

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

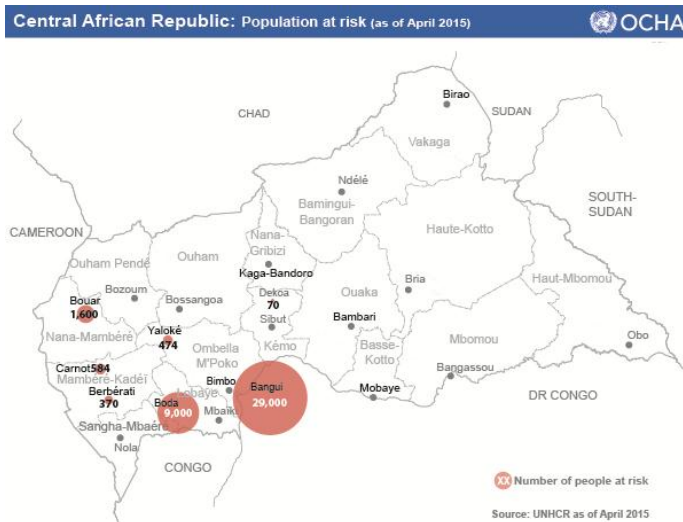
Situation Report No. 53 (as of 29 April 2015)



This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 14 and 28 April 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 14 May 2015.

Highlights

- 21 displaced Fulani (aka Peuhl) herders have been released from the captivity of armed groups in Yaloké rural area.
- UNHCR reunified six IDPs from Yaloké with their family in Chad.
- In support of IDP returns in Bangui, each IDP household will receive \$150 cash, one tarpaulin, three mosquito nets as well as two-month food rations for returnee households and two-month food vouchers for the most vulnerable returnee households and host families upon return to their neighborhood.



436,300

IDPs in CAR, including
43,500
in 34 sites in Bangui

13%

(Funding available US\$80 million against the SRP 2015 requirements of \$613 million)

4.6 million

Population of CAR
2.7 million
People who need assistance

Situation Overview

The situation remained volatile and unpredictable countrywide. On 20 April, UNHCR, MINUSCA and Yaloke's local authorities, released 21 displaced Fulani (aka Peuhl) herders, including 13 children and six women, from the captivity of armed groups in four villages 50 km from Yaloke. They had been held hostage and suffered serious abuses by armed groups for several months and some of the captives have been tortured to death.

On 14 April and accidental fire at the Bambari M IDP site in the Ouaka Province left two under 10 children dead, many wounded and in a state of emotional shock. All were evacuated for medical care by the DRC MINUSCA contingent and the CAR Red Cross. The fire destroyed some 150 shelters and burned personal belongings of IDPs.

They were. In response, UNHCR, COOPI, UNICEF and OCHA rapidly assessed the situation. An alternative site has been identified where latrines have been erected and a water bladder is planned. Most affected families will be relocated in priority.

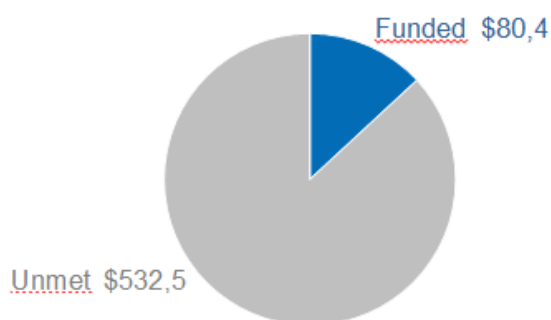
On 15 April, the Central African transitional Government announced the starting process for the closure of the Bangui Mpoko airport IDP site, which hosts more than 18,000 IDPs. Some 77 per cent are from Bangui's 3rd district. Households will be immediately issued a return package including \$150 cash, a tarpaulin, three mosquito nets as well as two-month food rations (and two-month food vouchers for the most vulnerable returnee households and host families). The security situation in certain neighborhoods remains a major challenge to return and reintegration, especially for the majority of IDPs who would want to return to the 3rd district.

