



Cash-for-Work, city clean-up operation, Kabo.
(Photo: IOM CAR)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Central African Republic (CAR): Violence and crime has been rising in CAR over recent weeks, with serious security incidents registered during the first half of February. This situation underlines that the conflict in CAR is far from over. As the safety and security of IOM staff, local populations, and humanitarian partners in Bangui as well as in other provinces in the country continue to be affected by the on-going conflict, IOM is considering additional precautions to ensure that all possible security measures are taken.

While overall IDP numbers have been decreasing steadily, recent confrontations between Congolese MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic) forces and armed groups have caused the latter to resort to reprisals against nationals of the Republic of Congo (RoC) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Approximately 150 DRC nationals have requested evacuation assistance to return to DRC.

According to OCHA, there are currently **440,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** in CAR, including **50,281 people** hosted in **34 sites** in Bangui.

CAR Operations

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM continues tracking displacement and needs of IDPs in Bangui. IDPs' departures from displacement sites in Bangui have

HIGHLIGHTS

CAR: During the reporting period, **36 youth teams** including masons and carpenters continued with the construction of houses in the Peace Villages in Kabo and Moyenne Sido.

CHAD: IOM began the demarcation of lands for the construction of 300 shelters in the Kobiteye site on 4 February.

CAMEROON: In response to the deterioration of tarpaulins used in shelters in the transits sites in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai, IOM replaced roofs for **10 shelters** using locally sourced materials.

been recorded during the reporting period – this seems to be due to people returning home and others moving in with host families. It is not yet clear whether the IDPs are paying rent or are dependent on friends and relatives. The decreasing number of IDPs appears to be linked to the degradation of conditions in IDP sites as well as fatigue among host families, rather than a real

improvement in security in Bangui particularly the districts of origin where those who continue to be displaced come from (3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th districts).

The St Joseph de Mukassa site managed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) witnessed the departure of 2,000 people between 23 January and 6 February, while St Charles Lwanga, Don Bosco, Djongo, Capucin, Notre Dame des Chartres sites saw decreases between 120 to 300 people per site. IOM as co-lead of the CCCM Cluster is following this situation closely in collaboration with cluster members as well as the Protection and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clusters in order to develop a response.

PROTECTION

Most health centres in Bangui cover emergency health care, care for children (0 to 5 years) and for pregnant and lactating women. Other types of illnesses often require that the patient pays for consultation or for medication or both, and in many cases, those in IDP sites cannot afford this care. Although IOM is no longer running a mobile clinic, the IOM medical team has intervened in **two cases** deemed by the IOM's protection unit to be critical.

Furthermore, site facilitators in Bangui continue to identify protection cases in the IDP sites where no protection agency is present. IOM is stepping in and has been referring cases to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for family tracing. Between 3 and 16 February, IOM referred **three cases** of older people who have family links in other provinces in CAR but no support systems in Bangui. IOM is also supporting a woman who is suffering from psychological trauma and who is struggling to care for her child.

IOM in Boda is supporting family tracing for parents whose children are in the enclave in Yaloke through the family tracing network established by the Child Protection sub-cluster. IOM is the focal point for the network in Boda and is working closely with the relevant government counterparts and section chief for the Ministry of Social Affairs in Boda.

SOCIAL COHESION AND LIVELIHOODS RECOVERY

During the reporting period, **36 youth teams** including masons and carpenters continued with the construction of houses in the Peace Villages in Kabo and Moyenne Sido. A total of **434 shelters** have been completed to date.

Additionally, in Kabo, the fifth rotation of Cash-for-Work programme for ex-Seleka fighters relocated from Bangui took place from 2 to 12 February, and focused on the clean-up of community infrastructures. Ex-combatants and members of the host community benefitted from this programme.

CHAD Operations

PROTECTION

From 12 to 19 February, **two IOM staff members and six host community members** from Kobiteye, Danamadja, Kobiteye Village, and Maigama will participate in trainings on using and maintaining solar lamps. The trainings will take place in a women's centre recently constructed by IOM in Tissi, and will be led by experts from the Japanese NGO, Solar-net. After completing the training, participants will be responsible for lamp maintenance once they are installed in Kobiteye, Danamadja and Maigama sites. This solar lanterns initiative aims to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) in the area.

RETURNEE VERIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

During the reporting period, **six humanitarian partners** (Search for Common Ground, OXFAM Intermon, Agence Adventiste d'Aide et de Developpement (ADRA), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Secours Islamique France (SIF) and Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV)) were given access to IOM's returnees registration list in order to assist with their response.

Additionally, following a request from the site manager of the temporary site of Danamadja near Gore, local authorities, humanitarian partners and IOM began conducting verification exercises in the site on 30 January, as no accurate database currently exists. The exercise is expected to be completed on 23 February.

