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REPORTING PERIOD: 1-31 March 2017

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- 2,000 people fled the Nana Bakassa area (Ouham Prefecture) as a result of violent new clashes opposing transhumant and local population after a period of growing tensions between the two communities.
- UNICEF, the Minister of Social Welfare, The Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA Head of Office participated in a donor workshop in Yaoundé aiming at keeping CAR crisis on the donors' agenda.
- Of the 2,061,000 people targeted by a meningitis campaign the partial data on 64% of geographic areas suggests a coverage rate of 62%.
- As part of the "Lac Tchad Polio Outbreak campaign", a national polio campaign targeting 900,200 under 5 children is ongoing since March 25th.
- 38,043 children (100%) attending Temporary Learning Spaces were equipped with learning materials.

1.1 million

CHILDREN AFFECTED
(HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2017)

2.2 million

PEOPLE AFFECTED
(2017 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN)

401,072

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
(COMMISSION MOVEMENT POPULATION (CMP), FEB 2017)

464,000

REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
(CHAD, CAMEROON, DRC, CONGO)
(UNHCR, MARCH 2017)

Key Programme Indicators	UNICEF		Sector/Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
Number of affected people provided with access to improved sources of water as per agreed standards	450,000	157,315	1,300,000	526,100
Number of displaced children aged 3-17 with access to education in temporary learning spaces	50,000	38,043	60,000	38,043
Number of children under 5, including those in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines	320,000	56,404	N/A	
Number of children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for therapeutic care	29,585	3,384	29,585	3,384
Number of children released from armed forces and groups	3,500	406	4,874(*)	406
Number of pregnant women living with HIV who received ARVs for PMTCT	4,906	1,668	N/A	

N/A= Not Applicable

(*) Target from the results matrix of the Child Protection sub-cluster

UNICEF APPEAL 2017

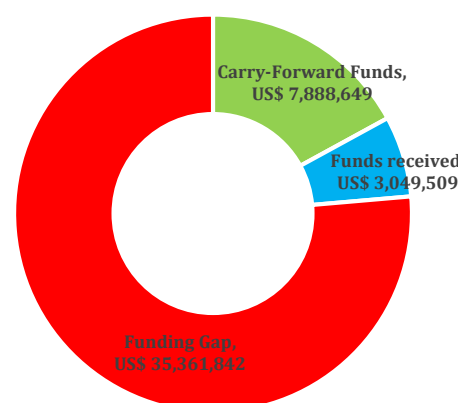
US\$ 46.3 million

FUNDING GAP

US\$ 35.3 million

17% of 2017 needs (US\$ 7.9 million) carried over from 2016

2017 Funding Situation



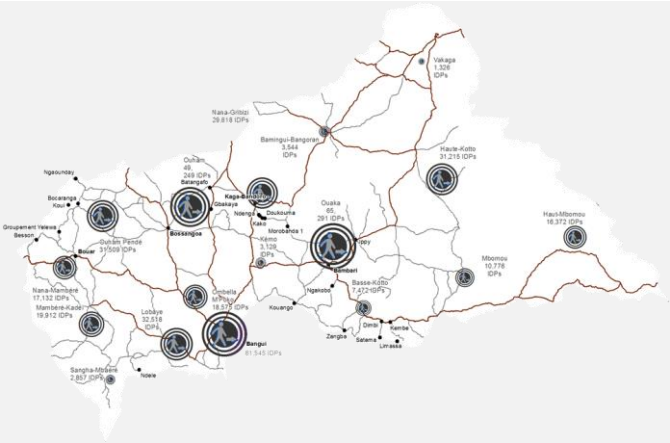
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

According to Commission Mouvement Population (CMP), as of the end of February 2017, a reported 401,072 people are currently internally displaced (IDPs), living in 87 IDP sites throughout the country and within host families. This represents a very slight decrease compared to January 2017. The new figures are the result of new displacement observed in Ouaka and Ouham Pende Prefectures and of return movements registered in Ouham and Ouaka Prefectures.