UNHCR and its partners are currently providing protection and multi-sectoral assistance to some 8,103 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and Sudan in camps in Bangui, Bambari and Zemio, in the Mbomou Province. The ongoing crisis in CAR affects these refugees economically and threatens their physical integrity. They require emergency assistance such as fast track repatriation for voluntary candidates (some 6,984 refugees were have already received support for return since April 2014); continued advocacy for urgent fast track resettlement of 1,801 Sudanese refugees trapped between armed groups in Bambari and tailored income generating activities targeting 79 cooperatives in the refugee camps for 1,100 members.

Following reports of at least 31 counts of bloody diarrhea in Ndenguilo village, Mbomou Province, since 5 April, similar reports have emerged from from Zobe Mbari village. These two villages are 58 km apart and not linked by road. On 21 April, according to the Head of Zobe Mbari's health post, an outbreak of bloody diarrhea is affecting people in three villages: Zobé Mbari, Vougba and Balifondo. The health post has recorded 93 cases consisting of 17 men, 23 women, 34 boys and 19 girls (0-15 years). In response, eight samples inform Ndenguilo were sent for analysis and the results are pending.

Following six deaths of unknown causes in Padou village at the Alindao health district, a medical mission visited the region on 14 April to assess the situation. Most patients examined by the team had the following main symptoms: fever, vomiting, stomach-ache, and diarrhoea. The team noted the lack of potable water and suspected that the lack of good hygiene and sanitation practices were the causes. Children under age five were the most affected. The mission recommended the set-up of mobile clinics and community sensitization on good hygiene and sanitation in the affected area.

Funding



As of 29 April, the HRP is funded to the tune of \$80 million, or 13 per cent of the \$613 million required to meet critical humanitarian needs across 12 clusters. Lack of funding is expected to significantly affect the operations of some critical clusters and potentially decrease the flow of life-saving assistance.

Timely reporting of contributions to FTS is key, either by e-mail to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at fts.unocha.org.

Humanitarian Response



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- Some collective shelters on IDP sites in Bangui and Boda built in 2014 need rehabilitation.

Response:

- In preparation for the closure of the M'Poko airport site, IOM has set-up focus IDP groups with the support of PU-AMI aiming to plan the return to neighbourhoods. The cluster supported the government in organising go-and-see visits to Gbaya Ndombia, Boulata, Kokoro and Kina neighbourhoods in Bangui's third district.
- In support of returns in Bangui, each IDP household will receive \$150 upon return to their neighborhood. Cash transfer will be done through local banks in Bangui and Bimbo.
- In support of owner-driven housing reconstruction in Bangui's Kokoro 5 neighbourhood, ACTED gave a two-day technical training to 30 representatives of households. Five committees are now operational. Some households have started brick production thanks to the distribution of tool kits in early April. In Bangui's Kokoro 4 neighbourhood, the selection of beneficiaries has been completed; technical trainings have started while 13 shelter committees are operational.

600,000

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency shelter and NFIs.

- The fence of the Bambari alternative site has been completed. UNHCR's partner COOPI has completed the construction of emergency shelters for the most vulnerable displaced persons.
- In Batangafo (Ouham Province), DRC distributed NFI kits to 2,208 newly arrived households.
- In Kaboro, (Nana Bakassa sub-province), ACF assisted 263 households with NFI kits.
- In Ben Zambé and Gbabi (Ouham Province), ACF distributed NFI kits to 708 and 372 households respectively.
- In Amada Gaza and Nassolé (Mambere-Kadei Province), PU-AMI distributed NFI kits to 316 and 143 households respectively.
- In Ngaboko (Ouaka Province) ACTED distributed NFI kits to 490 households.
- In Sabewa (Nana Mambere Province), ACF distributed NFI kits to 425 households.
- In Botto (Nana Gribizi Province), Solidarité Internationale distributed NFI kits to 1,157 households.
- In Labado (Ouaka Province), ACTED distributed NFI kits to 1,059 households.

Gaps and constraints:

- In most IDP sites in Bangui, return committees are being created in parallel to existing IDP community structures leading to tensions between both groups.
- In Bossangoa, the secondary occupation of houses could create tensions among the population. The mapping of houses and their previous owners is required.



Education

Needs:

- Temporary safe learning spaces (ETAPes) with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities are needed for 60,000 children.
- Vocational training is required for 2,000 youths by the end of 2015.
- School-feeding activities, particularly in provinces with a low return rate of students, are required for 250,000 people.

551,000

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency education.

