

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

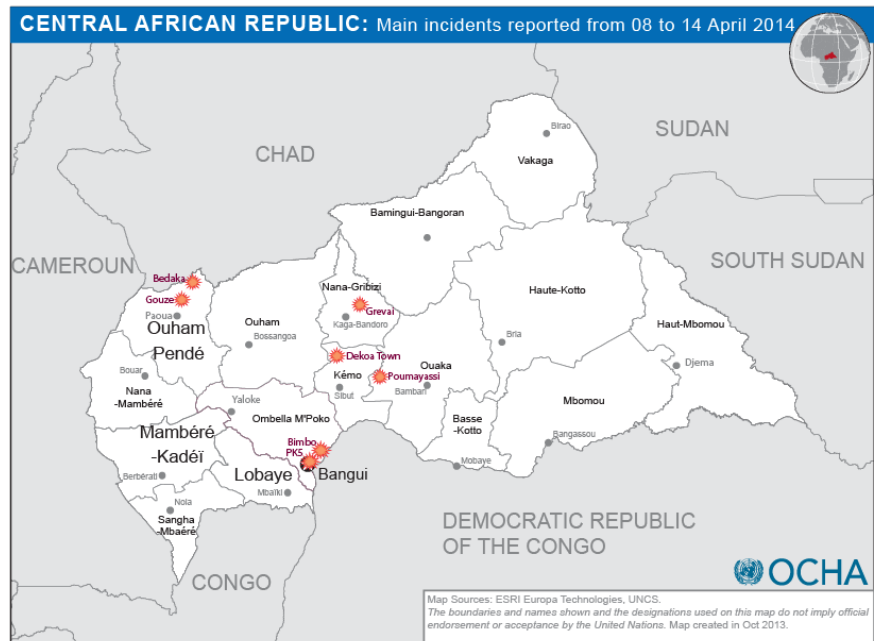
Situation Report No. 21 (as of 16 April 2014)



This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 10 April and 16 April 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 23 April 2014.

Highlights

- The number of IDPs is increasing following the identification of two new IDP sites in Bangui hosting 10,000 people.
- An average of 10,000 new refugees continue to arrive in Cameroon each week.
- To respond to a possible cholera outbreak, partners are pre-positioning WASH items in Bocaranga, near the border with Cameroon.
- Since 1 January, 78,500 children have received highly nutritious food through WFP's integrated general food distribution in Bangui, Bossangoa, and Bouar.
- On 11 April, MISCA escorted 550 people at high risk of attack relocating from the Ecole Liberte site Bossangoa to the town of Gore in Chad. Humanitarian actors provided support.



644,000

IDPs in CAR

219,000

IDPs in 43 sites in Bangui and with host families

US\$551 million

Revised 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) requirements

1.9 million

Vulnerable people targeted by SRP for humanitarian aid

28%

Funding available (about \$154 million) against the revised SRP

4.6 million

Population of CAR

2.5 million

People who need assistance

Sources: OCHA, CMP, Protection Cluster and FTS

Situation Overview

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of attacks either due to their beliefs, or because they find themselves caught in crossfire and reprisals by armed groups, including elements crossing into CAR from Chad. Attacks took place in Ouham-Pende, Kémo, Nana-Gribizi and Ombella M'poko provinces, and in Bangui's PK5 neighbourhood. People were killed, homes were looted, villages were burned and people displaced. Between 11 and 13 April, armed groups attacked and looted two UN agencies and one international NGO.

On 11 April, 550 people at high risk of attack left the Ecole Liberte site in Bossangoa, where they had been trapped for months due to insecurity. Their convoy, escorted by MISCA Cameroon, safely reached Gore in Chad on the same day. Humanitarian partners provided support during the relocation. MISCA contingents were redeployed from Cameroon and Gabon following the gradual departure on 5 April of MISCA Chadian troops. This prevented a protection vacuum for people at risk in Kaga Bandoro, N'dele, Kabo, Bossangoa and Bouca.

