UNICEF Central African Republic Situation Report
Date: 21 February 2013
Reporting Period: 7-20 February 2013

**Highlights**

- There has been no return to normalcy for the majority of affected populations two weeks after President François Bozizé appointed a new Government of National Unity.
- Lack of humanitarian access remains the single most important factor blocking essential lifesaving services.
- Government and administrative buildings have been completed looted, as have NGO and UN bases in most Seleka controlled areas.
- During missions to in Kaga Bandoro, Bossangoa and Bambari this month, UNICEF identified shortages in life-saving medicines in all three towns visited.
- This week a high level interagency strategic assessment mission (SAM) is in CAR to review the mandate of the integrated UN mission (BINUCA).
- UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response Plan for CAR identifies a funding gap of US$ 11.1 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs in the country.

**EST. POPULATION DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE ONGOING CRISIS**

1.19 million

**CHILDREN AFFECTED DIRECTLY BY THE CRISIS**

> 500,000

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION**

> 58,000

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR RESPONSE**

US$ 11.1 million

On the 12 February, children at the UNICEF supported CTO in Bangui celebrated Red Hand Day, a worldwide initiative to stop the use of Child Soldiers. They dipped their hand in red paint and each wrote their messages to the world. One boy wrote, “It’s good that we are out of the rebellion, but we want the same for the other children.” (left)

Photo: UNICEF CAR/Tom
Two weeks after President François Bozizé appointed a new Government of National Unity in accordance with the Libreville agreement, there has been little change in the security situation and humanitarian access remains a significant challenge. There has been no return to normalcy for the majority of affected populations. Government and administrative buildings have been completely looted, as have NGO and UN bases in most Seleka controlled areas. An attack on the town of Mobaye last week led to increased numbers of refugees to DRC – the total figure is now estimated at 15,000 new cases and more continue to cross over the border. Lack of humanitarian access remains the single most important factor blocking essential lifesaving interventions and resumption of basic services.

Humanitarian Access

Access issues take the following forms:

1. Lack of physical access to Seleka controlled areas and areas that require transiting through Seleka control due to presence of active armed groups.
2. Lack of physical access due to blockages of routes by government police and military (especially to depart Bangui with humanitarian supplies).
3. Inability to provide essential services and NFIs to affected populations in most areas due to the potential risk that would place on communities, i.e. pillaging and attacks by armed groups.
4. Challenging physical access to IDPs, as IDPs are dispersed to remote rural locations—farms and bush.
5. As of May, access will be even more challenging due to the onset of the rainy season.

As mentioned above, access is not only an issue in Seleka controlled areas, but also in areas that require transiting through Seleka zones, especially the prefectures of Vakaga, Haut-Mbomou, and Mbomou. On the 15 of February, the Minister of Defense issued a national
communique announcing that free circulation had been reestablished throughout the territory of CAR and calling on all members of defense and security forces including elements of the Seleka to facilitate free movement of all Central African citizens. This decree marks a positive engagement from the Government of National Unity, however, measures to ensure that it is carried out still need to be put in to place as some humanitarian trucks remain blocked in Bangui.

During missions to Kaga Bandoro, Bossangoa and Bambari this month, UNICEF identified shortages in life-saving medicines in all three towns visited. Supplies of medicines from the central pharmacy (UCM) were not delivered in January and February as the Ministry of Health personnel were not able to access Seleka zones and many communication networks have been cut since the crisis. In Kaga Bandoro the hospital was completely pillaged. The hospitals in Bossangoa and Bambari are intact, but are experiencing severe shortages of medicines. No doctors were present, only nurses and volunteers remain.

This week a high level interagency strategic assessment mission (SAM) is in CAR to review the mandate of the integrated UN mission (BINUCA). Advocating for humanitarian space is among the team’s primary objectives to set the basis for all other programming in the country. UNICEF is participating in this mission.