Response:

- Since the 2014-2015 school year began, 34,129 children including 16,615 girls have benefited from learning and protection activities in 162 ETAPes in the capital, Bangui, Bimbo and Yaloké, Batangafo and Bouca (Ouham Province), Dékoa (Kémo Province), Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi Province), Bambari and Grimari (Ouaka Province). These include eight and seven additional ETAPes in Bambari and Batangafo respectively to reinforce the ongoing emergency education activities, as well as 15 new ETAPes in displacement sites in Bouca.
- So far, 195 ETAPes teachers and supervisors have participated in the revised Education in Emergencies training facilitated by members of the Ministry of Education.
- Since the beginning of 2015, some 100 teachers have been trained in the educational curriculum for bridging classes.
- School construction and rehabilitation is ongoing in 92 schools countrywide. Since mid-2014, 186 schools have been constructed or rehabilitated.
- Since January 2015, 1,038 out-of-school children and youths have benefited from literacy classes in Bangui, the Kémo and Mambéré-Kadéï provinces.
- Since the 2014-2015 school year began, 302 youth benefited from professional training.
- School feeding programs are ongoing for 83,070 children including 37,702 girls in 122 schools in Bangui and the Kémo, Nana-Grébizi and Ouham-Pendé provinces.

Gaps and constraints:

- Constant population movements and the volatile security situation in central and eastern provinces especially in the Nana-Grébizi province are hindering the provision of structured education, child-protection activities and the timely delivery and distribution of school supplies.



Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- ETC continues to provide radio programming and IT support for aid workers.
- ETC is discussing areas of collaboration with MINUSCA including the use of common radio rooms.

- ETC organised a mission to Bouar from 21 to 23 April to upgrade the data communication infrastructure and provide IT support at the UN common compound.
- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

Gaps and constraints:

- Outside of Bangui, the lack of radio operators and the security situation are hampering the fulfilment of the C-MOSS requirements for COMCENs. Planned recruitments have been delayed due to funding constraints.



Food Security

Needs:

- According to the November 2014 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), an estimated 1.5 million people require food assistance of whom 209,978 are in Bangui. About 19 per cent of the rural population are in IPC phase 3 (crisis and emergency phases) while 12 per cent are in phase 4 (emergency).
- Due to widespread insecurity, looting and violence, crop production in 2014 was 58 per cent lower than the pre-crisis average.
- Food reserves in rural areas were 40 to 50 per cent lower than average and severely food insecure households require immediate life-saving assistance prior to the lean season.
- Support to boost food production will also be critical to save livelihoods and reduce vulnerable families' dependency on humanitarian aid. The promotion of vegetable production, small livestock rearing and fish farming is a priority, and these projects will be funded to enable the distribution of seeds and tools ahead of the planting season.

1.2 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015

Response:

- Between 1 and 26 April, WFP distributed over 2,600 mt of food to nearly 385,000 beneficiaries.
- WFP has met with partners for a prioritization session to discuss and map out areas for intervention under the seeds-protection programme.
- FAO, WFP and their implementing partners continue to plan the agricultural campaign. FAO secured additional funding to assist an additional 2,800 households, reaching a total of 89,200 households targeted for the upcoming main planting season in April/May.

Gaps and constraints:

- Insecurity along the roads and at distribution sites continues to represent the main constraints. The looting of trucks along certain key routes continues to impede access to people in need.



Health

Response

- Three meningitis cases were confirmed in Batangafo by the Institut Pasteur de Bangui. The spinal fluid samples were collected and sent for analysis by MSF Spain. An in-depth assessment of the situation is on-going.
- WHO is supporting the set-up of a health post in the Ngakobo IDP site (Ouaka Province), hosting over 15,000 IDPs.
- Save the Children launched a malnutrition screening campaign in Ouaka province, targeting 28,600 children aged 6 to 59 months. 132 community health workers were trained and deployed on the region for the campaign.

1.4 million

People targeted in 2015

Gaps and constraints:

- Access to health-care services by the local population in Mbrès, Batangafo, Kouango and Kabo sub-provinces is hindered by heightened insecurity. In Mbrès, only three out of the 10 health facilities are operating and in Kouango, eight of the 15 health facilities have stopped delivering health-care to the population.
- The shortage of drugs and lack of qualified medical staff in the Dékoa, Mala and Ndjoukou health centres is compromising the quality of health-care in these localities. The regional health cluster has planned a training to support quality health-care delivery in the entire Kémo province.

