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Country Sheet

Central African Republic

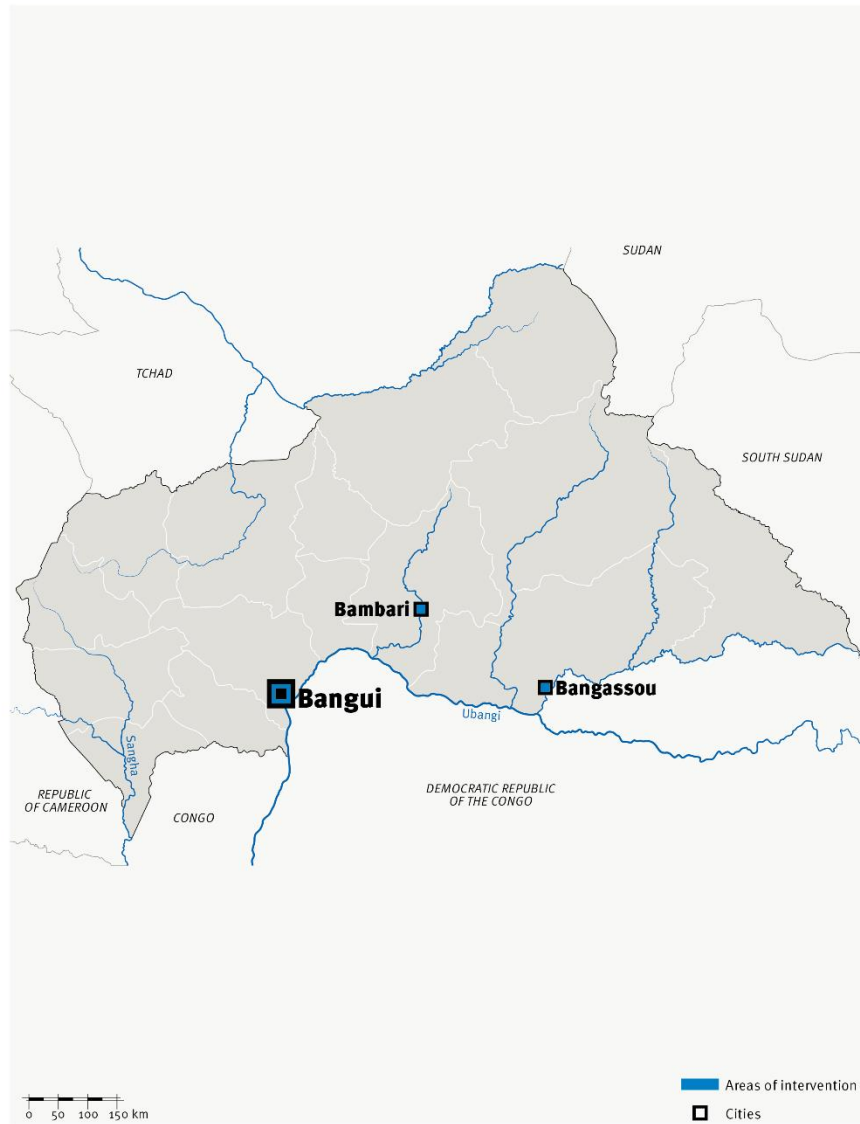




HI's team and areas of intervention

There are 160 people on HI's team in Benin.

Central African Republic





General Country Data

a. General data

Country	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Cameroon	France
Population	4 919987	27224262	67 499 343
HDI	0,40	0.56	0.90
Gender development index	0,801	0.864	0.987
Maternal mortality	829	782	4
GINI index	56,2	46.6	32.4
Population under UNHCR mandate	701861	1399608	580898
INFORM index	7,7	6.1	2.3
Fragile states index	108.1	96	30,9
Public social protection	1.4	6.8	100
Official development assistance received	753.84	1335,21	

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
1951 Geneva Convention	4 September 1962
1967 Protocol	20 August 1967
1949 Geneva Conventions	Ratified / Joined: 01.08.1966
Final Act of the Geneva Diplomatic Conference, 1974-1977	Signature:10.06.1977
Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Ratified / Joined: 17.07.1984
Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Ratified / Joined: 17.07.1984
Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989-UN)	Ratified / Joined: 23.04.1992
	Ratified / Joined: 21.09.2017
	Reservation / Statement: 21.09.2017



Optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Ratified / Joined: 31.07.1970
Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, 1925	Ratified / Joined: 25.09.2018 Ratified / Joined: 20.09.2006
1972 Convention on the prohibition of biological weapons	Ratified / Joined: 08.11.2002 Signature:03.12.2008
1993 Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons	Signature:20.09.2017
1997 Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines	Ratified / Joined: 03.10.2001 Ratified / Joined: 11.10.2016
2008 Convention on cluster munitions	Ratified / Joined: 07.10.2015
2017 Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons	
1998 statute of the international criminal court	
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Ratification 21.06.1991
2013 Arms trade treaty	
Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women	

c. 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 independence in 1958, was plunged into an unprecedented humanitarian, political and security crisis during the third Central African civil war, which began in 2013. Since the presidential and legislative elections in December 2020, and after a period of relative calm, there has been an upsurge in violence and a deterioration in the humanitarian situation. Clashes between armed groups are worsening the situation and restricting access to people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Economic situation

The crisis that began in 2013 led to a 37% decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2014, GDP fell back to its 1990 level. The resulting insecurity and repeated population displacements have had a serious impact on agricultural production, increasing food prices. Before the 2013-2014 crisis, at least 75% of the population



depended on agriculture a living, so there is now a high dependence on food aid.

The Central African economy has experienced two difficult years due to the combined impact of COVID-19 and the deteriorating security situation that began in December 2020. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in early 2021 was similar to that of 2019, representing a loss of two years of per capita income growth due to the pandemic and the electoral crisis. These economic fluctuations due to conflict and regime changes have been occurring since the 2003 coup d'état. By 2025, GDP per capita is expected to be roughly similar to that of 2003. Twenty-two years of growth have thus been lost. The national current account deficit doubled between 2019 and 2020, from 4% to 8.7% of GDP, despite still very limited state investment in essential services. This excessive debt is mainly due to the low mobilisation of domestic resources and export revenues, and expenditure related to the elections and the epidemic response.

The macroeconomic deterioration has had a heavy impact on Central African families. The decrease in imports and the reduction in production have caused an 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 observed 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 remain higher than before the December crisis. The median cost of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 20% between January and June 2021. Sharp fluctuations and increases in the price of petrol have also been observed.

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 is still operational and has been supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 2013. 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. 32 physical therapy assistants have been trained.

HI returned to CAR in 2016 to launch logistics platform projects to support and facilitate the delivery of aid by humanitarian organisations throughout the country. These activities have progressively developed and today HI CAR manages a logistics platform with a road and river component and an aerial component. The road and river logistics platform organises the transport of humanitarian goods by road and river and the temporary storage of these goods in Bambari, Bangassou and Mobaye. The air



logistics platform organises the reception, control, storage and preparation of air cargo transported by UNHAS flights for humanitarian organisations.

Since 2020, HI has been running two types of civil engineering projects: runway rehabilitation and road and crossing infrastructure rehabilitation. These projects are an extension of HI CAR's projects to facilitate humanitarian access in the country.

In September 2018, integrated rehabilitation care activities (physical and functional rehabilitation combined with MHPSS activities) were set up at the general hospital in Bambari, in the Ouaka prefecture. This programme is carried out in partnership with MSF-Holland, which supports the surgery section of the general hospital, to strengthen the capacity and care of the many people injured in the violence in the town and its surrounding areas. In 2022, HI opened an integrated rehabilitation service in Bangassou hospital similar to the one in Bambari.

Since 2022, HI CAR has been delivering 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 can also receive psychosocial support, if necessary. These stimulation therapy activities are organised in the same hospitals as the integrated rehabilitation.

A Technical Cell for Inclusive Action (CTAI) was set up in 2019 in Bangui, with national coverage. Its work enables humanitarian actors to adapt their response to people with specific needs, so that they can also access humanitarian aid. In 2022, the programme also launched a project to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people and people with disabilities. This project has three components: improving the inclusiveness of humanitarian aid, supporting the structuring and advocacy capacities of organisations of persons with disabilities and providing cash transfers and mobility assistance to the most vulnerable people in the intervention zone.

