

Annual Results Report

2023

Central African Republic

Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

[Contact us](#)

www.unhcr.org

Downloaded date: 31/05/2024

Table of Contents

Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, the Central African Republic (CAR) experienced positive and challenging developments across political, legal, security, social, and economic domains. The humanitarian crisis persisted, impacting 3.4 million people, approximately 56% of the population, including forcibly displaced people, people at risk of statelessness, and host communities. The ongoing conflict in Sudan since April 2023, displaced 25,000 refugees, primarily women and children, to seek refuge in CAR, while over 31,700 Chadian asylum seekers fled inter-communal conflicts to Ouham Prefecture. UNHCR assisted 4,017 Central African returnees from 11 African countries returning to CAR. These changes significantly altered the demographics of displaced populations, affecting UNHCR's operation. Gender dynamics heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), necessitating comprehensive support services. A significant proportion of forcibly displaced people were children and youth, and the age distribution remained skewed, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions. Political stability improved in major cities and villages, though rural areas faced persistent instability due to conflicts among armed groups. Legal challenges persisted, with slow progress on citizenship and statelessness issues due to bureaucratic hurdles and resource constraints. Economically, disruptions in the global supply chain and high fuel prices worsened the fragile situation, leading to inflation and shortages. The government's decision to raise fuel prices further strained vulnerable communities, increasing their reliance on aid. UNHCR adjusted its operation to address evolving needs, providing protection, healthcare, shelter, and GBV prevention. However, challenges like limited access in conflict zones, logistical issues, and funding shortages persisted, hampering UNHCR's capacity. Despite obstacles, UNHCR collaborated with the government, partners, and communities to deliver assistance and protection services.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2023, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees enjoy their rights in line with national, regional and international legal instruments

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.00%	87.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	84.00%

The fundamentals of international protection in CAR are very solid. CAR has acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 OUA Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. CAR passed a national asylum law of 2007 (n 07.019). The law offers various rights to refugees under the same conditions as nationals, particularly in accessing work, education, justice, documentation, and freedom of movement. In August 2023, the government issued an *arrêté* granting Prima Facie Refugee Status to Sudanese following the Sudan crisis. There have been no documented reports of refoulement from CAR. The Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés, national entity responsible for the reception and registration of refugees, plays a pivotal role in assuring protection for refugees/asylum seekers and undertakes refugee status determination and issue documentation. About 87% of individuals seeking international protection were provided access to asylum procedures.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2023, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnee communities are empowered, live in safe environments with reduced risk of gender-based violence, and have access to basic services and camp coordination and camp management

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	37.00%	35.00%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.00%	17.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	57.59%	53.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Returnees	55.00%	55.00%

In 2023, humanitarian actors doubled efforts to respond to the most critical needs of Forcibly Displaced Persons. Unfortunately, financial, and operational constraints limited the impact of these efforts. Generally, no progress has been made in improving the poverty level. In particular, the complex economic and security situation, coupled with the sudden multiplication of the number of Refugees and Asylum seekers (from Sudan and Chad), worsened the already dire humanitarian environment in the country. Access to basic facilities deteriorated by 2% for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and by 8% for Refugees and Asylum seekers. Similarly, access to health care for refugees regressed by 5% (from an estimated 58% initially to 53% at the end of 2023). UNHCR assisted some 14,450 IDPs in 2023 with access to core relief items (compared to 25,245 individuals in 2022). In the same period, UNHCR shelter activities benefitted 16,063 IDPs, compared to 20,145 individuals in 2022. Regarding basic needs for Refugees and Asylum seekers,

UNHCR assisted 2,186 Refugee children to access education, including 1,285 children who arrived in Central African Republic because of the Sudan Emergency. Some 2,062 emergency shelters were constructed for 3,503 refugees in Birao (Korsi) and Asylum seekers in Paoua (Betoko) areas, in addition to 225 latrines and showers. Regarding access to potable water, three boreholes were drilled, established, and equipped to provide more than 14 litres per day per person to 21,816 Sudan refugees and Tchad asylum seekers in Birao and Paoua. In 2023, access to health care was provided to 32,927 refugees and asylum seekers. No avoidable death was registered among the refugee populations who arrived during the emergency. However, vulnerabilities of Forcibly Displaced Persons worsened in 2023 due to lack of sustainable self-reliance opportunities and viable durable solutions.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2023, refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities achieve durable solutions, improve access to self-reliance & social protection in an environment free from the risk of statelessness

