

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 58

6 - 25 June 2015

KEY FIGURES

399,268

IDPs including

33,067

in Bangui in 34 sites

461,965

Central African refugees in
Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Congo

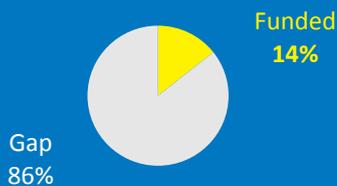
8,255

Refugees and asylum seekers in the
Central African Republic

FUNDING

USD 241 million

requested for the situation

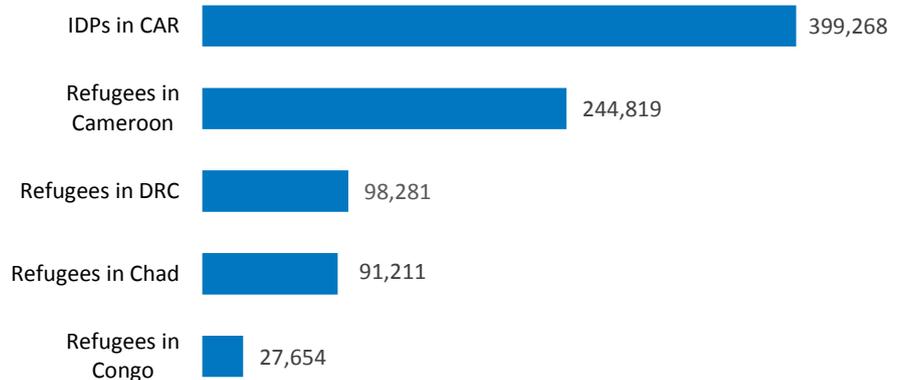


HIGHLIGHTS

- In CAR, World Refugee Day was celebrated on 20 June. The slogan “Diverse but all united” (I GA NDE NDE, A HON KWE, I YEKE OKO in Sango) and visual identity (a multicolored hand) of this year’s celebration is representative of UNHCR’s efforts in the past months to promote social cohesion and peace in the Central African Republic and to restore the country’s social fabric.
- The security situation in the north central part of the country remains volatile. The MINUSCA has reinforced its presence and so has the French Sangaris operation. Armed groups continue to commit crimes against civilians in Ouandago, Kabo and Batangafo and on the Bouca-Batangafo axis.
- Increases in Anti-Balaka activity have been reported on the border with Cameroon. Two attacks on herders took place in the space of five days. The presence of insurgents from Nigeria has also been reported. Humanitarian actors in the area are taking particular safety measures.

Population of concern

A total of **861,233** people of concern



PRIORITIES

- Cameroon: acceleration of assistance to refugees living offsite in villages.
- Chad: profiling and verification exercise in returnee sites.
- DRC: relocation of refugees to existing sites. Verification of refugees out of camps.
- Congo: ensure registration and documentation of all CAR refugees.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- The electoral calendar was officially released by the National Authority for Elections (ANE) on 19 June. Firstly, the ANE will include DRC, RoC, Cameroon and Chad in the election and priority areas will be determined according to the voting population because, of financial and logistical constraints. Secondly, voter registration will be carried out from 26 June to 27 July. Thirdly, all registered persons will obtain an electoral card, which will serve as identification in CAR until national identification documents are issued. On this specific point, UNHCR has proposed revisions to the electoral code to facilitate refugees' participation in the process, including the possibility for refugees to use their refugee IDs during the election. The National Transitional Council is currently discussing the revisions.
- During the 16th session of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) held on 25 May, it was decided that the CAR transition would be extended until December 2015. The decision was criticised by Ms. Gina Michele Sanzé, coordinator of a coalition of 25 political parties, as violating article 102 of the constitutional charter of the CAR transition. The extension of the transition had been debated during the Bangui Forum and agreed to but still had to be officialised by the ECCAS.
- The security situation in the north central part of the country remains volatile. The MINUSCA has reinforced its presence and so has have the French Sangaris troops. Armed groups continue to commit crimes against civilians in Ouandago, Kabo and Batangafo and on the Bouca-Batangafo axis.