**Snapshot of Humanitarian needs:**
104 RRA questionnaires conducted in 31 towns, in 15 sub-prefectures, across 9 prefectures revealed:

- 85 per cent of questionnaires noted that children are not going to school due to the crisis.
- 65 per cent of questionnaires noted an increase in Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- 1,275 cases of unaccompanied children were reported in Nana-Gribizi, Kemo and Ouham.
- 237 deaths and 371 injured reported in the 104 questionnaires.
- 62 per cent of questionnaires noted shortages of medicines while 45 per cent noted an interruption of health services, with a higher frequency in Nana-Gribizi and Kemo.
- 45 per cent of questionnaires noted lack of access to water and 29 per cent showed insufficient quantity of potable water available.
- Across the prefectures, loss of harvest, seeds and cattle have been reported resulting in rising food prices. 85% of questionnaires showed a change in source of food and 47% noted an impact on local markets (price increases, less food available and other).

According to WFP, food prices have gone up at least 40 per cent. Insecurity is preventing farmers from planting crops during the month of February.

All basic services in Seleka controlled areas have been affected. The population numbers that UNICEF is using as a basis for determining the response are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefecture (Under Seleka Control)</th>
<th>Population in Seleka controlled areas</th>
<th># Affected (0-17 yrs)</th>
<th># Affected (0-5 yrs)</th>
<th>Women of child bearing age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamingui-Bangoran</td>
<td>51,320</td>
<td>27,200</td>
<td>1,796</td>
<td>12,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basse-Kotto</td>
<td>295,774</td>
<td>144,929</td>
<td>10,352</td>
<td>70,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haute Kotto</td>
<td>107,217</td>
<td>46,103</td>
<td>3,753</td>
<td>25,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemo</td>
<td>140,580</td>
<td>70,290</td>
<td>4,920</td>
<td>33,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nana-Gribizi</td>
<td>139,863</td>
<td>69,932</td>
<td>4,895</td>
<td>33,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouaka</td>
<td>328,492</td>
<td>164,246</td>
<td>11,497</td>
<td>78,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouham (Batangafo, Kabo)</td>
<td>103,313</td>
<td>55,789</td>
<td>3,616</td>
<td>24,795</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**UNICEF Priorities for Response and Key Actions to Date**

Following the RRAs, sectoral assessments and other field missions, UNICEF developed a Humanitarian Response Plan to address the immediate needs of children and women in the Seleka controlled zones. The main points from this plan are included in the table below.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Planned Response**
- Reunify and reintegrate 1,200 orphans and vulnerable children, including children associated with armed forces and groups, children in conflict with the law, with their families and in their communities.
- Provide holistic care to 500 GBV survivors, with special attention to sexual violence and specific measures for children and adults.
- Report and verify cases of grave violations and register cases into a database.

**Key Actions to date**
The protection assessments across the Seleka controlled areas have been completed. UNICEF and partners continue to support an emergency Transit and Orientation Centre (CTO) for children formerly associated with armed groups. UNICEF is working with partners towards family reunification either biological or with foster families. UNICEF has a contingency stock to establish two emergency CTOs with the capacity for 50-75 children each as necessary. The MRM Working Group continues to conduct verification of grave violations of child rights in Bangui and plans to continue across the Seleka controlled zones.

### EDUCATION

**Planned Response**
- Enroll 168,000 children in temporary learning spaces and existing schools.
- Provide 1,678 temporary learning spaces and schools with supplies and trained teachers in affected areas.
- Train 1,678 teachers integrating psychosocial, health and nutrition components.

**Key Actions to date**
UNICEF has an existing emergency stock to support children with emergency education for 11,400 children with an order in the pipeline (en route from Douala) for 32,000 of children.

### HEALTH

**Planned Response**
- Vaccinate against measles, provide vitamin A and deworm 95% or 50,000 children in the appropriate age group. Provide families with mosquito nets.
- Strengthen routine immunization targeting 50,000 children.
- Provide 10,000 pregnant women with HIV testing and referral facilities. Provide ARVs for all pregnant women tested HIV positive.
- Promote key health and education practices to at least 240,000 people living in affected areas.

