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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Humanitarian Coordinator advocates for funding of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan to the international community.
- CAR raises US\$ 2,28 billion for its five-year national Recovery and Peace Consolidation plan during the Brussels Conference held on 17 November 2016
- The resurgence of violence in Bria led to the displacement of 11,000 people. The crisis has an adverse effect in Bambari.



Source: OCHA/Amonran Baigo-Dari

The humanitarian situation in CAR remains a top priority

The Central African Republic remains a top priority for humanitarian actors. Since September 2016, the resurgence of violence in many towns has led to a continuous deterioration of the humanitarian situation with a huge increase in needs. Kaga Bandoro, Bria, Bambari, Kouï and Bocaranga have become emblematic of this deterioration. There is a rapid increase in the number of hotspots, generating new crises that were not included in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan.

In this regard, and as a prelude to the launch of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, the Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic, Fabrizio Hochschild, held an information session with the representatives of the United Nations Member States and the diplomatic corps accredited in Geneva; also in the presence of the Minister of Social Affairs and Reconciliation, Virginie Baikoua.

The Humanitarian Coordinator recalled that nearly half of the CAR population still requires humanitarian aid despite the progress made since the 2013 crisis.

For the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, almost US\$ 400 million will be required to assist 1.6 million Central Africans. The Plan complements the five-year national Recovery and Peace Consolidation plan (RCPCA) launched in Brussels on 17 November. “Humanitarian efforts are absolutely paramount in order to save the lives of some of the poorest and most forgotten people in the world”, recalled Fabrizio Hochschild. The Humanitarian Response Plan and the national Recovery and Peace Consolidation plan (RCPCA) were developed in synergy. However, “humanitarian action is still essential to save lives and to support recovery efforts outlined in the RCPCA”, emphasized by the Humanitarian Coordinator. “Humanitarian efforts are crucial to stabilize the country as urgent development, political and security needs are addressed,” he said.

The Humanitarian Response Plan will cover a three-year period (2017-19), during which biannual revisions will enable flexibility in adapting to the evolving needs of populations, especially in the capacity to respond to shocks. The main objective

FIGURES

# of IDPs	385,000
# of refugees outside the country	466,000
Population in need of aid	2,3 M
Population affected by food insecurity	2,5 M

FUNDING

531.5 million

Funds required (USD) for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan

180.9 million

Already mobilised

“Humanitarian efforts are still indispensable to save lives and to support recovery efforts outlined in the RCPCA” Fabrizio Hochschild

is to save lives, promote respect for basic human rights and preserve human dignity.

Brussels Conference: The international community reiterates its support to the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic raised US\$ 2.28 billion to fund its Five-Year national Recovery and Peace Consolidation plan (RCPCA) at the Brussels Conference, held on 17 November 2016. The RCPCA aims to restore peace, security and reconciliation; fundamental factors for recovery and normalcy. The second pillar aims to renew the social contract between the State and the population by strengthening its presence and developing its capacity to provide basic social services such as education, health, water and sanitation. The objective of the third pillar is to promote economic recovery and to boost productive sectors in order to provide income-generating activities and employment opportunities in the major production sectors. It would also stimulate investment opportunities.

On this occasion, the Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic, Fabrizio Hochschild, called on donors to increase funding for humanitarian activities to better compliment stabilization; not depriving half of the population of vital assistance. “The weakening of humanitarian action would jeopardize the long-term efforts made, particularly to ensure minimal access to food, health and education because the State is not yet in a position to take over the provision of these services”, he alerted.

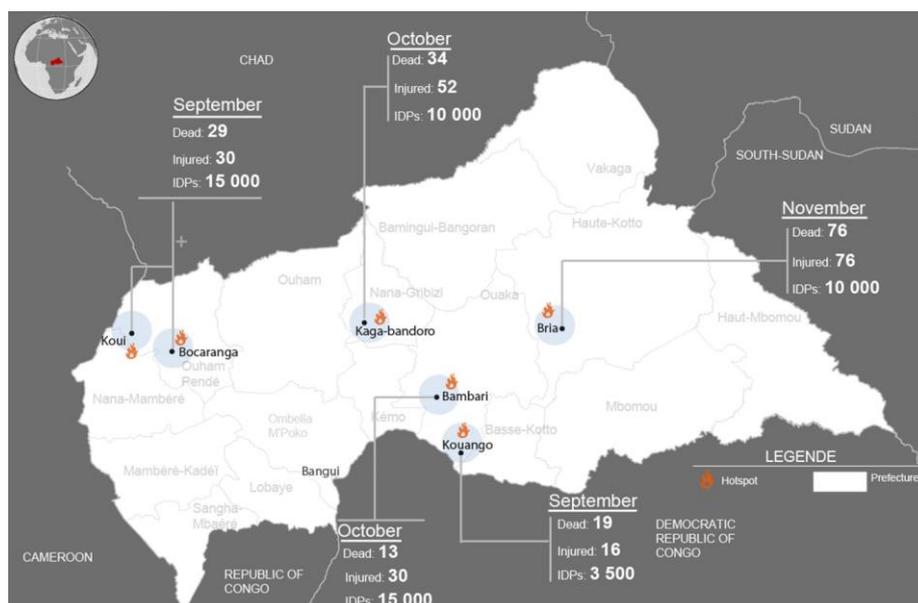
“The weakening of humanitarian action would jeopardize the long-term efforts made, particularly to ensure minimal access to food, health and education because the State is not yet in a position to take over the provision of these services”.

