

Central African Republic (CAR) Situation

30 April 2021

Thousands of Central African still seeking safety and assistance in Chad

During the last two weeks, nearly 4,300 new Central African refugees have been registered in Chad. The movements result from ongoing clashes in the northern region of CAR between the Central African government armed forces, supported by their allies, and the armed group Coalition of Patriots for Change.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees in DRC, meets President and Central African refugees

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees met with President Felix Tshisekedi of DRC in Kinshasa on 22 April to discuss the forced displacement situation in the country. He also met with newly arrived refugees from CAR in northern DRC and praised local communities for sharing their homes and limited resources with them.

Over 370,000 children internally displaced within CAR

In the Central African Republic, nearly 370,000 children are now internally displaced amidst ongoing violence, the highest number since 2014. UNICEF warns large-scale population displacement leaves children at heightened risk of grave child rights violations, including recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups.

KEY INDICATORS

164,381*

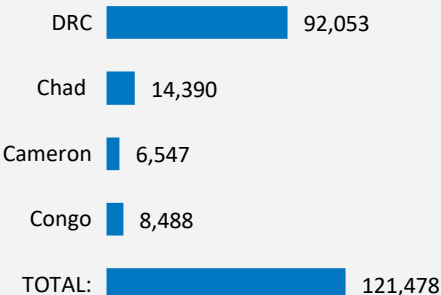
Total number of new Internally Displaced Persons in CAR since the beginning of the electoral crisis.

121,478 **

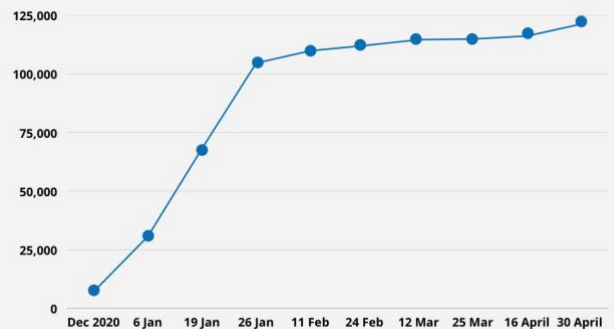
People that have fled CAR to Cameroon, Republic of the Congo (RoC), Chad and Democratic Republic of the Congo DRC since the beginning of the electoral crisis, as of 30 April 2021.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY COUNTRY

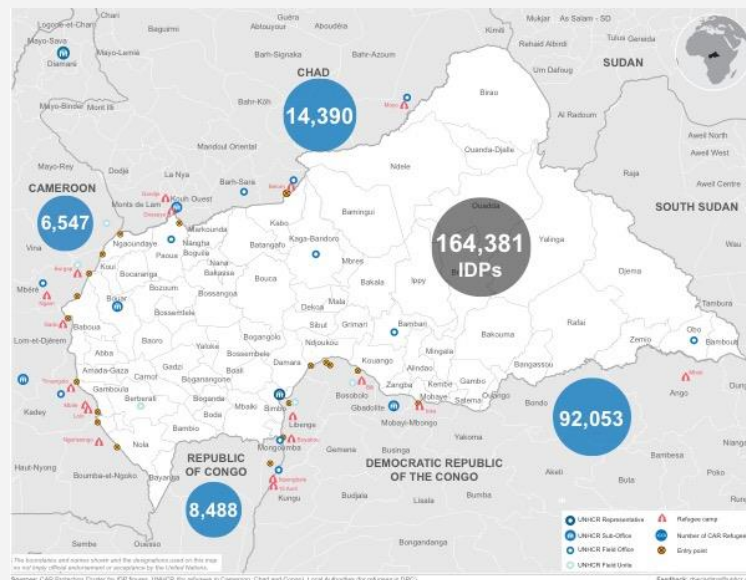
New arrivals



REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TREND



CAR REGIONAL SITUATION MAP



* [Foot note] Commission de Mouvement de Population as at 31 March 2021.

** [Foot note] Data as reported by local authorities of 30 April 2021.

** DRC figure is provided by local authorities. UNHCR is conducting biometric registration jointly with government to confirm.

