Central African Republic Crisis and its Regional Humanitarian Impact

An overview of needs and requirements
Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Congo
Life in a small shelter at the end of the runway is tough. Every day is a struggle. I had a house on the other side [of the airport], but I lost it to a grenade. We want peace so we can return home.

Bangui Airport, CAR, December 2013
Father of seven, Robert Demba fled with his family to the airport.
I was born and gave birth to my children there. Our life was in Bangui. With all this violence, I don’t know if we can ever return. My son stayed behind. I have had no news for two months now.

Gaouï, Chad, 1 May 2014
Gaouï, 10 km outside the Chadian capital N’Djamena, is home to more than 4,000 people who have fled the Central African Republic. Like most returnees at the site, Khadija was airlifted from the Central African capital, Bangui.
More than a million people have fled their homes for safety.
A Region in Crisis

OVERVIEW OF THE CAR CRISIS

Over the past year, the Central African Republic (CAR) has experienced a major political and protection crisis that has affected nearly its entire population. Since the overthrow of the Government by the Seleka rebel movement in March 2013, the northern and western regions of the country have seen intense and unprecedented violence against civilians and minorities. In December 2013, the violence in and around Bangui escalated when the anti-balaka militia attacked the capital and fighting ensued between them and the ex-Seleka.

The security situation in CAR continues to deteriorate. With increasingly radical anti-balaka and ex-Seleka rhetoric and violence, as well as renewed spikes in violence along the northern border, tensions are on the rise. There is a real risk the country could be partitioned into two or more areas, controlled by various factions of armed groups.

Growing threats directed at Muslims in west and central parts of the country have led the majority to leave these areas. Compounded by what appears to be an instrumentalization and manipulation of communities by political and commercial leaders, there has been a marked shift from what was seen as opposition between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka at the beginning of the year to serious hostility between self-proclaimed representatives of Christian and Muslim communities. Towns that used to have people of diverse religions have been emptied of their Muslim communities.

The severity of the situation is shocking. Gross human rights violations have been – and continue to be – committed on a daily basis, including killing and maiming, abductions, rape, and recruitment of children as soldiers.

Community tensions and sectarian violence are on the rise. Around 20,000 people from minority communities remain trapped in 16 different locations in CAR due to the risk of attack. They are unable to move freely beyond confined neighbourhoods, are unable to maintain jobs, and have limited access to schools, healthcare, etc.

More than a million people – about a quarter of CAR’s population – have fled their homes for safety. As of 2 June 2014, 557,000 people remained displaced inside CAR. A quarter of these people are living in Bangui. Since December 2013, some 250,000 people too scared to stay in CAR have fled to at least 14 countries in West and Central Africa. The highest concentration of people has fled to Chad, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo (Congo), in that order. Thousands of people continue to escape CAR every week. Many are still hiding in the bush in fear for their lives, surviving on leaves and roots.

Those who have fled are often traumatized, malnourished and dehydrated. Many have walked for weeks and taken refuge in the bush along the way to hide from armed groups. Some have been exposed to atrocities and survived violence. The majority are women and children, as the men in the families often remain in CAR to protect family assets. Many people fleeing CAR have serious medical needs stemming from injuries during attacks or displacement. The rate of malnutrition and infectious disease is high. They find themselves stranded in unfamiliar surroundings with no social or economic support, and are largely dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Many families sheltering those who have fled the violence are also struggling to cope with the added strain of hosting displaced people in their homes. The sudden and large influx of people from CAR has had serious social, economic and security ramifications for neighbouring countries and has strained already limited resources in host countries and communities. Host communities along the border with CAR have been exposed to increased insecurity and in some situations have also been temporarily displaced due to incursions and looting by armed groups from CAR, as has been the case in some border villages in Cameroon.
The crisis has weakened a population that is already fragile.

Credit: OCHA/R. Gitau
Chadians waiting for their evacuation at the airport in Bangui. By 14 January, almost 20,000 Chadians had repatriated by road and by air.
Seven Groups of Affected People

While nearly the entire population of CAR is directly or indirectly affected by the crisis, almost half of the population (2.5 million people) is in need of humanitarian assistance, along with the 238,662 people who fled CAR to Cameroon, Chad, Congo and DRC. Central Africans have faced extreme violence and pervasive insecurity. The crisis has further weakened an already fragile population, whose basic needs were not being met even before the crisis.

