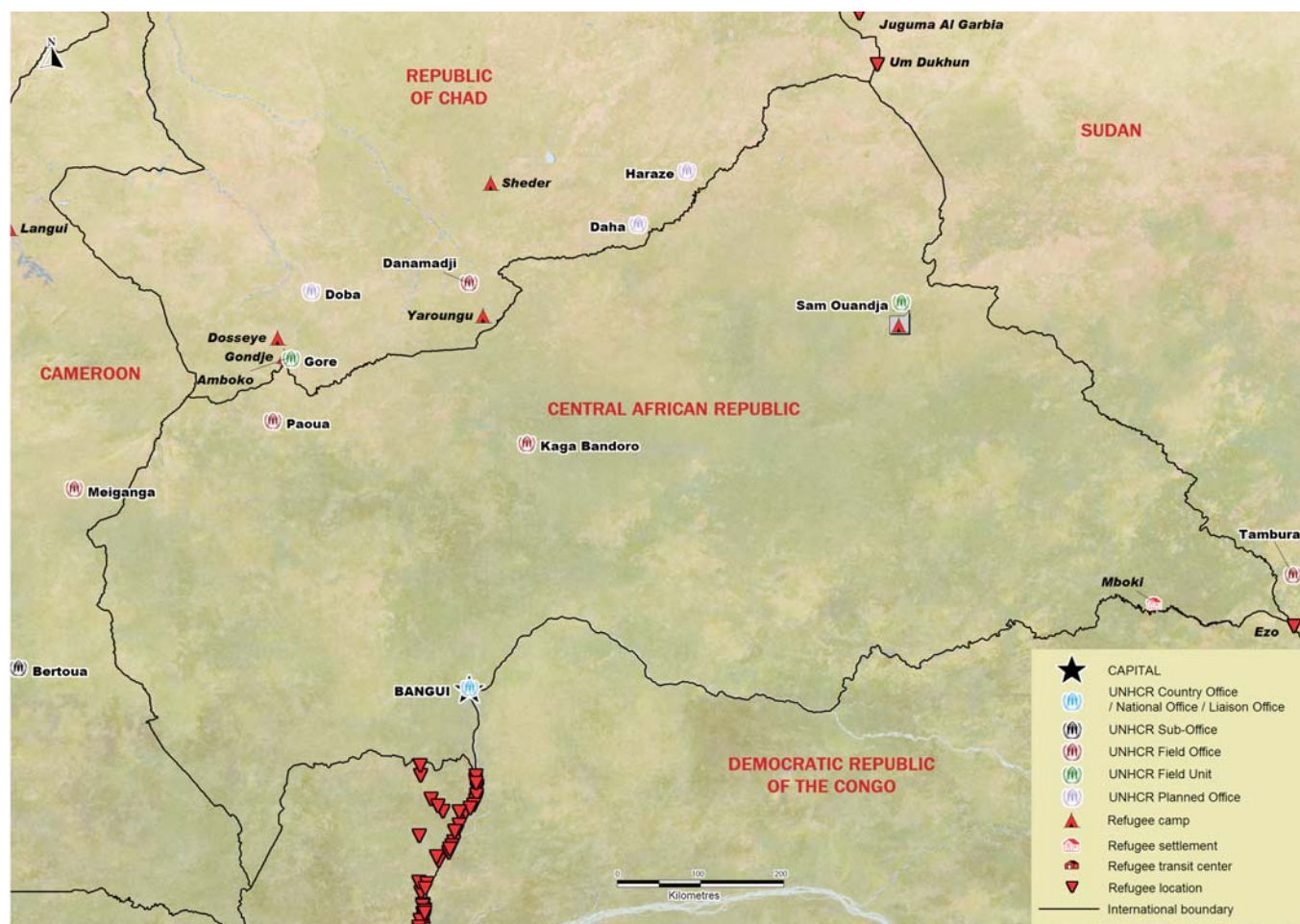


# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



## Working environment

### The context

Following the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in June 2008 by three rebel groups and the Government, the political situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has been dominated by efforts to foster national reconciliation. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad has been deployed in the north-east of the country, with a mandate to protect refugee and displaced populations. For UNHCR, the three main groups of concern are IDPs in the north and in Haut-Mbomou; Sudanese refugees in Sam Ouandja; and refugees in urban areas and Haut-Mbomou.

The protection situation in the north-eastern region is precarious, particularly with incursions from Sudan and Chad. Ethnic conflict and rebel activities pose a threat to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The region is remote and inaccessible during the rainy season, making the monitoring of protection from Bangui extremely difficult.

