



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 40

8-21 November 2014

KEY FIGURES

410,000

IDPs including

61,244

in Bangui

424,580

Total number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

187,300

New CAR refugees in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013

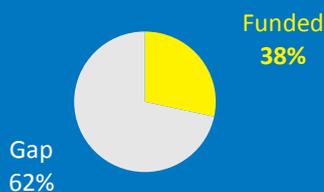
8,012

Refugees and asylum seekers in CAR

FUNDING

USD 255 million

requested for the situation



PRIORITIES

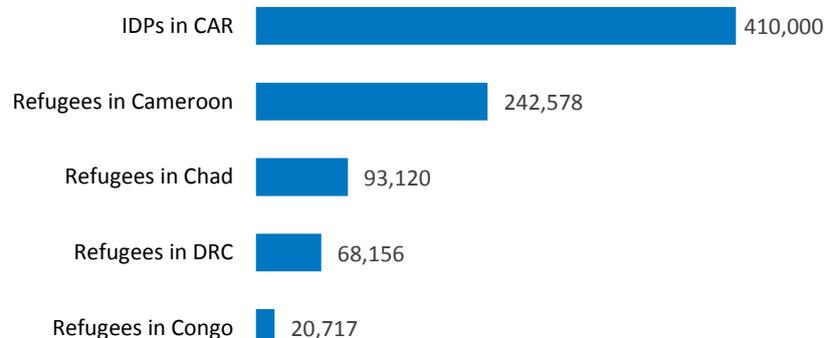
- Cameroon: identification and verification of refugees in host villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

HIGHLIGHTS

- Central African Republic (CAR):** On 20 November, UNHCR was invited by the Representative of President Denis Sassou N'Guesso of the Republic of Congo (RoC), and current mediator to the crisis, to participate in a meeting held in Bangui to discuss the upcoming elections in the country and the feasibility of ensuring the participation of Central African refugees. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and UN Resident Coordinator of CAR, Mr. Aurélien Agbenonci, the ambassadors of France, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), RoC and China, and representatives of the European Union and USAID. UNHCR welcomed the Central African authorities' willingness to hold inclusive elections and reiterated its readiness to assist in discussions between authorities in CAR and countries of asylum.
- Cameroon:** On 5 November, a suspected case of cholera was reported on the site Timangolo. The patient reportedly came from Gado via Gbiti three days before symptoms appeared. UNHCR coordinated an immediate multi-sectoral response with WHO, UNICEF, NGO partners and local authorities, including the mobilization of a WASH task force to carry out communication and raising awareness, ensuring potable water treatment and disinfection.

Population of concern

A total of **834,580** people of concern



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- On 22 November, UNHCR participated in a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) mission to Zemio (Haut-Mboumou prefecture). The aim of the mission was to assess the humanitarian situation following the outbreak of inter-communal violence. The HCT called upon all parties involved to end violence and ensure the restoration of social cohesion in the region.
- On 11 November, the International Contact Group for CAR (ICG-CAR) agreed with the proposal of the National Election Authority to postpone legislative and national elections to June 2015 (first round) and July 2015 (second round). Elections had originally been scheduled for February 2015, but SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily stated that following delays in any sort of meaningful action since the Brazzaville Accords in July 2014, and the increased violence in October 2014, elections would not have been possible so soon.
- On 8 November, the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator (SHC), Ms. Claire Bourgeois, visited Vakaga prefecture in north eastern CAR accompanied by the Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNOCHA, representatives of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and other humanitarian actors. The purpose of the mission was to assess humanitarian needs in the area and reiterate the commitment of the humanitarian community to assist the displaced populations. The delegation met with local authorities notably the Prefect of the Vakaga, sub-prefects and Mayors of Tiringoulou, Birao and Ouanda-Djalle, NGOs working in the area and displaced people of Tiringoulou to discuss coverage of priority basic needs which were cited by participants as follows: education, health and food security.



