



International Organization for Migration

EMERGENCY APPEAL STRANDED MIGRANTS CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

January 2014



50,000+

Number of migrants IOM has been requested to help evacuate

10,000

Initial target for IOM direct evacuation assistance

50,000

Estimated target for IOM on-arrival assistance in country of origin

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The outbreak of fighting between ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka forces in the beginning of September 2013 in the Central African Republic (CAR) has led to extreme violence and population displacement within the country. Faced with widespread insecurity, as houses have been damaged or looted, the affected populations have abandoned their homes and villages to seek refuge in collective centres, such as the airport, churches and schools.

“What is going on in Bangui, what they did to children there, I have never seen anything like it in my life.” - Niger migrant stranded in Bangui airport with wife and 3 children

The increasing violence and insecurity in CAR has brought about a new wave of displacement and has reduced any likelihood of returns among the displaced. As of 3 January 2014, there were approximately 935,000 internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR, with 513,000 IDPs displaced in Bangui, an increase of nearly 40% from 30 December to 3 January.

Despite the presence of international armed forces, violent attacks against civilians continue to take place. Since 5 December 2013, attacks by both rebel forces have led to serious human rights violations and the death of over 752 people (OCHA Sitrep No. 5, 3 January 2014).

Among the affected population are tens of thousands of migrants, most of whom originate from neighbouring countries in the region. Rising levels of violence, some of which has taken on an inter-religious dimension, and ongoing difficulties in protecting civilians and in re-establishing a sense of security in and around the country’s main urban centres, have contributed to increasing concerns by governments in the region over the security of their nationals in CAR. As a consequence, these governments have requested IOM’s urgent assistance with the evacuation of their most vulnerable citizens from Bangui.

With this appeal, IOM seeks resources to enable it to deliver humanitarian evacuation assistance to an initially estimated 10,000 migrants, and provide on-arrival and basic reintegration support within countries of origin to an estimated 50,000 returning migrants.

IOM Appeal (USD)

Total	17.5 M
Evacuation	10 M
On arrival assistance	7.5 M

PROPOSED RESPONSE

Evacuation Assistance

To date, IOM has received requests to support the humanitarian evacuation of over 50,000 nationals from the following governments: Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

\$10 million

Funding required

**Target no. of beneficiaries:
10,000**

A number of concerned governments have undertaken evacuation operations on their own, including Mali, Senegal and Chad. The latter represents the largest group in CAR and has so far repatriated over 17,000 Chadian nationals by air and road. The Government of Chad, however, does not have sufficient resources to meet the full scale of those requirements, and there are indications that the situation of many of those Chadian nationals who remain in CAR is increasingly dire. Of particular concern is the situation of a large group of Chadians (up to 1,500) who currently seek protection from violence, along with nearly 100,000 IDPs at Bangui airport, a site where the humanitarian community has so far been unable to provide much assistance.

In addition, there is a growing protection concern over the situation of many Chadian migrants who return on their own and increasingly find themselves stranded in border areas. As of 7 January 2014, a group of approximately 7,600 Chadians, the majority of whom were women and children, had arrived in the border localities of Gore and Sido in southern Chad, in an advanced state of destitution. Indications point to many more who are on their way to the country's land borders. Road convoys organized by the Government of Chad also show signs of carrying groups with extreme vulnerabilities. On 3 January, a convoy of 20 trucks made their way to Chad with approximately 1,800 migrants, when one of the trucks overturned, killing one migrant and seriously injuring four others. In other reported incidents, four migrants died inside non-passenger planes on government organized flights that took place on 4 and 6 of January.

The reported deaths and the hazardous conditions in which these migrants are traveling back to Chad, make it all the more critical for IOM and its humanitarian partners to provide a safer and more humane manner for these vulnerable migrants to return to their country of origin.

Responding to Member States' requests for IOM's assistance, the Director General has approved the mobilization of the Organization's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM) with an initial loan towards the initiation of evacuation operations. The MEFM, however, does not have sufficient resources to meet the requirements presented by the scale of the operation that would need to be established.

IOM's Humanitarian Evacuation Cell, initially established in response to the Libya crisis, has deployed a team to Bangui to help coordinate these efforts. IOM has identified air charter service providers who are able to operate between Bangui and concerned countries. All-inclusive, per capita costs, for such an operation amount to approximately USD 1,000.

