

Central African refugee situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

June 2017

Highlights

- Asylum seekers from Central African Republic continued to arrive in Bas-Uele and Nord Ubangi provinces. This new influx started mid-May and was triggered by violence, tensions and fear about imminent attacks in border areas, namely in the city of Bangassou, Bema and Mobayi.
- Estimates from local authorities, General Direction of Migration (DGM) and National Commission for Refugees (CNR) suggest that over 60,000 asylum seekers crossed the border into DRC since May. UNHCR and CNR will further verify.
- Identification of asylum-seekers was ongoing in Nord Ubangi province carried out by National Commission for Refugees (CNR). As of 30th June, 18,448 asylum seekers were identified and interviewed in the territories of Yakoma and Mobayi – Mbongo. In Bas-Uele, CNR and local authorities identified 38,767 asylum seekers (as of 30th June), most of them around the locality of Ndu (Bondo territory).
- Relief items (plastic sheeting, blankets, mats, kitchen sets, buckets and mosquito nets) for 20,000 new arrivals were on their way from Kampala (Uganda) to Bondo territory. The road conditions are extremely bad, requiring special vehicles for part of the way.
- In Ango territory (Bas-Uele province), an influx was reported by local authorities and security forces, apparently coming from Zemio (CAR) where a Congolese refugee camp is installed. Due to security concerns, it was impossible to reach these persons and verify the information.

KEY INDICATORS

102,403

Central African Refugees registered in DRC (as of 30 June 2017)

58,624

Of them **living in five camps** (as of 30 June 2017)

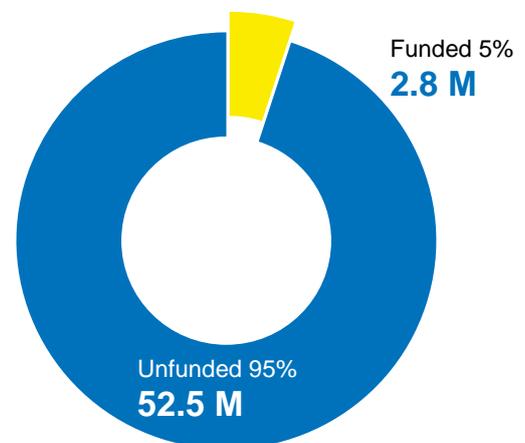
57,215

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

FUNDING (AS OF 20 JUNE 2017)

USD 55.3 M

requested for the DRC - CAR situation



Operational Context

Congolese army (FARDC) reinforced security in South Ubangi province along Ubangi River in Libenge territory, following alleged movements at the border of elements of the political-military movement *Front du peuple Congolais pour le Changement et la Democratie* (FPCCD).



Trucks transporting relief items for new arrivals of Bas-Uele Province ©UNHCR/A. Cadonau



Reforestation activities in Mole camp for World Environment Day ©UNHCR/ M.Makasi

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- Identification of asylum seekers was ongoing in Nord Ubangi province, carried National Commission for Refugees (CNR). As of 30th June, 18,448 asylum seekers were identified and interviewed in the territories of Yakoma and Mobayi – Mbongo, coming from Central African Republic (Basse-Kotto prefecture). CNR was working on the Refugee Status Determination (RSD).
- CNR decided for the transfer of 74 asylum seekers from CAR, waiting for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures to be completed, from Batanga Transit Center to Boyabu camp. Mats and blankets have been distributed and asylum seekers were hosted in shelters rehabilitated by UNHCR partner AIRD.
- World Refugee Day was celebrated in the four camps hosting CAR refugees. Refugees exposed and sold the products of their activities (agriculture, fishing, tailoring and handicraft). Together with hosting communities, refugees performed poems and sketches around themes like self-reliance, gender-based violence, social inclusion and peaceful cohabitation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 15 unaccompanied children (new arrivals) were identified and placed in foster families in Baye locality (Bas-Uele province). They lack assistance such as food, healthcare and relief items.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- The 1st and 2nd of June, refugee pupils from primary schools of Inke, Bili, Boyabu, Mole and Mboti camps undertook national examinations. Rates of success were high everywhere, namely in Bili and Inke camp where 100% of refugee pupils were successful. On 19th and 21st of June, refugee pupils from secondary school passed their national exams. They were still waiting for results.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Libenge territory (Sud-Ubangi province), 50 refugee pupils were not admitted to national exams because they lacked means of payment.
- In Zongo territory, only 300 refugee pupils from secondary school out of 399 enrolled benefit from UNHCR assistance, due to budget constraints.

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

- On 19th June, UNHCR health partner ADES donated to Libenge Health Zone essential drugs and laboratory material in order to provide better service to refugees and host community.

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

- In Bili camp, all the 100 shelters planned were completed, as well as all the 65 latrines planned. In Inke camp all the shelters (100) and latrines (67) planned were completed as well. In Monga locality (Bas-Uele province) the 93 planned shelters for out-of-camp refugees were completed. 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.
- Non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and mats) were distributed at Mole camp. Distribution was shelter-based. 1,600 shelters were served.
- In Boyabu camp, 2,328 soaps, donation of PRM (US Department of State) through NGO ACTED, were distributed to 1,288 households.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE****Achievements and Impact**

- NGO CARITAS launched a project targeting 400 refugee households for agricultural activities (distribution of tools and seeds). 261 refugees' households living out of camp around Bili (Bosobolo territory, Nord-Ubangi province) received already fields for agriculture from host community to implement the project. Other 100 household living in Bili camp will benefit from the project, as well as refugees installed nearby Ubangi river.
- At the occasion of World Environment Day, celebrated on the 5th of June, reforestation activities were carried out in camps hosting CAR refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During a visit of a delegation from World Bank and African Development Bank in Inke camp, refugees presented their needs in terms of self-reliance activities, namely tools for mechanized farming and improved seeds.

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

- On 24th June, the last of 17 containers of clothing, donated by the Japanese fashion firm UNIQLO, together with other donors, reached Zongo. A distribution plan was under preparation.
- During the month of June, four test flights to Bili were conducted by United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). Pilots recommended some additional works to make the airstrip usable for regular flights.

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.



UN Agencies meeting new arrivals in Mobayi Mbongo © UNHCR G. Nentobo

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 (28.4 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 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](#)