An average of 10,000 new refugees, the majority from Boda (Lobay) and Bozoum (Ouham-Pende), continue to arrive in Cameroon each week. They arrive in poor health and with machetes and gunshot wounds. New arrivals have been forced to walk through the bush for two to three months before reaching the border due to roadblocks set up by armed militias. Because of the long detour, all refugees arrive in a terrible state, some with swollen feet or legs and many suffering from malnutrition.

On 10 April, UNHCR started to repatriate 6,000 Congolese refugees to DRC. These people had been living in the Batalimo refugee site (Lobaye) since 2010. The number of people uprooted by the CAR crisis in the region is expected to reach 362,200 by the end of this year. In response, UNHCR launched a regional appeal of \$US274 million. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, said that UNHCR was already spending three times the money that has been received or pledged. The money needed will cover pressing needs for shelter, food, water and sanitation, health and education.

Funding

The Strategic Response Plan is requesting \$551 million. Only twenty-eight per cent of funding requirements has been received, with a 5 per cent increase in one week. Early recovery, education, nutrition and emergency shelter are the least-funded sectors.

The prioritization process of projects submitted to the Common Humanitarian Fund's second round of allocations, amounting to \$10 million, is ongoing. Seventy-seven organizations, including four UN agencies, 18 international NGOs and 27 national NGOs, have submitted 73 projects. This special allocation was launched on 28 March by the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator to strengthen the humanitarian response outside Bangui. The priority sectors are health, nutrition, WASH, protection, shelter/non-food items, CCCM and the food security sector's agricultural projects.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Food Security

Needs

- More nutrition-and-food assistance is needed, particularly ahead of the lean season.

Response:

- Between 1 and 14 April, WFP and partners distributed 836 mt of food to 71,437 people.
- The pre-positioning of food stocks is ongoing to prepare for the rainy season.
- Targeted supplementary feeding to treat moderate acute malnutrition is ongoing.

Gaps

- WFP's emergency operation is 62 per cent funded. To sustain operations until the end of August, \$41 million is required.
- Pre-positioning of stocks remains limited due to insecurity along the main road axis, coupled with the lack of service providers and logistical assets.

WFP requires \$1 million to strengthen the Food Security Cluster's support for six months, in collaboration with FAO.

\$180 million

Required to provide food to 1.25 million targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

- \$67.6 million received (38% of funding requirements)
- \$112 million (funds needed)



Needs:

- Protection of at-risk communities remains a key challenge.
- Projects for the release of and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.
- Increased dialogue with armed groups for the release of children within their ranks.
- Expansion and reinforcement of priority emergency child-protection activities, including for unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk.
- Cross-border collaboration needs to be strengthened, notably with Cameroon and Chad, on the issue of children separated from their families or at risk of separation due to the possible returns from Chad.

\$74 million

Required to assist 2 million targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

- \$18.7 million received (25% needs covered of funding requirements)
- \$55 million (funds needed)

Response:

- Two children associated with armed forces and armed groups (one girl and one boy) were reunited with their families and one was placed in a foster family.
- Since the beginning of December, 732 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified in Bangui, Yaloke and Kaga Bandoro, and 514 have been reunited with their families.
- Twenty-two child-friendly spaces are operational across the country: 12 in Bangui, three in Kaga-Bandoro, three in Bambari, two in Bouar and two in Sibut. A total of 34,495 children benefited from recreational activities and psychosocial support.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Solutions have yet to be found to allow people from at-risk communities to travel freely within or outside the country and to support those who want to remain in their homes.
- The limited number of child-protection responders, particularly outside of Bangui and in hard-to-reach communities, is limiting accurate identification, documentation activities and the response to protection concerns.
- Lack of funding, particularly to rapidly address protection needs of at-risk people and particularly of children.



Emergency shelter and NFI

Needs

- Activity planning is hindered by the lack of IDP population figures by category, including IDPs off site, IDPs in host families and returnees.
- Site planning and constructing a camp in Moyon Sido and Kabo and plan NFI assistance.
- Improve IDPs' living conditions at a transit centre in Carnot and provide NFI assistance.