The Humanitarian Coordinator launched a \$ 1 million allocation (Humanitarian Funds) to support the return of displaced people from the M'Poko site in their neighbourhoods of origin in Bangui. This allocation takes place in a context where humanitarian action in CAR is underfunded and humanitarian needs increase (HRP 2017-2019). Operational strategies for recovery and development funding are also being developed, but these additional and complementary financial resources will not be available until later in the year.

In Ouaka and Haute Kotto Prefectures, clashes between FPRC coalition and UPC armed elements are still ongoing. The security situation is hampering humanitarian access in the area while an estimated 2,500 IDPs are moving towards Bambari, Bakouma and Bria looking for protection around MINUSCA bases.

In Nana Bakassa (Ouham Prefecture) violent new clashes occurred between seasonal migrants and local population after a period of growing tensions between these communities. Some 2,000 people fled the area after their houses were burnt. Immediate humanitarian assessments were carried out by the Rapid Response Mechanisms. Humanitarian actors operating in the area responded to Wash, NFI and food security needs. At the moment all needs seem to be covered. The security situation is hampering a return to school for some 500 children in the area according to “Prefecture Ouham” and “Inspection Academique”. Education partners and local authorities are advocating with all parties to re-establish normal education activities.



Internally displaced persons – CMP, February 2017

Estimated Affected Population (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from OCHA, May 2016 adjusted based on HAC 2017)			
Start of humanitarian response: January 2014			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	2.2 million	1.1 million	1.1 million
Children Affected (Under 18)	1.1 million	0.5 million	0.6 million
Children Under Five	354,410	177,272	177,138
Children 6 to 23 months	175,997	88,954	87,043
Pregnant women	87,000		

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

In March UNICEF participated to a donor workshop in Yaoundé with the Minister of Social Welfare, Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA Head of Office. The purpose of the workshop was to raise the profile of the CAR humanitarian situation with donors.

UNICEF, through its cluster coordinators, took part in the meeting organised by the Inter Cluster Coordination (ICC) for discussions on recovery activities in CAR (*Relevement et Consolidation de la Paix en Centre Afrique RCPCA*).

Humanitarian Strategy

In 2017, UNICEF will prioritize life-saving interventions and risk reduction for crisis-affected, displaced and returning people in the Central African Republic. Capacity building and preparedness activities will be reinforced. UNICEF will tackle

preventable childhood illnesses, malaria, HIV and malnutrition, and will provide people with access to safe water and improved sanitation. UNICEF will focus on the serious protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups and their reunification with families when separated or unaccompanied, and will provide the appropriate psychosocial support to vulnerable children. Children who are out of school due to crisis will gain access to safe learning spaces and quality education. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) will provide non-food items (NFIs) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support to vulnerable people in remote areas. UNICEF leads the WASH, nutrition and education clusters, as well as the child protection sub-cluster, and will work with line ministries to strengthen government capacity for humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. UNICEF also plays a strong role in health programming and will continue to support education, nutrition, health and WASH core supply pipelines.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Nutrition

As of end of March, a total of 3,384 children have been admitted for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment, including children from host population and Internal Displaced People (IDPs) sites. SAM cases with complications represent a proportion of 13% (440) in In-Patient Therapeutic units and 87% (2,944) in Out -Patient Therapeutic programs (OPT).

The performance indicators of SAM treatment are in the norms with 94.71% of cured rate, 1.86 % of death rate and 3.43% of defaulter's rate. Measures have been taken to address the high death rate (11.1%) and defaulters (14%) in Nola Hospital Therapeutic inpatient unit by reinforcing the systematic supervision by the medical doctor and providing food rations for care givers whose children are admitted in the unit (especially those from far away). Counselling has been provided on the side effects of disruption of treatment which can lead to the death of the child.

