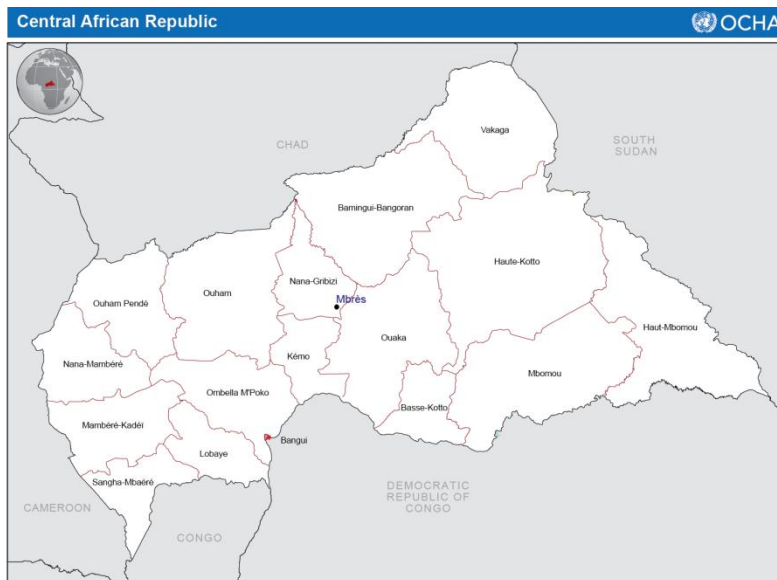




This report is produced by OCHA CAR in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued on or around 10 May 2013.

Highlights

- Joint UN assessment missions to Ndele and Bambari find that the humanitarian situation is worsening in areas of health, protection, food security and education. Further assessments planned for Bria and Batalimo.
- Food security has been identified as the priority sector for intervention. While seeds and food are available in markets, people lack financial resources and many households cannot afford basic food necessities and the seeds required to safeguard next season's harvest.
- The health cluster responds to the measles outbreak. Out of the 45 suspected measles cases in April, eight cases tested positive.



206,000

Internally displaced people in the CAR

49,000

Refugees from CAR in neighboring countries, including 37,000 in the DRC

23%

CAP Funded (initial requirement of \$129 million, before including the new needs triggered by the crisis)

4.6m

Population of CAR

Situation Overview

Insecurity continued in the CAR in spite of gradual improvements in Bangui over the past few days, in particular in terms of looting. Exactions against civilians and population movements continue and over 49,000 refugees from CAR have now been registered in neighboring countries since December, primarily in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. Substantial numbers of refugees continue to arrive in these countries. In addition to the estimated 173,000 displaced since December, another 33,000 persons were already displaced in the CAR, bringing the total number of IDPs in the CAR to more than 206,000.

On 30 April, OCHA organized a joint mission to Ndele to assess the security situation and humanitarian needs. Participants included representatives from UNDSS, WFP and BINUCA. Discussions were held with humanitarian organizations, local authorities and various armed groups in Ndele. The mission found that the situation remains volatile and unpredictable with the presence of armed groups. Cases of arbitrary arrests, looting and human rights violations have been reported. The activities of the CPJP, Seleka and Janjaweed groups in Ndele instill fear in the community, rendering humanitarian activities and IDP returns less favorable. It was found that the ongoing crisis has aggravated the already dire humanitarian needs in the region. A few humanitarian organizations continue to provide assistance to the people affected. According to WFP, foodstuff is available in local markets but most people lack financial resources. Many households cannot afford basic food necessities. Food reserves have been depleted leaving inhabitants in need of seeds for the current planting season. Schools remain closed. Most people

lack access to clean water. Potable water is being provided by the ICRC. MSF Spain continues to provide medical assistance in the Ndele hospital. People living in Bamingui, MBollo and Manovo do not have access to healthcare as a result of PU-AMI's suspension of its activities in the region due to insecurity. There is lawlessness mostly due to the lack of administrative officials and designated law enforcing authorities. Children are being recruited into armed groups.

