



## Central African Republic Update #6 17 to 24 January

### [1] Operational Highlights

- **Emergency Voluntary Repatriation:** on 18 January 2014, in a joint effort with IOM, UNHCR **repatriated 201 Chadian refugees** who decided to voluntary repatriate. On 16 January 3 Sudanese refugees repatriated. The refugees feared for their security due to the inter-communal violence against and between Muslims and Christians. UNHCR is currently preparing the voluntary repatriation of Congolese Refugees.
- **Protection Monitoring:** during the reporting period, UNHCR undertook Protection Monitoring Missions around Bossongoa and to Bozoum, Boali and the axe Batalimo-Bangui. The situation in the Northwest of the country remains extremely tense with pockets of groups whose long-term security is at risk. UNHCR with the Protection Cluster is closely monitoring these groups and liaising with appropriate political and security actors.
- **Evacuation:** On 21 January, in coordination with the broader humanitarian community and the international forces, UNHCR on an emergency basis evacuated 58 persons who were under imminent life threat in the town of Bossambélé located in the North-West of CAR. **A Web Story has been published on this:** <http://www.unhcr.org/52e24b0c6.html>
- **Activation of the Sub-Cluster of Bossangoa:** on 19 January, the sub-national cluster of shelter and NFI was activated in Bossangoa. The first meeting took place on the 20 January. Additionally, UNHCR's presence has been reinforced during the reporting period.
- **NFI-Food Joint distribution continues** at the M'Poko Airport Site in cooperation with the Italian NGO COOPI and WFP.



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>IDPs in the Central African Republic</b>  | <b>922,000</b>  |
| <b>IDPs in Bangui</b>  | <b>496,731</b>  |
|  | <b>Ouham</b>  |
| <b>Prefectures affected by displacement covered by UNHCR protection monitoring</b> | <b>Ouham<br/>Pende<br/>Ombella<br/>Mpoko<br/>Lobaye</b> |
| <b>IDP households assisted with a standard NFI kit in 2014<sup>1</sup></b>         | <b>9,411</b>  |
| <b>Number of refugees repatriated in 2014</b>                                      | <b>204</b>  |
| <b>2014 funding level for the operation</b>  | <b>0%</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> A standard NFI kit includes a sleeping mat, a blanket, a jerrycan or bucket, mosquito domes and 400g. of soap. In December 2013, 4,600 IDP households were provided with NFIs and shelter in IDP sites in Bangui and in Bossangoa.

For further information, please contact:

## [2] Overview of the Operation

### People of Concern to UNHCR

#### Internally Displaced in CAR



#### Refugees in CAR

##### Refugee/Asylum-Seeker Countries of Origin in CAR

| Country of Origin | Population    |
|-------------------|---------------|
| DRC               | 12,546        |
| Sudan             | 2,683*        |
| Chad              | 1,862*        |
| OTHERS            | 552           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>17,865</b> |

\*Numbers have reduced due to recent repatriations.

## Budget

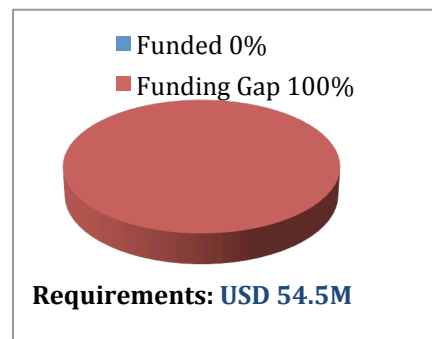
#### Budget and Projections

**Total budget** USD 54,501,573

**Recorded contributions** USD 0

**Funding level (including firm proj.)** 0%

#### 2014 Funding for the Operation



## Donors

### List of Donors 2014

| Donor | Amount (USD) | Earmarking            |
|-------|--------------|-----------------------|
| CERF* | 871,935      | Shelter               |
| CERF* | 450,032      | Protection Monitoring |

\* These two CERF contributions were provided for 2013, but are being implemented in 2014.