Protection

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- According to the *Commission Mouvement de la Population* (CMP) there are an estimated 399,268 IDPs in the Central African Republic (CAR), including 33,067 in Bangui in 34 sites. The IDP figure has decreased to 399,268 because return movements have been noted in Bangui and up-country. These return movements in some areas of the country, notably in Bangui, are due to a relative improvement of the security situation and the presence of national and international forces in other areas. Displacement continues to occur in the Nana Gribizi prefecture and in parts of the Ouham prefecture, where new IDP sites have appeared. This new displacement can be linked to conflict between cattle herders and local populations as well as tensions between armed groups.
- UNHCR's Information Management team carried out a mission to Bouar on 14 June in order to train IEDA border monitoring staff and Mercy Corps protection monitoring staff on the rolling out of the new Population Tracking System (PTS). The new PTS questionnaire used by protection and border monitoring staff is a set of questions on population movements including date of return and areas of displacement/asylum. These 2 questions have been added to the questionnaire in order to differentiate returning refugees from returning IDPs and to be able to record returns in specific date ranges. Protection/border monitoring staff in Paoua and Kaga Bando are the next targets for the roll out process. The PTS feeds into the Commission Mouvement de Populations data with figures on population movements in Nana Gribizi, Kemo, Ouham, Ouham Pende, Mambere Kadei, Nana Mambere and Ombella Mpoko prefectures.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IEDA has reported that the anti-balaka extort individuals at Gamboula border point (Cameroon). Indeed, a groups of families from Boda who intended to go to Kentzou in Cameroon paid a large sum of money or "exit permit" to the anti-balaka who then stole phones before letting them cross the border. UNHCR has reported the situation to the MINUSCA. Gamboula is one of the most affected sub prefectures of the Mambere Kadei prefecture, one with limited presence of peacekeepers and humanitarian actors.

CAMEROON

- A total of 244,819 Central African refugees are in Cameroon with the majority located in the East and Adamawa regions. The ongoing verification exercise of UNHCR's database has made it possible to distinguish between double registrations linked to movements between sites/villages and normal registrations.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR recently received 30 refugee birth registration acts. These will be initialled by local authorities before being forwarded to the relevant civil registration authorities.

CHAD

- There are 14,078 Central African refugees in Chad who live predominantly in the southern part of the country.
- The African Child Day was celebrated on 16 June in Gore and Maro in the presence of authorities and partners under the theme: "Twenty-five years after the adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of child: Let us accelerate our efforts to eliminate early marriages in Africa."
- In Maro, a debate conference was organized by UNHCR on the theme of "Prohibition of early marriage in Chad". Refugees, Chadian returnees, local authorities and UNHCR partners participated. The ceremony helped to popularize a recently signed law prohibiting early marriage in Chad and fixing 18 years as the minimum age for marriage. Chad has one of the highest rates (68%) of early marriage in the region and in the world.

