




© UNICEFCAR/2018/Ily Njokikijien

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report



31 August 2019

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- In August, the overall security and humanitarian situation remained relatively calm, but with localized tensions.
- UNICEF, together with WHO and the Ministry of Health and Population, co-led Round 1 of the Vaccine Poliovirus response campaign in 21 of the country's 35 health districts. 650,549 children under five years (92 per cent of target) were vaccinated and also received Vitamin A and deworming treatment.
- Based on negotiations with UNICEF and MINUSCA, a leading armed group signed an action plan to stop the recruitment of children and release those already in their ranks.
- UNICEF and partners assisted 33 child survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) including 29 girls.
- Following the announcement of the results of the end-of-year exams, UNICEF and partners gave access to remedial classes to 11,350 children, including 4,755 girls, in 5 crisis-affected prefectures.

31 August 2019

1.5 million

of children in need of humanitarian assistance

2.9 million

of people in need

(OCHA, March 2019)

594,117

of Internally displaced persons

(OCHA, July 2019)

Outside CAR

606,878

of registered CAR refugees

(UNHCR, August 2019)

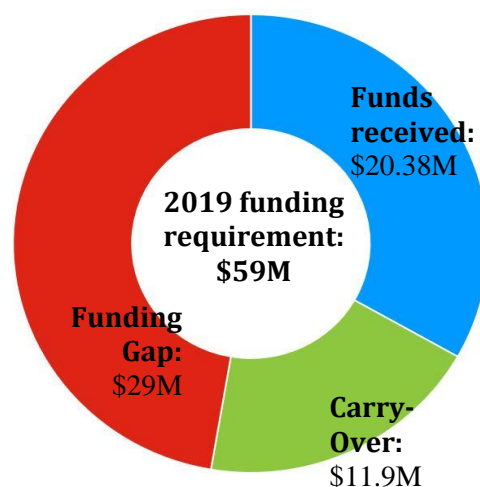
2019 UNICEF Appeal

US\$ 59 million

Funding status* (\$US)

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	573,477	400,000	209,473
Education: Number of Children (boys and girls 3-17yrs) in areas affected by crisis accessing education	160,000	96,744	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	70,350
Nutrition: Children aged 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for therapeutic care	30,570	18,840	30,570	18,840
Child protection: Children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support	5,550	1,032	3,000	955



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

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation in August was generally calm, despite recurring armed group movements in the Northwest, a clash between two armed groups in Mingala area (Basse-Kotto, Centre), the continuing high level of criminality and incidents against aid workers in the North. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded two alerts, related to spontaneous returns of CAR refugees from Chad in the area between the border and Ndele (Bamingui Bangoran), and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in Satema sub-prefecture of Basse Kotto. On 23 August, the two opposed armed groups in Satema sub-prefecture (Basse-Kotto, Centre-South, on the border with DRC) signed a local peace agreement, which is expected if it holds to encourage further returns from the DRC and to contribute to the opening up of this heavily-affected area to humanitarian actors.

In addition, on 23 August, the main parties to the February Peace Agreement met in Bangui to review progress since its signature. Participants noted that the security situation had overall improved, although still reports dozens of violations every week. The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and Head of MINUSCA warned that violations by armed groups would no longer be tolerated.

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, a total of 330,899 children (including 168,982 girls) were screened for malnutrition, and 18,840 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 62 per cent of the HAC target. A total of 330,988 children were screening since the beginning of the year, including 168,982 girls and 162,006 boys

In addition, 50,252 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 91.98 percent, the death rate 1.30 percent, the defaulter rate 4.45 percent and the non-response rate 2.27%, all of which is above the SPHERE minimum standards. Security concerns in some health districts (Vakaga, Mobaye and Nzangba) have caused the suspension of 14 OTP. UNICEF and partners are working on alternative options to overcome these challenges to visit hard-to-reach communities.

