



Monthly Report
June 2008

unicef 

Central African Republic

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Humanitarian Overview	4
Country Summary	4
Political Summary	5
Insecurity	6
General Funding	6
Programme Updates	7
Education	7
Health and Nutrition	7
NFIs and Shelter	8
Protection	8
Water and Sanitation	10
UNICEF CAR Funding	11

Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APRD	Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy
BONUCA	United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CAR	Central African Republic
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
ERF	Emergency Response Fund
EUFOR	European Union Force in Chad and CAR
FDPC	Democratic Front for the Central African People
FIDH	International Federation for Human Rights
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IMC	International Medical Corps
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPHD	International Partnership of Human Development
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
LCDH	Central African Human Rights League
MINURCAT	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NFIs	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UFDR	Union of Democratic Forces for Unity
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Summary

- CAR is placed on the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission's agenda
- Peace agreement signed between the CAR government, APRD and UFDR
- The UN Fund grants UNICEF US\$5.8million to purchase 740,000 mosquito nets
- UNICEF signs new agreements with COOPI, IMC, IPHD, IRC and Merlin
- Mass vaccination campaign against Yellow Fever is held in northwestern CAR
- International Day of the African Child is celebrated
- The construction of 404 latrines is completed in northern CAR
- Current UNICEF appeal funded at just 29%

The Central African Republic



This report highlights UNICEF's actions in the Central African Republic in June 2008. It covers programmes throughout the country. It should be noted that this report does not attempt to report on every activity undertaken, but instead provides a sample of UNICEF's programming across CAR.

Humanitarian Overview

Country Summary

The Central African Republic's (CAR) history since independence from France in 1960 has been marked by brutal dictatorship, revolts and coups. In recent years, the country's north has increasingly fallen prey to armed groups as President François Bozizé's government had battled rebel factions. This has resulted in the displacement of more than 300,000 people and the near-complete decimation of infrastructure.



Local militia in Ouham-Pendé, northwestern CAR
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

Current figures estimate that of the one million people in CAR affected by conflict, 108,000 have fled into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Sudan, and 197,000 are internally displaced. In return, CAR has received thousands of refugees from the neighbouring conflicts in Sudan and Chad.

In recent months, CAR has been hit by an upsurge in attacks by armed bandits locally known as 'Zaraguinas' or 'Coupeurs de Route'. These bandits roam the dangerous northern areas of CAR, assaulting and killing travellers and villagers, kidnapping women and children, looting property and burning homes. Lack of protection is a major issue for many children, with girls at particular risk, as problems such as rape and gender-based violence remain widespread. Banditry rather than the political conflict is now the main source of human suffering in CAR. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that up to a third of the 300,000 Central Africans forced from their homes in the past several years fled from bandits.

Located right at the heart of the African continent, CAR is suffering from a multi-faceted crisis of ongoing waves of violence coupled with steep poverty. The conditions on the ground are having a significant impact on the lives of women and children.

Despite some significant improvements over the past few years, the situation continues to be of great concern to UNICEF. With an infant mortality rate of 106 per 1,000 and an under-5 mortality rate of 176 per 1,000, the country has some of the continent's worst child survival indicators. An estimated 38% of the country's under-5s suffer from Global Chronic Malnutrition, while a further 10% suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition. In addition, the HIV prevalence (6.2%) is the highest in the region. More than 75% of the population is without access to adequate sanitation facilities, which means that preventable diseases are easily spread.

UNICEF is continuing to work closely with its partner agencies in order to improve these indicators in an effort to enhance human welfare across CAR.

Core Country Data

Indicator	Value
Population	4,302,360
Human Development Index Rank	171 of 177
People affected by violence	1,000,000
Refugees in Chad, Cameroon and Sudan	108,000
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	197,000
GDP per capita	\$380
Life expectancy at birth	40(m), 45.7(f)
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	106
Child <5 Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	176
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000)	1,102
People living on below US\$1/day	67.0%
Population without access to safe water	73.9%
Children fully immunized	32.0%
HIV overall prevalence	6.2%
Global Acute Malnutrition	10.1%
Global Chronic Malnutrition	38.0%
Primary School Enrolment (net)	55.5%

Political Summary

On 12 June, CAR became the fourth country to be placed on the agenda of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, which was set up to help countries emerging from conflict avoid sliding back into war. CAR joins Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, which was established by the UN at the end of 2005.