Insecurity continues to hinder humanitarian access in the country. The emergency needs of vulnerable populations in most regions outside of Bangui have yet to be identified and addressed. ACF however succeeded in conducting a rapid needs assessment in the two main towns of the Kemo prefecture (South) from 19 to 22 April. This region was affected by violent attacks from the Seleka leading to population displacement into nearby bushes or neighboring villages. Findings revealed critical humanitarian needs in the towns of Sibut and Dekoa. The population is likely to face food insecurity if seeds are not distributed. Due to insufficient available foodstuff and an increase in prices in the local markets, inhabitants have resorted to consuming seeds which were meant for this planting season. Livestock has been stolen and slaughtered, depleting the population's livelihood. The chronic water and sanitation problem in the region has been aggravated due to damage to water points and the lack of latrines. Only 30% of the population in the prefecture has access to latrines. Most people do not have access to soap leading to an increase in the cases of skin diseases. These assessment findings serve as an example of the increasing humanitarian needs in other parts of the country which have not yet been reached due to insecurity.

Updated results of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assessment carried out from 27 March on the following seven prefectures: Bamingui-Bangoran, Nana-Gribizi, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Ombella-M'Poko, Ouaka, and Ouham (north, north-west and southern regions), revealed dire humanitarian needs in the following sectors: WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Food Security. According to findings, the most urgent needs are in the Food Security sector where households have altered their diet by changes to their food sources as a result of conflict; there are insufficient food reserves; and a negative impact on food in the market has been noted due to an increase in prices and the unavailability of food. The second priority need is garbage disposal and difficulties in accessing potable water.

On 30 April, UNHCR advised governments against forcible returns to CAR and stressed that under current circumstances many people fleeing CAR are likely to meet the OAU Convention and 1951 Convention criteria for refugee status. UNHCR aims to ensure that humanitarian and asylum principles are upheld until conditions in CAR allow for safe and dignified returns.

On 29 April, members of the Security Council expressed strong concern at the worsening humanitarian and security situation, and the weakening of CAR Institutions. They called on competent authorities to restore peace and security in Bangui and outside of Bangui by deploying adequate forces while also calling on all parties to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access in the country. They called on Seleka leaders to ensure that all Seleka armed groups abstain from all violent action and be regrouped without delay into cantonment sites, according to the Libreville agreement

Humanitarian Response



Out of the 45 suspected measles cases in April, eight cases tested positive at the Institute Pasteur in Bangui. 16 out of 22 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) centers in Bangui are operational. 120,000 children aged 6 to 59 months are targeted by the vaccination campaign. However, only 50,000 vaccines are available in the country. UNICEF has placed an emergency order for 100,000 more vaccines. The Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and Merlin have established a committee to coordinate the measles response.

Type of assistance	Assessed needs	Response available	Gap
Measles vaccines	120,000 children	50,000 children	58%

UNFPA continues to provide delivery kits to health facilities and to provide assistance in counseling, HIV/AIDS testing, sensitization against sexual violence and the distribution of condoms to Seleka forces.

COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale) continues to provide psycho-social and medical support to three new cases of sexual violence identified in Bangui between 23 to 30 April. A total number of ten cases have been identified over the past four weeks.



Food Security

In response to the identified needs, 42,000 people in Bangui, Kabo and Bambari, will receive food assistance. Distributions started on 25 April in the community hospital in Bangui. As of 1 May, approximately 2,900 people (among them 78% women) had already received a food ration. WFP continues the distribution to reach approximately 7,000 people living with HIV, malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women with a total of approximately 73.5 MT.

Type of assistance	Assessed needs	Response	Gap
1,000 MT of food aid	42,000 people	4,900 people	88%

As of 26 April, WFP's food stock consists of 1,179 MT in the warehouse in Bangui, 342 MT in Bouar and 59 MT in Paoua. As of 29 April, WFP CAR has 4,060 MT in Douala (Cameroon).

WFP delivered food assistance to Sudanese refugees in Bambari on 01 May. Approximately 2,000 refugees received a one month ration comprised of cereals, lentils, oil and salt. This represents the first food assistance reaching these people since the onset of the crisis in December 2012. Distributions will continue in Bambari for about 8,000 Internally Displaced Persons.

COOPI started the distribution of 96 MT of WFP commodities to approximately 6,000 Congolese refugees in Batalimo (South West) on 01 May.



Logistics

UNHAS ensures safe access to 27 locations countrywide and is the sole means of transport to reach most parts of CAR which are inaccessible due to very weak infrastructure, poor road conditions and lack of security. Demand from the humanitarian community is high in light of the current crisis, notably to allow assessment missions. UNHAS also delivers cargo to remote areas inaccessible by road.

The UNHAS Special Operation is facing a shortfall of 61.8%, requiring US\$4.72 million out of the total requirement of US\$7.64 million.

