

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Situation Report No.17 (as of 19 March 2014)

This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 12 and 19 March 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 26 March 2014.

## Highlights

- According to information published by the Armed Conflict Location and Events Datasets (ACLED), the total number of violent incidents against civilians in CAR reached 171 in January and February 2014.
- The military airport transit site was officially closed on 15 March, following the voluntary departure of the remaining 197 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Urgent WASH needs for an estimated 17,500 IDPs living in Boda’s Catholic mission and in two schools. Assistance will be provided to IDPs and highly vulnerable people in need.
- Preliminary findings of a food security assessment carried out in March revealed that the affecting the entire population, beyond IDPs and refugees. Widespread insecurity has affected the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Dec 2011.

<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">601,000</p> <p>IDPs in CAR</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">\$551 million</p> <p>Revised 2014 Strategic Response Plan requirements</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">21%</p> <p>Funding available (about \$113.8 million) against the revised SRP</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">4.6 million</p> <p>Population of CAR</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">177,000</p> <p>IDPs in 49 sites in Bangui.</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">1.9 million</p> <p>Vulnerable people targeted by SRP for humanitarian aid</p>		<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">2.5 million</p> <p>People who need assistance</p>

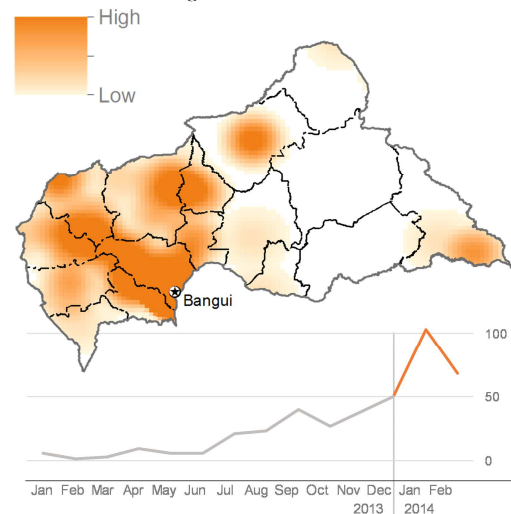
Sources: OCHA, CMP, Protection Cluster and FTS

## Situation Overview

The security situation remains unpredictable countrywide, with an increase in criminality and armed robbery in Bangui. Violent incidents persist in the neighborhood of KM5, 3rd and 8th district of Bangui, where inter-community tensions persists. According to information published by the ACLED, the total number of violent incidents against civilians in CAR reached 171 in January and February 2014. This number corresponds to almost 75 per cent of the total number of violent incidents in 2013. The most affected regions are the south-western region, Kaga Bandoro (Nana Gribizi Province) and Ndele (Bamingui Bangoran Province). ACLED also registered 10 incidents in the south-eastern province of Haut Mbomou, where activities of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) persist.

At the request of the Mauritanian Government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) helped 176 Mauritanians to be voluntarily evacuated from Bangui on 12 and 14 March. The Mauritanians arrived in Bangui on 7 March from Boda, most of them from Bria. On a second plane, 27 Malians and six Senegalese, were evacuated to Bamako and Dakar, respectively. While the movement was organized by the Mauritanian Government, IOM assisted with embarkation assistance,

Number of incidents against civilians Jan-Feb 2014



Source: Armed Conflict Location and Events Dataset, <http://www.acleddata.com>

transportation to the airport, civil-military liaison, registration and fit-for travel medical check-ups.

On 15 March, the Bangui military airport transit site was officially closed following the voluntary departure of the remaining 197 IDPs.

IOM completed the bulk registration of migrants and their families at the Central Mosque displacement site. A total of 2,506 people were registered, claiming 21 different nationalities. The majority are from Chad (1,557), Senegal (257), Cameroon (236), Central Africa (159), and Mali (155). IOM has evacuated a total of 6,153 migrants and their families from CAR to their home countries.

On 14 March 2014, the CAR transitional parliament officially launched the preparation of a new constitution aimed at restoring peace in the country. The National Transitional Council speaker Alexander Ferdinand Nguendet stated that the constitution will be submitted for public feedback ahead of general elections planned for February 2015. Lawmakers have until the end of May to write the text and define new institutions for the country. The last constitution, which concentrated the bulk of power in the hands of the president, took effect in 2004; it was replaced with a transitional constitutional charter in 2013 after the seizure of power by the Seleka group.