- Underfunding of the 2015 health cluster strategic response plan. Only 3 per cent of needs are covered meanwhile, up to 80 per cent of functional health facilities depend on the humanitarian support.



Livelihood/Community Stabilization Cluster

Needs:

- Cattle migration in the western region of CAR and Rafai (Mbomou Province) is leading to some displacements. Social cohesion assistance is required.
- Most vocational training centers countrywide need to be rehabilitated. In Bossangoa and surrounding areas, none of the six vocational centers are functional despite a huge need for youth reinsertion.
- In Soundgdé village, located between Bossangoa and Bouca, some 350 former anti-Balaka who had spontaneously disarmed, need reinsertion assistance..

1 million

People targeted in 2015

Response:

- Development agencies including UNDP-MINUSCA and the World Bank's are launching new pilot labour intensive public works projects targeting youth at risk, armed groups and vulnerable persons.. . As of 28 April, these projects employed 1,326 men and 435 women in Bria, Bamabari, Berbérati, Gamboula, Dédé Mokouba, Sosso Nakombo and Ndéle.
- Since January, DRC has set up 138 new social cohesion committees in the Ombella M'Poko and Ouham Pendé provinces. World Vision carried-out training on social cohesion in Yaloké, targeting 5,000 people.
-

Gaps and constraints:

- In areas where stabilization is on-going, more economic recovery projects including income generating activities, vocational training and access to micro-finance needs to be implemented.



Logistics

Response:

- Handicap International is currently visiting CAR from 18 April to 2 May, with the aim of carrying out an evaluation to identify gaps and logistics needs such as hub rehabilitation, mechanical workshop, transportation, warehousing and guest houses.
- Further to PU-AMI's intention to handover the co-lead of the cluster to another partner, the Logistics Cluster is seeking a new co-lead. Partners have been informed.
- The cluster has requested partners to submit their logistics strategy for the second half of the year and 2016; focusing on common facilities including storage, transportation and offices.
- Updated information was shared on the Logistics Cluster website regarding UNHAS flights and Logistics Cluster information: <http://logcluster.org/ops/caf13a>

Gaps and constraints:

- Poor infrastructure and insecurity along the main roads are hampering the humanitarian logistics chain.
- Access to national service providers remains an issue in Bangui and the provinces.



Nutrition

Needs:

- About 22,700 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 47,000 children suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) are targeted for treatment in 2015.

119,900

Vulnerable people targeted with nutrition services in 2015

Response:

- Since the beginning of the year, some 6,500 children have been admitted for SAM

treatment across the country. This represents 29 per cent of the SRP target.. Overall performance indicators remain within global standards with an average recovery rate of 89.14 per cent (≥ 75 per cent), death rate of 2.14 per cent (< 10 per cent).

- In the same period, some 34,466 new beneficiaries have been admitted in WFP's nutrition programme, including 12,661 children aged between six and 59 months. 1,394 malnourished people living with HIV under ARV treatment and 2,084 caregivers of children suffering from SAM in health facilities. To prevent spikes in malnutrition, WFP is carrying out a large-scale integrated general food distribution and blanket feeding intervention.
- UNICEF, MSF-Spain and COHEB have set-up nutrition response in Kouango. MSF is ensuring in-patient treatment services (IPT) and mobile out-patient treatment services (OPTs) through screening in four axes, referral and treatment of SAM cases over a 3-month period after which COHEB will take-over.. COHEB supports outreach nutrition services for all identified SAM cases on the Grimari and Kouango axes: eight cases have been admitted in IPTs and 52 in OPTs. COHEB screened 528 children aged between 0 and 59 months. Findings revealed 63 SAM and 92 MAM cases. UNICEF provided technical support, nutrition supplies and monitoring of response. 250 cartons of RUFT and 20 cartons of therapeutic milk are being repositioned in Kouango.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Coverage of community-based management of acute malnutrition services outside of Bangui remains low due to security constraints and destroyed health facilities.
- The integration of acute nutrition management into the minimum package of the national health system needs to be strengthened.
- Community management of acute malnutrition needs to be scaled-up.
- Limited capacity and involvement of communities in the prevention and management of nutrition activities.



