Highlights

- The security situation remains tense in CAR, especially in Bangui where lootings, shootings, killings and targeted attacks have led to the deaths of about 10 people on a daily basis.

- WFP is preparing air-lift operations due to the security situation and stock depletions. Forty-three privately contracted WFP trucks carrying 1,160 mts of cereal are still blocked at the Cameroon border.

- UNICEF’s verification and release of boys and girls associated with armed forces and groups led to the release of 23 children. A total of 229 children have been released from armed groups since May 2013.

- Some 825,000 people are displaced across CAR, with 400,341 IDPs in Bangui.

Situation Overview

Since last week, the security situation has remained tense in some districts of Bangui and north-western CAR. In Bangui, lootings, shootings, killings and targeted attacks have led to the deaths of about 10 people on a daily basis, mostly due to community violence. Following the growing number of attacks targeting the Muslim community, Imams indicated that they were becoming powerless trying to protect their communities from violence.

In north-western CAR, continued attacks by anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka have maintained a climate of insecurity and fear throughout the region, hampering humanitarian access to vulnerable people. Insecurity in the border area with Cameroon is still hampering full access of humanitarian convoys. Military escorts provided by MISCA for 10 trucks carrying WFP food for 55,000 people reached Bangui on 27 January. Forty-three of WFP’s privately contracted trucks carrying 1,160 mts of cereal are still blocked at the border. WFP is planning an airlift operation to transport food between Douala and Bangui.

To improve the security situation, the UN Security Council has authorized the six-month deployment of a European Union mission to support MISCA and Sangaris forces on the ground.
The UN resolution enhances BINUCA’s role in assisting the transitional political process, and it considers expanding the sanctions regime to include targeted sanctions on those who obstruct the transitional process or commit human rights abuses. However, given the magnitude of the crisis, CAR’s President announced on 28 January the preparation of a formal request for a full United Nations peacekeeping mission.

**Funding**

The humanitarian community in CAR is requesting US$551.3 million to provide assistance to 1.9 million people in all sectors during 2014 as part of the revised CAR Strategic Response Plan (SRP). The revision builds on the initial SRP and the programmatic aspects of the 100-day plan for priority humanitarian action. As of 29 January, the SRP is funded at 11 per cent, with $60 million received. During the high-level meeting on 20 January in Brussels organized by OCHA and the European Commission on the humanitarian crisis, about $496 million was pledged, of which some $200 million will support humanitarian action in CAR.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS - http://fts.unocha.org) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

**Humanitarian response**

### Health

**Needs:**

- Provide health services to 878,000 targeted vulnerable people out of an estimated 2.4 million people who urgently need health services.
- Scale up the provision of basic health-service interventions by delivering free health care for affected people in priority areas, including essential medicines, safe blood and increased laboratory capacity.
- Reinforce the current early warning system in Bangui and expand it in the rest of the country to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases.
- Ensure efficient and rapid-response activities to confirmed disease outbreaks (measles in Bria, yellow fever in Ouaka and Oubam, whooping cough in Nana-Grebizi health prefectures).
- Complete a countrywide health-situation analysis to better support the health system’s early recovery by rehabilitating destroyed or damaged health facilities/infrastructures, and supporting the package of minimum activities for primary and secondary health care.

**Response:**

- The early warning system for disease surveillance established in Bangui and Ombella Mpoko is functional. It documented health consultations of 40,049 people between 27 December and 27 January.
- Preparations are ongoing to respond to the measles outbreak in Bria (north-east) and to a whooping-cough outbreak in Nana-Grebizi health prefectures.
- The measles-vaccination campaign launched on 3 January is ongoing in 70 IDP sites in Bangui. It has reached 129,087 children (6 months to 15 years). A total of 26,334 children under age 5 have also received the oral polio vaccination.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- A total of $4.5 million in funding is still required to support free health care in selected priority areas for three months. The same amount will also be required for the following months to ensure a smooth transition towards regular health-care services.
- Additional resources are required to ensure medical care for gender-based violence and chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis), and restoring/rehabilitating priority health facilities and areas.
- There is a lack of laboratory equipment for safe blood for transfusion in the country.

### Food Security

**Needs:**

- Almost 1.3 million people are food insecure and need emergency food distributions, particularly in the Bangui area and the north-west.
- Seed-distribution assistance is needed before the next maize-planting season.

