Central African Republic Situation Report No. 16

This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 05 and 12 March 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 19 March 2014.

Highlights

- Security incidents against aid workers and assets have multiplied in the past months, jeopardizing ongoing life-saving operations. On 8 March an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff member was killed in Ndele, in northern CAR, while a Central African Red Cross Society volunteer was killed in Bangui on 9 March. Nine aid workers have been killed in attacks by armed militias since September 2013.

- Targeted violence against minority groups continues countrywide, including in Bangui. Over 20,000 people are besieged and threatened by armed militias in 18 different locations. The majority of them are calling for humanitarian assistance leaving these enclaves for safer areas in or outside the country.

- Humanitarian actors are scaling-up the response outside main towns; however underfunding of humanitarian action in CAR is seriously hampering the delivery of assistance to the 1.9 million people targeted by the Strategic Response Plan (SRP).

- The CAR transitional Government and partners last week launched the 2014-2015 Agricultural Campaign, which aims to restore productive assets by providing essential agricultural inputs, enabling crisis-hit farmers to produce their own food and take advantage of local opportunities.

| IDPs in CAR | Revised 2014 Strategic Response Plan requirements | Funding available (about $102.8 million) against the revised SRP | Population of CAR |
| 601,000 | $551 million | 19% | 4.6 million |
| 176,858 | Vulnerable people targeted by SRP for humanitarian aid | against the revised SRP | People who need assistance |

| Sources: OCHA, CMP, Protection Cluster and FTS |

Situation Overview

Acts of violence, lootings, carjacking and security incidents against aid workers and assets have multiplied in the past months jeopardizing ongoing life-saving operations. On 8 March, a staff member of the ICRC was killed in Ndele, in northern CAR, bringing to eight the total number of aid workers killed as a result of attacks by armed militias since September 2013.
In addition, insecurity and extreme violence targeting minority groups continues in many parts of the country, including in the capital, Bangui. According to the latest estimates by the Protection Cluster, over 20,000 people from minority communities are besieged and threatened by armed militias, including anti-balaka, in 18 different locations throughout the country. The majority of them are waiting to leave these enclaves for safer areas inside or outside of the country, mainly in Cameroon and Chad. In support of CAR authorities, the humanitarian community has developed a working plan that concentrates first in six priority sites identified in the south-western part of the country, including Bossangoa, Boda, Boboua, Godzi, Berberati, Carnot and PK12. For the humanitarian community, the relocation is considered a last resort solution.

As part of the efforts to defuse ongoing violence, especially by anti-balaka and ex-Seleka militia groups, the CAR Prime Minister organized a meeting on 6 March in Bangui with ministers and cabinets members from rival militias groups, anti-balaka and ex-Seleka for direct peace talks. Although they agreed to work with their respective groups for the restoration of peace, justice and rule of law, violence erupted in Bangui and Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran Province) just few days after the meeting.

Last week, the CAR transitional Government and partners officially launched the Agricultural Campaign for 2014-2015, a few weeks ahead of the rainy season. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and partners are now preparing the distributions of essential agricultural inputs to allow more than 75,000 vulnerable households with depleted stocks of seeds to “sow peace” and to restore their livelihoods. However, FAO and partners will require US$8 million starting in April, and the remaining $27 million by June 2014 to continue support to farming families, facilitate the return of IDPs, and enable the resumption of income-generating activities.

The number of internally displaced people in Bangui has decreased by 24 per cent in the past week, from 232,000 on 4 March to 176,858 on 11 March. The return movements in Bangui are linked to slight improvements in the security situation, the early arrival of the rainy season, and deteriorating living conditions in displacement sites. An estimated 601,000 people are still displaced across the country.

**Funding**

The humanitarian community in CAR needs $551.5 million to provide assistance to 1.9 million people during 2014 as part of the revised CAR SRP, but only 19 per cent has been disbursed or committed as of 13 March. Renewed support to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in 2014 has enabled a special allocation of nearly $5 million to multiple projects. Additional pledges made are urgently needed ahead of the rainy season, to support returns and to assist vulnerable groups.

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

$56.4 million

Required to assist 878,000 targeted vulnerable people out of 2.5 million who need urgent health care in 2014.

- $11.3 million (13.9% needs covered of total requirements)
- $45.1 million (remaining needs)

**Needs:**

- Ensure delivery of free life-saving health care to affected people in priority areas, taking into account the actual population movement.
• Prevent disease outbreaks by immunizing vulnerable children and by strengthening the early warning system and response in Bangui and the rest of the country.
• Conduct health-resource availability mapping (HeRAMS) to strengthen prioritization of services to restore.