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,609	4,012
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3	0
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

The return of refugees to CAR continued, with 4,017 returnees being assisted by UNHCR in 2023 (28.5% less than in 2022, when UNHCR facilitated the return of 5,612 persons). The majority came from the DRC (2,323 – 60 per cent) and Cameroon (1,658 – 40 per cent). In addition, 10,318 individuals have returned in adverse circumstances due to the conflict situations in Sudan and Chad. In total, since the start of repatriation in 2017, 36,667 Central Africans have returned with the support of UNHCR (mainly from DRC - 16,174 persons, from the Republic of Congo - 10,509 persons and 9,325 from Cameroun, representing respectively 44%, 29% and 25% of the total number of returnees recorded. With enhanced collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and other stakeholders, UNHCR CAR in 2023 strengthened its catalytic role in implementing UNHCR's IDP Policy (2019) and the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. Access to durable housing and safe settlements that adhere to local practices and environmental considerations continued to be prioritized. To support the sustainability of these solutions, UNHCR has initiated a regional policy dialogue between CAR, Cameroon, Chad, the Republic of Congo (RoC), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, and South Sudan to galvanize political commitment and advocacy for solutions for forcibly displaced Central African people. The Central African Republic Solutions Support Platform (CAR-SSP) was launched in October 2023 to provide action-driven support to returns and create efficient and effective synergies with government signatories of the Yaoundé Declaration of April 2022. The platform's launch marks the beginning of a new era of sub-regional and international cooperation based on the principles of partnership, mutual support, and innovation for the well-being of displaced Central Africans.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Central African Republic	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
Central African Republic	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Central African Republic	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%
Central African Republic	3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.70%	36.00%
Central African Republic	3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.59%	21.00%
Central African Republic	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	63.00%	63.00%
Central African Republic	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75.00%	70.00%
Central African Republic	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Returnees	77.00%	76.00%

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Despite the existing national legal framework, its application has been weak. Restrictions on freedom of movement are a persistent challenge for populations in CAR, including refugees. Refugees cannot travel freely using their refugee documentation. Their documentations are not consistently recognized by the police and other state authorities or by financial institutions, including the banks. There have been reports of refugees being stopped at checkpoints, detained, or subjected to ad hoc fines. UNHCR is currently engaged in broad-based advocacy with the government and major stakeholders to ensure the rights of all refugees are respected. In principle, refugees have access to justice in areas where judicial services are available, but this is not the case for many refugees. Majority do not have the financial means and physical proximity to access CAR's judicial system and pursue administrative procedures, especially those in rural areas. In the context of the absence of social services, Refugees, Internally Displaced and other Forcibly Displaced in CAR have no access to social safety nets. Access to essential services, including health care, domestic needs, water, sanitation, and shelter, is seriously restricted. At the end of 2023, one over 5 Central Africans remain internally displaced or refugee in neighboring countries. According to OCHA, humanitarian assistance did not sufficiently cover the vital needs of the 3.4 million most vulnerable persons in 2023 (about 55% of the country's population). Gaps remain in all critical sectors of assistance due to financial constraints. With the arrival of forcibly displaced persons from Sudan and Chad, UNHCR's financial requirements increased from 76 to 105 million USD, of which UNHCR received only 38%.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