**$180 million**

Required to provide food to 1.25 million targeted vulnerable people in 2014.
starting in early March (central and southern regions), and the sorghum- and millet-planting seasons, starting in May (north region).

- The lean season—the period between the end of food reserves and the next harvest—starts in February in several regions. Vulnerable farmers are greatly affected by input shortages and depletion of already inadequate productive assets. They urgently need greater support to avoid a deterioration of the food-security situation. The maize-planting season starts in March. Therefore, farmers need to start cleaning and preparing their land immediately in order to plant in a few weeks.

Response:

- In January, WFP and partners assisted nearly 200,000 people with 1,160 mts of food in Bangui, Bossangoa, Bouar and Bozoum. Of these people, nearly 51,500 were IDPs at the airport who received over 340 mts of food.
- WFP security and MISCA forces travelled to the Cameroon border last week to escort trucks to Bangui, despite insecurity along the routes. Ten of the 60 commercial trucks carrying WFP food reached Bangui on 27 January.
- Distributions of vegetables seeds and tools are ongoing in the outskirts of Bangui, enabling farmers to harvest in six to eight weeks to feed their families, supply markets and eventually generate extra income by selling their produce. FAO is procuring agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools in and around Bouar, Bossambélé and Bossangoa (Ouham and Ouham Pendé regions) to support at least 15,000 families for the next agriculture season.
- Security improvements are imperative to enable sufficient access to people in the provinces outside Bangui.

Gaps & Constraints:

- With 43 trucks still blocked at the Cameroon border, WFP will only be able to serve the most vulnerable people with half rations in February. To continue operations, WFP is preparing an airlift to move food between Douala and Bangui.
- Food pre-positioning in key locations during the dry season is critical while the roads remain accessible before the rainy season starts in April.
- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP will be unable to respond to the needs identified in the Emergency Operation and SRP after March 2014. Funding is urgently required to avoid cutting rations further or suspending assistance. WFP requires $1 million to reinforce the Food Security Cluster’s support, in collaboration with FAO, for six months.
- FAO has secured resources to assist 40,000 farming families, but $39 million is still required.

$74 million
Required to assist 2 million targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

Protection

Needs:

- Increased presence of humanitarian partners, civil societies and international forces in the north and south-west to provide protection.
- Provide information on people whose physical safety has been threatened by armed elements in the countryside of the north and south-west.
- Establish security conditions and basic services conducive to the return of IDPs in Bangui.
- Establish a comprehensive system in Bangui and other priority locations to identify, document, trace and reunify unaccompanied and separated children, and undertake public-awareness campaigns to prevent family separation.
- Strengthen and scale up the response to the psychosocial needs of children in Bangui and in priority locations outside the capital.

Response:

- UNICEF’s verification and release of boys and girls associated with armed forces and armed groups led to the release of 23 children. A total of 229 children have been released from armed groups since May 2013.
- Fifty-eight people under imminent life threat were evacuated from Bossambélé to a safer place in Bangui on 21 January, in coordination with the humanitarian community and international forces.
- A total of 30,800 third-country nationals have been evacuated with support from Governments in the region. IOM helped to evacuate 4,170 people on 14 flights to Chad, Mali, Niger and Sudan. The majority of the evacuees were women (60.1 per cent) and children (53 per cent), as well as several foreign patients who felt unsafe in hospitals due to their religious affiliation.
- Safe havens are being constructed in the 5th arrondissement. They will host returnees seeking refuge at night in case of a serious insecurity event.
- DRC trained 70 community members in social-cohesion and community-reconciliation activities in the 3rd and 4th arrondissement.
- Thirty child-protection focal points have been identified in Bangui IDP sites to identify, document, trace and support the reunification of unaccompanied and separated children.
- Through local partner Réseau des Journalistes de Droits de l'Homme, Save the Children and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster have undertaken community dialogues on basic psychological first-aid techniques and the prevention of family separation a crisis in four of the main IDP sites in Bangui. A free SMS system was set up for communities to report child-protection concerns to child-protection partners working in IDP sites.
- UNFPA trained 26 health-care providers and social workers on the minimum initial service package on sexual and reproductive health, and on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in emergency settings.
- Support to survivors of sexual violence continues.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Lack of information on people at risk and their situation due to absence of partners in the field.
- Lack of partners conducting social-cohesion and community-reconciliation activities outside Bangui.
- International forces’ limited capacity to deploy to an increasing number of protection incidents outside Bangui.
- Additional consular support from countries of origin will be needed in the coming days to provide identity and travel documents to stranded nationals.
- Lack of child-protection response interventions outside Bangui due to partners’ limited response capacity in the security environment.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Needs:**
- The WASH situation in the majority of IDP sites does not meet the required minimum SPHERE standards.
- Health monitoring indicates an increasing number of diarrhea cases among displaced people.

