

# CAR CRISIS **IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE**

SITUATION REPORT 12 - 25 May 2015

# SITUATION OVERVIEW

Central African Republic (CAR): The security situation in Bangui between 11 and 18 May was generally considered calm, but unpredictable. It was marked by two days of demonstrations following the closing of the Bangui Forum, persistent crime, armed attacks on the Baboua – Beloko road and demobilization of child soldiers by armed groups in the city of Bambari.

reporting period, MINUSCA this (Mission During multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations unies pour la stabilisation en Centrafrique) peacekeepers were injured during the demonstrations. Some demonstrators were also recorded as having been wounded. The intervention of MINUSCA and local forces helped restore public order and peace in the city of Bangui.

Currently, there are **426,238 Internally Displaced Persons** (IDPs) in CAR, including 36,927 people in Bangui and Bimbo (Source: Commission for Population Movement).

IOM continues to provide comprehensive assistance and solutions to the fragile situation in CAR and the region, including the provision of much-needed humanitarian assistance, as well as peacebuilding and recovery efforts aimed at bringing stability and improved conditions to communities and populations affected by the crisis.

# **HIGHLIGHTS**



CAR: As of 22 May, IOM has deregistered 1,472 IDP households from the Mpoko displacement site. Furthermore, IOM in coordination with Alliance Française of Bangui implemented a theatre campaign that reached several hundred community members in Bangui.

CHAD: The relocation of returnees from Sido transit site to Maigama temporary site has been completed. During the reporting period, IOM transferred the remaining 93 returnee households (577 individuals) from Sido to Maigama.

CAMEROON: In close coordination with IOM in Senegal, the Government of Cameroon, and the Senegal Embassy in Cameroon, IOM facilitated the evacuation of one Senegalese woman from Garoua Boulai to Dakar on 19 May.

# **CAR Operations**

#### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

As of 22 May, IOM has deregistered 1,472 IDP households from the Mpoko displacement site. Of those deregistered, 1,173 households are now registered in their place of return in the 5<sup>th</sup> district of Bangui. 864 households have received food and NFI assistance and 112 households have received cash payments.

Following an agreement signed in February by IOM and Red Cross, the local Red Cross Society Chapters are in charge of IDP site facilitation and IDP site management as well as registration of new IDPs and/or returnees.



In Kabo, IOM in close coordination with Red Cross continues to track displacement movements and needs of **3,605 IDPs** hosted in sites, and **5,200 IDPs** living with host families; including the registration of over **6,000 returnees** ( of which 62.2% are women) from Chad. During the reporting period, IOM finalized the registration of **6,138 returnees** from Chad in Kabo and Moyenne Sido, of which 150 households are currently hosted in IDP sites with children making up 62% of the IDP site population.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, IOM assisted **201 vulnerable IDPs** by providing them with cash grants; 38% of those assisted were women. In addition, 66% are elderly people in need of support, 19% are people living with chronic disease, and 15% are persons living with disability. The registration of vulnerable girls and women is on-going.

Additionally, between 12 and 25 May, IOM completed the rehabilitation of **18 communal shelters**, including more than 100 IDP housing units that were affected by a heavy storm in Kabo and Moyenne Sido IDP sites in late April.

#### **COMMUNITY STABILIZATION**

During the reporting period, IOM in coordination with Alliance Francaise of Bangui implemented a theatre campaign that reached several hundred community members in Bangui. Four productions of the play "Dieu ne dort Pas" (God Does Not Sleep) aimed to contribute to peaceful coexistence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> districts of Bangui. The campaign also included a forum theatre, an interactive platform that encourages participation from the audience. A large crowd of nearly 100 people quickly gathered and audience members were selected to participate. The extemporaneous play focused on a displaced man who returns to find his home has been looted by his neighbour. An audience member played the role of a local leader who helps resolve the conflict peacefully between the man and his neighbour. After the play, audience members were invited to discuss the play. Using theatre, the campaign successfully reached hundreds of Central Africans to initiate dialogue on social cohesion.



On 15 May, **30 community members** living in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district graduated from a First Aid training course, designed by IOM and delivered by the CAR Red Cross. The graduation ceremony took place at Red Cross headquarters in Bangui. The 10-day training course covered basic first aid such as performing CPR, treating minor wounds, and stabilizing a patient until medical attention arrives. The training cohort included volunteers nominated by 29 Chef de Quartiers (neighbourhood leaders) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Bangui. Fifteen women and 15 men completed the training and

are now empowered to help fellow community members in need.

#### **RELOCATION AND REINSERTION OF FORMER COMBATANTS**

Thirteen community infrastructure projects are currently underway in eight locations outside of Bangui. Projects include the rehabilitation of classrooms, bridges, and local government offices. The project aims to contribute to improving areas of return through infrastructure improvements and providing opportunities to generate short-term income for former combatants and community members alike.

In May, **234 individuals** (150 former combatants and 84 vulnerable community members) worked at rehabilitation sites in seven locations across CAR (Bria, Bouar, Carnot, Kaga-Bandoro, Sibut, N'dele, and Kabo). These are monthly rotations – so next month, a new group of former combatants and vulnerable community members will benefit from the short-term employment.

