

Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

16 April 2021

Preparatory meetings to establish the CAR Situation Support Platform

UNHCR Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa's Deputy Director, met with the CAR President, the Ambassador of South Africa, representatives of the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the African Union and EECAS to discuss the establishment of a support platform for protection and solutions for displaced Central Africans.

In DRC, close to 52,000 new CAR asylum seekers have been biometrically registered

UNHCR and the Government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR) had biometrically registered 51,890 new arrivals from CAR in Bas Huele, North Ubangi and South Ubangi Provinces, as of 31 March. Among these, 6,143 people have been identified with specific needs.

More refugees arrive in Chad following recent clashes in CAR

Recent clashes between government forces and armed groups in northern Central African Republic (CAR) have forced 2,156 refugees to cross into Chad since last week. Refugees, mostly women and children, are fleeing the towns of Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Kabo, by crossing a river that separates the two countries.

KEY INDICATORS

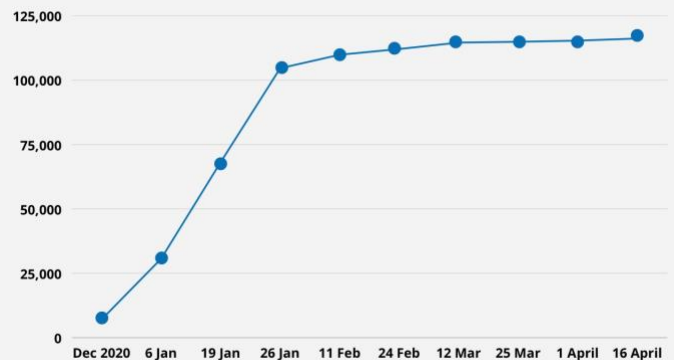
164,381*

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

117,209 **

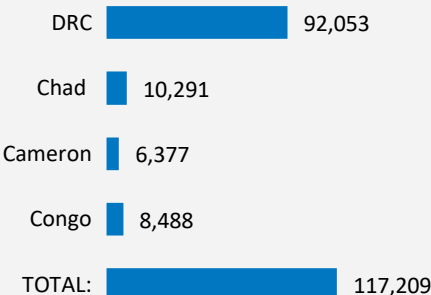
People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, Republic of the Congo (RoC), Chad and Democratic Republic of the Congo DRC since the beginning of the electoral crisis, as of 16 April 2021.

REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TREND

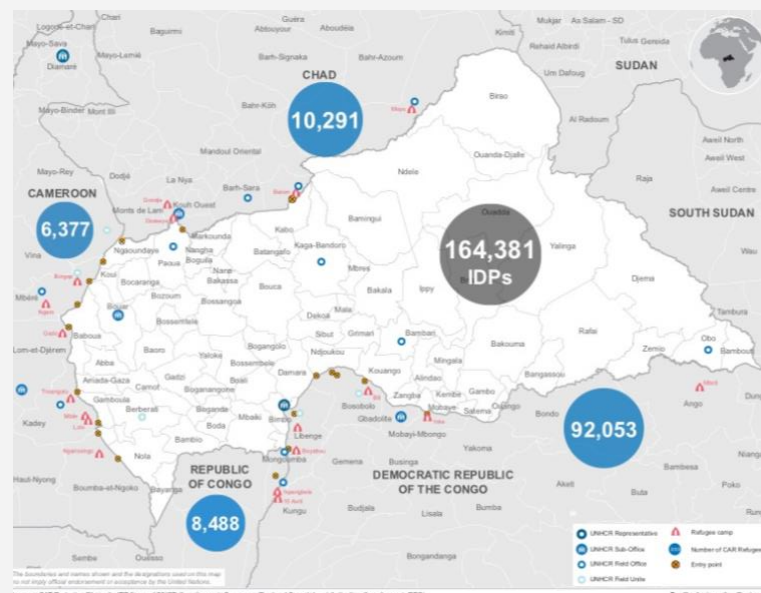


DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

New arrivals



CAR REGIONAL SITUATION MAP



* [Foot note] Commission de Mouvement de Population as at 31 March 2021.

** [Foot note] Data as reported by local authorities of 12 April 2021.

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

Operational Context

Political and security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR)



The Central African Republic national army (FACA) supported by its bilateral allies regained control of Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Kabo on 10-15 April from the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC). These localities had been under the control of armed groups for several years.