UNICEF continued to monitor the nutritional status of populations in hot spots through rapid SMART surveys. The most important rapid SMART survey done in March was conducted in Bede (Ouham) with the following results: Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM): 7.0% [4.2 - 11.6], Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM): 0.9% [0.2 - 3.6], Stunting 35.2% [24.4-47.7]. The survey covered 228 children living in 230 households. UNICEF continues to support the mobile OPTs clinics in Bangui and the surrounding areas including Ombella Mpoko health district.

UNICEF continued to preposition nutrition supplies (1,966 cartons of RUTF, 15 cartons of F-75, and 24 cartons of F-100) in sub-offices and with partners (ACF, ALIMA) to cover up to 1,090 SAM cases.

There are still gaps in finding implementing partners to ensure nutrition response in the localities of Ouham Pendé (Bocaranga) due to insecurity prevailing in the area and in Nana Mambéré where Save the Children stopped its health and nutrition response since September 2016.

Education

At the end of March, a total of 44,134 out of school children (48% of which are girls) affected by the crisis had access to education either through Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) or host schools supported by UNICEF.

For TLS, 38,043 children (48% of which are girls) had access to education in 282 TLS in 38 IDP sites, which included 81 new TLS for 15,356 displaced children (49% girls) fleeing renewed violence in Batangafo, Bangui, Moyen Sido, Kabo and Bria. Furthermore, host schools received 6,091 affected children (49% girls) in areas of return, consisting of 4,831 displaced and refugee children (47% girls) as well as 1,260 returnee children (57% girls) in Bangui. Twenty-three hangars were established in 20 schools to support the integration of these children into host schools and address overcrowding as a result of return of displaced or refugee populations in areas where security has improved. To assure the establishment and the management of both TLS and host school hangars, UNICEF provided financial and technical support to eight implementing partners.

As a way to improve the learning environment and facilitate quality instruction, UNICEF's implementing partners distributed teaching materials to teachers and learning materials to all children participating in the TLS (38,043 children) and to an additional 3,643 children who had been integrated into eleven host schools in Bambari, Bria, Obo, Yaloké and Bangui. At the end of March 2017, 41,686 children had received school kits. The distribution of learning materials for the remaining 2,448 children in host schools is ongoing.

To ensure quality teaching and learning, the Ministry of Education (MoE) with financial and technical support from UNICEF and implementing partners trained 488 community teachers (42% women) and 22 supervisors on basic pedagogical skills

and general EIE programming, child protection, positive discipline and hygiene promotion.

The Ministry of Education currently ensures the supervision of the teachers already trained on psychosocial support to children affected by the crisis and is preparing another round of training for 250 teachers during the month of April.

In response to UNICEF advocacy for the institutionalization of EIE into national education sector planning and coordination, the MoE established an EIE Taskforce to further reinforce the oversight and management of the EIE programming in CAR.

Sourcing much needed funding for EIE programming continues to be a challenge, even as the security situation worsens in some areas. Therefore UNICEF continues to strengthen advocacy and search for additional financing to ensure quality education for all children in CAR, especially those children who continue to be affected by the ongoing crisis.

Health

In the health Prefecture of Ouaka, conflicts between armed groups led to the displacement of people. UNICEF Bambari zonal Office, in collaboration with the health services, assured the provision of health care to displaced persons and host families. In the village of Togo with 11,183 inhabitants, including 4,359 displaced persons, UNICEF Sub-Office provided medical kits for the care of 5,000 people for 3 months, including children under 5 years of age. UNICEF Bambari zonal Office provided the Ippy health center with medical kits including malaria kits for the care of 5,000 people also affected by armed conflicts for 3 months. The WHO office contributed through the provision of trauma kits.

UNICEF, WHO, IARC and IRC supported health-related activities, including the care of IDPs on the MINUSCA site through medical kits in Nana-Gribizi. With the lack of availability of data during the previous periods in the absence of health personnel since the crisis of September/October 2016, the compilation of data from January 2017 indicates that 17,349 people were treated including 7,926 children under 5 years.