#### USAID Visit

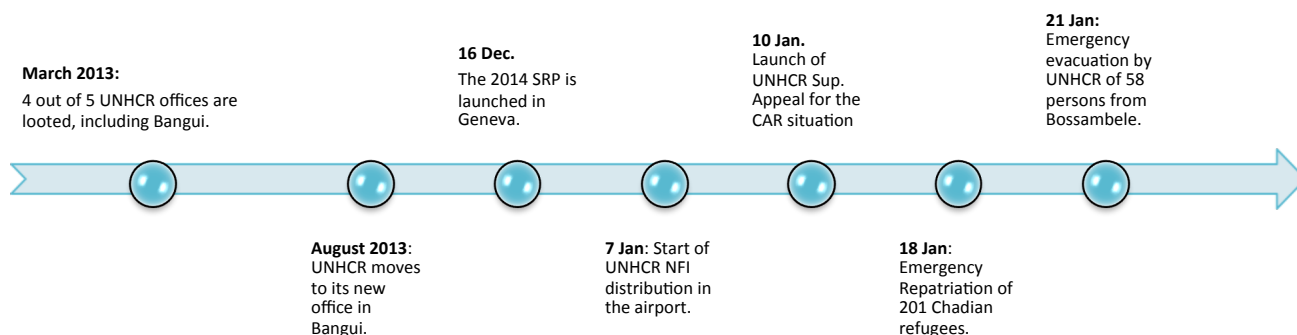
On the 17 January 2014, the USAID Assistant Administrator for USAID, Nancy Lindborg visited the joint UNHCR-WFP distribution of NFI and food within M'Poko Airport in Bangui. The distribution at the site is an inter-agency effort involving UNHCR, WFP and its implementing partner COOPI. UNHCR acts as the lead of the CCCM cluster and is the designated coordinator of multi-sector assistance at the Airport IDP Site.

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### [3] Major Developments

#### Timeline of major UNHCR actions in CAR between 2013 and 2014



### [4] Update per Sector



## Protection

### Bangui: Emergency Voluntary Repatriation of Urban Refugees

On 19 January 2014, in a joint effort with IOM, UNHCR repatriated 201 urban refugees to N'Djamena, Chad. This was first repatriation of urban refugees since the start of the crisis. The refugees, composed of a majority of Muslim households, explained that they feared for their security since December 2013 when the situation spiraled into sectarian violence against and between Muslim and Christian civilians in the capital. Some individuals who chose to repatriate were already living outside of their address of usual residency in order to protect themselves from deliberate acts of violence, which have been mostly directed against Muslims in recent weeks. The emergency repatriation operation involved community sensitization, registration of those interested, pre-departure medical screening in order to identify refugees with medical conditions, as well as transport to the airport. Once arrived in Chad, they received cash grants in order to facilitate their re-integration.



### Upcoming Repatriations of Congolese Refugees

- ➔ UNHCR CAR has already registered Congolese refugees residing in Bangui who are willing to repatriate back to the DRC.
- ➔ A UNHCR team is currently in the camp of Batalimo in the South-West of the CAR, registering refugees interested in repatriating.

**B.Ntwari/UNHCR**

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## Protection Cluster

➤ Protection Monitoring and various other protection related activities have found the following:

1. **Limits of international force:** Although the presence of MISCA and Sangaris helps to reduce tensions and provide security, events during the week demonstrated its limits. In situation such as Bossambebe (where UNHCR evacuated 58 individuals) and Boali (where 550 Muslims civilians have taken refuge in a church), international forces can only realistically provide temporary security in view of the broader security needs in the country. Political interventions are critical to co-existence, which is essential to the long-term protection of displaced civilian population.
2. **Worsening situations in North-West:** In many cities where the Seleka has left or has been disarmed, various Muslim civilians have suffered targeted attacks from Anti-Balaka elements as well as individual and mob violence. This seems to be happening at the same time that Christian civilians, previously displaced by the Séléka, are exploring the possibility of returning to their villages. Situations such as these are occurring in: Bozoum, Bocaranga, Bouar, Carnot, Bosemptele, Bosembele, Bouali and Mbaiki. In these situations, special protection measures to ensure the safety of targeted populations as peaceful co-existence seems elusive.
3. **Improving situation in Bangui:** The protection cluster has met with various authorities, including Mayors of Arrondissements and *chefs de quartiers* in Bangui in order to accompany the process of securing and revitalizing neighborhoods. The strategy is to ensure that these neighborhoods are, in some ways, "claimed back" by pre-crisis residents. Presently many "looters" have seized the opportunity of seeing empty neighborhoods to loot. Humanitarian agencies are also examining how to occupy idle youth, so that they do not feel lured to participate in the looting. Although the situation has improved, situation still remains quite tense in the neighborhoods of Miskine, 3<sup>rd</sup> arrondissement, parts of the 5<sup>th</sup> arrondissement and 7<sup>th</sup> arrondissement.
4. **Limited returns:** although first returns have been reported in villages around Bozoum (see special highlight), it is important that this process is accompanied by urgent humanitarian assistance such as distribution of NFIs and basic shelter material to restore houses which were partly burnt or destroyed. Spontaneous returns are also taking place in some *arrondissements* of Bangui and the start of returns has also been witnessed in Bossangoa. However, the situation is still precarious in terms of security and no massive return is yet expected particularly outside of Bangui.
5. **Rainy season: outside of Bangui** the challenge with the limited returns is that should the displaced persons take time to return, they will miss the opportunity of preparing their fields before the rainy season, which could leave them dependent on humanitarian assistance for many more months. FAO is currently working on providing seeds to the returnees.
6. **5<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement Pilot Project:** The protection cluster has been very engaged in the Pilot Project for the 5<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement during the reporting period. The plan is to create a first zone followed by two zones in the neighborhoods where a total of 3,000 persons can spend the night rather than returning to the IDP sites such as the Mpoko airport and accompany the revitalization of the arrondissements through humanitarian assistance in the quartier rather than in the IDP sites. These zones will be secured by international forces.

### Bossangoa

- **IDP Rights and Return Capacity Building to local actors:** On Wednesday 15 January, UNHCR provided a training on IDP rights and durable solutions and return. The training was attended by local authorities (Mayor of Bossangoa; *Sous-Prefet* among others) NGOs (COOPI and Caritas), military actors (Sangaris, MISCA) and other UN Agencies (WFP, UNDSS, UNICEF).
- The UNHCR team undertook **rapid protection evaluation** in three villages (**Bongoto, Zere, Bombgonda Lando**) in the North-West. Thanks to this evaluation, assistance has already been delivered in Zere.

### Evacuations of Civilians from Bossambebe

On 21 January 2014, UNHCR, upon the request of the Protection Cluster and in consultation with the broader

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humanitarian community and the international forces, undertook an emergency evacuation of 58 persons who were under imminent life threat in the town of Bossambélé, which is three hours northwest of Bangui. The evacuated group was composed mostly of Muslim women and children of the Fullah ethnicity. A local pastor and the Central African Republic Red Cross had sheltered them in Bossambele providing temporary protection from Anti-Balaka, individual and mob violence as well as armed thugs. The Protection Cluster was informed of the situation by the ICRC who liaised with UNHCR on the matter. The agency then carefully evaluated the situation and, as a **measure of last resort**, decided to evacuate the families as they were under imminent threat to their security.

The evacuation lasted three hours. Two UNHCR trucks carried the 58 civilians to a mosque in the capital that had agreed to receive them. They were provided with NFI and were medically screened by MSF. UNHCR teams have undertaken protection interviews on the second to evaluate the needs of the evacuees.