In March, 33,571 new IDPs were recorded, mainly in the Nangha Boguila, Bozoum, Paoua, Kouango and Alindao sub-prefectures and on the outskirts of Bouar. Beyond the main towns, displacement was also reported in the surrounding bush and on axes such as Bossangoa – Nana-Bakassa and Paoua – Bozoum.



Restoration of state control by the armed forces over parts of the country has resulted in the return of 37,171 people in March, mainly in the Bangassou, Rafai, Bambari, Grimari, Baboua, Bimbo, Birao, Markounda and Bouar sub-prefectures.



CAR has been included in a United Nations' list of countries with non-state actors or entities using sexual violence as a tactic of war and political repression during the Covid-19 pandemic. [The report](#) published on 30 March 2021 remarks that conflict-related sexual violence is challenging owing to the prevailing atmosphere of insecurity, stigmatization, the fear of reprisals, the climate of impunity, and the limited available services. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) reported 240 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 129 girls, 108 women and three men. These incidents included 221 rapes or attempted rapes and 12 cases of sexual slavery.



Population movements and border monitoring

- Between 2 and 16 April, a total of 2,156 new refugees crossed into Chad, following clashes between rebel groups and government FACA forces and their allies in the northern Central African Republic border. During this period, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo did not register new arrivals.
- As of 31 March, a total of 164,381 new IDPs have been recorded since the beginning of the electoral crisis according to [the Population Movement Commission in CAR](#), bringing the total number of IDPs in CAR to [738,279](#).
- 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 (GBV), child protection issues and missing documentation.
- Throughout the response, UNHCR continues to prioritize support to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of GBV.
- The new displacement of more than 280,000 IDPs and refugees 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.

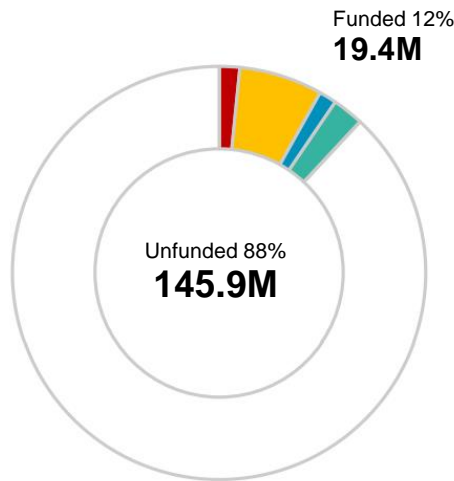


CAR Situation Funding Update

FUNDING (AS OF 6 April 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 6 April 2021, the Central African Republic situation has received 12 per cent of the USD 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's [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 277,930 | 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

In Chad, Central African refugee keeps hope alive

As fighting between government forces and rebel groups approached their home in the Central African Republic (CAR), Zara and her husband made a quick decision.

Zara, 30, had no time to wait. As armed men drew closer, she took her four children across the border into Chad. There, in Doholo refugee camp, she and her children set up a shelter made from branches and straw.

"I had some savings which I took with me, and I was already selling crepes back in my country," Zara said. "I needed to do something to cover the needs of my children, to feed them, put clothes on them. I need to give them a better future, even if we are in exile."



Zara, 30, arrived with her four children at the Doholo refugee camp. They fled violence in Central African Republic. © UNHCR/Simplice Kpandji

Read full article [here](#).



Country Operation Central African Republic



The Deputy Director of the RBWCA met the current CAR President @UNHCR CAR 2021

Operational Environment

- After the FACA and their allied forces resumed control of Alindao in mid-March, the Protection Cluster conducted a mission from 7 to 9 April to assess conditions in the Elim and AFAPS IDP sites. Violations of the civilian and humanitarian character of the sites were identified. Proximity to the military base is the most prevalent risk in the current context.

Assistance provided

- UNHCR, assisted 152 returnees to complete their journeys home in dignity, safety and respect of COVID19 prevention measures. The group was previously in the Beloko (CAR) transit center while waiting for conditions to stabilize in their areas of return. They have expressed gratitude for the support they received to return safely.
- With the recent arrival of the FACA and their allies in Batangafo, some potential return flows are anticipated. 1,000 NFI kits have been dispatched to UNHCR Kaga-Bandoro. UNHCR partners and cluster actors are ready to assess the situation through mobile Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Protection missions to bring immediate assistance to the most vulnerable population.

