

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Situation Report No. 42 (as of 20 November 2014)

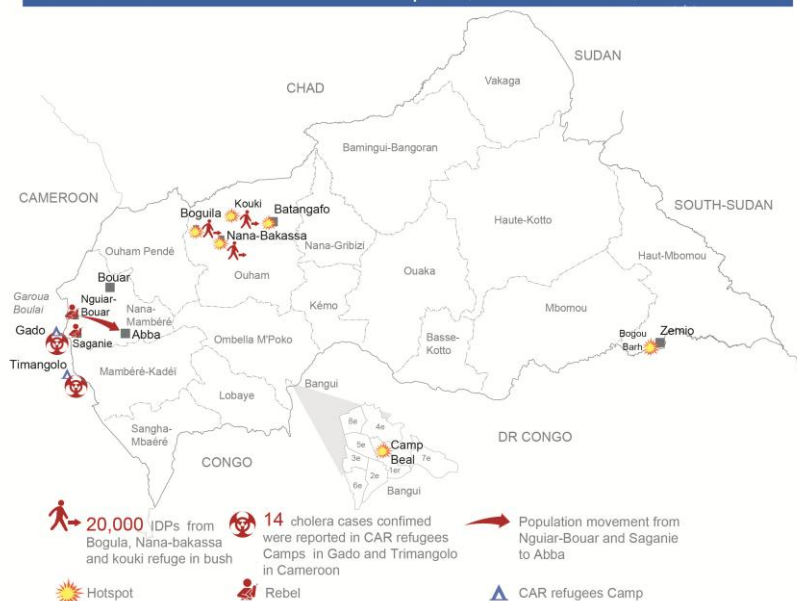


This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 6 and 20 November 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 4 December 2014.

Highlights

- The security situation countrywide remains volatile. Ex-Seleka elements living in Bangui's Beal camp threaten to detonate the site if their demands are not met.
- An eruption of violence started on 5 November in Zémio, Haut Mbomou Province, an area affected by the LRA, but that had not been affected by the crisis so far.
- Fourteen cholera cases have been confirmed following a cholera outbreak on 1 November along the CAR-Cameroon border.
- WHO reported six measles cases in Yongoro-Mbolaye, Bouar sub-province, in Nana Mambéré Province.
- Humanitarian partners resumed activities in Ouham Province following the arrival of armed groups and the displacement of 20,000 people.

CAR: Humanitarian issues and Hotspots (6 - 20 November 2014)



430,000

IDPs in CAR, including

61,250

IDPs in Bangui (18 November)

61%

Funding available (about US\$337 million) against the revised SRP requirements of \$555 million

4.6 million

Population of CAR

2.5 million

People who need assistance

Sources: UNDSS, OCHA, CCCM and Health cluster

Situation Overview

The security situation countrywide remains volatile. There are frequent violent attacks and threats against civilians and humanitarian actors. On 12 November, ex-Seleka elements living in the Beal camp situated in Bangui's 1st district demanded that the CAR transitional Government pay them each 500,000 FCFA (US\$1,000) and set up a reintegration programme. The group threatened to detonate the camp if these demands were not met. According to an assessment carried out by Sangaris forces, the camp contains ammunitions and explosive devices, including dynamite.

During a meeting with the CAR Prime Minister on 13 November, the group requested the payment of benefits covering 11 months of cantonment. It asked to be relocated to another transit site and reintegrated into the CAR national army. The group said that it does not recognize the current Minister of Defense.

If the group carries out its threat, an estimated 30,000 people would be severely affected within an 800 meters radius. In response to this crisis, an urgent Humanitarian Country Team meeting was held to discuss preparedness and response.

An upsurge of violence in Zémio (Haut Mbomou Province) was reported on 17 November, and intercommunity violence persists. The crisis began following the killing of a member of a community at risk on 5 November. Acts of retaliation included the burning of over 30 houses in Barh and Bogou villages, located about 40-45 km from Zémio, and the use of ammunitions including grenades and automatic weapons. Intercommunity violence continued on 18 November despite local mediation efforts in Obo. Casualty figures have yet to be confirmed, but the displacement of at least 2,000 people has been reported. For many years, this region endured LRA-related attacks and violence. This is the first intercommunity incident in the region since the CAR crisis began in December 2012.

