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Country sheet

Central African Republic

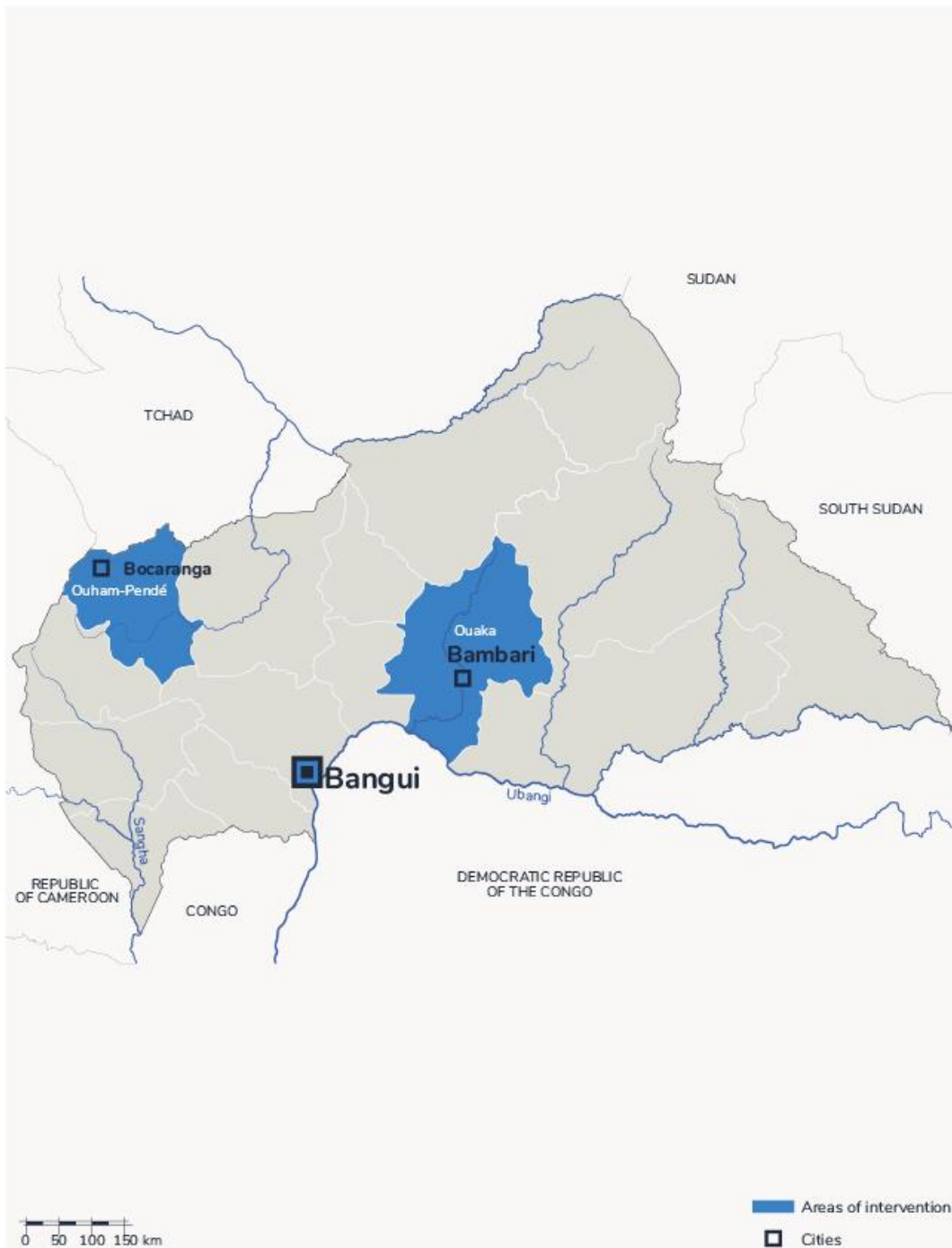




HI's team and areas of intervention

There are 84 people on HI's team in Central African Republic.

Central African Republic







General Country Data

General data

Country	Central African Republic	Cameroon	France
Population	5 579 144	27 914 536	67 935 660
HDI	0.24	0.393	0.825
Gender development index	0.81	0.885	0.99
Maternal mortality	835	438	8
GINI index	56.2	46.6	30.7
Population under UNHCR mandate	527348	1 473 294	693 598
INFORM index	8.6	6.7	2.3
Fragile states index	105.7	94	28.8
Public social protection	3.5	10.3	100
Official development assistance received	652.5	1126.4	

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
1951 Geneva Convention	Ratified on 04/09/1962
1967 Protocol	Signed on 20/06/1967
1949 Geneva Convention	Ratified on 01/08/1966
Final Act of the Geneva Diplomatic Conference, 1974-1977	Signed on 10/06/1977
Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Ratified on 17/07/1984
Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Ratified on 17/07/1984
Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989-UN)	Ratified on 25/04/1992
Optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Ratified on 21/09/2017
Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, 1925	Ratified on 31/07/1970
Biological Weapons Convention 1972	Ratified on 25/09/2018
1993 Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons	Ratified on 20/09/2006
Mine Ban Treaty, 1997	Ratified on 08/11/2002
Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008	Signed on 03/12/2008
Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, 2017	Signed on 20/09/2017
Rome Statute (International criminal court), 1998	Ratified on 03/10/2001
Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance, 2006	Ratified on 11/10/2016
2013 Arms trade treaty	Ratified on 07/10/2015
Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women	Ratified on 21/06/1991



Geopolitical analysis

The Central African Republic suffers from structural underdevelopment and is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a human development index that places it second to last in the 2018 UNDP Human Development Index.

