UNICEF Central African Republic (CAR) Situation Report
Date: 8 May 2013
Reporting Period: 26 April-8 May 2013

Headlines

- In post-coup Central African Republic insecurity persists, seven weeks after the Seleka rebel alliance seized power in a military coup in the capital Bangui.
- The security situation remains highly volatile as looting and violence continues in the capital and in the interior of the country.
- Self-proclaimed interim President Michel Djotodia calls for the restoration of law and order in the capital.
- UNICEF condemns the death of a 17 year old child re-recruited into the Seleka and subsequently stoned to death by a mob in Bangui on 24 April.
- A measles epidemic in Bangui has been confirmed. UNICEF, WHO and MoH and NGOs are working together to coordinate an emergency measles campaign for 150,000 children.
- UNICEF is continuing to distribute live-saving supplies where possible and is providing emergency health, nutrition, protection, and water/sanitation support to the affected population in partnership with INGOs present on the ground as access permits.

*Before the 24 March coup, there were already nearly 190,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon, Chad, DRC and South Sudan, according to UNHCR.

**Funding gap is being revised following new round of rapid assessments and a revised Humanitarian Action for Children will be available soon. Overall cluster and UNICEF population targets under revision.

OVERALL ESTIMATED AFFECTED POPULATION
4.6 million
CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS
> 2.3 million
INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION
> 206,000
NEW REFUGEES*
> 49,000
UNICEF IMMEDIATE FUNDING GAP**
>US $11 million

On 12 April, UNICEF delivers life-saving emergency medical supplies to Centre de Sante Urbain des Castors, a health centre in Bangui.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Timeline of events

In December 2012, the Seleka (meaning Coalition in the local language) began its advance across the Central African Republic. A ceasefire agreement in Libreville was brokered on 11 January and a new transitional national unity government was formed on 3 February 2013. On 22 March, the Seleka advanced towards Bangui while also taking key cities in the western part of the country. On 24 March, the Seleka advanced on Bangui, taking control of the capital and the entire country. Shortly after seizing power, the self-proclaimed President Michel Djotodia dissolved the transitional government, parliament, and constitution. However, following international pressure, on 3 April, Michel Djotodia issued a presidential order setting up a council to lead a transitional government until elections were held within 18 months (October 2014). On 13 April, Michel Djotodia was elected by acclamation the interim President of the Republic during the first session of the Board of the National Transition Council (CNT) formed by all political groups in the country. This role was subsequently revised to “Chief of the Committee of National Transition” following the talks in N’djamena. On 18 April, summit in N’Djamena recognised Djotodia as transitional head of government and re-launched Libreville agreement steering committee.

On 21 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, met with CAR Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye reassuring support for the implementation of the Libreville Accord and expressed deep concern on the grave security situation and violation of human rights in CAR.

On 29 April, South African president Zuma said South Africa supports the transitional government.

The International Contact Group (ICG) on CAR held its inaugural meeting in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on 3 May 2013. The participants expressed their concern about the deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and strongly stressed the need for coordinated regional, continental and international engagement. While respecting the national sovereignty of the CAR, the ICG called on authorities to restore full constitutional order. As the crisis in CAR constitutes a threat to peace, security and stability of the region, the ICG called for the respect for the Political Agreement of Libreville of 11 January 2013 and the Declaration of the 4th Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS and reaffirmed its political will to support the CAR in efforts to end the recurrent cycle of instability and unconstitutional change of Government.

Current Situation

In post-coup Central African Republic insecurity persists, seven weeks after the Seleka rebel alliance seized power in a military coup in the capital Bangui. The security situation remains “highly volatile” according to a UN envoy, as looting and violence continues in the capital and in the interior of the country. Children in particular are bearing the brunt of the humanitarian crisis.

As pillaging of humanitarian and health facilities continues, frustration is mounting. On 24 April, two young people aged 17 and 19 were stoned to death in Bangui after being ordered by a Seleka Colonel to take part in the theft of a vehicle. The 17 year old child and a 19 year old were stoned to death when a crowd that gathered at the scene turned on them, said a government official and the Nda Community Association, a national NGO and UNICEF partner. A 14 year old boy with the party was also injured. Following the incident, UNICEF and BINUCA met with authorities to call on all parties to immediately engage in identification, verification and release of children who are still among the ranks of armed groups, and this advocacy continues.
Most schools remain closed despite the 6 May date set by the Ministry of Education to re-open schools. There are 746,000 primary school aged children in CAR (6-11 years), 67% of whom were attending school before the crisis. UNICEF estimates that at least 250,000 children who started the 2012-2013 primary school year and 30,000 who were in secondary school are now at risk of losing the entire school year if schools do not re-open in the coming weeks. In total with pre and post crisis figures, there are over one million children out of school in the country of 4.6 million people.