1. Internally displaced people in CAR

Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to take refuge in makeshift sites, such as religious buildings or near Bangui international airport; some are hosted by local communities. Across CAR, a large number of the displaced, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, have gone without safe water, shelter, and health and nutritional support for almost a year. Half of the IDPs are moderately or severely food insecure; many need psycho-social support. During their displacement, and until they are supported to return to their areas of origin or integrate locally, IDPs will require humanitarian assistance including water, shelter, blankets, food, medical care, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, protection services and education.

2. Communities at risk and other vulnerable groups in CAR

Along with IDPs, others in need of assistance and protection include minorities, communities stranded and at risk of attack, severely food insecure people (about half the country’s population) and families hosting IDPs. In addition, pastoralists who normally move through CAR with their cattle have been attacked or forced to stop moving, and have had their cattle killed. They face particular protection risks given they have no support from communities and little or no access to basic services.

3. Refugees from CAR

Immediate provision of hot meals and screening and treatment of acute malnutrition are among the priority life-saving interventions upon arrival in host countries. During their displacement in camps and designated refugee sites, refugees from CAR will continue to be entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance including water, shelter, blankets, food, medical care, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, protection services and education.

4. Third country nationals (TCNs)

Many TCNs require transport to their countries of origin. While in transit sites, they live like refugees and have similar humanitarian needs.

5. Returnees

Thousands of people of Chadian origin were living in CAR before the crisis and contributed to the national economy through trade. Although a few migrants returning to Chad may be able to resettle in their areas of origin, the majority have lost all family ties. In the medium term, these people will require assistance to re-integrate. In the meantime, they require life-saving assistance as they are staying in transit centres, in open sites or with host families and have humanitarian needs similar to those of refugees.

6. Pastoralists in neighbouring countries

Normal cross-border movements of pastoralists (especially between northern CAR-southern Chad and western CAR-northern Cameroon) have been affected by the crisis and related border closures. The recent and ongoing arrival of pastoralists along the borders with CAR increases the risk of competition over land, water and livestock with host communities. Pastoralists exhibit considerably higher malnutrition rates than other people affected by the crisis. They need food and nutrition support, medical care, vaccinations for their cattle, and access to water and fodder.

7. Host families and local communities

Large numbers of people fleeing the violence have been accommodated and supported by local communities. Host families have shared their meagre resources—food and basic supplies—firewood, accommodation, grazing and farmland with refugees. Existing community facilities and services (health services, water points, sanitary facilities, community buildings, etc.) are overstretched. Critical humanitarian needs for host families include food assistance, non-food items (such as mattresses) and improved community infrastructure such as water points, sanitary facilities, schools and health centres. Assistance must also be provided to communities living in areas where camps are established in order to prevent tensions from arising or the creation of pull factors towards the camps.
Gore, Chad, 3 May 2014: The returnee site in Gore is located in the middle of this small town near the border with the Central African Republic. Almost 5,000 people displaced by the violence in the Central African Republic are currently living in the site. Some arrived in vehicles and evacuation trucks, but others had to run for their lives and walk through the bush for many days.
What stands in the way of responding to these needs?

As of 4 June, the response in CAR had only received 32% of total financial requirements for 2014 ($565 million), despite pledges of more support. Neighbouring countries affected by the crisis have received even less financial support - Cameroon: 10% of $117 million; Chad: 15% of $527 million; DRC: 19% of $832 million; Congo: 10% of $14 million.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been one of the main donors for the response to the CAR crisis and its impact on the region. So far in 2014, close to US$30 million of CERF funding has been allocated to support the humanitarian response in CAR and neighbouring countries, including $20 million to CAR, $4 million to Chad, $4 million to Cameroon and $2 million to Congo. In 2013, the CERF allocated $8 million to meet the needs of CAR refugees arriving in DRC.

The lack of funding to date has severely impeded the response to humanitarian needs. Although there is capacity to respond to the effects of the crisis, the lack of funding has resulted in significant gaps across all sectors.

If more resources are not committed to the CAR crisis, humanitarian partners will be unable to step up their response. Faced with budget constraints, partners have been unable to provide the necessary assistance to people made vulnerable by the crisis. In Cameroon, for example, the inability to provide food assistance where people need it because of lack of resources has forced more people to move into neighbouring countries.

