



30 September 2019

Highlights

In two episodes on 1 and 14 September, about 15,600 people were forced to flee fighting between two armed groups in the town Birao, in the Northeast of CAR. The IDPs, including about 8,000 children, clustered around two MINUSCA bases, without shelter, food or water.

UNICEF and partners immediately deployed staff to Birao. Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partner ACTED started emergency response within three days. Despite acute logistical constraints (no access by road; limited cargo and staff airlift capacities; destroyed local market, etc.) and insecurity, the RRM teams set up emergency water distribution systems providing 60,000 liters of clean water daily to the 15,600 IDPs on two sites, built 32 emergency latrines, 16 emergency showers and distributed 2,325 tarpaulins and 4,650 mosquito nets. UNICEF child protection partner ODESCA also immediately started working with IDP children.

UNICEF supported the Government in launching the 2019-2020 school year. Awareness-raising activities for parents and communities were conducted with the decentralized authorities, religious leaders and community radio stations.

UNICEF's Response with Partners

Key Programme Indicators	Sector/Cluster		UNICEF	
	Cluster target	Cumulative results (#)	UNICEF target	Cumulative results (#)
WASH: Crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	771,224	618,297	400,000	222,209
Education: Number of children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) in areas affected by crisis with access to education	160,000	97,309	120,000	76,100
Health: People and children under 5 in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines	N/A		82,068	71,547
Nutrition: Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	30,570	18,840	30,570	20,437
Child protection: Children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support	5,550	1,041	3,000	1,193

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

30 September 2019

2.9 million

people in need of humanitarian assistance
(OCHA, March 2019)

1.5 million

children in need of humanitarian assistance
(OCHA, March 2019)

581,000

internally displaced persons
(OCHA, September 2019)

Outside CAR

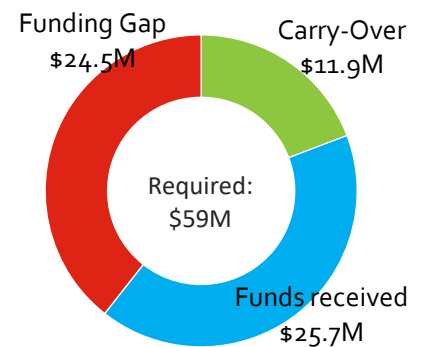
607,000

registered refugees
(UNHCR, September 2019)

2019 UNICEF Appeal

US\$ 59 million

Funding status* (\$US)



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

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On 1 September, fighting broke out between two armed groups in Birao, Vakaga prefecture in northeastern CAR, marking the end of a period of relative peace in this region in recent years. The incident resulted in five people being killed and another 18 being injured (according to MINUSCA). The market as well as several houses were destroyed and most of the few NGO bases in Birao were looted. Most of the town's population fled to the area around the MINUSCA base on the eastern outskirts of town, with a smaller number of people fleeing to the other MINUSCA base at the airstrip. Tensions remained high, and on 14 September, a second round of fighting opposing the same groups caused 23 deaths and an unknown number of injured among the combatants. More IDPs arrived on the two main sites from the town and surrounding areas, with OCHA estimating the number of IDPs in Birao at about 15,600 at the end of September (13,800 at MINUSCA and 1,800 at the airstrip), not counting inaccessible regroupings outside of town.

The humanitarian situation at the IDP sites in Birao was extremely precarious during the first days of the crisis, in particular for the estimated 8,000 children, with no access to food and water, and few opportunities to seek shelter. Despite the logistical constraints (no road access and aid delivery only by small cargo planes) and security restrictions (not more than 37 humanitarian personnel in Birao at any time to enable full evacuation), the humanitarian community managed to provide timely emergency assistance. UNICEF staff and partners deployed within days to the area. UNICEF national partner ODESCA immediately started a child protection response and an ACTED Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) team launched a WASH and non-food items (NFI) intervention on 5 September.

In addition to the crisis in Birao, September was marked by renewed tensions in the Northwest. MINUSCA launched a military operation against an armed group in the area on 25 September, but the humanitarian consequences remained very limited.