As Protection lead in a mixed situation context with simultaneous refugee emergencies, UNHCR remained one of the main actors in CAR's interagency and humanitarian family in 2023. In addition to leading two clusters – Protection and CCCM/NFI- (through two Senior Cluster Coordinators provided by UNHCR) UNHCR coordinated along with the Government (Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés - CNR) the response to the two Refugee Situations (Chad and Soudan). From the outset of the two crises, UNHCR deployed staff to the field in Birao and Paoua regions and established coordination mechanisms in these locations and Bangui. Regarding the Sudan Emergency, UNHCR actively contributed to the development of the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) along with other affected countries (Sudan, South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Chad) and the ensuing supplementary programming, which facilitated protection and assistance activities for some 26,421 people in forced displacement (21,720 refugees and 4,701 forced CAR returnees). UNHCR's led coordination forum in Birao brought together 12 organizations (UN and NGOs), of which five were UNHCR partners and seven were operational partners. Concerning the Chad situation, UNHCR and the CNR developed a Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP), with the participation of 13 UN agencies and NGOs. Along with the Government, UNHCR organized the Level-1 registration of some 38,014 persons (31,779 Asylum seekers and 6,235 forced Central African returnees). Finally, UNHCR's coordination role continued to support the UNCT, the HCT and the SMT through its two led Clusters, participated in Working Groups and actively contributed to humanitarian initiatives under the overall leadership of the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator. In 2023, UNHCR was an active member of the UN-led Programme Management Team (PMT), the Operations Management Team and the Durable Solutions Working Group, the Commission de Mouvement de Populations (CMP), the Localization Task Force, the Access Working Group and the GBV Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Favorable protection environment

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	100.00%	38.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	85.00%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	38.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Government of CAR has traditionally maintained an open-door policy towards refugees and asylum seekers, the vast majority of whom come from neighboring countries. Protection monitoring is an ongoing exercise conducted by UNHCR and its partners because of the frequent cross-border movements and repeated protection incidents. The fundamentals of international protection in CAR remain strong, and the Government ensures refugees have access to territory, asylum procedures and assistance. Registration is jointly conducted by the Government through CNR based on a UNHCR-CNR Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2014. Registration activities, including pre-registration, biometric registration, and continued registration of (births, deaths, separation, and reunification) were carried out in all locations hosting refugees and asylum seekers in 2023. Fifty-three thousand six hundred and one (5,3601) refugees, and asylum seekers were registered in 2023, and 13,932 enrolled biometrically. The refugees and Asylum seekers community are composed of various nationalities. They are Chadians (33,660 or 51 per cent), Sudanese (21,844 or 33 per cent), Congolese DR (6,686 or 10 per cent), South Sudanese (2,787 or 4 per cent), Rwandans (233 or 0.4 per cent) and other nationalities (230 or 0,35 per cent). Most of the refugees and asylum seekers (95 per cent) live in rural areas, notably in the Korsi Site (3,009), in 53 villages of Ouham-Pende (31,965), Obo camp (2,265), in Tokokota site (3,770), in the town of Obo (1,302), in villages of the Bamingui Bangoran prefecture in Ndele (2,401), in localities of San Ouandja (2,626), and Bambari (1,329). The rest of the refugee population lives in urban areas in Bangui and Ombella Mpoko (2,598).

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Implementation of the national plan on eradication of statelessness

Protection sensitive national legal framework

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

CAR has made several commitments in the following framework: 1. Declaration of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on the Eradication of Statelessness in the Great Lakes Region; 2. Eight commitments during the October 2019 High-Level Segment on the

Eradication of Statelessness; 3. Commitments during the Global Forum on Refugees (GRF), which reflect those made at the High-Level Segment and Solemn reiteration in December 2023 GRF, by the government, committing to adhere to the two conventions on statelessness. Among the significant achievements, are the adoption of the National Action Plan to eradicate statelessness, concrete steps towards the accession to the two UN Statelessness Conventions of 1954 and 1961. The draft Bill has been validated by the Council of Ministers and pending action from the national assembly. Other significant milestones include the appointment of a government focal point for statelessness, the creation of the National Committee to Combat Statelessness, and joint missions between UNHCR and this Committee to improve access to birth registration procedures in localities of return, promulgation of a child protection law (16/06/2020): which extends the duration of birth declaration from one month to six months free of charge, the adopted plan of action to end statelessness. In 2010, CAR ratified as the first African State the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Despite this legal framework, indigenous peoples face significant obstacles to enjoying the rights set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. CAR has committed to acceding to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Throughout 2023, UNHCR carried out numerous actions to remind the Central African government of its commitment.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