If we fail to protect people in CAR now, people will be further weakened and traumatized, and more lives will be lost. Since May, those arriving in neighbouring countries are in a much worse state than those who fled to the country a few months ago. After weeks or even months of walking through the bush, hiding from armed groups and surviving only on leaves and roots found along the way, they are extremely vulnerable, exhausted, sick and traumatized. In Cameroon, six in 10,000 children under five die every day, a mortality rate well above the emergency threshold.
At two o’clock in the afternoon, they came and killed my father and my brother. I fled with my mother and five children. On our way to Chad, we were attacked again. Two of my children were killed.

Gore, Chad, 3 May 2014
Halima and her baby son Issa have lost half their family.
This document presents a comprehensive regional overview of humanitarian needs caused by the protection crisis in CAR and the related financial requirements to save lives and alleviate human suffering.

**TIME FRAME**
2014, although some projects may extend beyond 2014.

**GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE**
CAR itself and the most affected neighbouring countries: Chad, Cameroon, DRC and Congo.

**DEMOGRAPHIC SCOPE**
All people affected by the CAR crisis, including refugees (i.e. CAR nationals seeking refuge in another country), TCNs/returning migrants (i.e. third country nationals who have fled CAR and returned to their country of origin or another country and are now stranded awaiting return), pastoralists, and host families in neighbouring countries.

**Main Objectives of the Regional Response**
While every country-based strategic plan has a set of specific objectives for the response to CAR-related needs, humanitarian partners in the region are urgently requesting financial support in order to:

1. **Save lives and prevent suffering** of people affected by conflict in CAR, including those who have been displaced to neighbouring countries (refugees, third country nationals and returning migrants);
2. Lighten the impact of this large-scale displacement crisis on host and local communities, and **prevent potential tensions** and competition over resources with host communities;
3. **Promote** local level **social cohesion** and national reconciliation programmes in CAR and **peaceful co-existence** programmes in neighbouring countries.
4. Integrate early recovery components in sectoral programmes to ensure better linkages with medium to longer-term solutions.

Although humanitarian interventions are necessary to save lives and minimize suffering, we need urgent and concerted international engagement to identify political and security answers to resolve this crisis and reduce the worsening spiral of violence. If action is taken quickly, there may still be room for confidence-building measures in communities with differing religious traditions.

In areas of high risk, while people wait for the situation to improve, humanitarian partners will continue to provide life-saving assistance. In areas where all options for diffusing tensions and improving security have been exhausted, we will continue to consider relocations on a case by case basis as a temporary and voluntary life-saving measure. However, further segregation is not a prescription for a peaceful future in CAR, and it reflects the failure of our collective ability to prevent the conflict from deteriorating further.

We also need to ensure simultaneous and large-scale investment in development and resilience programmes to facilitate the eventual return to peace and the return of those who fled to neighbouring countries.
Credit: OCHA/Ivo Brandau
Halima and her baby son Issa
Regional Approach

In view of the current security situation, it is expected that the CAR crisis may continue to deteriorate, leading to more displacement and other humanitarian consequences. The onset of the rainy and lean season has increased the risk of malnutrition and diarrhoeal diseases, particularly in sites hosting displaced communities. The rainy season will also limit humanitarian access to a number of vulnerable communities.

Given these realities inside CAR, further displacements to neighbouring countries are expected throughout 2014 and possibly beyond. Although security may improve in the coming months with the strengthening of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), given continuing daily attacks and rising criminality, it is unlikely that people who have fled to neighbouring countries will return to CAR in the short term, at least until security has markedly improved and law and order has been reinstated.

However, planning for the return to peace and for the day when displaced families can return home is of critical importance. Repatriation and other durable solutions for IDPs, refugees, displaced TCNs and returning migrants will continue to be sought.

The ongoing fighting and lawlessness in CAR and the porosity of the borders have increased the potential for infiltration by armed elements into neighbouring countries. There are concerns that even minor incidents in neighbouring countries could lead to sectarian violence and an increase in humanitarian needs.

The seasonal migration of pastoralists with their cattle is already a source of tension. As insecurity in CAR prevents the normal transnational livestock migration, the pastoralists are stalling in border areas of Chad, Cameroon and Sudan, awaiting better conditions before crossing the border and moving to CAR.