Since the beginning of the crisis, a total of **113,542 returnees, CAR-claiming nationals and Third Country Nationals (TCNs)** who fled the violence in CAR have been registered by IOM and its partners, of which 62,228 are still residing in temporary and transit sites in Danamadja, Djako, Doyaba, Gaoui, Kobiteye, Maigama and Sido, as well as in host villages in the south of the country.

SHELTER ASSISTANCE

The demarcation of lands for the construction of 300 shelters in the Kobiteye site began on 4 February and **152 plots** were delineated. The construction of shelters began on 9 February, and as of 16 February, **92 shelters** have been built. The daily workers hired for this operation are composed of returnees and host community members from Kobiteye Village and Beseye.

The site manager will be responsible for assigning the shelters to the returnees.

Demarcation of land for the construction of shelters, Kobiteye site.

(Photo: IOM Chad)



TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Between 3 and 16 February, IOM transferred **592 returnees** (121 households) from the Sido transit site to the Maigama temporary site. However, there are still pending discussions between the Government of Chad and the majority of returnees who have expressed a desire to remain in Sido for the long term.

As of 16 February, the total population of the Maigama Temporary site is **15,913 returnees**, consisting of individuals from the closed Doyaba transit site and the Sido transit site. Currently 17,401 returnees remain in the Sido transit site.

HEALTH ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period, IOM provided **319 returnees** (231 females and 88 males, of which 140 are children) with medical consultations at the clinic in the Gaoui transit, and referred eight cases to hospitals. Majority of the cases treated were malaria, diarrhoea, and pneumonia. Additionally, three tuberculosis cases were referred for treatment to the nearest hospital.

As of 16 February, **8,377 medical consultations** have been conducted in the Gaoui transit site.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSISTANCE

During the reporting period, **three psychosocial assistants** were recruited. Two of them will be based in Maro (Maigama temporary site), and one in Gore (Kobiteye, Danamadja and Djako transit sites). IOM will work closely with IRC - who are also implementing psychosocial support activities in these sites - to avoid duplication.

IOM's activities will start on 19 February and the assistants will be responsible for organizing individual interviews as well as focus groups with the most vulnerable returnees, as well as focus on GBV activities.

CAMEROON Operations

REGISTRATION

Between 3 and 16 February, **50 Chadian nationals** (15 women, 5 men, and 30 children), and **80 TCNs** (17 women, 9 men, 54 children) from Burkina Faso, Chad, and Nigeria were registered seeking protection in IOM's transit sites in Garoua Boulai and Kentzou.

To date, IOM has registered a total of **17,495 TCNs** in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai; 176 TCNs are currently hosted in IOM's transit sites in Garoua Boulai (126) and Kentzou (50), and 1,817 TCNs are living in host communities.

As of 16 February, approximately **480 TCNs** have expressed interest in returning to their countries of origin. Since the beginning of the operations in February 2014, IOM has provided assistance to **6,987** individuals from Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Sudan to return to their countries of origin. IOM continues working with embassies to identify the most vulnerable cases in need of immediate evacuation assistance.

HEALTH

During the reporting period, IOM's medical team in Kentzou conducted medical consultations for **42 cases**. The majority of cases treated concerned malaria, sexually transmitted infections, and pregnancies. Since June 2014, IOM has conducted medical consultations for **1,178 cases** of which 45 cases were referred to local hospitals.

Additionally, IOM's medical team in Garoua Boulai conducted **22 consultations** for malaria, diarrhoea, intestinal parasites,

malnutrition, skin illness, and sexually transmitted infections, and referred the malnutrition cases (4) to MSF. Since May 2014, IOM has provided medical consultations for **1,112 cases** of which 106 were referred to MSF for follow up.

CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM is continuing with the maintenance of its transit sites in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai. Between 3 and 16 February, IOM conducted community hygiene awareness sessions for the migrants, informing them of hygiene and sanitation practices.

Additionally, IOM replaced roofs of **six shelters** in Kentzou and **four shelters** in Garoua Boulai using locally sourced materials such as palm leaves. This was in response to the deterioration of the initial tarpaulins used in the sites from general wear and tear.



Palm leaves were used to replace deteriorated roofs of shelters in IOM's transit site, Kentzou. (Photo: IOM Cameroon)

FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEM (NFI) DISTRIBUTION

During the reporting period, IOM shared its lists of beneficiaries with UNICEF and WFP in order to assist them in the coordination of food and NFI distributions that took place in IOM's transit sites in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai. On 9 February, WFP distributed food (rice, small beans, oil, salt and flour) to **39 households** (254 individuals) in Garoua Boulai, and **192 households** (1,102 individuals) in Kentzou received food on 11 February.

Moreover, in Garoua Boulai, UNICEF distributed hygiene kits containing soap, toothbrush, washcloth, and toothpaste to **50 households** (234 individuals).

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