PoC Communities capacitated to address GBV and respond

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	45.00%	60.00%	50.00%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.00%	85.00%	75.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%	85.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	90.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	90.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	IDPs	30.00%	60.00%	35.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	60.00%	40.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Returnees	30.00%	60.00%	35.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Over a decade of conflict and the continued presence of armed groups (AGs) in areas in the northeast and west of CAR continue to cause population displacements, placing women and girls at heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). According to the GBVIMS, between January and June 2023, over 17,200 survivors of GBV were recorded, including 36% of rape (96% of women and girls), 21% of physical assaults and 21% of psychological violence. SGBV was the most reported incident during protection monitoring conducted by UNHCR and its partners. In collaboration with its partners INTERSOS, Fin Church Aid and COOPI, UNHCR has continued to implement its specialized programs for the prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV, including the management of GBV survivors, in line with the Minimum Standards on GBV and UNHCR's Policy. In 2023, UNHCR funded the activities of 25 "Listening Centers" (Centres d'Ecoute) in 12 prefectures located in the country's central, eastern, and western regions

and a free helpline in Bangui. UNHCR's partners managed these Centers, and documented 6,462 survivors of GBV in 2023, for which survivors received assistance. Regarding prevention and mitigation of the risks of GBV, 2,657 community awareness-raising sessions on GBV reached 28,3172 people, including 19,4379 women and 12,717 men. A total of 286 community training sessions reached 1,2504 people, including 2,262 girls, 1,011 boys, 4,256 women and 4,004 men. Some 58 safety audits, 264 discussion groups and 318 individual interviews involving 2,051 people (1,014 women and 1,037 men) were organized in UNHCR's areas of operation to assess the risks faced by women and girls, to improve people's safety and well-being considerably. As part of the holistic response to survivors of GBV, care pathways have been set up both in the field and in Bangui. They are being disseminated to communities during prevention activities. Through these Centers and the Ma Mbi Si toll-free helpline, 100% of GBV survivors received support to protect or promote their psychosocial well-being; 41% of cases of rape and physical assault (a total of 4010) documented in 2023 were referred to medical services for treatment. About 65% of cases affecting children documented in 2023 (1,597) were referred to child protection agencies for specialized support; 1,295 survivors of GBV received financial assistance from UNHCR for transport costs, medical expenses, or food; 2,249 dignity kits, 778 hygiene kits and 219 NFI kits were distributed. Regular satisfaction surveys show that while most people are satisfied with the psychosocial support services, some are not very satisfied with the financial and material support provided in the Centers and lament the lack of economic recovery activities for survivors.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Community-based reintegration for returnees

Stronger and secure communities of people of concern

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	IDPs	28.00%	29.00%	21.00%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.00%	53.00%	53.00%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Returnees	40.00%	55.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	16.00%	20.00%	16.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	25.00%	21.00%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	IDPs	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Returnees	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Extensive: ≥ 70 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR ensured that the views of women, girls, boys, and men are considered in its interventions. Regular exchanges were held with the people. Several group discussions and individual interviews were organised. Similarly, community structures, protection committees, and self-management structures were created or revitalized at IDP sites or refugee villages. Seven hundred and thirty-five (735) community relays and protection committees were revitalised and trained. Regarding communication and transparency, information, and awareness-raising sessions with critical messages on existing services were organised with communities in the field, including eligibility and selection criteria for the programs implemented. In Bria and Kaga Bandoro, as part of implementing the Humanitarian Fund project to help IDPs from sites to return home, meetings were held with IDPs to inform them of the project, the selection criteria, and the assistance package. Well before the launch of the project, consultations were organised with the IDPs to consider their priorities regarding return assistance. In terms of feedback and response, complaint management mechanisms were set up in the field offices and Bangui through the provision of free hotlines, the installation of physical complaint boxes, particularly in Listening Centers, IDP sites and refugee villages, an electronic box in Bangui, as well as referral and complaint management offices. A mobile complaints collection mechanism was also set up at specific sites. An Information and Feedback Centre (CIF) has been set up at the Korsi site for Sudanese refugees. Sixty-two discussion sessions on the accountability mechanism were organised with refugees. Seven hundred and fifty-three (753) complaints were received, recorded, and shared with the relevant stakeholders. Around 94% of these complaints resulted in a response from the stakeholders concerned. One hundred and twenty-six (126) feedback meetings were organised to discuss the satisfaction/dissatisfaction of people assisted and to resolve conflicts between beneficiaries and stakeholders.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