Operational Context

Political and security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR)



In Zemio, local populations were forced to flee the city to seek refuge in the countryside and nearby communities, following the takeover of the town by armed groups on 22 April. Zemio is located about 1,113 kilometers km Southeast of Bangui, in the Haut-Mbomou district.



After fire destroyed 335 shelters at the PK3 site in Beria on 20 April, UNHCR and its partners provided a multisectoral emergency response to over 2.000 internally displaced people. As a CCCM/NFI/Shelter Cluster lead, UNHCR coordinated the response.



Improvised explosive devices constitute a high risk to civilian populations and humanitarian staff, particularly between Bondiba and Bera and between Bouar and Bocaranga where government forces are operating. UNMAS is investigating these incidents while UN agencies have suspended movements in these areas.



The UN staff vaccination campaign in CAR was launched on 21 April as instructed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and endorsed by member states. The vaccination campaign allows frontline UNHCR staff to fulfill their commitment to “Stay and Deliver” at a time when the number of COVID cases and its toll in CAR are going through an exponential rise.



Population movements and border monitoring

- In April 2021, around 5,200 new refugees crossed into Chad, following clashes between rebel groups and government FACA forces and their allies in the northern Central African Republic border. During this period, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo did not register any new arrivals.
- As of 31 March, a total of 164,381 persons had been internally displaced within CAR as a result of the electoral crisis according to [the national Population Movement Commission](#), bringing the total number of IDPs to **738,279** in CAR.
- The new displacement of more than 280,000 IDPs and refugees adds to the 1.3 million Central Africans already uprooted in the region, bringing the overall number of displaced Central Africans (IDPs and refugees) to over 1.5 million – almost a third of the country’s total population.
- Most new arrivals from CAR are being hosted in remote areas where host populations already face precarious living conditions and limited resources. Besides shelter, water and sanitation infrastructure and food, newly arrived refugees continue to face major protection issues including lack of documentation, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection.
- While sustaining its presence and response in the main hosting areas, UNHCR continues to prioritize support to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of GBV.

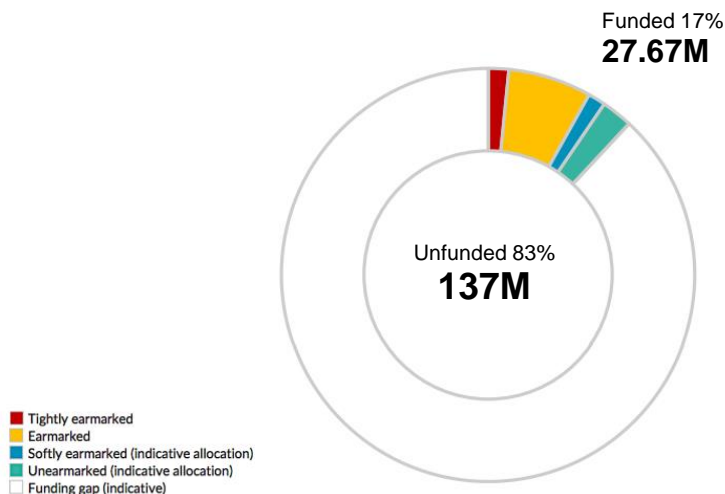


CAR Situation Funding Update

FUNDING (AS OF 20 April 2021)

USD 164.7 M

requested for the Central African Republic situation



- As of 20 April 2021, the Central African Republic situation has received 16 per cent of the USD 164.7 million required. In light of the unfolding emergency, softly earmarked funding for the CAR situation is the most valuable financial support donors can provide and will allow UNHCR to respond to the most urgent needs in the most timely and efficient manner.
- UNHCR's [Emergency Appeal](#) to address the Central African Republic crisis covers needs in CAR, DRC, RoC, Cameroon, and Chad.
- The [Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan for Central African refugees in the DRC](#) aims to provide protection and assistance for up to 92,000 refugees. Partners are appealing for USD 69 million for the implementation of the multi-sectoral response.