During his advocacy for increased financial support to humanitarian action, Fabrizio Hochschild presented the trends that characterize the current situation in the Central African Republic. Considering for example, the dreadful violence that the people of Kaga Bandoro have been experiencing for nearly two months, he alerted the international community of the adverse effects of the activities of armed groups on the protection of civilians. “In addition to ongoing destruction and looting, the terror caused by these attacks reduces the population’s freedom of movement and consequently their access to food, water, health care, education and means of subsistence. Each incident is a humanitarian shock that depletes affected communities of any hope of stability and development,” he said.

New emergencies in Bria and Bambari

The city of Bria, capital of the Haute Kotto province, was the scene of violent clashes between rival armed elements on 21 November. Since then, the population lives in fear of renewed fighting. The casualty figures of the clashes revealed more than 86 deaths and 76 injured. About 12,500 people are displaced at two sites.

MAP OF HOTSPOTS



The incidents in Bria have had repercussions in the central-eastern region of CAR, particularly in areas with the coexistence of armed groups and communities. On 21 November, in the neighboring Ouaka province, Bambari and its surroundings, more than 2,000 people sought refuge at displacement sites or with host families. These newly displaced persons are residents of communities fleeing certain neighborhoods in Bambari for fear of reprisals following the incidents of Bria. Displaced persons from Bakala, 60km West of Bambari, have been in the region since 26 November. Fighting has been reported in the area since 25 November. In addition, about 750 displaced persons fleeing fighting in the Bakala area, have fled to the locality of Togo, 20 km from Bambari.

With a relatively calm situation, humanitarian partners have been mobilized to provide assistance despite the ongoing tension in the town and on some axis. A total of 50 tents and tarpaulins were provided to humanitarian actors in Bambari by UNHCR for the provision of shelter for newly arrived IDPs.



Aerial view of Bria after the incidents
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With the support of UNICEF, activities resumed at the health facility at the Aviation site. This facility was not operational for a few months due to the lack of funding.

In Bambari and Bria, health response is in progress with the supply of medicines to compensate for stock shortages. With regards to food security, as of 25 November, the World Food Program (WFP) deployed 21 MT of food to Bria.

The humanitarian community is preparing to assist vulnerable populations in the Haute Kotto and Ouaka provinces. However, renewed and persisting violence could have adverse effects on funding for the

response. Funding for these new needs was not planned and gaps have already been identified. On the eve of the launch of the 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, the commitment of donors to CAR is now a necessity to prevent the country from becoming an acute humanitarian crisis.

Mobilization of humanitarian actors in Kaga Bandoro

The humanitarian community has been mobilized to assist the population of Kaga Bandoro who has been severely affected by the latest violence of 12 October 2016. These incidents aggravated an already dire humanitarian situation, worsened by floods in the city between 3 and 4 October 2016. One of the consequences of the resurgence of violence has been the multiple attacks on humanitarian workers and robberies of their facilities. Persisting insecurity has reduced humanitarian space considerably and the operational capacities of partners. Despite these challenges, the humanitarian community has maintained its commitment by providing aid to affected populations; saving many lives.

The World Food Program (WFP) was able to distribute 113 MT of food rations for 15 days to 26,000 beneficiaries including 3,000 flood victims and 4,645 residents of Ndomété village which was attacked on 16 September. Similarly, 405 displaced persons from the Kaba site and 3,000 people at the Ganama site received the second round of two-month rations. A 20-day ration was distributed to 19,587 displaced persons assembled close to the MINUSCA compound, during the second round of distributions. In its efforts to fight against malnutrition, WFP also distributed additional food to 2,000 children under age-two.

In order to enable everyone to have access to medical care, social cohesion sensitization activities were carried out in the hospital as well as in communities with the support of religious and community leaders. Humanitarian efforts resulted in the reopening of the Kaga Bandoro regional hospital on 19 October. Initially, 2,220 consultations were carried out and the delivery of 63 newborns. Emergency care was also provided to 97 injured persons and to 19 rape victims. ICRC evacuated the 13 seriously injured persons. Simultaneously, 304 victims of floods and 522 displaced families received mosquito nets. In order to reduce the number of patients waiting to be seen at the prefectural hospital, mobile clinics were set up IDP displacement sites by INTERSOS, in partnership with the health cluster. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF distributed 5,000 mosquito nets out of the required 10,000 to IDPs at displacement site in Kaga Bandoro.