The arrival of armed groups in Boguila, Kouki and Nana Bakassa villages in Ouham Province on 25 October led to the displacement of about 20,000 people who sought refuge in the bush. Humanitarian partners in the region restricted their movements due to insecurity, and were unable to reach these people. Humanitarian partners in the region are slowly resuming activities and they report that the majority of these IDPs have returned. International forces are strengthening their presence in the region.

On 7 November, a transport truck with medical supplies, clearly identified as operating for MSF, was held captive by an armed group on the route linking Paoua in the north to the capital, Bangui, between Yaloké and Bossembélé. Money was demanded for the release of the vehicle and its crew. The following day, on the same road, a second MSF truck was held up by the same armed group.

Thirteen cholera cases were reported along the CAR border with Cameroon on 1 November in Gado village in Garoua Boulai, home to CAR refugees. In the Timangolo refugee camp, along the CAR border with the Mambéré Kadeï Province, one cholera case has been confirmed. A cholera contingency plan has been developed, and WHO has pre-positioned a diarrhoea kit in the area.

On 13 November, WHO reported six measles cases in Yongoro-Mbolaye, Bouar sub-province (Nana Mambéré Province). WHO carried out a mission to assess the situation in the region. IEDA Relief registered 28 cases of Central African refugee returnees arriving from Chad to the northern villages in Paoua (Ouham Pendé Province). The refugees said their return was prompted by an improvement in the security situation and the reduction in humanitarian assistance in Chad.

Funding

The CAR Strategic Response Plan (SRP) is 61 per cent funded. Early recovery, education and emergency shelter are the least funded sectors.

A project submitted by INTERSOS to re-install a community radio station in Bambari was approved under the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) reserve window. The project will also ensure the construction of a relay station for Bouar's radio station in Bozoum. The station's reinstallation will provide crisis-affected communities with access to information and life-saving communication.

On 14 November, the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator in CAR announced an CHF funding of \$250,000 to support the voluntary return of IDPs from Bangui M'poko airport to their neighbourhoods of origin. An additional \$50,000 will be provided for partnership with a national NGO. Project proposals should include measures to ensure durable assistance towards returns. The project should cover a six-month period and the deadline for the submission of proposals to OCHA is 24 November.

A CHF evaluation was held from 11 to 18 November. Meetings were held with key stakeholders, and two CHF-funded projects were visited: ACTED's waste-collection project at the Bangui M'Poko airport site and DRC's protection hotline.

Project proposals for Central Emergency Response Fund funding that were submitted to the CERF secretariat on 10 November are being reviewed.

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- Coordinate provision of assistance and protection in IDP sites in Bangui.
- Identify uncovered needs and support site authorities.
- Facilitate the voluntary return of IDPs leaving sites.

501,980

People targeted in 2014.

Response:

- IOM's displacement tracking matrix continues to provide a weekly update of uncovered humanitarian needs and IDP figures collected in sites and through site management partners.
- According to the last Commission Movement de Population matrix issued on 4 November, there are 61,371 IDPs hosted in 36 sites in Bangui. The cluster is identifying possible transfer options for IDPs from the Ben-Zvi and Eglise Four Square sites located in the radius of areas that would be affected by an explosion of ammunitions in the Beal ex-Seleka cantonment site.
- Following security incidents in October, the cluster is planning to ensure the transfer of IDPs living in classrooms into community shelters, and to restructure sites in coordination with the education and shelter clusters and PU-AMI. Some classrooms previously vacated were reoccupied during the crisis. There are ongoing restructuring activities in the Mission Carmel and Saint Joseph Mukassa sites.
- A M'Poko task force was established to support the voluntary departure of IDPs from the site before mid-February 2015 and the access of IDPs to durable or alternative solutions. MINUSCA assessed security concerns for the possible alternative site AVICOM, which the Government identified, prior to a visit with national authorities to determine the area available for the set-up of the alternative site. This task force, led by the CCCM cluster, comprised site-management agency PU-AMI, the Coordinator of the Durable Solutions task force, the Government, and the Protection and Shelter clusters.
- In Batangafo, IDPs from nine sites in Batangafo and seven sites on the axes have been profiled by a joint team comprising site-management agency DRC, UNHCR and UNFPA. Hygiene-promotion activities have been carried out in the sites to sensitize IDPs on hand-washing, the use of latrines and showers, and waste collection.
- In Bambari, under the supervision of the UNHCR site planner and with local partners, the alternative site has been cleaned up and is being parcelled. COOPI will build the fence, distribute the tarpaulin and allocate slots to households. COOPI will also support the transfer of IDPs who will be in charge of building their own shelters. This does not include vulnerable households, who will receive assistance from COOPI. Sensitization meetings were held with IDPs from site S and M to be transferred to the new site. The meetings were held to clarify the transfer process and respond to their concerns, which were mostly related to security.
- In Boda, the sites at the prefectural schools for girls and have been consolidated.
- IOM is managing and coordinating IDP transit sites in Kabo and Moyen Sido, hosting 1,033 and 2,004 IDPs respectively. IOM is supporting IDPs through a self-help housing project for durable solutions and creating job opportunities for youths from host and IDP communities. The first 10 houses being built in Kabo are almost complete.