For more information, please read our web story on this issue “**Emergency evacuation from a crucible of violence**” → link: <http://www.unhcr.org/52e24b0c6.html>



## Site Coordination and Site Management

Lead: UNHCR | Co-Facilitator: IOM

- The NGO *Premiere Urgence-AMI* has been identified by UNHCR for the M'Poko airport site to coordinate humanitarian resources, avoid duplication of activities, and improve communication with those seeking refuge in the site.
- The CCCM Cluster is working closely with the “*Commission de Mouvements de Population*” to develop a harmonized method for data collection by facilitators. Data collected in IDP sites contain basic information that will help establish a profile of the population with specific data on vulnerabilities and return possibilities.
- UNHCR has deployed **CCCM Capacity Building** staff in order to reinforce capacities of NGOs working on the ground in activities relating to CCCM.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

- **First CCM Meeting (14 Jan):** the CCCM Cluster held its first meeting on Tuesday, 14 January. NGOs that participated in the meetings included CRS, DRC, IRC, MSF-B, PU-AMI. From the UN, UNHCR, WFP and IOM participated. Discussions included the presentation of the **revision of the SRP**, which was used as an opportunity to include the CCCM cluster in the plan (see below for more information on the CCCM SRP plan).
- **Site facilitators:** IOM, as site facilitator has set up 41 site facilitators, who are tasked with visiting the sites on a daily basis to gather information.
- **New Site Managers:** Don Bosco, and Fateb IDP sites have received new site managers.
- **CCCM Activities in Bossangoa:** capacity building of site actors and supports to leadership structures and communication with affected populations through CRS.
- **3W Matrix:** the CCCM cluster is preparing a 3W Matrix (Who does What Where) of life-saving and management actors for displacement sites in Bangui and Sites Profiles for each of the sites.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

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# Central African Republic Emergency

External Update #6 17 to 24 Jan, 2013



Lead: UNHCR | Co-Facilitator: ACTED

- In view of increasing the response provided in terms of NFIs, both UNHCR and UNICEF are increasing their stocks locally by organizing chartered airlifts.
- **Seven planes** loaded with vehicles, non-food items and shelters from UNHCR warehouses in Accra, Douala, Dubai and Nairobi arrived in Bangui since 29 December. Last one arrived on the 22 January.

| Summary of UNHCR NFI and Shelter Assistance for IDPs since 5 December |                             |                     |   |                               |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Assistance per Item   |                             | Assistance per Site |   |                               |
| Item  | Number of items distributed | Site                |   | Number of households assisted |
| Plastic sheeting  | 7,843                       | BANGUI              | Archbishop/Saint Paul                       | 4,000                         |
| Blankets  | 17,565                      |                     | Mt. Carmel                                  | 500                           |
| Sleeping mats   | 25,794                      |                     | Airport                                     | 9,411                         |
| Mosquito domes  | 19,255                      |                     | FOMAC/Lazaristes                            | 600                           |
| Tents   | 125                         |                     | St. Jean de Gabaladja and St. CharlesLwanga | 4,000                         |
| Flannel rolls   | 4                           |                     | Saint Bernard                               | 3,000                         |
| Towels  | 1,000                       |                     | St. Joseph de Mukasa                        | 12                            |
| Underwear   | 309                         |                     | Boy Rabe Monastery                          | NA (community tents)          |
| Jerrycans   | 13,511                      |                     | Cameroun, DRC and Senegal Embassies         | NA (community tents)          |
| Buckets   | 11,224                      |                     | St. Sauveur                                 | 533                           |
| Sanitary Napkins  | 3,750                       | BOSSANGO            | École Liberté and Archbishop                | 3,750                         |
| Soap  | 18,822                      |                     |   |                               |
| Kitchen Sets  | 533                         |                     |   |                               |

## Distribution of full NFI kits:

Since 7 January, UNHCR distributed NFIs (covers, mosquito domes, sleeping mats, jerry cans, soap and buckets) to some **7,830 households** at the Airport Site, representing an estimated 50,000 individuals.

