

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

MARCH 2025 Central African Republic (CAR)



In response to the Sudanese crisis affecting the country, UNHCR, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and the humanitarian community, is providing multi-sectoral assistance to more than 22,000 Sudanese refugees in Korsi, a district identified by the government in the town of Birao (Vakaga), 65 km from the border with Sudan. This assistance covers protection, access to shelter/housing, water, hygiene and sanitation, and health and education services.

STATISTICS / MAP

 **1,122,273**

Forcibly displaced people in CAR

 **441,129**

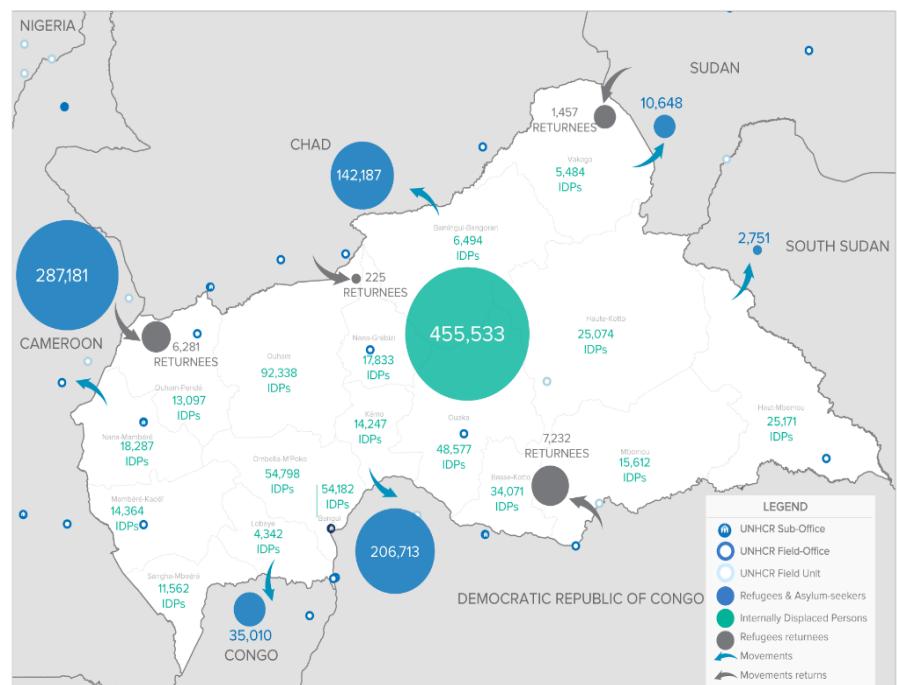
Internally displaced people

 **681,144**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from the Central African Republic

 **16,265**

CAR Returnees from neighboring countries in 2024



The government, UNHCR and its partners are providing multi-sectoral assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and registered refugees in the country (Chadians, Sudanese, South Sudanese and others), while supporting the return of Central African refugees as part of durable solutions.

 **1,189** Sudanese refugees were registered

 **773** families received cash assistance

NFI 1,975 people affected by floods

received non-food item kits

 **991** families of IDP returnees received shelter kits

 **1,392** families of returnees received hygiene kits



Air strikes are intensifying in Nyala, which is close to Massit and not far from Am Dafock in Sudan. Roda fled with her four children at night, taking with her only the clothes they were wearing. She was pre-registered in Am Dafock Centrafrique by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR). In Birao, she waits for her yellow bracelet to be biometrically registered by UNHCR. She is one of thousands of Sudanese refugees who have found refuge in Korsi, while the conflict continues in Sudan.

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Operational Context

Since April 2023, the Central African Republic has been hosting thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the conflict, mainly via the Am Dafock border post, as well as Chadian refugees. This situation is increasing pressure on UNHCR's limited resources and those of the communities hosting them. Working with the CNR, UNHCR is responsible for receiving, registering and monitoring them at the border.

The humanitarian community's support provides them with essential services, including protection, food assistance, shelter, healthcare and education, particularly in Korsi, in the Vakaga region.

Currently, 12,553 Sudanese refugees are living in hard-to-reach areas outside Vakaga and need assistance and protection. In addition, more than 6,500 Central African refugees from Darfur have had to return home in precarious conditions. On 31 March 2025, CAR hosted 59,982 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Sudan, South Sudan, Chad and Rwanda.

Of these, 55% live in rural areas, particularly in the prefectures of Vakaga, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto, Bamingui-Bangoran, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou.

