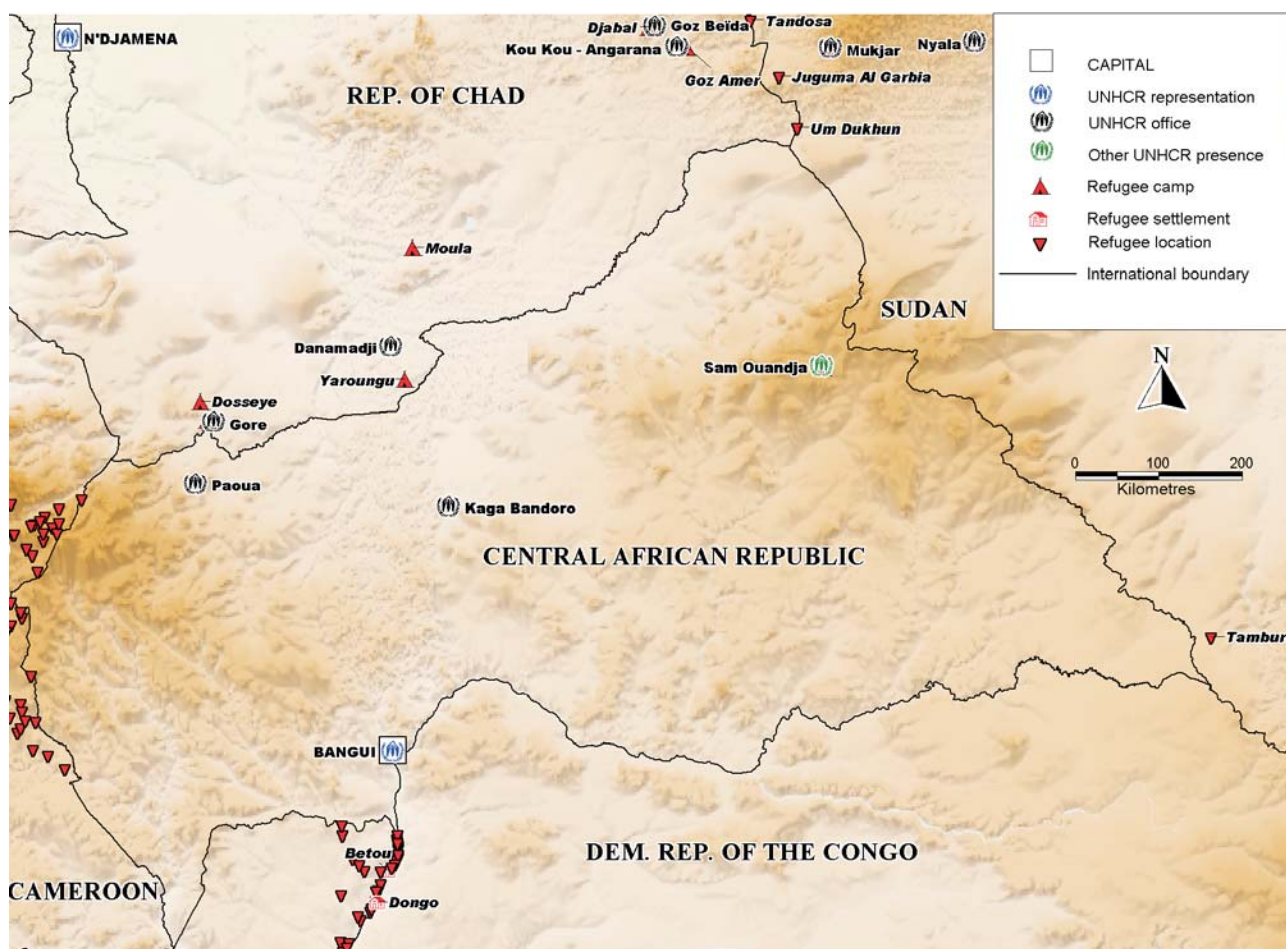


# Central African Republic

Total requirements:  
USD 6,728,942



## Working environment

### The context

The Central African Republic (CAR) has been subject to political instability since its independence in 1960. Frequent military coups and armed conflicts have virtually destroyed the country's infrastructure and economy. While the northern provinces of CAR have for many years suffered from insecurity due to bandits, the emergence of an armed rebellion in September 2005 increased the need to protect the civilian population. The conflict forced some 30,000 civilians to flee across the border into Chad.