People of concern's well-being improves

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	30.00%	40.00%	32.00%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.00%	52.00%	35.00%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Returnees	20.00%	30.00%	30.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	2.00%	0.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR stepped up its programs to respond to the combined Chad and Sudan emergencies and its regular activities targeting refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees elsewhere in the country. Regarding refugees, UNHCR provided emergency and vital assistance to 21,720 refugees from Sudan (in 11 different locations), including hot meals, access to healthcare, water and sanitation, emergency shelter, and essential domestic items, which saved lives. A site was planned and established in Bira (KORSI), which received relocated refugees. As of December 2023, the KORSI village accommodated 2,866 refugees (1,484 households) and constructed 641 emergency shelters and infrastructure, including a health centre, 189 latrines/showers and two boreholes providing 14 litres of potable water per day per person. Children-friendly spaces were created in KORSI settlement, benefitting 390 children (52% of whom were girls). UNHCR assisted the education system in integrating 275 refugee children who benefitted from

education assistance. In the same period, some 31,779 asylum seekers from Chad who arrived in the Ouham, Ouham Pende and Lim Pende prefectures were assisted by UNHCR. As of December 2023, 672 individuals (236 households) were accommodated in the BETOKO village; all were provided with health care, food, shelter, water, and essential domestic items. Four hundred and seventy-seven (470) children of these asylum seekers were helped to be accommodated in existing schools (230 girls and 217 boys). Some 562 emergency shelters were constructed on the Betoko site, and 293 NFI kits were distributed to the Chad Asylum seekers. A borehole has been constructed by UNHCR, providing 13.000 litres of potable water per day to the inhabitants of Betoko settlement. The village's healthcare response has been strengthened to cater to asylum seekers and host communities' health needs. As of December 2023, 2,233 curative consultations were organised, of which 948 involved children under five. During the same period, UNHCR continued to help Urban and Rural refugees in other parts of the country, including vital assistance to refugees living with special needs, education for children, non-food items and food security for refugees in the remote location of Obo. In the same period, UNHCR programs benefitted vulnerable IDPs; 14,450 individuals received critical core relief items, and 16,060 received UNHCR shelter kits. Some 2,826 IDP women received dignity (hygiene kits). Finally, 4,012 returnees received return assistance through Cash-Based interventions.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Improved access to self-reliance for refugees and returnees

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.00%	20.00%	7.00%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.50%	50.00%	80.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Central African Republic is a fragile country. The drivers of fragility include a lack of social cohesion, the concentration of political power, social and regional disparities, the capture and mismanagement of natural resources by the elite and persistent insecurity fueled by a regional system of conflicts. Refugees are, on average, more financially secured than IDPs: 12% have a mobile money account (v. 2% for IDPs), 7% have a micro-finance account (v. 0% for IDPs), and 1% have a bank account (v. 0% for IDPs). Moreover, before displacement, 2% of the target population had an e-money account, 1% had a micro-finance account, and 3% had a bank account. Very little money circulates within the target population, and cash is preferred over electronic transfers by 68% because it is more accessible than agent networks in an unstable security context. Returnees in CAR have the right to legal residence, primary health care, basic education, and work. However, in practice, they face protection risks in accessing these rights. There are also gaps in accessing specialized medical facilities and limited access to employment. Access to secondary and tertiary education and professional training is limited. There is a high rate of school dropouts owing to early pregnancy and child marriages. Furthermore, refugee women face protection risks associated with survival sex and competition for scarce resources such as water, wood fuel and cultivatable land (in the rural context), and refugee children face protection risks including child labour, early and forced marriages, teen pregnancy, and gender-based violence (GBV). Refugees have access to civil status documentation, however, obtaining accurate civil documentation within a reasonable timeframe has remained challenging for the refugee population.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Safe and dignified repatriation of Central African refugees

