

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

## UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 47

17-23 January 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**438,538**

IDPs including

**51,058**

in Bangui in 34 sites

**427,052**

Total number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

**190,045**

New CAR refugees in neighbouring countries since Dec. 2013

**7,966**

Refugees and asylum seekers in CAR

### PRIORITIES

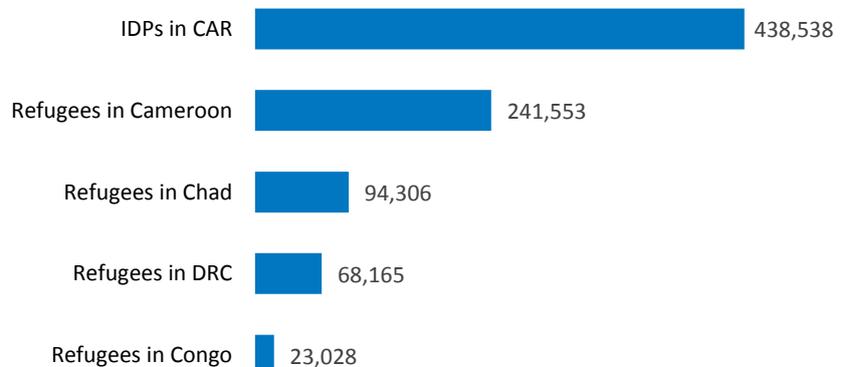
- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 23 January, UNHCR and 18 partners launched the 2015 Central African Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan. In this plan, UNHCR and partners are seeking \$331 million to respond to the protection and assistance needs of more than 460,000 Central African refugees by December 2015 in the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo. UNHCR remains concerned that violence in the Central African Republic will continue and that the number of people forced to flee their homes will grow.
- On 22 January, the UN Security Council (UNSC) reinforced sanctions against individuals implicated in the ongoing sectarian violence and undermining any prospect for “peace, security and stability” in the Central African Republic. The UNSC also strongly condemned the resurgence of deadly violence across the country whilst also expressing “grave concern” at the ongoing destabilization by armed groups.
- At a briefing at UN Headquarters, on 21 January, two members of the International Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the Central African Republic, Ms. Fatimata M’Baye and Mr. Philip Alston, reported that crimes against humanity had been widely committed by all parties to the ongoing conflict. They called for the establishment of a “truly international tribunal” to prosecute perpetrators of such crimes.

#### Population of concern

A total of **865,590** people of concern



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### Operational Context

- UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and other humanitarian partners participated in a mission to Batangafo (Ouham Prefecture) organized by the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator (SHC), Ms. Claire Bourgeois. The IDP site in Batangafo now hosts the largest IDP population in the country with over 30,000 IDPs, following new influxes from the western and southern axes. The recent influx of over 3,000 IDPs from villages west of Batangafo was mainly due to acts of retaliation by Peuhl herders on villages after being attacked by anti-Balaka groups. The site is currently hosting more than double its planned population. An immediate recommendation by the mission participants is the reinforcement of the limited number of peacekeepers in Batangafo (100 to date) in order to secure the town and to allow 11,000 IDPs from Batangafo, to return to their homes.

### Protection

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 438,538 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 51,058 in Bangui in 34 sites.
- Facilitation teams trained by UNDP and MINUSCA, were deployed in CAR's 16 Prefectures on 18 January to hold popular consultations ahead of the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation. The aim of these consultations was to engage with Central Africans on three main issues: governance, peace & security, and justice. Four teams will also be deployed to Cameroon, Chad, DRC and the Republic of Congo, as the consultations also include refugees.
- UNHCR and OCHA conducted a joint mission to Kouki (80km north of Bossangoa) to assess the situation of IDPs who had returned to their town. The assessment demonstrated that there are significant humanitarian needs in terms of shelter (1,400 burnt/destroyed houses), WASH, education, food security and health.

#### CAMEROON

- An estimated 135,132 Central African refugees have entered Cameroon since December 2013 with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions.