Achievements and Impact

- In the context of the capacity building of SGBV community networks, CARE organized a three-day training on SGBV at the Maro camp. Some 40 people from UNHCR and partner NGOs (CARE, APLFT, ACRA, CNARR and DPHR) took part. The training aimed at improving the quality of care (medical, psychosocial and socio-economical) provided to SGBV survivors. An SGBV committee made up of refugees was set up in the camp. Its role is to organize awareness raising sessions on SGBV and case identification, and organize the referral of victims to existing social structures.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- There are 98,281 Central African refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, predominantly in the northern Equateur Province. In the Oriental Province, the security situation remains preoccupying as incursions by the Lord's Resistance Army continue to be reported in the Ango and Bondo territories. LRA elements continue to loot isolated villages and on certain axes. UNHCR and other actors in the area are pleading for MONUSCO presence in the Bas-Uélé district.
- Of the 970 new refugees in the Boyabu transit centre, some 333 were relocated on 17 June to the Boyabu camp. During the last week, over 630 refugees were relocated to the Bili camp and over 300 were housed in the transit centre.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- A total of 27,654 Central African refugees are in the Republic of Congo, mainly in the Betou area.
- The police operation Mbata Ya Bakolo against illegal migrants is ongoing in Pointe Noire and Brazzaville. If the impact on refugees has clearly decreased compared to the previous year, arbitrary arrests and extortions of refugees and asylum seekers continue to be reported on a daily basis despite the various awareness raising campaigns and training sessions conducted by UNHCR and CNAR.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and CNAR conducted a joint screening and pre-registration mission in Pointe Noire. Some 464 new CAR refugees were identified and pre-registered during the mission.
- UNHCR Brazzaville continues to receive requests for voluntary repatriation mainly from refugees originating from Bangui. During the week, seven refugee families expressed their will to be repatriated.

 Education

CAMEROON

- UNICEF and UNHCR are preparing an Age Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming strategy for the Batouri area with the aim of initiating new strategies to improve education in host villages during the next school year. The activity will be entirely funded by UNICEF.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Achievements and Impact

- Some 160 parents from Mboti camp benefited from an awareness raising session on the importance of education for children and on their responsibility in encouraging motivation and following up in this regard.
- In Mole camp, new school buildings built by AIRD were handed over to local authorities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the Mboti camp, many secondary school children have dropped out. Out of 31 students registered at the beginning of the year, only 11 will finish.
- The Boyabu camp literacy centre does not have appropriate infrastructure to allow for proper functioning.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR Betou and partner AARREC monitored the activities of the Likouala Timber vocational training centre. Findings indicated that out of 161 refugee children enrolled, 37 are not attending the classes regularly. The 22% dropout rate is, among other causes, related to the lack of material support and the very low level of education of most children, specifically in with respects to their understanding of French. Remedial measures will have to be implemented during next academic year.

 Health

CAMEROON
Achievements and Impact

- In Meiganga, UNHCR organised a workshop on 16 and 17 June on the reinforcement of the Health Information System (HIS). The workshop benefited sanitary health agents, information managers of Health Districts and operational partners in the Adamawa region. Throughout the two days, participants worked to familiarise themselves with data collection tools used in the HIS and to ensure that these were conformant and coherent with those approved at the national HIS level.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Achievements and Impact

- The amount of malaria cases has strongly decreased in the spontaneous sites of the Bosobolo territory thanks to regular interventions from mobile clinics and systematic screening.

 Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON
Achievements and Impact

- WFP resumed its food distribution on 9 June, upon receiving additional supplies. The distributions had been disrupted during the month of May because of delays in the provision pipeline.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The high dropout rate from nutritional programmes is a challenge. WFP and its partners are working on extending the programme to offer larger coverage, especially in remote regions where the highest dropout rates have been reported.



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Achievements and Impact

- Over 3,500 refugees benefited from an awareness raising session in the Ngam and Borgop sites last week and over 260 households were visited by hygiene promoters, who sensitised the latter on environmental and domestic hygiene, on optimal water drinking storage and on personal/food hygiene.

CHAD

- CARE has started the construction of 75 latrines and 75 showers for the benefit of refugees with special needs in the Doholo camp. Furthermore, CARE has also begun reconstructing the family latrines that had collapsed following recent torrential rains; 14 latrines have already been rebuilt.
- CARE began the distribution of bicycles to WASH peer-educators and repairing agents in refugee camps and host villages in Moissala area. On 18 and 19 June, 18 bicycles were distributed in the Gondje (13) and Doholo camps (5) in Gore. At the end of the exercise a total of 114 bicycles will be distributed to four camps in Gore and the Belom camp in Maro as well as five host villages in Moissala area. The objective is to facilitate the movement of peer-educators and repairing agents to enable them to easily reach the camps and villages that may require water point maintenance. The bikes should also allow them to reach the most remote households to undertake awareness raising and community mobilization.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- In the Boyabu camp, hygiene and WASH kits were provided to camp block leaders and to the camp governance committee during the week.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the Mboti camp, replacement parts for water pumps are still be awaited as well as analysis products such as red phenol and chlorine.
- Most of the latrines in the Mboti camp are in subpar condition. Septic tanks remain half open and expose residents to odours and disease.



