



© UNICEFCAR/2019/S.BORO

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation

Report No. 10



Reporting Period: 1st to 31 October 2019

Highlights


- Since late October, large parts of the Central African Republic (CAR) have been affected by exceptionally heavy rains causing the Oubangui river to overflow on about 600 km of shoreline. The capital Bangui and numerous riverside communities in the prefectures of Lobaye, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka and Mbomou have been particularly affected. The overflowing of smaller rivers across the country has also caused damage. According to preliminary estimates by OCHA at the end of October, at least 56,000 people have been affected and more than 10,000 houses have been flooded. UNICEF participated in the initial assessment and response efforts.

- UNICEF co-led round 2 of the polio (cVDPV2) outbreak response, held in 21 health districts (out of the country's 35) on 4-6 October. According to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), 826,149 children aged 6-59 months were vaccinated out of a target of 827,011

- In October, 16,698 conflict-affected children (including 7,462 girls) were newly enrolled in UNICEF-supported child friendly spaces in the Basse-Kotto, Ouaka,

Situation in Numbers

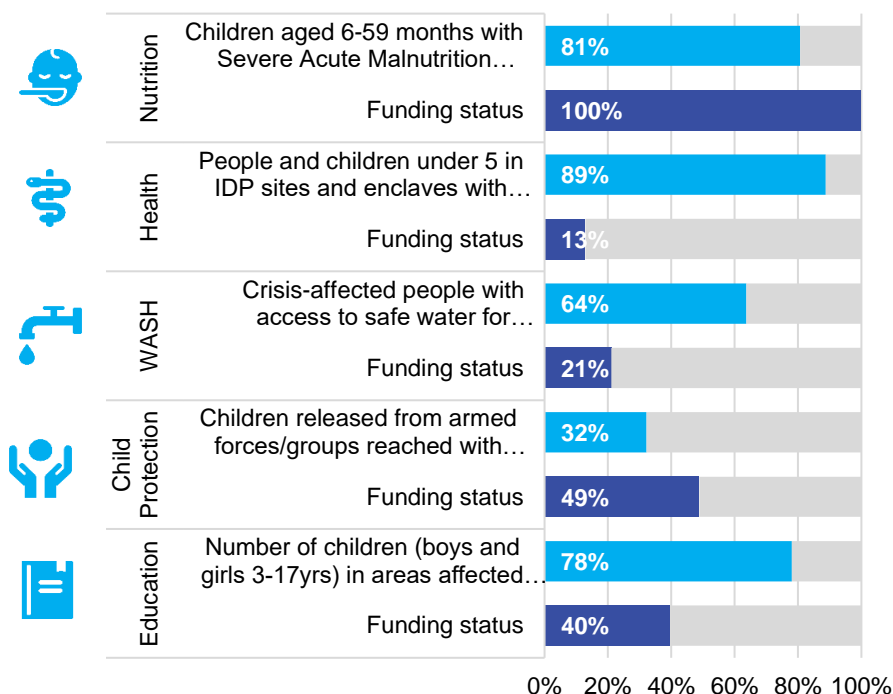
 **1,500,000**
children in need of humanitarian assistance

 **2,600,000**
people in need (OCHA October 2019)

 **600,000**
Internally displaced people (IDPs)

 **602,000**
of pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, October 2019)

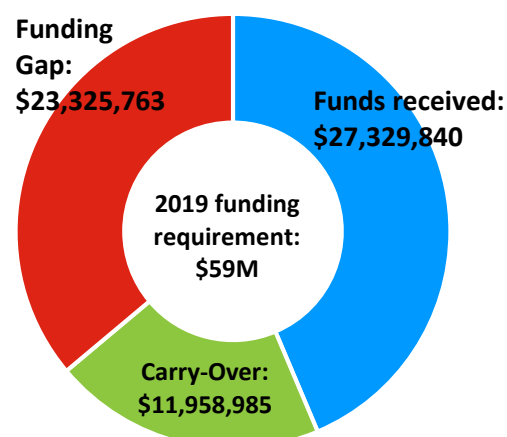
UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2019

US\$ 59 million

Funding status* (\$US)