Fighting between the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR) rebels and the army intensified in the north-eastern provinces in 2006 and 2007. This destroyed most of the town of Birao, forcing its population to seek refuge in the Darfur region of Sudan. In early 2007, attacks on civilians by rebels of the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD),

the killing of a government official, and subsequent reprisals by the army in the north-western region saw some 51,000 CAR refugees flee to Cameroon.

In 2007, UNHCR helped to repatriate 9,700 refugees to Southern Sudan and 5,500 refugees to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

### The needs

In 2007 and 2008 UNHCR participated in more than 30 missions to assess the humanitarian situation in CAR. The Office found the civilian population living in dire conditions and prey to serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest, forced displacement, torture and sexual and gender-based violence.

Using the framework of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming approach, UNHCR also worked with urban refugees to assess their situation. The assessment highlighted the need for more assistance in education

and for refugees with specific needs. Internally displaced women and girls, who bear a high risk of sexual and gender-based violence, require awareness-raising programmes, counselling and other support services.

In October 2007, UNHCR published a report on internal displacement in north-western CAR. The report showed that 75 per cent of the surveyed families had no access to safe drinking water and latrines, 46 per cent had suffered serious damage to their homes, and more than half the children did not attend school for fear of violence.

## Main objectives

- Provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern CAR on the basis of UNHCR's integrated protection strategy.
- Facilitate local integration through the promotion of self-sufficiency and the provision of identification documents for urban refugees.
- Protect and assist Sudanese refugees in Sam Ouandja camp while encouraging them to become self-reliant.

## Strategy and activities

Approximately 5,000 refugees live in urban areas around the capital, Bangui. UNHCR will promote the local integration of this group by:

- working with the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) to encourage urban refugees to become more economically self-reliant;

## Key targets

- Some 5,500 urban refugees and asylum-seekers have access to fair and expeditious status determination procedures.
- National authorities and members of the security forces are made aware of national refugee law.
- Some 75 per cent of refugees with specific needs, especially female-headed households, receive financial assistance.
- More urban refugee children, particularly girls, attend school.
- The civilian character of Sam Ouandja refugee camp is protected.
- Access to identification documents and birth registration for all refugees is ensured.
- Data on protection and assistance gaps is collected and priority areas of intervention for IDPs are identified.
- IDPs are protected against violations of their human rights.
- Programmes on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence are implemented.

- introducing a cost recovery programme which encourages refugees to contribute towards the health services they receive;
- promoting a revision of the state law in order to ease the naturalization of refugees; and
- helping to strengthen the Government's capacity to process asylum claims.

In 2009, UNHCR will also encourage self-sufficiency among the Sudanese refugees in Sam Ouandja, while providing them with a small amount of assistance. To

## Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Sudan	4,500	3,500	4,100	3,500
	Chad	1,600	280	1,350	120
	DRC	1,500	300	1,200	150
	Various	400	110	350	70
Asylum-seekers	Chad	450	-	100	-
	DRC	350	-	120	-
	Sudan	250	-	150	-
	Various	50	-	20	-
Returnees (refugees)		3,500	700	5,000	1,400
IDPs		150,000	102,000	50,000	30,000
Returnees (IDPs)		47,000	47,000	100,000	60,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>209,600</b>	<b>153,890</b>	<b>162,390</b>	<b>95,240</b>

help these refugees, whose number is expected to rise to 4,500 in 2009, UNHCR will:

- assist partners to provide adequate care and treatment to people living with HIV and AIDS, support programmes to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and implement a training-of-trainers scheme;
- help its partners to implement educational programmes and encourage refugee children to enter the national school system;
- work with refugees, the National Refugee Commission and NGOs in the camp to organize community-based refugee groups to address specific needs;
- collaborate with WFP to meet the nutrition needs of the refugees;
- aid the distribution of seeds and agricultural tools by FAO to foster food security while aiming for refugees' self-sufficiency in this regard by the end of 2009; and
- support agricultural and income-generating activities through implementing partners.

