

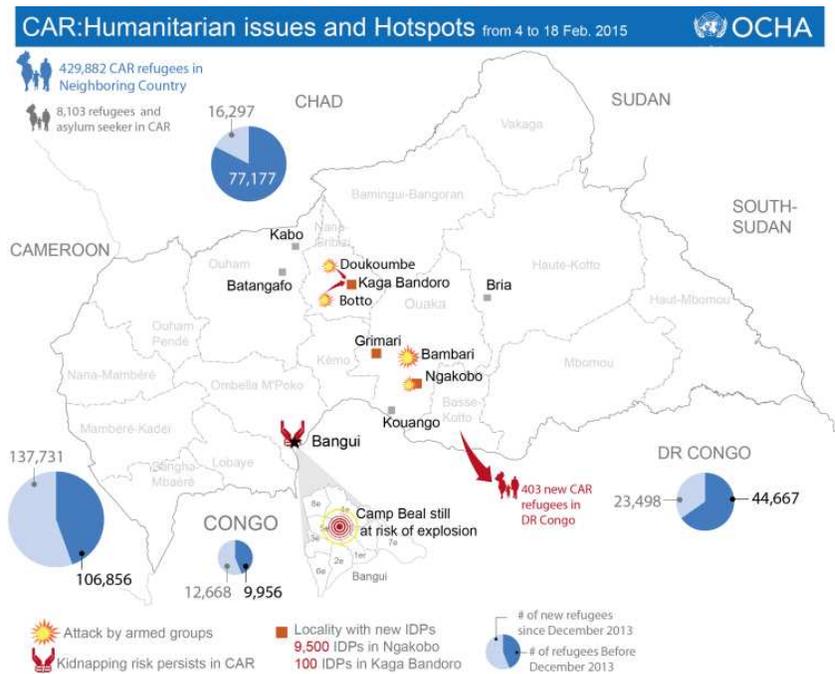
# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Situation Report No. 48 (as of 18 February 2015)

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

## Highlights

- The Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) Director of Operations visited CAR from 10 to 14 February to take stock of the situation. The delegation reiterated that the need for humanitarian assistance remains extremely high.
- About 403 people have fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo as a precautionary measure in case of retaliation from ex-Séléka elements following confrontations with international forces in Bria (Haute Kotto Province) on 10 February.
- On 7 February, ex-Séléka elements and armed pastoralists attacked the Ngakobo IDP site, which hosts 9,500 IDPs, near Bambari (Ouaka Province). At least 2,500 new IDPs sought refuge in a sugar factory in Ngakobo.
- On 9 February, armed men attacked the compound of an international NGO in Kabo (Ouham Province).



<h3 style="margin: 0;">443,000</h3> <p>IDPs in CAR, including:</p>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">50,281</h3> <p>in 34 sites in Bangui (as of 6 February)</p>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">68%</h3> <p>Funding available (about US\$337 million) against the revised SRP 2014 requirements of \$555 million</p>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">4.6 million</h3> <p>Population of CAR</p>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">2.7 million</h3> <p>People who need assistance</p>
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Sources: UNDSS, OCHA, CCM, UNHCR and MSF

## Situation Overview

The Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-wha Kang, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Dr Chaloka Beyani, and ECHO Director of Operations, Mr Jean-Louis de Brouwer, concluded a five-day visit to CAR on 14 February. They saw for themselves the appalling living conditions of people directly affected by the current crisis during their visit to Bambari (Ouaka Province), Yaloke, Mpoko and PK5 in Bangui (Ombella M'poko Province). The delegation agreed that, although much has changed since conflict erupted more than a year ago, and in spite of a significant scale-up of humanitarian action, the need for assistance remains extremely high.