**Key Actions to date**

Three field missions were conducted in February to perform HIV rapid assessment in Kaga Bandoro, Bossangoa and Bambari. The mission observed that raped women from Kaga Bandoro had to travel to the Bossangoa HIV center to receive psycho-social support and HIV testing. UNICEF identified shortages in life-saving medicine in all three towns. The order of medicines was transmitted to medical authorities through UNICEF to preempt shortages of medicines. No doctors were present, only nurses and volunteers remain. Serious issues remain on transportation of drugs to affected areas, given the security and logistical challenges. UNICEF has provided medicines and supplies to MSF France and MSF Spain to respond to the immediate needs of patients for up to 30,000 people in affected areas.

### NFI  NON-FOOD ITEMS

**Planned Response**

- Distribute NFIs to 9,000 IDP families, ensuring principles of do no harm are applied.

**Key Actions to date**

UNICEF has the capacity to cover 9,000 families in need of basic non-food items, 4,000 through the RRM and 5,000 with existing contingency stock. These NFIs will allow families to re-establish their households following massive looting during and following the latest conflict. These NFI kits include basic items such as blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets, soap, jerry cans and tarpaulins.

### NUTRITION

**Planned Response**

- Train 100 health workers and 150 Child Health Workers on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) appropriate practices.
- Screen for and treat at least 2,000 children for acute malnutrition in the 7 affected prefectures.

**Key Actions to date**

UNICEF has provided emergency nutritional supplies, including therapeutic foodstuffs, to MSF-Holland, IMC and ACF to support activities in Seleka-controlled areas. More distributions are planned in the next few weeks.

### WASH

**Planned Response**

- Distribute WASH-NFI Kits to 100,000 IDPS/host family members
- Rehabilitate 55 boreholes rehabilitated to provide access to safe water for 25,000 affected persons
- Rehabilitate gender segregated latrines for 20,000 school children in affected areas. Rehabilitate latrines in 17 health/nutrition centres.
- Provide 500,000 women and child caregivers with hygiene education and information
pertaining to safe and hygienic child-care and feeding practices.

**Key Actions to date**

UNICEF currently has in-country emergency water, sanitation and hygiene supplies to support the immediate needs of 50,000 people, including bladders and distribution systems, chlorination materials/equipment, hand pumps, foot pumps, jerry cans and water purification tablets.

**Supply and Logistics**

As per the response plan mentioned above, UNICEF CAR is re-prioritising supplies already in-country (contingency stock and stock for regular programme activities) so that UNICEF and our partners can meet the most urgent humanitarian needs as soon as security permits in the most needed areas. Stocks of medicine for regular programming have been reoriented to respond to the emergency, as informed by assessments. A delayed shipment of supplies left Douala on 14 February and are estimated to arrive on **22 February**.

- **By air from Copenhagen:**
  - **17 MT of essential WASH, Health, Nutrition and NFI supplies**
  - Status: Arrived Bangui: 29 Jan 2013

- **By road from Douala:**
  - **52 MT of essential WASH, Nutrition and NFI supplies**
  - Status: ETA Bangui: 22 February

**Funding**

- CAR is one of the most “forgotten” emergencies in the world. There is an urgent need for renewed and stronger advocacy to mobilize donors to address the country’s humanitarian crisis.
- To date, UNICEF CAR has received $450,000 in emergency thematic funding from its headquarters. UNICEF CAR has also received a **$2,000,000** emergency loan from headquarters to support the immediate needs of the affected populations.
- The humanitarian community is currently updating the CAR Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for 2013 to include the new and urgent needs from the latest conflict. The humanitarian community plans to launch this new emergency appeal by the first week of March.
- As per UNICEF’s humanitarian response plan for the new crisis the funding available, needs and gaps as of 20 February are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED (USD)</th>
<th>UNFUNDED AMOUNT (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>3,543,286</td>
<td>3,391,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3,802,329</td>
<td>1,530,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>2,717,619</td>
<td>1,969,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,268,150</td>
<td>268,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>4,906,002</td>
<td>2,502,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning, M&amp;E</td>
<td>611,514</td>
<td>93,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>1,143,212</td>
<td>1,143,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Logistics</td>
<td>271,400</td>
<td>241,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL BUDGET</td>
<td>18,263,512</td>
<td>11,140,658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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