**OVERALL ESTIMATED AFFECTED POPULATION**

4.6 million

**CHILDREN AFFECTED DIRECTLY BY THE CRISIS**

> 2.3 million

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION**

> 173,000

**NEW REFUGEES**

> 37,000

**UNICEF IMMEDIATE FUNDING GAP**

> US$ 11 million

---

**Headlines**

- The humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR), which significantly worsened following the coup on 24 March, is now affecting the entire population of the CAR, including over 2.3 million children as a result of widespread lawlessness and cessation of basic services where they existed before.
- 1.2 million people (among whom 600,000 are children) have been cut off from basic services for almost 4 months now.
- Michel Djotodia, the country’s self-proclaimed president, issued a presidential order setting up a council to lead a transitional government until elections can be held within 18 months.
- Some life is returning to the capital (some shops reopened), but security in Bangui is remains precarious with patrols conducted by Seleka, French army and MICOPAX in some parts of the city.
- 23 MTs of essential drugs, obstetric supplies and water tanks from UNICEF warehouses in Copenhagen was received 7 April at the Bangui M’Poko International Airport.
- RRM assessments are taking place in Bangui and across the most affected prefectures.
- UNICEF is providing emergency health, nutrition, protection and water/sanitation support to the affected population through INGOs present on the ground.
- UNICEF has confirmed cases of recruitment of children by the Seleka and is working with the leadership to advocate for their immediate release and reintegration.

---

*IDP numbers from March 2013 – will need to be revised following new assessments.*

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

***Funding gap to be revised following new round of rapid assessments. Overall cluster and UNICEF population targets under revision.***

---

*Estimate 50% of population under 18 years old based on CAR 2003 population Census.*
Situations Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In December 2012, the Seleka (means Coalition in the local language) began its advance across the Central African Republic. A ceasefire agreement in Libreville was brokered on the 9 January and a new transitional government of national unity was formed on 3 February 2013. However, 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 to Bangui and took control of the capital and the country. Shortly after seizing power, the self-proclaimed President, Michel Djotodia, dissolved the transitional government, parliament and constitution. However, following pressure from African states at the Economic Community Of Central African States (ECCAS) summit in Ndjamea, Chad on Wednesday (3 April), Michel Djotodia issued a presidential order setting up a council to lead a transitional government until elections can be held within 18 months.

The signed order establishes a 97-member transitional council that will elect a new interim president who will rule for no more than 18 months. The council, that will include members of the Seleka, civil society, the previous government, as well as union, judicial and religious figures, will take on legislative responsibilities normally carried out by parliament.

With fighting in all but one prefecture (Haut Mbomou) of the country, UNICEF now estimates that the entire population of CAR (4.6 million people, half of whom are children) are now directly affected by the crisis with lack of access to basic services and lawlessness throughout the country. 1.2 million people in the north-east (an estimated 600,000 of whom are children) have been without basic essential services for almost four months now.