The crisis has grown in complexity and has become a multi-layered conflict. In addition to the on-going clashes between armed groups, the conflict is further exacerbated by widespread banditry that blurs the distinction between armed groups and civilians. The delegation reiterated the commitment of humanitarian organizations, the UN and ECHO to the people of CAR and the national authorities. The delegation also travelled to neighbouring Cameroon

on 15 February to meet with Central Africans who have sought refuge across the border. Almost half a million people have fled CAR since the beginning of the crisis in 2013.

According to UNHCR, there are 429,882 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries. Of that number, 190,217 are new refugees who fled the country since December 2013. In the neighbouring countries, current priorities are: i) the acceleration of assistance to refugees living off-site in villages (in Cameroon), ii) profiling and verification in returnee sites (in Chad), iii) relocation of refugees to existing sites and verification of refugees out of camps (in Democratic Republic of Congo), and iv) family tracing for unaccompanied or separated children (in Congo).

Following pressure from international forces, members of the Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC), led by General Darassa, vacated the offices of the Bambari (Ouaka Province) Court of Appeal on 13 February. On the same day, demonstrations ensued in Bambari, with people setting up roadblocks that restricted the movement of more than 10 humanitarian vehicles. The protesters threatened to transform the Court into an IDP site for Muslims living with host families. The situation is now calm but remains tense and some humanitarian organisations are planning to temporarily relocate non-essential staff to Bangui.

According to UNHCR, about 403 Central Africans from the villages of Bumanda, Langandji, Ngouala, Mboma, Dusi, Bafo, Mbishola and Zima in the Alindao and Mobaye Sub-provinces (Basse Kotto Province) arrived in the Mobayi Mbongo region of the Equateur Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a precautionary measure in case of retaliation from ex-Séléka elements following confrontations with international forces in Bria (Haute Kotto Province) on 10 February. Sixty-five per cent of the new refugees are children, 30 per cent women and 5 per cent men. A rapid assessment is required in the region.

On 7 February, ex-Séléka elements and armed pastoralists attacked the Ngakobo IDP site, which hosts 9,500 IDPs, near Bambari (Ouaka Province). UN Peacekeepers secured the site and repelled the attack. Seven civilians were wounded in the skirmish. About 30 additional Peacekeepers were sent to Bambari to strengthen the presence of UN forces on the site. Following this incident and a sense of general insecurity in the region, at least 2,500 new IDPs sought refuge at the SUCAF sugar factory in Ngakobo. OCHA and other humanitarian actors present in the region continue to monitor the situation. A rapid response mechanism team is conducting a multi-sectoral assessment in the region from 19 to 22 February.

The situation in Nana Grebizi Province remains extremely volatile following an attack in the Doukoumbe and Botto villages on 27 January leading to the displacement of about 100 people who sought refuge in Kaga Bandoro, the capital of Nana Grebizi Province. On 13 February, religious leaders urged the local population to maintain peace. Due to prevailing insecurity, almost all humanitarian partners present in the region have reduced their movements outside the town. However, humanitarian assistance is still being provided in the town and at the Catholic mission IDP site.

Overall, as of 5 February, there are 442,495 IDPs in CAR according to the Commission for Population Movement. Of the total number, 178,483 are in IDP sites in Bangui and in the interior, 225,009 IDPs are with host families while 39,003 are hiding in the bush.

On 9 February, armed men attacked the compound of an international NGO in Kabo (Ouham Province) and stole money and a Thuraya phone. According to the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), humanitarian partners continue to face kidnapping and attack threats.

## Funding

CAR's 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) has appealed for nearly US\$613 million to deliver humanitarian assistance to an estimated two million people of the 2.7 million in need in the country. Another \$298 million is also needed to assist nearly 461,200 CAR refugees in Chad, Cameroon, the DRC and the Republic of the Congo through the CAR Regional Refugee Response Plan 2015. As of 20 February, the CAR SRP had received two per cent of its required funding (\$11 million).

