



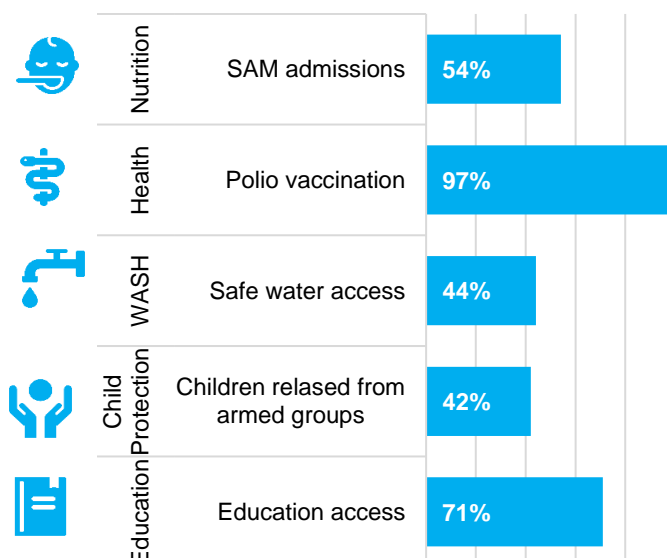
Reporting Period: September-October

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Highlights

- Due to the combined effects of violence, COVID-19 and structural fragility, an estimated 2.8 million people – 57 per cent of the population – will need humanitarian assistance in CAR in 2021, according to OCHA’s Humanitarian Needs Overview released in October. This includes 1.3 million children. Some 1.9 million people, or 39 per cent of the population, will experience acute vulnerabilities that threaten their survival, a 12% increase over 2020.
- Following partial reopening in July, CAR schools, closed nationwide since 27 March, fully reopened on 19 October with considerable difficulty. According to the Education Cluster, around 1.4 million children left the school system due to the closure of schools. The risk is that a high percentage will not return to school, in a country where only 49 per cent of children manage to complete primary school.
- Since the first case of COVID-19 was detected, 4,875 positive cases including 62 deaths have been confirmed as of 31 October, representing only 164 new cases in two months.
- The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assisted 29,504 people, mostly children with essential household items (NFIs), and 12,400 with WASH
- 5,128 conflict affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and 219 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children were registered and supported.
- 7,637 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated
- 13,984 people including 10,635 children under 5 and 3,349 pregnant women received free essential care in conflict-affected areas

UNICEF’s Response



Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef 
for every child

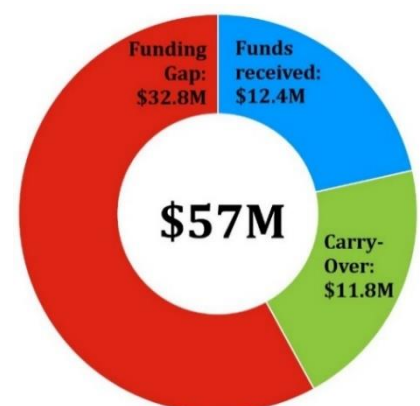
Situation in Numbers

-  **1,300,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
-  **2,800,000** people in need (OCHA, October 2020)
-  **623,010** Internally displaced people (IDPs) (CMP, October 2020)
-  **628,838** of pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, October 2020)

UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 57 million

Funding status* (\$US)



*Available funds include those received for the current year of appeal as well as the carry-

Funding Overview and Partnerships

During the reporting period, additional contributions were received from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA/USAID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to support the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).

Contributions were also received from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to scaling-up life-saving interventions and to better embedding Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) into the humanitarian response in CAR. In addition, new funding from UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund will contribute to expand cash transfer programming for vulnerable populations.

To date, UNICEF has received \$32.9 million against the \$57 million required in the 2020 HAC with major funding gaps in Health, Education and Cluster coordination sectors. In the face of resurgence of conflict-related violence leading to more displaced children and families, and as the world's attention has turned to fighting COVID-19, continued donor support for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in CAR remains critical.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In October, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the 2021 Humanitarian needs Overview (HNO) for CAR. Due to the combined effects of violence, COVID-19 and structural fragility, an estimated 2.8 million people – 57 per cent of the population – will need humanitarian assistance in CAR in 2021. This includes 1.3 million children and 430,000 people with disabilities. Some 1.9 million people, or 39 per cent of the population, will experience acute vulnerabilities that threaten their survival, a 12% increase over 2020.