Contributions earmarked to the CAR Situation 2021 (USD)

Denmark 2.9 million | Japan 2 million | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe 1.2 million | UN Programme on HIV / AIDS 341,747 | Latter Day Saints 281,709 | Toyota Tsusho Corporation 101,742 | Other private donors 115,838

Softly earmarked contributions 2021 (USD)

United States of America 35.6 million | Sweden 7.6 million | Canada 6.9 million

Unearmarked contributions 2021 (USD)

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Spain 21.5 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 10.8 million

UNHCR Emergency Response L1 and L2 Emergency Declaration

- On 21 January 2021, UNHCR declared a Level 2 emergency for its Operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a Level 1 emergency for its Operations in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, and the Republic of the Congo.

Stories

Safety and support for Central African refugees in the DRC

Twice in five years, Fidel, 35, has had to flee the Central African Republic (CAR), across the Ubangi river, into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His latest crossing to safety was tragic.

"This time, I lost my five-year-old son. He drowned in the river," he said. While crossing the river from his home in Bema last January to Yakoma in the DRC, he had left his son Eric on the CAR side of the river's shores – his dugout canoe was too small to carry his entire family of seven across the river at once, so he had to make several trips back and forth.

When he reached the shore, he couldn't find Eric. Panicked, he asked the fishermen who were around, and they confirmed his worst fears as they were able to identify his body.

"I was in total shock," he recalled.



Fidele, 35, his wife Brigitte, 28, and their children get ready to move to their shelter in Modale site, in northern Democratic Republic of the Congo. ©UNHCR/Hélène Caux

Read full article [here](#).



Country Operation Central African Republic



The Netherlands' donations to the people affected by the crisis in CAR @UNHCR CAR 2021

Operational Environment

- The CAR government forces are sustaining their efforts to re-establish state authority across the country. While the fighting has reduced in the past month, the focus has been put on search operations in areas previously controlled by armed groups.
- Consultations were led by President Touadera with heads of political parties and state institutions as part of the national dialogue initiated to help solve the crisis and restore peace in the country. Some opposition parties and armed groups are still refusing to take part in this initiative.
- The investiture of the newly elected National Assembly took place on 3 May with 90 out of the required 140 Members of Parliament. The next election round will be on 23 May.

Assistance Provided

- Following the fire at Bria PK3 site on 20 April, UNHCR's partner Intersos profiled the affected population to enable coordination of assistance by ACTED, OXFAM, and UNHCR as lead of the CCCM / NFI / Shelter Cluster. The humanitarian team has assisted a total of 2,029 internally displaced persons left homeless by the incident. This includes the distribution of NFI, clothes, soap and hygiene kits by OXFAM.

- In Bria, six protection incidents were reported in the week following the fire incident, including five cases of GBV assaults. In response, the protection team conducted a counseling session. UNHCR's "Ma Mbi Si" ("Listen to Me") project provided psychosocial support to the survivors.

- On April 27, UNHCR distributed 912 pieces of soap and 60 bottles of 800ml bleach to IDP sites in Bambari. In response to serious GVB incidents, the protection team provided and conducted active listening sessions, counseling sessions, and psychosocial follow-ups related to sexual assault. Local community relays also provided awareness sessions on the above matter.

- In Rafai (East of Bangassou), a joint mission operated by UNHCR - PARET, and COOPI distributed 150 NFI kits funded by the Humanitarian Fund to returnees and displaced persons. The protection team conducted awareness sessions on sexual exploitation and abuse and how to report it.

- On April 30, In Obo, UNHCR distributed soap to 13,976 people, including 11,659 IDPs, to prevent COVID-19. UNHCR is working on strengthening IDP site health and sanitation systems, providing vital protection services for the most vulnerable.

- On April 26, a mission was deployed by UNHCR on the Mongoumba-Mbaiki axis to conduct monitoring activities related to the protection situation and identify protection risks. The joint UNHCR-PARET team took the opportunity to advocate with the local authorities regarding the re-launch of activities in a youth center.

Regional support

The Deputy Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa met with the CAR President, the Ambassador of South Africa, the representatives of the African Development Bank Group, the African Union and ECCAS to discuss the establishment of a support platform to encourage protection and solutions for displaced Central Africans.



Country Operation

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi gives a identify refugee card to a young refugee who has relocated from the border area in Yakoma to the new Modale site. ©UNHCR / Helene Caux.

