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HIGHLIGHTS

- An increase in the number of hotspots drastically reduces the operational capacity of humanitarian actors.
- Persisting insecurity and violent attacks obliged humanitarian organisations to reduce their activities and to temporarily relocate staff.
- The upsurge of violence increases humanitarian needs while funding remains low.



Source: OCHA/Amonran Raine-Nari

Insecurity hinders humanitarian response

The Central African Republic is experiencing an increase in the number of hotspots due to the upsurge of violence particularly in the Nana-Gribizi, Ouham Pende and Ouaka provinces where humanitarian space continues to reduce. The deteriorating security situation is as a result of the increased activities of armed men present in the regions...

The living conditions of the population of Kaga-Bandoro, Nana-Gribizi province has deteriorated considerably following the upsurge in violent incidences that took place in September and October. This was further aggravated by floods in early October. Between 12 and 14 October, armed men attacked civilians and committed burglaries on the premises of humanitarian organisations including their offices, guest-houses and warehouses. As of 15 October, violence left at least 38 people killed including 26 civilians and 51 people injured including an aid worker.

Serious threats to the lives, safety and integrity of humanitarian partners has led to the temporary relocation of most national staff, who were even more vulnerable. The houses of 95 per cent of national humanitarian staff were burgled and often burned during attacks.

Two thirds of the Catholic Mission IDP site was burned. The preliminary outcome of IDP registrations revealed that at least 12,000 people fled from the site and various neighborhoods. They sought refuge in two new sites close to the MINUSCA base. The resumption of humanitarian activities is conditioned by the security of staff and their property. Nevertheless humanitarian actors who were also victims of attacks and looting are providing assistance to vulnerable people including food security, shelter, healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene.

On 15 October, while violating the conventions and international humanitarian law, armed men attacked the SUCAF IDP site in Ngakobo, Ouaka province leaving at least 12 people killed and 7 injured. Many civilians were killed and many injured people received medical care from health partners. This violence obliged humanitarian organizations to temporarily suspend their activities and to relocate staff to Bambari.

In early October, fighting between armed men in Kouï, Ouham Pende province caused at least 15,000 people to flee to Bocaranga to villages on the Mann-Bouar axis. Insecurity in the area also forced some humanitarian partners to temporarily suspend their activities.

These remote areas which lack sufficient State authority and decentralized services are conducive for the set-up of armed groups and the establishment of barricades along the roads. These hinders free movement and also facilitates the extortion of money from the population and humanitarian partners.

FIGURES

# of IDPs	385,000
# of refugees outside the country	466,000
Population in need of aid	2,3 M
Population affected by food insecurity	2,5 M

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/car or www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/operations/central-african-republic/ or

www.twitter.com/OCHA_CAR



Kaga Bandoro, CAR.
October 2016.
Displaced persons.
Source:
OCHA/Amonran Baigo-Dari



Kaga Bandoro, CAR.
October 2016.
Displaced persons.
Source: IRC/Modou Diaw



Kaga Bandoro, CAR.
October 2016. Burned houses.
Source:
IRC/Modou Diaw



Kaga Bandoro, CAR.
October 2016.
Displaced persons.
Source: IRC/Modou Diaw

This drastic reduction in humanitarian access since September has a negative impact on emergency assistance to victims of various shocks including security, health or natural crisis. This reduction or sometimes the interruption of humanitarian activities further aggravates the vulnerability of the population and inevitably perpetuates the humanitarian crisis.

In Kaga-Bandoro, violence broke-out on 12 October when an emergency humanitarian response to a natural disaster was underway. The immediate reduction in humanitarian space forced partners to suspend their operations for five days; during which the vulnerability of flood victims increased. The crises in Kaga-Bandoro and Kouï significantly reduced the human resources capacity and led to the loss of stock. Stock was looted during the violence and its replacement requires additional funds.

Despite these extremely risky and dangerous situations, humanitarian actors continue to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable people while respecting the humanitarian principles of humanism, neutrality, impartiality and independence. These activities can only be carried out with a minimal level of security in compliance with international humanitarian law.

New humanitarian emergencies: additional funds are needed

The humanitarian community is facing underfunding. It needs to mobilize additional funds to respond to new needs created by the upsurge of violence in CAR. These funds will enable the provision of immediate basic services in the affected areas and to prevent the interruption of assistance in the coming months. Considering that the CAR humanitarian response was largely underfunded in 2016, very few projects have been implemented. The lack of funds also limited the amount of funding allocated to projects. With an increase in humanitarian need, actors used their reserves to provide assistance to populations in need.