Gaps and constraints:

- More funding is required to better address the site-management needs countrywide and improve communication with IDPs.
- The rainy season worsens the already precarious living conditions of IDPs in sites, especially regarding shelter and WASH and the limited resources available.
- Lack of access and insecurity impedes CCCM coverage outside Bangui.



Health

Needs:

- Improve access to health services for the population, health personnel and humanitarian workers.
- The need to strengthen the blood bank at the National Blood Transfusion Center in Bangui.
- Establish a reference system for wounded people in hospitals.

878,000

People targeted in 2014.

Response:

- WHO, the Ministry of Health and the Institute Pasteur in Bangui continue to implement Ebola-preparedness activities. An isolation centre has been built in the Centre National Hospitalier Universitaire de Bangui and will soon be equipped. A case-management team will commence training sessions.
- A social-mobilization campaign to raise Ebola awareness in Pissa-Mbata-Bangui-Bouchia-Batalimon-Mongoumba is being planned for the week of 24 November.
- Thirty-four people were trained last week on cross-border surveillance of the Ebola virus.
- In response to a whooping cough (pertussis) outbreak in Kétééré village in Kaga Bandoro, WHO, UNICEF, ICRC and CARITAS organized a vaccination campaign in the health region. During the first round of this response, 527 children aged 6 weeks to 59 months were immunized with the pentavalent vaccine. Some 465 children aged 9 to 59 months were also vaccinated against measles.
- IMC provided Erythromycin, which enabled the treatment of 542 children. UNICEF has provided additional doses of Erythromycin to treat potential new cases of pertussis.
- A national coordination meeting on the evaluation of epidemiological surveillance of routine vaccination and supplementary immunization activities against polio in CAR was held on 11 November.
- WHO organized a technical training for health workers in Kémo to support onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis from 12 to 13 November.

**Livelihoods / Community Stabilization****Needs:**

- According to a recent Emergency Food Security Assessment survey, 61 per cent of households rely mainly on petty food trade, mostly vegetables, which is not a profitable and sustainable livelihood. There is a need to diversify income sources by providing assistance to support vocational training and productivity.
- According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification survey, food insecurity affects 1.52 million people. This implies that more people are living under the livelihoods-protection threshold and are unable to ensure basic survival or maintain access to basic services, including routine medical care and schooling expenses. They are unable to sustain livelihoods in the medium term, such as purchasing seeds and drugs. Most households are applying negative coping strategies, such as dropping out of school and engaging in illegal activities.
- Most of the petty traders, especially women, living in IDP sites restarted small businesses to eke out a living. However, they did not manage to recapitalize their assets, which led to a severe decrease of their activities and income. Support including financial literacy and education is required in order to help them recover their assets and improve business skills.

