



Reporting Period: January-February 2022

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Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report



Situation in Numbers

1,400,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance

3,100,000 people in need (OCHA, February 2022)

632,240 Internally displaced people (IDPs) (OCHA, February 2022)

737,973 pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, February 2022)

In the Central African Republic (CAR), the first two months of the year were marked by the continued violence of armed groups and clashes between them and the national army and their bilateral allies.

The security situation in the country remained tense, the outbreak of COVID-19 reached its third wave, and the number of incidents related to explosive devices remained high. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance should increase from 2.8 million to 3.1 million this year - 63 per cent of the population. Of these, 1.4 million children have needs that are so complex and severe, that their physical and mental well-being is at risk.

-20,251 conflict-affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS). 133 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children were registered and assisted.

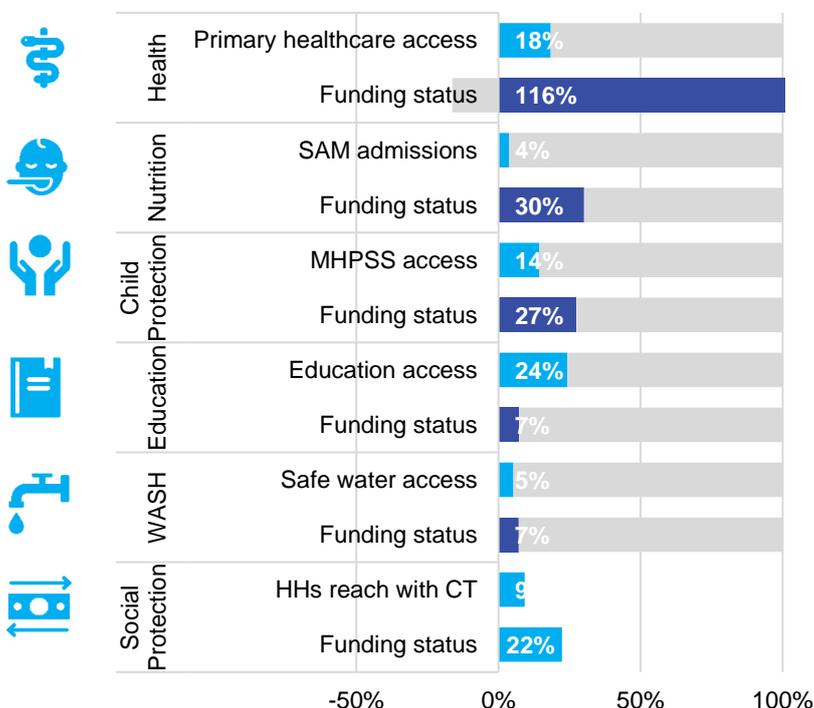
-2,088 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated.

-more than 2,800 households received Non-Food Items (NFI)

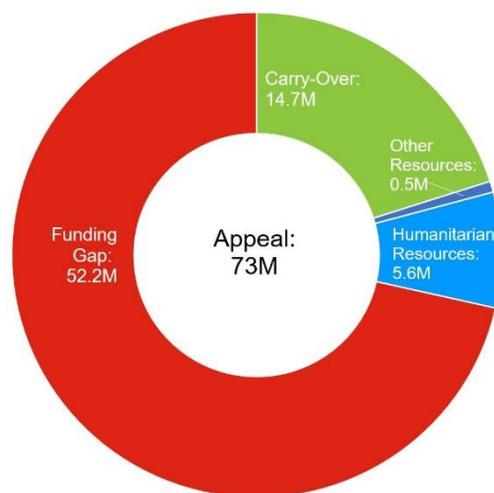
-an estimated 15,000 people gained access to safe drinking water and

-more than 72,000 children gained access to formal or nonformal education

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2022 US\$ 73 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2022, UNICEF through its Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) called for 73 million USD to sustain provision of life-saving services for women and children in the Central African Republic (CAR). On top of multi-year funding received from the United States of America (USAID/BHA) and Switzerland, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Sweden (SIDA), and UNICEF Netherlands, have generously contributed to UNICEF CAR humanitarian response so far. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for the contributions received. However, the 2022 HAC still has a funding gap of 71 per cent. To meet the immediate response needs, UNICEF has reallocated 535,437 USD from other regular resources.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Highlights

Two years after the start of the pandemic, CAR experienced its third wave of COVID-19. During the first week of the year, 745 new cases were recorded, more than the total of the entire month of December 2021 (674 cases). As of 27 February 2022, the Ministry of Health recorded 14,320 cases of COVID-19, including 113 deaths, since the start of the pandemic.

