UNICEF Central African Republic (CAR) Situation Report
Date: 18 October 2013
Reporting Period: 11 September – 18 October 2013

Headlines

- Renewed conflict in north western CAR has caused close to 30,000 internally displaced people to gather in three main areas in Bossangoa with the majority seeking sanctuary. The majority of the displaced are women and children living in deplorable conditions with major emergency needs in protection, access to safe water, sanitation, health care, food and shelter.
- In response to the crisis in Bossangoa, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, and NGOs on ground are working to establish and sustain emergency services. UNICEF is providing access to safe water at two sites through the installation of water bladders and water trucking. UNICEF with Caritas established a health dispensary to provide emergency health service to address the health needs of 25,000 at l’Évêché site in Bossangoa.
- The national integrated vaccination campaign targeting 550,000 children, which began on 4 October, completed its first phase. A vaccination campaign is also rolling out in Bossangoa. So far, 9,000 displaced children have been vaccinated against measles (with the objective to reach 15,000 children).
- A recent survey by UNICEF and its partners reveals seven out of ten primary school students in the Central African Republic have not returned to school since the conflict started in December 2012.
- UNICEF’s 2013 emergency appeal of $11.5 million, issued before the military takeover of the country, has since tripled to $31.9 million. UNICEF has received about $11 million, leaving a funding gap of $20 million through the end of the year.

*Before the 24 March coup, there were already nearly 190,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon, Chad, DRC and South Sudan, according to UNHCR.
At L’Évêché camp in Bossangoa where recent conflict has displaced thousands of families. The tarpaulin distributed by UNICEF protects displaced families from the heavy rain that occurs almost every evening © UNICEF CAR/2013/Razafy

Key developments during the reporting period:

**September- present: Life-saving interventions to thousands of people displaced by violence in the north-west**

- The past nine months of lawlessness and insecurity have been disastrous for children in the Central African Republic. Renewed conflict in northwestern CAR and fighting in the surrounding areas has led to close to 30,000 internally displaced people to gather in Bossangoa, the provincial capital of Ouham.
- Over 30,000 internally displaced people in Bossangoa have gathered in three main areas with the majority seeking sanctuary in the Catholic mission at l’Évêché site. Other populations, including members of the Muslim community, have gathered at the Liberté school site.
- In response to the crisis in Bossangoa, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR and several NGOs are working on the ground and in close coordination to establish and sustain emergency services.
- Access to safe water is being provided through the installation of two water bladders at L’Évêché site. Provision of water is being provided to the Liberté school site through water trucking.
- The UNICEF coordinated Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) project, which is funded by ECHO, enabled the provision of critical emergency supplies for 4,550 families including blankets, plastic sheeting, soap and jerry cans. Two truck-loads of emergency supplies (70 MT) including mosquito nets are earmarked for Bossangoa and are expected to arrive imminently. UNHCR also contributes to the rapid response while WFP provides food rations for all assessed displaced populations.
- Last week, UNICEF teams established two Child friendly Spaces in Bossangoa at l’Évêché and Liberté school sites. At least 600 boys and girls are benefitting from recreation, sport and psychosocial support.
- UNICEF with implementing partner Caritas established a health dispensary to provide emergency health service to address the health needs of 25,000 at l’Évêché site in Bossangoa.
- Meanwhile, RRM interventions are under way later this week in Bohong in Ouham Pende prefecture, where as many as 17,000 displaced people are in need of urgent aid. UNICEF and
NGO teams recently undertook assessments in this area. RRM core partner ACF will coordinate distributions on the ground.

4 October – Present: Integrated vaccination campaign

- The first phase of the national integrated vaccination campaign (measles, polio, deworming, Vitamin A) which started on 4 October has been completed. Roll out of the second phase will take place shortly.
- In response to humanitarian needs in Bossangoa, a vaccination campaign also took place in Bossangoa. So far 9,000 displaced children have been vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases. The campaign aims to reach 15,000 displaced children.