#### Achievements and Impact

- Due to growing insecurity along the CAR-Cameroon border, UNHCR carried out community sensitizations with refugees in Timangolo this week regarding the respect for the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, prohibition of weapons in sites, as well as protection risks, including living in border areas and cross-border movements. Sensitization sessions were held in collaboration with local authorities and will continue in all refugee sites. During these sessions, refugees demonstrated their willingness to collaborate with Cameroonian authorities and UNHCR to maintain the civil character of the refugee site.
- UNHCR continues to verify and update registration information for spontaneous movements and family reunifications between sites and villages. During the week, 87 spontaneous arrivals (52 families) were verified and registered in Lolo, while 68 refugees (40 families) were registered in Borgop, primarily as part of family reunifications.
- This week, UNHCR issued 336 identification documents to refugee families in Lolo, Borgop, and Ngam in the East and Adamawa regions. To date, a total of 47,449 refugee documents have been issued by UNHCR to families and refugees of at least 18 years of age in order to certify their refugee status and facilitate their freedom of movement.
- In collaboration with UNHCR, UN Women conducted several sensitization sessions on SGBV awareness and available support services with the participation of 1,657 refugees, including 1,435 women and 222 men, in the sites of Timangolo, Lolo, Mbilé and Gado. During these sessions, 15 cases of SGBV were identified and

assisted. Since the beginning of January, UN Women has sensitized 3,909 refugees (3,536 women and 373 men) in these sites, and among them, a total of 19 SGBV cases have been identified and assisted.

## CHAD

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

### Achievements and Impact

#### Refugees:

- In an effort to decongest Dosseye camp in southern Chad, 1,858 refugees have been relocated to Doholo camp. The transfer of an additional 4,000 refugees is due to take place within the next few weeks.

#### Returnees:

- The transfer of returnees from Sido to the site of Maingama continues. To date IOM has transferred 14,870 individuals out of a total 32,000 who wish to be relocated. Relocation of this population resumed on 20 January and will continue until May 2015.

## 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 31 October) and are predominantly in the northern Equateur Province. However, approximately 10,000 Central African refugees have arrived in Equateur Province since December 2014, requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. Local government officials have stated the total amount of arrivals is estimated to be over 30,000. UNHCR and the Congolese *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) are on the ground verifying these numbers and registering new arrivals.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR, WFP and other partners conducted an emergency mission to Bosobolo territory (Equateur Province) following the reports of newly arrived refugees. At the end of the mission, several recommendations were made including: (i) to promote relocation to Inke camp; (ii) to consider creating, as soon as possible, a new camp site near Bili to ensure sufficient capacity and to move refugees away from the river area for security reasons; (iii) to provide emergency assistance in health structures in the host communities; (iv) to reinforce the pre-registration process.
- The large majority of the newly arrived refugees live in spontaneous refugee sites on the shore of the Oubangui River, on the border with CAR, whilst others live with host families.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- An estimated 12,699 Central African refugees have entered the Republic of Congo since December 2013, and are predominantly in the Betou area. During the reporting period, 204 new arrivals were registered in Betou, Impfondo and Brazzaville.

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR conducted a border monitoring mission to the locality of Kpakaya where 28 refugees were identified, registered and relocated to Betou.

