

Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

2 April 2021

Additional Gender-Based Violence centres expand existing support network

UNHCR, in collaboration with INTERSOS, has announced the opening of new centres in Kabo, Bouca, and Dekoa to support GBV survivors. These centres will respond to the critical increase of GBV cases in these communities, offering case management support, legal and medical referrals with financial support, dignity kits and community support.

Connectivity for humanitarian action

In DRC, UNHCR launched the Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector to provide communication services for humanitarian partners delivering assistance to refugees in field locations. This initiative includes dedicated internet connectivity for partners in the Yakoma Coordination Hub.

Displacement of Central Africans continues in Chad

In Chad, following clashes between rebel groups and government FACA forces and their allies in the northern border town of Markounda in CAR, 748 new refugees were registered between March 27 and 30. The registration process continues for the next few weeks.

KEY INDICATORS

132,810*

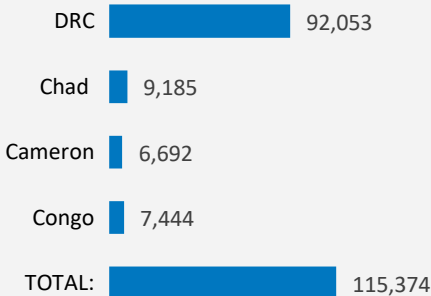
Total number of new Internally Displaced Persons in CAR since the beginning of the electoral crisis.

115,374 **

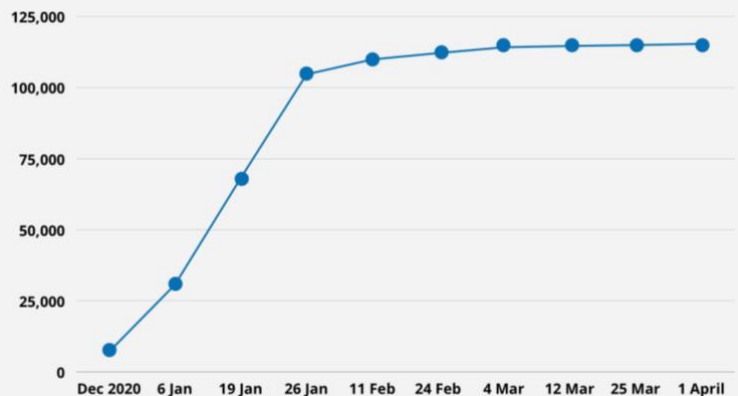
People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, RoC, Chad and DRC since the beginning of the electoral crisis, as of 2 April 2021.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

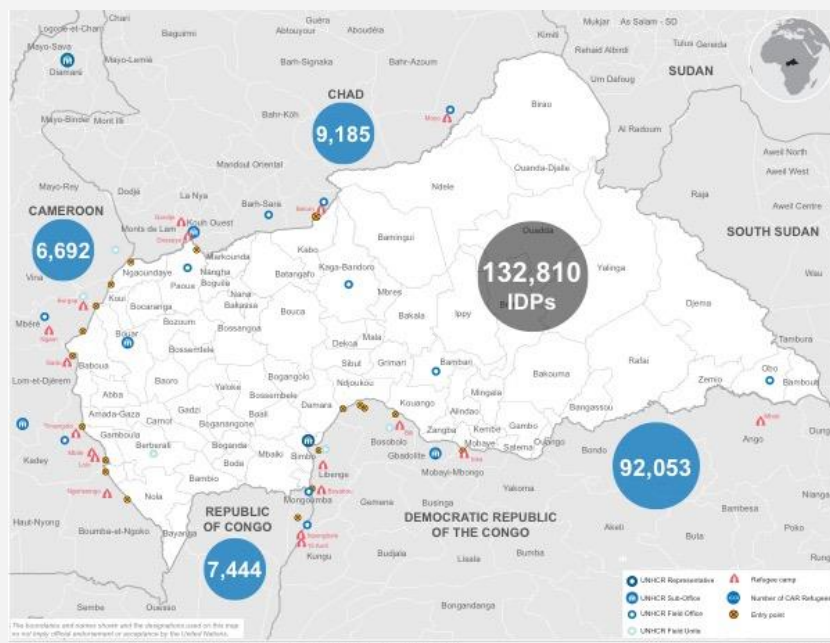
New arrivals



REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TREND



CAR REGIONAL SITUATION MAP



* [Foot note] Announced by la Commission de Mouvement de Population of 28 February 2021.