The first standard 2015 Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) allocation was launched on 14 January, for a total of \$10 million. The eligible priority thematic areas and the geographic zones per cluster are defined in the [CHF allocation strategy document](#). The allocation also includes a window for projects that invest in capacity building of national NGOs. Some 55 projects have been submitted for a total value of \$39 million. The project review process in collaboration with clusters is ongoing and expected to be completed in March.

# Humanitarian Response



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)



## Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

### Needs:

- About 200 new IDPs at the Notre-Dame de la Victoire IDP site in Bambari require immediate shelter and NFI assistance. They were registered by CARITAS, having fled violence in Bambari, Bakala, Bambari and Kouango (Ouaka Province).
- The Norwegian Refugee Council has identified 2,000 households in Nola (Sangha Mbaere Province) and Mala (Kemo Province) which require NFI assistance.

**600,000**

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015 with emergency shelter and NFIs.

### Response:

- In Batangafo (Ouham Province), DRC distributed NFI kits to 800 newly-arrived IDPs.

### Gaps and constraints:

- Threats by armed groups are impeding the emergency response.



## Education

### Needs:

- Temporary safe learning spaces (ETAPEs) with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities are needed for 60,000 children.
- 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 prior to the crisis.
- 2,000 youth require vocational training by the end of 2015.

**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 Bangui, Batangafo, Bimbo, Dékoa, Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari, Grimari and Yaloké. The programmes include French and math classes, recreational activities, life-skills training and psychosocial support.
- So far, teachers and supervisors of 135 ETAPEs participated in the revised Education in Emergencies training facilitated by members of the Ministry of Education.
- Emergency rehabilitation and construction activities have been completed in 64 schools, providing suitable learning and recreational spaces to more than 20,460 students. Construction and rehabilitation activities are ongoing in 280 schools in 11 provinces and Bangui.
- Some 132 demobilized youths from armed groups and other vulnerable children in Bangui, (Ombella M'poko Province) Kabo (Ouham Province) and Ndele (Bamingui Bangoran Province) received professional training in dressmaking and mechanics.

### Gaps and constraints:

- The latest countrywide teachers' strike has affected the already difficult resumption of school activities and will result in a drop of attendance and academic results for most children.
- Constant population movement and the volatile security situation due to ongoing fighting and violence in the central and eastern provinces are hindering the provision of structured education, child-protection activities and the timely delivery and distribution of school supplies.



## Emergency Telecommunications

### Response:

- The deployment of an Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) VSAT to Ndele, the capital town of Bamingui-Bangoran Province, is being scheduled in coordination with hosting partners.
- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

### Gaps and constraints:

- Radio rooms set up by ETC in the common UN compounds in the towns of Ndele, Bambari and Bouar need to be staffed to enable daily tracking of UN/NGO staff.

- Additional funding is required to maintain operations at their current level. The ETC and Logistics Cluster is revising the budget to address these gaps.



## Food Security

### Needs:

- According to the November 2014 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), an estimated 1.5 million people require food assistance; 209,978 of them are in Bangui. About 19 per cent of the rural population is 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. Severely food insecure people and households will require life-saving assistance and support in the coming months of the lean season which starts next month.
- Support to boost food production will also be critical to save livelihoods and reduce vulnerable farming families' dependence on humanitarian aid. The promotion of vegetable production, small-livestock rearing and fish farming are priorities. Funds will be released soon to begin the distribution of seeds and tools in time for the first planting season in March.
- School-feeding activities are required as an incentive to return to schools, particularly in provinces with a low rate of student returns.

**1.2 million**

Vulnerable people targeted in 2015

### Response:

- As part of Farmer Field School schemes, 5,310 members of Parents' Associations are being supported by the NGO, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the CHF. Seven schools in Bria and six schools in Boda have been provided with gardening kits.
- In partnership with FAO, two national NGOs - ADC and AFECAD - have started a "School gardens" programme in four schools in Bangui. The provision of gardening kits will aim to improve food diversity for children while improving livelihoods and social cohesion within their families.
- Since the beginning of the current school year, 58,307 children have benefited from school-feeding programmes in Bangui and Kemo.