The International Crisis Group has described the security situation in Bangui as having “significantly deteriorated” and interim President Michel Djotodia made a plea for the restoration of law and order in a televised address. On 29 April, after being briefed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman, members of the Security Council expressed strong concern at the worsening humanitarian and security situation and the weakening of the Central African Republic institutions. They called for the restoration of peace and security and called on all parties to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout the country. They called on Seleka leaders to ensure an end to violence and an immediate start to the cantonment process of armed soldiers as specified in the Libreville agreement. They also expressed their willingness to consider further options to stabilize the Central African Republic.

UNICEF estimates that the entire population of CAR’s 4.6 million people are either directly or indirectly affected, but children who comprise 50 per cent of the population are bearing the brunt of the humanitarian crisis. Information on humanitarian needs continues to emerge as results of Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assessments, funded by ECHO, become available. In the northeast, 1.2 million people (an estimated 600,000 of whom are children) have been without basic essential services for over four months now. The table below summarizes the estimated affected population in CAR.

Due to the volatile security situation and a lack of accessibility to some of the regions of the country, UNICEF is considering different scenarios for field monitoring. UNICEF is currently working within the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Framework. The UNICEF Humanitarian Response Plan prepared in January has been revised to incorporate the significant increase in humanitarian needs. A six week inter-agency response plan for immediate response has been prepared and covers the following prefectures: Bangui, Ombella M’Poko, Kemo, Nana Gribizi, Ouham, Ouaka (see map below for the inter-agencies priority areas).

The following table gives the estimated affected population in Central African Republic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source: Population figures based on 2012 population projections based on the RGPH 2003, Census Central African Republic</th>
<th>Total*</th>
<th>Male*</th>
<th>Female*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Affected Population = Total Population</td>
<td>4,663,725</td>
<td>2,331,866</td>
<td>2,331,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Affected (Under 18)</td>
<td>2,303,880</td>
<td>1,151,940</td>
<td>1,151,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population cut off from basic services since December</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children cut off from basic services since December</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five (17.3% of total population)</td>
<td>806,824</td>
<td>403,412</td>
<td>403,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 0-12 months (3.5% of total population)</td>
<td>163,230</td>
<td>81,615</td>
<td>81,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 12-59 months (13.8% of total population)</td>
<td>643,594</td>
<td>321,797</td>
<td>321,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women (4.40% of total population)</td>
<td>205,204</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>205,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td>13,500**</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five with Moderate Acute Malnutrition(MAM)</td>
<td>44,000**</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Displaced Population | 206,000** | 103,000 | 103,000
---|---|---|---
Children Displaced (Assuming 50% of the total displaced population) | 103,000** | 51,500 | 51,500
Affected Families (5 persons each family) | 932,745 | N/A | N/A
Estimated number of primary school aged children (6-11 years old) | 746,196 | 373,098 | 373,098
Estimated number of pre-school aged children (3-5 years old) (9.9% of total population) | 461,709 | 230,854 | 230,854

*Estimated 50% of male and female population. ** these figures are expected to increase once data is available.

Displacement continues throughout the country as families seek to find safe spaces away from attacks and violence. The number of internally displaced people is now estimated at 206,000. UNHCR is now estimating close to 49,000 refugees, of which the large majority are in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Currently, those humanitarian organizations with an international presence in CAR include: ACF, ACTED, COHEB, COOPI, DRC, EMERGENCY Paediatric, IMC, IRC, MSF-France, MSF-Holland, MSF-Spain, PU-AMI, Mercy Corps, Merlin, Save the Children and the ICRC.

Security/Access
- In post-coup Central African Republic insecurity persists. The security situation remains “highly volatile” according to a UN envoy as looting and violence continues in the capital and in the interior of the country.
- The joint UN/DSS Security Mission to Damara/Sibut found the situation generally calm, but do not for now recommend overnight mission to the area. Initial feedback from UNDSS Ndele mission points to similar situation as Sibut, such as a lack of clarity on authorities and prevailing fear for security among local population.
- Due to the volatile security situation and a lack of accessibility to some of the regions of the country, UNICEF is considering different scenarios for field monitoring within the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Framework.
- The security situation is severely hindering planned food distributions and other essential supplies from reaching beneficiaries.
- For the still few INGOS operating in the interior, access is for the most part limited to towns and populations along main roads as use of secondary roads is inadvisable.