Response

- A total of 693 families from seven villages around Bossangoa received NFI support.
- In Bangui, partners built community shelters in five displacement sites (Saint-Joseph de Mukassa, Mission Carmel, Saint Jean de Galabadja, Central Mosque and Saint Antoine de Padoue) benefiting 1,500 people.
- Ongoing assessments in 27 areas of Begoua have revealed that 800 houses have been destroyed, including 500 belonging to the Christian community and 300 to the Muslim community. In the 6th district of Bangui, 15 houses have been destroyed.

Gaps and constraints

- Lack of accurate information from the Population Movement Commission.
- Due to the volatile security situation, cluster members still cannot assist IDPs who have sought refuge in several inaccessible areas.
- Shelter assessments cannot be carried out in some Bangui neighbourhoods—especially the 3rd district—due to the presence of anti-Balaka militia and violence perpetrated by hostile criminal groups.

\$31.7 million

Required to provide emergency shelter and NFIs to 703,975 vulnerable people in 2014.

- \$4 million received (10% of funding requirements)
- \$27.6 million (funds needed)



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Need to continue improving access to water, basic sanitation services and hygiene practices for 900,000 affected people.
- WASH conditions in the majority of IDP sites still do not meet the required minimum standards.
- Need to scale up the response and presence of WASH actors in rural areas.
- Need to scale up rainy season preparedness activities to mitigate public-health risks (including cholera preparedness).
- Need to ensure availability of WASH services for at-risk people once re-localized.
- Need to ensure the maintenance and repair of 40 per cent of the 226 hand pumps inventoried in Nana-Gribizi Province.

\$27.5 million

Required to support 900,000 targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

- \$8 million received (29% of funding requirements)
- \$19.4 million (funds needed)

Response:

- Latrines are being closed at the Ecole Liberte site in Bossangoa following the departure of 550 at-risk IDPs to Chad.
- A total of 615 latrines have been closed at the Eveche IDP site, where 1,500 IDPs are still living. There is one latrine per five people and an average of 50 litres of water per person is distributed..
- Partners provided the Agence nationale de l'eau et de l'assainissement with spare parts to rehabilitate 50 hand pumps in Kaga-Bandoro.
- To respond to a possible cholera outbreak, partners are pre-positioning WASH items in Bocaranga (Ouham-Pende) near the border with Cameroon, where cholera cases have been reported.
- Thirty water wells in Bambari have been rehabilitated.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The lack of funding needed to continue existing activities and to assist returnees to neighbourhoods in Bangui remains problematic. There is a major risk of needing to downsize the humanitarian response beyond mid-April.
- Security constraints are limiting WASH activities in and outside Bangui.
- Logistical constraints, such as transport and storage, are slowing down the launch of activities outside Bangui.
- Final disposal of solid waste and sludge is inadequate around Bangui.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs

- Joint WASH, protection and shelter/NFI clusters' assessment of alternative sites for the possible relocation of IDPs from M'Poko and other at-risk sites.
- Assess progress in improving infrastructures and drainage systems in at-risk IDP sites.
- Improve communication and coordination with displaced people in displacement sites.
- Support the coordination of protection activities in sites with no dedicated management agency.
- Improve CCCM presence in the provinces in order to support the people and humanitarian activities in displacement and transit sites.

\$20 million

Required to assist 502,000 people.

- No funding allocations reported by the cluster

Response:

- Multi-sectoral assessments (WASH, CCCM, shelter and protection) are under way in potential relocation sites.
- Provision of management and communication support to site authorities with no dedicated camp-management agencies with a view to improve security conditions.
- As part of the CCCM capacity-building strategy, a CCCM inter-agency training was held, benefiting 30 people.
- Assessment of displacement sites in Boda, Carnot and Moyon Sido is under way.

Gaps and Constraints:

- With the onset of the rainy season, quick remedial action is required in at-risk IDP sites.
- Limited funding continues to challenge communication to IDPs and site management.



Multi-sector assistance to refugees

Needs

- Organize emergency voluntary repatriation by boat and plane for refugees under immediate threat and who wish to return home.
- Find alternative solutions for refugees who are under imminent threat and who cannot return to their home country or stay in CAR.
- Provide basic services (such as education, health) for urban refugees living in Bangui and those living in camps.
- Help refugees to become self-reliant after having their livelihoods destroyed or being threatened by the crisis.