Operational Environment

- As of 21 April, UNHCR and the Government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR) have registered 52,800 individuals (14,928 households) in the three provinces affected by the influx (North Ubangi South Ubangi, Bas Uele).
- Torrential rains and strong winds in South Ubangi Province destroyed several makeshift shelters belonging to newly arrived refugees in the localities of Congo River, Sambolola and Sagila, where UNHCR recently carried out biometric registration. UNHCR and partners are assessing the damage with a view to providing assistance if needed.
- UNHCR and CNR have set up seven local protection committees in the localities of Sagila, Sambolola, Congo River, Zongo centre, Izato, Mawuya and Zambi in South Ubangi Province. The committees received office equipment and training on UNHCR's mandate and their role as part of the protection committees, which includes monitoring and reporting protection incidents in these zones.

Regional Support

UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa supported an HQ mission on cash-based interventions (CBI) in April. The mission analyzed the feasibility of CBI programming and assisted in developing a strategy and workplan targeting new Central African refugees and members in the host community. The mission helped launch a first cash distribution to new refugees in Ndu (18,826 refugees and 49 host community) and in Yakoma (6,947 refugees).

Assistance Provided

- Between 17 and 21 April, 335 individuals (94 households) were relocated to the new Modale site. Modale has the capacity to host 10,000 refugees. Services and social infrastructure including classrooms and a health centre, will serve both refugees and the host community.
- UNHCR, partner AIDES and local NGOs engaged 1,404 refugees and members of the host community on the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) in the localities of Nguru, Nganzamba, Ndayo, Wasso, Gbagi, Yakoma, Monga and Kanzawi in North Ubangi and Bas Uele provinces. During this period, nine new cases were identified and seven GBV survivors were provided with psychological support.
- UNHCR partner ACTED, has completed the selection of beneficiaries for cash-based interventions (CBI) among new refugees and host community members in Zongo, South Ubangi Province. This follows the distribution of emergency cash assistance to refugees in North and South Ubangi provinces, where 26,566 individuals (7,862 households) were supported.
- On 21 April, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, welcomed a convoy of 108 Central African refugees relocated from Yakoma to Modale site. The High Commissioner took part in an ID card distribution for some of the newly relocated refugees. He also held discussions with refugee leaders, the humanitarian community, and local authorities in Yakoma and Gbadolite, on ways to strengthen the humanitarian response for the refugees.
- UNHCR undertook four monitoring missions in Monga and Kanzawi, Bas Uele Province, to identify and assess persons with special needs (PSN). A total of 289 PSNs received assistance. Among them, 17 individuals received clothing, soap and food. An equal number received CBI in Yabongo and Ndu.


 Country Operation
Cameroon
Operational Environment

- As of 28 April 2021, 6,547 individuals from 2,688 Central African households have been registered in the PRIMES database. During April, 75 new asylum seekers from 37 households arrived.
- On 29 April UNHCR started the relocation of 153 refugees who arrived in Batouri to the Lolo settlement where they will be provided with shelter and assistance.
- The Cameroon army Chief of Staff and other military officials undertook a mission to Garoua-Boulai, to monitor the security situation in the town and the fluidity of traffic along the Douala-Bangui corridor. The security situation was found to be under control, despite a recent increase in crime. In Gado settlement, Cameroon local security forces increased nightly patrols to address a recent increase in security incidents and ensure the safety of displaced and host populations in the area.
- UNHCR sustains its prevention efforts to mitigate the risk of COVID prevention in refugee settlements. Between January and May 2021, 88 cases of COVID-19 have been reported among Central African refugees. Of them, 74 cases have recovered, six (06) cases are still active, while two (02) persons have died. Follow-up with six cases has yet to be conducted.

Assistance Provided

- Progress continues on the expansion of the Lolo settlement to accommodate the newly arrived refugees expressing the desire to be transferred to the site. The improvements include seven blocks of two latrines, two showers, and the installation of a pipe to supply the site with clean water. A total of 65 emergency shelters and one (01) meeting hangar have been built on the extension of the Lolo settlement so far. Refugees awaiting relocation received information on progress in development of the site and the nature of assistance provided there.
- The vaccination campaign against COVID-19 was launched in Garoua-Boulai on 16 April, with a refugee among the first to receive the vaccine. The national vaccination plan identifies refugees as a priority group.