A comprehensive peace accord was signed on 21 June between the CAR government and two out of the three rebel movements operating in the country, the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD) and the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR). The peace agreement, which builds on individual pacts earlier established by the government with each rebel movement, was signed in Libreville, Gabon, in front of CAR and Gabonese presidents François Bozizé and Omar Bongo. The signature of the comprehensive agreement by all parties to the conflict is a precondition for the organization of the Inclusive Political Dialogue that is to include all political parties, the current administration, rebels, the legal opposition and civil society. The opening of the political dialogue had been planned for 8 June but was subsequently postponed pending the deal between the government and the rebels. This is an historical peace pact for the country, which has seen APRD, UFDR and FDPC rebels cause mass population displacement over recent years. There are currently an estimated 305,000 Central Africans living in forced displacement, including 108,000 refugees in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Sudan.

General Ganascia, EU Force Commander of the European Union Force in Chad and CAR (EUFOR), held a press conference on 11 June in Bangui to update the Central Africans on EUFOR's actions in the northeast of the country. EUFOR currently has 3,000 troops in Chad and CAR. Before the end of July, EUFOR will receive a fleet of 15 helicopters to be based in Chad, which will lead to increased mobility in northern CAR. This should improve surveillance of the region's main axis, particularly around the remote northeastern towns of Birao and Sam Ouandja, where road patrols until now have been limited. Furthermore, a joint assessment mission of the United Nations and the European Union took place in Bangui and Birao from 24 to 26 June as part of a mid-mandate review of MINURCAT and EUFOR's operations. The mission will provide recommendations to the Security Council on the nature of future peacekeeping missions.



A boy leans against a EUFOR truck in Sam Ouandja
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

Goungaye Wanfiyo, lawyer and President of the Central African Human Rights League (LCDH) received death threats throughout the month of June, according to the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). The threats are allegedly linked to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) recent arrest of rebel leader and politician Jean-Pierre Bemba on 25 May. LCDH, under Wanfiyo's guidance, collaborated with the ICC regarding the abuse of innocent victims by Bemba's forces in 2002. Bemba is the first person to be arrested in connection with the ICC's investigation in the Central African Republic. The ICC has charged Bemba with three counts of crimes against humanity and five counts of war crimes.

Former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano visited CAR on 4 June. Since stepping down as president, Joaquim Chissano has been appointed the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan. His role as Special Envoy involves seeking a comprehensive political solution to the ongoing conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). During his visit, the Special Envoy was briefed on crimes committed three months ago by the LRA against civilians, mainly women and children, in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture in southeastern CAR.

Insecurity



Bandit attacks in northern CAR have left 1,500 people displaced in the village of Kambakota, between Batangafo and Nana-Bakassa in the Ouham prefecture. The IDPs fled from their nearby villages almost three months ago, following raids by armed bandits – known locally as Zaraguinas – that left 37 dead. The displaced people have come from the villages of Kambadji, Kassai and Kagoué II, on the road to Ouogo to the north of Kambakota. Ouham and Ouham-Pendé, as well as being two of the country's most dangerous prefectures, are also the country's most populated regions after Bangui. However, chronic insecurity, due to recurring attacks, has led almost 75,000 people to flee their homes and live as IDPs. There are health and safety fears for the displaced people, who are living without protection in makeshift shelters, with no nearby healthcare facilities. UNICEF has already started tending to those most in need, by distributing fundamental items such as impregnated mosquito nets and essential drugs to the IDPs during emergency interventions in the area.

Almost 800 people have taken refuge in the town of Batangafo, northern CAR, fleeing Zaraguinas who attacked their villages. With Peuhl herders currently occupying their land, returning home is not a possibility. The displaced villagers have temporarily settled with family members in Batangafo. Humanitarian NGOs present in the region are providing emergency healthcare, including immunisations, and NRC is supporting education in schools while the security situation remains unstable.