\$20 million

Required to assist 501,980 vulnerable people.

- \$2.4 million received (12% of funding requirements)
- \$17 million needed

Response

- On 10 April, UNHCR, local authorities and representatives of key ministries started the voluntary repatriation of more than 6,000 Congolese refugees who had been living in Batalimo (Lobaye) refugee camps since 2010.
- Since the beginning of 2014, 680 urban refugees from Bangui, mostly Congolese (DRC), Sudanese and Chadian, have been repatriated through UNHCR's voluntary-repatriation programme.
- UNHCR and its implementing partners are supporting nearly 16,500 urban and rural refugees, mainly from the Congo (DRC) and Sudan.
- In Zemio refugee camp, UNHCR distributed non-relief-items kits to 2,228 people between 11 and 12 April.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Security risks continue to increase. Evacuation solutions are needed for those refugees who cannot return to their country of origin or stay in CAR.



Nutrition

Needs:

- About 28,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2014, and 75,500 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- An estimated 159,000 children under age 5 need highly nutritious food. A consistent and adequately funded pipeline is needed to prevent a deterioration of nutritional status during the rainy season.

\$22 million

Required to provide nutrition services to 361,000 targeted vulnerable people out of 628,000 in 2014.

- \$2.1 million received (10% of total requirements)
- \$19.8 million (funds needed)

Response:

- Since 1 January, some 5,800 children have been admitted for SAM treatment, of whom 2,250 have recovered. This represents 34 per cent of the SRP target of 16,800 children suffering from SAM.
- Since 1 January, some 81,500 children have been screened for malnutrition in CAR. This represents 23 per cent of the SRP target of 360,000 children. Children received treatment through on-site mobile out-patient therapeutic programmes (OTP). Some were also referred for treatment to existing health structures with OTP and supplementary feeding programme components.
- Since 1 January, 78,500 children have received highly nutritious food through WFP's integrated general food distribution in Bangui, Bossangoa, (Ouham Province) and Bouar (Ouham Pende Province).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Coverage of health centres with Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services remains low in priority provinces, including Ombella M'Poko, Nana-Gribizi, Vakaga, Ouham, Nana-Mambere, Kemo, Mambere-Kadei, Ouham Pende, Ouaka and Basse Kotto.
- CMAM coverage needs to be urgently scaled up during the rainy season to ensure equitable access to screening and treatment activities for all acutely malnourished children.
- Limited funding for nutrition activities is compromising the delivery of life-saving activities for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition.
- Food access in some IDP sites remains challenging. This will affect IDPs' nutritional status, especially the most vulnerable (children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women).
- There is a lack of activities in IDP sites addressing the protection, promotion and support of appropriate infant and young-child feeding in emergencies, which are life-saving interventions.
- The rainy season begins this month; the window for pre-positioning inputs is closing fast.

**Needs:**

- Mapping of health resources available to plan early recovery interventions.
- Ensure delivery of free, life-saving health care to affected people in priority areas, particularly high-risk communities.
- Prevent disease outbreaks by vaccinating vulnerable children and strengthening the early warning system and response in and outside Bangui.

Response:

- Joint mission WASH/Health Cluster in Bouar and Bocaranga on 15 April.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health services report shortage of essential drugs and vaccines for routine immunization.
- Underfunding resulted in some NGOs closing their operations and the limited expansion of basic services to vulnerable people outside Bangui.
- Insecurity is impeding health-service delivery and health information management, as well as the transportation of drugs and other materials outside Bangui.

\$56.4 million

Required to assist 878,000 targeted people.

- \$12 million received (21% of funding requirements)
- \$44 million (funds needed)

**Needs:**

- Establish temporary safe-learning spaces (ETAPEs) in IDP sites with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities and child-protection services for 362,000 people in need. This need is crucial in Boda, where five IDP sites, including four schools, are hosting about 20,000 people.
- Distribute emergency recreational, teaching and learning materials for ETAPEs and opened schools for 362,000 people in need.
- Psychosocial training for 5,000 teachers.
- School-feeding activities, particularly in provinces with a low rate of student returns, targeting 400,000 people in need.

