

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

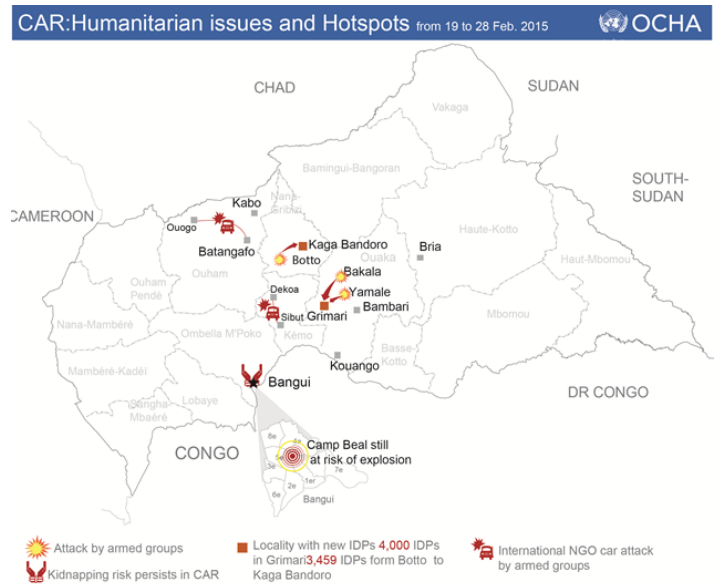
Situation Report No. 49 (as of 4 March 2015)



This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 18 February and 4 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 18 March 2015.

Highlights

- Some 50,000 people were displaced by ongoing insecurity and violent attacks throughout the country.
- Attacks against humanitarian workers continued unabated, forcing the suspension of basic services in some areas.
- Reports of attacks and human rights abuses against IDPs prompted serious concerns. The humanitarian community appealed for the respect of the principle of freedom of movement, especially of stranded IDPs.



436,300

IDPs in CAR, including

49,113

in 35 sites Bangui (as of 4 March)

10%

Funding available US\$61.3 million against the SRP 2015 requirements of \$613 million)

4.6

million Population of CAR

2.7

million People who need assistance

Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation in CAR remains extremely volatile. Insecurity and violent attacks persisted throughout the country during the reporting period, prompting new waves of displacement. Attacks against humanitarian workers continued.

On 20 February, armed men attacked an INGO's convoy on the road to Sibut from Dekoa (Kemo Province). There were no casualties, but the attackers looted at least 150 UNICEF school bags and passengers' personal belongings. On 18 February, in the second incident on the same road in the past month, two armed men attacked an INGO in Batangafo. They took passengers' money and telephones. Consequently, MSF Spain has suspended its mobile clinic activities in the region.

In Bangui, recent reported security incidents in PK5 (5th district) prompted teachers to flee their posts, prompting concerns that schools that had recently reopened in the neighbourhood may close again.

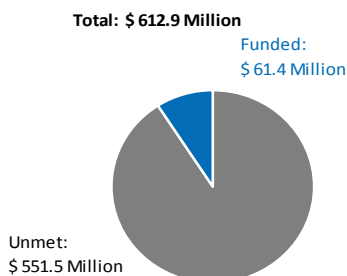
In Bambari, the situation has improved after two weeks of high tensions that followed the 17 February clashes leading to three deaths. Also on 17 February, a female IDP at the Bambari S site was killed by anti-Balaka elements. On 20 February, the site Coordinator was kidnapped and temporarily detained by anti-Balaka elements who accused him of cooperating with MINUSCA human rights staff in the woman's death. He was later released following an intervention by MINUSCA forces.

Recent violence between armed groups in the Ouaka Province prompted the displacement of some 50,000 people in January. Nearly 30,000 people have fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. About 3,700 people remain at Kouango centre and the rest are hiding in the bush. More than 105 villages have been destroyed, mainly on the Kouango-Bianga-Ngandjia and Kouango-Pende-Bangao roads. Human rights violations committed by armed groups are reported, as well as urgent needs in health and education. An inter-agency mission visited Kouango on 27 February and identified the urgent need for NGOs specialized in health.

In the past few weeks, between 3,000 and 4,000 new IDPs have fled to Grimari (Ouaka Province) following armed confrontations between ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka elements on the Grimari-Kouango road. A 23 February inter-agency mission identified that their main needs are in food and NFI assistance, health –including ensuring that the operation block remains functional-, security and protection by international forces.

