



Reporting Period: November-December 2020

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Highlights

As the year 2020 comes to a close, the humanitarian crisis in Central African Republic (CAR) remains one of the deepest in the world and the last two months of the year have been marked by a further increase in violence.

In the run-up to the 27 December presidential and general elections and following the invalidation of former president Francois Bozizé's candidacy by the Constitutional Court, a new coalition of several armed groups attacked and occupied several cities and towns.

- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) went from 623,010 at the end of October to over 681,930 at the end of December, according to the figures published by the Commission on Population Movements.

- In October, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the 2021 Humanitarian needs Overview (HNO) for CAR : the number of people in need in 2021 will increase from 2.6 million to 2.8 million and the number of people with acute needs will grow by 12% compared to 2020.

- Since the first case of COVID-19 was detected in CAR in mid-March, 4,971 positive cases including 63 deaths (as of 31 December) have been confirmed.

- 18,538 conflict affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and 234 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children were registered and supported.

- 8,674 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated.

- 16,552 people including 13,242 children under 5 and 3,310 pregnant women received free essential care in conflict-affected areas.

Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation Report



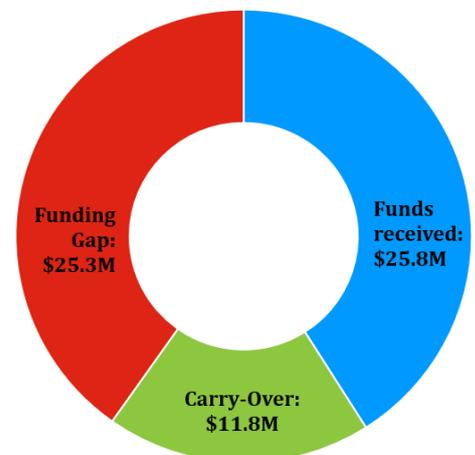
Situation in Numbers

- 1,300,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 2,800,000** people in need (OCHA December 2020)
- 681,930** Internally displaced people (IDPs) (CMP, December 2020)
- 634,604** # of pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, December 2020)

UNICEF Appeal 2020

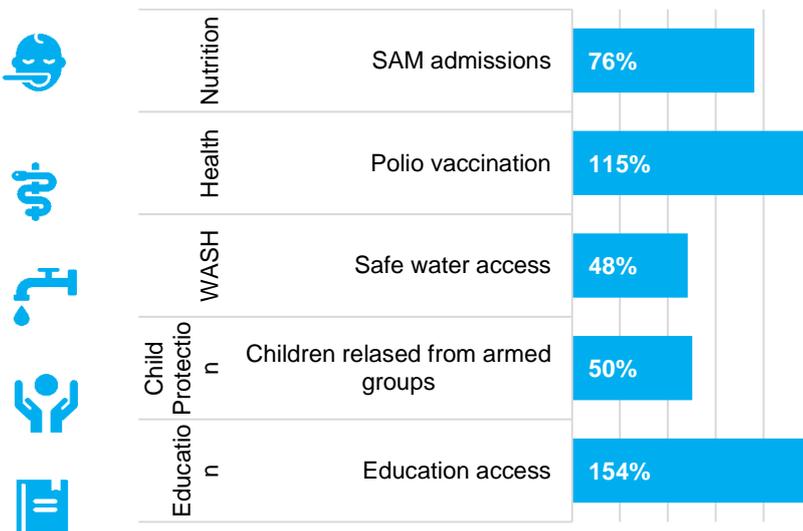
US\$ 57 million

Funding status* (\$US)



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

UNICEF's Response



Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020, UNICEF appealed for \$ 57 million to continue its response across CAR. UNICEF would like to express its gratitude to the European Union (ECHO), the Governments of Japan, Sweden (SIDA), Switzerland, the CAR Humanitarian Fund (CHF), the United Kingdom, the United States of America (OFDA/FFP), and UNICEF national committees (Germany, Spain and USA) for the generous contributions provided.

