Central African Republic

IOM Regional Appeal

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
(June 2016 - June 2017)

June 2016

5.4 million
People living in affected areas

421’256
People displaced

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since independence in 1960, the Central African Republic (CAR) has seen several periods of instability and violence, which have severely impacted on its socio-economic development so that it ranks only 185 out of 187 in the UNDP Global Human Development Index. As direct consequence of the December 2013 events, a humanitarian crisis with an unprecedented scale of forced displacement and violence erupted. At the peak of the emergency 935,000 people were displaced. Despite a general improvement of the security situation, conditions in displacement sites remain dire, access to basic services remain limited and high risk communities continue to experience periodic violent clashes. Additionally, food security, medical coverage, access to administrative services and education infrastructure remain critical.

65% of CAR’s population is composed of youth and young adults (aged 18-35). Due to protracted conflict and displacement situations, CAR’s economy remains unable to create sufficient employment opportunities for its large youth population. Youth, authorities and civil society alike recognize the need to engage in constructive and all-inclusive dialogue with the aim of identifying and promoting durable solutions and community resilience in order to also provide alternatives for income generating opportunities for its youth. With its central position on the African continent, CAR will remain of strategic importance in terms of trade, migration regional stability for the foreseeable future. Targeted investments in its socio-economic stabilization will

IOM APPEAL (USD)
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TOTAL 42.5 M

- Protection 2 M
- Shelter, NFI, CCCM 8.5 M
- Recovery and Transition 32 M

IDP site in Bangui © IOM 2015
promote longer-term development in CAR and beyond.

Protracted internal and external mass displacement remain one of the core humanitarian issues in CAR. Since May 2014, IOM has been assisting over 600,000 conflict-affected people in the capital and the provinces including, but not limited to Boda, Ndele, Kaga Bandoro, Paoua, Kabo and Moyenne Sido.

In addition, since May 2015, IOM has been observing a growing number of spontaneous returns from Chad. According to local authorities and the CAR National Red Cross, up to 3,000 returnees have been identified so far. Due to the ongoing closure of the border between CAR and Chad, the majority of these returnees use irregular return channels. While OCHA has been trying to mediate the opening of humanitarian corridors from Chad, there is urgent need to assist those returnees, who arrived since May 2015, as well as to provide return and durable solutions for those vulnerable IDP and host communities identified by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) across the country.
The Central African Republic (CAR) crisis has transitioned from a protracted forgotten crisis characterized by chronic underdevelopment and localized emergency situations, into more recently (2013), an acute humanitarian emergency affecting the entire population. The recent internal conflict has resulted in increased displacements, systematic violation of human rights, including gender based violence and disruption of markets and economic activities. According to the June 2016 CMP there are more than 421'000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the country, who are in dire need of protection and access to basic services.

IOM, as co-lead of the Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster with UNHCR and ACTED, has been active in site facilitation, displacement tracking, distribution of emergency shelter and NFIs and community stabilization, (employment generation, increased access to basic services and increased positive perception of pacific cohabitation). As of June 2016, over 600'000 people, including community members, benefited from IOM’s assistance. Priority needs in CAR remain restoration of security, re-establishment of rule of law, humanitarian assistance and civil protection and strengthening of the resilience of civil society.

**PROTECTION**

**Gender Based Violence**

While gender inequality and discrimination are the root causes of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), various other factors determine the type and extent of violence in each setting. In emergencies, norms regulating social behavior are weakened and traditional social systems and institutions often break down. This leads to a particular prevalence of Gender-based violence. GBV is one of the most widespread but least-recognized human rights abuses in the world, affecting individuals and communities everywhere. It is estimated that, on average, one in three women will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in their lifetime. GBV also affects men and boys of all backgrounds, particularly in conflict situations. In CAR the most common forms of GBV include rape and forced sexual acts, physical and domestic violence, discrimination between wives in polygamous families, deprivation of food and clothing, female genital mutilation and witchcraft.

Since 2015, IOM has supported law enforcement officials in building capacity to recognize and correctly refer GBV cases in close coordination with social services. To this end, IOM has worked in close coordination with the national security sector, UNFPA, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Affairs to build a local pool of trainers active both on the national and the community level. Activities under this project include capacity-building sessions and workshops as well as dissemination and awareness-raising approaches to protection targeting law enforcement officials.