Since the first case of COVID-19 was detected in CAR mid-March, 4,875 positive cases including 62 deaths (as of 31 October) have been confirmed. This amounts to only 164 new cases in two months, but only about 2,200 tests were performed over the period according to Ministry of Health and Population data. All the seven health regions of the countries have reported cases, but the vast majority are in the capital Bangui's urban area.

UNICEF is actively involved in COVID-19's prevention and response in CAR and has designed a response plan aligned with the Government's. UNICEF's plan comes in addition to the CAR HAC and is reported against separately. UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 sitreps can be found [here](#).

Following partial reopening in July, CAR schools, closed nationwide since 27 March, fully reopened on 19 October with considerable difficulty. According to the Education Cluster, around 1.4 million children left the school system due to the closure of schools. The risk is that a high percentage will not return to school, in a country where only 49 per cent of children manage to complete primary school.

The beginning of the school year has been more difficult than in the previous years, especially in conflict-affected prefectures such as Vakaga, Haut-Mbomou and in some parts of Ouham and Ouham Pendé, where insecurity forced many teachers to flee, the infrastructure have been destroyed and out of fear, the children do not dare to leave the houses.

According to the Education Cluster, nationwide, 9 percent of children enrolled at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year had already dropped out of school during the 2019-2020 school year, well before the COVID-19 epidemic began. The pandemic has worsened this drop-out rate: the loss of household income has forced children and young people to take up more income-generating activities or become a full help at home. There is a risk that many of these children will not return to school, particularly those from families where even the smallest contribution is fundamental.

UNICEF and its partners have supported the government in facilitating the start of the school year and motivating students to return to class. Among other measures, a pilot project with a cash transfer approach will be implemented for the most vulnerable and disabled children in Ouaka Prefecture in the coming months.

In September and October, CAR was hit by floods, affecting some 22,000 people (source: OCHA) across the country but mainly along the Oubangui river basin, including Bangui, and along the Aouk river at the Chadian border. UNICEF has provided an initial humanitarian response in the Chadian border and Kabo areas through the Rapid Response Mechanism.

Finally, CAR continues to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian workers. According to OCHA more than one incident per day on average affecting humanitarian workers have been recorded in the first ten months of 2020.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Since January 2020, a total of 21,357 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), included 7,637 in September and October received treatment. The quality of SAM treatment programmes remains above the SPHERE minimum standards, with a cure rate of 93.5 percent, a mortality rate of 1.16 percent, a defaulter rate of 4.05 percent and a non-response rate of 1.28 percent.

Moreover, 133,210 pregnant and lactating women were reached with key education and promotion messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices by UNICEF and nutrition cluster partners since the beginning of the year.

Health

In September and October, 13,984 people including 10,635 children under 5 and 3,349 pregnant women received free essential care in conflict-affected areas. The most common conditions treated were malaria (45%), acute respiratory infections (37%) and diarrheal diseases (18%).

Out of the 3,382 pregnant women who received at least one prenatal consultation, 3,349 accepted to be tested for HIV, 125 tested positive and were put on antiretroviral treatment.

WASH

During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the Agence Nationale de l'Eau de et l'Assainissement (ANEA) and the NGO Triangle Génération Humanitaire in Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) for the rehabilitation of 15 boreholes giving access to drinking water to 7,500 IDPs in Lazaret and Ouandago sites and ensured continuous monitoring of all water points in these IDPs sites. 10 hand washing devices previously installed have been replaced. In Ouandago IDP site, the Direction Générale des Ressources Hydrauliques (DGRH) with UNICEF support built 20 emergency latrines and 8 showers. In addition, in Lazaret site in Kaga Bandoro, an additional 550 IDPs gained access to basic sanitation facilities.