A national Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) nutrition survey is currently being conducted in CAR with technical support from UNICEF, the Global Nutrition Cluster and ECHO. In preparation for the survey, 90 enumerators were trained in Bangui on sampling, anthropometric measurements and data recording on smartphones.

Health

In August, UNICEF co-led Round 1 of the Vaccine Poliovirus response campaign in 21 out of 35 districts in Health Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The response targeted 750,957 children aged 0 to 59 months and was supplemented with vitamin A administration and deworming. Preliminary results from this campaign indicate that 650,549 children (92 per cent of target) were vaccinated during this response, with a completion rate of 96 per cent. The health districts of Haut-Mbomou, Mobaye /Zangba and Haute-Kotto affected by armed conflict performed poorly, with respective immunization rates of 22 per cent, 56 per cent and 67 per cent.

In the conflict-affected health districts of Nana-Gribizi, Grimari/Kouango (Ouaka) and Kemo (Nana Gribizi), 3,461 children under five received curative care through mobile clinics, health care facilities and childcare sites a community level. The main pathologies treated during these consultations were malaria (30 per cent of cases), diarrheal diseases (29 per cent), acute respiratory infections (22 per cent) and 19 per cent of other diseases, such as skin infections.

HIV & AIDS

In August, 67 new cases of HIV-positive pregnant women were put on antiretroviral treatments (ARV) in emergency zones (health regions 3, 4, 5 and 6), and 18 children born to HIV-positive mothers were put on ARV prophylaxis at birth in emergency zones.

400 children and adolescents living with HIV took part in the second edition of the cultural day of their Club "E Bata guigui" with the participation of 36 HIV-positive adolescents from emergency areas. In Kaga-Bandoro, 17 HIV-positive teenagers from the club took part in the restitution of their peers who attended the event in Bangui.

137 peer-educator adolescents trained in 2018 on sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS prevention, including 30 students, organized the inter-school competition on STIs and HIV/AIDS for nine schools and two high schools in Kaga-Bandoro. More than 400 teenagers and young people took part in the award ceremony co-chaired by the Prefect of Nana-Gribizi and the Head of the OCHA sub-office in Kaga-Bandoro.

WASH

In Bangassou, UNICEF continued to provide safe water on the Eveché site in Bangassou for 1,736 IDPs. With the support of UNICEF, ANEA constructed ten water points in the Ouham Pendé prefecture and repaired 15 pumps in Paoua and Kaga Bandoro, covering the drinking water needs for 12,500 people.

With UNICEF support, Caritas Bambari built 56 emergency latrines, 30 showers and three blocks of three Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines in Bakala, Zoubingui and Rehondji for 1,222 people. In addition, 1,032 people newly gained access to sanitation facilities through the construction of 40 emergency showers and the rehabilitation of 114 emergency latrines by NRC and the Agence Nationale d'Eau et Assainissement (ANEA) in two IDPs sites in Kaga Bandoro.

ANEA, JVE and the General Directorate for Hydraulic Resources (DGRH), sensitized 6,614 people on hygiene promotion and nutrition in Dissoukou area of Ouham Pendé. As part of the immunization campaign against polio, the DGRH and ANEA sensitized 50,433 people on hygiene promotion through 70 community workers in three IDP sites and in 20 districts of Bambari. During this activity, 20,000 pieces of soap were distributed to 5,000 households in the IDP sites.

At the WASH cluster level, the cluster participated in the Ebola and polio ad hoc meetings organized by the Public Health Emergencies Operations Center (COUSP) and WHO. As part of the annual Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) exercise, the cluster supported the REACH team in the process of the national multisector surveys. In addition, the cluster launched a call for expressions of interest on the activation of the water governance working group.

Education

Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF and the Cluster supported 96,744 out of school children (48, 321 girls) with access to temporary learning spaces (TLS) and catch up classes in conflict affected areas.