The response to the polio epidemic, co-led by UNICEF, continued throughout the month. Humanitarian actors including UNICEF are also gradually reinforcing Ebola preparedness, and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) released a three-month contingency action plan in early September.

Finally, CAR remains one of the most dangerous crises in the world for humanitarian workers. Between January and September 2019, OCHA recorded 218 incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or property, compared to 319 in the same period in 2018. Despite the overall decrease, the number and severity of incidents leaving humanitarians wounded has increased, with 34 humanitarian workers injured between January and September 2019, compared to 19 during the same period in 2018.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

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. Finally, the Cash Working Group, led by OCHA has recently been reactivated and UNICEF participates actively.

Humanitarian Strategy

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.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Since January, 20,437 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were admitted in 520 Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) service points and 47 Stabilization Centers (SC). This amounts to 67 per cent of the year's HAC target. The SAM cure rate is 92 percent, the death rate 1.1 percent, the defaulter rate 4.5 percent and the non-response rate 2.4 percent, all of which is above the SPHERE minimum standards.

In addition, 58,667 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, through community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) activities, 355,355 children from 6 to 59 months were screened through routine nutrition services. All acute malnutrition cases were admitted in the program for treatment. In addition, 259,535 children (6 to 59 months) received micronutrient supplementation and 240,959 received deworming capsules.

A national standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transition (SMART) nutrition survey is ongoing. Data collection in the capital Bangui is complete. The rest of the teams are currently deployed throughout the country. Data will be collected via Android mobile devices and instant results will be sent to Bangui for analysis.

Health

In September, UNICEF and WHO jointly facilitated the medical treatment of 1,197 children under 5 in areas affected by the armed conflict. This included treatments by the IRC in mobile clinics at Lazaret and MINUSCA IDP sites in Kaga-Bandoro as well as mobile clinic interventions on several secondary axes in Ouango area (Basse Kotto) by Médecins d'Afrique (MDA) as part of a project designed to complement the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The most common diseases treated were malaria (40 percent), diarrhea (30 percent), acute respiratory infections (19 percent), and skin diseases and intestinal parasites (11 percent). In these mobile clinics, 137 doses of all EPI antigens were administered to 77 children (28 in Kaga-Bandoro and 45 in Ouango). Furthermore, 287 pregnant women received at least one prenatal consultation in Kaga-Bandoro IDP sites and Ouango localities.

The evaluation of round 1 of the polio response campaign was conducted in the first week of September. A total of 780,707 children 0-59 months (91%) were vaccinated with mOPV2 in 21 districts. 11 % of them are from special populations (nomads, IDPs, returning refugees, indigenous populations, mining and fishing camps residents etc.). The evaluation found that 5 out of 20 districts did not vaccinate sufficiently and had to conduct some catch-up activities. The main reasons for non-vaccination were absence (59%) and houses not visited by the vaccination teams (29%). Refusals (5%) were mainly due to fear of side effects. Round 2 is planned for early October, and preparations are ongoing.

HIV & AIDS

In September, 60 new cases of HIV-positive pregnant women were put on antiretroviral treatment (ART) in emergency zones and 15 children born to HIV-positive mothers were put on ART prophylaxis at birth in the health regions 3, 4, 5 and 6.

At end of September, according to MoHP data, 42% of pregnant women had access to prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services in emergency areas. This is a noticeable improvement compared to the same period last year (36%), and a narrowing of the gap compared to the countrywide coverage of 56%.

WASH

In Paoua (Ouham-Pende, Northwest), the Agence Nationale d'Eau et Assainissement (ANEA), with the support of UNICEF, repaired 10 boreholes for 5,000 people to ensure their access to safe drinking water.

In Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Gribizi, Center-North), 2,500 additional people gained access to drinking water thanks to the rehabilitation of 5 boreholes by the Directeurat Général de l'Hydraulique (DGH). Also, ANEA rehabilitated seven boreholes, including three located in three primary schools, benefiting 3,500 people including students. Ten water point committees and 10 villages leaders, as well as 10 repairmen are being trained and equipped with toolboxes.