Protection

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 410,000 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 61,244 in Bangui in 36 sites.
- On 15 November, the Protection cluster held the first round of its sensitization campaign on protection issues and protection mainstreaming in emergency situations. The initiative aims to launch a series of trainings targeting national NGOs and national staff from UN agencies and international NGOs, in order to build their capacity in ensuring protection.
- From 4 to 10 November, a joint team composed of the Protection cluster and the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) emergency unit went on a field mission to Lobaye prefecture in order to monitor protection responses being provided by the Protection cluster's partners in the region and to monitor the situation of communities-at-risk. The mission visited IDPs in Boda, Mbaiki, and the villages of Boboua, Bodjoula, Boguera, Boganagone, Zalingo, Becagomie, Ndolo and Ngotto. The mission made the following key recommendations: advocacy for the redeployment of local administration; the deployment of security forces to Boganangone and Boganda; advocacy for regular patrols by MINUSCA forces based in Mbaiki to the Boganangone and Boboua areas; additional social cohesion projects and economic recovery in Boda, Boganangone and Boboua; construction of community shelters or support for the reconstruction of shelters; rehabilitation of the main market in Boda; cash for work initiatives for youths and psychosocial support to communities.
- Within the framework of the "participative theater" component of the social cohesion project in Kaga Bando, Search For Common Ground (SFCG) officially launched its social cohesion activities.

CAMEROON

- An estimated 134,515 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions. Verification exercises are currently being carried out in the East, Adamawa and North regions of registered Central African refugees.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR mobile protection teams continued with registration in villages where refugees have been settled for some months but had not yet been formally identified. During the reporting period, 967 refugees were verified and pre-registered in the villages of Belita II, Belibam, Dondoube, Mbouma, Gaina, Sandji but also in the sites of Mbilé and Ngam in the East and Adamawa regions.
- From 3-16 November, UNHCR issued 2,534 identification documents to refugee families in the sites of Lolo, Mbilé and Timangolo as well as in several towns and villages in the East and Adamawa regions. To date, a total of 43,771 identification documents have been issued by UNHCR to refugee families and refugees of at least 18 years of age in order to ensure their freedom of movement.
- UN Women, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Family, inaugurated three new centres for women in the sites of Gado, Lolo and Mbilé. UN Women also conducted sensitization sessions with the participation of 1,256 refugees, including 1,055 women and 201 men in Gado and Timangolo.
- According to IOM, as of 17 November, a total of 2,231 Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have been registered in Kentzou (1,329) and Garoua Boulai (902) and have requested for IOM's assistance to return to their countries of origin. They originate from Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Mali, Ivory Coast and Chad, and of which 1,771 are living in host communities and 460 in IOM transit sites.

CHAD

- An estimated 20,000 Central African refugees have entered Chad since December 2013 and are predominantly in the southern part of the country.

Refugees:

- From 7-13 November, a joint mission composed of UNHCR, the *Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) and the *Détachement pour la Protection des Humanitaires et Réfugiés* (DPHR), visited the area of Moissala, in the Mandoul Region of southern Chad, with the aim to register individuals identified as refugees during a previous visit to the area. The mission registered a total of 1,024 CAR refugees (264 families) living in 11 villages in the Moissala district.
- UNHCR mobile teams continue to monitor villages along the Central African-Chad border and to identify and register refugees from CAR among the local population.
- As of 8 November, 69 hectares of land had been cleared in the new refugee camp of Doholo, 56 shelters constructed (another 42 are under construction) and 156 plots of land of 15mx20m demarcated. A health centre has also been constructed.

Returnees:

- UNHCR and partners completed the construction of 500 planned shelters on the site of Kobiteye for Chadian returnees.
- In between 3-18 November, 1,025 Chadian returnees (276 families) were transferred from Doyaba transit centre to the site of Maingama.
- The verification exercise in Maingama is ongoing and so far, a total of 891 returnees (251 households) were accounted for during 6-7 November bringing the total number of verified people to 7,182. During that same period, 204 shelters were constructed on the site.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- An estimated 22,214 Central African refugees have entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo since December 2013 (as at 30 September) and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province. The registration and verification operation is still ongoing to determine the number of refugees in and out of camps. New statistics will be published once the entire operation is finalized.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A joint protection mission between UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) was undertaken to Gbadolite to train authorities, the Congolese National Police (PNC), Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC), and the General Directorate of Migration (DGM) on international protection.

- In Gbadolite, SFCG begun to implement SGBV prevention activities in and outside of Inke camp. A work session was held to determine the work plan and themes on which they will work, which include: early marriage, physical assault, sexual harassment and forced marriage. Planned activities include training, film screenings, theatre and dance, and mass sensitizations.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 10,571 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area. A total of 929 new arrivals were pre-registered this week by local authorities.
- During the week of 3-9 November, a joint mission of UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale pour l'Assistance des Réfugiés* (CNAR) was conducted in the locality of Gouga Fleuve. A screening of newly arrived individuals led to the pre-identification and pre-registration of 101 individuals belonging to 31 families.