- UNHCR has received eight of the twenty NFI containers blocked at the border with Cameroon since December 2020. Five containers reached Bangui, and three were dispatched to Bouar. The twelve remaining NFI containers are expected in the coming weeks since transit conditions between Douala (CAM) and Bangui are slowly improving.
- Final preparations were made for a special convoy of 20 trucks to transport 3,000 complete NFI kits and raw construction materials to refugees and IDPs in Obo. The convoy is expected to leave Bangui next week and should take five weeks to reach its destination.
- In Ouaka Prefecture, the CCCM mobile team assessed the situation in Bakoya village near Grimari following a deadly attack by Peuhl cattlemen.
- In cooperation with IOM, NFI/shelter kits were urgently dispatched to assist 1,000 households in the area of Bangouma near Paoua. The kits will be distributed by Solidarite International starting 13 April after their final assessment.
- UNHCR CAR operation conducted a three-day training for protection and field staff on GBV risk mitigation. The training was organized in collaboration with Global Learning and Development Center and sponsored by Safe from the Start. Protection, CCCM, CBI, and Programme staff participated. The training supports the launch of the Ma Mbi Si service to respond to GBV in CAR.

Regional support

The Deputy Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa met with the CAR President, the Ambassador of South Africa, the representatives of the African Development Bank Group, the African Union and ECCAS to discuss the establishment of a support platform to encourage protection and solutions for displaced Central Africans.



Country Operation
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



Central African asylum-seekers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo find shelter in overburdened host communities, often living in makeshift shelters. ©UNHCR/ Adrienne Surprenant

Operational Environment

- UNHCR and the government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR) had biometrically registered 51,890 new arrivals from CAR in Bas Huele, North Ubangi and South Ubangi Provinces, as of 31 March. CNR with the support of UNHCR has distributed 2,117 identity cards to refugees in Yakoma.
- Among those registered, 6,143 people have been identified with specific needs, including 1,566 unaccompanied children and 1,183 vulnerable women. UNHCR is increasing monitoring to identify persons with specific needs and is assisting those already identified.
- Ten community protection committees comprising refugees and members from the host communities have been established in various locations. Four are in the Zongo territory and six in Libenge territory, South Ubangi Province.

Regional Support

In Yokoma, UNHCR Kinshasa, with support from the HQ Emergency Preparedness and Response Section and the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, has activated services under the Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS). RETS aims at enhancing interagency coordination through provision of communication services for partners and the humanitarian community delivering services in the field.

Assistance provided

- As of 2 April, 91 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) including rape and child marriages have been reported to UNHCR, since the beginning of the emergency, in the provinces of South and North Ubangi and in Bas Huele Province. UNHCR partner AIDES is providing psychosocial support for survivors and is conducting awareness-raising campaigns on GBV prevention in refugee and host communities.
- In Ndu, Bas Huele Province, 1,555 refugees (563 households), are receiving support through cash-based interventions (CBI) implemented by UNHCR with the support of the Trust Merchant Bank. This CBI distribution is the second after a first round that took place between 24-27 March.
- UNHCR partner AIRD has rehabilitated Bigenzale Bridge approximately 65 kms from the refugee-hosting site in Yakoma and is also restoring the restoration of three additional bridges on the road to the Modale relocation site.
- Significant progress has been made in the preparation of the Modale site where some of the Central Africa refugees will be relocated from Yakoma. The transit centre has been completed with the construction of five community shelters and sanitary facilities, 48 family shelters and latrines. The potholes on the road between Yakoma and Modale have been repaired and the capacity of the health center has been strengthened. A 'go and see' visit to Modale was undertaken by the Yokoma refugee committee on 13 April to assess the site before relocation begins.
- The Ministry of Health has administered polio vaccinations to over 14,000 refugee children (both newly arrived and those already residing in the DRC) against polio in North and South Ubangi Provinces in the first phase of a vaccination campaign that began on 25 and 27 March.



Country Operation Cameroon

Operational Environment

- As of 15 April 2021, 95 per cent of the refugees who crossed the border since December 2020 have been registered and enrolled in PRIMES (6,377 individuals).
- There has been a resurgence of criminal activity in the town of Garoua Boulai, the main city where the new Central African arrivals are settling.
- Between 31 January and 6 April 2021, 80 cases of COVID-19 have been reported among Central African refugees. 69 cases have a recovered, 10 cases are still active while one person has died. Follow up with six cases has yet to be conducted.
- The relocation of new Central African refugees continues to be on hold following the local authorities' decision to move refugees to locations further away from the border. UNHCR continues to advocate for a suitable solution as protection challenges are increasing for refugees in Garoua Boulai.