In Bangassou (Mbomou, Southeast), Caritas carried on with the provision of drinking water to 1,736 IDPs on the Eveché site, and constructed a solid waste management pit. Caritas has also facilitated the maintenance of emergency latrines and showers in Bakala (Ouaka, Centre) and in Bangassou. The organization also sensitized the IDPs on good hygiene practices.

Education

In September, UNICEF supported the Government in launching the 2019-2020 school year. Awareness-raising activities for parents and communities were conducted with the decentralized authorities, religious leaders and community radio stations. UNICEF provided support to organize the ceremonies on 16 and 19 September in Begoua and Mobaye under the auspices of the Prime Minister and the Education Minister respectively. Also in September, 8,750 children received learning materials.

With UNICEF and partners support, the 2018-2019 final examinations results improved slightly. For primary school, 46,237 children (40% girls) out of 54,458 who took the exams passed to access lower secondary, amounting to 82% success rate. Out of the 22,060 students who took the lower secondary school exam, 15,555 students (38% girls) succeeded (70.5%).

UNICEF supported the training of 450 teachers and directors from 150 schools in Protective Learning Environments in the Western region; 37,350 girls and boys will be reached by this activity.

World Bank, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and UNICEF Regional Office missions attended the Joint Education Sector Review (JESR) held on 24-26 September with UNICEF financial support and expertise. During the JESR, 90 participants discussed and made recommendations to address the sector challenges including strategies to recruit qualified parent teachers and mainstream the existing temporary learning spaces into the formal education system.

The Education Cluster, led by UNICEF, and the Ministry of Education finalized the 2019-2021 Education in Emergency (EiE) Strategy document.

Child Protection

Following the clashes in Birao UNICEF and partners ODESCA and War Child scaled up their interventions aimed at preventing the recruitment and use of children by armed groups through awareness raising, community dialogue and direct advocacy with the leaders of the armed groups. As a result, 8 children were released on the IDPs site and reintegrated back into their families and communities. The socio-economic reintegration of these children is ongoing.

In total, UNICEF and partners have released 963 children associated with armed groups and supported them with reintegration services since January.

In September, 36,390 conflict affected children (including 16,369 girls) newly participated in UNICEF-supported psychosocial support activities through 42 child-friendly spaces (CFS) and other community-based interventions in six prefectures (Ombella-Mpoko, Lobaye, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto, Vakaga, and Bamingui Bangoran). The support provided included individual counselling and follow-up, structured play and recreational activities and when needed referral to specialized services. A total of 89,264 conflict affected children have benefited from UNICEF supported psychosocial support interventions since January 2019 (81% of annual target).

Additionally, 40 new cases of separated and unaccompanied children (including 14 girls) were registered in Ouham-Pende, Haute-Kotto, Vakaga and Ouaka prefectures. One child has been reunified with his family while family tracing for the remaining cases is ongoing. Furthermore, 75 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against children (of which 67 girls) were registered. This included 35 cases of rape, 19 other forms of sexual assault and abuse (such as rape attempt or harassment), seven cases of child marriage and 14 other cases of GBV. All the concerned children received assistance.

Communication for Development (C4D)

C4D activities in September focused essentially on the polio vaccination campaign. Considering lessons learned from round 1 of the polio outbreak response, the C4D plan for round 2 was revised and finalized. Radio spots with Ndeke Luka and Sewa radios were revised in Sango, Hausa, Foulbe and French with an emphasis on the need to repeat polio vaccination for effective protection of children. Production of communication materials (banners, posters, guides for mobilizers) for round 2, due to start on 4 October, is ongoing. UNICEF also organized the training of 34 central supervisors with a focus on managing cases of immunization resistance and reporting communication data, and the training followed by the deployment of 3,211 mobilizers for door-to-door awareness in households, markets and other gathering places.

Finally, on 28 September, the C4D team launched a mass communication campaign ahead of round 2 of the polio vaccination campaign, with 49 public, private and community radio stations and 1,065 public criers in all of the 21 districts targeted by the response. Messages focused on the need for repeated immunization and keeping children in households for immunization.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

September saw a significant increase in spontaneous repatriations from neighboring countries (Chad, Cameroon, DRC). Indeed, 9 alerts were published this month and mainly related to spontaneous return movements, notably in the North of the country. These returns could be explained by both the decrease of humanitarian assistance in refugee camps and the relative lull in violence observed in the country since the signing of a peace agreement in February.