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- As of 16 November, 286 refugee children were enrolled in UNICEF's Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPes) programme. A total of 7,983 refugee children (2,779 girls and 5,204 boys) are currently attending classes within 85 ETAPes in the sites of Gado, Timangolo, Mbilé, Lolo and Borgop.
- With the support of UNHCR, Plan Cameroon, UNICEF, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the Ministry of Basic Education, 572 children have been integrated into local public schools after completing the ETAPes programme.
- In Garoua Boulai, UNHCR accelerated the registration and documentation process for 20 refugee students so as to facilitate their enrolment in secondary schools.
- To support good hygiene practices in school environments, UNHCR distributed a total of 56 buckets to ETAPes classrooms and to the primary and secondary school in Gado. In addition, UNHCR distributed blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, jerry cans, solar lamps and mosquito nets to four secondary students in Djohong.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to expand capacity—in terms of infrastructure, equipment, materials and staffing— of local public schools to integrate refugee children into the national curriculum.
- UNICEF and Plan Cameroon continue to face a number of challenges with the ETAPes programmes, mainly the lack of teaching materials and the non-payment of teacher salaries. These problems have led to a decrease in attendance in some sites and decreased motivation among some teachers. UNICEF recently indicated that it would not be able to pay full teacher salaries in December.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- One month after the beginning of the school year, most of the teachers and education professionals of Betou area have not yet resumed their functions. The explanation given for this delay is related to the isolation of Betou and therefore most public schools attended by refugee children are not operational.

Health

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and NGO partners, continued to provide support to the Regional Delegation of Public Health (DRSP) to coordinate the multi-partner response to the cholera outbreak in Gado

and Timangolo. To date, a total of 11 cases have been declared, including 10 suspected cases and 1 case confirmed in Gado via Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT). In addition, UNHCR organized four sensitization sessions in Gado with the participation of 345 refugees, including 297 women and 48 men to raise awareness on cholera prevention measures.

- UNICEF and WHO continue to conduct routine polio and measles vaccinations in the border towns of Kentzou, Garoua Boulai, Tocktoyo and Gbiti. During the reporting period, 569 children of less than five years received oral polio vaccines and 1,067 children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years were vaccinated against measles.
- UNHCR and UNICEF coordinated the deployment of 137 teams made up of volunteers trained by different NGOs in the refugee sites of Gado and Timangolo in order to conduct door-to-door sensitization and to disseminate messages on cholera prevention. Simultaneously, 50 health community agents sensitized host communities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the week of 7-13 November, 2,511 children between the ages of 0 and 59 months were vaccinated against polio in Inke camp (95.7% coverage). In Mole camp, 1,435 children of the same age were vaccinated.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A nutritional assessment, the Standardized Monitoring Assessment and Transitions (SMART) is currently being conducted in the Likouala Department. It started on 17 November and is due to be completed at the end of the month under the joint supervision of UNHCR and WFP.
- The health clinic in Betou conducted routine vaccinations for 139 refugee children and 37 pregnant women.



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The ninth round of general food distributions began on 4 November and continues in refugee sites and villages in the East and Adamawa regions, including both new arrivals and the old refugee caseload. So far, 70% of the planned target - 93,706 refugees - have received monthly food distributions in 19 sites and villages. The food basket consists of a complete 30 day ration and includes cereals, legumes, oil and salt. Also included is Corn Soy Blend (CSB) in order to ensure the nutritional needs of refugees.
- During the reporting period, the village of Tocktoyo was inaccessible due to logistical difficulties (i.e. poor road conditions). WFP is working with UNHCR and IFRC to resolve logistical issues in order to transport food to this village. In addition, refugees in Borgop site in Adamawa region as well as Helbao and Mbaiboum in the North region have not yet received complete food baskets due to transportation delays.
- This week, a total of 205 new admissions were registered in mobile nutrition clinics with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 37 in nutrition centres. A total of 5,997 admissions have been recorded since the beginning of the crisis. Currently, 1,856 beneficiaries are being treated in mobile nutrition clinics and nutrition centres.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mole camp, WFP concluded the distribution of cash grants to 15,314 people (6,646 households) whereby they received USD 15,00.
- In Boyabu, 22 children were admitted to the nutritional programme; 12 children were suffering from SAM and 10 from MAM. A total of 380 packets of plumpy nut were distributed to children with SAM.