RRM Assessment Results and UNICEF Key Actions to date

While significant insecurity continues to exacerbate the lack of access, UNICEF is coordinating with UN agencies and INGO partners on the ground to plan and deliver immediate support for vulnerable populations that are accessible.

RRM Rapid Assessments have now been conducted on the following 3 prefectures: Bangui, Kemo and Ouham revealed dire humanitarian needs in the following sectors: WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Food Security. As of 1 May, additional assessments are being conducted by Save the Children in Ouaka and Nana-Gribizi. However, 10 planned assessments to be implemented by different partners remain on hold until the security situation improves. The analysis of the 43 questionnaires has revealed the highlights in the table below. Discussions are taking place within the different clusters on planning in depth sectoral assessments.

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1 African development Bank (AFDB), 2011 · Average of household size in Central African Republic.
## RRM Assessments

### HEALTH

- 27% of the questionnaires received state that there are no health facilities available.
- 12% of the questionnaires have registered that there are no health personnel available.
- 34% of the questionnaires report that there are no medicines available.
- 24% of the questionnaires reveal that there is risk of pandemic.
- 41% of the questionnaires received report an interruption of the health services previously provided.
- 34% of the questionnaires report an increased level of patients accessing health services.

### NUTRITION

- 83% of the questionnaires report that food sources have changed as a result of the conflict.
- 83% of the questionnaires report a bad status of food stock.
- 41% of the questionnaires report a negative impact on food in the market (i.e., increased price, less food available, etc.)
- 51% of the questionnaires reported that there are heavy crop losses.
- 37% of the questionnaires received have reported a negative impact on livestock, 39% on agricultural products stocked and 61% on the availability of seeds.

## Key Actions

### During the reporting period:

UNICEF, WHO and MoH and NGOs are working together to coordinate an emergency measles campaign from 21-26 May. This campaign is in response to eight positive test results discovered in Bangui for the month of April which puts Bangui over the threshold for a measles epidemic which is three cases in one month. 150,000 children aged 6 to 59 months are targetted by the vaccination campaign in Bangui (while before the crisis there were an estimated 120,000 children aged 6-59 months, the Health Cluster is using a planning figure of 150,000 for the campaign taking into consideration population movements due to the crisis). 250,000 measles vaccines are expected to arrive on 15 May, 100,000 vaccines for routine and 150,000 vaccines for the measles epidemic in Bangui.

### Since the 24 March coup:

UNICEF chartered over 23 tons of essential drugs, obstetric supplies, and water tanks to Bangui. UNICEF has provided health, nutrition and WASH related supplies to MSF France, MSF Holland, MSF Spain, IMC, ACF, and Emergency Paediatric Clinic.

To date, UNICEF has distributed 141 basic health kits, essential drugs and equipment to hospitals, health centres and partners in the health districts of Bangui, Boali, Bimbo, Begua;; Batangafo, Kabo and Bossangoa (Ouam region); Sibut (Kemo region); Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran region); Carnot (Mambere-Kadei region) and Paoua (Ouham-Pende region). The distribution covers a total of 141,000 people for 3 months.

### During the reporting period:

The Nutritional needs in Bangui are being covered under the on-going ACF supported fixed and ambulatory therapeutic feeding program in Bangui and nearby areas. 3 therapeutic nutrition centres and 12 ambulatory nutritional centres are being supported to be able to cover the treatment of almost 4,000 severe acutely malnourished children in Bangui. UNICEF joined ACF in the first two meetings of the Nutrition cluster in Bangui.

### Since the 24 March coup:

UNICEF distributed nutrition supplies to partner ACF on 16 April to ensure a 2 month stock for Bangui and to facilitate the re-opening of a nutrition center in Bossangoa.
### EDUCATION

- 54% of questionnaires report that no schools have been affected with 12% only partially or lightly affected.
- 39% of the questionnaires report no schools damaged and 10% have reported some level of damage.
- 44% of the questionnaires report that children were not attending school.
- 24% of the questionnaires report that the schools are used to shelter people.