On 13 March 2014, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with three Christian and Muslim religious leaders from CAR in New York. The Secretary-General underlined that the conflict in CAR is not about religion, and that religious and ethnic affiliations are being manipulated for political purposes. He called on the international community to support efforts towards peaceful coexistence, explaining that CAR needs more aid to save lives and more troops and police to protect civilians. He urged the Security Council to act quickly on the recommendations for a United Nations peacekeeping operation in CAR.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) carried out a rapid assessment in early March, analysing the implications of the crisis on food security. Preliminary findings show that the crisis is not only affecting IDPs and refugees, but the entire population, whose purchasing power has diminished considerably since December 2013. Widespread insecurity has affected the primary (agriculture and food-crop production), secondary (mining) and tertiary (commercial and non-commercial) sectors. The agricultural sector has been extremely affected and commerce and transport remain limited. In the wholesale market, the majority of traders have fled and the main importers have become distributors and retailers. The coping mechanisms of the population are further stretched, worsening an already severe situation — CAR already had one of the highest under-five mortality rates in the world, and life expectancy is very low. Conclusions of the assessment predict the situation could worsen in the next 18 months (possibly longer) as insecurity has adversely affected land preparation and availability of agricultural inputs ahead of the planting season.

## Funding

The humanitarian community in CAR needs over US\$551 million to provide assistance to 1.9 million people during 2014 as part of the revised CAR SRP, but only 21 per cent has been disbursed or committed as of 19 March. Renewed support to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in 2014 has enabled a special allocation of nearly \$5 million to multiple projects. Additional pledges made are urgently needed ahead of the rainy season, to support returns and to assist vulnerable groups.

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

## Humanitarian response



Health

### Needs:

- Ensure delivery of free life-saving health care to affected people in priority areas, taking into consideration population movement.
- Prevent disease outbreak by immunizing vulnerable children and by strengthening the early warning system and response in Bangui and the rest of the country.
- Conduct health resource availability mapping (HeRAMS) to strengthen prioritization of services to restore, scheduled from 17 to 30 March countrywide.

### Response:

- A functional early warning system for disease surveillance was established in Bangui and Ombella Mpoko Province.
- From 3 to 9 March, health partners conducted 154,218 medical consultations, 1,477 antenatal consultations, and 226 deliveries (including 15 caesarean sections) among IDPs in Bangui and Ombella Mpoko Province.

**\$56.4 million**

Required to assist 878,000 targeted vulnerable people out of 2.5 million who need urgent health care in 2014.

- \$11.8 million (21% needs covered of total requirements)
- \$44.5 million (remaining needs)

- Since the inception of the crisis response, sentinel sites have cumulatively reported 163,200 medical consultations, 13,255 antenatal consultations, and 1,884 deliveries (including 88 caesarean sections).
- Delivery of free life-saving health care to affected people in IDP sites continues. In addition, mobile clinics are operating in several areas of the country, with support from NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- On 14 March, heads of UN Agencies attended a meeting chaired by the Minister of Health to discuss free healthcare facilities during the crisis. A committee chaired by the World Health Organization (WHO) was set up to produce a strategy paper.
- WHO donated blood bags, six basic emergency health kits to cover the needs of 6,000 people, reproductive health kits (SR) for 30,000 deliveries, 150,000 obstetric and neonatal emergency care kits, and 50,000 reproductive healthcare kits to the national blood transfusion centre (CNTS) and the Amitie hospital in Bangui.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Shortages of HIV and hepatitis reagents, antiretroviral medicines (ARVs), rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) and malaria treatments were reported in Nana-Mambere Province.
- Lack of staff in public health facilities and shortage of operational partners (mainly due to the financial gap) are the main constraints in scaling-up health services outside Bangui.
- Funding is required to support free health care in priority areas over the next three months.
- Insecurity is impeding health service delivery and health information management.



#### Food Security

##### Needs:

- An expansion of nutrition and food assistance is needed, particularly ahead of the lean season.
- Food and seed reserves have been depleted as a result of the crisis. Immediate interventions are critical to assist the people affected.
- As the planting season approaches, many vulnerable farmers do not have enough seeds to plant.