In February 2014, a regional coordination platform, led by the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, was set up including all the Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinators in the region and the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for CAR to ensure coherence in analysis, planning and response, including cross-border efforts and long-term durable solutions.
CAR Crisis: Regional Humanitarian Impact

IN NUMBERS

5 COUNTRIES AFFECTED

2.7 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED

557,000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN CAR
132,000 IDPs IN BANGUI (43 SITES)

238,662 REFUGEES, THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS (TCNs), RETURNING MIGRANTS SINCE DECEMBER 2013

People in Need in the Region (related to the CAR crisis)

- CHAD: 104,000 people currently in need
  - Refugees: 14,000
  - TCNs & Returning migrants: 96,279

- CAMEROON: 557,000 internally displaced persons
  - Refugees: 86,068
  - TCNs & Returning migrants: 17,675

- DRC: 2.5 million people currently in need
  - Refugees: 14,141
  - TCNs & Returning migrants: 608

- CONGO: 104,000 people currently in need
  - Refugees: 8,891
  - TCNs & Returning migrants: 1,000

PREPARED BY OCHA BASED ON COUNTRY-BASED RESPONSE PLANS, IOM AND UNHCR REGIONAL APPEALS
Funding Requirements

**Strategic Response Plans 2014**
CAR and CAR components of Chad, Cameroon, DRC and Republic of Congo

- **$858 million** requirements
- **$202 million** funded
- **$656 million** unmet requirements

**CAR Funding & Requirements**
- **$565 million** requirements
- **$179 million** funding
- **$386 million** unmet requirements

**CAR Regional Requirements**
- CHAD: $137.8 million*
- CAMEROON: $72.1 million
- DRC: $69 million
- CONGO: $14.2 million

**CERF allocations to the crisis since December 2013 (US$)**
- **2 M** Congo
- **4 M** Cameroon
- **4.2 M** Chad
- **19.6 M** Central African Republic

*To be confirmed
PREPARED BY OCHA BASED ON COUNTRY-BASED RESPONSE PLANS, IOM AND UNHCR REGIONAL APPEALS
Displaced people walk through the M’Poko Air Force base in Bangui, Central African Republic. Thousands of people took shelter here on 21 February 2014. Tens of thousands are displaced in the capital alone.
Country Perspectives

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CHAD
CAMEROON
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
CONGO
An internally displaced Central African boy sits on a pile of belongings at the edge of the tent where he takes shelter at a temporary displacement site at the Don Bosco centre in Bangui on February 23, 2014. The Danish Refugee Council, which manages the site, is providing food at this site for over 10,500 people who fled their homes in the capital following sectarian killings.
Central African Republic

Every day people are killed, women and girls are raped, children are recruited as soldiers, homes are looted, villages are burned and people are displaced. Civilians in CAR continue to bear the brunt of attacks by armed groups. Overall, more than half the population is in need of humanitarian assistance including protection, food, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. Immediate assistance is urgently required. Priority needs, especially for women and girls, are protection and food. The steep downward curve in the economy is undermining people’s livelihoods. Health and education services have collapsed due to looting and lack of supplies and staff, thus undermining the future of an entire generation.

The response covers needs across the country. It prioritises Bangui and western CAR, where displacement is of the utmost concern, and the north east of the country, where the current conflict began. In southeastern CAR, attacks and abductions by the Lord’s Resistance Army continue, resulting in displacement and fear among affected people.

About 557,000 people are currently displaced in the country, amounting to 12% of the total population. In Bangui alone, some 130,000 people have been forced to flee their homes and are currently staying in 43 sites. Most IDPs in the capital are hosted by religious communities, and more than 52,000 people are encamped near Bangui international airport, secured by international troops. Life-saving support including food, health care, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, livelihoods and household items is being provided to IDPs.

According to IOM surveys, the number of IDPs wanting to go home decreased from 74% in January 2014 to 57% in April due to a perceived lack of security in return areas. In cases where IDPs want to return home, humanitarian partners will facilitate their return and will ensure that peace and reconciliation, livelihoods support, shelter and other infrastructure are available in their communities of origin.

