IOM runs a wet feeding programme at the Bangui Military Airport transit site. IOM staff deliver super cereal plus (provided by WFP), jerry cans full of water, and wood for cooking fires. The materials are distributed to female volunteers who cook and serve the cereal for the entire community. © IOM 2014 (Photo: IOM CAR)

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

**CAR:** There are currently 698,500 displaced people in CAR, 273,500 of whom live in 69 identified sites in Bangui. (OCHA SitRep No. 13, 19 February 2014)

The overall situation in the country and in the capital Bangui in particular remains volatile and unpredictable with daily attacks on Muslims in Bangui by Anti-Balaka, and continued armed clashes between Anti-Balaka, Ex-Seleka and Peuhl outside Bangui. The crisis has spilled over to neighbouring countries, Chad and Cameroon in particular, where tens of thousands of migrants coming from CAR are now seeking refuge.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Central African Republic (CAR):** IOM rolled out the Displacement Tracking Matrix in more than 100 sites and released an update of IOM/CCCM displacement site profiles on 20 February.

IOM also published its findings from the second Return Intention Survey which was conducted from 13 to 15 February. 609 displaced person at 40 sites in Bangui were interviewed.

**Cameroon:** On 14 February, IOM provided airport assistance to 217 Nigerien migrants evacuated by the Government of Niger from Yaoundé, Cameroon.

**Chad:** From 18 to 22 February, IOM provided 73 migrants from Cameroon, Mali and Senegal with evacuation assistance to return to their countries of origin.
Humanitarian Assistance to Returnees, Refugees and Third Country Nationals (TCNs)

Central African Republic (CAR): During the reporting period, IOM provided emergency evacuation assistance to seven migrants to return to Japan (5) and Pakistan (2). IOM provides the evacuees with embarkation assistance, food and water prior to embarkation, fitness-to-travel screening, medical evacuation for critical cases, and transportation from IDP sites to Bangui airport. To date, IOM has organized 22 charters transporting 5,422 evacuees to Chad (4,610), Mali (541), Niger (148) and Sudan (116), and organised bookings on commercial flights transporting evacuees to Japan (5) and Pakistan (2). Since 5 December 2013, over 76,000 migrants have been evacuated from CAR.

Additionally, on 22 February, IOM provided 89 migrants from Niger (59), Mali (26) and Senegal (4) with transportation assistance from IDP sites to the Bangui Military Airport transit site. The migrants later departed for Niger on a flight sponsored by the President of Niger. IOM Niger will organize onward transportation for the Malians and Senegalese migrants to their respective countries.

Fatimata’s Story

After three weeks at another displacement site in Bangui, Fatimata arrived at the Military Airport transit site on 13 February with her father, daughter, niece and young cousin.

“My mother was Central African and my father is Cameroonian. I grew up in Bangui but now I want to take my family to Cameroon. Here we are in danger. My hope is to go somewhere with the children and my father, a place where we will be safe and have something to eat, a place where I can earn a living.

I studied health for one and a half years. I did an internship in Bangui at the General Hospital but then I couldn’t find a job. I am the provider; I watch over and care for my family. My father is old, he can’t see. In Cameroon, we will start a new life. I want to work. I want to provide for my family. My dream is to sleep well and wake up in peace.”

Cameroon: Migrants continue to arrive in Cameroon by road; the main ports of entry are Kentzou and Garou-Boulai. As of 21 February, UNHCR has registered 29,733 new arrivals, among them 8,094 TCNs. With the influx of migrants due to the crisis in CAR, living conditions have become difficult for the migrants and host communities. There are reports of limited space, access to water, food and sanitation facilities, health services and security.

On 14 February, the Government of Niger (GoN) evacuated 217 Nigerien migrants including 70 children to leave Yaoundé by air. IOM assisted through the provision of airport assistance including registration, luggage, and check-in assistance. IOM Cameroon is preparing to assist 700 Malian migrants currently in Douala and Kentzou to leave by air, and 7,000 Chadians currently in Kentzou and Garou-Boulai to leave by land convoys.