Funding

CAR - FUNDING: STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN 2015



The number of people who need humanitarian assistance has increased from 2.5 million to 2.7 million over the past year. As of 4 March, international donors had committed \$61.3 million, or 10 per cent of the \$613 million requested in the 2015 CAR Humanitarian Response Plan.

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- NFI distribution is required for 1,513 households identified who fled violence in Botto (Nana Gribizi Province).
- A total of 347 households identified by the cluster require NFI assistance in Grimari (Ouaka Province).
- ACF/RRM have identified 310 households in Gbabiro (Ouham Province) that require NFI assistance. They also identified 243 households in Gbakanga-Bofiré-Bolakaba (Ouham Province) who need NFI assistance.

600,000

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency shelter and NFIs.

Response:

- Tearfund and ANEA (national WASH entity) have resumed WASH activities thereby addressing the needs raised in the Displacement Tracking Matrix on the IDP sites in Boda (Lobaye Province).

Gaps and constraints:

- Lack of an emergency shelter actor.



Education

Needs:

- Temporary safe learning spaces (ETAPEs) with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities are needed for 60,000 children.
- A total of 568,500 students have to return to school by the end of the 2014-2015 school year. About 660,000 students countrywide were enrolled in schools before the crisis.
- Vocational training is required for 2,000 youths by the end of this year.
- A total of 250,000 people require school-feeding activities, particularly in provinces with a low return rate of students.

551,000

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency education.

Response:

- Since the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, 30,026 children, including 14,768 girls, have benefited from learning and protection activities in 124 ETAPes in the capital Bangui, Batangafo (Ouham Province), Bimbo, Yaloké (Ombella Mpoko Province), Dékoa (Kemo Province), Kaga-Bandoro (Nana Gribizi Province), Bambari and Grimari (Ouaka Province). The programmes include French and maths classes, recreational activities, life-skills training and psychosocial support.
- So far, 135 teachers and ETAPes supervisors have participated in the revised Education in Emergencies training facilitated by members of the Ministry of Education.
- Since the current school year began, 58,307 children have benefited from school-feeding programmes in Bangui and Kémo Province.

Gaps and constraints:

- Constant population movements and a volatile security situation due to ongoing fighting and violence in central and eastern provinces are hindering the provision of structured education, child-protection activities and the timely delivery and distribution of school supplies.
- Following the recent security incidents in PK5 (5th district in Bangui), teachers fled their posts. There is a risk that reopened schools in the neighbourhood will close again.

**Emergency Telecommunications****Response:**

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) supports humanitarian organizations operating in Bangui on issues related to troubleshooting, radio programming, technical advice and information sharing.
- A mission is ongoing in N'Délé (Bamingui Bangoran Province) to upgrade the Common Communication Centre and deploy the ETC VSAT. The mission was due to end on 3 March.
- The deployment and maintenance mission in Bossangoa (Ouham Province) and Bouar (Nana Mambere Province) is scheduled from 5-10 March in coordination with a hosting partner.
- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictrepr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

Gaps and constraints:

- The lack of radio operators and the security situation outside of Bangui are hampering the fulfillment of the C-MOSS requirements for COMCENs. Planned recruitments have been delayed due to funding constraints.

**Food Security****Needs:**

- According to the November 2014 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), an estimated 1.5 million people require food assistance, of whom 209,978 are in Bangui. About 19 per cent of the rural population are in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and 12 per cent in phase 4 (emergency).
- Due to widespread insecurity, looting and slaughtering, crop production in 2014 is 58 per cent lower than the pre-crisis average.
- Food reserves in rural areas are 40 to 50 per cent lower than average, and the lean season is expected to start as early as March 2015. Severely food insecure people will require life-saving assistance in the coming months to support households towards the lean season.
- Support to boost food production will also be critical to save livelihoods and reduce vulnerable farming families' dependence on humanitarian aid. Priorities are the promotion of vegetable production, small-livestock rearing and fish farming. Funds will be released soon to begin the distribution of seeds and tools in time for the first planting season in March.
- Due to widespread insecurity, looting and slaughtering, crop production in 2014 was 58 per cent lower than the pre-crisis average. Livestock numbers declined by up to 77 per cent and the fish supply by about 40 per cent.