In August, after the announcement of the results of the end-of-year examinations, UNICEF and partners ensured access to remedial classes to 11,350 children, including 4,755 girls for two months during the school holidays (July – August), in the crisis-affected prefectures of Nana-Mambere, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Basse-Kotto and Ouham Pende. These classes

aim at strengthening the learning of children who experienced disruption and to allow them to maintain continuity in their schooling.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education in the preparations for the beginning of the new school year. Several preparatory meetings were organized. Supplies of visibility, communication kits including 3,000 t-shirts, 2,200 caps, 112 banners and 20,000 posters with slogan and key messages of the back to school campaign have been ordered, together with school kits for about 290,000 children.

In addition, UNICEF and partners trained 95 teachers and 44 parent teachers from 51 preschools in the Nana Mambere area on pedagogy, child psychology and education in emergency. This activity will benefit 8,100 children.

UNICEF, with the support of the regional office, conducted a second study on "Learning in a protective environment" in Ouaka prefecture. According to the results of the preliminary reports, the school community (pupils, parents, teachers and community networks for the protection of children) has improved not only their perception of safety in the learning environment (in comparison with the first study's results) but also their level of knowledge in terms of protection and security for children in schools. This improvement is due to the fact that the first training was conducted in the Ouaka prefecture and the knowledge was already disseminated. One of the key objectives of the trainings is to bring schools to develop their own protective learning environment action plan as well as for each level of the education authorities.

Thanks to the financial support of the Humanitarian Fund (HF), Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and ECHO, UNICEF and Education Cluster partners distributed school supplies to 277,879 children, including 80,619 girls since the start of the year, including to 118,346 in August in preparation for the new school year. Needs assessments recently conducted in the South East and Central East Academic Inspections by Education Cluster partners have shown that many communities in these hard to reach and heavily conflict-affected areas need a full package of education activities, including safe and protective classrooms construction and equipment, school materials, alternative education opportunities for out of school conflict affected children, vocational training for conflict affected youth, capacity building for parent teachers as well as the integration of WASH in schools, especially on IDP sites. Emphasis should be placed on peace-building, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence as well as protection mainstreaming.

Child Protection

UNICEF and MINUSCA continued to negotiate with armed groups on the release of children in their ranks. During the month, the Union pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) armed group signed an Action Plan to stop the recruitment of children and other grave violations of children's rights. Through the Action Plan, the UPC has committed to provide directives to its troops to stop recruiting children and to release those already associated with the group. 13 children associated with armed groups were also verified by MINUSCA and UNICEF partners Caritas Bangui and ODESCA in Bangui. Reintegration activities for the verified cases will take place in September.

UNICEF and partners reached 3,259 new conflict affected children (including 1,332 girls) with psychosocial support through 25 child-friendly services and other community-based interventions in four prefectures (Ombella Mpoko, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto and Bamingui Bangoran). In total, 52,874 conflict affected children have benefited from UNICEF supported psychosocial support interventions since January. Additionally, 11 separated and unaccompanied children (including four girls) were registered in Ombella Mpoko, Haute Kotto and Ouaka Prefecture's, and supported with family tracing and reunification (FTR) services. Five children (including one girl) were reunified with their primary care givers and relatives.

33 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) against girls and boys (29 girls) were registered including 16 cases of rape, five other forms of sexual assault and abuse (such as rape attempt or harassment), one case of child marriage and 11 other cases of GBV. All the concerned children received assistance.

Communication for Development (C4D)

In August, the C4D team contributed to the Round 1 of the polio response in 21 health districts. Communication and social mobilisation interventions started on 13 August, three days prior the vaccination campaign conducted from 16 to 18 August. Financial resources were allocated to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to recruit, train and deploy 2,808 mobilisers, 1,005 criers and 876 supervisors. In addition, partnerships with four Civil Society Organisations (CSO) helped to support door-to-door interventions. Eight sessions of the Cinéma Numérique Ambulant (CNA) were screened in IDP sites in the health districts of Bambari and Ippy, sensitizing 7,940 people. Radio Ndekeluka and other community radios produced and aired spots, sketches and round tables discussions. A 2-minutes video documentary with a special focus on IDP and transhumant populations was shot in Bambari. Following these activities, monitoring showed that 91% of parents were informed about the polio campaign.