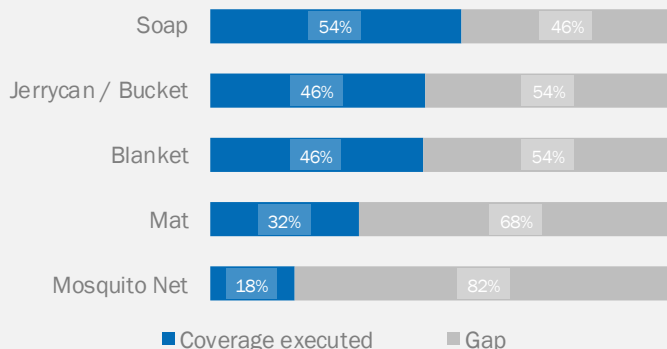
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## Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster

- **Activation of the Sub-Cluster of Bossangoa:** on 19 January, the sub-national cluster of shelter and NFI was activated in Bossangoa. The first meeting took place on the 20 January.
- **Assessment Mission of UNICEF/OCHA/UNHCR:** during the reporting period, UNHCR/OCHA/UNICEF undertook a field mission assessment on the Bossangoa Nana-Bakassa axis. In total, eight villages were evaluated. The team found that
  - On average only 20% of the villages' population were present during the evaluation, the rest have been displaced.
  - Many public infrastructures were destroyed, including hospitals, schools and people's homes. In all villages, UNHCR met with both Muslim and Christian communities.
  - UNHCR also noted the presence of some initial returns.
- **Food Assistance blocked at Cameroon / CAR border:** Large number of trucks (more than 400) carrying assistance that was destined for the M'Poko Airport site are blocked at the border. Negotiations with border authorities and concerted actions between WFP, OCHA CivMIL, MISCA and Sangaris might lead to the set up of an escort to be sent to help all trucks to reach Bangui as soon as possible once the border opens.

| Day   | 16/01 | 17/01 | 18/01 | 22/01 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Teams   | 6     | 5     | 3     | 4     |
| NFI Distributed   | 1,091 | 900   | 390   | 490   |
| This analysis demonstrates the direct relationship between the number of team distributing ration cards and the number of NFI distributed to households. An estimated 155 families are served per team. |       |       |       |       |



**Dashboard of NFI distributed:** As noted in the previous Sitrep, the Cluster has developed a dashboard on shelter and NFIs assistance in CAR that will be updated on a weekly basis. Find a sample (left) of the distribution situation as of today. **This document can also be found on our webportal.**

## [5] UNHCR Capacity in CAR

### UNHCR Staff in CAR

| Location | National Staff | International Staff |           | Total | - Deployment of <b>24 additional staff</b> since December, including 5 Senior staff;<br>- Creation of <b>71 additional positions</b> within the supplementary budget if funding allows;<br>- Strengthening of three Clusters with the deployment of <b>Cluster Coordinators</b> for the <b>Protection, Shelter</b> |
|----------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|--|
|          |                | Staff International | Emergency |       |  |
| Bangui   | 21             | 6                   | 24        | 51    |  |
| Bambari  |                |                     |           |       |  |

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# Central African Republic Emergency