 Education

## CAMEROON

### Achievements and Impact

- Within Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPes), participation among refugee children has fallen significantly in sites, primarily due to colder weather conditions. For example, in Timangolo only 290 refugee children were present this week (out of 833 enrolled) for an attendance rate of 34.8%—a significant decrease from a 65% attendance rate at the beginning of school year. Sensitizations were carried out during the week to encourage school attendance. UNHCR is planning to carry out sensitizations next week with community and religious leaders, including the education committees, so as to motivate parents to ensure their children attend school.
- In Ngam, preparations for the implementation of education activities are still underway. Five temporary tents have been installed by Plan Cameroon to provide classroom space while five ETAPes classrooms are under construction. In addition, five teachers were recruited, and the education committee is identifying and enrolling school-age children. So far, a total of 618 students have been enrolled, including 318 girls and 350 boys.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The reinforcement of community sensitizations on school attendance is necessary.
- There remains a lack of school supplies, uniforms and classroom equipment in some refugee hosting areas.
- 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.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Newly arrived refugees in Equateur have no access to education, which is one of the reasons why they are being advised to relocate to the camps as soon as possible.
- In Mole camp, a meeting was organized with all teachers to evaluate the activities of the first school trimester. Teacher conduct was discussed, as well as pedagogical documents used, student attendance and how to reduce the amount of students that did not progress in comparison with previous school year.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Achievements and Impact

- Some 161 refugees will start attending professional trainings in the vocational training centre 'Likouala Timber' located in Betou, following an agreement between UNHCR, the centre and local authorities.



## Health

## CAMEROON

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), UNHCR's implementing partner, is training its community volunteers in Timangolo, Mbilé and Lolo on prevention methods against malaria, fever, and respiratory diseases. Volunteers are also being trained to identify cases of whooping cough within the community and to refer cases to health centres. Last week, two cases of whooping cough were diagnosed among refugees.
- UNICEF and WHO continue to conduct routine polio and measles vaccinations in border towns and villages. During the reporting period, 29 children below the age of five received oral polio vaccines in Gbiti and Tocktoyo.

## CHAD

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's implementing partner, the *Centre de Support en Sante Internationale (CSSI)*, has established a health centre in Doholo refugee camp. Some 200-300 patients seek medical consultations each week. The main health concerns are malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and skin problems.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The recent arrivals to Equateur Province have no access to health care due to lack of access (long distances) and means. Their situation can deteriorate if there is no intervention in the short term. The infrastructures and instruments are obsolete; there is insufficient medical staff and medication. The living conditions, in very precarious shelters, could also lead to deteriorating health.
- There is a low coverage in terms of vaccination of the newly arrived refugees, whereas there is good vaccination coverage for the local population. The most reported illnesses are malaria, acute respiratory diseases, diarrhea and malnutrition.
- In Mole camp, a total of 438 refugees (219 women and 219 men) received medical care in the health clinic. In addition, 79 Congolese from the host community also received treatment.
- In the health centre in Inke camp, 336 patients sought treatment.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, the health clinic in Betou conducted the routine vaccination of 109 refugee children and 53 pregnant women.



## Food Security and Nutrition

## CAMEROON

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the week, UNHCR and partners launched the SENS/SMART nutrition survey in Timangolo refugee site and the village of Kette in the East region. Preliminary results of the survey are expected next month.
- International Medical Corps (IMC), UNHCR's implementing partner, continued the ninth round of the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in the Adamawa region. To date, 3,285 children have received nutritional assistance out of a target population of 8,026. In addition, 436 pregnant and lactating women (out of 1,236 planned) have also been assisted. Preliminary results confirmed 29 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 6 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Around 15 tonnes of nutritional supplements have been distributed for their treatment.
- In the East region, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and AHA the ninth round of the BSFP began on 22 January targeting 24,137 children and 3,587 pregnant and lactating women.
- General food distributions for the month of January are ongoing and have reached 70% of planned distribution sites so far. To date, 62,709 refugees have received monthly food rations, out of a target of 117,690 refugees (including both old and new caseloads). Beneficiaries continue to receive a complete food basket consisting of grains, beans, oil, salt, and fortified foods for nutritional benefits.
- During the reporting period, a total of 68 new admissions were registered in mobile nutrition clinics and 40 in nutrition centres. Currently, 1,168 beneficiaries are being treated in mobile nutrition clinics (1,055) and nutrition centres (113).

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The emergency mission in the Bosobolo region reported that the prevalence of malnourished children is 27,4% (based on Middle-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) indicators): 19,1 % suffering from MAM; 8,3 with SAM; and 2,25% with oedema. The prevalence of malnourished pregnant and lactating women is 11,3%,

following MUAC assessments. It was recommended to provide blanket feeding in health centres (including Corn-Soy Blend (CSB) and plumpy sup).