Additionally, IOM will register and profile migrants and will provide health assistance (health triage and referrals, perform pre-departure fitness-to-travel health checks and provide medical escorts as needed) to vulnerable migrants in Kentzou and Garoua-Boulai.
Chad: From 18 to 22 February, IOM provided 73 migrants (of which 47 were females, 26 were males, and 36 were children) from Cameroon (68), Mali (1) and Senegal (4) with evacuation assistance to return to their countries of origin. There are over 600 TCNs in Chad in need of evacuation assistance to their home countries. 500 Chadian migrants in the Republic of Congo and 250 Chadian migrants in the Democratic Republic of Congo are reported to be stranded after fleeing the violence in CAR. IOM is gearing up to evacuate Chadian migrants and other TCNs who have been stranded at the CAR-Cameroon border for several weeks with little or no assistance.

Since December 2013, IOM Chad has registered a total of 76,982 evacuees from CAR; 16,742 evacuees arrived in N’Djamena on 86 flights (70 flights from the Government of Chad and 16 from IOM), and 60,240 evacuees arrived in the South (Gore, Sido Sarh, Doba, Mbitoye and Moundou) by road. IOM’s registration sample of 30,000 evacuees noted that 54 per cent of the arrivals were female and 31 per cent were children.

Upon arrival at N’Djamena airport and land border points, IOM registers all arriving migrants and transports them to transit centres. In the transit centres, evacuees are profiled and provided with wet feeding, non-food items (NFIs), hygiene kits, emergency medical assistance, primary health care services including psychosocial care and referred for secondary medical care (serious medical cases). Onward transportation assistance is provided to returnees to their locations of origin in coordination with the government and other humanitarian agencies. As of 24 February, there are around 50,000 individuals hosted in the transit centres in N’Djamena and in the South.

Niger: On 15 February, IOM provided Nigerien migrants who were evacuated by the GoN from CAR, Cameroon and Chad with return assistance. IOM registered and profiled the arriving migrants and provided them with onward transportation assistance to their villages of origin; majority of the returnees are from the northern region of Tahoua. To date, 1,163 migrants have returned by government (993), IOM (148) and commercial (22) chartered flights.

IOM Operations in CAR

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM): Migrants in need of evacuation assistance continue to arrive at the Bangui Military Airport transit site on a daily basis. During the reporting period, IOM registered all the migrants in that transit site (around 1,110 people) in preparation for possible evacuation assistance.

On 20 February, IOM CAR in cooperation with OCHA CAR and IOM Chad conducted a field assessment in Sido, near the CAR-Chad border, where Chadians and other migrants seeking to travel to Chad are gathered.

In coordination with partners, IOM has now rolled out the Displacement Tracking Matrix in more than 100 sites to assess and address urgent needs. An update of IOM/CCCM displacement site profiles was released on 20 February which provided a global picture of the situation at each displacement site related to health, shelter, security, and other humanitarian needs. (Click here to see the update)

From 13 to 15 February, IOM conducted the second IDP Return Intention Survey in Bangui. IOM site facilitators interviewed 609 displaced persons at 40 sites in Bangui. This survey follows the first intention survey which was conducted from 15 to 16 January.
Findings from the survey include:

- The percentage of IDPs who would like to return to their place of origin has decreased from January to February;
- There is a significant difference in return intentions of the majority and minority populations: 72 per cent of the majority (Christians) would like to return, while 66 per cent of minorities (Muslims and ethnic minorities) would like to go to another region, their country of origin, or stay at an IDP site;
- Displaced persons’ primary needs are housing, security and food

Additional findings from the survey can be found here.

Health Assistance: During the reporting period, IOM’s mobile medical clinic conducted over 500 consultations in seven IDP sites and facilitated over 20 urgent referrals to hospitals with secondary care capacities.