The country, marked by chronic instability since its independence in 1958, descended into an unprecedented humanitarian, political and security crisis during the third Central African civil war, which began in 2013. Constitutional order was restored in 2016 with the holding of presidential and legislative elections and the adoption of a new Constitution. The post-electoral crisis, following the 2020 elections, finally ended with the Central African authorities taking back the country's main towns and main roads. Overall, access to affected communities continued to improve in 2023. In some areas, it is necessary, and possible, to move from emergency to recovery and development activities.

Economic situation¹

The violence between 2013 and 2014, at the height of the crisis, led to a 37% fall in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2022, GDP (in constant 2015 US dollars) was still 21% lower than in 2012. The decade was characterised by chronic under-investment by the State in basic social services (education, health, protection, etc.). According to World Bank figures, GDP growth has been zero since 2000, meaning that 22 years of growth have been lost. In 2022, GDP per capita (in constant 2015 USD) was USD 362.6, 32% lower than in 2012, which means that most of the Central African population is living on a subsistence economy. The resulting insecurity and repeated population displacements have had serious socio-economic repercussions, compounded since 2020 by the COVID-19 crisis, the impact of the war in Ukraine and sub-regional conflicts (Sudan and Chad). These factors external to the Central African conflict are having a direct impact on inflation, which reached 5.7% in 2022. As a landlocked country in the heart of Africa, the country is feeling the full impact of global geopolitical developments.

The macroeconomic deterioration has had a heavy impact on Central African households. The decrease in imports and the reduction in production have caused a major increase in inflation, while household purchasing power has fallen. The prices observed on Central African markets are structurally variable and irregular, but the price increases since December 2020 have been exceptional in their magnitude and duration. Despite the resumption of commercial traffic along the corridor leading to Cameroon, the prices of essential goods have remained high. The median cost of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 22% between January and June 2022. Sharp fluctuations and increases in the price of petrol have also been observed.

¹ Sources : <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>



Summary of HI's work in the country

HI first worked in the Central African Republic from 1994 to 2004, running various development programmes. In particular, HI helped open the Bangui orthopaedic centre (ANRAC), which has been supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since HI's departure. HI also worked on setting up a two-year university course to train physical therapy assistants, the only training course of its kind available in CAR. Two classes have graduated from this programme and 32 physical therapy assistants have been trained in CAR.

In 2016, HI returned to CAR to implement humanitarian logistics projects. The programme now manages an air logistics platform that organises the reception, control, storage and preparation of air cargo transported by UNHAS flights for humanitarian organisations.

In September 2018, integrated rehabilitation care activities (physical and functional rehabilitation with MHPSS activities) were set up at the general hospital in Bambari, in Ouaka prefecture. This programme is carried out in partnership with MSF-Holland, which supports the surgery section of the general hospital, and is intended to strengthen the capacity and case management of the many people injured by the violence in and around the town.

A Technical Cell for Inclusive Action (CTAI) was set up in 2019 in Bangui, with national coverage. It enables humanitarian actors to adapt their response to people with specific needs, so that they can also access humanitarian aid.

Since 2020, HI has been running two types of civil engineering projects: airstrip rehabilitation and road and bridge infrastructure rehabilitation. These projects are part of HI CAR's objective of facilitating humanitarian access in the country.

Functional and physical rehabilitation activities in Bangassou have ceased due to a lack of funding.

Since 2022, HI CAR has been providing stimulation therapy activities to children who have experienced an episode of acute to severe malnutrition. The aim of stimulation therapy is to prevent and reduce developmental delays and disabilities linked to malnutrition and to train parents to stimulate their child. Parents of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) can also receive psychosocial support if necessary. These stimulation therapy activities are organised in the same hospitals that provide integrated rehabilitation services. HI has also started an Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) project in Ouham-Pendé, in the northeast of the CAR, due to the increasing use of explosive ordnance by parties to the Central African conflict in this part of the country.

In 2023, the first inclusive education project was launched to assist the Central African authorities with their national education strategy. The year was also marked by HI funding for a study of the need to relaunch a physical therapy training curriculum in support of the FACSS (Faculty of Health Sciences) in Bangui. Finally, HI has just started a pilot project on inclusive education in three prefectures: Ouaka, Ouham and Ouham-Pende. The aim of this project is to promote access to quality education for girls and boys with disabilities. It is being



carried out as part of an integrated approach, with all three aspects of the RIMSCASSA project (functional rehabilitation, MHPSS and inclusion).