Within the framework of the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) programme, Ground Truth Solutions (GTS) trained 46 enumerators from the Displacing Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme of the International Office of Migrations

(IOM) to conduct perceptions surveys in two sub-prefectures (Paoua, Ouham-Pendé and Bangassou, Mbomou). Data collection started with the objective of surveying 1,200 households. The findings of these surveys will contribute to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) as well as to inform the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Meanwhile, an agreement was signed with Caritas to pilot 14 information hubs in the IDP sites of Alindao, Bangassou, Bambari, Bria and Kaga Bandoro.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

The RRM recorded only two alerts in August, related to spontaneous returns of CAR refugees from Chad in the area between the border and Ndele (Bamingui Bangoran), and from DR Congo in Satema sub-prefecture of Basse Kotto.

The RRM teams conducted six Multisector Assessments (MSA) and carried out six Non-Food Item (NFI) distributions, reaching a total of 17,842 individuals. In line with the trend of the last months, interventions mainly benefited to returnees and spontaneous repatriates. ACTED conducted two NFI distributions in the South-East, one in Guinekoumba (Haut Mbomou prefecture) benefited to 942 households (3,439 individuals, including 984 children under 5) mostly spontaneous repatriates from DRC and one close to Alindao (Basse-Kotto) for 491 returnee households (1,841 individuals, including 363 children under 5). In the North significant return movements have been observed recently and Solidarités International conducted NFI distributions on the Batangafo-Kabo and Batangafo-Ouandago axes of Ouham prefecture, benefitting to a total of 2,050 households (10,958 individuals, including 2,152 children under 5). Finally, ACF also conducted NFI distribution for both internal returnees and repatriates from Cameroun, for a total of 326 households (1,604 individuals, including 249 children under 5). No WASH interventions were conducted in August, as WASH needs on the above situations were covered by other actors.

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

Funding

In August, UNICEF CAR received funding from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) to strengthen coordination of the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. Despite generous support received from donors, UNICEF CAR continues to face major funding gaps 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 risks 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	1,589,904	4,352,130	4,257,965	42%
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	2,226,431	1,746,541	4,727,028	54%
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%
Cluster/sector Coordination	1,500,000	900,087	277,778	322,135	21%
Total	59,000,000	20,383,948	11,958,985	29,037,204	49%

* 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>

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

	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	18,840	5,806	30,570	18,840	5,806
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	>75%	91.98		≥75%	91.98	
Caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	380,269	57,580	26,673	10,309	71,975	50,252	19,420
HEALTH							
Children under 5 vaccinated against measles	700,000	700,000	30,953	0			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio	750,957	750,957	650,549	650,549			
People and children under 5 in IDP sites and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines.	82,068	82,068	70,350	3,461			
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	964,606	400,000	209,473	14,236	771,224	573,477	87,832
Crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	428,900	150,000	13,160	2,254	428,900	205,453	33,306
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	52,874	3,259	145,000	110,369	4,545
Children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support	5,550	3,000	955	13	5,550	1,032	39
Registered unaccompanied/ separated children supported with reunification services	4,352	1,500	1,153	11	4,352	1,599	43
Women and children reached with gender-based violence prevention and response interventions	NA	1,500	1,157	33	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	5,866	160,000	96,744	5,943
Children received learning materials	1,282,000	442,500	29,110	0	590,000	277,879	118,346
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	49,423	0	600,000	50,755	705
# of boys and girls affected by crisis attending education in a school that have emergency preparedness and response plan	1,346,000	157,500	11,760	0	210,00	11,760	0
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM							
Acutely vulnerable people rapidly provided with non-food items after a shock	250,000	250,000	161,025*	17,842			
Affected people receiving appropriate WASH interventions after a shock	150,000	150,000	56,620*	0			

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