



This report is produced by OCHA CARin collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 5 February to 18 February. The next report will be issued on or around 25 February.

## Highlights

- Affected populations are in need of protection, nutrition, food, WASH, and education.
- Results of a recent rapid assessment on food security reveal uncertainty for the 2013 agriculture campaign.
- WFP estimates that over 80,000 people in the Seleka area will be food insecure during the 2013 lean season.
- Closed schools in the Seleka area leave 166,000 children without access to education.
- No contribution received so far for the 2013 CAP amounted at US\$129 million.



**800,000**

People living in the Seleka area

**80,538**

People at risk of Food insecurity in the Seleka area during the lean season

**US\$129 Million**

Requested through the 2103 CAP

## Situation Overview

The situation in Central African Republic remains calm but unpredictable despite the ceasefire agreement signed on 11 January 2013 in Libreville (Gabon) by the CAR Government and Seleka. The humanitarian situation is still worrying and access to affected areas due to insecurity remains a major concern for humanitarian actors. The current security situation, especially Seleka area, is hampering the adequate assistance delivery to vulnerable people. Access to south-eastern of the country is still difficult due to restrictions applied to humanitarian convoys and the conditions of roads. Humanitarian actors with the support of OCHA CAR are actually negotiating secure access especially in the eastern part of the country. Assessment missions are ongoing in these areas and preliminary results show that protection, nutrition, food, education and WASH are the major needs.

Aggressions and widespread looting by armed groups have been reported in several regions under the control of Seleka. United Nations and International NGOs offices were also looted and ransacked. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that in Bambari, NFIs for 3,000 refugees and internally displaced people stocked in its warehouse were all stolen. A similar situation was reported in Kaga-Bandoro where UNHCR estimates at US\$316,000 the combined loss of aid supplies and damage. In the town of Mobaye, two vehicles of the NGOs Cordaid and Spanish Red Cross have been stolen as well and the hospital completely looted. Damages registered by NGOs are estimated at over US\$ 1 million in the Seleka area.

About 800,000 affected people are living currently in Seleka area (mainly in the central, northern and eastern regions of the country) and approximately 700,000 affected people are in Bangui.

## Funding

**\$129 Million**  
Requested

**No funding**  
Received so far

No contribution has been registered so far in FTS for the 2013 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). In 2013, humanitarian actors are requesting US\$129 million to assist 646,000 people, especially in the south-east, north-east and in the north-central part of the country.

Due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country since the recent assault, humanitarian needs have significantly increased. Additional funding is needed immediately to respond to the most pressing needs of vulnerable population.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org)

## Humanitarian Response

Preliminary results of assessments carried out in the framework of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) reveal the pressing needs are protection, food, health, nutrition and education.

The ongoing crisis has a negative impact on the food security situation of the country. Markets exchanges between areas controlled by Seleka and Bangui are interrupted. According to preliminary results of a joint rapid assessment on the impact of the ongoing crisis on food security, the 2103 agriculture campaign is uncertain due especially to the rising insecurity which prevents people from farming their land and the fact that part of their stock has been stolen. Access to the necessary seeds and tools is uncertain for farming households.



### Education

#### Needs:

- The educational system in areas controlled by the Seleka is not functioning. Almost all the schools are closed and over 166,000 children don't have access to education

#### Response:

- World Food Program (WFP) delivered 80 metric ton (mt) of food to school and kinder gardens in Mbaki, Batalimo, Mongoumba, Boganda and Boganagon for its school meals programme. WFP plans to distribute 81 mt of food to assist 20,679 children in Bangui (schools meals for three months) and 224 mt of food to assist 73,055 children in Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Paoua and Bouar (school meals for two months).



### Food Security

#### Needs:

- Significant damage on agricultural stocks, seeds and livestock took place in areas controlled by Seleka
- The North of the Nana Grebizi region and the east of Ouham will particularly experience a difficult food situation, according to the rapid assessment on food security. Most urgent needs are concentrated in these areas as well as in Vakaga.
- The joint rapid assessment also reveals that the food situation will be deteriorated until the third quarter of 2013. According to WFP, almost 80,538 people are at risk of severe food insecurity in the Seleka area.

#### Response:

- WFP is dispatching food for its emergency and development operations for February 2013. The organization will assist 96,000 people in Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Paoua, Bouar and Bangui under the protracted relief and recovery programme. This includes food assistance for 1,300 IDPs in Bambari and 10,000 IDPs in Kaga-Bandoro. The distribution will cover the beneficiaries' needs for 2 months.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- The insecurity is hindering the main activities on which households depend on to access to food. WFP activities which target 118,000 beneficiaries in the Seleka area are currently suspended.