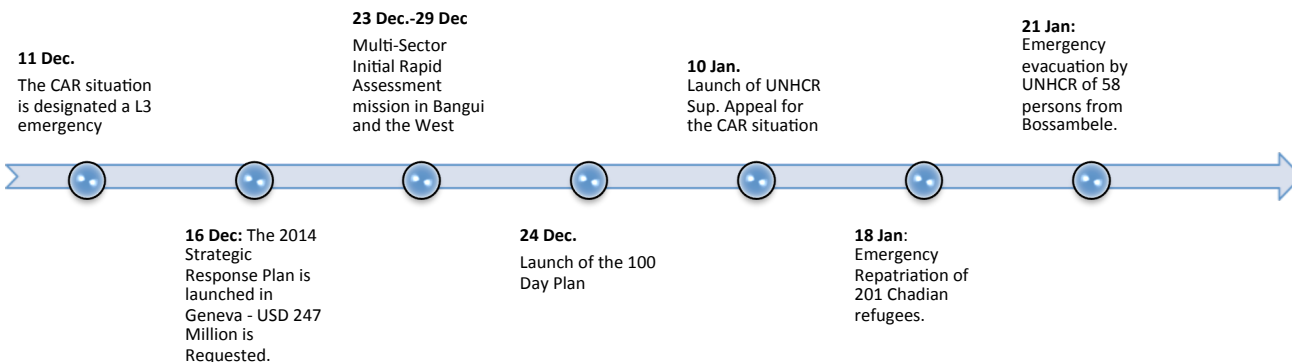
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|                     |           |          |           |           |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Bossangoa</b>    | 2         |          |           | 2         |
| <b>Kaga Bandoro</b> |           |          |           |           |
| <b>Paoua</b>        | 4         | 1        |           | 5         |
| <b>Zémio</b>        | 6         | 1        |           | 7         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>33</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>65</b> |

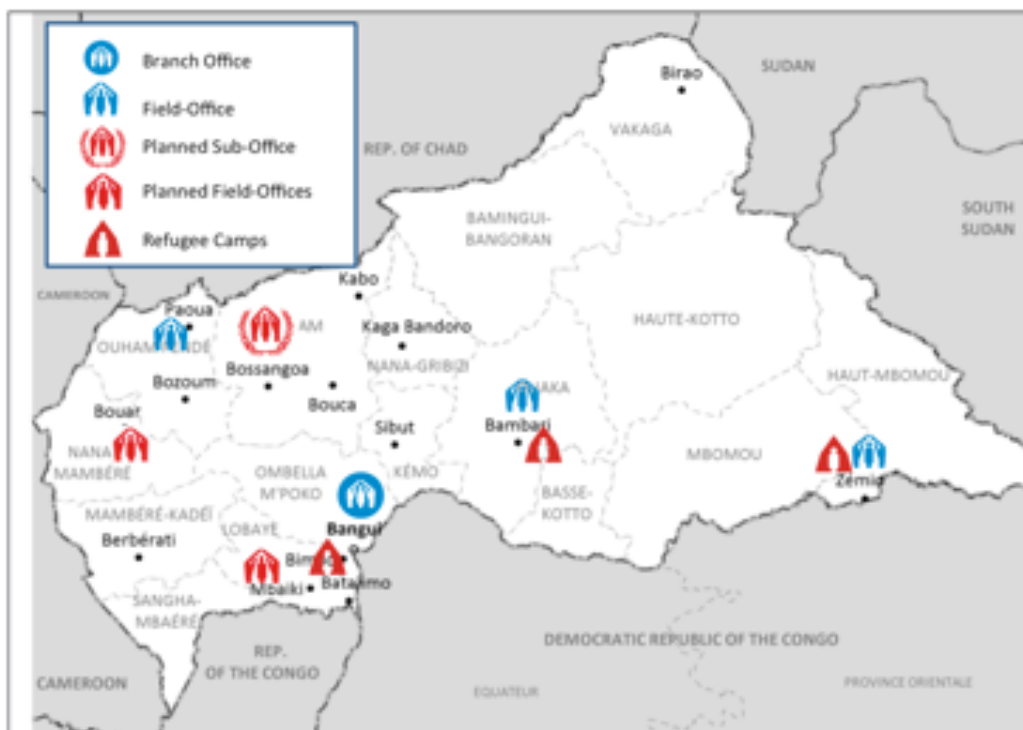
and NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters in addition to 8 support staffs dedicated to these three Clusters;

- **Sub-Office of Bossongoa:** UNHCR CAR is ready to properly establish the Sub-Office in order to reinforce UNHCR's presence in this location.

## Timeline of major humanitarian developments in CAR between 2013 and 2014



## UNHCR presence in CAR



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