In cooperation with other humanitarian organizations, in 2009 UNHCR will implement an integrated protection strategy, including advocacy activities, capacity building and finding durable solutions, targeting 102,000 IDPs in northern CAR. Assuming that the security situation improves by the end of 2008 and spontaneous returnees are registered, UNHCR's protection and assistance activities will include:

- training civilian authorities and the security forces in human rights law, international humanitarian law and the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*;

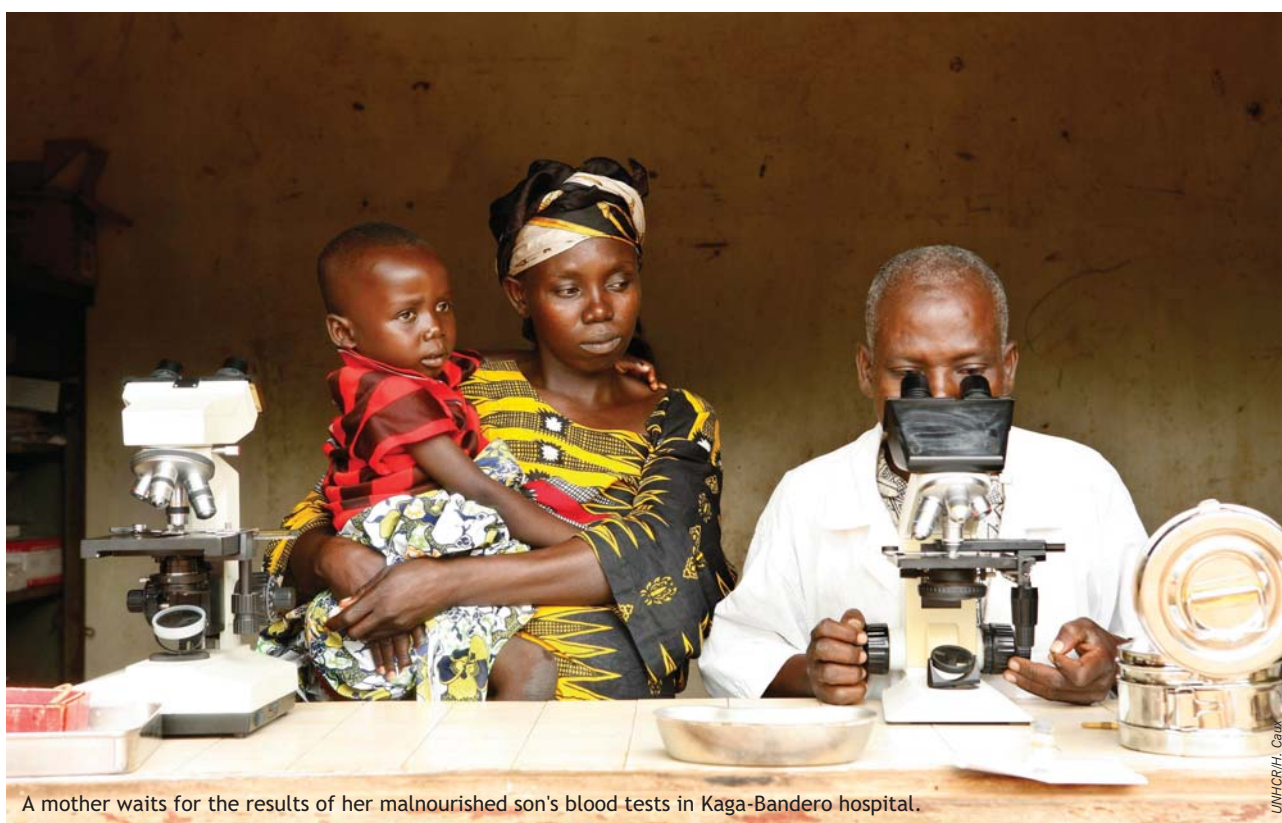
- establishing a humanitarian network to monitor the protection situation and displacement patterns in northern CAR;
- establishing new partnerships with international NGOs with protection expertise to widen the geographic reach of its activities for IDPs; and
- leading the protection cluster and participating in other clusters, including education, non-food items and shelter, HIV and AIDS prevention and response, gender and development, health and early recovery.

## Constraints

All activities related to the spontaneous returns of IDPs and refugees from Chad, and organized repatriations of refugees from neighbouring countries, depend on improvements in the security situation in areas of return. Stability in northern CAR depends largely on peace negotiations between the government and the UFDR. A ceasefire agreement with the APRD and inclusive political dialogue may have a positive influence on security in the country. However, the lack of a strong state presence in northern CAR could hamper the re-establishment of public order in the area.

Due to the poor infrastructure in CAR, it is difficult for the Office to protect IDPs in regions of the country which are inaccessible during the rainy season.