Consultations at the pediatric hospital
©OMS

UNICEF and WHO have strengthened the hospital's medical stock to prevent shortages. A measles vaccination campaign is scheduled from 2 to 6 December 2016 for 14,845 children between the ages of 6 and 14, including 9,545 children at the sites and 5,830 in neighborhoods in the city. In addition to this response, ICRC has set-up a temporary therapeutic feeding unit (TFU) to replace the one that was destroyed during the last political-military crisis; while the construction of a permanent unit at the provincial hospital is being completed.

In order to prevent water-borne diseases, humanitarian partners distributed an average of 80,000 liters of water per day to 19,587 IDPs at the displacement site that was spontaneously set-up around the compound of the international Force after the violence of 12 October. Access to wells provides an average of 50,000

liters of water per day, enabling humanitarian workers to cover 80% of drinking water needs.



©OCHA

The construction of latrines and handwashing points (75) and showers (40) strengthened hygiene conditions on the site and therefore helped to prevent the spread of diseases. This assistance has also been beneficial to the neighborhoods affected by floods since water points have been disinfected. Sensitizations on good hygiene practices targeting IDPs and flood victims have also been carried out by aid workers. With regards to education, 4 temporary learning spaces for 3,000 children have been built on the site for displaced persons in order to mitigate the risk of school drop-outs. In partnership with UNICEF, INTERSOS distributed school kits to these children.

In order to prevent water-borne diseases, humanitarian partners distributed an average of 80,000 liters of water per day to 19,587 displaced persons in Kaga Bandoro

From 2 December, in order to improve the living conditions of IDPs, a new site called “Lazare” will soon receive residents. Far from Kaga Bandoro’s airstrip, and set-up on 140 hectares of land provided by the local authorities, this new site provides more security and amenities. 8 community shelters have already been built and 4 others are under construction.



Set-up of community shelters at the "Lazare" site.
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Within the framework of a multi-sectoral response provided by humanitarian partners, psychological support and medical care for victims of armed attacks and gender-based violence (GBV) are being provided. A listening center has been set up at the Kaga Bandoro hospital for this purpose. Displaced persons have also been sensitized on GBV and their right to have access to a referral center has also been explained to them.

News on the Humanitarian Fund



An ETAPE at the Kaga Bandoro displacement site
© Le Du/UNICEF

At the end of October 2016, 26 projects submitted by national and International non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies amounting to US\$ 12 million were technically approved by the Humanitarian Coordinator within the framework of the second standard allocation of the Central African Republic’s Humanitarian Fund. The technical and programmatic review of these proposals is underway. This stage represents the last phase of the selection process of a Humanitarian Fund allocation; examining the quality of the project proposals to be funded.

This second standard allocation, which is based on three strategic objectives, responds to the priority and emergency needs in the Humanitarian Response Plan and to the new needs arising from the cycles of violence over the recent months countrywide. The funding provided responds to the critical needs identified in nine Clusters consisting of: Shelter / non-food items/ camp coordination and camp management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Education, Logistics, Livelihoods and Community Stabilization, Nutrition, Protection, Food Security and Health. Funded projects will respond to the needs of internally displaced persons, vulnerable host communities and support the early stages of the return of displaced persons and spontaneous returnees.

This allocation has also provided an opportunity to launch new initiatives such as the possibility for partners to submit multisectoral projects. In 2017, the Humanitarian Fund will continue to pilot innovations; supporting the response of partners while taking into consideration the specific context of CAR's humanitarian crisis.

In 2016, US\$ 19.8 million was raised through the generous contributions of eight donors, namely: Germany, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Considering that the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan is only 34% funded the mobilization of resources for humanitarian response continued in November. New contributions have been promised by Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom.

More information on the Humanitarian Fund is available on the OCHA website by following the link: <http://www.unocha.org/car/about-chf-central-african-republic>

Agriculture to ensure women's empowerment in rural areas

In the Central African Republic, in rural areas, women are seen as the engine of agriculture. She cultivates the farm, grooms it and markets the crops. However the income generated belongs to the husband who is the Head of the family. In Bossangoa, for example, a city located 390km from the capital city Bangui, in the north of the Central African Republic; women helped their spouses in growing cotton but rarely enjoyed the benefits of their labor.

Faced with this injustice, a hundred women came together to create the National Organization of Rural Women "Flowers of Centrafrique" (ONFRC/FC). The aim of this organisation is to support women living in rural areas towards empowerment through agriculture.