**During the reporting period:**
The majority of schools remain closed despite the 6 May date set by the Ministry of Education to re-open schools. The security situation continues to impede children and teachers from accessing schools and is also preventing emergency distribution to schools for fear of further pillaging. Provision of school feeding in Bangui is still inadvisable for fear of attack. Assessments will be conducted this week in Bangui to determine how many schools have been reopened, the presence of teachers and the security situation for students and teachers.

**Since the 24 March coup:**
Essential planning and coordination with key partners has resumed through the first Education Cluster meeting that took place on 25 April in Bangui with UNICEF, DRC, COOPI, FHI, the Ministry of Education and international and national NGO representatives.

### WASH

- 80% of the received questionnaires have reported problems with garbage.
- 74% of the questionnaires have reported difficulties in accessing water.
- 49% of the received questionnaires registered scarcity in the availability of drinking water in the households.
- 12% of the received questionnaires have also registered problems with the drainage system.

**During the reporting period:**
The WASH cluster reported on assessments in Kémo Ndjoukrou. Another evaluation was made by ACF in Sibut. Last week, UNICEF’s partner ACTED began a three-month implementation of an emergency waste management project to prevent spread of disease related to poor sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF is planning installation of twelve water tanks with distribution kits to secure water provision at the main hospitals and health centers in the capital Bangui and other areas as they become accessible. A WASH cluster meeting took place on 7 May.

**Since the 24 March coup:**
Essential planning and coordination with key partners has resumed through regular WASH Cluster meetings. The provision of safe water supply for the city (Bangui) has been largely restored to pre-crisis levels.

### CHILD PROTECTION

RRAs and other sources show protection continues to be a major concern with an increase in documented cases of GBV, unaccompanied children and re-recruitment of child soldiers.

**During the reporting period:**
Following the death of a 17 year old child and 19 year old re-recruited into armed conflict, UNICEF and BINUCA met with authorities on issue of children associated with armed groups. The discussions concerned sensitization, identification, verification and release of children who are still among the ranks of the armed groups.

**Since the 24 March coup:**
UNICEF is engaging with all parties involved to urgently identify, protect and negotiate the release of re-recruited children, of which 17 have already been released. In parallel, UNICEF is advocating for the respect of the action plan for the release of children.
signed by rebel groups and reminds the government to honour the CRC and optional protocols ratified by CAR. UNICEF is working in close collaboration with COOPI, IRC, Triangle, Save the Children and the Network for the Street Children in CAR (RFERC) of child protection organizations to address the protection needs of orphans, unaccompanied children and children released form armed groups in Bangui.

The security on roads and in towns outside of Bangui remains extremely volatile with continued attacks on humanitarians. However, a number of NGOs have undertaken successful needs assessments in some of the regions outside of Bangui, for which UNICEF is releasing additional supplies, especially for resumption of nutrition services. These assessments have been mostly limited to towns and populations along main roads. Use of secondary roads is inadvisable in many areas.

The map below shows the priority areas and the estimated affected population that UNICEF is using together with partners as a basis for emergency response planning along the main axes and the most affected zones.

**Interagency Collaboration**

Last weekend, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, OCHA and UNHCR worked on an immediate response plan to cover the Damara/Sibut axis along with accessible areas of Kemo, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka and Ouham prefectures. UNICEF will focus on provision of nutritional commodities, additional medical supplies, shelter/relief items and possible WASH support subject to accessibility and security consistent with a ‘Do No Harm’ approach. A draft monitoring tool is being developed for the UNICEF component.
UNICEF continues to actively engage with the humanitarian community in CAR—NGOs and UN agencies—to effectively plan and engage in the provision of immediate humanitarian response.

**Funding**

The CAP for CAR is now 27% funded, with $37 million secured out of the initial $136 million required. However, due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country since the military takeover, humanitarian needs have significantly increased since December. In addition, the continued looting of humanitarian bases, warehouses, and vehicles has further impeded the delivery of emergency, life-saving interventions in Bangui and the affected prefectures. The CAR CAP will need to be revisited to reflect the current needs in CAR which has increased across the country.

The HCT has submitted a request for funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)’s Rapid Response envelope. The CERF Secretariat is looking at a possible allocation of around $7 million to support the response.

Additional funding is sought to address the most pressing needs of vulnerable population throughout the country. UNICEF’s revised response plan in line with the latest crisis demonstrates that the funding needs have more than doubled since before the coup, this plan and revised HAC will be shared with donors in the coming days.

**Next Sitrep: 15 May**

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