RRM partners conducted three multi-sector assessments (MSA), related also to spontaneous repatriation, all close to the Chadian border, to the North of N'dele (Bamingui-Bangoran), to the North of Kabo (Ouham) and in Ngaoundaye area (Ouham Pende).

However, September was mainly marked by the clashes in Birao mentioned in the first section of this report. The RRM through its partner ACTED deployed within 4 days to provide the first emergency assistance. Despite acute logistical constraints (no access by road; limited cargo and staff airlift capacities; destroyed local market, etc.) and insecurity, the RRM teams set up emergency water distribution systems providing 60,000 liters of clean water daily to over 15,600 IDPs (including about 7,400 children) on two sites, built 32 emergency latrines, 16 emergency showers and distributed 2,325 tarpaulins and 4,650 mosquito nets.

In total, in September, including other interventions across the country, the RRM assisted 15,963 individuals (including 7,684 children) with NFIs and 20,819 with WASH. The RRM September dashboard can be accessed [here](#)

Funding

In September, UNICEF CAR received generous funding from USAID's Food for Peace (FFP) program to contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity of children under five suffering from malnutrition in CAR. A contribution from the Spanish National Committee for UNICEF was also received to support the release of children from armed groups. However, UNICEF CAR continues to face major funding gaps in some sectors to support the humanitarian response to the country's persisting crisis. Funding shortfalls are over 80 per cent in the Health & HIV/AIDS and WASH sectors, while CAR is currently facing multiple epidemics in addition to the Ebola threat. In addition to the difficult living conditions resulting from forced displacement, children are at high risk of death from preventable diseases.

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 2019)

Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available*		Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	10,200,000	6,673,427	4,352,130	0	0%
Health & HIV/AIDS	3,800,000	178,444	309,815	3,311,741	87%
Water, Sanitation, Hygiene	8,400,000	1,178,444	455,544	6,766,012	81%
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%
Rapid Response Mechanism	15,400,000	13,677,194	4,102,944	0	0%
Cluster/sector Coordination	1,500,000	900,087	277,778	322,135	21%
Total	59,000,000	25,742,197	11,958,985	24,504,513	42%

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

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>

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Annex A
SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

	UNICEF and IPs				Cluster Response		
	Overall needs	2019 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2019 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
NUTRITION ¹							
Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	43,055	30,570	20,437	1,597	30,570	20,437	1,597
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	92%	0.02	≥75%	91.98	
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	380,269	57,580	58,667	31,994	71,975	58,667	31,994
HEALTH							
Children under 5 vaccinated against measles	700,000	700,000	30,953	0			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	827,111 ²	750,957	780,707	130,158 ³			
People and children under 5 in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines.	82,068	82,068	71,547	1,197			
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	400,000	222,209	12,736	771,224	618,297	44,820
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	150,000	13,160	0	428,900	207,453	2,000
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	89,264	36,390	145,000	191,636	81,267
Children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support	5,550	3,000	963	08	5,550	1,041	09
Registered unaccompanied/ separated children supported with reunification services	4,352	1,500	1,193	40	4,352	1,661	62
Women and children reached with gender-based violence prevention and response interventions	NA	1,500	1,232	75	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	76,100	0	160,000	97,309	565
Children received learning materials	1,282,000	442,500	37,860	8,750	590,000	288,882	11,003
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	3,700	600,000	54,455	4,405
# 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	37,350	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	171,842	15,963			
Affected people receiving appropriate WASH interventions after a shock	150,000	150,000	77,439	20,819			

1 Cluster and UNICEF results are the same as UNICEF is the sole provider of therapeutic nutritional inputs in CAR for all partners

1 Sub-cluster and UNICEF results are the same, as sub-cluster members are currently all UNICEF partners.

* Reflects correction of a minor double-counting error from last month

2 Target revised following micro-planification

3 Increase due to catch-up activities following Round 1