3 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2014

Response:

- Search for Common Ground (SCG) is broadcasting radio spots/programmes, SMS campaigns and live performances to promote peace and reconciliation. SCG also organizes trainings on human rights, peacebuilding and journalism, and it supports community-based activities. Its activities are carried out by focal points in their field offices in Bangui, Zemio, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Obo, Rafai and Bangassou.
- The following NGOs are promoting social cohesion through community-based approaches in Bangui, Begoua and Berberati: ARND, GOD, MIAE, GAPAFOT, AFPE, ACAPE, FADEC and Kaga Construction. ACAPE, FADEC, AGSPD and AFPE have started livelihoods projects including income-generating activities, support to petty traders and vocational training.
- Labour-intensive activities and cash-for-work projects are being implemented in Bangui by IOM and ACTED. ACTED and DRC are developing a joint conflict-management training. ACTED is also supporting IGA in Miskine.
- OXFAM has started a cash-transfer programme and is supporting 50 groups of producers in Bria. Mercy Corps is targeting youths and women through IGA projects and setting up peace committees.
- Cordaid is implementing a peacebuilding and social-cohesion project titled Justice and Peace. CRS is implementing a similar project in Ouham and Ouham Pendé Provinces.

Gaps and constraints:

- More funding is required and improved partnerships between national and international NGOs.
- Humanitarian access constraints, including office looting, continue to hinder humanitarian response.
- Depletion of the NGO international staff workforce linked to recruitments by other international actors deploying in the CAR.



Needs:

- Increase protection response to people affected in hotspots, particularly in Nana Bakassa-Boguila, Bambari-Bakala, Mbres-Kaga Bandoro, Batangafo-Bouca, Gaoura-Boulai-Baboua, Kabo, Batangafo and in all communities at risk.
- Advocacy with armed groups and international forces needs to be strengthened to ensure respect for basic human rights and protection of civilians in areas where recent attacks occurred.
- Provide protection response to IDPs in sites and regularly update IDP figures.
- As children continue to participate in armed groups' activities, child-protection actors need to strengthen their efforts to extract these children, particularly through community-based programmes that also enable the socioeconomic reintegration of girls and boys formerly associated with armed groups.
- Strengthen efforts to protect children from all forms of violence.

2 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2014

Response:

- On 15 November, the Protection Cluster held the first round of its sensitization campaigns on protection issues and protection mainstreaming in emergency situations. The initiative aims to launch trainings targeting hundreds of national NGOs and national staff from UN agencies and international NGOs in order to build their protection capacity. From 4 to 10 November, a joint team comprising the Protection Cluster and DRC's emergency unit visited Lobaye Province. The mission aimed to monitor the protection response 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 and Mbaiki, and in the villages of Boboua, Bodjoula, Boguera, Boganagone, Zalingo, Becagomie, Ndolo and Ngotto. The mission recommends 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.
- The Protection Cluster has finalized its protection-incident matrix. The matrix aims to strengthen humanitarian coordination and the cluster's advocacy on interactions with international forces. The matrix classifies intervention regions according to the level of risk and by priority areas. A first phase has been launched in Bangui and surrounding areas for a month before the endorsement of the final version of the matrix by the CAR humanitarian country team. The Protection Cluster's matrix feeds into the MINUSCA flash-point matrix, which provides weekly updates on protection hotspots and recommended actions.
- On 4 November, the national Protection Cluster held a workshop to finalize its sectoral objectives and key activities to be included in the CAR 2015 SRP. The cluster's sectoral objectives have been endorsed by its members. The cost of activities is being finalized.
- Following reports of the presence of a potential community at risk, a joint rapid protection-assessment mission, comprising INTERSOS, OCHA and UNHCR, was organized on 10 November to Kaba village, located 23 km from Kaga Bandoro on the Kaga Bandoro-Grivai axis. The mission identified a community of 250 people who have 100 cows. The community's members are originally from the Kemo Province; Ndjoukou sub-province; the villages of Galafondo, Danga, Possele, Mbata, Bata yanga; and rural Ombella Mpoko Province. The community's leader reported that they decided to settle in the current site on 27 October after walking from Bangui, Ndjoukou, Damara and Boali. They have been displaced since March 2014. Their priority needs, which include health, food, water, shelter and NFIs, have been conveyed to local authorities and humanitarian actors in Kaga Bandoro. Their children have not attended school for over a year.
- DRC and humanitarian actors attended a meeting held by the Wise Men's Committee in Batangafo. The meeting was attended by MINUSCA and representatives of the Batangafo Muslim youth group and anti-Balaka elements. Committee members acknowledged that although progress had been made towards ensuring peace, there were recent incidents in Batangafo with newly burned houses. Recommendations include a request to MINUSCA to increase the number of their fixed positions in the town and to strengthen their night patrols.