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

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In October, UNICEF CAR received funding from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), which will be used to scale-up the WASH flood response, to support the UNICEF-led Inter-Agency Collective Services for Community Engagement and Accountability as well as the Rapid Response Mechanism. A contribution from the Spanish National Committee for UNICEF was also received to support the treatment of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. Despite support from donors received since the start of the year, UNICEF CAR continues to face major funding gaps in some sectors to support the humanitarian response to the country's persisting crisis.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since late October, large parts of CAR have been affected by exceptionally heavy rains falling late in the season, causing the Oubangui river to overflow on about 600 km of shoreline marking the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The capital Bangui and dozens of riverside communities in the prefectures of Lobaye, Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka and Mbomou have been particularly affected. The overflowing of smaller rivers across the country has also caused damage. According to preliminary estimates by OCHA at the end of October, at least 56,000 people have been affected and more than 10,000 houses have been flooded. In Bangui and its Western suburb Bimbo alone, 3,000 houses have already been flooded, together with more than 1,000 wells and as many latrines. About 13,000 people (half of them children) have fled their homes to seek refuge in over 20 informal settlements across Bangui and Bimbo. The number of people accommodated by host families is still unknown. Preliminary assessments on the sites show acute needs in shelter, NFI, water, sanitation, food and child protection. The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation is coordinating the response for the Bangui area, with active UNICEF participation. UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism and other actors are also conducting multi-sector assessments in affected areas outside of the capital, where the extent of the damage is not yet fully known. At the end of October, the level of the Oubangui was still rising. Meanwhile, the polio epidemic declared on 29 May is still ongoing, and UNICEF co-led round 2 of the vaccination response campaign on 4-6 October, reaching 826,149 children. On 26 October, a new vaccine-derived case of polio (cVDPV2) was confirmed in Berberati (Mambere-Kadei, Southwest), an area not covered by the ongoing response. Extension of the response to the Southwest is ongoing, and a round 0 campaign targeting over 163,000 children under 5 is planned for mid-November.

Finally, October was marked by the continuing resurgence of armed group activity in Ouaka (Center), Haute-Kotto (Center) and Nana-Mambere (West). Most notably in terms of humanitarian consequences, clashes between armed groups in Am Dafok on 14 October (Vakaga, Northeast), led about 7,000 people to seek refuge in South Darfur, according to humanitarian sources in Sudan.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Since January, 24,661 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were admitted in 520 outpatients therapeutic programme (OTP) service points and 47 Stabilization Centers (SC). This amounts to 80 per cent of the HAC target and 64 per cent of the estimated national SAM caseload for 2019. In addition, 72,645 pregnant and lactating women were counselled on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) by UNICEF and nutrition cluster partners. Since the beginning of the year, the SAM cure rate is 92.20 percent, the death rate 1.40 percent, the defaulter rate 4.8 percent and the non-response rate 1.5%, all of which is above the SPHERE minimum standards.

In October, 49,266 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) nationwide. Of these, 1,871 children were identified as suffering from SAM and treated in OTP as well as in-patient therapeutic programme (ITP). A total of 985 children aged 6 to 59 months were given vitamin A supplementation and 775 received deworming treatment. A national nutrition SMART survey (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions) is currently conducted in CAR with technical support from UNICEF and funding from ECHO. Data collection via android mobile tablets is completed in 13 out of 17 prefectures. Preliminary results will be available in December.

Health

UNICEF co-led round 2 of the polio (cVDPV2) outbreak response, held in 21 of the 35 country's health districts on 4-6 October. According to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), 826,149 children aged 6-59 months were vaccinated out of a target of 827,011 (100% administrative coverage). Independent monitoring showed that 96% of the target group were vaccinated. Based on lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS) methodology, results from 4 of the 21 health districts (Bambari, Begoua, Bimbo and Bangui) were rejected, following which revaccination was conducted in these districts. A

new vaccine-derived case of polio (cVDPV2) was confirmed in Berberati on 26 October. Round 0 of the response to this new case will be conducted from 15 to 17 November in 5 districts of region 2 (Gamboula, Berberati, Carnot Gadzi, Baboua-Abba et Sangha-Mbaere), targeting 163,332 children aged 6-59 months.

In October 1,295 conflict-affected people including 616 children under 5, received curative care with UNICEF support through IRC at the Kaga-Bandoro District Hospital, as well as through mobile clinic interventions on several secondary axes in Ouango area (Basse-Kotto) by Médecins d'Afrique (MDA) as part of an approach designed to complement the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The most common diseases treated were malaria (50 percent), acute respiratory infections (29 percent) and diarrhea (15 percent). In the MDA intervention area, 11 cases of meningitis were diagnosed and treated during the months of September and October 2019 at the Koualo health center. During these interventions, 1,470 pregnant women also benefited from antenatal consultations, among whom 838 benefited from tetanus immunization with 51% for VAT1 and 49% for TT2 and 692 children aged 0-11 months were routinely vaccinated by MDA.

WASH

In October, UNICEF supported the Agence Nationale d'Eau et Assainissement (ANEA) and the Direction Général de l'Hydraulique (DGH) for the rehabilitation and repair of 43 boreholes allowing 29,971 people to have access to safe drinking water in Nana-Gribizi, Ouham and Ouham-Pende prefectures. Water point committees were reactivated, and their members trained. ANEA also conducted mass and local awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices involving 3,832 people in Ouham and Ouham Pendé.