Protection

Needs:

- Increase protection response to people affected in hotspots, particularly in the Kaga Bandoro–Mbres axis, Batangafo, Kouango, Batangafo-Bouca axis, the border region with Chad in Markounda, Ngaoundaye, Moyon Sido and areas affected by LRA attacks.
- Advocacy with armed groups and international forces needs to be strengthened to ensure respect for basic human rights and protection of civilians in areas where recent clashes occurred.
- Grave violations against children by armed groups continue unabated. Between, 8 to 10,000 children are estimated to be associated with armed groups in CAR
- Psychosocial support and recreational activities are required for children affected by the crisis. Children who are traumatized, have difficulties concentrating and are extremely nervous or aggressive continue to be identified.
- New unaccompanied and separated children continue to be identified, following violence and displacements. There is need to ensure interim care as well as family tracing and reunification activities countrywide.

2 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2014

Response:

- Findings of UNHCR's mission to Kaga Bandoro on 23 April revealed that the protection situation is relatively improving. IDPs from the enclave have the possibility to move slightly beyond the enclave to carry water and/or to go the market during the day. However, the mission noted that distrust persists between the two communities. Social cohesion initiatives and activities need to be reinforced in the area.
- From 21 to 25 April, UNHCR, UNICEF and MINUSCA carried out a mission to the nearby localities of Yaloke, Lambi, Gbom, Pondo, Zaourouyanga and Gbaina-Bondjo to monitor the protection situation of Fulani families who were allegedly held hostages by armed elements in these villages. Several cases of rape, torture and grave violations of human rights were noted among rescued families.
- On 22 April, UNHCR reunited six IDPs from Yaloke with their families in Chad following the authorization of Chadian authorities. Work on reunifying unaccompanied and separated children continues. Some 67 children in Bangui, Bimbo, Berberati, Yaloké, Boda, Bouar and Bambari have been reunified with their families since the beginning of the year.
- On 21 April, IMC and Mercy Corps organized a joint training for 22 NGOs workers on psychosocial support and medical assistance for gender based violence (GBV) survivors in Bambari and surrounding areas.
- On 25 April, UNFPA distributed 32 dignity kits to women survivors of gender based violence including sexual violence in Kaga Bandoro.
-

- Since the beginning of the year, some 4,020 people have been sensitized on child protection issues including physical violence and other harmful practices in Boda, Sibut, Berberati and Bangui.
- Sensitization by child protection actors to prevent the recruitment of children into armed groups is ongoing. From January to April 2015, 1,087 people have been sensitized in the Kemo and Ombella M'Poko Provinces.
- From 10 to 17 April, Search For Common Ground (SFCG) organized two theater sessions in Kaga Bandoro gathering the Muslim and Non-Muslim communities. The first participatory theater session held on 11 April at the bishopric IDP site aimed at discussing conflicts related to water resources in Kaga Bandoro. The second session focused on nepotism and was held in Balekara district. Both sessions were attended by 3,500 people. During these participatory theater sessions, comedians perform a scenario with misunderstandings and stigmatizations and invite the audience to express their views and share opinions on alternative solutions to various issues.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Underfunding is a major constraint on protection activities, particularly for thematic issues which require long-term engagement including GBV prevention and response, protection monitoring, reintegration of child soldiers and psychosocial support to children in need.
- More support is required from some local authorities, particularly on issues related to protection and the fight against impunity.
- Difficult and deteriorating infrastructure hinders access to communities, particularly children and women who require protection.
- Violence, insecurity and banditry continue to impede humanitarian access and protection interventions particularly in areas identified as hotspots.



Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

Needs:

- The following sites require WASH assistance: Bambari site S (9,866 IDPs), M (2,614 IDPs), NDV (10,028 IDPs), Bambari airport (8,922 IDPs and host communities), Ngakobo (7,965 IDPs), Bambari neighborhoods of Hadji and Bornou (9,400 IDPs and host communities), Grimari (135 IDPs and 7,000 returnees), Kouango (about 6,000 IDPs and host communities), Bossangoa (35,000 returnees require water), Petit Seminaire (480 IDPs), site C in Kabo (1,269 IDPs and host communities), Kaga Bandoro site Eveche (12,500 IDPs), Paroisse Nativite (245 IDPs), in Kaga Bandoro (2,850 IDPs in host families), Bissingale (212 IDPs), Moyen Sido (2,159 IDPs), Batangafo (33,149 IDPs in 4 sites) and its axes (23,260 IDPs in 23 sites), Bangui (44,168 IDPs in 37 sites), Carnot (587 IDPs), Yaloke (562 IDPs) and Boda (10,341 IDP's).