UNHCR's planning for urban refugees is based on the assumption that there will be no large new refugee flows from neighbouring countries. Most urban refugees are likely to opt for local integration, but the socio-economic situation in the country will make that integration difficult.



A mother waits for the results of her malnourished son's blood tests in Kaga-Bandero hospital.

UNHCR/H. Cabré

## Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence	
Number of offices	3
Total staff	43
International	5
National	26
UNVs	12

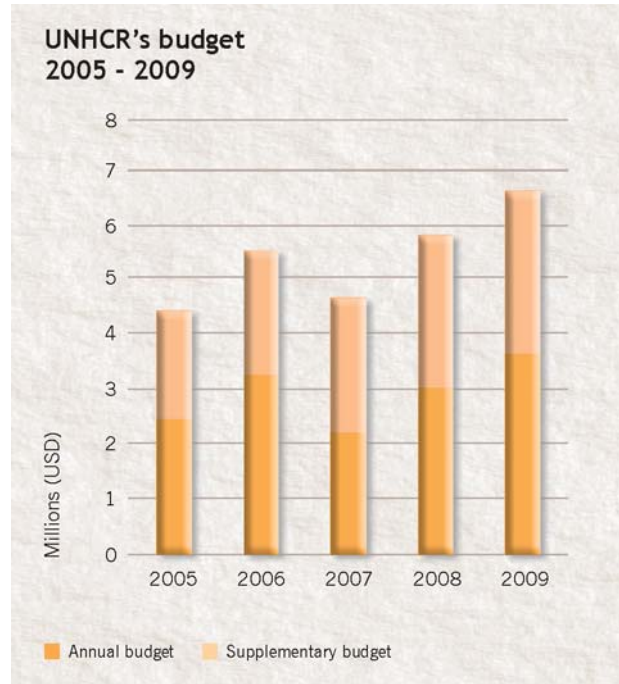
### Coordination

UNHCR will collaborate closely with its governmental partner, the National Refugee Commission, and other government ministries, on the development of national legislation on the status of IDPs and local integration.

The Office cooperates with WFP and FAO to meet the food security needs of Sudanese refugees and provide them with seeds and agricultural tools. It also works with international and national NGOs to support protection monitoring and self-reliance activities as well as to provide water and sanitation, nutrition, health and psycho-social services.

### Financial information

The supplementary budget for IDP support programmes increased slightly over the past 5 years due to the increase from 60,000 to 102,000 beneficiaries in the country. With the completion of the repatriation operation of south Sudanese and DRC refugees, the 2007 budget declined. In 2008 and 2009 the annual budget is again on the rise, serving mainly residual urban refugees.



### Partners

#### Implementing partners

**Government agencies:** *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés*

**NGOs:** *Triangle Génération Humanitaire*, International Medical Corps, Caritas, International Refugee Council, *Action contre la Faim*, Danish Refugee Council

#### Operational partners

**Government agencies:** Ministries of the Interior and Social Affairs

**Others:** WFP, FAO, UNFPA

Budget (USD)						
Activities and services	2008			2009		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget IDPs	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget IDPs	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	464,954	963,199	1,428,153	566,862	1,039,068	1,605,930
Community services	38,345	0	38,345	206,976	66,390	273,366
Crop production	0	0	0	118,700	60,237	178,937
Domestic needs	26,008	791,158	817,166	25,464	240,545	266,009
Education	19,109	0	19,109	153,364	48,109	201,473
Health	52,282	76,764	129,046	205,183	173,192	378,375
Income generation	0	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Legal assistance	115,663	396,100	511,763	141,248	548,442	689,690
Operational support (to agencies)	104,355	200,105	304,460	338,925	336,762	675,687
Shelter and infrastructure	2,592	0	2,592	0	33,253	33,253
Transport and logistics	41,646	342,090	383,736	473,240	389,682	862,922
Water	0	0	0	33,600	24,054	57,654
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>864,954</b>	<b>2,769,416</b>	<b>3,634,370</b>	<b>2,313,562</b>	<b>2,959,734</b>	<b>5,273,296</b>
Programme support	1,268,720	34,641	1,303,361	1,417,300	38,346	1,455,646
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,133,674</b>	<b>2,804,057</b>	<b>4,937,731</b>	<b>3,730,862</b>	<b>2,998,080</b>	<b>6,728,942</b>

Note: Supplementary programme budgets exclude 7 per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.