At the end of the year, UNICEF had an overall funding gap of 44 per cent. Additional funds are urgently needed to support the ongoing response, especially in child health, child protection, and WASH among others. Without more funding, an estimated 1.4 million of conflict-affected children (HAC 2021 for CAR) won't have access to water, sanitation, nutrition, education, health and protection services.

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 appeal is not included in this analysis and reported on separately.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) remained one of the world's largest in terms of proportion of affected population and the last two months of the year were marked by a further increase in violence.

In the run-up to the 27 December presidential and general elections and following the invalidation of former president Francois Bozizé's candidacy by the Constitutional Court, a new coalition of a number of armed groups - Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC) – was formed, asking for the elections to be postponed.

The CPC launched an offensive from the West towards Bangui on 18 December, and others from the East and North in the following days. The national army, the MINUSCA peacekeepers and bilateral allies resisted the CPC progression. Still the coalition has managed to attack and/or occupy several cities and towns. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) went from 623,010 at the end of October to over 681,930 at the end of December, according to OCHA. Internally displaced people (IDPs) are found mostly in locations considered safer within the affected towns, such as churches, or in the surrounding bush. Based on initial assessments, interventions and secondary data, the most pressing humanitarian needs include food, primary healthcare, water and sanitation, essential household items and shelter. Child protection issues such as child recruitments, sexual violence and separation have also been reported. According to UNHCR, around 30,900 Central African have also fled to neighboring countries in the past few weeks, mostly to DRC.

In October, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the 2021 Humanitarian needs Overview (HNO) for CAR : the number of people in need in 2021 will increase from 2.6 million to 2.8 million (+8%) and the number of people with acute needs will grow by 12% compared to 2020 (with 1.9 million people in 2021 compared to 1.7 million in 2020). Actual figures could be even higher due to the unforeseen magnitude of the ongoing new crisis.

These figures reveal the dramatic consequences of further violence in a country already ravaged by long-standing armed conflict, where natural disasters are becoming increasingly frequent and severe, food insecurity is rising, services are poor, and, in many areas, people depend entirely on humanitarian assistance.

These factors have also aggravated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the first case of COVID-19 in CAR in mid-March, 4,971 positive cases including 63 deaths (as of 31 December) have been confirmed. Although confirmed cases have decreased significantly in recent months, socio-economic activities continue to be negatively impacted, major businesses remain closed and transport prices high. Prices of local food products such as cereals and tubers have declined seasonally in November and December, but reduced household income and higher prices of imported products due to the the disruption of the main supply route continue to negatively affect household purchasing power.

UNICEF is actively involved in COVID-19's prevention and response in CAR and has designed a response plan aligned with the Government's. UNICEF's plan comes in addition to the CAR HAC and is reported against separately. UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 sitreps can be found [here](#).

Finally, CAR continues to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian workers. According to OCHA in 2020, a total of 424 incidents were recorded, compared with 306 in 2019. In December, the number of recorded incidents (59) almost doubled compared to the monthly average recorded over the year.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Since January 2020, a total of 32,031 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), including 8,674 in November and December, received treatment. The quality of SAM treatment programmes remains above the SPHERE minimum standards, with a cure rate of 93.6 percent, a mortality rate of 1.06 percent, a defaulter rate of 4.00 percent and a non-response rate of 1.4 percent.

Moreover, 161,257 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 since the beginning of the year.

Health

In November and December, 16,552 people, including 13,242 children under 5 and 3,310 pregnant women, received free essential care in conflict-affected areas. The most common conditions treated were malaria (45%), acute respiratory infections (27%) and diarrheal diseases (15%).

Out of the 2,317 pregnant women who received at least one prenatal consultation, 1,923 accepted to be tested for HIV, 48 tested positive and were put on antiretroviral treatment.

Since January, thanks to a close partnership with the health districts of the South-East, North, Central and North-West of the country and some NGOs, 75,489 of the 85,335 expected children and women have been treated, including 52,842 children and 22,647 women.