October: New survey reveals a crisis in education

- According to a recent survey by UNICEF and its partners, seven out of ten primary school students in the Central African Republic have not returned to school since the conflict started in December 2012. About 65 per cent of schools surveyed were looted, occupied or damaged by bullets or shells.
- Almost half of the schools remain closed. According to the recent data, students have lost an average of six months of schooling as of August 2013.

UNICEF Actions by Programme:

**Health**

UNICEF is increasingly concerned about a drastic rise in malaria, other diseases and malnutrition in CAR due the prevailing insecurity and displacement in the interior of the country.

Mobile team interventions in Bossangoa:

- With implementing partner Caritas, UNICEF established a health dispensary at l’Évêché site where an estimated 25,000 people are staying. The dispensary is providing emergency medical care and referral services on cases of severe malnutrition to the Bossangoa Hospital. The dispensary is also providing neonatal care for pregnant woman, vaccination services, and HIV prevention and promotion of good hygiene practices.
- An emergency health kit was presented to the Imam of the Bossangoa for medical care of the Muslim community displaced at the Liberté school site. A briefing on the use of this kit was made with two nurses serving this site.
- UNICEF is supporting the MSF-run Bossangoa hospital through the provision of emergency health and nutrition supplies.

Integrated campaign including measles and polio vaccination, Vitamin A supplementation and deworming:

- The integrated vaccination campaign initiated on October 4, which targets 550,000 children between 6 and 59 months old, has been divided into two phases.
- The first phase covered four health regions including Bangui targeting 70% of the target population (385,000 children). The second phase will be organized one month later to cover the remaining three health regions (165,000 children). 740,000 is the national target, but 190,000 have already been reached in Bangui and other areas in May. The international NGO,
ALIMA, deployed to CAR through a Long Term Agreement with the UNICEF Regional Office, to support UNICEF CAR in the preparation and micro-planning for the campaign.

- In response to humanitarian needs in Bossangoa, vaccination at IDP sites started on 11 October to protect displaced children against vaccine preventable diseases. Preliminary results as of 17 October are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>No. of children</th>
<th>Age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measles vaccine</td>
<td>8,806</td>
<td>6 months - 14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio vaccine</td>
<td>3,861</td>
<td>6 - 59 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A</td>
<td>3,433</td>
<td>6 - 59 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deworming</td>
<td>8,283</td>
<td>1-14 years of age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nutrition

There continues to be an urgent need for nutrition services to treat severe acute malnutrition both at inpatient therapeutic and ambulatory/outpatient nutritional units. Support is needed for the continued operation of existing units for both directly and indirectly areas affected by the crisis. A contingency stock of essential medicines and nutrition supplies needs to be secured for a period longer than three months to prevent shortages at the country level. UNICEF continues to support the re-establishment of emergency nutritional services in CAR through collaboration with NGO partners on the ground and the government.

- As of October a total of 91 out of 120 nutrition units have been reopened and 21 out of 24 therapeutic units have also been reopened. To date, 14,821 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition have been treated, with UNICEF support.
- 218 MT of nutritional supplies and essential drugs have been distributed to support nutritional services in CAR, including 196 MT of PlumpyNut, 14 MT of F-75 therapeutic milk and 7 MT of F-100 therapeutic milk were distributed to 21 inpatient therapeutic units and 102 ambulatory/outpatient nutritional units in 13 of 16 prefectures.
- Since the beginning of the crisis, a total of 10,096 new cases of severe acute malnutrition were admitted to nutrition units. June was the peak month with 2,757 new admissions.
- Priority nutritional support is given to recent conflict affected areas, particularly Paoua and Bossangoa, where there is a high concentration of internally displaced people have gathered.

### Education

In mid-August, the Education Cluster led by UNICEF with the participation of partners carried out a survey on the impact of the crisis on education. The data below is based on a survey conducted in 176 out of 1,933 formal primary schools in 11 out of 17 prefectures in Central African Republic. The members of the Education Cluster include: Ministry of Education, Association des Directeurs d’École, COOPI, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Fédération Nationale des Associations de Parents d’Élèves, Finn Church Aid (FCA), OSEEL, World Food Programme (WFP), Syndicat des enseignants, and UNICEF.