Since 2013, the crises in CAR have caused the displacement of 679,566 Central Africans to neighbouring countries. As of 28 February 2025, the government also had 441,129 internally displaced persons (IDPs), of whom 73,178 (17%) were living in collective accommodation sites and 367,951 (83%) with host families. However, some areas have been deemed suitable for voluntary return, and UNHCR supports this durable solution. To this end, a national strategy has been drawn up and adopted in collaboration with the government to encourage the return of internally displaced persons and Central African refugees.

Since voluntary repatriation began in 2017, UNHCR has supported the Central African government in receiving 54,220 people, including 19,751 in 2024 (16,265 facilitated repatriations, mainly from Cameroon and the DRC, and 3,486 spontaneous returns or returns under adverse circumstances from Sudan and Chad). Between January and March 2025, 1,264 Central Africans were repatriated.

The planning target for voluntary repatriation in 2025 is 40,000 people. The main areas of return include Bangui, Baboua, Baoro, Berbérati, Bouar, Bossemptélé, Carnot, Mbaïki, and Mongoumba.

Current challenges

The situation of Sudanese refugees in the prefectures of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou.

The current financial situation in the Central African Republic only exacerbates the difficulties encountered in prioritizing urgent needs.

Access to essential services remains extremely limited, with public services virtually non-existent in several regions. As a result, forcibly displaced populations and host communities heavily depend on humanitarian aid.

Due to financial constraints, essential activities related to shelter, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, and infrastructure support have been suspended or delayed, affecting the country's humanitarian response.

Due to financial constraints, the construction of water supply facilities has been halted, considerably reducing refugees' access to water in Korsi. The current supply is well below international standards (5.95 litres per person per day).

To alleviate this situation, UNHCR and its partner, the International Committee for Emergency Relief and Development (CIAUD), are organising a truck delivery of water to Korsi. At the same time, the refugees are seeking other sources of water from the host community.

Regarding sanitation, Korsi had 393 latrines at the end of the period, including 261 emergency latrines and 132 semi-durable latrines, giving a ratio of 45 people per latrine.

In addition, the increase in refugee arrivals, due to the intensification of the conflict in Sudan, is putting additional pressure on already overburdened services. Urgent funding is needed to maintain vital aid and guarantee access to basic services for the growing refugee population.

Main achievements

From 27 to 30 January, the WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR, NOURRIR, and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), distributed cash food aid to 12,773 Sudanese refugees (5,033 families) in Korsi and Birao. The WFP also provided 4,423 tonnes of dry food to support the refugee population.

During the same period, a protection needs assessment mission carried out jointly by UNHCR and its partners, the CNR and CIAUD,

was informed that the local authorities identified 2,663 Sudanese refugees in Sikikédé, a locality near Birao. These people will be registered when security conditions allow.

On 13 February, the CNR, in coordination with UNHCR and CIAUD, relocated 61 Sudanese from Bossangoa (Ouham) to Korsi, Birao (Vakaga), where they can access basic services. This relocation was made possible thanks to logistical support from MINUSCA, which chartered a plane to transport them.

In education, UNHCR and its partners continue to work with the Ministry of Education, through the school inspectorates, to help integrate refugees into the national education system. More than 625 pupils, including 213 girls, have benefited from French classes in the Vakaga and Bamingui-Bangoran prefectures, to help them integrate. These included

- 404 new Sudanese refugees are learning French for the first time,
- 211 Central Africans, including returnees and internally displaced people, are strengthening their language skills to improve academic success.



These activities were made possible thanks to the generous support of the MasterCard Foundation, which is supporting countries affected by the crisis in Sudan in a multi-country manner.

Protection Activities in Obo for South Sudanese Refugees, Congolese Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons

Between January and March, UNHCR and the CNR continued their protection monitoring visits

to refugee reception areas. The aim was to discuss their situation with the newly arrived South Sudanese refugees in Obo. Despite UNHCR's aid in necessities, the gaps in assistance, particularly in shelter kits, continue to cause concern, especially for vulnerable people.

In addition, during the period under review, community leaders conducted awareness-raising sessions in the neighbourhoods of Obo. This activity reached 280 people, including 70 women, 101 girls, 69 boys, and 40 men, to promote community involvement and the fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

Three hundred six people fled the violence in South Sudan and found refuge in Haut Mbomou, in eastern CAR. The CNR and UNHCR have registered and assisted them with emergency kits, but the need remains enormous, and resources are limited.

UNHCR and CNR have also distributed cash assistance to 3,375 refugees, representing 1,198 households. In addition, 178 secondary school pupils and 1,018 primary school pupils also benefited from this assistance.

Situation of Chadian refugees

In April 2023, community conflicts in Chad caused more than 38,000 people to flee to the Central African Republic (CAR), including 31,779 Chadian refugees and 6,235 spontaneous Central African repatriates.