With this appeal, IOM aims to launch immediate evacuation operations in a manner that complements efforts so far undertaken by concerned governments, and has set an initial target of 10,000 stranded and vulnerable migrants to be transported from CAR to their respective countries of origin. IOM will be working closely with authorities in CAR, airlines, civil aviation authorities of involved countries, and consular authorities in both CAR and countries of origin to ensure that assisted migrants have adequate documentation, are registered (manifested), are able to depart from CAR and return to their countries of origin in a seamless manner.

Overall funding requirements for this component amount to USD 10 million.

On-Arrival Assistance in Countries of Origin

Following the completion of its large-scale humanitarian operation in support of stranded migrants affected by the Libya crisis in 2011, IOM drew a number of key lessons that have since informed the manner in which IOM conducts evacuation operations.

\$7.5 million

Funding required

Target no. of beneficiaries:

50,000

Among the lessons learnt is the critical importance of establishing adequate support measures in countries of origin to receive migrants at ports of entry, assist with onward transportation to final in-country destinations, provide basic support packages on arrival and, in partnership with country-based stakeholders and authorities, address prevalent reintegration challenges. In so doing, IOM considers in-country on-arrival assistance an intrinsic part of humanitarian evacuation operations, while also taking into account reintegration challenges in areas of return to ensure the sustainability of returns, prevent secondary displacement and mitigate potential social tension that may arise.

In **Chad**, IOM is currently leading inter-agency humanitarian assistance to Chadian migrants returning from CAR, both spontaneously and on government flights. Six transit centres have been established in the capital, N'Djamena. IOM is providing transportation assistance from N'Djamena airport, emergency healthcare, including psychosocial support, and onward transportation assistance to locations of origin in the country. IOM is also assisting with the maintenance of the designated transit centres.

IOM Chad is currently serving this population with existing resources, having reprogrammed some resources to support on-arrival assistance. The current estimated caseload of returning Chadian migrants is approximately 48,000 Chadian migrants. While the numbers of vulnerable migrants fleeing violence in CAR are noticeably lower from countries of origin other than Chad, similarly challenging conditions are expected on arrival in countries such as Niger and Mali. These countries currently face conditions indicative of those witnessed in Chad during the Libya crisis and will require concerted post-arrival attention to ensure safety and dignity, and to promote stability. Across the region, IOM estimates funding requirements in relation to on-arrival assistance, emergency healthcare, onward transportation, and the provision of basic support packages, to be **USD 7.5 million**.

Overall funding requirements for this component amount to USD 7.5 million.

CAPACITY & PARTNERSHIPS

IOM established a presence in Bangui, Central African Republic, in October 2013 in response to the developing humanitarian crisis in the country. Since then, IOM has initiated operations in the country in the areas of camp coordination and camp management and emergency shelter. IOM has also recently deployed Movement Management Specialists to Bangui to coordinate evacuation operations from in-country. IOM's humanitarian operations in the CAR are currently classified as a Level 3 emergency, in line with the decision made by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (IASC) in November 2013.

IOM is present in all countries that have so far sought assistance from the Organization, with especially large operations in Niger, Mali and Chad. IOM's operations in the region are coordinated by its Regional Office for West and Central Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. All requesting governments also represent Member States of the Organization.

Over the past five decades, IOM has assisted millions of migrants with international transport arrangements, including in conflict situations during which migrants require evacuation assistance to their countries of origin, for those that do not hold resources to arrange such operations in support of their own nationals. Among the largest of those IOM operations, over 250,000 individuals were assisted in the context of the Gulf War, 13,000 (mostly) Asian migrant workers were evacuated from Lebanon in 2006, and in 2011 over 200,000 individuals fleeing the Libya crisis returned home. In the context of its Libya response, IOM established a dedicated humanitarian evacuation structure which remains active

to coordinate and supervise operations of this nature. In so doing, IOM relies on its partnerships with the airline industry, through which IOM-sponsored movements benefit from preferential fares, as well as its extensive network of field presence at many of the world's airports, where transit, arrival and departure assistance is provided to those traveling under IOM's auspices.

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