Shelter/ NFIs and CCCM

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 93 durable shelters have been constructed in the Mole camp out of the 100 planned. Construction work for the primary school, health centre and sports field is complete.

 **Community Empowerment and Self-Management**

CHAD**Achievements and Impact**

- In an effort to improve refugees' self-reliance and livelihood opportunities, LWF distributed seeds to refugees. A total of 37 tons of peanut and 7 tons of sorghum seeds were distributed to over 900 households in the Dosseye and Gondje refugee camps in Gore. In Maro, 5 agricultural refugee groups received 300kg of peanut, 200kg of sorghum and 100kg of corn seeds each.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- In the Mole camp, the distribution of cassava cuttings began last week. Some 68 bundles were distributed to 165 people out of the 500 planned.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Local authorities in several villages such as Ngo and Inoni have decided to forbid foreigners, refugees included, from working in the fields. All refugees working in the area were ordered to collect their harvest and leave. These decisions are being taken in the context of greater restrictive action against foreigners that has been carried out since last year, stopping foreigners from engaging in income generating activities. Existing possibilities for self-reliance and local integration of refugees in this context are badly hampered.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

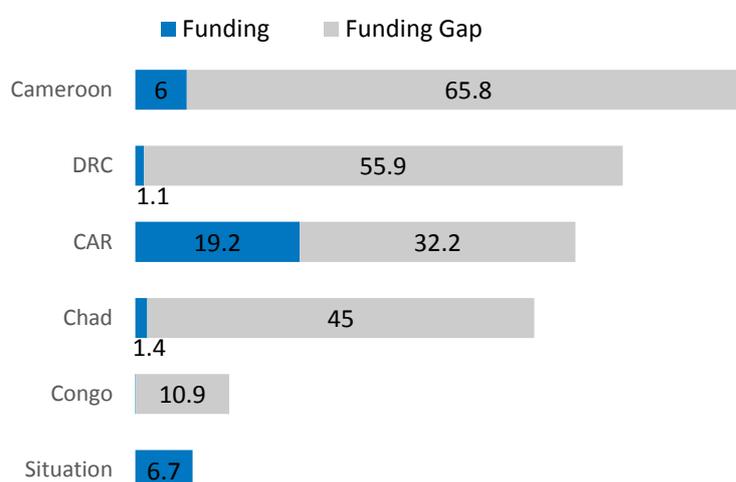
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the CAR situation in 2014. Below are UNHCR's 2015 financial needs for providing protection and assistance to Central African refugees in the neighbouring countries, as well as discharging its responsibilities in the inter-agency framework to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in the Central African Republic. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the CAR Situation currently amounts to **USD 241 million**, including USD 186 million for the response in asylum countries from January to December 2015, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 23 January 2015. **The overall needs are currently funded at 14%.**

Donors:

African Development Bank
DRC Pooled Fund
Denmark
European Union
France
Finland
Germany
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Japan
Luxembourg
Private donors Australia
Private donors Canada
Private donors Germany
Private donors Italy
Private donors Japan
Private donors Kuwait
Private donors Switzerland
Private donors USA
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United States of America
UN Development Programme
UN Population Fund
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

Funding:

A total of **USD 34.5 million** has been funded



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Links:

CAR regional webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/car/regional.php>

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

UNHCR Kora: <http://kora.unhcr.org>