Response:
• Over the past week, health partners conducted 18,146 medical consultations, 1,324 antenatal consultations and 172 deliveries (including nine cesarean sections) among IDPs in Bangui and Ombella Mpoko Province. Since the inception of the crisis response, sentinel sites have reported cumulatively 137,737 medical consultations, 11,868 antenatal consultations and 1,663 deliveries (including 73 cesarean sections).
• Delivery of free life-saving health care to affected people in IDP sites continues. In addition, mobile clinics are operating in several areas of the country, with support from NGOs and ICRC.
• The International Organization for Migration (IOM) mobile medical clinic is providing consultations at IDP sites. This week, the IOM mobile medical clinic conducted 536 consultations at six IDP sites.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Lack of staff in public health facilities and shortage of operational partners (mainly due to the financial gap) are the main constraints in scaling-up health services outside Bangui.
• Funding is required to support free health care in selected priority areas for the next three months.
• Insecurity is hampering health services delivery and health information management.
• Shortages of HIV and hepatitis reagents, antiretroviral medicines (ARVs), rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) and malaria treatments were reported in Nana-Mambere Province.

Food Security

$180 million
Required to provide food to 1.25 million targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

- $38.5 million (21% of total requirements)
- $141.5 million (remaining needs)

Needs:
• An expansion of nutrition and food assistance is needed to respond to alarming malnutrition levels among isolated IDPs, who have remained stranded by violence in certain urban sites, particularly in Bangui and surrounding areas.
• As agriculture provides the main source of livelihood and income, it is crucial to respond to the urgent needs of farmers affected by the conflict, whose vulnerability continues to rise and who have been unable to resume food production in rural areas.

Response:
• As of 10 March, 40,176 people were assisted with 310 tons of food. The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to expand its assistance to reach remote or isolated areas where pockets of vulnerable people affected by violence have sought refuge.
• WFP is rolling out its blanket feeding program in all current operational areas. Nutrients are distributed during the general food distribution to maximize coverage and to reach children at risk of malnutrition.
• On 7 March, WFP completed the airlift of 1,816 tons of food via the Douala-Bangui route.
• FAO and partners are preparing the distributions of essential agricultural inputs to allow more than 75,000 vulnerable households with depleted stocks of seeds to “sow peace” and restore their livelihoods.
• IOM staff distributed food for 10 days at the Military Airport Transit Site on 6 March to around 350 people.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Insecurity and threats of violence in most sites are still preventing the provision of sustainable assistance and the prepositioning of food ahead of the May-November planting season.
• With only 35 per cent of financial requirements funded, WFP’s emergency operation is facing severe pipeline breaks. Additional commitments of $70 million are urgently required to sustain operations until the end of August.
• FAO and partners require $8 million to provide families with seeds and tools for the upcoming campaign, which starts in April. By June 2014, FAO aims to mobilize the remaining $27 million to continue support to farming families, facilitate the return of IDPs and enable the resumption of income-generating activities.
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Protection

$74 million

Required to assist 2 million targeted vulnerable people in need in 2014.
- $5.4 million (7% needs covered of total requirements)
- $68.6 million (remaining needs)

Needs:

- Provide immediate and adequate life-saving protection to over 20,000 Muslim populations besieged and threatened in 18 locations throughout the country by armed militias.
- Respond to the protection needs of children, including an estimated 6,000 children associated with armed groups and forces, unaccompanied children and separated children, especially those facing complications in joining family members already relocated outside the country.
- Reinforce the presence of humanitarian partners, civil society and state representatives, and international forces in north and south-western CAR to provide protection by presence, assistance and security.
- Establish conditions conducive to voluntary return for IDPs in certain areas of the country, including Bangui, and multiply mediation and peaceful coexistence initiatives in hostile environments.
- Develop a strategy to approach armed elements, which are currently assuming the roles of local authorities, especially in remote rural areas and in various displacement sites.
- Reinforce multi-sector response efforts prioritizing medical and psychosocial response services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), including improving access to the referencing system across the country, especially in IDP sites.