General Funding

After being placed on the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission's agenda this month, CAR was granted US\$10million by the Peacebuilding

Fund. The funding will be provided to respond to immediate needs in Security Sector Reform, and also for the promotion of good governance and the rule of law, and the recovery of conflict-stricken communities. A familiarization workshop on the operational framework of the Peacebuilding Fund will be held in July.

On 18 June, the Board of Directors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the second review of the programme supported by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility. Following the review, the IMF on 25 June disbursed US\$14million to support macroeconomic and structural reforms being undertaken by the Central African Government.

The World Bank has donated US\$7.9million to help the Central African Government pay off its debt to the institution and to complete reforms in economic management. The contribution will also support the implementation of CAR's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and will help the government to benefit from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The World Bank will make the funds available to the Government at the end of June.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US\$1.95million to three humanitarian projects in CAR under its Rapid Response window. One of the projects aims to establish a larger humanitarian presence in northwestern CAR to protect at least 102,000 IDPs at risk. The two other projects aim to prevent waterborne diseases and related deaths among 45,000 IDPs, and prevent maternal and infant death among 162,000 people in northern CAR.

The African Development Bank has provided the Central African Government with US\$1.5million to conduct a preparatory study on the supply of safe drinking water in the 16 provincial capitals.



Children in Sam Ouandja refugee camp, northern CAR
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

Programme Updates

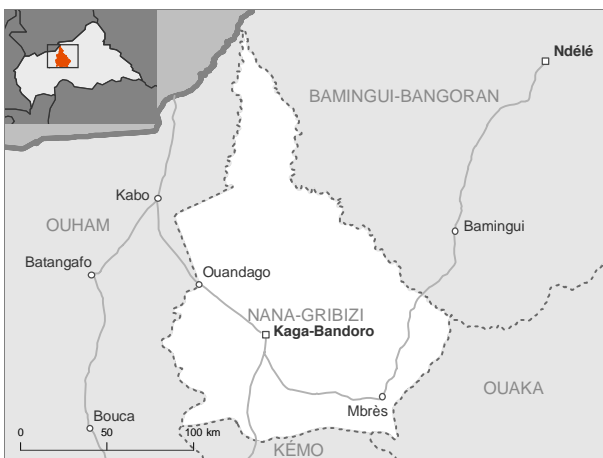
Education

Providing Training in Education

UNICEF CAR is supporting emergency education projects set up by NRC in the Ouham prefecture. The region has seen a dramatic rise in the number of IDPs living in poor conditions since being forced from their homes by bandits over recent months. NRC is operating in 40 schools, giving much-needed education to 12,300 children. Some 179 parent-teachers have already benefited from training and members of the Parent-Teacher Association have received training in school management. School kits and furniture have also been provided. As the needs for primary education are enormous in both the Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures, NRC is planning to expand its education programme in 2009.

UNICEF CAR continues its efforts to improve the quality of education in the country. Net primary school enrolment is very low at 55.5%, and completion rates in primary education are even lower at approximately 30%. At least half of all teachers in rural CAR are parent-teachers. The training for 146 school directors and teachers working in the Kémo prefecture has been under preparation this month. The training will take place from 21 to 30 July.

Rehabilitation of Schools



The rehabilitation of eight schools located on the Kaga-Bandoro – Ouandago axis was started this month. The school rehabilitation is taking place through UNICEF's partnership with IRC, which also saw the initiation of the development of water and sanitation facilities in the same region.



Students at an ECHO-supported school in Birao
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

Health and Nutrition

Fighting Malaria

Thanks to a UN Fund grant of US\$5.8million, UNICEF will be able to distribute 740,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets to all children under five in CAR during a campaign planned for November 2008.