WASH

The WASH response in 2020 covered major humanitarian emergencies mainly assisting IDPs forced to settle in IDP sites in Paoua (Northwest), Bambari and Alindao (Centre), Bangassou (Southeast), Kaga Bandoro (North), and flood victims. In addition, when the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, UNICEF responded actively with an ad hoc prevention and response plan. UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 sitreps can be found [here](#). Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) WASH results are reported in the RRM section of this sitrep.

During November and December, UNICEF supported the Agence Nationale de l'Eau de et l'Assainissement (ANEA) and the NGO Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH) in Kaga Bandoro et Bambari for the rehabilitation of 19 boreholes. About 9,500 displaced people gained access to clean water.

As part of the support to Congolese refugees in Toko-Kota site located 30 km from Kouango (Ouaka), UNICEF distributed 3,078 WASH kits, consisting of soaps, jerrycans, buckets and water purifiers to 2,817 refugees and 261 people from the host community. In Bambari, partner TGH distributed 878 handwashing kits in Elevage, Aviation et PK8 IDP sites.

In Kaga Bandoro, 240 households living in the Lazaret IDP site received sanitation kits and technical support from UNICEF partner ANEA for the construction of their own family latrine. In total, around 1,240 people gained access to basic sanitation facilities. In addition, 567 people were sensitized to COVID-19 barrier measures.

Throughout 2020, the WASH cluster maintained operational meetings with partners to support effective coordination and response to the needs of affected people. In total 770,000 people have been assisted. These figures include 11,000 flood victims who benefited from the disinfection of 560 wells and the spraying of more than 1,000 houses, mainly in and around Bangui.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners ensured provision of safe water to 63,078 people and sanitation facilities to other 61,240 people.

Education

During the year 2020, 184,696 children, including 118,753 girls, attended temporary learning spaces in conflict-affected areas. Furthermore, together with its partners, UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in organizing final national examinations in remote areas. In addition, given the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to expand educational spaces to allow for adequate social distancing, 126 classrooms were built or rehabilitated. 275,747 children living on IDP sites and in remote areas received learning materials while 28,656

benefitted from psychosocial support thanks to the training of 1,038 teachers in psychosocial support and basic pedagogy

During this reporting period, 99,517 crisis-affected children, including 48,763 girls, gained access to education and 202,164 children, including 30,457 girls received learning materials in the prefectures of Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham Pende, Basse Kotto, Nana Mambere, Mambere Kadei and Nana Gribizi.

At cluster level, education partners have mainly implemented activities aimed at ensuring a protective educational environment for children returning to school, strengthening the capacity of community teachers and providing psychosocial assistance to children in an emergency context. In 2020, Education Cluster interventions reached a total of 416,968 children and 1,982 teachers.

Child Protection

In November and December, as part of UNICEF efforts to provide psychological support to children directly affected by the conflicts and displacements, 18,538 children affected by the ongoing conflict, including 7,371 girls, benefited from daily organized play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS). 29 unaccompanied and separated children were identified and successfully reunified with their families and relatives, and 264 children formerly associated with armed groups in Alindao and Birao were identified, verified and registered in UNICEF supported reintegration programmes, bringing to 1,608 the total number of children supported since January.

Given the fact that in situation of conflict and displacement family separation is a major factor contributing to children vulnerability and exposure to violence and abuse, family tracing and reunification efforts were also strengthened. As part of these efforts, UNICEF and partners continued to support the ministry in charge of child protection for the roll-out of the national guidelines on protection and care of separated children. During the reporting period, 30 foster families were identified and trained on the rights and protection of children, including their roles and expectations as foster families.

Finally, 234 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children were registered and supported. The support provided included mainly social follow-up, individual counselling, psychosocial support and referral for medical care. Cases of rape and sexual violence represented 77 per cent of all cases reported, indicating the continued high exposure and vulnerability of girls to sexual and gender-based violence.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In November and December, a total of 18 alerts were published and shared with the humanitarian community. Out of these 18, 11 were related to violence and conflict (including the first two weeks of the CPC offensive), four to return movements and three to floods. Four exploratory missions in Vakaga, Ombella M'Poko, Haute-Kotto and Mbomou prefectures and three multisector assessments (MSAs) in Ouham, Mambere-Kadei and Haut-Mbomou were conducted.