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- Throughout all seven refugee sites, the average supply of water is 14.6l/p/d.
- The ratio remains 26 people per latrine (down from 34 people as reported in previous weeks).
- In response to the cholera epidemic in Gado, the IFRC and the Cameroonian Red Cross (CRC) distributed 530,000 aquatabs to WASH partners in order to ensure the chlorination of water sources.
- In Borgop, UNHCR carried out sensitization sessions with refugee committees, community leaders and other refugee groups on the use and maintenance of sanitation facilities and waste management. In an effort to reduce the risk of cholera, several sensitization sessions were also carried out on hygiene, for a total of 550 refugees (174 men, 286 women and 90 adolescents). Six water points were also treated.
- In Ngam, 211 WASH kits (including buckets, jerrycans, soap and aquatabs) provided by UNHCR were distributed to newly-transferred refugees on site. In addition, in 1,235 refugees were sensitized on sanitation, waste management and personal hygiene as part of cholera prevention measures.
- In Timangolo and Ngari-Songo, WASH teams are carrying out water chlorination with aquatabs, daily disinfection of areas at risk and systematic chlorination of sanitation facilities in an effort to reduce the risk of the spread of cholera.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The quantity of water supplied per person per day remains below the emergency threshold of 15l/p/d in the sites of Mbilé, Borgop, Ngam and Gado. In Mbilé, the average supply of water dropped from 15 to 13l/p/d due to technical difficulties with two wells. UNHCR's implementing partner, International Relief and Development (IRD), is working to resolve these issues. Meanwhile, construction work is underway to address shortages in other sites.
- Additional funds are required for the construction of 57 boreholes, 1,209 latrines and 1,522 showers, by all WASH actors, to cover the needs of all refugees in all sites.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Boyabu, 9,561 people (refugees and host population) were sensitized on the use of hand-washing stations.
- In Mole, the water consumption average stands at 11.4l/p/d and an 8th borehole is under construction.
- In Inke, the water consumption average, of 9.8l/p/d, remains well under the standard of 15l/p/d.



Shelter and NFIs

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- In Boda, through an intervention of *Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), 26 collective emergency shelters were constructed outside the enclave in the IDP sites of *Cotonaf*, *Ecole sous-préfecturale des filles* and *Paroisse Saint Michel* thereby providing emergency shelter to 890 IDPs. Twelve collective emergency shelters were constructed for the Muslim community in the enclave for some 480 mostly vulnerable people. PU-AMI, IOM and the Committee of the Elderly of Boda jointly established the beneficiary lists. In addition, individual tarpaulins were distributed to 31 vulnerable families within the enclave.
- In Bossangoa, so far, CRS has distributed 14,463 NFI kits to families in need. 4,747 and 7,716 kits were provided by OFDA and UNHCR respectively.

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and its implementing partner, PU-AMI, continue to build family shelters with the aim of moving refugee families out of community shelters. During the reporting period, 136 family shelters were constructed in Gado, Mbilé and Borgop. To date, a total of 6,687 family shelters have been constructed across all refugee sites (out of 12,162 planned).
- In Timangolo, three community shelters were rehabilitated to improve shelter for residents. In addition, construction work for the security post on site has begun.
- In Borgop, IFRC distributed NFIs to 772 refugees (192 families) in Borgop, including soap, 246 mosquito nets and 8 bundles of clothes provided by UNHCR. In addition, 49 solar lamps were distributed to people with special needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to recent storms, two warehouses, 10 family shelters and 154 family huts in Mbilé and Timangolo were damaged. UNHCR and partners are working to repair these structures.
- An additional 5,475 family shelters need to be constructed to cover basic needs across all seven refugee sites.
- NFI distributions need to be extended to refugee hosting villages.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- In Mole, 10 newborn baby kits were distributed to expecting families, 361 mats to newly-arrived refugees, and 250 mats and 21 blankets to households affected by last week's torrential rains.
- In Inke, UNHCR's implementing partner, African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) is finalizing the construction of a school, a health center, and has finished 618 out of 700 planned shelters.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The destruction caused by last week's strong winds in Libenge was quite considerable and could take weeks to repair the damage. In Boyabu, last week's strong wind destroyed 96 shelters, 6 communal kitchens, 2 dormitories, and 1 warehouse for newly-arrived refugees. In response, UNHCR's partner AIRD has erected 2 tents and is in the process of constructing 3 warehouses.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On the 15 Avril site, 61 permanent shelters have been constructed and 39 are being finalized.
- On the refugee site Ikpengbele, 150 shelters are being finalized and 18 are being rehabilitated.
- During the week of 3-9 November, 463 refugees (184 households) received NFI kits, including 128 women and girls who received hygienic kits.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- Following security incidents in October, the CCCM cluster remains mobilized to ensure the transfer of IDPs residing in classrooms into community shelters and restructure the sites in coordination with the education and shelter clusters and PU-AMI. Some classrooms previously vacated were indeed reoccupied during the crisis. There are ongoing restructuration activities in the *Mission Carmel* and *Saint Joseph Mukassa* sites.
- A task force for the M'Poko airport site was established to support the departure of IDPs from the site before mid-February 2015 and the access of IDPs to durable or alternative solutions. The security aspect of the possible alternative site AVICOM, which was identified by the Government, was assessed by MINUSCA prior to a visit with national authorities to determine the available area and surroundings. This task force, led by