Viable durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Returnees	5.00%	10.00%	5.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

CAR refugees: UNHCR supports CAR refugees who decide to return on a voluntary and informed basis and provides return assistance to support a safe, dignified return and their sustainable reintegration in return areas. Around 664,225 CAR refugees are still displaced in the region, while 36,672 have been repatriated with UNHCR support since 2017, and 10,318 returned in adverse circumstances from Chad and Sudan. UNHCR facilitates the voluntary, safe, and dignified returns of CAR refugees. In 2023, UNHCR supported the return of 4,012 CAR refugees through the Voluntary Repatriation programme. It continues to monitor and support an additional 15,000 returnees who returned to CAR independently, either in adverse circumstances or voluntarily without seeking UNHCR support. IDPs: Through joint action by the Working Group on Durable Solutions, displaced persons in 3 localities (Bria, Bambari and Kaga Bandoro) were supported. UNICEF assisted with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection activities in the areas of return. UNHCR assisted with protection monitoring via its implementing partner. IOM and UNDP supported income-generating activities for returnee households in Bambari and Bria. In Bambari 355 IDP households (1,775 individuals) returned to Pladama Ouaka (10 Km from Bambari). In Bria 4,368 IDP households (22,546 individuals) were targeted from CAR's largest IDP site. Plots of land for about 2,600 IDP households have already been identified in the neighbourhoods of return, and they are expected to leave the sites soon. Each IDP household is assisted with construction materials and equipment to rebuild their houses destroyed during the 2017/2018 events. In Kaga Bandoro, 1,500 IDPs were relocated to their areas of origin. The Humanitarian Fund (HF), through a reserve allocation, financed three projects on durable solutions. The three projects to be implemented during six months started in 2023 and are all ongoing.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In line with UNHCR's Age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy, the operation in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2023 constituted multifunctional teams (MFT) in all areas of responsibility at country and field office levels to ensure programming for the People we Serve is aligned to the multifunctionality approach. The MFTs were comprised of UNHCR male and female staff of different age groups and nationalities, as well as national and international staff from different sectors, in accordance with diversity and inclusion. The operation ensured that MFTs had clear roles and responsibilities in designing, programming, implementing, monitoring, coordinating, reporting and evaluating programs based on the office's operational strategies. MFTs were regularly trained in the basic concepts of UNHCR programme and protection, including the participatory approach based on age, gender and diversity.

With the help of the national and locally based MFTs, UNHCR worked across the Operation's Management Cycle in its three phases (PLAN, GET and SHOW) to ensure protection, assistance and durable solutions needs of the People we Serve in the Central African Republic were responded to, in full respect of AGD

principles.

In 2023, most collected information (qualitative and quantitative) was disaggregated by age, sex, and diversity. UNHCR and partners conducted protection monitoring during which all incidents were registered based on age, sex, and diversity to improve the quality of analysis in the protection environment. To identify women, men, boys, and girls with specific needs, UNHCR conducted vulnerability screening based on age, sex, and diversity to inform targeted programming and particular interventions for the most vulnerable. UNHCR dashboards in 2023 for Registration presented results disaggregated by sex and age. All assistance distributions by UNHCR in 2023 targeted beneficiaries were AGD sensitive to ensure maximum results and impacts on the People we Serve.