The national vaccination campaign against COVID-19, launched on 20 May 2021 with the support of UNICEF, has continued with the aim of covering 52 per cent of the total population by the end of the year. As of 9 March 2022, 865,113 people, namely 15.5 per cent of the population, have received at least one dose of vaccine. Of those, 824,496 people have been fully vaccinated (14.8 per cent of the population).

The COVID-19 pandemic, recurring violence, persistent shocks and degradation of basic services are affecting CAR to such an extent that according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022 should grow from 2.8 to 3.1 million this year. This means that 63 per cent of the population will be in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, a 10 per cent increase from 2021. Of these, 2.2 million people and 1.4 children have needs that are so complex and severe, that their physical and mental well-being is at risk.

Access to people in need of humanitarian assistance remains difficult. According to OCHA, 23 incidents affected humanitarian actors in the first two months of the year, mainly in the prefectures of Ouaka, Nana Gribizi and Ouham-Pende where clashes took place between armed groups and the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) supported by bilateral forces.

As of 28 February, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR is estimated at 632,240 people. In February, the town of Ippy alone (Ouaka) received more than 4,800 displaced people, forced to flee their homes because of clashes between government forces and armed groups.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and VIH

During the reporting period, 20,437 people, including 10,196 children under 5 years, received free essential care in UNICEF-supported health facilities in five health districts in Bossangoa (Ouham), Bangassou (Mbomou), Mobaye and Alindao.

The most common illnesses among children under 5 years were malaria (51 per cent), acute respiratory infections (24 per cent), and diarrheal diseases (16 per cent). Among the 2,357 pregnant women, more than 85 per cent had their first prenatal consultation, 3 per cent were tested HIV positive and put on Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

Nutrition

During the reporting period, 2,088 children aged 6-59 months were admitted to treatment units and treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). The quality of SAM treatment has been consistently above the SPHERE minimum standards, with satisfactory results: a cure rate of 97.3 per cent (> 75 per cent), a death rate of 0.05 per cent (<5per cent), defaulter rate at 2.2 per cent (<15per cent) and non-response rate of 0.5per cent (<15 per cent).

In addition, 1,110 children received vitamin A supplementation and 875 children aged 12-59 months were dewormed.

WASH

During the reporting period, UNICEF ensured access to safe drinking water to 9,000 vulnerable people through the rehabilitation of 18 boreholes in Ombella M'Poko prefecture, in areas of return in Bria (Haute-Kotto) and in IDPs sites in Kaga Bando (Nana-Grébizi). An additional 6,675 IDPs in Alindao site and in Pladama village (Bambari) were provided with safe drinking water through the set-up of water bladder emergency systems.

In Bria, over 2,780 people gained access to sanitation through the construction of 133 family latrines and the rehabilitation of three institutional latrines in Pama health center.

As part of the WASH COVID-19 response, 37,341 people in Nana Gribizi, Ombella Mpoko, Haute-Kotto, Ouham and Ouham-Pende prefectures benefited from hygiene and COVID-19 sensitization; 22,659 people received handwashing kits and over 64,500 people gained access to hand washing devices in 129 public places to strengthen barrier gestures.

In addition, UNICEF and partners distributed hygiene kits to 51 schools reaching over 24,406 students in Bégoua, Boali Bossembele, Yaloké (Ombella M'poko) and Bossemptele (Ouham-Pende).

940 girls participated in educational sessions on menstrual hygiene management at school and received dignity kits. Furthermore, 150 people including 23 women (104 teachers and 46 parents) participated in prevention activities against COVID-19.

The WASH Cluster held strategic and operational meetings with partners to support coordination for an effective response to the needs of crisis-affected people and define the annual planning as well as the main areas of work for 2022. So far, WASH cluster partners and UNICEF have provided safe drinking water to more than 88,042 people and sanitation facilities to 37,586 people.

Child Protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners continued interventions aimed at addressing the psychosocial impact of the ongoing humanitarian situation on children, including supporting family reunification and socio-economic reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups.

A total of 20,251 conflict-affected children (10,122 girls) participated in UNICEF supported psychosocial activities through Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in the prefectures of Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pende, Ouham, Nana Gribizi, Kemo, Ouaka Haute-Kotto and Basse-Kotto prefectures. Furthermore, 133 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children (including 121 girls) were registered and assisted.

258 children, including 40 girls, were separated from armed groups in Ouaka, Mbomou, Haut Mbomou, Ouham and Ouham Pende prefectures and enrolled in UNICEF-supported reintegration programmes.