**The results of the survey indicate:**

- Seven out of ten primary school students in the Central African Republic have not returned to school since the conflict started in December 2012.
- About 65 per cent of schools surveyed were either looted, occupied or damaged by bullets or shells.
- Four out of five people said that fear of violence remains the main reason that students are reluctant to return to school.
Almost half of the schools remain closed and students have lost an average of six months of schooling as of August 2013.


11 September - Present: Supporting the "Back to School" campaign

- Since the crisis, UNICEF has re-supplied schools with furniture and learning materials. A partnership with the Ministry of Education enabled the return of 1,350 teachers back to their duty stations. UNICEF is currently forging new partnerships with NGOs to undertake Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) for 116 schools in 5 prefectures in Zone 2 (conflict-affected zones). An estimated 65,000 primary school children will benefit from these catch-up classes so that they can write their final exams this November for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Almost 20,000 students benefited from school supplies and school furniture which contributed to the re-opening of schools. By the end of the year, UNICEF plans to support an additional 105,000 children.

**WASH**

- In Bossangoa, UNICEF is supporting access to safe water by providing two water bladders at l’Évêché site. UNICEF is also providing fuel to sustain pumping. Two additional water bladders provided by MSF boosted capacity up to 40,000 litres of water per day each equivalent to 8.5 litres of water per person per day.
- Provision of safe water (12 cubic meters a day) is delivered to Liberté school site through water trucks.
- UNICEF and MSF are supporting efforts to meet sanitation demands in Bossangoa through latrine construction.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

The number of children associated with armed forces and groups in the country is estimated at 3,500, up from around 2,000 prior to the conflict.

- Between 10-11 October, UNICEF established two Child Friendly Spaces at the two IDP sites in Bossangoa. Over 600 boys and girls aged 2-10 benefit from a safe place where they can play, resume informal educational activities and get psychosocial care. UNICEF trained on-site community workers and social workers on child protection issues.
- In addition, another recreational space was established for older children with the support of volunteers guided by UNICEF, NGO partner Caritas and local representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs. It is used by children ten years of age or older for various sports activities. Sports and recreational activities serve as an entry point to support resilience and aid in the recovery of children who have experienced violence and trauma.
- UNICEF Representative met with the Minister of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration on 20 September and met with the Minister of Defense on 11 October to advocate for the release of children recruited into armed forces/groups. UNICEF is continuing its advocacy with military authorities to gain access to military camps and pursue its responsibilities under the Security Council resolution 1612 for the release of Children associated to armed forces or armed groups.

**RRM Assessment Results**

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Since 15 September, five evaluations have been conducted within the RRM framework. The five evaluations conducted in the Satema, Hodjo, Mingala (South East) and Bohong, Bouar (North West), provided valuable information to prioritize needs and inform emergency response. A detailed monthly report is available, see Annex I.

Recently completed:
- Between 16-23 September, RRM covered the needs in NFIs for 2,319 internally displaced people in Gbadalao (South East).
- Between 2-8 October, RRM responded to complement NFI needs identified in Bossangoa for 4,500 families.

On-going:
- Bohong (North West), where 16,750 internally displaced people will receive NFIs which include items for temporary shelter, cooking tools, hygiene kits and malaria prevention.
- Hodjo (South East), where 2,025 internally displaced people will receive NFIs like plastic sheeting, blankets, hygiene kits, cooking sets, mosquito nets, and jerry cans.

Interagency Collaboration

On 27 September, DSRSG Immonen led a mission to Paoua, Ouham-Pende prefecture, with representatives from OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They met the MICOPAX commander in the region as well as with the former Seleka commander, humanitarian actors on the ground and representatives of the displaced populations. The visit provided an opportunity to take stock of the region’s main concerns in the fields of security and social and economic development.

Humanitarian Country Team meetings take place every week along with fortnightly inter-cluster meetings and general coordination meetings held by OCHA. In Kaga Bandaro, where UNICEF is the lead UN agency, humanitarian coordination meetings take place every two weeks.