In Bambari, UNICEF supported the construction of a protected water source with two distribution points; this will allow approximately 1,000 people living in the Elevage site to have access to water. In Bangassou (Mbomou, Southeast), the provision of drinking water to 1,736 IDPs was ensured.

Finally, UNICEF and partners sensitized 3,073 IDPs from 3 sites in Bambari on good hygiene practices on World Handwashing Day on 15 October.

In addition to its regular activities, the WASH cluster team started coordinating the WASH flood response in Bangui and Bimbo, to ensure adequate positioning of partners to respond to the acute water and sanitation needs on the various spontaneous settlements where flood victims have gathered.

Education

In October, 17,593 displaced and returnee children, including 9,822 girls, gained access to education with UNICEF support throughout the country. In October 2,068 children received school kits in the eastern zone with the support of two national NGOs. Since January, thanks to the Education cluster partners, a total of 120,980 out-of-school children, including 61,504 girls, have now gained access to education in crisis affected areas. Furthermore 307,428 children received learning materials.

Child Protection

Progress in implementing the action plans to end child recruitment signed by two major armed groups during the second half of the year remained very slow, partly due to the clashes between ex-Seleka armed groups in Birao in September. As a result, only two children associated with armed groups were released during the reporting period and placed in foster families. Since January, UNICEF and partners have supported a total of 965 children (including 219 girls) released from armed groups with reintegration services (approximately 32% of the planned target).

In October also, 16,698 conflict-affected children (including 7,462 girls) were newly enrolled in UNICEF-supported child friendly spaces in the Basse-Kotto, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto, Vakaga and Mbomou prefectures. Since the beginning of the year 105,962 conflicted affected-children (including 43,182 girls) have accessed protection and integrated psychosocial services through UNICEF-supported projects (96% of the year's target). The support provided included individual counselling and follow-up, structured play and recreational activities and when needed referral to basic social services.

As part of the efforts to respond to the separation of children from their families during conflict, 85 new cases of separated and unaccompanied children (including 62 girls) were registered and supported with family tracing services, including the placement in foster families. 32 of these children were reunified with their families and relatives.

Furthermore, 109 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children (of which 74 girls) were registered in October. This included 43 cases of rape, 22 other forms of sexual assault and abuse (such as rape attempt or harassment), 18 MGF, 24 case of child marriage and 02 other cases of GBV. All the affected children received assistance.

The Child Protection Sub-cluster team trained 24 staff (including 7 women) from member organizations and key line ministries on the child protection case management framework and the use of standardized tools for case management. Implementation of the case management framework will improve the identification, follow-up and referral systems and service delivery for vulnerable conflict affected boys and girls.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

The RRM issued seven alerts in October, mainly related to the floods mentioned in the first section of this report. As flood alerts were all issued in the last days of October, response will be reported in the next sitrep.

The RRM partners conducted four multi-sector assessments (MSA) this month. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted 3 MSA in the Northwest, Ngaoundaye (Ouham Pende), Markounda (Ouham) and Koude (Nana Mambere) to assess the needs of returnees and spontaneous repatriates from Chad and Cameroun and ACTED conducted a WASH sectoral Assessment in flood-affected Satema area (Basse Kotto).

ACTED conducted a Non-Food Items (NFI) / WASH intervention in Bema area (Mbomou). 12,386 people mostly recently and spontaneously returned from the DRC (including 3,055 children under 5) benefitted from NFI kits and 6,811 received WASH assistance.

Since the beginning of the year, the RRM has assisted a total of 191,724 individuals with NFIs, and 84,240 with WASH interventions.

The RRM's October dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

HIV

In October 2019, a technical mission was organized by the HIV + adolescents club "E bata Guigui" in Boali, Mbaiki and Bossangoa to support the implementation of harmonized appointments for antiretroviral treatment (ART). Three local coordinators of the club have been set up in Boali, Bossangoa and Mbaiki for the monitoring of the activities of HIV+ adolescents locally and for all exchanges with the national office in Bangui. 47 HIV+ children and adolescents (26 girls) took part in pooled appointments and benefitted from psychosocial, financial and material support. Also, in October, 64 new cases of HIV-positive pregnant women were put on ART in emergency areas (health regions 3, 4, 5 and 6), and 48 children born to HIV-positive mothers were put on ART prophylaxis.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

Response to the polio outbreak: the UNICEF C4D team supported the MoHP to recruit, train and deploy 3,211 mobilisers, 1,050 criers, 946 supervisors and 21 district focal points for the mobilization component of round 2, which was conducted from 4 to 6 October. UNICEF also supported door-to-doors interventions and other communication interventions using mass media.