In the Prefecture of Ouham, 10,000 people received health care in the 22 FOSAs of the sub-prefecture of Bossangoa through the provision by UNICEF of 10 medical kits, 16 basic kits Malaria and 16 midwifery kits.

To accelerate the implementation of Community IMCI in the Prefectures of Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka, Bamingui-Bangoran and Haute-Kotto, UNICEF organized a 3-days workshop with three NGO partners (IFRC, MDA and CSSI) to prepare projects documents; projects cooperation agreements are being finalized.

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, organized the first phase of the mass vaccination campaign against meningitis A and a national Polio vaccination campaign. The first phase of the meningitis campaign was implemented from 13 to 20 March 2017 in 4 health regions #2 (Berberati); #3 (Bossangoua), #4 (Bambari) and #5 (Bria), targeting 2 061 000 people aged 1-29 years. Seventy-five (75) supervisors from central and district levels, 2,500 vaccinators and 1,950 mobilizers have been deployed for the implementation and monitoring of this first phase of the campaign. Partial data available from 67% of the vaccination team indicates an average coverage of 62%; final coverage will be available in April 2017.

Following the meningitis campaign, and as part of the Lac Chad Polio Outbreak Response, CAR launched on 25 March, a national Polio vaccination campaign, targeting 900,250 children under 5 years; this campaign is synchronized with other Lake Chad region countries (Cameroon, Niger, Chad and Nigeria). 750 supervisors from national, regional and district levels have been deployed, 2 096 vaccinators and volunteers have been mobilized. The campaign is still ongoing in many areas and coverage data will be available next month.

HIV/AIDS

During the reporting period, one hundred and two (102) children born to mothers who are HIV positive had accessed to appropriate treatment. In total, 203 new pregnant women HIV+ had access to ART services.

UNICEF organized in collaboration with the National Aids Commission and the Ministry of Health, a 3-days workshop for the validation of the paediatric and adolescent HIV care situation analysis with the technical support of the Regional Office. The World AIDS Day catch up activities postponed since December 2016 due to insecurity were conducted in Bambari by the National Aids commission and the district team. Mass campaign, testing, lost to follow up activities were conducted. 467 people were tested out of which 17 pregnant women and 20 children to HIV positive mothers. The decentralized district HIV body was established.

18 health care workers (comprising of 4 medical doctors and 14 nurses/midwives) received a coaching with the national consultant as part of the pediatric HIV care scale up activities in the health region 2 (Cantonner, Baboua, Galo, Nandobo, Gamboula). 57 children born to HIV positive mothers were tested as part of the family approach.

The coordination meeting for the evaluation of the pilot project “Revitalizing the Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)” to accelerate the HIV Paediatric care in the health regions 1 and 7 (RS1 and RS7) was conducted in Boali with MoH and the district team.

WASH

Water/Safety: In Kaga-Bandoro, the General Directorate of Hydraulics (DGH) and the National Agency for Water and Sanitation (ANEA), with technical and financial support from UNICEF, increased the water production capacity to 92m³ (92,000 Liters) per day for approximately 9,500 IDPs in MINUSCA and Lazare sites.

In Bouar, through water drilling companies, UNICEF completed 14 new drill holes in Yaloke, Baoro, Berberati, Gamboula, Dédé Mokouba and Bania sub-prefectures providing drinking water to nearly 13,000 people. In Bouar, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa, ANEA carried out repairs of 26 pumps that could provide drinking water to approximately 12,700 people.

In Bossangoa, SODECA with the support of UNICEF continues to provide drinking water to the population estimated at 35,000 habitants. On the other hand, in Bantangafo, DRC with the support of UNICEF in water storage and backup equipment continues to supply the site of Batangafo with drinking water. It provides more than 200m³ of water per day for 14,615 IDPs.