RRM partners assisted 9,948 individuals (including 2,459 children under 5) with essential household items and 7,725 (including 1,792 children under 5) have benefited from Wash assistance. Finally, one intervention was conducted through cash transfer modality, in Kabo (Ouham prefecture) benefited to 217 households (1,283 individuals) affected by floods.

In 2020, 161,162 crisis-affected people received essentials household items and 107,815 benefitted from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions¹. Furthermore, UNICEF has continued to develop Cash based interventions to ensure that the needs of crisis affected people are met in the most effective and timely way. 7,630 people benefitted from this approach.

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

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

In support of the Polio vaccination campaigns, 500 mobilizers and 179 community mobilizers were enrolled to support social mobilization and 64,953 households have been visited.

¹ Data of 6 interventions done in November and December (in NFI, WASH and cash) is not yet included, pending database input by partners.

To reinforce UNICEF's commitment to ensuring that communities are informed and continuously involved in decisions that directly impact their lives, 28 meetings were held with community leaders and families of vaccinated children. 99 per cent of parents interviewed said they were informed correctly and on time.

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.

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

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

Who to contact for further information: Fran Equiza
Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0205
Email: fequiza@unicef.org

Paolo Marchi
Deputy Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0206
Email: pmarchi@unicef.org

Olivier Corbet
Chief Emergency & Field Operations
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7007 5710
Email: ocorbet@unicef.org

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	30,031	8,674	39,418	30,031	8,674
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	93.6	0.1	≥75%	93.6	0.1
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	389,261	165,659	161,257*	28,047	194,631	161,257	28,047
HEALTH							
Children under 10 vaccinated against measles	740,339	328,922	824,738	0			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	945,443	472,722	544,507	84,930			
Children and women receiving primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	379,969	85,335	75,489	16,552			
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Crisis-affected people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	306,000	147,685	12,578	543,000	505,643	63,078
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	103,500	40,441	1,240	362,000	234,141	61,240
Crisis-affected girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	210,000	45,000	1,828	0	210,000	17,821	54
People reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes	302,000	160,000	113,201	567	302,000	113,851	567
CHILD PROTECTION							
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	356,180	100,000	98,497	18,538	138,800	118,405	31,366
Children separated from armed groups accessing reintegration support	5,550	3,200	1,608	264	5,300	1,565	76
Children and women accessing GBV response interventions	21,500	3,000	1,468	234	9,200	Not available	Not available
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services	7,100	1,500	666	29	4,200	798	117
EDUCATION							
Crisis-affected children accessing formal or non-formal education	510,000	120,000	184,696	99,517	183,000	194,907	99,517
Children receiving individual learning materials	678,000	360,000	275,747	158,005	678,000	409,574	220,164
Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	678,000	360,000	28,656	6532	591,000	78,122	30,304
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM / CASH TRANSFERS							
Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	968,960	225,000	161,662	9,948			
People benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	328,932	100,000	107,815	7,725			
Households receiving cash transfers	N/A	5,000	1,691	217			
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)							
People reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on epidemic-prone diseases	N/A	850,000	4,509,008	166,308			
People accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback	N/A	125,000	3,800	534			

Annex B – Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	11,700,000	5,346,575	5,588,990	764,435	7%
Health and HIV/AIDS	4,200,000	691,551	0	3,508,449	84%
WASH	6,800,000	958,481	1,792,526	4,048,993	60%
Child Protection	8,500,000	1,390,867	1,602,767	5,506,366	65%
Education	10,000,000	46,000	2,614	9,951,386	100%
RRM	13,100,000	15,430,259	2,829,443*	0	0%
C4D	1,200,000	1,907,416	0	0	0%
Cluster Coordination	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000	100%
Total	57,000,000	25,771,149	11,816,340	25,279,629	44%