Thousands of people are affected by crises in Ngakobo, Kaga Bandoro, Kouï, Ndomété, Yalinga, Bocaranga, Batangafo and Bangui. At the on-set of these new emergencies, the Humanitarian Response Plan is 32 per cent funded. This however shows that donors remain committed to support CAR.

Many emerging crises and emergencies worldwide require the mobilization of resources from donors. However, in order to sustain the gains achieved and to prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis over the next three months, immediate humanitarian response to the current crisis is required.

Additional funding is crucial not only to break the cycle of violence but also to establish a link between humanitarian and early recovery activities. This process is currently underway in the Central African Republic as the country prepares to launch its National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding. As the year draws to an end, this compliment to the Humanitarian Fund will strengthen humanitarian response. This Fund which provides funding to humanitarian activities is an operational mechanism that can support a variety of partners by allocating immediate and timely funding.

To contribute and for more information please contact: chfcar@un.org. You can also visit:
<http://www.unocha.org/car/aboutchf-central-african-republic>
and
<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/HCF10>

CAR partners are called to support recovery and development efforts

The 6th meeting of CAR's technical and financial partners held on 11 and 12 October in Yaoundé enabled a review of progress towards the restoration of State authority. It also gave CAR authorities and opportunity to mobilize international partners to discuss the country's funding of priority needs for the next five years as part of its rehabilitation and stabilization programme. The funding requirement amounts to US\$3.1 billion over five years including \$1.6 billion for the next three years.

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The Yaoundé Forum was a unique opportunity for the authorities to present the country's willingness to stop the recurrent and devastating crises. "The significant gains achieved on several fronts in CAR could potentially be lost if resources required to permanently respond to the crises and to engage in the path to development," said the Humanitarian Coordinator in CAR, Fabrizio Hochschild. He added that "justice is also at the core of the stabilization process; the Special Criminal Court should serve as a new model of justice in the fight against impunity and to trace the path of peace".



Yaoundé, Cameroon. October 2016. CAR financial and technical forum. Source: UNDP

The World Bank, the United Nations and the European Union have mobilized to support a Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RCPCA) in CAR. Its priorities are based on three main areas of intervention: (i) peace, reconciliation and security; (ii) renew the social contract between the state and the population; and, (iii) economic recovery and to boost productive sectors. The recovery and peacebuilding plan will be presented at the International Conference on CAR to be held in Brussels on 17 November 2016, which aims to mobilize the necessary funds.

Meanwhile, humanitarian needs remain huge as recalled by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). During the Yaoundé Forum, and while supporting the RCPCA initiative, OCHA informed that there will still be residual and immediate needs that will require to be addressed in the Half of the population, or 2.3 million people, are still dependent on humanitarian aid. About 800,000 people are either internally displaced or refugees in neighboring countries while 2 million people are affected by food insecurity. 51 per cent of health services are now provided by NGOs and 800,000 children have no access to education.

However, there can be no recovery and sustainable development in the context of a chronic humanitarian crisis. Besides, close coordination was sought between the RCPCA and the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. Additional funding of humanitarian activities alongside the RCPCA would enable CAR to finally break this cycle of conflicts. The CAR Humanitarian Response Plan will be revised in 2017 and aligned with the Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan through 2019.

Good news

Despite the deterioration in the situation, the humanitarian community rejoices at a few successes:

✓ **The 2016-2017 school year** began successfully. About 600,000 children are enrolled in primary school but it is estimated that one in three children does not attend school. The excellent working relationship maintained between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education enabled children to return to school despite the persisting instability countrywide. When the 2016-2017 school year started, about ten schools were still being occupied, or threatened by armed groups. According to UNICEF, this practice alongside the set-up of illegal barricades near schools prevents about 10,000 children from enjoying their basic right to education. However, armed men left the premises of Zoukombo school which they had been occupying since May 2016.

✓ **The fight against the cholera epidemic** declared since last August is another successful humanitarian action. The urgent response provided by humanitarian actors to support the CAR government's efforts, helped to stabilize the epidemic and to save the lives of 1.7 million people at risk. The situation was more worrying in Bangui due to a combination of factors. The high population density, poor sanitation and health infrastructure increased the risk of an outbreak in the nation's capital city. Although the risk remains high no new cases have been declared. The cholera humanitarian response was funded by: the CAR Humanitarian Fund at \$1.5 million, ECHO 400,000 Euros, the ICRC 237,000 Swiss Francs, UNICEF \$500,000 and WHO at \$135,000.