**\$180 million**

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

- \$41.4 million (23% of total requirements)
- \$138.5 million (remaining needs)

##### Response:

- As of 16 March, 82,425 people were assisted with 641 tons of food. WFP continues to expand its assistance to reach remote or isolated areas where pockets of vulnerable people affected by violence have sought refuge.
- On 19 March, FAO launched its first distribution of agricultural inputs outside Bangui in preparation for the planting season. In Bossangoa, 500 vulnerable households received essential agricultural inputs, including five tons of maize seeds, 2.5 tons of rice seeds, 2.5 tons of groundnut seeds and vegetable seeds. They also received 500 shovels, rakes and watering cans, and 1,000 hoes.
- Food Security Cluster partners are working on harmonizing assessment tools in order to have a minimum set of common indicators, particularly for rapid assessments.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- WFP's emergency operation is only 35 per cent funded and will face a severe pipeline break if more contributions are not received. To avoid cutting rations further or discontinuing assistance, a further commitment of \$70 million is urgently required to sustain operations until the end of August. As insecurity along the main roads remain a challenge for the transportation of commodities, it is essential to preposition food ahead of the planting season, from May to November, when many roads will become impassable. Since this period coincides with the peak of the lean season, when food and nutrition needs increase, funds are urgently required to enable large-scale prepositioning to ensure timely assistance to people in need.
- WFP requires \$1 million to strengthen the food security cluster's support for a six-month period.
- More funds are required for the Food Security component of the revised Strategic Response Plan (SRP).
- Assistance provided by FAO represents 30 per cent of food-and-nutrition-insecure people targeted in the SRP. Additional funding will enable the implementation of income-generating activities through: agro-processing, petty trade, continued support to savings and loan schemes, and vegetable production.
- For agricultural assistance to farmers during the upcoming planting season, a total of \$10 million has been mobilized. An outstanding \$20 million is still required to meet the SRP target of 250,000 households.



### Needs:

- Following a violent attack in the village of Kouki (Ouham Province) on 12 March, a rapid initial assessment revealed the need for immediate multi-sectoral assistance.
- With the gradual return of IDPs from sites, there is urgent need to support and facilitate the transition of child protection services to neighbourhoods.
- Respond to the multi-sectoral needs of communities besieged outside of Bangui.
- Grave child rights violations, including targeted attacks against children and sexual violence are being documented by the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, co-led by UNICEF and BINUCA.

## \$74 million

Required to assist 2 million targeted vulnerable people in need in 2014.

- \$5.4 million (7% needs covered of total requirements)
- \$68.5million (remaining needs)

### Response:

- The Protection Cluster is promoting the use of a new night shelter (safe haven) in the 3rd district of Bangui.
- In Bangui, the child protection sector has started planning the gradual transition of child protection services from sites to neighbourhoods to accompany the return process. Outside of Bangui, there are a total of nine active Child Friendly Spaces, where 11,794 children have had access to regular psychosocial support since the 25 December 2014.
- The child protection sub-cluster is compiling data on the presence or use of children, including girls, among the ranks of anti-balaka militias. An increase in this phenomenon has been registered in Bangui and surrounding villages, as well as in the western region of CAR.
- In Bangui, Bouar and Kaga Bandoro, discussions with relevant stakeholders are ongoing about children involved in armed groups (ex-Seleka) and children used by the anti-balaka. UNICEF is advocating and engaging with all parties using children in order to secure their release and integrate them into community-based reintegration programmes.
- IOM completed bulk registration of third-country nationals at the Central Mosque displacement site. A total of 2,506 people were registered, claiming 21 different nationalities. The majority are from Chad (1,557), Senegal (257), Cameroon (236), Central Africa (159) and Mali (155). IOM has evacuated a total of 6,153 third-country nationals from CAR to their home countries.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Despite ongoing discussions between the Protection Cluster, MISCA and humanitarian agencies, insecurity persists in the Bangui Mpoko IDP site, where the situation remains tense.
- The Protection Cluster in Bossangoa has identified the need for a revision of the Shelter and NFI Cluster strategy based on the current situation.
- The capacity of the child protection sector to scale-up response outside of Bangui remains limited.



## Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

### Needs:

- Need to continue improving access to water, basic sanitation services and hygiene practices for 900,000 affected people.
- WASH conditions in the majority of IDP sites still do not meet the required minimum standards.
- Extension of WASH response to cover the needs of returnees following a significant decrease in the number of IDPs.
- Need to scale-up the response and presence of WASH actors in rural areas.