During the first two months of the year, nine incidents involving explosive devices were reported, affecting 24 people including 10 children in the prefectures of Ouham Pende, Vakaga, Nana Membre. To mitigate the growing risk related to explosive devices on both the population and intervening organizations, UNICEF trained seven national and international NGOs working in the most at-risk areas on mine risk education, with a focus on how to conduct educational interventions in at-risk settings.

At the cluster level, 21,673 children (10,713 girls) were reached with psychosocial support and 202 children (including 95 girls) released from armed groups participated in reintegration programmes.

Furthermore, the results of the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring Review were discussed with the members. The main areas for improvement related to strengthening the capacity of members, increasing resource mobilization for the sector and strengthening support for sub-regional coordination. These areas will be integrated into the Area of Responsibility action plan for 2022.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In January and February, a total of 17 alerts were recorded and shared with the humanitarian community. As a result of these alerts, eight MEX, five MSA and one SMART were conducted. 70 per cent of RRM activities followed alerts related to incursions of armed groups into villages or clashes between armed groups and the national army and its allies that resulted in population displacements in the prefectures of Ouaka, Ouham, Haute Kotto, Mbomou and Nana Gribizi.

During these two months, RRM partners assisted 2,873 households (including 3,339 children under 5) with Non-Food Items (NFI) and more than 10,246 persons (including more than 2,870 children under 5) have benefited from WASH assistance.

The latest RRM dashboard can be accessed [here](#)

Education

In January and February UNICEF's emergency response focused on the creation of improved semi-permanent learning spaces, community dialogue to sensitize communities to the importance of education, capacity-building for teachers to improve the quality of teaching, integration of psychosocial support into teacher training and distribution of emergency teaching materials.

20,121 people were sensitized on the importance of education in Ouham and Ouham-Pende prefectures.

To improve the quality of education, UNICEF has equipped 325 classrooms with furniture and built six improved ventilated latrines (VIP) in primary schools in Bossangoa and Kaga-Bandoro. Furthermore, 72,852 children-more than 25,000 girls, received education materials.

In addition, the radio program has so far benefited 923 children (393 girls and 530 boys) in the prefecture of Ouham who have been able to follow lessons despite the difficult context.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

In January and February, as part of the Cash+Education project which aims to support the education of disabled children, orphans and out-of-school girls in Bambari et Grimari, 698 families received their fourth cash transfer of USD 65.

The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey reported that 87 per cent and 80 per cent of the families spent cash assistance on education and food, respectively. Furthermore, 65 per cent of households reported that they are able to take care of their basic needs after this fourth distribution.

Social Behavior Change (SBC), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF supported the third round of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign through community radio programs and video clips on vaccination available for download at 20 kiosks in Bria (Haute-Kotto), Bambari (Ouaka), Bangui and Bangassou (Mbomou).

In addition, community dialogues on COVID-19 prevention measures, including vaccination, were held in the IDP sites of Bria, Bambari and Kagabandoro (Nana-Grébizi).

In the framework of the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) collective service, UNICEF provided support to vulgarize the results of the Multi-sectoral Need Assessment 2021 (MSNA) through community dialogues and radio programming.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UN Country Team (UNCT), and Security Management Team (SMT). UNICEF also participates in the MINUSCA coordination mechanisms such as the Senior Management Group for Protection (SMGP) and the Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse Task Force (PSEA TF) to strengthen the delivery of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF leads WASH, Nutrition, Education Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. The Government is an active member of the WASH, Nutrition, and Education Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. Nutrition is paired with health and works through three Sub-Clusters at the regional level. The Education and WASH Clusters are also functional at the provincial level. At the Cluster level, UNICEF is an active member of the Health Cluster and, via the RRM coordinator, of the Shelter/NFI/Camp Management Cluster. Moreover, UNICEF hosts and coordinates the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The RRM Coordinator is a member of the Inter-Cluster Coordination team (ICC) which enables efficient coordination between the RRM program and the humanitarian community.

Working with partners based in the country's most troubled areas, and using prepositioned essential supplies, UNICEF prioritizes child centered life-saving interventions and risk reduction for crisis-affected people, including displaced and returnees. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) led by UNICEF carries out multi-sector assessments on new crises, provides non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene support to vulnerable people newly affected by shocks, and coordinates internally as well as with external actors to ensure complementary responses in other essential sectors. The mechanism also provides UNICEF and partners with quick and reliable information on the needs of affected populations. This allows UNICEF to mobilize partners to address preventable childhood illnesses, such as malaria, HIV and malnutrition. UNICEF focuses on the protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups and reunification with their families when separated or unaccompanied, and provides the appropriate psychosocial support to children affected by the conflict. UNICEF contributes to providing out of school children with access to safe learning spaces and quality education. UNICEF works with line ministries to reinforce the Government's capacity in humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. In coordination with UNICEF development programs, the emergency response contributes day to day to increase people's access to basic services in line with the commitment to strengthen the humanitarian-development continuum.