Still in Kaga Bandoro, to ensure compliance with minimum school hygiene standards in the context of the pandemic, two blocks of six latrines were built at Socada temporary learning space (TLS) and 16 handwashing devices were provided to four TLS. More than 400 students and teachers have been sensitized to COVID-19 barrier measures.

In Bambari (Ouaka), the NGO Triangle Génération Humanitaire trained 20 community members on hygiene practices and installed 20 handwashing devices in IDP sites, public places and schools. During the celebration of the Global Handwashing Day around 1,900 people were sensitized to good hygiene practices in Akpé and Aviation sites. In addition, 140 latrines benefitting 7,000 IDPs were rehabilitated in 3 IDPs sites.

The WASH cluster maintained operational meetings with partners to support effective coordination and response to the needs of affected people. During the reporting period, UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners ensured provision of safe water to 17,000 people and sanitation facilities to other 35,250 people. 285 girls and women gained access to menstrual hygiene management services and 1,900 people have been reached with handwashing behavior-change programmes

Education

After the partial reopening of schools in July, another 21,650 students, including 9,875 girls, were able to take their final exams with UNICEF support in September and October. During the same period, 256 parent teachers, including 70 women, received financial incentives in the prefectures of Haute Kotto and Nana Gribizi to ensure that the exams were held even in the absence of official teachers. On 19 October schools officially reopened throughout the country and UNICEF supported the opening ceremony of the new school year 2020-2021 in Mbaiki (Lobaye), which UNICEF Representative Fran Equiza attended with President Touadera (see picture on first page).

With UNICEF support, six new school buildings in Basse Kotto, Haut Mbomou, and Ouham Pende prefectures were built and officially handed over to the authorities to ensure a better learning environment where social distances between

students can be respected. In addition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in launching a study on the use of digital libraries and e-books as a pedagogical tool to improve the quality of teaching in RCA.

Moreover, 297 students, including 187 girls, received learning materials in Nana Mambere prefecture, while 450 primary and pre-school students, including 306 girls, benefited from psychosocial support thanks to the training of 46 teachers, including 35 women, in psychosocial support and basic pedagogy, as well as the prevention of COVID-19 in Ouaka and Mambere Kadei prefectures.

At the Cluster level, education partners distributed learning materials to 25,819 students, including 12,120 girls. In addition, 9,734 adolescents, including 3,941 girls participated to literacy classes and life skills training in Nana Gribizi and Kemo prefectures. Three schools in Nana Gribizi prefecture have been rehabilitated.

Child Protection

During the reporting period, 5,128 conflict affected children benefited from daily organized play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Ouham, Ouham Pendé, Kemo, Nana-Grébizi and Ouaka prefectures.

Family tracing efforts resulted in the identification of 78 children (including 35 girls) separated from their families as a result of the ongoing conflict and displacement. 75 children were successfully reunified with their families and relatives while the other 3 were placed in foster families.

Furthermore, 219 children formerly associated with armed groups in the Ouham-Pende and Ouaka prefectures were identified, verified and registered in UNICEF supported reintegration programmes, bringing to 1,344 the total number of children supported since January. 74 children were reintegrated into official schools, while the other 145 (including 6 girls) participated in vocational training or income-generating activities.

219 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children were registered and supported. The support provided included mainly social follow-up, individual counselling, psychosocial support and referral for medical care. Cases of rape and sexual violence represented 91% of all cases reported, indicating the continued high exposure and vulnerability of girls to sexual and gender-based violence.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In September and October, a total of 19 alerts were published and shared with the humanitarian community. Half of these alerts were related to violence in Ouham and Ouham Pende prefectures and four to floods.

Two exploratory missions and nine multisector assessments (MSAs) were conducted, mainly in Ouham and Ouham Pende).

RRM partners assisted 29,504 individuals (including 6,136 children under 5) with essential household items and 12,400 have benefited from Wash assistance. Compared to previous months, when the RRM brought assistance mainly to displaced populations affected by conflicts, in September and October 85 percent of the beneficiaries were returnees, in Ouaka, Nana-Gribizi, Ouham Pende and Nana Mambere prefectures.