## \$27.5 million

Required to provide WASH services to 900,000 targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

- \$7.7 million (28% of total requirements)
- \$19.7 million (remaining needs)

### Response:

#### **Bangui, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bimbo and Bambari**

- At the Bangui Airport IDP site, an estimated 57,000 IDPs have access to 9.2 liters of water per person per day. There is now one latrine per 49 people, and one shower per 223 people. WASH Cluster partners continue to improve water, hygiene and sanitation services delivery in IDP sites in Bangui and to make progress towards achieving SPHERE standards for a total of 176,000 IDPs.
- WASH Cluster partners continue to work with the CAR Water Distribution Company (SODECA) to improve water distribution systems in Bangui, Bossangoa, Bouar and Bambari. This week the IRC started working with SODECA to reconnect Bimbo to the Bangui water distribution system. This will enable about 100,000 people to

have access to safe water supply. Four new submersible pumps were installed in Bossangoa, ensuring an increase in the SODECA water production system from 300 to 720 m<sup>3</sup> per day.

### **Boda**

- UNICEF led a WASH assessment mission in Boda from 12 to 14 March 2014. Urgent sanitation assistance from partners is required for about 17,500 IDPs living in the Catholic mission and in two schools. Under the “Do no harm” principle, this intervention will have to be complemented with activities targeting the Muslim community of an estimated 14,000 people who live in a limited perimeter outside the IDP sites.

### **Gaps & Constraints:**

- Lack of funding to continue existing activities and to implement new ones is problematic particularly within the framework of MSF’s withdrawal from water and sanitation activities in Bangui and Bossangoa. There is no prospect for funding availability beyond mid-April. The lack of secured funding raises the major risk of downsizing humanitarian response in a context where it should be expanded. This would also jeopardize the positive dynamic that has been created within the WASH Cluster.
- Security concerns affect implementation and monitoring activities in Bangui and on different roads.
- Insufficient space in displacement sites limits emergency sanitation interventions.



### **Nutrition**

### **Needs:**

- About 28,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2014, and 75,500 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). This number 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) and the start of the rainy season/hunger gap.
- Approximately 16,800 children suffering from SAM are in need of treatment in 2014.
- An estimated 159,000 under-five children are in need of highly nutritious foods. A consistent and adequately funded pipeline is needed to prevent a deterioration of nutritional status during the rainy season.

**\$22 million**

Required to provide nutrition services to 361,011 targeted vulnerable people out of 628,000 in 2014.

- \$1.6 million (7% needs of total requirements)
- \$20.4 million (remaining needs)

### **Response:**

- With support from Nutrition partners, since 1 January 2014 a total of 3,847 children have been admitted for SAM treatment, of which 1,157 children have already recovered from SAM in CAR. This represents 74 per cent of the 100-day plan target of 5,200 SAM children.
- Since 1 January 2014, a total of 52,756 children have been reached with highly nutritious food through WFP’s integrated General Food Distribution-Blanket Feeding Strategy in Bangui, Bossangoa (Ouham Province), and Bouar (Ouham Pende Province).
- Since 1 January 2014, a total of 70,115 children have been screened for malnutrition in CAR. About 1,788 severely malnourished children (2.6 per cent) and 2,578 moderately malnourished (3.7 per cent) children were detected and received treatment through on-site mobile out-patient therapeutic programmes (OTP). Some were also referred for treatment to existing health structures with OTP and supplementary feeding programme (SFP) components.

### **Gaps & Constraints:**

- Coverage of health centres with Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services remains low in priority Provinces, including Ombella M’Poko, Nana-Gribizi, Vakaga, Ouham, Nana-Mambere, Kemo, Mambere-Kadei, Ouham Pende, Ouaka and Basse Kotto.
- CMAM coverage needs to be urgently scaled-up before the rainy season to ensure equitable access to screening and treatment activities for all acutely malnourished children.
- Limited funding for nutrition activities is compromising the delivery of life-saving activities, both for prevention and treatment of malnutrition.
- Access to food in some IDP sites remains challenging, which will impact the nutritional status of IDPs, especially the most vulnerable (children under five and pregnant and lactating women).
- There is a lack of activities in IDPs sites addressing the protection, promotion and support of appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies, a life-saving intervention.
- The rainy season begins in April, and the window for pre-positioning inputs is rapidly closing
- About \$22 million is requested for the nutrition response, of which \$10 million is required before the end of March 2014.



