



Central African Republic

Since December 2012, the Central African Republic has been facing a complex humanitarian and protection crisis. In 2016, an estimated 2.3 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.2 million children. Though the official numbers of people in need have declined since early 2015, the situation remains dire for many children. Some 139 children out of every 1,000 born die before their fifth birthday, and 880 women out of every 100,000 die from pregnancy-related causes.¹ More than 1.2 million people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity² and an estimated 39,000 children under 5 years will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). As a result of the ongoing conflict, at the end of 2015, an estimated 399,000 people were displaced in the Central African Republic. The most affected zones include Ouham prefecture and the sub-prefectures of Mbrès, Boda, Bambari and Kouango.³ An additional 455,000 Central Africans have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Although children began to return to their classrooms in 2015, this progress was disrupted by conflict. Less than one third of children are enrolled in school, representing a 6.5 per cent decline from the 2011–2012 pre-crisis enrolment level.⁴

Humanitarian strategy

In 2016, UNICEF will prioritize life-saving interventions and risk reduction for conflict-affected, displaced and enclaved people in the Central African Republic. UNICEF will address preventable childhood illnesses, malaria, HIV and malnutrition, and will provide people with access to safe water and improved sanitation. UNICEF will focus on the serious protection needs of children in the Central African Republic, and the provision of safe, temporary learning spaces for children who are out of school due to conflict. Using the cluster approach, UNICEF will continue to work closely with line ministries to strengthen government capacity for humanitarian response: UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition and education clusters, as well as the child protection sub-cluster. With the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF also plays a critical role in health programming. UNICEF will support the education, nutrition, health and WASH core supply pipelines. UNICEF will also continue to enable the release of all children associated with armed groups, and facilitate the reunification of separated and unaccompanied children with their families. Pre-primary and primary school-aged students will continue to receive access to safe schools and quality education. The UNICEF-coordinated Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) will provide non-food-items and WASH emergency activities to 80,000 vulnerable people in remote areas, and will continue to advocate for a multi-sectoral response in hard-to-reach areas.

Results from 2015

As of 31 October 2015, UNICEF had received 43 per cent (US\$30.6 million) of the total humanitarian appeal for 2015, in addition to US\$9.8 million carried forward from 2014. In 2015, UNICEF and partners focused on delivering life-saving interventions for affected and internally displaced populations. As a result, more than 850,000 people in need of assistance gained access to basic health services and medicines. Nearly 20,000 severely malnourished children received treatment according to agreed protocols. Some 350,000 people now have improved access to safe water and over 191,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have access to improved sanitation. More than 130,000 children received psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces. Nearly 2,500 women and children identified as survivors of sexual violence accessed comprehensive support. With UNICEF support, more than 2,200 children associated with armed groups – one quarter of them girls – were released. Over 40,000 children aged 3 to 17 years, nearly half of them girls, accessed temporary education in safe and protective learning environments. As part of UNICEF's School-in-a-Box kits, learning supplies were distributed for 241,000 children in affected areas. Despite security challenges and difficult humanitarian access, the RRM provided emergency WASH and non-food items (NFIs) to more than 40,000 households. The RRM also reached the humanitarian community with a total of 171 alerts on humanitarian situations requiring rapid response. Although progress was hampered by insecurity and lack of access to affected areas, UNICEF is on track to meet many 2015 targets.

Humanitarian Action for Children

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Total affected population: 2.35 million
Total affected children (under 18): 1.2 million

Total people to be reached in 2016: 1 million
Total children to be reached in 2016: 700,000

2016 programme targets

Nutrition

- 29,250 children under 5 years suffering from SAM admitted for therapeutic care

Health

- 100,000 children under 5 years in IDP sites and epidemic districts immunized against measles
- 500,000 children under 5 years in IDP sites and enclaves have access to essential health services and medicines

WASH

- 400,000 internally displaced and host community members accessed safe drinking water as per agreed standards
- 250,000 internally displaced and host community members accessed improved sanitation facilities

Child protection

- 140,000 displaced and vulnerable children participated in psychosocial activities
- 3,000 children released from armed groups
- 3,500 survivors of sexual violence received comprehensive support

Education

- 60,000 children aged 3 to 17 years accessed education in temporary learning spaces equipped with teachers trained in psychosocial support

HIV and AIDS

- 4,060 children born to HIV-positive mothers accessed appropriate treatment

Rapid Response Mechanism

- 80,000 acutely vulnerable people received rapid and appropriate assistance in WASH and 40,000 households received NFIs after a shock

	Cluster 2015 target	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2015 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION*				
Children under 5 years with SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programme	26,889	19,574	26,889	19,574
Recovery rate	>75%	87%	>75%	87%
HEALTH				
Children under 5 years immunized for measles in IDP sites and epidemic areas			250,000	139,766***
People that have received access to basic health services and essential medicines in affected areas			1,171,400	850,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Affected population provided with access to improved sources of water as per agreed standards	1,400,000	396,200	450,000	348,730
Internally displaced persons and returnees who have access to improved sanitation	468,000	285,164	250,000	191,255
CHILD PROTECTION				
Displaced and vulnerable children participating in psychosocial activities	250,000	146,137	200,000	130,629
Children released from armed groups	4,000	2,558	4,000	2,558
Women and children identified as survivors of sexual violence that have access to holistic support	7,000	20,073**	3,000	2,475
EDUCATION				
Displaced children aged 3 to 17 years that access relevant education opportunities	70,000	44,239	60,000	40,467
Children who received learning materials	350,000	266,366	300,000	240,657
HIV AND AIDS				
Children born to mothers who are HIV positive that received appropriate treatment			3,569	1,629
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM				
Highly vulnerable households assisted with WASH interventions/non-food items			40,000	41,584

Results are through 31 October 2015 unless otherwise noted.

*Results for nutrition are through 30 September 2015.

**Gender-Based Violence Information Management System, October 2015.

*** As of 21 December 2015.

Funding requirements

In line with the country's inter-agency 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$55,695,000 to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of children in the Central African Republic in 2016. Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will not be able to support the national humanitarian response to the country's continuing crisis and provide critical life-saving services to internally displaced and conflict-affected people.

Sector	2016 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	7,200,000
Health and HIV	9,250,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	7,227,000
Child protection	12,900,000
Education	6,118,000
Rapid Response Mechanism	13,000,000
Total	55,695,000

¹ World Health Organization, 'Briefing notes on health situation in Central African Republic', Reliefweb, 20 November 2015, <reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/briefing-notes-health-situation-central-african-republic>, accessed 7 December 2015.

² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 'Central Africa Republic (CAR): Acute Food Insecurity Situation – April – Nov 2015', 30 November 2015, <www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/329679/April 2013>, accessed 7 December 2015.

³ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Republique Centrafricaine: Aperçu Humanitaire (au 15 Novembre 2015)', 15 November 2015, <reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/republique-centrafricaine-aper-u-humanitaire-au-15-novembre-2015>, accessed 7 December 2015.

⁴ UNICEF education section / EDUTRACK.

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