Following the repatriation of most refugees from the DRC and Southern Sudan, UNHCR is promoting local integration for those who remain, taking into account the extreme poverty of the local population.

Although the peace accord has improved security in some areas, the northern provinces and the province of Haut-Mbomou continue to experience varying levels of insecurity and new displacement. In particular, fighting between Government forces and rebel groups in Bamingui-Bangoran and attacks by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), have caused new displacement. This has resulted in more than 16,000 persons crossing into Chad and generated a similar number of IDPs. Moreover, State security and social services are almost absent in the north.

### The needs

Given the dire economic situation in the CAR, UNHCR's efforts to help people of concern achieve self-reliance has been met with little success. The majority of refugees continue to be dependent on assistance. Refugee data and information remain inadequate.

The refugee status determination (RSD) process has been disrupted as the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR), the national refugee commission, is unable to meet to examine asylum claims. This has resulted in a backlog of more than 1,000 cases. Refugee identification documents are not being issued, putting refugees and asylum-seekers at risk of harassment and arrest.

IDPs continue to face grave violations of their human rights. UNHCR has noticed an overall increase in the awareness of applicable laws and guidelines thanks to training sessions targeting various armed forces, but more training is required. Self-reliance and employment opportunities are almost non-existent for IDPs, as they have no access to agricultural land, or other opportunities.

Even though many IDPs have returned to their villages, there is a lack of security, housing and basic services. The lack of infrastructure in IDP-hosting areas has led to tensions, particularly in urban areas.

In the absence of schooling and employment opportunities, many young girls have turned to prostitution. Sexual and gender-based violence occurs in most of the areas where IDPs live, but its extent is not known.

An assessment conducted with the refugees indicates a need for income-generating activities, including farming. Due to the fighting, most farmers are engaged in subsistence agriculture. Meanwhile, cattle herders have moved to Cameroon with their animals. This has created a scarcity of basic food items, leading to severe malnutrition. The few water points available have been damaged by intensive use.

Many villages have been burnt down, leaving an acute need for shelters. The distribution of non-food items by UNHCR and other humanitarian actors is inadequate to fill the vast needs of the affected population. Access to healthcare is limited, particularly for IDPs. The education system is weak as few qualified teachers are willing to work in these areas.

## Main objectives

### Fair protection processes

- In collaboration with the authorities, ensure prompt asylum processing and deliver relevant documents to refugees to reduce the risk of harassment and arrest.
- Increase UNHCR's presence in Sam Ouandja and establishment of a permanent presence of the CNR to address protection issues promptly and monitor assistance.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- In partnership with other UN agencies and humanitarian actors, encourage the Government to increase the presence of the civil authorities in the north of the country, where violence and human rights abuses are at the root of displacement.
- Provide robust prevention and response measures to counter gender-based violence and accusations of witchcraft.

### Basic needs and services

- Ensure adequate assistance for refugees in the Sam Ouandja camps.
- Ensure adequate international protection and assistance is provided to Congolese refugees recently arrived in Haut-Mbomou, having fled LRA attacks.
- Under the cluster approach, coordinate protection, emergency shelter and humanitarian assistance for new IDPs in Haut-Mbomou.

## Key targets for 2010

- At least three eligibility sessions are held and the backlog of asylum applications is cleared, with documents delivered to refugees, leading to a 60 per cent reduction in arrests of refugees.
- Some 100 urban refugee households benefit from micro-project finance, leading to reduced dependence on UNHCR assistance.
- Approximately 500 refugees are submitted for resettlement.
- The standard of 20 litres of potable water per person per day is attained in Sam Ouandja refugee camps.
- Regular UNHCR monitoring missions to Sam Ouandja are undertaken.
- Subject to developments in Haut Mbomou and the DRC, refugees and IDPs are helped to return voluntarily.

### Community participation and self-management

- Promote income-generating activities for refugees in urban settings and rural areas in order to reduce dependence on UNHCR assistance.

### Durable solutions

- Accelerate the identification of refugees eligible for resettlement.