A view of children during the celebration of the school year 2016-2017. Source: UNICEF

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Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo “all men are equal”

In the CAR national language Sango, “Zo Kwe Zo” means “all men are equal”. It is included in the Constitution’s preamble to signify the dignity and sanctity of human life. It also refers to the equality of all CAR citizens and the support of each other. This motto which was introduced by the first President of the Central African Republic, Barthélemy Boganda defines CAR’s unity. Based on these principles, 15 CAR citizens decided in July 2014 to create the non-governmental organization “Humanitaire Zo Kwe Zo”. At the peak of the political and military crisis in CAR, these Central Africans of different faiths joined forces to provide assistance and protection to refugees regardless of their religion.

With assistance from international NGOs, “Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo” was able to distribute food to CAR refugees in Douala, Cameroon and to provide counselling to those suffering from trauma. In Bangui’s PK5 neighborhood, “Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo” focused on the fight against stigmatization.



Refugee profiling Source: NGO Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo

Support was provided to host families which assisted IDPs of different faiths. In PK5, 11,417 IDPs were identified and placed with host families. The diversity of the members of the NGO’s Steering Committee was its greatest asset particularly because “Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo” could not be accused of being partial. This heterogeneity facilitated interaction with communities in PK5 as well as trust and acceptance. The NGO’s diverse staff recalls the diversity that once reigned in the neighborhood.

When the Steering Committee was asked to mention an achievement they are most proud of all the members cited the dynamics created within the community of CAR

If a link can be created between these two areas, Miskine and PK5 “everything will be possible!”

refugees in Cameroon. Over time, information sharing on the dates and locations of food distributions facilitated the formation of solidarity among the refugees where mixed marriages were even celebrated. “Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo” claims to have strengthened its capacity before seeking partnerships.

The NGO’s successful experience in the PK5 neighborhood with regards to the fight against stigma encourages it to replicate the initiative in the towns of Bambari, Ndele, or Birao. The second major project is the organization of cultural days; bringing together people of the Miskine and PK5 neighborhoods; particularly youth and clerics. According to the Steering Committee, if a link can be created between these two areas, “everything will be possible!”

To contact “Humanitarian Zo Kwe Zo”:
Tel: +236 75046638 or +23672901434
Email: onghumanitairezokwezo@gmail.com

In brief

The Humanitarian Coordinator’s visit to Bria and Kaga Bandoro



CAR, October 2016. The Humanitarian Coordinator’s visit to Bria and Kaga Bandoro. Source: OCHA/Caroline Peguet

The Humanitarian Coordinator in CAR, Fabrizio Hochschild visited Bria, Haute-Kotto province on 14 October as part of his humanitarian outreach and advocacy visits. During his meeting with the humanitarian community, discussions focused on humanitarian access. Despite efforts made in the Haute-Kotto province to provide necessary assistance to vulnerable populations various constraints include: access, the presence of armed groups on various axis, the limited presence of humanitarian actors and insufficient resources to

meet the needs of people affected.

The partners recalled that in the region, the priority remains the rehabilitation of damaged bridges on the Yalinga and Irra-Banda axis. About 800 displaced people are isolated Yalinga. On 16 October, the Humanitarian Coordinator led a joint visit to Kaga Bandoro, Nana-Gribizi province with the Minister of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation, Virginia Baïkoua. OCHA, WFP, INTERSOS, Solidarités International and IRC also participated in the mission. This visit which took place a few days after the wave of deadly violence in Kaga Bandoro enabled the humanitarian community to recall the importance of a secure environment to effectively address the needs of the most vulnerable people.



CAR, September 2016. Meeting with the IDPs. Source: UNCHR

Bangui hosts displaced persons from Kaga Bandoro

Following the recent violence, about 200 people fled from Kaga-Bandoro to Bangui on 17 October on commercial vehicles. The IDPs were welcomed by friends while about 71 people without ties in the capital were received at the home of the Gobongo village Chief on the northern exit of Bangui. The findings of a preliminary assessment carried out by UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation highlights the specific needs of women, elderly persons and children.



Did you know?

In 2016, the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) changed its name to CAR Humanitarian Fund (CAR HF). This change of name does not alter the fund's main objective. Established in 2008, it aims to fund the humanitarian response. It also aims to strengthen the humanitarian coordination mechanism in order to respond to the most urgent and critical needs in CAR. The Fund allocates funding to UN agencies, national and international NGOs.

For further information please contact:

OCHA CAR: Joseph Inganji, Head of Office +236 70738730, inganji@un.org

Yaye Nabo Séné, Head Section Public Information, +236 70 08 75 65, seney@un.org

Laura Fultang, Public Information /Reporting Officer, fultangl@un.org

OCHA press releases are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org> or www.reliefweb.int.