The tables below summarize the demographic estimates in CAR:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>&lt;5 years**</th>
<th>&lt;18 years***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamingui-Bangoran</td>
<td>25,660</td>
<td>25,660</td>
<td>51,320</td>
<td>8,878</td>
<td>25,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangui</td>
<td>389,495</td>
<td>389,495</td>
<td>778,989</td>
<td>134,765</td>
<td>384,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basse-Kotto</td>
<td>147,887</td>
<td>147,887</td>
<td>295,774</td>
<td>51,169</td>
<td>146,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haute-Kotto</td>
<td>53,609</td>
<td>53,609</td>
<td>107,217</td>
<td>18,549</td>
<td>52,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haut-Mbomou</td>
<td>34,191</td>
<td>34,191</td>
<td>68,381</td>
<td>11,830</td>
<td>33,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemo</td>
<td>70,290</td>
<td>70,290</td>
<td>140,580</td>
<td>24,320</td>
<td>69,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobaye</td>
<td>146,537</td>
<td>146,537</td>
<td>293,073</td>
<td>50,702</td>
<td>144,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mambere-Kadei</td>
<td>216,530</td>
<td>216,530</td>
<td>433,060</td>
<td>74,919</td>
<td>213,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbomou</td>
<td>97,350</td>
<td>97,350</td>
<td>194,700</td>
<td>33,683</td>
<td>96,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nana-Grebizi</td>
<td>69,932</td>
<td>69,932</td>
<td>139,863</td>
<td>24,196</td>
<td>69,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nana-Mambere</td>
<td>138,697</td>
<td>138,697</td>
<td>277,393</td>
<td>47,989</td>
<td>137,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ombella-M’Poko</td>
<td>211,740</td>
<td>211,740</td>
<td>423,480</td>
<td>73,262</td>
<td>209,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouaka</td>
<td>164,246</td>
<td>164,246</td>
<td>328,492</td>
<td>56,829</td>
<td>162,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouham</td>
<td>219,157</td>
<td>219,157</td>
<td>438,313</td>
<td>75,828</td>
<td>216,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouham-Pende</td>
<td>255,534</td>
<td>255,534</td>
<td>511,068</td>
<td>88,415</td>
<td>252,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sangha-Mbaere</td>
<td>59,994</td>
<td>59,994</td>
<td>119,988</td>
<td>20,758</td>
<td>59,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vakaga</td>
<td>31,017</td>
<td>31,017</td>
<td>62,034</td>
<td>10,732</td>
<td>30,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,331,866</td>
<td>2,331,866</td>
<td>4,663,725</td>
<td>806,824</td>
<td>2,303,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated 50% of male and female population.
**Estimated 17.3% of under five years population.
***Estimated 49.4% of under 18 years population.
Renewed displacement is occurring in and around Bangui as well as the interior to the northwest of the capital as Seleka has expanded its presence throughout the country. The previously working estimate of the number of 173,247 IDPs is being urgently reassessed as humanitarian access has again significantly decreased since mid-March, with the departure of many INGOs. Last week the latest refugee figures from UNHCR were 37,000 in DRC and Chad, adding to the 190,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon, Chad, DRC and South Sudan before the March 24 coup.

Currently, the following humanitarian organizations have maintained an international presence in CAR: ACF, ACTED, COHEB, COOPI, EMERGENCY Pediatric, IMC, IRC, MSF-France, MSF-Holland, MSF-Spain, PU-AMI, and Mercy Corps as well as the ICRC.

While the needs of people affected are rapidly increasing, the already precarious food situation is worsening. Prior to the Seleka seizure of power, WFP estimated that almost 80,538 people will be at risk of severe food insecurity in Seleka controlled regions during the 2013 lean season. With regards to nutrition, it was predicted that 13,500\(^3\) children under 5 in the affected area and Bangui will suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 44,000\(^4\) from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). These figures are likely to increase since the whole country is now affected and the planting season slipping away as the rainy season (May-November) approaches. With schools closed or occupied and teachers absent, at least 650,000 children are now being denied access to education, an increase from 166,000 estimated in February 2013.

\(^2\) AFDB 2011 average of population size
\(^3\) UNICEF estimates based on 2012 SMART Survey
\(^4\) UNICEF estimates based on 2012 SMART Survey
UNICEF has verified reports of child rights abuses by all parties to the conflict. These include new recruitment and re-recruitment of children by armed forces and groups, gender based violence and denial of humanitarian access to children and women. The CAR government ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols. UNICEF continues to call on all parties to the conflict to immediately respect humanitarian principles, child rights, ensure free and secure access of humanitarian actors to those in need and the rule of law.

With the onset of the rainy season in April/May road infrastructure will deteriorate, taking longer to reach critically vulnerable areas. In addition, humanitarian access continues to be hindered by insecurity, which impedes the implementation of humanitarian activities. It is essential that all parties to the conflict preserve and facilitate access for humanitarian actors in order to provide life-saving assistance to people in need and to preserve communities hope and dignity. Discussions are continuing with relevant parties to ensure and facilitate humanitarian access in the country. Many INGOs have been forced to close critical humanitarian programmes across CAR due to heavy looting and continued insecurity.

Security

- In addition to attacks on civilians and humanitarian organisations, armed groups continue to loot; thus undermining aid efforts.
- Access to zones affected by the crisis outside of the capital remains severely limited with no guarantee of security of humanitarians and humanitarian supplies
- The UNICEF Representative continues dialogue with Seleka leadership to explain the mandate of UNICEF and its partners as well as calling on those in power to respect humanitarian principles and ensure security of civilians, humanitarian actors and their emergency supplies and assets.
- The security situation in Bangui is still extremely precarious and access to the affected populations remains a major concern for the humanitarian community.

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.