## Strategy and activities

Following the end of the voluntary repatriation operations to Southern Sudan and the DRC in 2007, some 8,500 refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities

## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN-10		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC-11	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Sudan	4,800	3,600	5,000	3,600	5,000	2,800
	DRC	950	180	850	120	750	80
	Chad	1,750	650	1,800	750	1,700	500
	Various	370	100	350	70	320	50
Asylum-seekers	DRC	700	150	150	20	50	10
	Various	260	50	80	10	80	10
Returnees (refugees)		50	50	200	200	1,000	1,000
Internally displaced		197,000	150,000	147,000	110,000	70,000	70,000
Returnees (IDPs)		-	-	-	-	50,000	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>205,880</b>	<b>154,780</b>	<b>155,430</b>	<b>114,770</b>	<b>128,900</b>	<b>99,450</b>

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	4
□ Total staff	51
International	5
National	38
JPOs	1
UNVs	7



Newly displaced villagers describe their urgent needs to UNHCR staff.

remained in the CAR. Approximately 5,000 of them are in Bangui.

While voluntary repatriation on an individual basis will still be possible, the office will focus on enhancing opportunities for local integration. UNHCR and the CNR will encourage refugees in urban areas to achieve greater self-sufficiency.

Under the national refugee law, UNHCR will improve protection in partnership with the CNR. The Office will support applications for permanent residence or naturalization, especially for the residual caseload of Congolese refugees in Molangue, and will sensitize the authorities on the legal aspects of local integration.

UNHCR will also promote a revision of the nationality law to facilitate naturalization on humanitarian grounds. In 2010, UNHCR will continue its activities aimed at strengthening the Government's asylum-processing capacity and monitoring the access of asylum-seekers to RSD procedures. UNHCR will support the implementation of the new national refugee legislation.

In the north-eastern region, UNHCR will focus on strengthening community empowerment and participation in camp management, while paying specific attention to human rights and the mainstreaming of age, gender and diversity considerations. Given the remote location of the camp and associated security risks, UNHCR will ensure the presence of its staff as a protection measure. Other interventions will emphasize access to health care, improved nutrition, formal education and literacy.

Vocational training will continue to facilitate the economic integration of refugees in urban areas. The Office will support the creation of women's and youth groups. UNHCR will promote refugee rights among affected populations, the local population, and the authorities, through discussions, training and simulation exercises to facilitate the acceptance of displaced people and an understanding of their rights.

The refugee-managed health service initiative in Bangui will be reviewed. The service operates on a co-financing and cost-recovery basis, but the interim results are not encouraging and the Office will seek a more cost-effective means. The provision of financial assistance to some refugees in urban areas with specific needs, will be replaced by assistance for micro-projects. Sensitization on HIV and AIDS prevention, and the provision of medical assistance, will continue. UNHCR will also ensure that all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence receive medical, psycho-social and legal follow-up.

UNHCR will increase the number of resettlement submissions to 500 in 2010, targeting refugees for whom neither voluntary repatriation nor local integration are viable durable solutions, as well as those who have specific protection needs.

### | Constraints |

The political and security situation in the DRC, Southern Sudan, Darfur and eastern Chad remains precarious, and any deterioration could cause a refugee influx into CAR.

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### NGOs:

IMC  
Triangle International DRC

#### Others:

Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés

### Operational partners

#### Others:

UNICEF  
WFP  
UNFPA  
UNDP

The current political and military situation does not bode well for the successful completion of the Government's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme in 2010. This will have a negative impact on the ability of IDPs to return to their villages of origin. Therefore, UNHCR does not foresee any significant change in the numbers of IDPs in 2010.

The lack of security in the north poses a threat to humanitarian actors working in the area and could prevent UNHCR from effectively carrying out its activities. Security may remain a problem in 2010 if the current recommendations for an inclusive political dialogue are not implemented rapidly, particularly the DDR process and reform of the security sector.

### Organization and implementation

#### Coordination

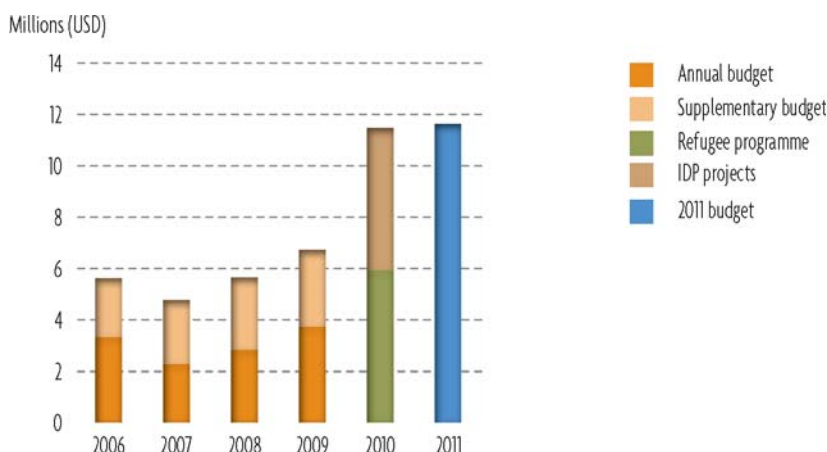
Due to the volatile security situation, UNHCR will work with its partners to increase their participation in the monitoring of displacement and return patterns, as well as in the delivery of assistance to displaced people and returnees. UNHCR chairs the protection cluster and is also the focal point for refugees and IDPs;