## Education

**Needs:**

- Establish temporary Safe Learning Spaces (ETAPes) in IDP sites with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities and child protection services for 362,000 people in need.
- Distribute emergency recreational, teaching and learning materials for ETAPes and opened schools for 362,000 people in need.
- School feeding activities, particularly in provinces with a low rate of student returns, targeting 400,000 people in need.

**Response:**

- Four ETAPes were established in Boali, targeting 800 children. So far, a total of 26,229 children, including 21,229 in Bangui, 800 in Boali and 4,200 in Bossangoa attend ETAPes. Among them, 24,729 have received education supplies.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

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

**\$28.6 million**

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

- 0% needs covered of total requirements
- \$28,6 million (100% remaining needs)



## Logistics

**Needs**

- Humanitarian organizations need secure and reliable road access to people in need to maintain operations within the country.
- Due to prevailing insecurity in the regions outside of Bangui, the provision of air services is deemed indispensable to support humanitarian operations. Humanitarian staff requires safe access to project implementation sites and for the transportation of vital supplies both internally and internationally.

**Response:**

- PU-AMI has agreed to co-lead the Logistics Cluster together with WFP.
- On 13 March, the Logistics Cluster coordinated the departure of three trucks transporting humanitarian supplies to Kaga Bandoro.
- The transportation movement plan was updated and shared with partners. Upcoming movements are being coordinated.
- United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) special flights have been posted on the Logistics Cluster website <http://logcluster.org/ops/caf13a> as well as updated Concept Operations.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Poor infrastructure and insecurity along the main roads remain a logistical challenge, hampering transportation as well as rehabilitation opportunities.
- A significant number of bridges and barges are damaged and in need of repair.
- Fuel shortages are not uncommon and necessitate pre-positioned stocks and resupplying by road.
- The UNHAS operation requires an additional \$1.2 million for the remainder of the project.

**\$10.2 million**

Required to support emergency response in 2014

- \$5.8 million (57% of total requirements)
- \$4.3 million (remaining needs)



## Emergency Telecommunications

**Needs:**

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

**Response:**

- The ETC continues to support radio programming for humanitarian organizations

**\$1.9 million**

Required to support humanitarian response in 2014

- 42% of needs covered out of total requirements

operating in Bangui. NGOs can contact the Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) team or UNDSS to request assistance in using the dedicated NGO radio channel 11.

- UNDSS plans to deploy radio operators in Bossangoa and Paoua this week. This will render the UN common Communication Centre operational to monitor traffic on the UN Radio network and track vehicles on mission in these regions.
- All ETC information is available at: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic>

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- The lack of secure compounds in some common operational locations prevents the installation of ETC equipment and deployment of services.
- Outside of Bangui, the lack of radio operators and the security situation are hampering the fulfilment of the C-MOSS requirements for COMCENs. Planned recruitments have been delayed due to funding constraints.
- The ETC is critically underfunded. Logistics and ETC need \$6.8 million to sustain their operations.

## General Coordination

In preparation for the rainy season due to start in April, the humanitarian community in CAR has prepared an action plan to create conditions in the neighbourhoods of Bangui conducive to voluntary returns. Results of a survey carried out at the M'Poko Airport IDP site in February 2014 revealed that if the security situation improves, up to 86 per cent of the population would return to their neighbourhoods. Other challenges for the return of IDPs include funding gaps for activities such as income-generating activities and the restoration of social services, including health and education. According to the action plan, infrastructural improvements will be made at some sites deemed high-risk. In addition, humanitarian partners, in collaboration with national authorities, have identified two relocation sites in the 4th district of Bangui and in the Ombella M'Poko Province. The target figure for the transfer and relocation of IDPs is between 15,000 and 20,000 people for a budget of about \$1 million. Funds are urgently required.

A three-day multi-sectoral, inter-agency assessment mission was organized to Boda, Lobaye Province, from 12 to 14 March 2014. The main objective was to take stock of the humanitarian situation and to explore existing tension between the Christian and Muslim communities following armed violence and persistent insecurity. The mission findings included dire humanitarian needs: food assistance is needed by about 12,000 Muslims in Boda and an estimated 40,000 Christian IDPs; urgent medications and medical supplies are needed in both communities; the construction of more latrines is essential; no schools are currently operational in Boda; and inhabitants need seeds and non-food items. Considering that tension remains high between the Muslim and Christian communities, the mission recommended the establishment of an NGO presence to implement income-generating activities engaging people from both communities. However, parallel plans should also be made for the Muslims who opt for voluntary relocation.

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