- In Bambari, the regional field Protection Cluster is monitoring IDP figures as part of its protection strategy. There are 18,569 IDPs in three sites, with an increase of 4,299 people in site S and Notre Dame des Victoires (NDV). These IDPs arrived from the surrounding villages of Matchika, Langadji, Agoudou Manga and recently Yamalé following armed violence. There are 10,830 IDPs in site S, 5,575 in NDV and 2,164 in site M.
- Psychosocial support and recreational opportunities for children are ongoing through child-friendly spaces (CFS) and listening centres. A CFS and listening centre will be operational for a community at risk in Bangui's PK5 neighbourhood in the coming weeks. In Bocaranga, 1,636 children, including 713 girls, had access to recreational and psychosocial activities between July and October. Since January, 67,000 children have received recreational and psychosocial support countrywide.
- New cases of unaccompanied and separated children have been identified and registered in Bozoum, Ouham Pende Province, Ndele and Bangui. Family tracing and reunification efforts are ongoing with ICRC's support. Some 1,107 children have been reunified with their primary caregivers since the crisis began. A new project has been initiated targeting children affected by exclusion and violence in Bangui, particularly street children.
- To strengthen the community-based alert system for the MRM mechanism (SC resolution 1612) on grave violations against children by armed forces and armed groups, 25 monitors, including two women, have been trained in Bozoum. Similar trainings had been organized in Zemio and Bossangoa with the same aim.
- Since January, 2,143 children (out of 3,000 targeted children) have been extracted from exploitation by armed groups.

Gaps and constraints

- Population displacements occurred due to persistent fighting and violence against civilians in some regions, mainly in the Ouaka, Ouham, Nana Gribizi and Kemo Provinces.
- More support is required from some local authorities, particularly on issues related to protection and the fight against impunity.
- Difficult and deteriorating infrastructure hinders access to communities, particularly children and women who require protection.
- Violence, insecurity and banditry continue to impede humanitarian access and child-protection activities. Some child-protection actors were victims of looting and attacks, or had their activities obstructed, gravely affecting child-protection responses.



Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- The findings of an ACF/RRM assessment revealed that 592 displaced families, including 435 in Sibut and 157 families in villages in Sibut and Dekoa, need NFI assistance.

703,975

Vulnerable people targeted in 2014 with emergency shelter and NFIs.

Response:

- In Bambari, UNHCR distributed 200 tarpaulins in the Notre Dame de la Victoire site where newly arrived displaced people have settled from Bamado and Brodongo villages.
- Through an intervention of PU-AMI, 26 collective emergency shelters were constructed outside the enclave in the IDP sites of Cotonaf, Ecole sous-préfectorale des filles and Paroisse Saint Michel, thereby providing emergency shelter to 890 IDPs.
- Twelve collective emergency shelters were constructed for the enclaved Muslim community, providing shelter for some 480 of the most vulnerable people. PU-AMI, IOM and the Committee of Elderly of Boda jointly established the beneficiary lists. Individual tarpaulins were distributed to 31 vulnerable families within the enclave.
- In Bossangoa, CRS has distributed 14,463 NFI kits to families in need. A total of 4,747 and 7,716 kits were provided by OFDA and UNHCR respectively.
- Since early October, ACTED has distributed 827 NFI kits consisting of two blankets, one kitchen set, one hygiene kit and a bucket in 15 villages in Bozoum. OFDA provided the kits.
- In Lobaye Province, CRS distributed 148 reconstruction kits including windows, doors and locks, 80 tool kits and 833 tarpaulins through its owner-driven reconstruction project. Some 340 people have also received technical training.

- IOM distributed NFI kits to 24 and 27 newly arrived IDP households in Kabo and Moyenne-Sido respectively.

Gaps and constraints

N/A



Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- ETC continues to support humanitarian organizations operating in Bangui with issues related to troubleshooting, radio programming, technical advice and information sharing.
- In Kaga-Bandoro, while planning for the relocation of UNICEF's permanent VSAT station, a temporary solution from a local Internet service provider has been implemented at the new UN common compound.
- An assessment mission was conducted in N'délé from 4 to 6 November for VSAT and radio room installation.
- In Bossangoa, a mission was deployed from 7 to 11 November to restore disrupted radio security telecommunications network
- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

Gaps and constraints:

- The funding situation remains critical. The joint ETC/Logistics Cluster operation is only 46 per cent funded. Additional funding is required to maintain operations at the current level.