Meanwhile, around 20,000 Muslims remain stranded within their communities in 16 different locations throughout CAR for fear of attacks by anti-balaka elements. They are unable to leave these locations, and at the same time they cannot meet their basic food, health care and other needs. International forces have been deployed to most of these locations to ensure physical protection, and humanitarian actors are providing humanitarian assistance. Some communities at extreme risk have requested support with relocation to safer areas. On a case by case basis, and only as a matter of last resort where all options for providing protection to people have been exhausted, humanitarian partners have facilitated such relocations.

Partners have continued to work to improve access to basic social services including health care, education, water and sanitation, shelter, nutritional services and protection for returnees and other affected or vulnerable people.

The response in CAR has seen a threefold surge in staffing since the crisis was declared a “Level 3” emergency in December 2013: 28 humanitarian organizations were responding to the crisis in September 2013, and by May 2014 as many as 95 organizations were operational.
Hawa fled from Bossangoa two months ago. “We moved to the Central African Republic when I was a child. But I will never go back. They killed five of my family members — hacked them to death with machetes.”
Chad

More people are fleeing the crisis in CAR to Chad than to any other country. As of early June, over 110,000 people had crossed into Chad since December 2013. Unlike other neighbouring countries, the majority (63%) are Chadian nationals, though many of them have lived in CAR for several generations and have no remaining ties with their home country. UNHCR estimates that approximately 14,000 are CAR refugees. TCNs account for only 1% of arrivals. Among the people fleeing from CAR are also pastoralists, some of whom had to leave behind most or all of their livestock.

For Chadian returnees with family links, the humanitarian focus has been on family reunification, transport assistance and integration. IOM assisted around 29,000 Chadians (28% of total number of returnees) to return to their home villages. Others returned unassisted. Now, attention needs to be given to their longer-term reintegration, support for livelihoods and self-sufficiency.

Returnees who have no remaining family links in Chad have sought temporary residence in camps. At the end of April 2014, over 61,000 people were being hosted in seven temporary camps in the south and in N’Djamena. Of these, more than 57,000 are in the south. Here, they have received humanitarian assistance and access to basic services, although the coverage has been insufficient due to the lack of funds. Given that the transit sites were originally intended to host people very briefly before their transfer to their areas of origin, they were rapidly overwhelmed. Since March, when the Government allowed returnees without family links to stay in sites for up to one year, humanitarian partners have been working on setting up three more formal camps which allow better access to services. The camps are located in the capital N’Djamena, in Logone Orientale and in Moyen Chari regions. The first two are already hosting people, while the latter remains in construction. Extensive work is required to ensure these sites meet minimum standards. The rains have begun and are already flooding parts of the sites, raising fears of water-borne diseases if shelter, water and sanitation assistance is not rapidly scaled up.

An additional number of returnees – estimated at some 20,000 – have settled in small villages along the border with CAR. They also require urgent assistance as their nutritional and health status has been severely impacted during their journey to Chad.

In addition to basic humanitarian assistance, the profiling of the displaced will also need to be undertaken to identify those who are refugees.

Once it has been determined which of the new arrivals in Chad are refugees, they can transfer to existing refugee camps managed by UNHCR. Here, protection and basic services such as food, water, sanitation and shelter are provided.

TCNs are being helped to return to their countries of origin; in the interim, aid agencies are providing them with life-saving assistance.

Basic social services are being reinforced in host villages, while vulnerable host families are receiving assistance such as food and household items. Chad suffers from extremely high vulnerability indicators, with the third worst under-five mortality rate in the world, an HDI index of 183 out of 186, maternal mortality rates of 11,000/100,000 and average access to potable water of 48%.
Hourriatou mourns her grandson, Jaratou, who died from malnutrition after reaching Cameroon. Jaratou’s father and twin brother were killed in the Central African Republic during their flight. The boy’s mother was injured but is recovering.
Cameroon

Cameroon hosts the second highest number of people seeking refuge from CAR. As of the end of May, 109,287 people had crossed the border since March 2013; 95% had entered the country since December 2013. The majority are concentrated in the East and Adamawa regions. Most of the new arrivals (over 85,000 people) are refugees. In addition, some 14,000 TCNs, mostly Chadians, fled to Cameroon. Of these, over 8,000 have been repatriated but around 6,000 are still awaiting repatriation. Finally, around 3,300 Cameroonian migrants have returned.

By early June, the number of people crossing into Cameroon weekly had decreased from the peak of around 10,000 refugees (at the end of March) to around 2,000. Arrivals decreased in early April after anti-balaka militia blocked the main roads leading to Cameroon. However, newly arrived refugees speak of many people still hiding in the bush in CAR wanting to cross the border.