** [Foot note] Data as reported by local authorities of 04 March 2021.

** In Cameroon, movements suggest that the actual figures are higher than the statistics.

** DRC figure is provided by local authorities. UNHCR is conducting biometric registration jointly with government to confirm.

Operational Context

Political and security situation in Central African Republic (CAR)



Clashes between the Central African Republic national army (FACA) forces, supported by Russian and Rwandan allies, and the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) were reported on 31 March, nine kilometers from the town of Bouar, the main town of the Nana-Mambere prefecture.



Traffic on the main supply road (MSR1) continues to improve due to the military offensive conducted by the FACA and supported by the Russian and Rwandan allies. MINUSCA resumed escorting UN convoys. Five containers of UNHCR CRI arrived in Bangui and two in Bouar.



The number of informal settlements has slightly decreased from 123 sites in February to 114 sites at the end of March. Most of the decommissioned sites are located in the Nana-Mambere Prefecture (Bouar). With the significant improvement of the security situation, more than 8,000 people have returned to their homes.



UNHCR and its partners expanded protection monitoring through a community network across the Central African territory, mobilizing community focal points while ensuring gender equality promotion. These focal points will also ensure that the Ma Mbi Si (listen to me) centres assist with GBV cases.



Population movements and border monitoring

- In Chad, following clashes between rebel groups and government FACA forces and their allies in the northern border town of Markounda in CAR, 748 new refugees were registered between March 27 and 30. During this period, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo have not registered new arrivals.
- Most new arrivals from CAR are being hosted in areas where the populations' needs continue to be unmet, and resources are stretched thin. Newly arrived refugees require humanitarian assistance and support for cases of gender-based violence, child protection issues and missing documentation.
- As of 28 February 2021, [la Commission de Mouvement de Populations reported](#) at least 35,178 new internally displaced persons (IDPs). The total number of IDPs in CAR was estimated to be 741,879, consisting of 235,498 persons in sites and 506,381 persons in host families.
- Throughout the response, UNHCR continues to prioritize support to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of gender-based violence.
- The new displacement of more than 245,000 people adds to the 1.3 million Central Africans already uprooted in the region, bringing the overall number of displaced Central Africans (IDPs and refugees) to over 1.5 million – almost a third of the country's total population.

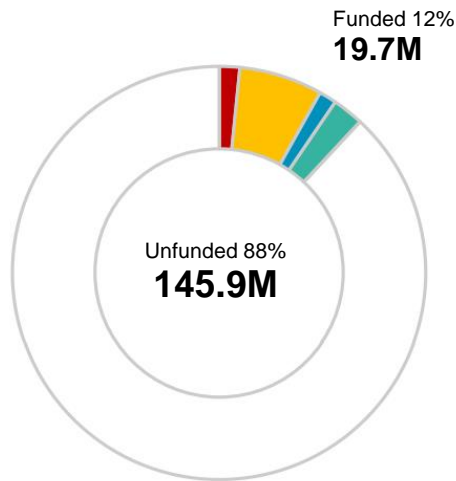


CAR Situation Funding Update

FUNDING (AS OF 24 MARCH 2021)

USD 164.7 M

requested for the Central African Republic situation



■ Tightly earmarked
■ Earmarked
■ Softly earmarked (ini
■ Unearmarked (Indica
■ Funding gap (indicative)

- As of 24 March 2021, the **Central African Republic situation** has received **12 per cent of the \$164.7 million required**. In light of the unfolding emergency, softly earmarked funding for the CAR situation is the most valuable financial support donors can provide and will allow UNHCR to respond to the most urgent needs in the most timely and efficient manner.
- **UNHCR emergency appeal** to address the Central African Republic crisis covers needs in CAR, DRC, RoC, Cameroon and Chad.
- **The Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan for Central African refugees in the DRC** aims to provide protection and assistance for up to 92,000 refugees. Partners are appealing for USD 69 million for the implementation of the multi-sectoral response.