The IASC Emergency Directors Group undertook a successful mission to CAR 17 – 20 October, including field visits to Bossangoa and Kaga Bandoro. The mission created a shared understanding of the challenges in CAR and identified solutions to address operational and institutional gaps.

Funding

With the year over almost over, the CAP for CAR is only 39% funded out of the revised $195 million required to meet needs. Due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country since the military takeover, the humanitarian needs are likely to increase. The CAR CAP was being revised as per the mid-year review to reflect the current needs in CAR which have significantly increased across the country.

UNICEF’s revised response plan, in line with the latest crisis, shows that the funding needs have almost tripled since before the coup in order to address the most pressing needs of vulnerable population throughout the country. UNICEF is expanding emergency interventions to meet pressing needs on the ground. Thanks to the generosity of donors, US$11 million has already been raised. However, an additional US$21 million is needed for an immediate scale-up in response.

UNICEF wishes to express gratitude to all public and private sector donors for the contributions and pledges received, which have made the current response possible. UNICEF would especially like to thank National Committees and donors who have contributed ‘non-earmarked’ funding. ‘Non-earmarked’ funding gives UNICEF essential flexibility to direct resources and ensure the delivery of life-saving supplies and interventions to where...
they are needed most – especially in the form of longer-term and predictable funding and in strengthening preparedness and resilience. Continued donor support is critical to continue scaling up the response.

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Annex I
RRM UPDATE MENSUEL
(14 Sep - 15 Oct 2013)

RRM EVALUATIONS
- Mingala (ACTED) (5-7 Oct): Population retournée, Besoins à être couverts par les acteurs humanitaires
- Bohong (LWF) (19-23 Sep) Besoins des NFIs, WASH, Educ, Sante, Protection pour 16,750 IDPs
- Hodjo (ACTED) (8 Sep) Besoins des NFIs, WASH, Sante pour 2,025 IDPs
- Bouar (ACF) (27 Sep) Besoins des NFIs, WASH, Educ, Sante, Protection pour 5,000 IDPs
- Satema (ACTED) (8 Sep) 440 familles retournes a ses maisons après être refuges.
- Herba – Planifie pour Octobre

RRM REPONSES
- Bossangoa (2-8 Oct) – Réponse RRM pour couvrir les besoins humanitaires 22,500 IDPs.
- Gbadalao (ACTED) (16-23 Sep): Réponse RRM en NFIs 2,319 IDPs
- Bohong (ACF) (16-23 Oct) Réponse RRM en NFIs pour 16,750 IDPs. Autres besoins à être couverts par les acteurs humanitaires
- Hodjo (ACTED) (15-19 Oct): Réponse RRM en NFIs pour 2,025 IDPs. Autres besoins à être couverts par les acteurs humanitaires
- Bakouma (ACTED) (Oct) – En « standby » à cause de la sécurité. Planifie pour Octobre

Dernières  MARS-
semaines AUJOURD'HUI
Dans le cadre du RRM Par RRM Core Partners

# MISSIONS D'EVALUATION COMPLETES
5 29 22

# REPONSES PLANIFIES
1 -- --

# REPONSES EN COURS
2 -- --

# REPONSES COMPLETES
2 19 16

HOT SPOTS (IDPs approx.)
- BOSSANGOA: 36,000 IDP (16 Oct), BOHONG: 16,750 IDP (7 Oct), PAOUA: 7,000 IDP (25 Sept), BOUAR: 5,000 IDP (25 Sept), BOZOUM: 3,000 IDP (25 Sept), HODJO: 2,025 IDP (7 Oct), HERBA: 1,045 IDP (25 Sept), BOUCA: 700 IDP (25 Sept), YALOKE: 250 IDPs (à confirmer), AGOUMAR: 100 IDPs (à confirmer)

EVALUATION COMPLETE
A. Mingala
B. Bohong
C. Bouar
D. Satema

EVALUATION PLANIFIE
A. Herba

REPONSES PLANIFIES
A. Bakouma

REPONSES EN COURS
A. Bohong
B. Hodjo

REPONSES COMPLETE
A. Bossangoa
B. Gbadalao