Response:

- The Protection Cluster continues permanent interaction with military, political and humanitarian actors to improve the protection of affected people.
- The Protection Cluster has finalized the registration of people besieged in PK12 and in Bossangoa. The Protection Cluster, in partnership with other clusters, is concentrating efforts to assist people at risk in six priority sites identified in south-western CAR, including Bossangoa, Boda, Boboua, Godzi, Berberati, Carnot and Pk12. Fields missions are being conducted to assess potential relocation sites in the country.
- Since 5 December 2014, child protection responders have identified 578 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), of whom 556 are in Bangui – and verification efforts continue. A total of 406 UASC have been reunited with their families. Follow-up and verification continues for 631 UASC in Bossangoa and 17 UASC in Bouar, who were identified before December.
- The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, has launched a professional training project for vulnerable children, including children who have been released from armed forces and armed groups in Bangui. A total of 121 children – of whom 41 are girls and 80 boys – had the opportunity to choose from a range of trainings, including: agriculture, brick-laying, carpentry, auto mechanics, hairdressing, dressmaking, and animal husbandry.
- Medical and psychosocial support services for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors and GBV prevention information/sensitization are available daily in 19 IDP sites and in two districts in Bangui. Outside Bangui, medical and psychosocial support services, referral pathway and GBV prevention information/sensitization are available in 29 locations.
- IOM completed bulk registration of third-country nationals at the Central Mosque displacement site. A total of 2,506 people were registered, claiming 21 different nationalities. The majority are from Chad (1,557), Senegal (257), Cameroon (236), Central Africa (159) and Mali (155). IOM has evacuated a total of 6,153 third-country nationals from CAR to their home countries.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The capacity to accurately identify, document, trace and reunify children who have been separated from their families continues to be stretched due to the limited numbers of child protection responders, particularly in remote areas outside of Bangui.
- With the resumption of the Country Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (1612) Task Force, there is a need for additional Human Rights Officers with the capacity to document grave violations against children’s rights.
• There is a lack of partners conducting social cohesion and community reconciliation activities outside of Bangui.
• There is limited capacity among the international forces to deploy outside of Bangui, amid an increasing number of protection incidents.
• Insecurity is hampering protection activities in many locations, including in Bangui.
• Chronic underfinancing of GBV programming prohibits the scale-up of GBV programmes to provide response services in all high-risk locations.

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

$27.5 million
Required to provide WASH services to 900,000 targeted vulnerable people in 2014.

- $6.5 million (24% of total requirements)
- $21 million (remaining needs)

Needs:
• Need to continue improving access to water, basic sanitation services and hygiene practices for 900,000 affected people.
• WASH situations in the majority of the IDP sites still do not meet the required minimum standards.
• Extension of WASH response to cover the needs of returnees following a significant decrease in the number of IDPs.
• Need to scale-up the response and presence of WASH actors in rural areas.

Response:

Bossangoa
• The WASH Cluster continues to provide daily and sanitation assistance to the remaining 11,200 IDPs, of whom 10,000 are in the Evêché IDP site, and 1,200 are in the Liberté IDP site. In Evêche IDP site, the number of latrines was reduced following a drastic decrease in IDP numbers. However, in the Liberté IDP site, all WASH services are maintained. The water production by the CAR Water Distribution Company (SODECA) is currently maintained at 300 m$^3$ per day.

Bangui
• In the Airport IDP site, the improvement of WASH services continues. According to current estimates, each IDP receives an average 7.1 liters of water per day. There is now one latrine per 60 people and one shower per 279 people.
• WASH Cluster partners are providing water, sanitation and hygiene support to 300 Mauritanian citizens who arrived last weekend from Bria, Boda and from insecure neighborhoods of Bangui.

Bouar
• UNICEF is supporting the CAR Water Distribution Company (SODECA) in rehabilitating the water production and distribution system. Around 126 m$^3$ are produced daily for a population of 10,000 people. The operation is very challenging due to leaks in the distribution network.
• Mercy Corps, through an agreement with UNICEF, repaired five water points that would benefit approximately 2,500 people.
• More than 470 Fulani from Carnot and Berberati assisted with WASH items while in transit at the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) base in Bouar before heading to Cameroon.

Bambari
• Forty-five thousand people will have access to clean water following the launch of chlorination activities in 28 traditional wells in Bambari by the NGO Triangle.

Kaga-Bandoro
• WASH activities in Nana Gribizi Prefecture and in Kaga-Bandoro badly are affected by insecurity. UNICEF is conducting an evaluation of the current needs in Kaga-Bandoro and its surrounding areas. Three thousand IDPs in the Catholic mission benefited from non-food items (NFI) and sanitation services by Caritas, with UNICEF support.
Gaps & Constraints:
- Lack of funding to continue existing activities and to implement new activities.
- Security concerns affect implementation and monitoring activities in Bangui and on different road axes.
- Limited space in displacement sites limits emergency sanitation interventions.