As of 31 March 2025, more than 3,441 Chadian refugees had been registered and enrolled by biometrics in Betoko, including 1,573 men and 1,868 women, in 870 households. Among them, 424 people have special needs, including:

- unaccompanied children
- pregnant or breastfeeding women
- sick elderly people
- people with disabilities.
- people with severe medical conditions.

During the period under review, UNHCR, with the support of its partner Ecobank, paid cash assistance to spontaneous returnees in Paoua.

In all, 706 households received cash assistance totalling around USD 134,493.79.

During March in Betoko, UNHCR and its partners (CNR, CIAUD and NOURRIR) distributed essential non-food kits to 909 Chadian refugee families.

In the health sector, 684 curative consultations were carried out, including 406 for Chadian refugees (53.35%) and 278 for the host community (46.65%).

These consultations included

- 215 children aged 0 to 4 (31.43%) who were cared for, including 115 refugees (63 boys, 52 girls) and 100 children from the host community (56 boys, 44 girls).
- 123 children aged 5 to 15 (17.98%), including 69 refugees (32 boys, 37 girls) and 54 children from the host community (30 boys, 24 girls).

Education and infrastructure support



The health centre built by UNHCR in Betoko. @HCR

In education, 101 table-benches have been handed over to the two mixed schools, 1 and 2, in Betoko. Regarding support for health infrastructures, UNHCR has built an observation room with 12 beds at the Betoko health centre. Regarding hygiene, UNHCR has distributed 12,000 bars of soap to 909 Chadian refugee households in Betoko.

Support for internally displaced persons (IDPs)

As part of its support for the return of IDPs to Bria, UNHCR is helping to build 35 semi-durable houses and providing non-food kits containing mats, blankets, buckets, cooking utensils, and solar lamps for the village.



House built as part of the support for the return IDPs in Bria. @HCR

This assistance has benefited 35 households of internally displaced people. Since 2016, these efforts have aimed to reduce the vulnerability of IDPs living on these sites while preserving their dignity.

In Nana Mambéré prefecture, UNHCR and its partners, CNR, PARET, CIAUD and FCA, distributed kits consisting of clothing and torches to 962 households representing 4,810 IDPs in Baoro.

Durable Solutions

Under the voluntary repatriation support programme, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of 1,264 people until 31 March 2025.

The second ministerial meeting of the Steering Committee of the Solutions Support Platform was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 19 to 21 February. The meeting focused on solutions and priority actions to deal with forced displacement linked to the crisis in the Central African Republic.

In this context, UNHCR and its partners are supporting the government by rehabilitating local infrastructure, particularly administrative buildings, hospitals and schools in Baoro, a town identified by the authorities as a development hub in the Nana-Mambéré region. UNHCR is also building 103 durable housing units for returnees, internally displaced persons and certain vulnerable members of the host communities in this development hub.

Last March, during an official visit, Raouf Mazou, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner, and Abdouraouf Gnon-Konde, Regional Director for West and Central Africa, symbolically handed over the new infrastructure to the

Central African government. These joint efforts aim to build resilience, stimulate the local economy, and foster social cohesion in areas of return.

Working in Partnerships

UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster in the Central African Republic and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) and Shelter/NFI clusters. The organization continues to advocate the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response and the implementation of durable solutions.

UNHCR in CAR is strengthening its engagement with strategic partners to pool efforts on behalf of forcibly displaced people and their host communities. This includes the signing of an MoU with UN Women and the Ministry of Agriculture and closer coordination with certain ministerial departments and local authorities.

In response to the influx of Sudanese and Chadian refugees, the refugee coordination model has been activated. UNHCR is at the head of the response, working in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), which represents the government.

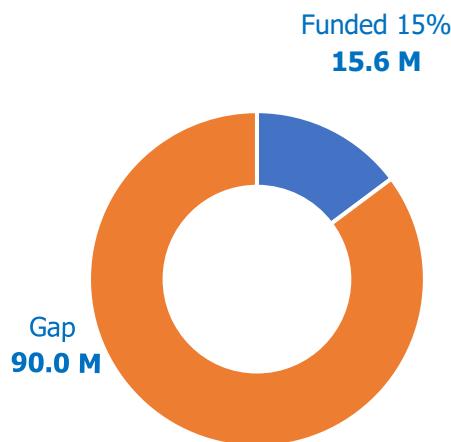
We would like to thank the donors who contributed to UNHCR operation in CAR in 2024



Et nos remerciements aux donateurs privés en Espagne et aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique

FUNDING AS OF 31 MARCH 2025

105,7 M \$ required by UNHCR in CAR in 2025



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