The ECHO-funded UNICEF-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) was activated to assess immediate Nutrition, WASH and NFI needs in the capital and to conduct Rapid Response Assessments (RRAs). The humanitarian partners that have maintained a presence on the ground have agreed to use the RRM Rapid Assessment tool to allow the humanitarian community to have a global snap-shot of the humanitarian situation in Seleka controlled areas.

RRM assessments are ongoing in Bangui and the most affected prefectures. Initial results in the Bangui area show that hospitals and health centers have been totally looted and in some cases vandalized with loss of vaccines, cold chain equipment, medicines, medical supplies and equipment including furniture in wards. There is need for training of health providers in emergency obstetrics care for the health centres.

Assessments also found that the sanitation equipment has been looted thus there is an urgent need to supply hand tools to collect waste and rubbish and support transportation to approved dumping sites. This operation, entailing hire of trucks will need to be done with care due to concerns over hijacking of vehicles by armed groups. Support to this will necessitate some measure of political commitment by the new administration along with social mobilization.
In Bangui, the health care system is overburdened and in a dire situation with insufficient medicines and equipment and limited personnel to perform emergency surgeries and provide life-saving care. Since the March 24 coup, UNICEF has provided over 8 MT of health, nutrition and WASH supplies to MSF France, MSF Spain, IMC, ACF, and Emergency Paediatric Clinic in Bangui to support emergency health and nutrition activities at the four main hospitals and health centres.

On April 7, a UNICEF-chartered flight carrying over 23 tons of essential drugs, obstetric supplies and water tanks arrived in Bangui. The emergency medical kits carried on this flight will be used to treat about 200,000 people affected by the conflict for the next three months. Twelve water tanks with distribution kits to secure water provision at the main hospitals and health centers in the capital and other areas as they become accessible were also on the flight. Secure arrangements have been made to ensure safe receipt and temporary storage of these life-saving items. Distribution of drug kits will begin from 10 April. Plans have been agreed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO.

In addition, UNICEF is working closely with the Minister of Health to support better coordination in the health and nutrition sectors, including the securitization of the cold chain and lifesaving vaccines and the possible release of HIV/AIDS medicines managed by the Government. ACF, with UNICEF support, continues to run 3 therapeutic nutrition centres and 12 ambulatory nutritional centres that have supported the treatment of almost 4,000 severe acutely malnourished children in Bangui.

UNICEF is exploring the possibility of conducting nutrition surveys with local NGOs in the Sibut-Dekoa-Kaka Bandoro region and the Moyabe-Alindao-Kembe region (Bass Kotto)- some of the areas that have been cut off for almost 4 months now. The general food security and nutritional situation of children has worsened as a result of the loss of assets from looting.
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Through UNICEF and ICRC support, the national water company, SODECA, now has 5-6 months of ‘products’ to ensure continuity of water treatment for the city of Bangui (800,000 inhabitants). SODECA has also confirmed that they will share their rapid assessments of priority urban water needs for towns affected by looting including Bossangoa and Bambari. SODECA is developing an overall response plan including emergency and transitional response strategies.

UNICEF and ACTED are also working with local authorities to explore immediate solutions to the growing refuse problem facing Bangui – garbage has not been collected in the last 2 weeks, presenting citizens with growing piles of garbage and its associated public health risks.

CHILD PROTECTION

In Bangui, UNICEF is working in close collaboration with COOPI, IRC, Triangle and a local network of child protection organizations to address the protection needs of orphans and unaccompanied children in Bangui. To date, over 80 unaccompanied children have been identified in a single neighbourhood.

UNICEF received an alert on the 1 April, that re-recruitment was happening in Bangui of children who had been brought to Bangui in December for protection. UNICEF immediately engaged community leaders and the highest level of leadership in the country to condemn the recruitments and to seek immediate release of the 19 children (including 3 girls) who had been retaken. UNICEF managed to confirm their release on 8 April and is now working with the local community to ensure their continued protection.

UNICEF has also been engaged in high level advocacy with the new leadership of the country to ensure an immediate cessation of child recruitments and to begin immediate planning for release and reintegration of children among the ranks of armed groups, especially the Seleka.

In the coming week, UNICEF CAR will continue to expand its operations and response in Bangui and in the prefectures impacted by the current crisis. UNICEF will also lead the Nutrition, WASH and Education clusters and contribute to the Health, Protection and Food Security clusters in Bangui and Yaoundé, Cameroon, which serves as the back base for CAR humanitarian operations.