1.2 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015

Response:

- In February, WFP distributed 3,200 mt of food to 340,000 beneficiaries.
- FAO, in partnership with ANDE, will provide livestock assistance (small ruminants and poultry) for IDPs in the enclave and host populations (100 beneficiaries each, 200 in total) to urgently restore their livelihoods.
- WFP has carried out a market survey to identify traders for the start-up of a voucher pilot. Preparations are ongoing to distribute vouchers in March.

Gaps and constraints:

- Insecurity along the roads and at distribution sites continues to represent the main constraint.
- To buy seeds and tools in time for the next planting season, FAO urgently needs \$9 million to respond to the needs identified by NGOs in priority areas identified by the IPC.

**Health****Needs:**

- The Institute Pasteur of Bangui is facing a national rabies vaccine shortage. Some stocks of 263 doses were held back for use in cases of post exposure. However, a vaccine stockpile is expected in the coming days.
- Reinforcement and logistical support from partners is needed to allow an urgent mission of investigation in response to the recently reported cases of Monkey-Pox in Bria (Haute Kotto Province).
- WHO and WFP conducted a rapid evaluation mission in Bohong following a reported high number of malnutrition cases. As a result, 63 children under age 5 were identified as suffering from severe malnutrition with complications. UNICEF, FAO, WHO, WFP and national health partners in the area, and in Ouham Pende Province, have been informed that vulnerable people need health and nutritional care.
- Several measles cases have been reported in Kabo and Moyenne Sido (Ouham Province). Out of nine blood samples taken, there are seven confirmed cases of measles in the area. In the Nana Gribizi (Kaga Bandoro and Ngrevai) area, four out of 14 suspected cases of measles were confirmed. Additional information is being collected to launch vaccination campaigns and address the medical needs and care for people in the area.
- In Bangui, 95 per cent of 200 samples taken from suspected measles cases were positive for rubella. So far, vaccines are not available.
- Medecins Sans Frontière-France reported three suspected cases of Monkey-Pox in Bria following the death of an 8 year old. Two other cases were also reported, and the blood samples drawn by health workers from the Institut Pasteur of Bangui confirmed the disease. The patients were treated and cured after five days of hospitalization.

1.4 million

People targeted in 2015

Response

- Provision of one basic emergency health kit (which covers 10,000 patients over three months), one malaria kit (1,000 for three months) and one diarrhoeal kit (1,000 for three months) to the health centre in Yaloké (Ombella Mpoko Province);
- The number of rabies cases remains a high concern, as the risk has increased in Bangui. Clinical care is available for wound treatments and vaccine and/or serum. Since January, 91 cases have been reported and WHO has placed orders for rabies vaccines and anti-venom stock. A response plan is been developed by a Health Cluster taskforce.

**Logistics****Response:**

- The cluster is finalizing a contract with ACTED to implement the mobile intervention brigade project.
- Market surveys and evaluations are ongoing for river transport, a mechanical workshop and spare parts, supply chain, fuel dispatch, storage and road/bridge rehabilitation.
- Updated information on UNHAS flights has been posted on the Logistics Cluster website: <http://logcluster.org/ops/caf13a>

Gaps and constraints:

- Poor infrastructure and insecurity along the main roads are hampering the humanitarian logistics chain.
- Access to national service providers remains an issue in Bangui and the provinces.

**Nutrition****Needs:**

- Some 32,348 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2015, and 78,335 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). These numbers could rise, given ongoing aggravating factors (displacement, food insecurity, deteriorated access to clean water and sanitation, increased morbidity and lack of health-care services).

119,000

Vulnerable people targeted with nutrition services in 2015

- About 22,700 children suffering from SAM and 47,000 children suffering from MAM are targeted for treatment in 2015.

Response

- Since 1 January 2015, 1,377 children have been admitted for SAM treatment across the country. This represents 6 per cent of the SRP target of 22,700 children suffering from SAM. Overall performance indicators of case management remain within global standards with an average recovery rate of 84.40 per cent (≥ 75 per cent) and death rate of 3.23 per cent (< 10 per cent). However, the default rate remains slightly high 12.37 per cent (standard < 15 per cent), especially for areas still affected by insecurity and population displacements.
- Since 1 January 2015, 8,833 new beneficiaries have been admitted to WFP's nutrition programme. They include 2,346 children aged between 6 and 59 months; 4,787 PLW; 680 malnourished people living with HIV under ARV treatment; and 1,020 caregivers of severe acute malnourished people in health facilities. To prevent spikes in malnutrition, WFP provides a large-scale integrated general food distribution and blanket feeding intervention. WFP distributes nutritious Plumpy'Sup to one child under age 5 per household. This operation reached 19,335 children under age 5 monthly in January 2015.
- The NGO Action Contre la Faim (ACF) screened 527 children aged between 6 and 59 months in the Don Bosco IDP site (Bangui) on 23 February. Findings revealed seven MAM cases and one SAM case. All cases were referred for treatment to Bede Combatant health structure.
- From 23 to 28 February, with support from UNICEF, some 19 health workers received training in Yaloke on the revised protocols of integrated management of acute malnutrition, including HIV/AIDS issues.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Coverage of community-based management of acute malnutrition services outside of Bangui remains low due to security constraints and destroyed health facilities.
- The integration of acute nutrition management into the national health system needs to be strengthened.
- There is a gap in the provision of activities to support appropriate infant and young-child feeding.