UNHCR Emergency Response L1 and L2 Emergency Declaration

- On 21 January 2021, UNHCR declared a Level 2 emergency for its operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a Level 1 emergency for its Operations in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, and the Republic of the Congo.

Contributions earmarked to the CAR Situation 2021

Latter Day Saints 281,709 | UN Programme on HIV / AIDS 260,890 | Other private donors 76,858

Softly earmarked contributions

United States of America 35.6 million | Sweden 7.6 million | Japan 6.2 million

Unearmarked contributions 2021

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million
 Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million
 Private donors Spain 13.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

Stories

"This is the third time I have fled the Central African Republic."

Alfonsine, 50 years old, is currently a refugee in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

She has just received emergency cash assistance to support herself and her eight children. "I will be able to use this money to buy food, pay my rent and buy kitchen utensils," she says.



Central African refugee Alfonsine, 50, she is a beneficiary of humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ©UNHCR/Erika Celi



Country Operation Central African Republic

Operational Environment

- UNHCR, in collaboration with INTERSOS, has announced the opening of new centres in Kabo, Bouca, and Dekoa to support GBV survivors. These centres will respond to the critical increase of GBV cases in these communities, offering case management support, legal and medical referrals with financial support, dignity kits and community support.
- The security situation in the villages around the principal localities remains tense and unstable. For example, clashes between 3R armed elements and FACA on 31 March 2021 in the vicinity of Bouar caused the displacement of about 250 civilians to Baboua.
- Insecurity in villages around Bambari, has been the source of recent population movements. The UNHCR monitoring team is currently determining the number of people who were forced to flee.
- The number of informal settlements has slightly decreased from 123 sites in February to 114 sites at the end of March. Most of the decommissioned sites are located in the Nana-Mambere Prefecture (Bouar). With the significant improvement of the security situation, more than 8,000 people have returned to their homes.
- The number of IDPs in informal settlements has decreased by 0.94 per cent at the country level but has increased by 1.02 per cent in host communities to 743,791 persons as of March 30, 2021.

Regional support

During this week, a support mission from the Regional Bureau is preparing to go the Central African Republic to strengthen the operation's planning, advocacy, and coordination capacities.



UNHCR assistance to internally displaced woman at a site Siwa 8 km from Bangassou @UNHCR CAR 2021

Assistance provided

- UNHCR has distributed dignity kits to vulnerable households in Mbella site. The UNHCR protection team assessed condition of families affected by a fire at the Lazare site in Nana-Gribizi. NFI kits were also provided to households who lost their shelters after natural disasters.
- In Ouaka Prefecture, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) mobile team assessed the situation in Bakoya village near Grimari following a deadly attack by Peulh cattlemen.
- Following withdrawal of the Coalition of Patriots for Change combatants from Markounda (located at the border with Chad), UNHCR and the Protection Cluster engaged an INGO to conduct a protection assessment and to assist GBV survivor after several incidents perpetrated by armed elements.
- In response to community outreach workers alerts, the protection monitoring team provided assistance to the survivor, including psychosocial support.
- The Protection Cluster is carrying out consultation at sub-national and national levels to identify the locations that need the MINUSCA Forces to deploy urgently to provide physical protection to civilians. The consultations results will feed into the Protection Working Group's discussion on MINUSCA's new footprint following the elections process.



Country Operation Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



A Congolese nurse working with UNHCR's health partner conducts medical check-ups for Central African refugees in Democratic Republic of the Congo ©UNHCR/ Adrienne Surprenant

Assistance provided

- On 24 March, UNHCR began rolling out cash-based interventions (CBI) in Yakoma, targeting 6,944 people to support them in meeting their most urgent needs. Among those targeted are 291 people in the host community. The CBI programme consists of a one-off unconditional cash grant, distributed at the household level and calculated based on family size.