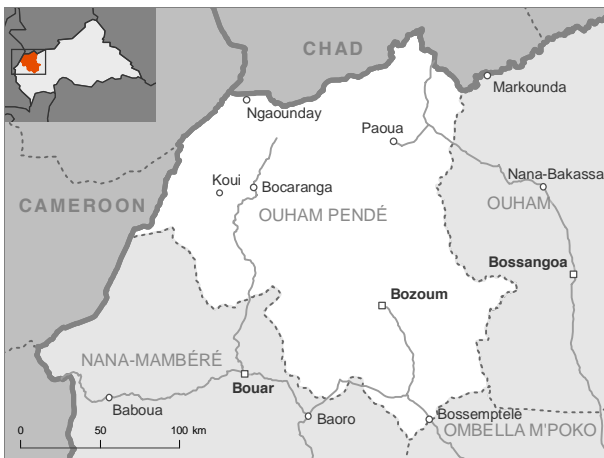
Reviving the Healthcare System

This month, extension works on the maternity and pediatric units of the Kaga-Bandoro hospital began. The work is going well so far, with the building foundations already completed. The extension work is being carried out as part of UNICEF's partnership with IRC. Incinerators were built in the Nana-Outa, Patcho and Ouandago health centres in the Nana-Gribizi prefecture. Additionally, the construction of latrines was started in the Nana-Outa and Patcho centres.

In June, UNICEF signed a number of agreements with different organisations wanting to set up partnerships in CAR. Firstly, the International Partnership of Human Development (IPHD) plans to set up nutrition programmes in Ouham. Mothers would be able to bring their malnourished children to receive emergency nutrition, such as high-calorie products and essential vitamins. A second pact made with the International Medical Corps (IMC) will see the basic healthcare system in Haute-Kotto and south Vakaga brought up to date. UNICEF CAR has also signed an agreement with Merlin, the Medical Emergency Relief International NGO. UNICEF and Merlin will together fund the renovation of two health centres in Nana-Gribizi.

Seven health centres in Ouham-Pendé and six centres in Ouham benefited from the distribution of essential medicines and medical supplies, organized by UNICEF CAR. The emergency medical supplies have been crucial for maintaining health services in the two prefectures, especially as there are now more than a thousand displaced people living in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé. In addition to the medical supplies, a maternity delivery bed was donated to the Bocaranga Referral Health Centre in Ouham-Pendé.

Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign



On 14 April, Institut Pasteur confirmed a case of Yellow Fever in Bozoum during a medical investigation. Following the confirmation of a second suspected Yellow Fever case in Ouham-Pendé, UNICEF CAR held a mass vaccination campaign in Bozoum from 10 to 13 June. The vaccination campaign had targeted 95% of the 59,500 members of the population, however an unexpected 99.99% coverage was eventually achieved. CAR has a contingency plan to respond to the outbreak of diseases with a potential to develop into epidemics. Yet, local resources to respond to epidemics are lacking, and there is a great need to strengthen the national response system.

NFIs and Shelter

Distributing NFIs

June saw the distribution of emergency NFIs to 11,000 beneficiaries. The NFIs, which were related to UNICEF's Water and Sanitation programme, included buckets, soap and impregnated mosquito nets. The distribution, which took place in Bocaranga, Ouham-Pendé, was organized with IRC. What's more, in partnership with MSF-Holland, UNICEF CAR distributed a total of 5,000 impregnated mosquito nets in the northwestern prefecture of Ouham and the northeastern prefecture of Vakaga.

Protection

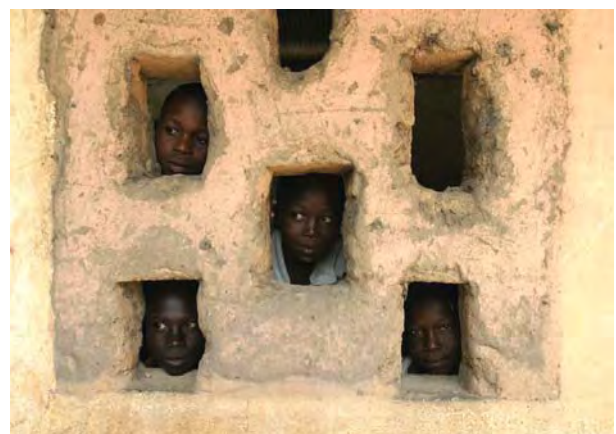
Child Protection in Bossangoa

UNICEF CAR is supporting a project to protect orphans and other children in Bossangoa. The children in the town, located 300km north of Bangui, are exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation in everyday life. Access to schools is especially limited for girls, and children living in neglected prefectures rarely get the opportunity to go to school. Orphans and other vulnerable children in CAR, including those accused of witchcraft, are without access to education because they have no parental support. As part of the Child Protection project, a new partnership agreement with the local NGO AFEB targets children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and orphans within foster families or child-headed households. Approximately 400 children will benefit from the Child Protection project, which will ensure that they have access to education and healthcare.