## Health

### Needs:

- According to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) mission in the Grimari-Bria area, health workers have fled the affected areas since the beginning of the crisis.
- MSF reported a lack of medicines in all health structures of the Grimari-Bria area. There is an urgent need of equipment and medicines.

### Response:

- During its field mission, MSF provided essential medicines and equipment to ensure continuity in the provision of health assistance to the population.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Many health centers are attacked in the Seleka area. Due to looting of equipment and medicines in some health centers, it is quasi impossible to provide adequate health care.



## Protection

### Needs:

- Following the attack of Mobaye by the Seleka troops on 8 February, 2,300 new refugees from CAR have been reported in Mobayi-Mbongo (Democratic Republic of Congo) in addition to the 4,500 registered during the past weeks.
- According to the Protection cluster members, recent assessment missions revealed that civilian populations live in fear. It is necessary to regain a normal situation where people can have the freedom of movement with no more security threats and attacks.
- Six cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) were reported in the Bambari hospital and Kaga-Bandoro. So far, no prevention treatment has been provided.

### Response:

- Protection cluster members are undertaking advocacy activities to obtain humanitarian space for interventions and the protection of the civilians in the affected areas.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Humanitarian access remains very limited as a result of the lack of security guarantees for aid actors and people in need. This situation is hampering humanitarian assistance including protection activities.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- According to International Community of Red Cross (ICRC), In Ndélé, staffs working for the water company have fled leaving people without proper drinking water and sanitation.

### Response:

- The ICRC stepped in to run the water treatment and supply to reduce the risk of epidemics. The organization is currently supplying 18,000 liters of clean water daily to around 1,000 displaced people in Ndélé, with the support of volunteers from the Central African Red Cross.



## Emergency Telecommunications

### Response:

- Discussions regarding the possibility of having the UN offices operating from one area in order to share the VSAT and radio room are ongoing. This will be possible once the sub offices are operational again



## Logistics

### Response:

- Since its resumption on 14 January, UNHAS has conducted 102 trips, transporting 283 passengers and 15.4 mt of cargo.
- WFP has begun shipping food from Doula, Cameroon since 7 February. 937 mt of mixed commodities have been allowed within the corridor.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- UNHAS funding situation remains critical. US\$1.7 million has been pledged which is 22 per cent of the required annual funding.

## General Coordination

- The Logistics cluster is holding its weekly meeting since 1 February for information sharing and planning on logistical matters.
- WFP completed the damage assessment mission in CAR. The report will be available shortly.
- The protection cluster assessment missions are still ongoing. Joint assessment missions had been conducted on 4 February in Sibut and other localities affected by the crisis on the axis Damara-Sibut. From 5 to 7 February another mission was undertaken in Bambari and in some affected villages on the axis Kouango, Alindao and Ippy.
- A mission is currently undertaken by humanitarian actors of the Democratic Republic of Congo to assess the situation of Central African Refugees from Mobaye Mbongo at the border between CAR and DRC.

### Background on the crisis

Following an assault launched on December 2012, the coalition Seleka is now controlling many major towns in the central, northern and eastern CAR. This situation has worsened the humanitarian situation and has furthermore weakened the vulnerability of poor communities. It is estimated that 800,000 people are living in areas under the control of the Seleka coalition. There is continued apprehension about the protection of civilians in affected areas and widespread looting and violence. The security situation in the country, especially in the parts of the country ruled by the coalition is unpredictable despite the ceasefire agreement signed between the Seleka coalition and the Central African Government in Libreville (Gabon) on 11 January.

Humanitarian access is being hindered in regions under the control of Seleka and remains a huge challenge. In addition, the access in these regions is mostly impeded by other factors such as, criminal activities or logistical constraints. The humanitarian community is concerned and is calling for respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, including immediate humanitarian access to people in need, protection of children against recruitment into armed groups and the protection of women and girls against sexual and gender based violence.

In CAR, two third of the population do not have access to clean drinking water or health facilities, and even where facilities do exist; there is only one health worker per 7,000 people. Over 45,000 people faced a major food crisis and needed immediate assistance in 2012. The global acute malnutrition that occurred in the Vakaga six months ago have raised to 21 per cent rates, while severe acute malnutrition was at 7 per cent, which is three times above the emergency threshold. A recent survey on poverty levels showed that 62 per cent of households live below the poverty line (on less than \$1.5 per day). Poverty affects mostly rural areas and the unemployment rate has reached 20.3 per cent.

### For further information, please contact:

**Gisèle Willybiro-Maidou**, Information Assistant, [willybiro@un.org](mailto:willybiro@un.org), Cell: +236 7018 8061

**Angelita Mendy Diop**, Public Information Associate, [mendya@un.org](mailto:mendya@un.org), Cell +236 7098 6584

For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) [link to relevant websites].

To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: [willybiro@un.org](mailto:willybiro@un.org)