- On 24 March, UNHCR and CNR conducted training on international refugee protection and the mandate of UNHCR. The training targeted local authorities, civil society and the Congolese security service of Yakoma and Bosobolo in North Ubangi Province. The aim of the training was to strengthen understanding of refugees' rights and the role of different stakeholders in ensuring the protection of people of concern to UNHCR.

- Construction work by UNHCR partner AIRD on the relocation site in Modale, 35 kilometres from Yakoma, is progressing. Roads to the site have been completed, 48 hectares of land have been cleared, and structures for three community shelters have been constructed. Land clearance is being carried out in line with guidelines from local authorities on environmental protection. Work on WASH infrastructure and allocation of land plots is ongoing.

- An airlift of core relief items (CRIs) from UNHCR's Global Stockpile in Dubai arrived in Kinshasa on 20 March and is being transported to UNHCR's warehouse in Gbadolite, North Ubangi Province. The CRIs will be distributed to newly arrived Central African refugees, and include 14,708 tarpaulins, 6,012 blankets, 14,000 solar lamps as well as 21,000 mosquito nets.

Operational Environment

- As of 20 March, 51,890 newly arrived Central African refugees have been biometrically registered by UNHCR and the government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR) in the Provinces of North and South Ubangi and in Bas Uele Province, out of an estimated figure of 92,050 people according to local authorities. Biometric registration will resume next week in Bili, where approximately 21,000 people have been pre-registered by local authorities.
- Since the beginning of the new refugee influx from the Central African Republic (CAR) in December 2020, UNHCR and CNR have been conducting regular protection monitoring missions along the Ubangi river border, which divides the DRC and CAR. During these missions, UNHCR and CNR were able to verify movements of refugees along the border, and organized discussions with refugees and local authorities to identify the main protection-related risks and to raise the awareness of local authorities about humanitarian assistance and principles.

Regional Support

UNHCR Kinshasa, with support from the HQ Emergency Preparedness and Response Section and the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, activated services under the Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS). RETS aims at enhancing interagency coordination through provision of communication services for UNHCR partners and the wider humanitarian community delivering services in the field. In Yakoma, dedicated internet connectivity is presently offered to partners at the Yakoma Coordination Hub.



Country Operation Cameroon

Operational Environment

- As of 1 April, 6,692 individuals within 2,082 households have crossed the border. No new asylum seekers have been recorded since 3 March 2021.
- 80 COVID-19 cases have been reported among CAR refugees between 31 January 2021 to 2 April. 69 have recovered, 10 are still active while one person has died. Follow up with six cases has yet to be conducted.
- The security situation at the Cameroon - CAR border remains calm. Civilian activities have resumed along the border near Garoua-Boulai. There are no longer any obstacles on the road linking Garoua-Boulai and the CAR capital, Bangui.
- Within the framework of the out-of-camp approach, the East Region Governor appointed an adviser to assist response partners to identify villages to shelter new Central African refugees.
- USAID visited CAR refugees in Gado settlement to better understand UNHCR's resilience planning, while UNICEF examined challenges faced by school children and their parents.

Assistance provided

- On 25 March, WFP dispensed cash transfers to 358 households made up of 1,170 new refugees (food assistance recipients) settled in Gado. All food recipients received cash transfers of XAF 4,400 per person, corresponding to 1050 kilocalories per person per day.
- 200 individuals divided into 20 groups of 10 (four men and six women) have been identified for small scale income-generating activities. These include starting up a beauty salon, fish trading, processing cassava, refining oil, growing peanuts and potatoes, and selling pre-owned clothing.
- 16 young people (nine men and seven women) will receive training in hairdressing, carpentry, baking, catering, screen printing, driving, sewing, air conditioning, knitting, IT and nursing aide skills.