Interagency Collaboration

- UNICEF continues discussions with UN sister agencies for the implementation of a high level inter-agency, in-depth needs assessment to take place over the coming weeks.
- The UN system in CAR is currently planning a programme criticality assessment (11-15 April) in order to prioritise programming within a high risk environment and to determine ways to manage risks. This will also enable a prioritisation of critical staffing for implementation of critical programming.
- UNICEF continues to actively engage with the humanitarian community in CAR – NGOs and UN agencies to effectively plan and engage in provision of immediate humanitarian response.

Supply

On 7 April, a special UNICEF-chartered flight carrying over 23 tons of essential drugs, obstetric supplies and water tanks arrived in Central African Republic capital city of Bangui, two weeks after the seizure of power by an armed rebellion.

The emergency medical kits carried on this flight will be used to treat about 200,000 people affected by the conflict for the next three months and twelve water tanks with distribution kits will secure water provision at the main hospitals and health centers in the capital Bangui and other areas as they
become accessible. Secure arrangements have been made to ensure safe receipt and temporary storage of these life-saving items.

Since the coup d’état on March 24, UNICEF has delivered 81 tons of emergency supplies to partners, and specifically essential drugs and medical equipment for over 60,000 people to health partners operating at hospitals and health centers. This is the second plane loaded with emergency supplies chartered by UNICEF this year. The first UNICEF flight brought over 14 tons of essential medicines and emergency supplies to Bangui on the 24 January.

This consignment represents one of the first significant deliveries of relief supplies to the Central African Republic following recent weeks of insecurity and looting in which hospitals and health facilities incurred serious losses of medical supplies, equipment and furnishings.

Funding
Following the Rapid Response Assessments that were conducted by RRM partners in January, UNICEF developed a Humanitarian Response Plan with funding needs as illustrated below. It is expected that these needs will increase significantly as access to the affected communities become available and results from new RRM rapid assessments are made available in the coming days and weeks. Through the CAR 2013 Consolidated Appeal (CAP) and the revision done in March just prior to the coup, humanitarian actors were requesting US$172 million to address needs of 1.2 million vulnerable persons in CAR. Today, due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country since the military takeover, humanitarian needs have significantly increased. In addition, the continued looting of humanitarian bases, warehouses, and cars 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.

Additional funding is sought to address the most pressing needs of vulnerable population throughout the country. Humanitarian actors are preparing a response plan to cover priority needs generated by the on-going crisis.

UNICEF CAR’s original funding requirements in the 2013 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) report were $11.5 million, however due to the deteriorating situation, UNICEF requirements are being revised. Initial estimation of funding requirements is up to $18.2 million in order to urgently respond to the needs on the ground.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
<th>Cross Sectoral (10%)</th>
<th>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED*</th>
<th>UNFUNDED AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>1,411,865</td>
<td>83,460</td>
<td>1,725,844</td>
<td>322,117</td>
<td>3,543,286</td>
<td>3,391,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>2,343,300</td>
<td>321,000</td>
<td>792,363</td>
<td>345,667</td>
<td>3,802,329</td>
<td>1,530,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1,819,000</td>
<td>160,500</td>
<td>491,063</td>
<td>247,057</td>
<td>2,717,619</td>
<td>1,969,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>758,481</td>
<td>96,300</td>
<td>298,557</td>
<td>114,812</td>
<td>1,268,150</td>
<td>268,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>3,783,727</td>
<td>795,545</td>
<td>5,257</td>
<td>321,472</td>
<td>4,906,001</td>
<td>2,502,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>120,638</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,613</td>
<td>483,263</td>
<td>611,514</td>
<td>93,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>535,000</td>
<td>32,100</td>
<td>472,184</td>
<td>103,928</td>
<td>1,143,212</td>
<td>1,143,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>151,400</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>271,400</td>
<td>1,268,150</td>
<td>268,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL BUDGET</td>
<td>10,923,412</td>
<td>1,608,905</td>
<td>3,792,879</td>
<td>1,938,315</td>
<td>18,263,511</td>
<td>11,140,658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note all amounts expressed in USD

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.
UNICEF wishes to express its deep 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 ‘unearmarked’ funding. ‘Unearmarked’ 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 building. Continued donor support is critical to continue scaling up the response.

For further information, please contact:

Souleymane Diabate
Representative
Central African Republic
sdiabate@unicef.org

Mary Louise Eagleton Meaney
Deputy Representative
Central African Republic
meagleton@unicef.org

Laurent Duvillier
Communications Specialist
UNICEF Regional Office
lduvillier@unicef.org