Multi-sector assistance to refugees

$19.3 million
Required to assist refugees in CAR in 2014.
- $12.6 million (65% needs covered of total requirements)
- $6.7 million (remaining needs)

Needs:
- Find solutions for refugees that are under imminent threat and who cannot return to their home country or stay in CAR.
- Provide basic services (education, health) for the more than 4,000 urban refugees living in Bangui and those living in camps (2,000 refugees in Bambari, 3,200 refugees in Zémio and 6,000 in Batalimo).
- Help refugees who have lost their livelihoods or been threatened to become self-reliant.

Response:
- The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) carried out a preparatory mission to Batalimo. Meetings were held with the refugee committee, national Government counterpart and implementing partners International Medical Corps (IMC) and COOPI.
- UNHCR carried out an evaluation of the Catholic Mission in Bangui, where 28 refugees have sought shelter following the escalation of violence in Bangui. A few cases requiring individual assistance were identified. As further follow-up, UNHCR will be meeting with the Sisters to ascertain if any additional support is needed. In addition to shelter, the Sisters have been assisting with food.

Gaps & Constraints:
- UNHCR continues to approach countries requesting exceptional assistance to relocate a few hundred refugees and asylum seekers who are facing immediate protection risks in CAR and cannot repatriate to their home countries.
- Some refugees need shelter assistance. UNHCR is approaching IDPs to see if they could accommodate refugees in IDPs sites. At the height of the crisis, IDPs were against co-habitation with refugees in the sites.
- Additional funding is needed to support voluntary repatriation of refugees.

Nutrition

$22 million
Required to provide nutrition services to 361,011 targeted vulnerable people out of 628,000 in 2014.
- $1.6 million (7% needs of total requirements)
- $20.4 million (remaining needs)

Needs:
- Around 75,500 children will suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in 2014, and 28,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Of these, 16,800 are in need of treatment. This number could rise, given ongoing aggravating factors (displacement, poor food security, deteriorated access to clean water and sanitation, increased morbidity and lack of health care services) and the start of the rainy season/hunger gap.
- An estimated 159,000 children under five years old are in need of highly nutritious foods. A consistent and adequately funded pipeline is needed to prevent a deterioration of nutritional status during the rainy season.
Response:

- Since 1 January 2014, a total of 3,743 children have been admitted for treatment of SAM in CAR. This represents 72 per cent of the 100-day plan target (5,200 children with SAM).
- Since 1 January 2014, a total of 51,721 children have been reached with highly nutritious food via WFP’s integrated General Food Distribution-Blanket Feeding Strategy in Bangui, Bossangoa (Ouham Province) and Bouar (Ouham-Pende Province).
- Since 1 January 2014, a total of 69,506 children have been screened for malnutrition in CAR. 1,776 severely malnourished children (2.6 per cent) and 2,549 moderately malnourished (3.7 per cent) children were detected and were treated through on-site mobile out-patient therapeutic programs (OTP) or referred for treatment to existing health structures with OTP and supplementary feeding program (SFP) components.
- Through the Nutrition Cluster, UNICEF organized on-the-job training for 12 staff working in Kaga Bandoro Hospital and surrounding health facilities on community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Coverage of health centres with CMAM services remains low in priority prefectures, including Ombella M’Poko, Nana-Gribizi, Vakaga, Ouham, Nana-Mambere, Kemo, Mambere-Kadei, Ouham Pende, Ouaka and Basse Kotto.
- CMAM coverage needs to be urgently scaled-up before the rainy season to ensure equitable access to screening and treatment activities for all acutely malnourished children.
- Limited funding for nutrition activities is compromising the delivery of life-saving nutrition activities, both for prevention and treatment of malnutrition.
- Access to food in certain IDP sites remains challenging, which will impact the nutritional status of IDPs, especially the most vulnerable (children under five and pregnant and lactating women).
- There is a lack of activities in IDP sites addressing the protection, promotion and support of appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies, which is a life-saving intervention.