In 2022, HI CAR launched its first explosive ordnance risk education project in the Ouham-Pendé region in the north east of the country where parties to the conflict are making increasing use of explosive devices. This project is being conducted in conjunction with a mental health and psychosocial support project for populations exposed to the risks of explosive devices or in situations of psychological distress. This MHPSS project also has a conflict transformation component aimed at fostering inter-community dialogue.



Overview of current projects

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

Project title and main sectors of intervention:	Main activities:	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Project start and end date	Donors funding the project
Logistics platforms Shared transport and storage platforms Logistical preparedness	Rehabilitation of 6 runways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humanitarian organisations using UNHAS, ICRC and MSF flights• Humanitarian actors & (indirectly) their beneficiaries	UNHAS	Whole country (according to the runways to be rehabilitated supplied by UNHAS)	October 2022- March 2023	UNHAS
	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• 90 humanitarian organisations &	UNHAS, Logistics cluster	Bangui airport	June 2022 – November 2022 (funding renewed every six months)	World Food Programme via UNHAS and Logistics cluster



		(indirectly) their beneficiaries				
	Road platform: transport and storage for humanitarian actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 humanitarian actors benefiting from the platform's services • Humanitarian organisations & (indirectly) their beneficiaries 	PUI	<p>Bangui</p> <p>Bambari, Bangassou and Mobaye</p> <p>Transport to all areas of the country from Bangui, Bambari, Bangassou and Mobaye</p>	September 2022 - August 2023	USAID/BHA
Rehabilitation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical therapy care • Supply of mobility aids • Prosthetic and orthotic fitting • Training of health staff • Psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients from MSF's surgery ward • Outpatients • Care-givers • Hospital medical staff • People with specific needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSF Holland • IMC • MSF Belgium • MDA • ANRAC 	<p>Bambari general hospital</p> <p>Bangassou general hospital</p> <p>ANRAC (orthopaedic centre) Bangui</p>	<p>Bambari: July 2022 –July 2024</p> <p>Bangassou : July 2022 –December 2022</p>	German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of dignity kits • Social mediation activities 	and their care-givers				
Rehabilitation Services / Stimulation therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • Children with SAM • Parents of children with malnutrition • Health staff from hospitals and nutrition centres 	Bambari health district MDA	Bambari general hospital Bangassou general hospital	In Bambari (since 2022) : current funding July 2022 to July 2024 In Bangassou (since 2022) : current funding July 2022 to December 2022	GFFO
Social & Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of humanitarian actors and the population to disability and inclusion issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian actors • Organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRC • DRC • IMC • Local OPDs 	Bangui, with national reach	Bêkou Genre III: June 2021 - June 2024	Bêkou (EU), in consortium with IRC (lead), DRC, IMC



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surveys of barriers to humanitarian aid access• Training and coaching for humanitarian aid actors in inclusive humanitarian responses• Capacity building and material and financial support for organisations or people with disabilities• Advocacy in support of people at risk of exclusion• Unconditional cash distribution to the most vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People with disabilities, people with specific needs and people at risk of exclusion			<p>Inclusive humanitarian action: March 2022- November 2022</p>	<p>Humanitarian Fund GFFO</p>
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Protection and risk reduction / Armed violence reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sessions of inclusive education on the risks of explosive devices• Awareness-raising of humanitarian actors to the risks of explosive devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Populations exposed to risks due to the presence of explosive devices• Humanitarian organisations & (indirectly) their beneficiaries		Bocaranga sub-prefecture	June - November 2022	Humanitarian Fund
Health & Prevention / Mental health and psychosocial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sessions of psychological first aid and group psychosocial support• Training of health personnel in the identification and referral of people in psychological distress and in psychological first aid• Supply of dignity kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People in situations of psychological distress• People exposed (or witness) to risks relating to explosive devices and the violence of the conflict• Medical personnel		Bocaranga sub-prefecture	June - November 2022	Lux Min of Foreign Affairs




	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social mediation activities					
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Donors

<p>UNHAS /PAM</p> 	<p>MAE LUX</p> <p>LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT</p> 	<p>USAID/ BHA</p> 	<p>DRC</p> <p>DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL</p> 
<p>GFFO</p>  <p>german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE</p>	<p>UE</p> 	<p>IRC</p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Fond Humanitaire</p> <p>CAR Humanitarian Fund</p>  <p>Fonds Humanitaire RCA</p>



<p>IMC</p>  <p>International Medical Corps</p>			
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