Response:

- In Bambari and Tagbara, 98 members of 14 student-parent associations and 15 school principals received training in school management.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Security access is limiting movement, resulting in a lack of information and data outside of Bangui.
- A limited number of education partners are available for interventions outside of Bangui.
- Population movement is making the organization of structured education and child-protection activities difficult.
- The beginning of the rainy season is limiting or delaying the cluster's activities.

\$28.6 million

Required to provide emergency education to 350,000 targeted vulnerable people out of 400,000 in 2014.

- \$1 million received (3% of funding requirements)
- \$27.6 million (funds needed)

**Livelihood/Community Stabilization Cluster****Needs**

- Start community-healing activities to restore social cohesion and reduce community tensions across the country.
- Support community initiatives to revive local economies and create temporary jobs, mainly for youths.
- Mobilize more resources to support civil society and public administration, including the rehabilitation of services related to local-community governance and the restoration of social ties, citizenship and respect for public property.

\$60 million

Required to provide assistance to 2.4 million targeted vulnerable people out of 3 million in 2014.

- \$1.3 million received (2% of funding requirements)
- \$58.7 million (funds needed)

Response:

- With UNDP funding, ACTED launched a cash-for-work project in the Ouango market and Kassaï IDP site of the 7th district, providing temporary employment for 2,310 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is not enough funding to create temporary employment for youths (cash for work), or to support income-generating activities and community efforts to reduce tensions. Restoring social cohesion is vital in order to facilitate operations throughout the country.
- Insecurity hinders activities in some areas inside and outside Bangui.

**Logistics****Needs**

- Humanitarian organizations need secure and reliable road access to people in need to maintain operations within the country.
- Due to prevailing insecurity in regions outside Bangui, the provision of air services is deemed indispensable to support humanitarian operations. Humanitarian staff require safe access to project-implementation sites and to transport vital supplies internally and internationally.
- Additional storage facilities and the capacity to transport goods in Bangui and in the provinces are needed.

\$10.2 million

Required to support emergency response in 2014.

- \$7 million received (69% of funding requirements)
- \$3.1 million (funds needed)

Response

- Between 7 and 13 April, UNHAS transported 417 people.
- The cluster has provided maps to partners. Updated information has been shared on the Logistics Cluster website.
- The Talley Bridge is being rehabilitated between Bozoum and Paoua.

Gaps and constraints

- Poor infrastructure and insecurity along the main roads remain a logistical challenge, hampering transportation and rehabilitation opportunities.
- The rainy season will obstruct logistics efforts, as many roads will become impassable.
- The number of local service providers decreased due to the insecurity inside and outside Bangui.
- Fuel shortages are not uncommon and necessitate pre-positioned stocks and resupplying by road.
- Disruption in the provision of fuel and subsequent rationing will result in a decrease in air service.
- Due to the lack of adequate funding, the cluster is seeking a partner with storage capacity.

**Emergency Telecommunications****Needs**

- Establish functioning, permanent (24/7) communication centres (COMCENs) in all common operational areas, as per the Country Minimum Operating Security Standards (CMOSS) requirements.

Response

- The re-establishment of Channel 3 (UN Security/Calling) VHF repeater in Bangui is ongoing.
- Channel 2 (SMT) and Channel 5 (UN Talking) are now operational.
- A mission is under way in Paoua to upgrade the COMCEN.
- A site-survey mission for VSAT installation is scheduled for Ndélé on Friday 18 April.
- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

\$2 million

Required to support humanitarian response in 2014.

- \$1.6 million received (76 % of funding requirements)
- \$0.52 million (funds needed)

Gaps and constraints:

- The lack of secure compounds and/or adequate office space in some common operational locations (Bambari, N'Délé and Kaga Bando) prevents the installation of ETC equipment and deployment of services.
- Outside 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.
- The funding situation remains critical, with the ETC/Logistics Cluster operation only 28 per cent funded. Additional funding of about \$6.5 million is required to maintain operations at their current level.

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