### Gaps and constraints:

- Insecurity along the roads and at distribution sites, and theft of relief items and agricultural inputs in warehouses, continue to represent the main constraints, hindering assistance to affected people.
- Funds are urgently needed to initiate food security programmes such as seed distribution in time for the planting season. FAO urgently needs \$9 million to buy seeds and tools to respond to the needs of people affected in priority areas identified by the IPC.



## Health

### Needs:

- The number of health personnel in Yaloké needs to be increased. More specialists in malnutrition with medical complications are required.
- The operation room of the Yaloké health centre requires adequate equipment.
- The reference system needs to be improved and a strategy to facilitate the detection and referral of malnutrition cases and serious illnesses needs to be established.
- Access to health services for the population, health personnel and humanitarian workers in Yaloké needs to be improved.

**1.4 million**

People targeted in 2015

### Response:

- A mission led by FAO, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the World Health Organization (WHO), is scheduled from 19 to 25 February to respond to a reported high number of contaminated fish in the Sangha River (which flows along the border with Cameroon). The suspected toxic element will be investigated to identify the cause and consequences, and appropriate action required to protect people who access the river regularly.
- The Ministry of Health and WHO are investigating an increased number of rabies cases in Bangui. So far, WHO has provided 200 doses of anti-rabies vaccines to treat 40 patients.
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium trained 42 health personnel within the framework of cross-border monitoring and the detection of the Ebola virus.

- An assessment mission and case detection will be led by WHO in the Sangha Mbaere and Lobaye Provinces from 16 to 21 March to treat cases of Human African trypanosomiasis.
- Suspected measles cases have been reported in Bria, Bangui, Boda and Kémo. In Bria, International Medical Corps (IMC) and MSF France are planning to organize a mass vaccination campaign in partnership with WHO. The campaign is scheduled for early March with the aim of immunizing children aged between six months and 10 years against measles.
- Community health workers across the country are being trained in disease surveillance.

#### Gaps and constraints:

- The blood bank at the National Blood Transfusion Center in Bangui has an inadequate supply of blood.



#### Logistics

##### Response:

- WFP is in search of additional storage capacity in Bangui.
- Since 1 February, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has started to exclusively accept paid bookings.
- Updated information on the 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 both in Bangui and the provinces.



#### Nutrition

##### Needs:

- About 22,700 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 47,000 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) are currently targeted for treatment.
- In 2015, it is estimated that some 32,348 children will suffer from SAM, and 78,335 children from MAM. These numbers could rise, given ongoing aggravating factors (displacement, poor food security, 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

##### Response:

- The NGO AHA screened 498 children aged between 6 and 59 months among the host population in Yaloke (Ombella M'poko Province) on 15 February. Findings revealed 56 MAM cases and 26 SAM cases. The identified cases received treatment through on-site mobile and out-patient therapeutic programmes. Three cases were referred for treatment to existing health structures with in-patient therapeutic programmes.
- In response to identified needs in Yaloke, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided a one-month food supply to AHA that included 10 cartons of Plumpy Sup and food kits for the treatment of 50 MAM cases and 80 pregnant and lactating women.
- In response to identified nutrition needs in Kouango (Mbomou Province), Bangui, Mbaiki (Lobaye Province), Bossangoa (Ouham Province), Boaur (Nana-Mambere Province) and Sibut (Kemo Province), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided supplies to ACF, Caritas and the Ministry of Health that included: 4,816 cartons of therapeutic spread, 122 cartons of F-75 therapeutic diet, 58 cartons of F-100 therapeutic diet, 81 cartons of emergency food ration, 230 cartons of amoxicillin, 188 cartons of Vitamin A 200,000 IU, 62 cartons of Vitamin A 100,000 IU, and nutrition kits for in-patient and out-patient module supplies.
- Around 35 health workers received training from 10 to 14 February in Mbaiki on the revised protocols of integrated management of acute malnutrition, including HIV/AIDS issues.

