mbomou) and Satema (Basse-Kotto) axes through mobile clinics organized respectively by IRC and MDA with the support of UNICEF. The most common conditions treated were malaria (45%), acute respiratory infections (28%), diarrhoeal diseases (10%), dermatoses and other pathologies (17%). 118 pregnant women benefited from at least one antenatal consultation.

WASH

As people displaced by the floods continued returning home in Bangui urban area, UNICEF and partners disinfected 1,130 houses and 517 wells, and also built 29 latrines and 18 showers and distributed 598 WASH kits for remaining IDPs on sites.

Thanks to the rehabilitation of 5 pumps in Kaga Bandoro and Alindao, and 2 boreholes in the Ippy and Seko health centres (Ouaka), around 37,500 people have gained access to drinking water. 650 households received jerry cans for home water storage in Alindao and following the burning of their shelters, and 637 internally displaced households received Wash kits in Kaga Bandoro.

In the 5 IDP sites of Bambari, the latrines for men, women and children were maintained allowing to serve 22,127 people. For the Lazaret and MINUSCA IDP sites of Kaga-Bandoro, garbage collection and hygiene promotion activities are ongoing.

In Sibut and Kaga Bandoro 43,928 people, including 8,066 students, were sensitized through mass campaign on good hygiene practices. 19 schools received hygiene kits, 359 students and 399 girls and women from IDP sites received menstrual hygiene kits. 500 menstrual hygiene kits were also distributed to female students in Bambari.

During the first two months of 2020, the WASH cluster maintained operational meetings with partners to be able to respond effectively to the needs of affected people. The WASH response plan for CAR was validated targeting 1,200,000 people and requiring 32 million USD.

Education

In the first months of 2020, 28,250 children gained access to education in the prefectures of Basse Kotto, Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende; UNICEF invested in the rehabilitation of 25 schools and in the construction of 51 classrooms. Initially included in its 2019-2020 Back to School strategy, 46,500 children (41% girls), received a school kit. The first listening group of the radio education program was launched in Bambari, 107 children including 38 girls are participating.

911 community teachers including 401 women received regular payment of their incentives and were sensitized on the right to education; 20 communities received pedagogical materials in Haute Kotto, Kemo and Nana Gribizi.

At cluster level, 37,679 out of school children, including 18,374 girls in crisis-affected areas gained access to education. 4,484 children and community teachers with disabilities benefited from education activities throughout the country. Among them 4,474 children, including 1,881 girls with disabilities gained access to school in Ouaka prefecture and 75,226 children, including 18,374 girls received learning materials.

The Education Cluster conducted an evaluation of the education response in 2019. 67% of the targeted population was reached, which is a satisfactory result given the funding levels. The challenges identified included insufficient funding, inaccessibility in the highly vulnerable areas, delays in the implementation of activities; lack of capacity from some partners for the use of the Cluster's tools and field data not timely reported to the cluster. The Cluster will work on an action plan to address these challenges.

Child Protection

23,135 conflict-affected children (including 10,699 girls) participated in UNICEF supported psychosocial activities through Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in the Basse-Kotto, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto, Haut Mbomou, Bamingui Bangoran, Haut Mbomou, Lobaye, Nana Gribizi and Mbomou prefectures.

196 new cases of separated and unaccompanied children (78 girls), were registered and supported with family tracing and reunification services, including the placement in foster families. Among them, 108 children were already reunified with their families.

124 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children (101 girls) were registered in January and February. This included 41 cases of rape, 38 other forms of sexual assault and abuse (such as rape attempt or harassment), 3 female genital mutilation (FGM), 15 cases of child marriage and 27 other cases of GBV. All the concerned children have been assisted with holistic support.

33 children, including 10 girls were separated from armed groups in Kemo Prefecture and are supported for reintegration by UNICEF partner Intersos. 422 children including 111 girls were identified in February, in Kemo, Nana Gribizi, Haut Mbomou, Ouham and Ouham Pende, they will be verified and profiled by joint teams composed of UNICEF, UNICEF child protection partners and MINUSCA staff as soon as possible.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

16 alerts were published for the first two months of the year. January was relatively calm with only 1 Exploratory Mission (MEX) and 3 Multisectoral Assessments (MSA). In February, 3 MEX and 3 MSA were conducted. Among the 16 alerts, 10

were related to violence. Indeed, conflict between armed groups still going on in Vakaga and spread to Haute Kotto, and the ongoing transhumance period also continues to be a source of tensions and clashes.

1 NFI intervention was done in January. In February, 2 Non-Food Items (NFI) distributions were carried out in Ouham Pende benefited to 12,686 returnees from Chad and Cameroon. 2 Wash interventions were conducted by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Kemo and Ouham Pende prefectures benefited to 18,877 people and 1 NFI fair was conducted by Solidarites in Dekoa (Kemo prefecture) complemented with Wash assistance and benefited to 852 households – see front picture.

For January and February 2020, 19,039 persons (3,526 Households) were assisted with NFIs and 18,877 persons benefited from Wash assistance.