1,400,000

People targeted in 2015

Response:

- In Bambari, ICRC and TGH are delivering 150 m³ of potable water per day by water trucking and bucket chlorination to 70 wells in sites and host communities. TGH, ANEA and Vitalite Plus supported by UNICEF are maintaining sanitation facilities, ensuring access for 41 to 67 people per latrine and 65 to 84 people per shower. Community-hygiene promoters provide hygiene-promotion services.
- In Bambari airport, TGH and national NGO Vitalite Plus are providing hygiene-promotion awareness session. They trained 30 community hygiene promoters to take over the activity.
- In Ngakobo, water is supplied by the SUCAF water system. UNICEF and MSF are monitoring water production and looking for alternatives as the water resource decreases with the dry season. TGH is maintaining sanitation facilities and four solid-waste collection pits, ensuring access for 66 people per latrine and 114 people per shower. Community hygienists have been trained on the site and within the community at risk.
- In Grimari, TGH is supplying 30 m³ of potable water per day and maintaining the sanitation facilities in the IDP site, ensuring fewer than 20 people for each facility.
- In Bossangoa, the national society for distributing water SODECA on UNICEF funding, is supplying 564 m³ of potable water per day (with a ratio of 15 liters per person, per day) to the local population and IDPs at the Petit Seminaires site.
- In Markounda UNICEF donated three India Mark II spare-part kits for repairing handpumps.
- In Kaga Bandoro, ICRC and CARITAS are providing 250 m³ of water to 12,500 IDPs daily. ICRC continues to ensure maintenance, awareness campaigns on hygiene promotion for 9000 people and operation of the Eveche site's WASH facilities. In Bissingale and Oubi 1 IDP site, ANEA ensured the emergency rehabilitation of two hand pumps, bringing the total to five functional pumps.
- UNICEF/Solidarities/RRM distributed WASH NFIs to 1,487 households in Botto.
- In Batangafo, DRC distributed 160 m³ of water through trucking in complement the town's 18 handpumps, and it maintained and built 360 latrines and 220 showers. 1,565 m³ of solid waste was collected and disposed outside of the sites. ANEA repaired 5 handpumps targeting 1,500 people in three IDPs sites around Batangafo

town, Yari and Gba-Bobo in the Bouca municipality. ANEA distributed aquatabs to treat 8,350 litres of water benefitting 348 households surrounding Batanganfo town.

- ANEA, with UNICEF support built five blocks of three cabins of latrines on Ndougou sites accompanied by door-to-door and mass awareness sessions targeting 1,280 people affected including 695 women.
- IOM is maintaining sanitation structures in Moyen Sido.
- In Carnot, potable water is supplied by the SODECA network. MSF is in charge of sanitation and ensuring access for 35 people per latrine and 42 per shower.
- In Bangui, ANEA, ACTED and Oxfam with UNICEF support, maintained access to sanitation for 39,045 people in 29 sites in Bangui. ACTED improved sanitation on Bangui sites through the evacuation of 450 m3 of waste. Awareness campaigns were conducted for 7,230 people on basic hygiene practices. Oxfam, with UNICEF support, provided 400 liters of diesel to pump water in four IDP sites: Carmel, Padre Pio, Camboni and Grand Séminaire. This support enabled the supply of 376,000 liters of safe drinking water to 10,333 people (9.22 litres per person per day). Support provided to SODECA ensured the availability of chemicals and fuel for the production of 1 million m3 of water for an estimated 442,000 people in Bangui.
- In Boda ANEA with UNICEF support distributed latrine-cleaning products to help 9,000 IDPs maintain their latrines.
- In Bouar, UNICEF supported SODECA with fuel and treatment chemical to supply 400 m3 of water per day to 52,000 people. ANEA distributed WASH NFI items to 459 households or 2,205 people in Baboua, Beloko and Foro sites.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of funding to maintain WASH services in IDP sites in Bangui.
- Funding and equipment for drilling new water points to replace water trucking in Bangui, Bambari and Batanganfo. Only five drilling machines are available in CAR, which is not sufficient to cover needs.
- More funding and implementing partners are required for the maintenance of WASH infrastructures in IDPs sites hosting people for long periods.
- Lack of funding to continue water trucking in Bangui.