The poor nutritional state of new arrivals is of great concern. More than 40 percent of children are suffering from acute malnutrition. Food distribution at border entry points, and screening and treatment of acute malnutrition are immediate priorities for partners. In addition to nutrition, health and shelter are the priority sectors for scaling up the response.

Temporary communal shelters, tents and basic sanitation facilities have been put in place for refugees at the main entry points for use until they transfer to more formal sites. The Government has made seven such sites available: five in the East region and two in Adamawa region. To date, five of the sites are operational: Timangolo Lolo, Gado Bazere, Mbile in the East region and Borgop in Adamawa. After registration, refugees are transferred to these sites, where community shelters and family tents have been set up, and where protection and basic assistance are provided. The sites are close to communities and to some key services, such as schools, health centres and water points. As of 25 May, 28,845 refugees (34% of the total) had been transferred to these sites. The plan is to transfer 2,500 refugees per week to the sites.

Many TCNs and returnees are exposed to cold and now rain as they wait in precarious transit conditions for relocation or onward transport to their countries or communities of origin. It is a priority for partners to create conditions in sites that allow people to live in dignity. Two transit centres have been constructed, which provide basic community shelters, latrines and water points. However, this is hugely insufficient as each centre has the capacity to host 500 people, while about 9,500 people are living in open spaces or with host families. Basic kits containing blankets and other items are distributed to people in transit areas who are about to relocate. Returnees who have family and connections in Cameroon will quickly receive food and non-food item supplies for use on the return journey. Returnees who emigrated to CAR a long time ago and no longer have any family left in Cameroon will receive a more comprehensive livelihood support package, including shelter, cash grants and assistance to restart income generating activities.

Recognizing that the resources of host communities are depleting fast, the most vulnerable local host communities will be included in food distributions and projects to support self-reliance and livelihoods. Community facilities and services such as health care, education and water points will be improved to benefit both refugees and host communities. Community-based dialogue to foster social cohesion, prevent conflict and address protection issues will be carried out at refugee sites and in host communities.
Refugees from the Central African Republic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Democratic Republic of Congo

Since the beginning of the crisis in CAR, people have fled across the Ubangi River, which marks the border, mostly to Zongo and Libenge (both in Equateur province). The vast majority of arrivals are refugees. According to UNHCR, there were 53,000 refugees from CAR at the end of May, including nearly 15,000 since December 2013. Many people cross the river every day: they sleep in safety in DRC but return to Bangui by day to take advantage of livelihood opportunities.

An additional influx of refugees from CAR is not expected, unless the situation dramatically deteriorates. Conditions in DRC for refugees are very poor, and many refugees are asking UNHCR to help them return home.

Around half of the refugees have chosen to be transported to one of the four existing refugee camps in DRC; the other half prefer to remain with host communities. Humanitarian partners will provide people living in camps with shelter, household items, health care, education, water, sanitation, nutrition, legal support and protection. Transitional shelters will be provided for the most vulnerable refugees, while shelter construction kits will be given to others. Water purification tablets will be distributed to newly-arrived refugees, and water points, latrines, showers and hand-washing stations will be constructed. Primary health care zones will be strengthened through the provision of medicine, training and equipment. Access to food will be provided via a combination of general food distributions, cash and vouchers, and acutely malnourished children and women will receive treatment and nutritious food. Two on-camp schools will be constructed.

Refugees outside camps have asked for support to engage in agricultural production or vocational training to allow them to become self-sufficient. Funding permitting, refugees in host communities will be provided with seeds and tools and, in the case of the most vulnerable households, food and protection through a combination of direct household/non-food item distributions and vouchers. Items less available on the local market such as high-quality tarpaulins, jerry cans, mosquito nets and hygiene kits will be distributed in-kind in combination with cash vouchers for items more readily available including clothing, kitchen items, soap and mattresses. Host community water points will be constructed and rehabilitated when necessary. Medicines and equipment will be supplied to local health facilities.