**SHELTER, NFI AND CCCM**

**Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Activities**

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a tool that IOM has developed to account for the situation and needs of displaced populations in many countries across the world. IOM aims to contribute to effective programming through the continued implementation and expansion of the DTM by providing the humanitarian community with information on population mobility, displacement trends, IDPs' priority needs, vulnerabilities and locations. In particular, with the information collected during site visits, displacement site profiles and 3Ws (Who does What Where) are compiled to provide
humanitarian actors and government with information on the demographics and profile of the displaced population, their needs and intentions, the services available on the different sites, humanitarian gaps and responses as well as the specific characteristics of the site. Site facilitators collect the information from the person responsible for the site and from local authorities and community leaders in the neighborhood. Data collected is verified through the intercluster system and validated through visual inspections and observation and consultation with the community and with other humanitarian actors present in the areas. Gaps are referred to the Government and to the humanitarian community for action. The DTM in CAR further facilitates regular return intention surveys with displaced population both in displacement sites and host families.

RECOVERY AND TRANSITION

Community Stabilisation and Revitalisation

In a context of intercommunal violence and regular retaliations between armed groups and communities, IOM believes that community dialogue to reinforce the positive perception of pacific co-habilitation and economic growth is not an option but rather a necessity. Supporting the reconciliation process, community engagement and supporting the strengthening and revitalization of local economies are all determining steps to accompanying CAR out of the crisis.

Ndele, Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Paoua and Boda all saw very high levels of inter-communal violence over the course of 2014, and 2015 with Paoua, Ndele and Kaga Bandoro experiencing high levels of tensions accompanied by sporadic displacements since spring 2016 IOM started facilitating community stabilization and recovery early into the crisis, developing effective methodologies and tools and gaining the trust of communities in and outside of Bangui. It has adapted its approach for both urban and rural contexts. This initiative focuses on providing income generating opportunities paired with vocational training, alphabetization and civic education, increased access to basic services and community based collective positive experiences. The approach centres on an all-inclusive community-owned and monitored process, which increases social interaction between different community members and ensures transparent and participative decision-making processes. It is additionally expected that through the contribution to community stabilization the interventions support the creation of conducive environments to support the return and reintegration of IDPs. Given the positive feedback and impact of the applied methodology, IOM aims at supporting 5 additional identified hotspots in terms of income generation, social cohesion and increased access to social services, and is planning a pilot phase community revitalization project.

Funding Required: $27 M
Chad is in a unique position in the region in that it is not only landlocked, but also finds itself positioned in between four different conflicts, in Sudan, Libya, the Lake Chad Basin (due to the Boko Haram insurgency) and Central African Republic. As a result of these various conflicts, there has been a spill over into Chad both in terms of Chadian nationals seeking to return from conflict-ridden regions, and in terms of foreign nationals seeking refuge in Chad. So far, IOM has assisted over 200’000 displaced people in Chad due to the crisis in CAR.

The nation’s already strained resources are becoming even scarcer given the influx of people, and the upcoming rainy season will only further exacerbate already existing vulnerabilities, leading to dire needs in terms of shelter and NFIs.

**SHELTER, NFI AND CCCM**

The upcoming rainy season has exacerbated the need for emergency shelter and NFI distribution in Chad. IOM seeks to continue providing direct emergency assistance to most vulnerable communities, identified in close coordination with the Chadian government and other partners in the region. Basic emergency shelter kits, containing tarpaulins, framing and fixing materials will be distributed in identified areas. The NFI kits will include supplies necessary to prepare food and continue living in dignity, including blankets, jerry cans, hygienic products etc.

**RECOVERY AND TRANSITION**

In order to assist the returnees, identified by the Red Cross, as well as the host communities, identified by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), IOM aims to provide durable solutions to returnees and enhance the resilience capacities of affected communities. IOM’s cash-for-work program will contribute to the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, while simultaneously providing temporary revenues to affected populations.
Capacity and Partnership

IOM has strong operational capacity in the region and wide field presence with its eight offices in the Central African Republic (in Paoua, Kabo, Kaga Bandoro, Ndele, Bambari, Boda, and Bangui), with a total of 175 staff members. In Central African Republic IOM is co-lead of the Shelter / NFI / CCCM cluster with UNHCR and ACTED. In line with its regional approach, IOM works closely with local and national agencies and governmental partners, as well as non-governmental organization and United Nations agencies to support disaster relief and displacement management.

Total Appeal: USD 42’500’000

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