Protection

Needs:

- The physical protection capacity for people affected by violence, particularly in the following hotspots: Kouango, Bambari, Bangui (3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th district), Batangafo, Mbres. Transhumance corridors need to be strengthened.
- Grave violations against children by armed groups continue unabated.
- Between 6,000 and 10,000 children are associated with armed groups in CAR.
- Psychosocial support and recreational activities are required for children affected by the crisis (traumatized children, children with difficulties concentrating, and extremely nervous or aggressive children).
- New unaccompanied and separated children continue to be identified following the most recent violence and displacements. Care, family tracing and reunification activities are required, even in remote areas.
- The lack of a national strategy on durable solutions for IDPs in CAR still reduces the efficacy of humanitarians and national authorities in responding to IDPs' protection and assistance needs according to durable solutions principles.

2 million

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015

Response:

- Recreational activities and psychosocial support are ongoing in the provinces. Since January 2014, 74,494 children have benefited from psychosocial and recreational support countrywide.
- A new child-protection project has started in Batangafo (Ouham Province), the biggest IDP agglomeration in CAR. It targets 5,000 children and includes five child-friendly spaces (three in Batangafo and two in Lady).
- Work on unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) continues countrywide, as well as in the Yaloke IDP site. First successes were achieved regarding the enclaved UASC children in Yaloke. On 20 February, two boys were reunified with their families.
- Awareness campaigns to prevent the recruitment of children by armed groups are ongoing. Since the beginning of 2015, 1,087 people have been sensitized in Kémo and Ombella M'Poko Provinces.
- The Child Protection Sub-Cluster continued with the Contextualization of Minimum Standards initiative. In Bossangoa, 17 child-protection practitioners have been trained on the minimum standards, and they participated in the contextualization exercise.
- In Bangui, 11 INGO staff received training during the reporting period on the basics of child protection and the referral pathway.
- From 26-27 February, UNHCR trained 20 monitoring officers from the Danish Refugee Council in Bossangoa on the use of protection monitoring tools and the Population Tracking System.
- The Protection Cluster resumed its training and sensitization campaign on protection issues and protection mainstreaming in emergency situations. Through this initiative, the cluster's coordination team provides a

series of trainings targeting hundreds of national NGOs and national staff from UN agencies and INGOs to build their capacity in protection.

- From 26-28 February, the Protection Cluster participated in a mission of the Senior Humanitarian Coordinator, along with members of the Humanitarian Country Team, to assess the protection situation in Berberati and Carnot enclaves. The mission was extended to Nola in Sangha Mbaere Province, where there is a reported presence of Peulh communities who might be at risk. The mission revealed a slight improvement of the situation in the areas it visited. However, IDPs' protection situation, particularly those in enclaves in Berberati and Carnot, remain of concern to the cluster.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Security conditions, access constraints and poor road infrastructures are hampering assessments and response activities.
- Child protection and other humanitarian actors are sometimes being targeted by armed elements.
- Insufficient funding.



Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

Needs:

- The following sites require WASH assistance: Bambari site S (10,345 IDPs), M (3,805 IDPs), NDV (8,335 IDPs), Bambari airport (5,000 IDPs and 1,600 host communities), Ngakobo (5,000 IDPs), Bambari's neighbourhoods of Hadji and Bornou (12,000 IDPs and host communities), Grimari (135 IDPs and 7,000 returnees), Bossangoa (35,000 returnees require water), Petit Seminaire (480 IDPs), site C in Kabo (1,269 IDPs and host communities), Kaga Bandoro site Eveche (12,500 IDPs), Paroisse Nativite (245 IDPs), Kaga Bandoro (2,850 IDPs in host families), Bissingale (212 IDPs), Moyen Sido (2,159 IDPs), Batangafo (27,379 IDPs in 4 sites) and its axes (23,260 IDPs in 23 sites), Bangui (58,774 IDPs in 37 sites), Carnot (587 IDPs) and Yaloke (562 IDPs).