**Response:**
- Bangui: WASH partners are implementing a full WASH package in 32 per cent of IDP sites hosting 83 per cent of the IDP population. Other IDPs have received a partial WASH package.
- In the M’Poko airport IDP site (about 100,000 IDPs), an average of 3 litres of water per day per person is distributed. A latrine is available for 154 people.
- Bossangoa: In the Eveche IDP site (35,000 IDPs), partners including UNICEF are providing a ratio of 10 litres of water per person per day. The ratio for latrines is one for 39 people and one for 76 people per shower. In the Ecole Liberté IDP site (6,000 IDPs), partners are providing an average of 12 litres per day, one latrine for 46 people and one shower for 69 people. To improve the supply of drinking water, UNICEF plans to support CAR’s water-distribution company (SODECA) in order to connect the site to its distribution system.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Limited number of actors and capacities compared with the significant number of beneficiaries, especially outside Bangui.
- Limited space in IDP sites limits the possibility of emergency sanitation interventions.
- Water production and distribution capacity will continue to decrease with the dry season.

### Emergency shelter and NFI

**Needs:**
- Emergency shelter support and NFIs are needed within three months and before the rainy season to meet the needs of IDPs in urban and rural areas, including spontaneous and organized sites.
- Basic domestic household items are required to meet the needs of displaced families living with host families.
- Shelter repair kits are needed for families returning to their areas of origin.
Response:
- A total of 1,100 households have received 10,710 m² of community shelter since 1 January through ECHO DG funding. This project aims to assist 75,000 IDPs in Bangui. PU-AMI, ACTED and SOLIDARITES International are implementing the project.
- A total of 3,400 households received plastic sheeting at Bangui M’poko airport.
- IDPs in 26 sites in Bangui have received at least one NFI since 5 December.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The percentage of households assisted with shelter remains low, as 62 per cent of the total population of IDPs in Bangui are settled in 45 churches.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:
- MIRA identified communication with affected communities as a priority need for the 66 displacement sites in Bangui.
- CCCM actors must establish or support existing, representative communication and leadership structures in displacement and transit sites and involve all affected people, especially vulnerable ones.
- Coordination support is needed for humanitarian service providers working with the more than 500,000 IDPs seeking refuge in displacement and transit sites.
- Facilitate returns by disseminating effective information, and ensure that measures are in place for site closure. Ensure that peace and reconciliation, livelihoods, shelter and other required social-infrastructure measures are in place.

Response:
- CCCM actors are working with other clusters, with support from the CAR Red Cross Society, to facilitate the distribution of family ration cards at the M’Poko site.
- IOM’s IDP-intention survey of 587 site-resident IDPs living across 46 sites in Bangui indicates that return for site-resident IDPs is contingent upon security.
- The CCCM Cluster is engaging with site facilitators, displacement site actors and other CCCM stakeholders to provide capacity-building opportunities in communication, coordination and site-management activities in Bangui and Bossangoa.

Gaps & Constraints:
- There are few CCCM actors and reduced capacities to coordinate activities and monitor gaps at the site level.
- Limited funding means that communication and coordination at site level cannot be fully realized.
- Extremely limited space and planning in displacement sites restricts humanitarian interventions.

Nutrition

Needs:
- The Nutrition Cluster estimates that 28,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 75,500 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in 2014. Nutrition Cluster partners aim to treat 16,800 children suffering from SAM and 50,000 children suffering from MAM.
- An estimated 432,000 children are at risk of acute malnutrition in priority prefectures, and 23,000 pregnant and lactating women are at risk of acute malnutrition countrywide.
- Qualitative reports from priority prefectures of Ombella M’Poko, Ouham and Ouham Pende indicate high levels of vulnerability for returnees and ongoing displacements, which could affect the nutritional status of vulnerable people (children under age 5, pregnant and lactating women).
- The nutrition situation could deteriorate due to ongoing aggravating factors (displacement, poor food security, deteriorated access to clean water and sanitation, increased morbidity and lack of health-care services).