Sanitation: In Kaga-Bandoro, thanks to UNICEF funding, ANEA and DGH were able to set up kits for the maintenance and collection of garbage. Also, 28 lots of plastic sheeting for the construction of the latrines at the Ouandago and Kaba sites were handed over to the NGO Scale as part of the project to promote access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for vulnerable populations displaced and returned to The Nana Gribizi Prefecture and contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the 19,000 IDPs. In order to prevent school-related waterborne diseases, ANEA, with the support of UNICEF, handed over 5 boxes of basic family kits consisting of pieces of toilet soap, buckets and jerrycans to the 135 children of the kindergarten of Bossangoa.

Awareness campaign: ANEA Bossangoa with the support of UNICEF organized more than 4 sessions of awareness-raising campaigns on hygiene promotion for 512 people, including 302 women and 210 men. In Bouar, 26 Water Point Committees are set up and will ensure the management and maintenance of water points.

Child Protection

On 14 March, UNICEF implementing partners Caritas Bangui and Don Bosco verified 111 children associated with armed groups, including 49 girls and 62 boys. These previously identified children are among 150 children that were associated with armed groups affiliated to the anti-Balaka. The profiling of the children was completed by Caritas and Don Bosco and their reintegration is organized by Don Bosco. Since the beginning of 2017, 406 children have been released from armed groups, including 119 girls and 287 boys.

26 new child-friendly spaces (CFS) were established in March 2017. Among the 26 CPS, 7 have been created by COOPI and 9 by War-Child in the vicinity of Bambari, Bocaranga, Ngaoundaye and Ndele for the local refugee populations and 10 by Caritas in Bangui and Ombella Mpoko following the influx of newly displaced people. In these 26 CPS, 10,804 children (5,455 girls and 5,349 boys) participated in recreational activities and received psychosocial care. Since the beginning of 2017, a total of 38 child-friendly spaces have been set up, providing recreational activities for 12,330 children, including 6,244 girls and 6,086 boys.

During the reporting period, 180 separated children (79 girls and 101 boys) were identified by UNICEF partners War Child UK and COOPI in the displaced population community of Bambari, Bocaranga and Ngaoundaye and among the Obo refugees. Most of the families of the separated children were quickly found, however the 45 unaccompanied children identified (24 boys and 21 girls) during this month were placed in transitional host families for accommodation while waiting to find their families and community. Of the 78 unaccompanied children (18 girls) documented in December 2016, only 5 are awaiting family reunification and are still in host families.

From 20 to 24 March 2017, 48 partner staff members, including 19 women from child protection organizations (NGOs, State Services) were trained in Bambari on monitoring and reporting on grave violations of human rights, child abuse, gender-based violence and abuse, and sexual exploitation. In addition, 20 new host families already trained on the care of children and the impact of conflicts on children have been equipped with NFIs.

95 victims of rape, including 33 children and 62 women received holistic care in Obo and Bambari which amounts to 104 survivors, including 42 girls, receiving holistic care since the beginning of 2017.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

During the reporting period, the three implementing RRM partners (ACF, ACTED, Solidarités International) received twelve (12) alerts in Haute Kotto, Ouham, Nana Grebizi and Mbomou and undertook four (4) exploratory missions in the prefectures of Ouaka, Mbomou et Nana Grebizi and six (6) Multi-Sectorial Assessments (MSAs) in the prefectures of Basse Kotto, Ouham, Mbomou, Nana Grebizi and Ouaka. Five (5) interventions took place in the prefectures of Ouaka, Ouham Pende and Ouham reaching a total of 3,111 households (16,130 individuals) with plastic sheeting, blankets, soap, buckets, plastic mats, mosquito nets and kitchen kits. One WASH intervention reached 2,540 individuals.

Globally, since 1st of January 2017, a total of 6,890 households (36,631 individuals) have received NFI items, and 12,273 individuals have gained access to water and sanitation facilities thanks to RRM emergency interventions.