Regional support

The Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (RBWCA) is providing technical support to strengthen coordination and put together an inter-agency refugee and resilience plan (RRP) for Central African refugees in eastern Cameroon.



A Central African refugee was among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Garoua Boulai @UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois. 2021


Country Operations
Chad


Limited access to water among new CAR refugees in Maro – Chad @UNHCR, Chad 2021

Operational Environment

- As of 30 April 2021, 14,390 new Central African asylum-seekers have been registered in Chad. During April, clashes between government forces and rebel groups in the northern Central African Republic (CAR) have forced around 5,200 refugees to cross into Chad.
- New asylum-seekers, mostly women (57%), and children (63%), fled from the towns of Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Kabo, by crossing a river that separates the two countries.
- Newly arrived refugees reported instances of sexual violence against women, allegations of violence, lootings, and extortion by armed groups. As the conflict in CAR continues, UNHCR continues to work with Chadian authorities to ensure access to asylum.

Assistance Provided

- As of 30 April, close to 60 per cent of newly arrived refugees in Chad (8,437 individuals and 2,518 households) received NFI assistance including blankets, mats, jerry cans, kitchen kits and mosquito nets.

- UNHCR is working with WFP to provide food assistance to 3,000 new arrivals. The assistance agreement for this month has been approved and is being implemented.
- Following the arrival of refugees at the Sido border, UNHCR partner ADES, through a mobile medical team, carried out 557 curative and preventive consultations on an estimated population of 2,441 (46%) refugees settled in the host village Grande Sido. Children and women represented 55 per cent and 69 per cent of the consultations, respectively.
- The integration of refugee children into the Chadian education system continued through enrollment in Doholo and Gonje camps. As of 6 April, nearly 25 per cent of children (504 girls and 534 boys), have been enrolled and attend school in the two camps.
- During April, UNHCR partners ADES and MSF conducted nearly 1601 preventive and curative consultations. 40 percent (640) have involved Central African new arrivals in the Doholo and Gonje camps. The most prevalent health issues were malaria (46%) and acute respiratory infections (23%).
- In Maro, three new GBV cases were identified during protection monitoring. The survivors are receiving medical and psychosocial support along with nine other previously identified survivors.
- Currently, newly arrived refugees have limited access to water at Maro. Only one borehole is available for more than 2,500 people, which produces 8 liters of drinking water, per day, far below the minimum standard of 15 liters per person during an emergency. UNHCR is working to improve access to water supplies.
- The emergency protection team deployed to Maro is monitoring people at risk. The registration team identified 84 children at risk in two weeks, mainly separated children, and 405 women at risk.

*CNARR : Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés, Chad.

**Country Operation**
Republic of the Congo

Noelle and her family are among the 417 Central African asylum-seeker households in Republic of the Congo who received essential household items in Mougoungui. © UNHCR / Danielle Dieguen

Assistance Provided

- Following successful outreach and awareness-raising campaigns involving over 65 percent of newly arrived Central African refugees living in the protected forest areas (UFA) of Kpakaya et Ndongo-Missa, over 500 individuals have relocated to Bétou and Mougoungui.
- UNHCR is providing assistance to 452 people with specific needs after their relocation from the forest protected areas (UFA) of Kpakaya to Bétou.

Operational Environment

- As of 23 April, UNHCR and the Government's National Committee for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) have registered 8,488 Central African asylum-seekers arriving since December 2020.
- UNHCR is supporting CNAR with registering the new arrivals, providing medical screening, medical referrals, and evacuation to Bétou integrated medical centre.
- UNHCR is strengthening COVID-19 prevention through awareness-raising campaigns targeting staff, partners, asylum-seekers, and refugees after 16 people tested positive.
- UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action signed a technical agreement for the Lisungi Project. Under the project, 2,000 refugee households including new arrivals will receive regular, conditional cash transfers. Similarly, 4,000 refugee households and 4,000 host community households will also receive assistance for income-generating activities.

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