#### Gaps and constraints:

- Coverage of community-based management of acute malnutrition services outside Bangui remains low because of security constraints and destroyed health facilities.
- The integration of acute malnutrition 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.



### Needs:

- Grave violations against children continue unabated.
- Access to education in Batangafo (Ouham Province) continues to be hindered by an armed group's occupation of a school.
- New unaccompanied and separated children continue to be identified following violence and displacement. Temporary care, family tracing and reunification activities are required, particularly in the interior of the country.
- An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 children are associated with armed groups in CAR.
- Children affected by the crisis need access to psychosocial support and recreational activities.
- Physical protection for people affected by violence, particularly in hotspots including Kouango, Batangafo, Bangui (third, fourth, fifth and sixth districts), Bambari, Mbres, Carnot, Nola, transhumance regions (particularly Bocarangaga, Bossembele and Markounda) and Berberati, needs to be strengthened.

**2 million**

Vulnerable people targeted in 2014

### Response:

- Recreational activities and psychosocial support are ongoing in the provinces. Since January 2014, 73,000 children have benefited from psychosocial and recreational support country-wide.
- Since January 2015, 58 unaccompanied and separated children have been registered, of whom 16 (including nine girls) have been reunified with their families while the others are receiving temporary care. Family tracing activities have been initiated for unaccompanied and separated children who are registered in Yaloké enclave.
- In Bimbo and Bangui, 121 community leaders were sensitized on the issue of birth registration and its importance for child protection.
- Public awareness campaigns to prevent the recruitment of children by armed groups are conducted regularly. Since the beginning of 2015, 901 people have been covered by the campaigns in the Kémo and Ombella M'Poko Provinces.
- The Child Protection Sub-Cluster launched the 'Contextualization of Minimum Standards' initiative which includes a series of trainings and workshops. So far, 24 child protection practitioners, including eight women, have been trained on the minimum standards.
- A UNHCR mission went to Yaloké from 5 to 6 February to document all cases of family separations for tracing purposes. The findings revealed that 19 children and 12 women heads of households with their 13 children have been separated from their parents and husbands respectively, mainly in Cameroon and Chad. The government has given UNHCR the authorization for family reunifications.
- From 31 January to 5 February, the NGO International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA) registered 59 people consisting of 17 returned households in Berberati, Gamboula, Carnot, Dilapoko and Beina in CAR. They arrived from Kentzou, Mbilé, Yola and Lolo in Cameroon.
- During the same period, IEDA also reported the displacement of over 750 people from the localities of Maide, Abba-Sokorta, Bethanie, Joli soir, Batouri and Safou in Nana Mambere province (near CAR's border with Cameroon) to the Gaudrot and Niem-Yelew municipalities. These IDPs fled their villages after attacks by armed men from Cameroon. The situation in the Abba Sokorta area requires MINUSCA's patrols as this area is inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to persisting insecurity.

### Gaps and constraints:

- Assessments and response activities are hindered by access constraints including attacks by armed elements and poor road infrastructures.
- Insufficient funding is limiting operations.

## General Coordination

Following the government's announcement of the imminent closure of the Bangui M'Poko IDP site on 14 January, a registration operation started on 13 February with the aim of collecting the return intentions of each household on the site. About 25 pollster teams are currently deployed to the site's 11 zones. They aim to register about 4,000 households and almost 20,000 people by 22 February. The teams work in collaboration with community representatives. This initiative is being implemented by the site manager, Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council and World Vision. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action is actively involved in the process and has designated 12 civil servants, who are particularly involved in the management of contentious cases. OCHA continues to ensure effective coordination of this sensitive activity which is decisive for the site closure process. As of 18 February, the intentions of 2,200 households have been registered.

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