Type of assistance	Total requirements	Funding available	Gap
Air transport	US\$7.64 million	US\$2.92 million	61.8%



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

According to the RRM assessment, garbage disposal is a priority need in Bangui. In response, ACTED has been supporting the clean-up of the market and hospitals.



Protection

The Protection Cluster is concerned about the ongoing human rights violations, the illegal occupation of houses and escalating inter-community and ethnic tensions in the CAR.

Even though CAR is signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; this is violated through the recruitment of children into armed groups.

UNICEF and BINUCA met with the Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Art on 29 April to discuss the issue of children associated with armed groups. The discussions concerned identification, verification and release of children who are still among the ranks of the Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix (CPJP) rebel group. Further efforts towards engaging authorities for verification and release of children associated with Seleka and other armed groups are underway.

Education

The Education Cluster stated that schools have not yet reopened due to persisting insecurity. About 70% of children do not have access to education. The departure of teachers from the regions outside of Bangui and the non-payment of salaries should not prevent the reopening of schools. Parent-teachers can provide ample support in the communities.

The first Education Cluster meeting took place on 25 April to review options for re-opening of schools and providing emergency education. The Cluster is in discussion with the Ministry of Education on an agreed date to re-start essential learning in Bangui and the interior.

Funding

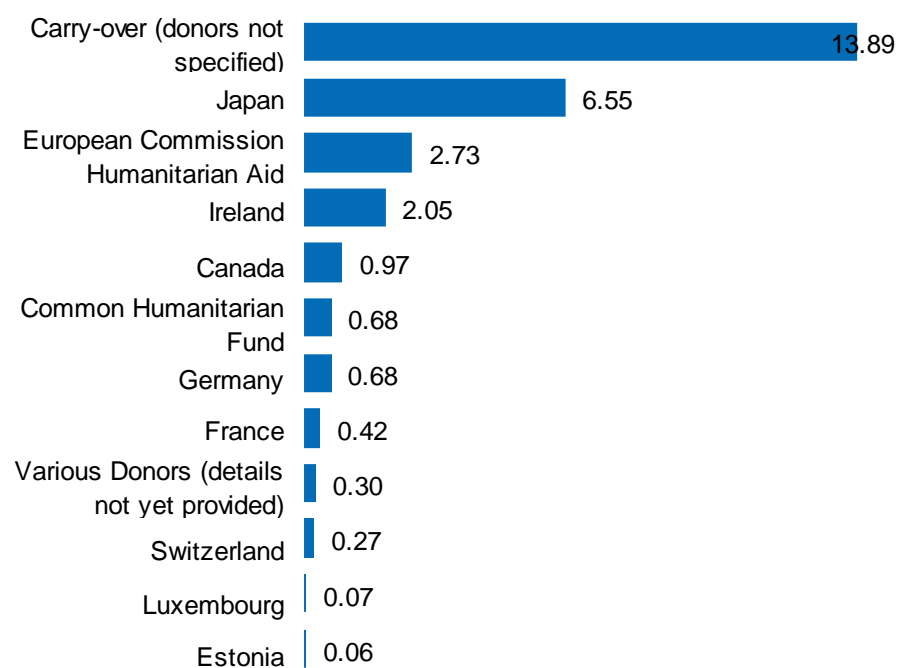
As of 02 May, FTS has registered 23 percent of contributions for the 2013 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). \$28 million has been allocated to WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, ACTED, ACF, UNHAS, Solidarités and OCHA (including \$12 million in carry-over from 2012).

The 2013 CAP originally launched in November 2012 requested US\$129 million to assist 646,000 people. In March, prior to the take-over of Bangui and western CAR, humanitarians estimated that an additional amount of US\$42 million was required to address the new needs. It is anticipated that this amount may increase further in light of the most recent developments, given the increase in needs on the ground and the loss of operational capacity by NGO and UN.

The Humanitarian Coordinator has activated the CAR Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) to provide funding in response to most critical needs. As of today, the fund has received a US\$ 1,272,000 contribution from Ireland (IrishAid). In addition, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has pledged a contribution of US\$ 3,074,558.

United Nations Agencies in CAR submitted 11 projects for consideration for CERF funding on 1 May, covering the following Clusters: Food Security, Protection, Child Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Information Technology and Logistics. The submission included projects from FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNDP and UNFPA for a total amount of amount of US\$7,3 million .

2013 CAP: Total Funding per Donor



Source: FTS

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

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