About 7,200 Congolese refugees who had previously fled to CAR have been repatriated to the DRC. They received the necessary documentation and cash grants to ease their return. They will be assimilated into the country’s existing reintegration programme.
Credit: UNHCR/L. Culot
Two Central African Republic refugees with their babies in Betou, Republic of Congo, after fleeing violence across the border in their village.
As of the end of May, over 16,000 people had fled to Congo since the CAR crisis began in March 2013, including over half since December 2013. Of these, over 8,500 are refugees. By the end of 2014, it is expected that a total of 20,000 refugees will have arrived in Congo.

Humanitarian activities in Congo are focused in Betou, Likoula Department, where 80% of the new arrivals from CAR have taken refuge. Around 60% of the arrivals are being hosted by the local population while the rest are living in the two refugee sites in northern Betou originally set up for refugees from DRC.

Conditions in these refugee camps are poor now that the repatriation of DRC refugees is almost complete: in their present state, they are not fit for habitation. Additional shelters, rehabilitated water supply systems, new water points and new latrines are needed. With adequate means, humanitarian partners will be able to provide people in these camps with emergency shelter, household items, medical assistance, food, legal support and protection.

Border monitoring missions will be conducted to relocate refugees living in localities too close to the border and willing to receive assistance in Betou. Plans are in place to create ten temporary communal shelters, each with room for 100 people. Refugees waiting for living arrangements in individual family shelters in the two refugee camps in Betou district can be accommodated temporarily in the communal shelters.

So far, not all TCNs have been registered; those who have not been registered have not received systematic humanitarian assistance. Whether stranded in the open in remote forest areas, or living with host families, TCNs are in need of immediate life-saving assistance. Registration points will be set up to ensure all arrivals are registered. In close coordination with the Government of Congo, and with funds in place to do so, small settlement sites will be set up with access to water and sanitation, medical assistance, food, shelter and household items for TCNs while they wait for an opportunity to return to CAR and/or move to their countries of origin. All those who wish to move back to CAR or to their countries of origin will be provided with transport.

Host communities require significant support given the strain on their already scarce resources. Schools will be given extra resources, and new classroom blocks will be built to accommodate refugee children attending Congolese public schools. Household items and food assistance need to be provided for families hosting either TCNs or refugees. To facilitate the integration of CAR refugees into the community, agricultural assistance (e.g. seeds, fishery materials) will also be provided to host communities. Campaigns encouraging peaceful co-existence will be conducted with the help of local authorities.
Since the start of the crisis in December 2012, more than 500,000 people have been forced from their homes and are now living in camps and host communities dotted across the country. An estimated 250,000 Central Africans refugees are currently living in neighboring countries and 30,000 migrants have been evacuated from CAR, mostly to Chad.
Guide to Giving

Contributing to crisis response in CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo

To access each country’s humanitarian needs overview and strategic response plan, and donate directly towards these strategies, view the specific country pages on the OCHA website. Each country’s plan has links to online information on participating organizations and the member of their personnel to contact concerning donations.

www.unocha.org/cap/

Donating through the Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF) in DRC and CAR

CHFs are multi donor pooled-fund mechanisms that support the allocation of joint donor resources on the ground to meet the most critical needs.

CAR CHF: http://goo.gl/BsKzLY
DRC CHF: http://goo.gl/TcgMbD

Donors wishing to contribute to the CAR CHF may also contact Ms. Anjala Illemassene in OCHA’s Funding Coordination Section at +1-946-410-1515 or illemassenea@un.org.

Donating through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

OCHA manages a worldwide emergency stand-by fund which saves lives by providing rapid initial funding for life-saving actions at the onset of emergencies, plus critical support for poorly funded, essential humanitarian response operations in protracted crises. Find out more about the CERF and how to donate by visiting:

www.unocha.org/nerf/our-donors/how-donate

In-kind relief aid

The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the aid materials that are most needed. If you can consider only in-kind contributions in response to disasters and emergencies, please contact: demuyser-boucher@un.org.

Counting and acknowledging your contributions

OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. It aims to give due credit and visibility to donors for their generosity, and also to show the running total of current funding and remaining resource gaps.

Updates on funding for the Central African Republic Crisis Strategic Response Plans can be found on http://goo.gl/22RGy7

Please report your contributions to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the on-line contribution report form at http://fts.unocha.org.

For further detail on ways in which to contribute towards the response to the crisis in CAR and mitigate its repercussions in Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo, please visit http://www.unocha.org/crisis/central-african-republic
Nearly 3 million people urgently need humanitarian assistance.