the CCCM cluster and UNOCHA is composed of site management agency PU-AMI, the Coordinator of the Durable Solutions task force, the Government and the Protection and Shelter clusters.

- In Bambari, under the joint supervision of UNHCR and local partners, the alternative site has been cleaned up and is being parceled. *Cooperazione* (COOPI) is to build a surrounding fence and implement the tarpaulin distribution and allocation of plots to households. COOPI will also support the transfer of IDPs who will be in charge of building their own shelters, except vulnerable households who will receive their assistance. Sensitization meetings were held with IDPs from sites “S” and “M” to be transferred to the new site, in order to clarify the transfer process and respond to their concerns, which were mostly linked with security.



Community Empowerment and Self-Management

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- In Timangolo, International Relief and Development (IRD) organized a training workshop on the production of enhanced cookstoves. To date, over 600 cookstoves have been made with the support of 10 trainers. These cookstoves will help reduce refugees’ reliance on firewood, thus improving environmental conservation as well as community relations between refugees and host communities by reducing conflicts over firewood.
- In Lolo, Gado and Mbilé, UN Women is supporting 150 women who have already started income generating activities in sewing, small business and selling food products.
- In Mbilé, IRD has identified 39 teenagers for vocational training in carpentry, electrical work, and masonry and has registered 750 women to begin the production of enhanced cookstoves. In addition, IRD distributed 100 rakes and 100 watering cans to beneficiaries to support agriculture activities.
- As part of its “one woman, one stove” project, IRD conducted door-to-door training for women in Lolo over the course of three days, training 1,000 women and producing 1,200 cookstoves.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- In Mole, 1,800 bricks were produced by refugees, and 1,300 of those were sold. Also, 705 bars of soap were produced, and 600 of these were sold.
- In Gbadolite, income-generating activity kits (restaurant, baking, and sewing, etc.) were procured and distributed to refugees. To date, 434 refugees have received 30 baking kits, 29 soap-making kits, 70 carpentry kits, 75 mason kits, 60 brick-making kits, 10 restaurant kits, 16 sewing kits, and 130 milling kits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

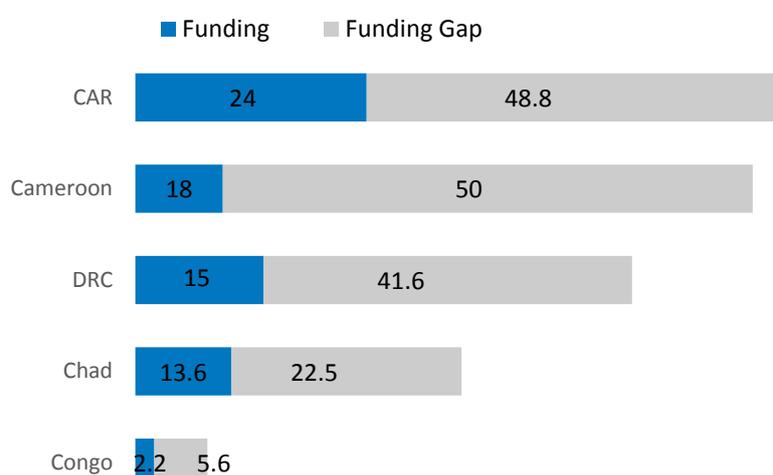
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation. Below are UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance to Central African refugees in the neighbouring countries, as well as discharging its responsibilities in the inter-agency framework to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in the Central African Republic. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Regional Situation currently amounts to USD 255 million, including USD 104.5 million of revised additional needs in asylum countries from January to December 2014, as presented in the Revised Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 22 July. **The overall needs are currently funded at 38%.**

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Funding:

A total of **USD 92 million** has been funded



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Links:

Regional webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