- A total of 367 refugees are admitted to the nutritional programme in Mole camp, out of which there are 87 pregnant and lactating women and 249 children suffering from SAM and 31 children with SAM. UNHCR's implementing partner, the *Association de Développement Economique et Social* (ADES) distributed 100kg of CSB to pregnant and lactating women. The GAM rate in Mole camp is reportedly 7.8% (7% MAM and 0.8% SAM).
- In Inke camp, there are 253 malnourished adult refugees, out of which 161 are receiving nutritional assistance, as well as 200 malnourished children below the age of 5.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP launched the monthly food distribution in the areas of Betou and Impfondo.
- One case of MAM and one case of SAM were identified amongst 28 children screened for malnutrition.



### Water and Sanitation

## CAMEROON

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Within the seven refugee sites, the average supply of water is 19.2 litres per person per day (l/p/d), up from 17.6l as reported last week. During the reporting period, six water pumps were finalized in Timangolo by CARE, UNHCR's implementing partner, which significantly raised the average water supply in this site to 21l/p/d (up from 15.5l as reported last week). In addition, four water pumps are currently under construction in the village of Timangolo. To date, UNHCR and its implementing partners have constructed 70 water pumps in refugee sites (out of 82 planned).
- UNHCR and partners continue to construct latrines and showers in sites to reach recommended standards. During the week, 32 latrines and 10 showers were finalized in Timangolo by CARE and in Lolo, 36 latrines and 36 showers are currently under construction. Currently, the average ratios in all sites are 26 people per latrine (contrary to the standard of 20 people per latrine) and 31 people per shower.
- Additional resources are necessary for the construction of 54 boreholes, 865 latrines and 1,123 showers to cover the needs in all refugee sites. This does not include the needs in host villages which include an additional 389 boreholes to construct, 247 to repair and 828 latrines to build.

## CHAD

### Achievements and Impact

- In Doholo camp, 6 boreholes and 6 communal washing areas have been constructed by CARE. They and the International Islamic Youth League (IIYL) have also constructed 109 latrines. Refugees are provided an average of 32.5 l/p/d in Doholo.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Spontaneous sites hosting old and new refugees are marked by a total lack of access to clean water and sanitation. Refugees are using water directly from the Oubangi River. The lack of adequate transport containers and water storage limits the amount of water to 5-6l/p/d.
- This week, Mole camp produced a total of 1,211,000l of water, which provided 10.6l/p/d.
- In Boyabu, the total amount of water production this week was 255,123l and provided 18l/p/d. The water continues to be provided by 18 wells (including 3 with manual pumps).
- In Inke camp, the level of water production currently stands at 1,480,600l and which provided 16.8l/p/day (an increase from last week's 10.2l/p/d).

## Shelter and NFIs

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- The Chef de Cabinet of the Ministry of Social and Humanitarian Affairs informed IDPs at the M’Poko airport site that the priority is their return to their areas of origin and that the government is working with the humanitarian community to come up with a return strategy. The SHC insisted that there would not be any forced relocation and that IDPs would be approached in the next days to map out their needs and intentions. The SHC has since created four task forces exclusively working on the M’Poko IDP site: return (lead by OCHA), registration (lead by UNHCR), alternative site AVICOM – technical advisory by the site planner (UNHCR), and communication with communities (OCHA).
- Under the guidance of the national Shelter / NFI / CCCM Cluster, the Bossangoa working group organized a focus group discussion with IDPs of the *Petit Séminaire* site in Bossangoa, who had expressed the desire to return to their place of origin (Kouki). The discussion aimed at identifying IDPs’ priorities to facilitate their return. The focus group of 100 persons (out of a total of 310 IDPs) stated that besides the absolute priority of restoring security, the rehabilitation of and access to public services such as water wells, schools and health centres is of utmost importance to them.