Child Protection in Kaga-Bandoro

Caritas and UNICEF this month held a workshop to train new personnel who will expand the Child Protection network towards the south of the country. The training, which was held in Kaga-Bandoro, focused on training the personnel on the rights of women and children and the role of protection activities in the country.

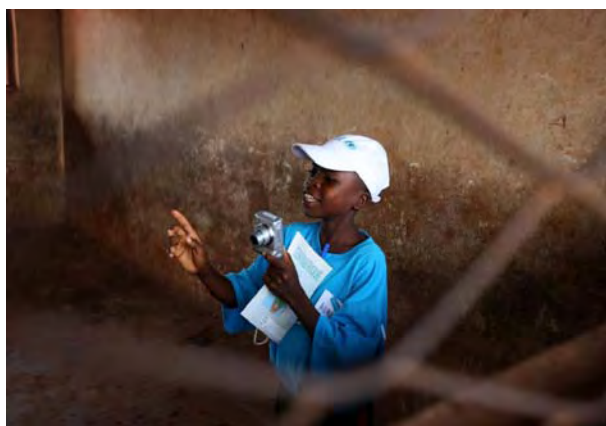
The Caritas Child Protection project is entering its sixth month in CAR and has so far proved to be very successful. The fact that more cases of abuse are now being reported is a clear indicator that the women and children around the country are growing more aware of their rights. Over 500 cases of abuse have been reported since January 2008. Legal action or community-based interventions have been taken whenever possible to put an end to the abuse.



Children looking out of their classroom in northern CAR
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

Promoting the Rights of Children

The 'International Day of the African Child' has been celebrated on 16 June every year since 1991, when the Organisation of African Unity first initiated it. The day honours the memory of the children who, in 1976, were brutally shot down while marching in the streets of Soweto, South Africa, to protest the inferior quality of their education. This year, the African Union's theme for the day was 'Right to Participation: Let Children be Seen and Heard'. Celebrations organized by UNICEF CAR were held in Kaga-Bandoro in partnership with the Regional Direction of Social Affairs of the Kémo, Ouaka and Nana-Gribizi prefectures. Over 1,500 children participated in the event. The main activities on the day included a march, several sports events, theatre plays and quizzes based on the theme of the day.

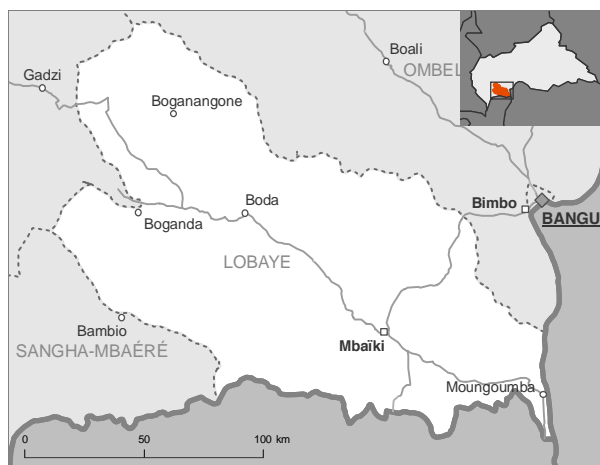


A child taking part in UNICEF's photography workshop
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

UNICEF Communication conducted a photography workshop in Bangui between 16 and 20 June. Its start coincided with the celebration of the International Day of the African Child and offered a rare opportunity for 15 street children – seven girls and eight boys between the ages of 10 and 16 – to express themselves through art. The children came from the Voix du Cœur, a centre in Bangui that looks after the thousands of vulnerable children wandering the streets. UK NATCOM provided 15 digital cameras for the workshop, which allowed for each child to use one camera. During the first days the children learned technical aspects of basic photography. They were taught about composition, colours and contrasts and the significance of the direction and quantity of light used. Eventually the children were divided into smaller groups to decide on different issues to cover; Education, Health, and Hard Work were the topics they chose. The title of the photography workshop, 'I would like to tell you that I'm important too', was based on the premise of the International Day of the African Child, which focused

on child participation. This overriding theme encouraged the children to express their views and creativity in a safe environment. An exhibition featuring the work of the children will travel around CAR, Europe and the United States.