#### NON-FOOD ITEM (NFI) DISTRIBUTIONS

IOM distributed **five NFI kits** containing mats, kitchen set, blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulin and buckets to newly arrived returnee households identified as vulnerable and currently hosted in the Kabo IDP site. To date, a total of **767 NFI kits** have been distributed by IOM.

# **CHAD Operations**

#### **RETURNEE VERIFICATION AND REGISTRATION**

During the reporting period, there were **seven cases** of departure from Danamadja to final destinations. Furthermore, IOM registered 10 new-borns in Danamadja (6) and Kobiteye (4). As of 25 May, IOM has registered **1,567 returnee households** (6,802 individuals) including 17 Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) in Kobiteye site, and **2,891 households** (12,988 individuals) including two UAMs living in the Danamadja. All registered UAMs were referred to UNICEF or/and its partners for further protection assistance (CARE / SECADEV).

#### TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

The relocation of returnees from Sido transit site to Maigama temporary site has been completed. During the reporting period, IOM transferred the remaining **93 returnee households** (577 individuals) from Sido to Maigama. Following the completion of the relocation exercise, which has been carried out in close collaboration with the Chadian National Red Cross and the local authorities, the Sido transit site was dismantled and decommissioned. As of 25 May, **17,455 returnees** have been registered and are hosted in Maigama temporary site.

# **HEALTH ASSISTANCE**

IOM continues to provide primary health care through its mobile clinic to Chadian returnees from CAR in Gaoui temporary site in the outskirt of N'Djamena. During the reporting period, **388 returnees** benefitted from consultations and were provided with necessary treatment, while **eight cases** were referred to corresponding public health facilities in N'Djamena. Diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory infections and intestinal parasites were the most common pathologies of the 388 cases, and the eight referred cases included pregnancy, cardiology and malnutrition cases.

# MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

From 12 to 25 May, IOM's psychosocial mobile team and psychosocial officer provided individual counselling to **eight female returnees** facing difficulties in adjusting to the living conditions in Maigama and Maro sites, and organized a group discussion on mutual support of returnees for **25 female returnees** living in Maro site. Additionally, on 22 and 23 May, the psychosocial team organized a group counselling session for **nine female returnees**.

On 14 May, IOM supervised **10 volunteers** from the Chadian Red Cross assessing their needs in terms of technical support and their overall well-being. This support is in addition to the psychosocial workshop that IOM facilitated on 16 May to train 10 Chadian Red Cross volunteers on Psychological first aid.

#### NON-FOOD ITEM (NFI) ASSISTANCE

A need for an additional 200 emergency shelters for **413 persons** in Kobiteye and Danamadja has been identified and IOM is in the process of constructing the needed shelters.

Moreover, on 19 May, **330 tarpaulins** were distributed to the most vulnerable returnees in Kobiteye to enable the repair of their shelters.



# **CAMEROON Operations**

#### **REGISTRATION**

During the reporting period, a Chadian family (1 woman and 2 children) was registered by IOM seeking protection in IOM's transit site in Kentzou.

As of 25 May, a total of **17,720 TCNs** have been registered by IOM in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai; 88 TCNs are hosted in IOM's transit sites in Kentzou (53) and Garoua Boulai (35), and 1,931 TCNs are living with host communities. To date, around **423 TCNs** have expressed their intentions to return to their countries of origin in

Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Nigeria, and the Republic of Congo.

# **EVACUATION ASSISTANCE**

In close coordination with IOM in Senegal, the Government of Cameroon, and the Senegal Embassy in Cameroon, IOM facilitated the evacuation of **one Senegalese woman** from Garoua Boulai to Dakar on 19 May. Further assistance was provided to the woman upon arrival by IOM staff in Senegal.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has provided evacuation assistance to **7,168 TCNs** from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Sudan.

#### **HEALTH ASSISTANCE**

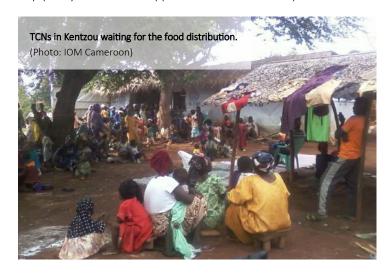
From 12 to 25 May, in Kentzou, IOM's medical team conducted consultations for **21 medical cases**, with a majority of the consultations identifying cases of malaria, intestinal parasites, respiratory infection and sexually transmitted infections. Since June 2014, IOM has conducted medical consultations for **1,480** cases of which 45 cases were referred to local hospitals.

Also in Kentzou, IOM conducted a new health session focusing on malaria prevention on 15 May. During the session, **53 participants** were trained on how to keep their environments clean and the benefits of sleeping under mosquito nets.

Moreover, IOM's medical team in Garoua Boulai conducted **nine medical consultations** for cases concerning malaria, diarrhoea, intestinal parasites and sexually transmitted infections. Since May 2014, IOM has provided medical consultations for **1,418 cases** of which 110 were referred to MSF for follow up.

#### **FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS**

On 22 May, Plan International in coordination with IOM's team in Kentzou, distributed food in the transit site targeting **six pregnant** and **breast-feeding women**, and **14 children** (0 to 5 years old). Plan International distributed vegetable oil, enriched flour and Plumpy Sup (ready-to-use food supplement for malnutrition).



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