Multi-sector assistance to refugees

Response

- UNHCR CAR provides kindergarten, primary and secondary education to rural and urban refugees in CAR. In the Bambari Sudanese refugee camp, kindergarten and primary schooling are provided in conformity with both Sudanese and Central African curriculums in Arabic and French respectively while in Zemio, the Congolese refugees follow the Congolese curriculum. About 36 Sudanese refugee adolescents consisting of 14 girls and 22 boys in the Pladama Ouaka camp were transferred to Bambari town to pursue secondary education.
- In order to seek solutions to challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs in Bangui, UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council carried out joint door to door monitoring missions. The visits targeted 118 households identified as the most vulnerable among the 648 households in Bangui. So far, 95 were visited.
- Refugees in the Zemio camp have started selling products of their gardening activities, mostly vegetables, in local markets. The market-gardening activity was set-up within the framework of promoting self-reliance through income-generating activities.
- Following the kidnapping of 16 refugees in Zemio camp of whom 13 have returned to Zemio while three remain missing, the National Commission for Refugees and UNHCR held information sharing meetings in the Zemio camp on a regular basis in order to sensitize refugees on precautionary measures regarding the risks linked to the activities of LRA rebels, considering the close proximity with the Democratic Republic of Congo where the LRA is very active.

Gaps and constraints:

- Absence of a permanent international force to secure the Pladama Ouaka refugee camp in Bambari.

General Coordination

OCHA led an inter-agency mission to the Moyen Sido sub-province, along the border with Chad from 13 to 15 April. According to local Red Cross, an estimated 811 households or 3,151 refugees who recently returned from Chad are living on sites and with host families. The returned population and local residents only have access to two wells. The only health centre does not have the capacity to cater for all the inhabitants within the vicinity. Due to

the lack of agricultural activities and the closure of the border, the economic and food security situation of people in the region remains extremely precarious.

On 17 April, OCHA led a joint inter-agency mission to the Mbrès sub-province which suffered armed groups attacks. About 80 per cent of houses in the villages along the Kaga-Bandoro-Mbrès road were burned and deserted. 17 of the 19 schools attended by more than 5,000 students are still closed. The only operational health center on the road lacks essential medical supplies. The humanitarian community is preparing assistance.

The OCHA Bambari office organized a joint inter-agency mission to Bakala (Ouaka Province) on 22 April. This sub-province is one of the most affected regions due to the recurrent activities of armed groups. Although the majority of the displaced people are slowly returning to Bakala from the bush, the main villages along the Bambari-Bakala axis remain deserted. MSF-Holland runs a mobile clinic for the treatment of malaria; targeting children aged between 0 to 5 and pregnant women. Save the Children supports the Togo health centre, while Triangle Génération Humanitaire provides water and sanitation assistance. Triangle Génération Humanitaire for equity in water and sanitation. The assessment mission made recommendations for the implementation of an effective humanitarian response plan.

Background on the crisis

The coup by the coalition known as Seleka in March 2013, which ousted President Francois Bozize after a 10-year rule, plunged CAR into a cycle of escalating violence. In April 2013, Michel Djotodia was recognized as the transitional head of Government at a regional summit in N'Djamena. He resigned in January 2014 and was replaced by Catherine Samba-Panza, but the conflict continued. Security conditions in CAR deteriorated after 5 December 2013, when clashes erupted between militants associated with the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups, composed of armed fighters that oppose ex-Séléka forces. The conflict has acquired an intercommunal and sectarian dimension fuelled by both groups.

In 2015, the security situation throughout CAR remains volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians and humanitarian workers. Relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected people, but ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of CAR, seriously hampering aid delivery. The elections scheduled for mid-2015 could be accompanied by social unrest and violence, thus prompting even larger-scale population displacements.

For further information, please contact:

Francois Goemans, Head of Office, goemans@un.org, Tel: +236 70 73 87 30

Laura Fultang, Public Information/Reports Officer, fultangl@un.org, Tel: +236 70 18 80 64

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/car or reliefweb.int