Refugees and other People forced to flee, according to their age, sex and diversity, were involved in decision-making on issues that are of concern to them, especially during assessment missions or participatory assessments. Participatory methodologies were applied to enable Forcibly Displaced Persons to take part in identifying priorities and planning and implementing appropriate protection, assistance, and solutions programmes. A Complaint Mechanism is already in place, and Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons can voice their complaints through different channels. Complaint boxes were also set up to confidentially report fraud, corruption or cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

Section 3: Resources

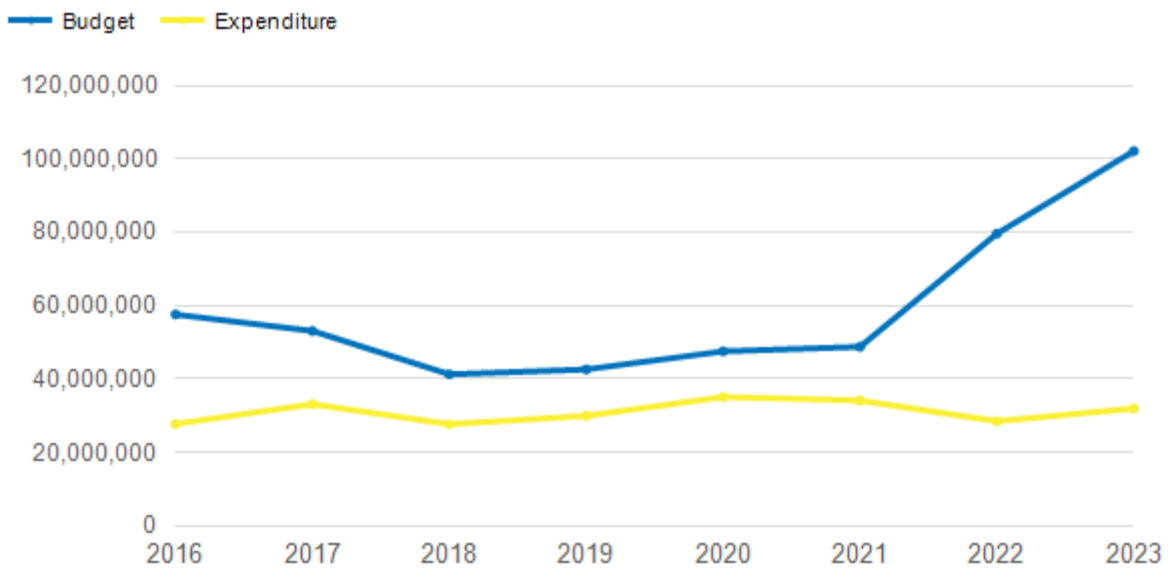
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