Overview of current projects

Sectors in which HI is running projects, with a focus on the beneficiaries and partners

Main sectors of intervention	Main activities:	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Project start and end date	Donors funding the project
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial Logistics Platform: reception, verification and storage of cargo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73 humanitarian actors, including 65 NGOs and 8 UN agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHAS Logistics cluster 	Bangui airport	August 2023 January 2024 (renewed every 6 months)	World Food Programme via UNHAS and Logistics cluster
Helping to provide a humanitarian response to the most vulnerable communities affected by the crises in CAR by facilitating physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System for gathering information on hotspots Mobile rapid intervention team: rehabilitation of hotspots Strengthening the capacities of humanitarian bodies and actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarian actors working in CAR Population concerned by the rehabilitation works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics cluster RRM ICCG GTA/CMCoord CCO Ministry of Public Works and Transport CLER 	National (priority humanitarian access zones)	May2023 - April 30 2025	ECHO



access for local and international humanitarian actors						
Improving physical access to make humanitarian aid more effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation of road infrastructure• Community awareness-raising campaigns on HI's thematic areas and routine maintenance• Setting up/re-energising maintenance committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humanitarian actors• Other road users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logistics sub-cluster• Londo+ project	Basse Kotto (Tambia – Alindao section)	July 2023 - September 2023	BHA



<p>RIMSCASSA Integrated physical and functional rehabilitation services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical therapy care • Supply of mobility aids • Prosthetic and orthotic fitting • Training of health staff • Sessions of psychological first aid, defusing and group psychosocial support • Training and support for community leaders in identifying and referring people experiencing psychological distress • Training of health personnel in the identification and referral of people in psychological distress and in psychological first aid • Psychosocial support • Supply of dignity kits • Social mediation activities • Stimulation therapy for children with malnutrition • Psychosocial support for parents/guardians of children with malnutrition • Training of health staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients from MSF's surgery ward • Outpatients • Caregivers • Hospital medical staff • People in situations of psychological distress • Children with SAM and MAM • Parents of children with malnutrition • Health staff from hospitals and nutrition centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSF Holland • IMC • MSF Belgium • MDA • ANRAC • Bambari health district 	<p>Bambari general hospital</p> <p>Bangassou general hospital</p> <p>ANRAC (orthopaedic centre) Bangui</p>	<p>In Bambari (since 2018) : current funding from July 2022 to July 2024</p>	<p>GFFO</p> <p>ADH</p>
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<p>Inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of humanitarian actors and the population to disability and inclusion issues • Surveys of barriers to humanitarian aid access • Training and coaching for humanitarian aid actors in the inclusiveness of humanitarian responses • Capacity building and material and financial support for organisations or people with disabilities • Advocacy in support of people at risk of exclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian actors • Organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs); • People with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRC, DRC, IMC • Local OPDs 	<p>The Technical Cell for Inclusive Action (CTAI) is based in Bangui but has national coverage</p>	<p>June 2021 - June 2024 : for the Bêkou Gender III project</p>	<p>Bêkou (EU), in consortium with IRC (lead), DRC, IMC</p>
<p>Strengthening the partnership capacities of national humanitarian actors on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the organisational and technical capacities (EORE) of two national partners • Conduct of two KAP surveys • Conduct of 1 EO contamination and socio-economic impact survey • Conduct of 1 barriers survey • Creation of communication and information materials for EORE 				<p>01/11/2023</p>	



<p>Inclusive Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support for partners to carry out an assessment of the accessibility of schools and to identify children with disabilities • Provision of technical aids for children with disabilities • Situational analysis of the factors that exclude vulnerable children from education • Specialised support for children with disabilities • Training and follow-up for teachers, parent-teachers and school staff on disability and inclusion and on inclusive teaching approaches • Supply of inclusive teaching kits to schools • Training state education stakeholders on disability and inclusion and inclusive teaching methods • Raising awareness among communities, local authorities and community leaders about the basic concepts of disability and inclusion and the importance of education for girls and boys, including those with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF partners • Children with disabilities identified • Teachers, parent-teachers and school staff • National Ministry of Education focal points • Political, administrative, municipal authorities, community leaders, etc. • Focal points of UNICEF and its partners • Organisations of people with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesuit Refugee Service (Jrs) • All For Peace And Dignity (APAD) • EDEN • Association Des Femmes Evangeliques De Bossangoa (AFEB) • Enseignement • Catholique Associé de Centrafrique (ECAC) • IEDA Relief 	<p>Ouaka, Ouham and Ouham – Pendé prefectures</p>	<p>June 2023 - November 2025</p>	<p>UNICEF – ECW (Education Cannot Wait)</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training and coaching of UNICEF staff and its partners to ensure that the tools and approaches used to implement their activities are inclusive.• Training and technical support for organisations of people with disabilities on inclusive education issues.					
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Donor and partner logos

UNHAS /PAM



GFFO



IMC



ECHO



UE



UNICEF – ECW



USAID/ BHA



IRC



ADH



DRC



Humanitarian Fund



Bèkou Found (European Union)