UNICEF is the focal point for women and children; UNFPA for gender and gender-based violence; UNDP for the rule of law and BONUCA for human rights. Activities that address sexual and gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS, will be mainstreamed into all programmes in 2010 and 2011 in the framework of the protection cluster. UNHCR will also continue to engage with donor countries in Bangui, keeping them informed about interventions, as well as of the difficulties encountered in carrying out the mandate of the Office, seeking their assistance as necessary.

### Financial information

UNHCR's budget has increased significantly for the Central African Republic since 2007, mainly due to the increase of the number of internally displaced people in the country. Over the last 5 years, the number of internally displaced people receiving assistance from UNHCR has increased, and approximately 150,000 IDPs are expected to receive assistance in 2010. The increase in the refugee programme is similar to the one under the IDP programme and is mainly due to efforts to remedy gaps identified during the global needs assessment.

### UNHCR's budget in 2006 - 2011



### Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Two eligibility sessions will not be held in order to clear 50 per cent of the backlog of asylum applications, reducing 30 per cent of harassment, persecutions and arbitrary arrests.
- Only 60 urban refugee households will benefit from micro-project financing, increasing the number of households relying on UNHCR assistance.
- Access to safe drinking water will not be increased to 16 litres per person per day, from to 10 litres per person per day.
- There will be a 50 per cent reduction of planned monitoring missions in Sam Ouandja to follow up on protection issues.
- UNHCR will phase out interventions to protect and assist IDPs and refugees from DRC in Haut Mbomou.

## 2010 UNHCR Budget for Central African Republic (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
National administrative framework	0	115,903	115,903
Policies towards forced displacement	0	140,903	140,903
Prevention of displacement	0	160,903	160,903
Prevention of statelessness	0	64,403	64,403
Cooperation with partners	0	95,903	95,903
Subtotal	0	578,015	578,015
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Registration and profiling	247,056	324,368	571,424
Refugee and stateless definitions	87,897	0	87,897
Fair and efficient status determination	122,457	0	122,457
Individual documentation	169,556	0	169,556
Subtotal	626,965	324,368	951,333
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Impact on host communities	32,172	0	32,172
Effects of armed conflict	0	100,903	100,903
Law enforcement	151,764	150,903	302,667
Community security management system	32,172	0	32,172
Gender-based violence	149,672	190,903	340,575
Protection of children	32,172	0	32,172
Freedom of movement	74,132	145,903	220,035
Non-arbitrary detention	198,204	0	198,204
Access to legal remedies	0	110,903	110,903
Subtotal	670,287	699,515	1,369,802
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Nutrition	278,566	0	278,566
Shelter and other infrastructure	469,066	976,919	1,445,984
Basic domestic and hygiene items	318,077	771,919	1,089,996
Primary health care	20,011	0	20,011
HIV and AIDS	224,369	124,630	348,999
Education	351,577	291,919	643,496
Sanitation services	156,066	0	156,066
Services for groups with specific needs	20,011	161,919	181,930
Subtotal	1,837,742	2,327,305	4,165,047
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	198,091	152,128	350,219
Community self-management and equal representation	147,551	0	147,551
Camp management and coordination	46,964	0	46,964
Self-reliance and livelihoods	775,596	544,128	1,319,724
Subtotal	1,168,201	696,257	1,864,458
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Durable solutions strategy	70,170	0	70,170
Voluntary return	110,170	0	110,170
Resettlement	517,325	0	517,325
Local integration support	60,170	0	60,170
Subtotal	757,834	0	757,834
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	411,769	483,310	895,079
Programme management, coordination and support	458,008	432,793	890,802
Subtotal	869,778	916,103	1,785,881
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,930,808</b>	<b>5,541,561</b>	<b>11,472,369</b>
<b>2011 Budget</b>			<b>11,635,000</b>
<b>2009 Revised budget</b>			
Annual budget			3,732,862
Supplementary budget			2,998,080
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>6,730,942</b>