1,400,000

People targeted in 2015

Response:

- In Bambari, ICRC and TGH are delivering 150 m³ of potable water per day by water trucking and bucket chlorination to 45 wells in sites and host communities. TGH is maintaining sanitation facilities, ensuring access for 39 to 75 people per latrine and 60 to 120 people per shower. Community-hygiene promoters provide hygiene-promotion services.
- In Bambari airport, ANEA (National Agency for Water and Sanitation) has built 30 latrines and national NGO Vitalite Plus, 50 latrines. A total of 5,790 IDPs and host communities have received jerry cans, buckets and soap.
- On the Bambari-Ippy axis, CRF has drilled two new boreholes and rehabilitated two. It has also reactivated 15 water management committees.
- In Ngakobo, water is supplied by the SUCAF water system. UNICEF and MSF are monitoring water production and looking for alternatives as the water resource decreases in the dry season. TGH is maintaining sanitation facilities and four solid-waste collection pits, ensuring access of 63 people per latrine and 100 people per shower. Community hygienists have been trained on the site and within the community at risk.
- In Grimari, TGH is supplying 30 m³ of potable water per day and maintaining the sanitation facilities in the IDP site, ensuring fewer than 20 people for each facility.
- In Bossangoa, the UNICEF-funded national society for distributing water (SODECA) is supplying 564 m³ of potable water per day (with a ratio of 15 litres per person, per day) to the Petit Seminaire IDP site.
- In Kaga Bandoro, 50 m³ of water is delivered daily to 12,500 IDPs (four litres per person per day). ICRC continues to ensure maintenance and operation of the Eveche site's WASH facilities.
- In Kaga Bandoro and on its axis, 33 hand pumps were rehabilitated by ANEA and IRC for 11,500 people (breakdown is four in Kaga Bandoro, 16 on the Bangui axis, five on the Ouandago axis and eight handpumps on the Mbres axis).
- In Batangafo, DRC distributed 50 m³ of water through trucking and repaired handpumps for 27,379 IDPs. ANEA distributed aquatabs to treat 10,259 litres of water, targeting 530 IDPs who moved from Bobazi site to abandoned houses around Batangafo airport.
- ANEA, with UNICEF support, conducted a hygiene-promotion campaign for 1,532 people in four IDP sites (two around Batangafo town and two on the Ouandago axis). It also distributed soap, jerry cans and mosquito nets to 7,140 IDPs in eight sites on the Ouandago axis.
- IOM is maintaining sanitation structures in Moyen Sido.
- In Carnot, potable water is supplied by the SODECA network. MSF is in charge of sanitation (35 people per latrine and 42 per shower).

Gaps and constraints:

- Lack of funding to maintain WASH services in IDP sites in Bangui.
- Funding and equipment for drilling a new water point to replace water trucking in Bangui, Bambari and Batangafo. Only five drilling machines are available in country, which is insufficient to cover needs.
- More funding and implementing partners are required to maintain WASH infrastructures in IDP sites hosting people for long periods.
- Semi-permanent WASH infrastructures are required in most IDP sites hosting people for an extensive period.

General Coordination:

From 26 February to 2 March, Senior Humanitarian Coordinator (SHC) Claire Bourgeois led a joint mission to Berberati, Nola and Carnot. G some improvements in the restoration of State authority and relative stability were observed, potentially allowing early recovery activities to start, including development initiatives through local associations.

The SHC called for the respect of the basic principles of freedom of movement and of choice of the place to live for all people, and protecting property rights of those who have fled. Humanitarian actors stressed the importance of supporting Government efforts for return, social-cohesion activities, initiatives to reintegrate children associated with armed groups, and commitments for the reunification of separated children and spouses.

For further information, please contact:

Francois Goemans, Head of Office, goemans@un.org, Tel: +236 70 73 87 30

Gemma Cortes, Head of Public Information Unit, cortesg@un.org, Tel: +236 70 08 75 65

Ingrid Bokosset, Public Information Assistant, bokosset@un.org, Tel: +236 70 00 95 99

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/car or reliefweb.int/country/caf