Education

$33 million
Required to provide emergency education to 350,000 targeted vulnerable people out of 400,000 in 2014.
- 0% needs covered of total requirements
- $33 million (100% remaining needs)

Needs:

- Establish temporary Safe Learning Spaces (ETAPEs) in IDP sites with age-sensitive educational and recreational activities and child-protection services, especially outside of Bangui.
- Provide 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)

Response:

- ACTED completed construction of a primary school with three classrooms in Zémio as well as a pre-school equipped with a bore-hole and a training center for women. Fifteen parents’ association leaders and 47 community teachers (36 for public schools and 11 for semi-public schools) were newly formed in accordance with the standards defined by the Ministry of National Education. Sixty school-in-a-box kits and textbooks were also distributed to 15 schools.
- School furniture was distributed to 35 schools in Bozoum, with 14,000 pupils benefitting. Incentives were also provided to 236 community teachers by CARITAS Bouar.
- Thirty-six persons (26 teachers, seven preschool coaches, two education managers, one abbot) in Boali were trained on ETAPE management and skills to provide psychological support to children suffering from crisis-related trauma.
- UNICEF distributed 108 school-in-a-box kits to three schools (Benz-vi, Lakouanga and Saint Paul Filles) that re-opened on 5 March in Bangui.
Gaps & Constraints:

- Security access is limiting movement, resulting in a lack of information/data outside of Bangui.
- Limited number of education partners are available for interventions outside of Bangui.
- Population movement is making the organization of structured education and child-protection activities difficult.

Livelihood/Community Stabilization Cluster

$60 million

Required to provide assistance to 2.4 million targeted vulnerable people out of 3 million in 2014.
- $1 million (2% needs of total requirements)
- $59 million (remaining needs)

Needs

- Start community-healing activities to restore social cohesion and reduce community tensions across the country.
- Support community initiatives to revive local economies and create temporary jobs, mainly for youths.
- Improve the coordination of actors working on peace and social cohesion to ensure that key messages and tools contribute to stabilizing communities and promoting mutual acceptance.
- Mobilize more resources to support civil society and public administration, including the rehabilitation of services related to local community governance and the restoration of social ties, citizenship and respect for public property.

Response:

- IOM initiated a cash-for-work street cleaning project in the 3rd Arrondissement on 3 March with local youths. The 50 youths are organized into five supervised, mixed teams (Christian and Muslim, men and women). The goal is to build and strengthen social cohesion and support the local economy. Youths appreciate the employment and the opportunity to work together for peace.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Funding is insufficient to create temporary employment for youths (cash for work), to support income-generating activities, and to support community efforts to reduce tensions. The restoration of social cohesion remains an imperative to facilitate operations throughout the country.
- Insecurity does not allow actors to easily reach all areas of intervention in and outside Bangui.

Logistics

$10.2 million

Required to support emergency response in 2014.
- $3.2 million (31% of total requirements)
- $7 million (remaining needs)

Response:

- The Logistic Cluster coordinated the departure of two trucks from Bangui to Kaga Bandoro (for UNICEF and the World Health Organization) on 8 March.
- Coordination on upcoming movements has been requested by partners; the plan has been updated and shared.
- Three UNICEF trucks carrying NFIs departed from Bangui on 9 March to Kabo for Solidarites.
• The results of the Operational Overview covering January and February 2014 have been released.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Poor infrastructure and insecurity along the main roads remain a logistical challenge hampering transportation as well as rehabilitation opportunities.
• A significant number of bridges and barges are damaged and in need of repair.
• Fuel shortages are not uncommon and necessitate pre-positioned stocks and resupplying by road.

Emergency Telecommunications

$1.9 million
Required to support humanitarian response in 2014
42 per cent of needs covered out of total requirements

Needs:

• Establish functioning, permanent (24/7) communication centres (COMCENs) in all common operational areas, as per the Country Minimum Operating Security Standards (C-MOSS) requirements.

Response:

• The Radio Room in Bossangoa is now operational. Repeater Channels 3 and 5 are available: staff radio checks over VHF were performed on 10 and 11 March. Contact with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) radio room over HF was established several times, and vehicles on mission in Bossangoa and surroundings can now be tracked. The Local Security Advisor will be acting as radio operator until the dedicated staff is deployed. The next planned deployment is in Bouar.
• NGOs can contact the Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) team or UNDSS to request assistance in using the dedicated NGO radio channel 11.
• The ETC plans to deploy critical information communications technology (ICT) services in seven common operational areas, namely Bambari, Kaga Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, Ndélé, Paoua and Bouar.
• 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 is critically underfunded. Logistics and ETC need $6.8 million to sustain their operations.