### CAMEROON

#### Achievements and Impact

- During the week, UNHCR’s implementing partner, *Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), finalized the construction of 50 family shelters in Gado, and 80 shelters are currently under construction in Borgop. A total of 7,393 family shelters have been constructed across all seven refugee sites. For 2015, UNHCR plans to construct 9,500 semi-permanent shelters in all sites.
- Following the fires that destroyed four family shelters in Gado last week, UNHCR’s implementing partner, IEDA Relief, organized mass sensitization campaigns in Gado and Borgop on the risks of fire during the dry season and prevention methods. A total of 527 refugees were sensitized, including 102 men, 150 women and 275 children.
- During the week, general food distributions in sites were coupled with monthly NFI distributions of soap and sanitary towels for women. In Mbilé, Lolo and Timangolo, a total of 19,198 bars of soap and 1,376 sanitary towels have been distributed so far.

#### Identified Needs and Gaps

- An additional 2,750 family shelters need to be constructed for 500 families currently living in community shelters and 875 families that continue to share family tents.
- A total 9,500 semi-permanent family shelters need to be constructed in all sites.
- Distribution of NFIs needs to be extended to refugee hosting villages.

### CHAD

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and its partners, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and IYIL have constructed a total of 521 shelters and erected 20 tents in Doholo camp.
- Other infrastructures such as a reception area have been erected to receive relocated refugees as well as those who arrive spontaneously.

### REPUBLIC OF CONGO

#### Achievements and Impact

- In between 29 December- 4 January, NFIs were distributed to 188 Central African refugee families.
- A total of 349 temporary family shelters have been built in Betou since the beginning of the CAR emergency.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Management

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### CAMEROON

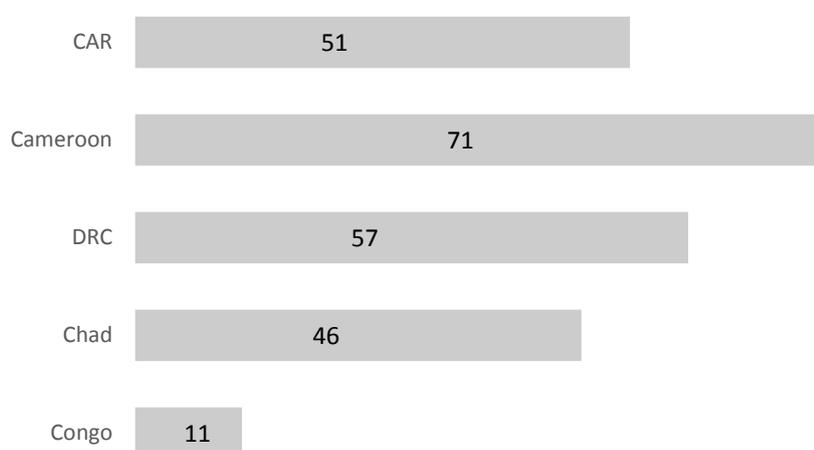
#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partners are working to distribute mills provided by WFP to refugee sites and to assign each to management committees, which are primarily composed of refugee women. These mills will help refugees to process maize and sorghum for easier consumption. Ten mills will be distributed to sites around Meiganga (Adamawa region) and 16 for sites around Batouri (East region).
- In Timangolo, UNHCR's implementing partner, International Relief and Development (IRD), is conducting vocational training of refugee women in sewing. During the week, IRD acquired four new sewing machines, equipment and fabric, which will be used during training workshops.
- In Timangolo, Mbile, and Lolo, IRD and CARE continue to monitor and support beneficiaries in agricultural activities. Beneficiaries are selling their harvests as a source of income.

## 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 in 2014. Below are UNHCR's 2015 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 Situation currently amounts to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries from January to December 2015, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 23 January 2015.

### Funding requirements (USD million)



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#### Links:

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

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

# Central African Republic Emergency Situation as of 23 January 2015