Multi-sector assistance to refugees

Needs:

- Verify and profile Sudanese refugees in Bambari in order to determine adequate durable solutions in the context of extortions and other human rights violations that refugees have endured.
- In collaboration with local authorities, ensure refugees' protection in order to avoid forced return.
- Provide academic studies and literacy courses in refugee camps.

8,012

Refugees hosted in CAR

Response:

- A profiling exercise in Pladama Ouaka camp in Bambari was carried out from 3 to 6 November. Figures are being consolidated, but preliminary findings estimate that there are 1,867 refugees. Refugees in Pladama Ouaka camp continue to face attacks from anti-Balaka elements who enter the camp with a rocket launcher requesting goods from refugees. No major incident has occurred, but these recurrent intrusions of armed anti-balaka elements remain of concern.
- Tension due to witchcraft accusations, which led to the petitioned expulsion of 16 refugees from the camp, has decreased following sensitization and discussion sessions held by UNHCR and its partners, and with the collaboration of the Mayor of Zemio. The Mayor reestablished order in the camp by informing refugees of the legal options for making complaints. Mediation sessions are ongoing in preparation for the return of the refugees to the camp.
- An increasing number of refugees are taking literacy courses in the Zemio camp. Out of 74 enrolled students, 69 passed the exams. Through its implementing partner IMC, UNHCR ensured the distribution of school kits to refugee children at the camp's kindergarten, primary and secondary schools. The kits included notebooks, coloured pencils, squares and calipers. Refugees in Zemio follow the Congolese curriculum in primary and secondary schools provided by UNHCR and implemented by COOPI, UNHCR's partner for primary and secondary education, food security assistance, and income-generating activities for refugees in rural areas.
- To address their needs accordingly, COOPI has set up a team of 14 male and female volunteers assigned to assist 115 refugees with specific needs, mostly elderly people and handicapped people living in the Zemio camp.

Gaps and constraints:

- Absence of a permanent international force to secure the Pladama Ouaka refugee camp in Bambari.

General Coordination

On 8 November, the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator, Ms. Claire Bourgeois, visited Vakaga Province in north-eastern CAR to assess humanitarian needs and underline the humanitarian community's commitment to conflict-displaced people. She was accompanied by a representative of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, and representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes and other humanitarian partners.

The delegation met with provincial authorities, mayors, local NGOs, local communities and displaced people in Tiringoulou to discuss their challenges in meeting their daily basic needs. The most urgent needs identified are education and food security. International Medical Corps (IMC) is ensuring health services in the area.

Ms. Bourgeois said: "I was deeply impressed by the spirit and resilience of the community that had for instance built a ward of the health centre themselves with the material provided by IMC. I also appreciated some technical training for youth and literacy classes for adults. However, immediate further action in support of displaced and hosting communities is required to meet at least minimal basic services.

"The authorities and communities repeatedly requested the need to start the school year in the entire Province. It is imperative to secure access for convoys delivering aid supplies from Bangui and increase protection programmes, comprising gender-based violence and children protection against armed groups' recruitment. Alternatively, we risk further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the region."

OCHA supported the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in organizing a joint workshop from 13 to 14 November in Bangui. It was attended by Government representatives and humanitarian actors. They discussed the main results of the periodic monitoring report; the vulnerability and inter-sectoral needs analysis within the framework of the humanitarian needs overview; and the 2015 objectives and the SRP. This joint planning process will facilitate establishing good synergy between the Government's plan and the humanitarian community's 2015 strategic objectives.

On 11 November, the OCHA sub-office in Bambari held its first general coordination forum. It was attended by humanitarian actors and administrative and local authorities in Ouaka Province. The forum aims to facilitate information sharing on security and humanitarian aspects between national authorities and humanitarian actors. It will strengthen partnerships and facilitate advocacy on various humanitarian issues. Its terms of reference were endorsed during the first meeting. Similar meetings are being organized by OCHA in Bouar, Bossangoa and Paoua.

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