

# Central African refugee situation

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

May 2017

### Highlights

- A new influx from Central African Republic was observed in Bas-Uele and Nord Ubangi provinces starting from mid-May. The influx was triggered by violence, tensions and fear about imminent attacks in border areas, namely in the city of Bangassou, Bema and Mobayi.
- Local authorities, General Direction of Migration (DGM) and National Commission for Refugees (CNR) reported around 21,500 asylum seekers having crossed the border into DRC. These figures should be regarded as preliminary. Directly after reporting period (as of 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2017), the estimated number of new arrival rose to 33,618, as additional new arrivals were reported by DGM in Nord-Ubangi Province.
- People arrived without hardly any belongings and some were wounded and required treatment. Moreover, these areas are difficult to reach, namely in Bas-Uele province, and it has not yet been possible to provide relief items by road.
- The influx in Bas-Uele province did not take place to the area affected by an Ebola outbreak, which was located further inland, about 100 km far away from the arrival areas. Hygiene sensitizations were carried out among refugees and asylum seekers, including the ones hosted in Mboti camp.

#### KEY INDICATORS

**102,802**

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 31 May 2017)

**58,496**

Of them **living in five camps** (as of 31 May 2017)

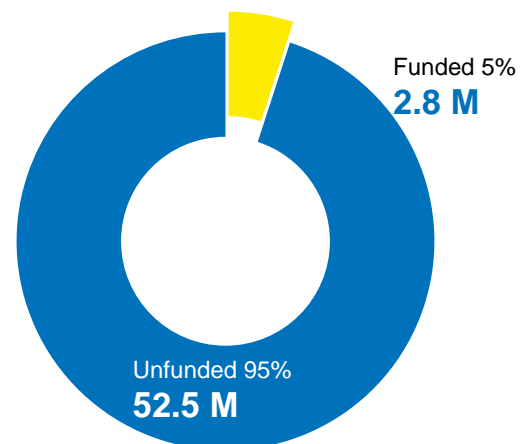
**21,469**

New arrivals reported by local authorities, General Direction of Migration (DGM) and National Commission of Refugees (CNR) starting from mid- May 2017 (as of 28 May 2017).  
Figure to be verified.

#### FUNDING (AS OF 30 MAY 2017)

**USD 55.3 M**

requested for the DRC - CAR situation



## Operational Context

In the aftermath of the attack to the city of Bangassou in Central African Republic, fear of spillover and alleged movements of armed groups along the border pushed thousands of Central Africans to seek asylum in DRC.

The influx spread panic among local population living along the border in DRC who feared infiltration of armed elements.

Congolese army (FARDC) carried out a border monitoring mission starting from 17<sup>th</sup> May in South Ubangi province along Ubangi River in Libenge territory.



*A family from Central African Republic hosted in the village of Ndiambesembi (Mobayi, Mbongo territory, Nord – Ubangi province) ©UNHCR*



UNHCR staff discussing with asylum seekers during assessment mission in Yakoma © UNHCR/P. Muhima

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- Joint UNHCR – CNR missions were carried out in border areas where new arrivals had been signalled (Yakoma, Mobayi-Mbongo and Bondo territory). Most of the asylum seekers are women and children. Coexistence seemed to be peaceful so far nevertheless precarious condition can expose them to protection risks.
- A joint mission to Yakoma and surroundings (Yakoma territory, Nord-Ubangi province), was carried out on 17 – 19 May 2017 together with local authorities, police and the army. Asylum seekers were hosted with local families and in abandoned hangars but they had insufficient access to water, sanitation, health care, food.
- The joint mission to Mobayi - Mbongo territory (Nord-Ubangi) took place on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Asylum seekers arrived in this territory in smaller number and are hosted with local families, public buildings and churches. Most of them are women and children. They had insufficient access to water, sanitation health care and food.
- CNR is preparing pre-registration mission to arrival areas.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- Teaching in Mboti School (serving Mboti camp, Ango territory, Bas-Uele province) resumed after strike of teachers due to non-payment of salaries for the month of April 2017.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- DRC government declared Ebola epidemic in the Likati Health Zone (Aketi territory, Bas-Uele province), after three deaths and several suspected cases. The contaminated area is further inland from the areas hosting CAR refugees. Medical partner ADES sensitized community leaders and distributed information material on the symptoms of the disease and prevention measures. More than 3,500 persons had been reached.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> May, UNHCR handed over to Zongo municipality a medical imaging center built with support of partner AIRD at the Saint Joseph Hospital. This center, along with nutritional center built in 2014, is meant to support the community of Zongo (refugees and locals) with healthcare services that are not available elsewhere in the area.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- Refugees hosted in Inke camp received cash grants to purchase food of their choice, as it is done already in other camps hosting CAR refugees. Distribution for the month of May was carried out in the five camps without any incident.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- In Bili camp, 86 shelters out of 100 planned were completed, as well as all the 65 latrines planned. The shelter and latrines are realized by refugee themselves with support of partner AIRD on a voluntary basis. Refugee received a cash grant as reimbursement for the costs of the constructing material.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS****Achievements and Impact**

- On 10<sup>th</sup> May, a refugee woman of 88 years old was assisted by UNHCR and CNR to safely return to her hometown Bangui (CAR). Her daughter, came to DRC to look for her. She benefitted from medical escort by medical partner ADES as her health is fragile. She was hosted in Inke camp since 2013, when she fled violence in her country.

**LOGISTICS****Achievements and Impact**

- Areas where new arrivals are settled are difficult to reach, namely in Bas-Uele province, and it has not yet been possible to provide relief items by road. Possibility to benefit from MONUSCO airlift was asked in order to overcome inaccessibility due to the bad road condition, which is exacerbated during the current rainy season, and the instable security situation. Non-food items for 10,000 people were made available from UNHCR Uganda and were being transported to Dungu (Haut-Uele). Solutions for their onward transport – either by air or road – are currently being evaluated.
- Five containers of clothing, donated by the Japanese fashion firm UNIQLO, together with other donors, reached Zongo in order to be distributed.



*Agnès Boando, 88 years old, refugee from Bangui (CAR) was assisted to return to her hometown*  
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## Working in partnership

- UNHCR coordinates its assistance with a variety of humanitarian actors, working together to ensure refugees benefit from dignified and efficient protection mechanisms.
- For this operation, UNHCR partners are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, ADSSE and AIDES. Other partners include CARITAS, COOPI, MSF, WFP and WORLD VISION.

## External / Donors Relations

### Donors for CAR refugee response in DRC in 2017

Japan (2.5 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

### Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (26.4 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | France (0.5 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M)

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### LINKS

[Regional portal for CAR situation](#) - [DRC page for CAR situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#)