UNICEF CAR: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html

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UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.htm>

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector Indicator Disaggregation		UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2022 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2022 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Health							
#children under five vaccinated against polio	Girls	395,127					
	Boys						
	Total		0				
#children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	Girls	111,283	6,883				
	Boys		6,832				
	Women		5,443				
	Men		1,279				
Total		20,437					
#children under 10 vaccinated against measles	Girls	266,368					
	Boys						
	Total		0				
#pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy	Girls	867					
	Women		54				
	Total		54				
#adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV who received the result of last test	Girls	21,985					
	Boys						
Nutrition							
#children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment *	Girls	55,038	1,086	1,086	55,038	1,086	1,086
	Boys		1,002	1,002		1,002	1,002
	Total		2,088	2,088		2,088	2,088
#primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	Women	145,729	2091	2091	145,729	2091	2091
	Men		624	624		624	624
	Total		2,715	2,715		2,715	2,715
#children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months	Girls	627,485	577	577	627,485	577	577
	Boys		533	533		533	533
	Total		1,110	1,110		1,110	1,110
Child Protection							
#children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	140,000	10,122	10,122	200,000	10,713	10,713
	Boys		10,399	10,399		10,960	10,960
	Women						
	Men						
Total		20,521	20,521		21,673	21,673	
# women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Girls	12,000	121		ND	166	166
	Boys		12			14	14
	Women						
	Men						
Total		133			180	180	
Girls	1,750		40	40		135	135

# children who have exited armed forces and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Boys		218	218		225	225
	Total		258	258		306	306
#people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	Girls	350,000	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Boys		ND	ND		ND	ND
	Total		ND	ND			
Education							
#children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	300,000	25,538	25,538	ND	ND	ND
	Boys		47,314	47,314		ND	ND
	Total		72,852	72,852			
#children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	400,000	25,538	25,538	ND	ND	ND
	Boys		47,314	47,314		ND	ND
	Total		72,852	72,852			
#schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		800	214	214			
# teachers trained in psychosocial support and basic teaching methods		2,600	126	126			
WASH		Boys					
#people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	300,000	5,516	5,516	756,000	21,348	21,348
	Boys		5,066	5,066		20,302	20,302
	Women		2,732	2,732		24,488	24,488
	Men		2,361	2,361		21,904	21,904
	Total		15,675	15,675		88,042	88,042
# people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Girls	150,000	980	980	1,500,074	8,985	8,985
	Boys		897	897		8,554	8,554
	Women		486	486		10,580	10,580
	men		417	417		9,467	9,467
	Total		2,780	2,780		37,586	37,586
# girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene Management services	Girls	30,000	940	940			
	Women						
	Total		940	940			
#people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change Programmes	Girls	300,000	55,345	55,345	ND	ND	ND
	Boys		53,099	53,099		ND	ND
	Women		21,724	21,724		ND	ND
	Men		18,888	18,888		ND	ND
	Total		149,056	149,056		ND	ND
Social Protection							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors	Households	7,550	698	698			
Rapid Response Mechanism							
#Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	Girls	272,500					
	Boys						
	Women						
	Men						
	Total		14,189	14,189			
#Vulnerable people affected by the crisis benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	Girls	147,000					
	Boys						
	Women						
	Men						
	Total		10,246	10,246			
Social Behavior Change (SBC)							
#people reached through messaging on access to services		3,000,000	311,995	311,995			
	Girls	700,000					

#people participating in engagement actions	Boys						
	Women		27,506	27,506			
	Men		28,517	28,517			
	Total		55,881	55,881			
#people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Girls	25,000	74	74			
	Boys		71	71			
	Women		903	903			
	Men		874	874			
	Total		1,922	1,922			

[Annex B](#)

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2022	Other resources used in 2022	Resources available from 2021 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Nutrition	16,200,000	2,620,357		2,254,604	11,325,039	70%
Health and HIV/AIDS	4,300,000		535,437	4,463,788	-	0%
WASH	9,200,000			645,442	8,554,558	93%
Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA	9,100,000	1,000,000		1,497,854	6,602,146	73%
Education	11,800,000			860,456	10,939,544	93%
RRM	15,600,000	1,588,310		4,156,575	9,855,115	63%
Cross Sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE, AAP)	5,300,000	400,000		784,767	4,115,233	78%
Cluster/sector coordination	1,500,000			0	1,500,000	100%
Total	73,000,000	5,608,667	535,437	14,663,486	52,192,410	72%