

## Protecting Civilians in Central African Republic is Critical!



**Renewed violence in the recent weeks has resulted in widespread violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This has exacerbated an already very difficult humanitarian situation characterized by both targeted and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, sexual violence against women and children, forced recruitment of children, separation of families, property damage and looting, and loss of livelihoods.**

The breakdown of law and order in this context particularly affects women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and those having a different or imputed political or religious belief. As at February 2013, an estimated 1.1 million persons were affected by this crisis. An estimated 173,000 people were displaced within the country and more than 32,000 Central Africans fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon and Chad. Approximately 80,000 people were estimated to be at risk of severe food shortages during the upcoming dry season, while 13,500 children under the age of 5 were at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). A total of 166,000 children were reported as having no access to education. The current crisis is likely to exacerbate vulnerabilities further.

With targeting and looting of humanitarian assets and ongoing insecurity, capacity to access populations in need has become even more limited than at any other time in the recent past. Road blocks, the threat of organized and random armed attacks and pillaging continue to pose significant risks to the civilian population and humanitarian actors.

All parties to the conflict are ***STRONGLY URGED*** to refrain from violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and all forms of abuse and, implement the following specific measures:

- ➔ Restore security and rule of law in order to enable civilians to resume their daily lives.
- ➔ Refrain from any actions that would prevent freedom of movement or provoke further forced displacement.
- ➔ Ensure the dignity and security of the civilian population from sexual violence.
- ➔ Prevent child recruitment and enable the release and reintegration of children, and as well as men and women, who had been forcibly recruited while minors.
- ➔ Prevent the destruction, looting and pillaging of housing, farm lands and public buildings.
- ➔ Enable safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance by the civilian population.
- ➔ Ensure the security of humanitarian workers and assets.

Donors your continued support to the humanitarian response in CAR makes a difference.

For further information on the Global Protection Cluster please refer to:  
[www.globalprotectioncluster.org](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org)