The RRM's February 2020 dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

In support of round 1 of the Polio vaccination campaign in Berberati and in Bocaranga districts 1 1,775 mobilizers and 843 criers sensitized the population through door-to-door and public information activities. With only 65% of completeness, social mobilization data indicates that 442,576 children were enumerated, that 259,535 households were visited, and 1,341,864 persons sensitized. Meanwhile, 60 meetings with community leaders as well as 6 cross-border meetings took place including 12 community dialogue sessions and debates organized by the Cinéma Numérique Ambulant (CNA). Multi-lingual radio products were developed and aired through 5 community radio stations. An advocacy meeting involving community leaders took place in Bossangoa under the leadership of the Minister of Health and Population.

As the target group for measles vaccination was enlarged to include children aged from 6 months to 10 years, the campaign plan was reviewed considering magnitude of outbreaks in health districts as well as security issues. In support to Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), key messages focusing on refusal and side effects were reviewed, together with communication materials and tools.

In Bangui, in response to the floods, a total of 561 community volunteers (200 women, 361 men) have been mobilized and involved in wash community-based response including the use of decontamination products and the use of equipment (sprayers and motor pumps).

A second round of survey assessing perception of beneficiaries has been completed in 4 prefectures (Bouar, Kaga Bandoro, Alindao and Bambari).

Technical support was given to the MoHP in the COVID-19 response to develop Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plan as well as to strengthen coordination.

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. 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.

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.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, issued a [statement](#) after the National Assembly in CAR adopted the Child Protection Code, which criminalizes the recruitment and use of children, among other crimes.

UNICEF's Representative in CAR, Christine Muhigana, issued a [statement](#) on the situation of CAR children one year after a Peace Agreement was signed between the Central African Government and other parties to the conflict.

The External Communications team facilitated a visit to CAR from Yasmine Sherif is the Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW). The visit focused on Education in Emergency programmes and included a trip to Kaga Bandoro.

Security

The situation remained very tense in several areas, such as Birao, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro and Alindao. This led to restrictions of movement of humanitarian organizations and to constraints in the delivery of critical aid. The civilian population is the primary victim of tensions and violence in the country which is also one of the most dangerous contexts in the world for humanitarian workers. 19 incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or property were recorded in February (compared to 27 in January) according to OCHA. One humanitarian worker was hit by a stray bullet and died during armed confrontations in Birao mid-February.

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

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

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

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

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Annex A Summary of Programme Results

	UNICEF and IPs				Cluster Response		
	2020 Overall needs	2020 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
NUTRITION							
children aged 6-59 months affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment	49,273	39,418	1,475	1,475	39,418	1,475	1,475
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	90.71	0	≥75%	90.71	0
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	389,261	165,659	9,183	0	194,631	9,183	0
HEALTH							
Children under 10 vaccinated against measles	740,339	328,922	0	0			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	945,443	472,722	446,837	446,837			
Children and women receiving primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	379,969	85,335	8,089	8,089			
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Crisis-affected people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	306,000	37,520	37,520	543,000	69,020	69,020
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	103,500	22,127	22,127	362,000	33,027	33,027
Crisis-affected girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	210,000	45,000	1,258	1,258	210,000	4,858	4,858
People reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes	302,000	160,000	43,928	43,928	302,000	44,578	44,578
CHILD PROTECTION							
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	356,180	100,000	23,135	23,135	138,800	25,885	0
Children separated from armed groups accessing reintegration support	5,550	3,200	33	33	5,300	33	0
Children and women accessing GBV response interventions	21,500	3,000	124	124	9,200	NA	NA
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services	7,100	1,500	196	196	4,200	197	0
EDUCATION							
Crisis-affected children accessing formal or non-formal education	510,000	120,000	28,250	28,250	183,000	37,679	9,429
Children receiving individual learning materials	678,000	360,000	46,500	46,500	678,000	75,226	28,726
Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	678,000	360,000	7,274	7,274	591,000	7,274	0
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM / CASH TRANSFERS							
Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	968,960	225,000	19,039	19,039			
People benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	328,932	100,000	18,877	18,877			
Households receiving cash transfers	N/A	5,000	852	852			
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)							
People reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on epidemic-prone diseases	N/A	850,000	1,341,864	1,341,864			
People accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback	N/A	125,000	3,000	3,000			

Annex B – Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	12,900,000	8,929	5,588,990	7,311,010	57%
Health and HIV/AIDS	3,100,000	0	0	3,100,000	100%
WASH	6,800,000	450,000	1,792,526	5,007,474	74%
Child Protection	8,000,000	1,294,976	1,602,767	6,397,233	80%
Education	10,500,000	0	2,614	10,497,386	100%
RRM	12,900,000	118,750	2,829,443	10,070,557	78%
C4D	2,500,000	0	0	2,500,000	100%
Cluster Coordination	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000	100%
Total	58,200,000	1,872,655	11,816,340	46,383,660	80%

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

** Funding received includes contribution dedicated to the Accountability to Affected Population Project (Inter-Agency Collective Service for Community Engagement and Accountability)