Response:
- Since the beginning of January, 43,834 children have been screened for malnutrition in Bangui’s IDP camps. Nutrition partners MSF-Belgium, MSF-Spain, IMC, ACF and MDM screened 36,118 children during measles-vaccination campaigns and 7,716 children through routine screening activities.
A total of 644 children are receiving treatment for SAM through Bangui's static OTP sites, and 198 children are receiving treatment for SAM through Bangui's mobile OTP sites. There are 109 children being treated for SAM with medical complications at the Bangui Pediatric Hospital's in-patient therapeutic programme, with support from ACF and UNICEF.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Insecurity along major road networks leading to Boar, Bocaranga and Kaga Bandoro is impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid, including nutrition commodities.
- Four OTPs in Bangui remain closed due to the crisis. To meet minimum nutritional needs in and around Bangui, partners must ensure that at least 80 per cent of nutrition services previously available in health facilities remain operational.
- There is a lack of activities in IDP sites addressing the protection, promotion and support of appropriate infant and young-child feeding in emergencies.

Education

Needs:
- Continued establishment of temporary safe-learning spaces in the sites (Espaces Temporaires d'Apprentissage et de Protection de l'Enfant - ETAPE) with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities and child-protection services.
- Continued distribution of emergency recreational, teaching and learning materials, and identification and training of teachers and facilitators within IDP sites.
- PSS services for children and teachers/facilitators (in coordination with Child Protection Sub-Cluster).
- Updated data on number of available teachers living in the sites and teachers ready to return to their community/home schools, as well as updated data on the state of education outside Bangui.

Response:
- Seventy out of 104 ETAPE structures have been established in 13 of the 20 selected sites.
- ECD care-giver trainings began on 27 January and will continue throughout the week. To date, 80 care-givers have been trained.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Limited access due to insecurity results in a lack of information/data outside Bangui.
- Limited number of education partners available for interventions outside Bangui.
- Population movements make it difficult to organize structured education and child-protection activities.

Logistics

Needs:
- Humanitarian organizations need secure and reliable road access to beneficiaries to maintain operations inside the country.
- Due to insecurity in the provinces and along the roads, air services have been deemed indispensable to support humanitarian operations by providing safe access for staff to project-implementation sites, and for transporting vital cargo internally and internationally.

Response:
- UNHAS has been providing air services to 65 organizations to 27 destinations within the country. An international route (Bangui – Douala – Bangui) was established to provide air services, as commercial flights are often unavailable.
- A Dash-8 aircraft with the capacity combination of 28 passengers and 1.5mts of cargo has served the international route since the beginning of January.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The security situation poses a logistical challenge, and transport alternatives are limited.
- A significant number of bridges and barges are out of service. The extent of their damages needs proper and detailed assessment for repair.
- Fuel is deemed not available in all regions and requires pre-positioned stocks and resupplying by road.

$33 million
Required to provide emergency education to 685,000 targeted vulnerable people out of 800,000 in 2014.

$10 million
Required to support emergency response in 2014.
• Adequate and safe storage facilities can be a bottleneck in Bangui and in the provinces. Security issues can affect the option of erecting mobile storage units.
• UNHAS activities face a shortfall of some $5 million for 2014.
• To increase support to the ETC and Logistics Clusters, $3.6 million is required.

**Emergency Telecommunications**

**Needs:**

- The Country Minimum Operating Security Standards (C-MOSS) requirements state that COMCENs need to be functioning 24/7 in all common operational areas. However, requirements are not met outside Bangui due to a lack of radio operators and the current security situation.

**Response:**

- The repeater has been refurbished. A solar panel, back-up power and switch-over have been installed.
- The ETC plans to pre-position equipment to Paoua, Zemio and Bouar in the next few days. The first lot of ICT equipment has been sent to Paoua.
- Assessment missions to Paoua, Zemio, Kaga-Bandoro and Bossangoa are scheduled for the coming days.
- Two VSATs are expected to arrive in country this week to provide data services at the WFP compound in Bambari. A spare VSAT will also arrive for an additional location based on needs on the ground.
- All ETC information is available at: http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictpr/emergencies2013/central-african-republic

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- The lack of secure compounds in some common operational locations prevents the installation of ETC equipment and deployment of services.
- Outside Bangui, the lack of radio operators and the security situation are hampering the fulfillment of the C-MOSS requirements for COMCENs. The ETC and UNDSS will look at starting the recruitment process for additional radio operators with UNDP.
- The ETC is critically underfunded.

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