Media and External Communication

During the reporting period, the communications team supported the CSD program for the launch of the meningitis immunization campaign. The communications teams also organised, together with C4D, a visit to Bayanga to monitor the polio campaign. A film was produced for social networks; communication material was produced and sent to HQ.

The communications team also prepared for and handled media requests regarding SEA and emergencies.

The Facebook and Twitter pages were updated on a regular basis, attracting a growing number of interest and interactions (as of March 30, 67,207 followers on Facebook and 5,381 on Twitter).

Funding

Funding Requirements (as defined in the Humanitarian Action for Children 2017 appeal)				
Appeal Sector	HAC requirements 2017	Funds available*	Funding Gap	
			\$	% Gap
Nutrition	7,200,000	1,498,201	5,701,799	79%
Health and HIV/AIDS	8,100,000	1,009,884	7,090,116	88%
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,000,000	1,541,853	6,458,147	81%
Child Protection	9,000,000	2,548,629	6,451,371	72%
Education	5,300,000	775,952	4,524,048	85%
Rapid Response Mechanism	7,900,000	3,563,638	4,336,362	55%
Cluster/sector coordination	800,000	0	800,000	100%
Total	46,300,000	10,938,157	35,361,843	76%

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

Next SitRep: 1 May 2017

UNICEF CAR on Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNICEF_CAR

UNICEF CAR on Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Action for Children 2016: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.html>

Who to contact for further information:

Aboubackry Tall
Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0205
Email: atall@unicef.org

Speciose Hakizimana
Deputy Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0206
Email: shakizimana@unicef.org

Kobehi Guillaume Toutou
Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0208
Email: kgtoutou@unicef.org

Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼	2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE						
Number of affected people provided with access to improved sources of water as per agreed standards	1,300,000	526,100	49,815	450,000	157,315	49,815
Number of affected people provided with sanitation facilities as per agreed standards	400,000	239,335	19,000	280,000	97,100	19,000
Number of internally displaced households provided with WASH NFI kits	400,000	2,734	135	10,000	2,734	135
EDUCATION						
Number of children who received learning materials	300,000	41,686	41,686	65,000	41,686	41,686
Number of displaced children aged 3 to 17 years with access to education in temporary learning spaces ¹	60,000	38,043	15,356	50,000	38,043	15,356
HEALTH						
Number of children under 5 immunized against measles in IDP sites and epidemic districts				50,000	0	0
Number of children under 5, including those in IDP sites and enclaves, with access to essential health services and medicines				320,000	56,404	38,349
NUTRITION						
Number of children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	29,585	3,384	1,655	29,585	3,384	1,655
Recovery rate	≥75%	94.71%	-0.6%	≥75%	94.71%	-0.6%
Death rate	<10%	1.86%	0.0%	<10%	1.86%	0.0%
Default rate	<15%	3.43%	0.6%	<15%	3.43%	0.6%
CHILD PROTECTION						
Number of unaccompanied and separated children reunited with their families	3,738	142	73	300	73	73
Number of children reached with psychosocial support through CFS/ Safe spaces	74,000	24,697	10,804	50,000	12,330	10,804
Number of children released from armed groups and receiving community reintegration	4,874	406	111	3,500	406	111
Number of women and children identified as survivors of sexual violence have access to holistic support	3,000	200	191	2,000	104	95
HIV and AIDS						
Number of children born to mothers who are HIV positive who have access to appropriate treatment	N/A			4,060	270	102

¹ A specific indicator with target on "teachers trained in psychosocial support" will be included at the mid-year review of HAC

Number of pregnant women living with HIV who received ARVs for PMTCT	N/A	4,906	1,668	203
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM				
Number of acutely vulnerable households following a shock that received rapid assistance with NFIs	N/A	25,000	6,890	3,111
Number of acute acutely vulnerable people following a shock that received rapid and appropriate assistance in WASH	N/A	60,000	12,273	2,540