Regional support

The Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (RBWCA) is providing technical support to strengthen coordination and put together an inter-agency refugee response and resilience plan (RRP) for Central African refugees in eastern Cameroon.



Registration of new refugees in Garoua Boulai @UNHCR. 2021


**Country Operations
Chad**


Registration of new refugees in Gore camp @UNHCR. 2021

Operational Environment

- As of 1 April 2021, 9,185 new Central African new asylum-seekers have been registered. On 30 March, following clashes between rebel groups and government FACA forces and their allies in the northern border town of Markounda in CAR, 748 new asylum-seekers were registered.
- Protection and registration teams have carried out *Level 1 registration in the localities of Kombat and Ndoubaso in Gore and the locality of Danamadja in Moissala.
- On 30 March, UNHCR and the government partner CNAR completed **Level 2 registration of 2,694 CAR refugee (866 households) in Bétou, Moualé, Mokabi, Lombo and Lopola, 366 people with specific needs were also identified.
- No positive COVID-19 cases or alerts have been reported, and awareness-raising on COVID-19 prevention in the camps, sites and health structures continues. As of 30 March, around 1,307 people (270 households) have been processed through the quarantine center.

* Registration Level 1, often referred to as "Household Registration," is associated with the earliest stages of a mass influx or emergency.

** Registration Level 2 is an individual registration required for the most basic planning and monitoring activities.

Assistance provided

- 280 women received CRI such as bucket, soap, bags, mats, shoes, ointment, solar panel kits, pots, and sanitary napkin.
- A participatory assessment through focus group discussion was conducted with 44 women, 25 from Doloho camp and 19 from Gondje camp. Immediate needs identified were hygiene kits, food assistance, medical treatment, and education kits.
- As of 29 March, 8,437 refugees (2,518 households) received NFI assistance including blankets, mats, jerry cans, kitchen kits and mosquito nets.
- Last week, 280 new refugees with specific needs received food assistance consisting of rice and vegetable oil.
- As of 30 March, a total of 1,038 newly arriving students (504 girls and 534 boys), are enrolled and attend school in Doholo and Gondje camps.
- UNHCR's partner CSSI provided primary health care to 42 new Central African refugees in the two health centers (Doholo and Beureh) in the Doholo and Gondje sites. Refugees represented 92 per cent of total consultations. The leading causes of morbidity were malaria (37%), acute respiratory infections (26%), and diarrhea (7%)
- Children under five years of age represent 45 per cent of consultations, and three severely malnourished children without complications were screened and treated in the outpatient nutritional units (UNA). At least 18 children received routine immunization, and 38 women received prenatal care (PNC).
- Five women were screened for HIV as part of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme. One assisted birth was registered on 30 March.
- A new case of rape was identified, the survivor was raped in CAR two weeks earlier and received treatment.

**Country Operation**
Republic of the Congo**Operational Environment**

- From 16 March, due to Presidential elections in the Republic of the Congo, UNHCR Field Office Bétou and partners suspended border monitoring in line with security protocol. Registration activities have also been suspended and as of 26 March had not yet resumed.
- The number of newly arrived Central African refugees recorded through an initial process of emergency registration stands at 7,444 individuals. As a next step, UNHCR and the government's National Committee for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) will continue rolling out individual biometric registration, allowing more detail to be collected about new arrivals, which facilitates better protection and assistance. 2,694 refugees have been biometrically registered in Bétou, Moualé, Mokabi, Lombo, Lopola et Thanry, including 366 people identified as having specific needs.



UNHCR facilitating a meeting with the refugee community in Kpakaya village, Republic of the Congo, to raise awareness about relocating to designated villages ©UNHCR/ Yves Ndobu

Assistance Provided

- Following reports that newly arrived refugees had settled in the Forest Protected Areas of Kpakaya and Ndongo-Missa, UNHCR met with local authorities and security forces, along with the UN, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss solutions and next steps. A field visit was conducted the following day to the village of Kpakaya to speak with the refugee community to raise awareness and encourage them to relocate to designated villages for better protection and assistance.

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