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

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

In support of the Tetanus Maternal and Neonatal (TMN) vaccination campaign, 2,825 community mobilizers, 369 village leaders and 508 women from the Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines (OFCA) were enrolled to support social mobilization. 33 communication focal points and 283 supervisors have been trained and they supervised the campaign. 69,429 households have been visited and 1,824,164 people were reached out.

To strengthen UNICEF's commitment to ensuring that communities are meaningfully and continuously involved in decisions that directly impact their lives, five Information and Feedback Centres (IFC) have been installed in Bria PK3 site, the largest IDPs site in the country, and more than 25,000 IDPs have been sensitized on their right to leave feedback or complaints at the IFCs.

In September and October, UNICEF collected around 800 feedbacks and complaints. Most complaints relate to hygiene and sanitation of the site, targeting criteria for access to assistance and gender-based violence.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UN Country Team (UNCT), 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. The national Child Protection Sub-Cluster covers all prefectures directly or indirectly. 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 regional 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, displaced and returning people in CAR. 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 affected populations needs. This allows UNICEF to mobilize partners to address preventable childhood illnesses, 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

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCAR>

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

Who to contact for further information: Fran Equiza
Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0205
Email: fequiza@unicef.org

Paolo Marchi
Deputy Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0206
Email: pmarchi@unicef.org

Olivier Corbet
Chief Emergency & Field Operations
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7007 5710
Email: ocorbet@unicef.org

Annex A Summary of Programme Results

	UNICEF and IPs				Cluster Response		
	2020 Overall needs	2020 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
NUTRITION							
children aged 6-59 months affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment	49,273	39,418	21,357	7,637	39,418	21,357	7,637
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	93.5	0.2	≥75%	93.5	0.2
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	389,261	165,659	133,210	63,021	194,631	133,210	63,021
HEALTH							
Children under 10 vaccinated against measles	740,339	328,922	824,738	0			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	945,443	472,722	459,577	0			
Children and women receiving primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	379,969	85,335	58,937	13,984			
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Crisis-affected people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	306,000	135,107	7,500	543,000	442,565	17,000
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	103,500	39,201	8,300	362,000	172,901	35,250
Crisis-affected girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	210,000	45,000	1,828	0	210,000	17,767	285
People reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes	302,000	160,000	112,634	1,900	302,000	113,284	1900
CHILD PROTECTION							
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	356,180	100,000	79,959	5,128	138,800	87,033	9,357
Children separated from armed groups accessing reintegration support	5,550	3,200	1,344	219	5,300	1,489	309
Children and women accessing GBV response interventions	21,500	3,000	1,252	219	9,200	Not available	Not available
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services	7,100	1,500	634	78	4,200	681	83
EDUCATION							
Crisis-affected children accessing formal or non-formal education	510,000	120,000	85,179	21,650	183,000	95,390	21,650
Children receiving individual learning materials	678,000	360,000	117,742	297	678,000	189,410	25,819
Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	678,000	360,000	22,124	450	591,000	47,818	450
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM / CASH TRANSFERS							
Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	968,960	225,000	150,875	29,504			
People benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	328,932	100,000	100,885	12,400			
Households receiving cash transfers	N/A	5,000	1,474	0			
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)							
People reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on epidemic-prone diseases	N/A	850,000	4,342,700	1,824,164			
People accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback	N/A	125,000	3,800	800			

Annex B – Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	11,700,000	1,829,437	5,588,990	4,281,573	37%
Health and HIV/AIDS	4,200,000	691,551	0	3,508,449	84%
WASH	6,800,000	796,773	1,792,526	4,210,701	62%
Child Protection	8,500,000	1,390,867	1,602,767	5,506,366	65%
Education	10,000,000	46,000	2,614	9,951,386	100%
RRM	13,100,000	14,786,759	2,829,443	0	0%
C4D	1,200,000	1,595,801	0	0	0%
Cluster Coordination	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000	100%
Total	57,000,000	21,137,188	11,816,340	28,958,475	51%