Ebola virus disease (EVD) preparedness: While recent suspected hemorrhagic fever cases in the Southeast were confirmed negative for EVD, UNICEF sharpened its social mobilization strategies using the wide network of volunteers of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) programme: 30 IDP representatives from the Bria sites were briefed and involved in the implementation of the AAP collective project. The locations of the first three information and feedback centres (IFC) were identified and named "ndo ti ta tene", literally meaning "the place of truth" in Sango.

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. In addition, UNICEF is an active member of the Health Cluster, and, via the RRM coordinator, of the Shelter/NFI/Camp Management Cluster. AAP working group is coordinated by UNICEF which is also an active member of the Cash working group led by WFP. 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.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, the external communication team [marked the launch of round 2 the polio vaccination campaign](#) led by the Ministry of Health and Population, with support of WHO, UNICEF, CDC, Gates Foundation and Rotary International. UNICEF's child protection in emergencies activities ([child-friendly spaces in Birao](#)) were also promoted on social media.

Next SitRep: 30 November 2019

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

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNICEF_CAR

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

Who to contact for further information: Christine Muhigana
Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0205
Email: cmuhigana@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

Sector	Overall needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2019 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2019 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition							
Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	43,055	30,570	24,661	4,224	30,570	24,661	4,224
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	92.20%	0.2	≥75%	92.20%	0.2
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	380,269	57,580	69,290	10,623	71,975	72,645	13,978
Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	43,055	30,570	24,661	4,224	30,570	24,661	4,224
Health							
Children under 5 vaccinated against measles	700,000	700,000	30,953	0			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	827,111	827,111	826,149	45,442			
People and children under 5 in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines.	82,068	82,068	72,842	1,295			
Children under 5 vaccinated against measles	700,000	700,000	30,953	0			
WASH							
Crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	400,000	254,916	32,707	771,224	651,004	32,707
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	150,000	13,160	0	428,900	207,453	0
Crisis-affected girls/women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	210,000	45,000	554	0	210,000	2,794	0
Child Protection							
Children reached with psychosocial support through child friendly spaces	145,000	110,000	105,962	16,698	145,000	226,377	34,741
Children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support	5,550	3,000	965	2	5,550	1,041	0
Registered unaccompanied/ separated children supported with reunification services	4,352	1,500	1,278	85	4,352	1,766	105
Women and children reached with gender-based violence prevention and response interventions	NA	1,500	1,341	109	NA	NA	NA
Education							
Number of Children (boys and girls 3-17 years) in areas affected by crisis out of school accessing education	350,000	120,000	93,603	17,593	160,000	120,980	23,671
Children received learning materials	1,282,000	442,500	39,928	2,068	590,000	307,428	18,546
Children (boys and girls 3-17 years) attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	1,282,000	442,500	53,123	0	600,000	54,455	0
# of boys and girls affected by crisis attending education in a school that have emergency preparedness and response plan	1,346,000	157,500	49,110	0	210,000	49,110	37,350
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM							
Acutely vulnerable people rapidly provided with non-food items after a shock	250,000	250,000	191,724*	12,386			
Affected people receiving appropriate WASH interventions after a shock	150,000	150,000	84,240*	6,811			

* Table footnotes.

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	10,200,000	6,673,427	4,352,130	-	0%
Health	3,800,000	178,444	309,815	3,311,741	87%
WASH	8,400,000	1,868,444	455,544	6,076,012	72%
Child Protection	8,700,000	2,501,157	1,746,541	4,452,302	51%
Education	11,000,000	633,444	714,233	9,652,323	88%
HIV/AIDS	15,400,000	14,086,087	4,102,944	-	0%
Cluster Coordination	1,500,000	1,388,837	277,778	-	0%
Total	59,000,000	27,329,840	11,958,985	23,492,378	40%

* Funds available includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year.

** Funding received includes contribution dedicated to the Accountability to Affected Population Project (Inter-Agency Collective Service for Community Engagement and Accountability)

INTERNAL [Optional]

Security and Access

The security situation in October was dominated by the assassination of a national staff member of MINUSCA in Kaga-Bandoro; ambush by elements of the 3Rs to a MINUSCA force patrol, 40km north-west of Bouar; the confrontation between the UPC and anti-Balaka 45 km from Bambari, an armed confrontation between the MLCJ and the FPRC 85 km from Birao and exchanges of fire between a group of criminals and ISPs in the city of Berberati. These incidents, which affected the United Nations system in the Central African Republic, non-governmental organizations and the civilian population, highlight the rise of armed confrontations in Central, North-East and Western CAR. The resumption of hostilities is a threat to the February 2019 Political, Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and is likely to undermine a number of political and social gains and achievements made so far.