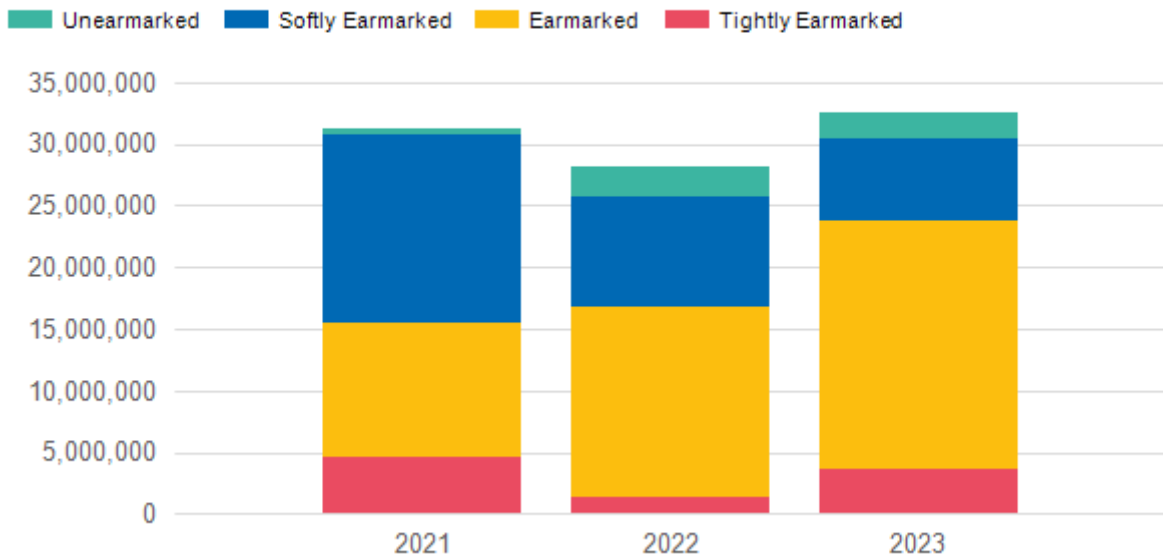
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	10,452,081	5,011,946	47.95%	5,011,946	100.00%
IA2: Assist	53,106,657	16,360,787	30.81%	16,360,787	100.00%
IA4: Solve	38,529,768	10,584,061	27.47%	10,584,061	100.00%
All Impact Areas		785,657			
Total	102,088,506	32,742,451	32.07%	31,956,794	97.60%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	9,525,482	4,718,492	49.54%	4,718,492	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	1,755,002	330,954	18.86%	330,954	100.00%
OA4: GBV	6,795,709	2,255,062	33.18%	2,255,062	100.00%
OA7: Community	20,382,936	4,835,583	23.72%	4,835,583	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	35,581,875	9,545,816	26.83%	9,545,816	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	8,104,496	1,472,259	18.17%	1,472,259	100.00%
OA14: Return	9,799,483	4,683,012	47.79%	4,683,012	100.00%
EA18: Support	10,143,523	4,115,617	40.57%	4,115,617	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		785,657			
Total	102,088,506	32,742,451	32.07%	31,956,794	97.60%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2023, the operation started with an overall budget of US\$ 87 million, of which US\$ 59 million represented the Operational component, US\$ 8 million for Administrative needs and US\$ 20 million for Staffing support. The initial prioritised budget represented only 30 % of global needs (US\$ 26 million). Over the year following the Sudan and Chad influxes, financial requirements increased by 19% to reach US\$ 102 million. Despite the increased needs of the Forcibly Displaced Needs (an increase of the number of refugees by 400%), the operation concluded the year with a prioritised budget representing 36% of total needs (US\$ 37 million over US\$ 102 million total budget). UNHCR worked with nine partner organisations (2 Governmental entities, one national NGO and six international NGOs), providing Protection (Refugee Status

Determination, Documentation, Registration, Protection Monitoring in displacement and return areas, gender-based violence (GBV) and response), assistance (WASH, health care, education, primary and domestic needs, and food security) and supported durable solutions (mainly voluntary repatriation of Refugees and IDPs). The Staffing component of the budget was reduced by 32% compared to the previous year. This led to the radical review of the office structures, closing 3 Field Offices effective 1st April 2023. However, soon after the closure, the office in Paoua was re-opened following the influx of asylum seekers from Tchad. In addition, a new office was opened in Birao after the declaration of an L1 Emergency and its escalation to L2 in response to the influx of refugees from Sudan. The operation concluded in 2023 with 7 field offices representing Bangui with a staffing capacity of 140 staff members supported by ten affiliated staff members. The operation also received various emergency response teams (ERT) deployments from the start of the emergency until the end of the year. The administrative budget was managed by maintaining austerity measures to reduce the time spent using generators in all offices. In addition, the admin vehicle float was downsized by relocating six vehicles to the partners and selling other vehicles in an auction without replacement.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2023, additional peace and security were restored to cover more territories within the Central African Republic. For the first time in many years, the number of people in need of critical humanitarian assistance has reduced to a figure below 2 million people. Despite notable progress that has been made on the security and humanitarian fronts, the Central African Republic, in many regards, continues to be a challenging operation.

Analysis of the 2023 Strategy has shown that there is a need to strengthen advocacy with donors, development players and other humanitarian actors. The need to set up early warning mechanisms has been underlined, in addition to leveraging the achievements of other actors to ensure the sustainability of actions for the People we Serve. In that regard, it may be necessary to lobby the Government, MINUSCA and the UNDSS to facilitate access to beneficiaries in difficult-to-reach locations where Refugees have settled.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

www.unhcr.org