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 site. All recipients of food assistance through cash transfers receive XAF 4,400 (USD 8) per person. This corresponds to 1050 kilocalories per person per day, well below the standard of 2100 kcal/person/day.
- Out of 270 school children identified during the transfer of new CAR refugees to Gado site, 67 began classes in four government primary schools on 12 April. 120 children received school kits and uniforms. 180 children were vaccinated against polio and measles. Vaccinations and distribution of school kits are ongoing.
- Sixteen young people (nine men and seven women) will receive training in hairdressing, carpentry, baking, catering, screen printing, driving, sewing, air conditioning, knitting, IT or 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 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 CAR refugees in Maro – Chad @UNHCR, Chad 2021

Operational Environment

- As of 16 April 2021, 10,291 new Central African asylum-seekers have been registered in Chad. The recent clashes between CAR government forces and armed groups in northern Central African Republic (CAR) have forced 2,156 refugees to cross into Chad since last week.
- 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 on 6 April, UNHCR.
- New asylum-seekers, mostly women and children, are fleeing the towns of Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Kabo, by crossing a river that separates the two countries. In addition, there are 1,313 refugees who are not yet registered in Maro.
- Chadian authorities continue to allow CAR refugees to enter the territory to seek asylum despite the official border closure due to the CAR crisis in 2014 and the current COVID-19 context.
- New refugees, who arrived over the last few days, reported sexual violence against women, allegations of violence, looting of homes, and violence against people who cannot pay the large sums of money demanded armed groups as factors that led them to flee.

Assistance provided

- The emergency protection team deployed to Maro is monitoring people at risk. During the first day of registration, the team identified 39 children at risk, mainly separated children, and 113 women at risk.
- New arrivals in Maro require urgent action. UNHCR is working with WFP to provide food assistance to 2,000 new arrivals. This number could be revised to 4,000 people, given the influx of refugees.
- As of 6 April, close to 90 per cent of new refugees (8,437 individuals and 2,518 households) received NFI assistance including blankets, mats, jerry cans, kitchen kits and mosquito nets.
- Following the arrival of refugees at the Sido border, UNHCR partner ADES, through a mobile medical team, carried out 102 curative and preventive consultations on an estimated population of 1,378 refugees settled in the host village Grande Sido. Children and women represented 29 per cent and 69 per cent of the consultations, respectively.
- The integration of refugee children into the Chadian education system continued through enrollment in Doholo and Gonje camps. As of 6 April, nearly 25 per cent of children (504 girls and 534 boys), have been enrolled and attend school in the two camps.
- 40 per cent of the health consultation (394 out of 979) conducted in Doholo and Gonje camps by UNHCR partners ADES and MSF were for new Central African refugees. The most prevalent health issues were malaria (46%) and acute respiratory infections (23%).

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

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

- In the week of 12 April, UNHCR Bétou Field Office and partners resumed field operations and registration of new asylum-seekers. Field activities and border monitoring were suspended on 16 March following security protocols related to the Presidential elections in Republic of the Congo.
- As of 13 April, 2,694 refugees have been biometrically registered by UNHCR and the Government's National Committee for Refugee Assistance (CNAR). This is out of the 8,488 asylum-seekers who have been recorded under the emergency registration process since December 2020, including 1,044 newly recorded in the week of 12 April.

Nearly half of registered Central African new arrivals to Republic of the Congo are children. ©UNHCR/ Yves Ndoba

Assistance Provided

- UNHCR provided essential household items including mosquito nets, mats, blankets, buckets, jerry cans, soap and underwear to 50 new refugees families who were hospitalized at the Bétou integrated health centre, suffering from various ailments and illnesses.
- On 9 and 10 April, 427 new arrivals received core relief items from UNHCR in Mougoungi. UNHCR partner TSF screened refugees and administered first-line medical care where required, during the distribution.
- A total of 133 individuals (67 households) recently relocated from the forestry protected area (UFA) of Ndongo-Missa to Mougoungi. During this process, 99 people with specific needs (87 women and 12 men) including single women with dependent children, the elderly with dependent children, breastfeeding women, and people with disabilities were identified to receive specialized assistance.

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