CAR, January 2016, Distribution of agricultural tools to gardening groups in Zalingo, Bonganangone1 sub-province. Source: ONFRC/FC

ONFRC/FC trains women and men in the production, processing, conservation and marketing of agricultural products. After training, the organization provides farms to the beneficiaries for group economic interests. The income generated from agricultural products, enables the community to respond to its need. The pilot initiative was implemented in Bossangoa in 2002. A community plot of four hectares had been entrusted to agricultural groups.

Their first harvests were sold to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for a value of 180,000 FCFA, or US\$ 298.

Twelve years after its creation, ONFRC/FC diversified its activities. It is operating in development and humanitarian activities; and in the agro-pastoral sector. After receiving funding from the CAR Humanitarian Fund, through the international NGO COOPI, the organisation distributed agricultural kits, consisting of materials and seeds, to 2,000 households in Boda. According to the President, Odette



In CAR, one in two children is malnourished
©Gemma Cortes/OCHA

In response to malnutrition affecting children in Mbaiki, three hectares of Moringa was planted by the NGO ONFRC/FC

Guérel, “this is one of the first humanitarian activities which were successfully implemented”. This assistance enabled the population to resume farming activities after losing everything during armed conflicts.

Over time, ONFRC/FC has become involved in defending the rights of the child. Within this framework, it cultivated vegetables at the Yakité school in Bangui’s 3rd district. The objective was to encourage the resuming of school activities in a neighborhood that faced insecurity. This humanitarian organisation aimed to reduce community violence by providing work to local residents, especially to the youth. This enables them to better understand the dividends of peace and to restore some value within their communities. The sale of these market gardening products has enabled support to more than 1,000 children. Part of the harvest was also consumed by the children and the community; helping to enrich their diet.

In partnership with United Nations agencies such as the FAO and international NGOs or the French Embassy, ONFRC/FC was able to respond to food emergency activities during the crisis. Tools, seeds and vegetable treatment products were distributed to vulnerable populations. The beneficiaries were first trained on agricultural production techniques. In Boda, more than 1,000 people living in the enclave received vegetable gardening support initiated by this organization in 2014. In order to relaunch agricultural activities in zones affected by armed conflicts, ONFRC/FC distributed agricultural kits to 3,500 people in Boganangone, in the Ombella M'Poko province.

In response to malnutrition affecting children in Mbaiki, three hectares of Moringa was planted. The leaves of this plant rich in protein and iron have been used to treat malnutrition. This initiative is timely because the Central African Republic has the highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world. One in two children is malnourished. ONFRC/FC is the first national NGO to introduce the Moringa culture in the Central African Republic and to promote its nutritional virtues.

Contact the National Organization of Rural Women “Flowers of Centrafrique” at the following address:

Tel: +236 75042721 / 70401080 / 77096051 / 72034669

Email: onfr_ca@yahoo.fr

BP: 2089, Bangui CAR

Good news

- ✓ **Back to school** – After the violence in October, children in Kaga-Bandoro have finally returned to school. Five schools have reopened in the city this week, in addition to the ETAPE (Temporary Learning and child protection Spaces) which opened last week on the displacement site, and which already hosts more than 5,000 children.
- ✓ **Resumption of activities in Batangafo** - Humanitarian organizations DRC, Mentor Initiative, Oxfam and INTERSOS have returned to Batangafo since 21 November. They had suspended their activities due to insecurity on 14 November and a series of attacks on their facilities and staff.
- ✓ **The fight against the cholera epidemic** - The efforts of humanitarian partners and national authorities have paid off in the fight against the cholera epidemic. No new cases were reported during the month of November.

In brief

From 4 to 6 December 2016, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Directors and the United Nations Development Group for the Western and Central African Region will visit the Central African Republic. Following the coming to power of the new democratically elected authorities and the conclusion of the Brussels Conference on the National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding (RCPCA), this joint visit will aim to reiterate the support of the United Nations to humanitarian action and Development.

The launch of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan will take place on 5 December 2016 in Geneva by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien. In 2016, 125.3 million people worldwide needed humanitarian aid. US\$ 20.1 billion was required.

On 19 December, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182 which established the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will be 25 years old. Adopted in 1991, it established the foundation of OCHA's mandate "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency assistance of the United Nations".

Le saviez-vous?



En 2016, malgré le sous-financement du Plan de réponse humanitaire, le pourcentage d'écoles fonctionnelles est passé de 35% en 2014 à 75%. Au cours de l'année 2016, 385 750 déplacées ont reçu une aide humanitaire et plus de 1,5 millions de personnes ont bénéficié d'une assistance médicale.

Did you know?

In 2016, despite the under-funding of the Humanitarian Response Plan, the percentage of functional schools increased from 35% in 2014 to 75%. During the year 2016, 385,750 displaced persons received humanitarian aid and more than 1.5 million people benefited from medical assistance.

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