Promoting the Rights of Pygmies



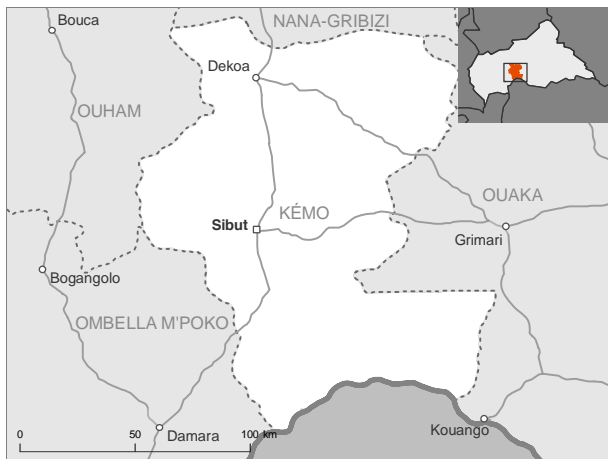
UNICEF CAR has teamed up with the Italian NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) for a project that promotes and protects the rights of Aka pygmies. The Aka pygmies are found in the Lobaye prefecture in southwestern CAR. The project addresses the pygmies' needs for protection, and seeks to improve their living conditions. This includes educating people about the human rights of the Aka pygmy children and encouraging the pygmies to take advantage of education and health services available to them. The Aka pygmies have very limited access to schools. Insecurity and the lack of logistics make it difficult for inspectors to visit the few schools that exist in the Lobaye prefecture. In conjunction with the COOPI project, UNICEF is advocating the ratification of International Labour Organisation Convention 169, which concerns the human rights of indigenous and tribal people.



A girl peeking through the grass in northeastern CAR
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

Water and Sanitation

Developments in Nana-Gribizi and Kémo



The construction of 404 latrines was completed this month. The construction work, which was carried out by 50 locally trained masons, was regularly delayed due to the unpredictable weather of the rainy season. There are now a total of 821 latrines in the Nana-Gribizi and Kémo prefectures. Latrines allow for safer and more hygienic disposal of human waste, particularly in rural and under-developed areas. According to Caritas, UNICEF's partner in this project, the demand for latrines is steady but inconsistent from village to village. One of the main factors affecting the demand is the lack of financial resources in some villages, though alternative solutions for payment have been devised, such as payment in crops or the postponement of payment.

A total of 15 new boreholes have been constructed this month in the primary schools of 15 villages in Nana-Gribizi and Kémo. The boreholes will be equipped in July and will provide safe water to around 6,000 children and 5,000 additional community members. In preparation for the launch of the boreholes, 6,000 people in the prefectures received information about basic hygiene practices.

An agreement between UNICEF CAR and IRC was signed in June to improve health and sanitation in the country. So far, the employees of three health centres on the Kaga-Bandoro - Kabo axis in northeastern CAR have received training in medical waste management and the maintenance of sanitation infrastructure, which includes latrines and septic tanks. The employees, along with more than 300 patients in the health centres, received education on basic hygiene. Furthermore, IRC will provide spare parts necessary for the repair of 22 hand pumps located along the Kaga-Bandoro - Ouandago - Takara axis, which will provide access to safe water to more than 11,000

people. The spare parts already provided allowed for the repair of one hand pump during June, which means that 1,000 people in the region now have access to safe water.

Improving Water and Sanitation Provision

The main source of safe drinking water countrywide remains groundwater, from boreholes and protected wells, with reticulated systems, such as taps and kiosks, in urban centres serving only 24% of users. Significant discrepancies characterize access to safe water across the country, ranging from just 1% in Haute-Kotto to more than 70% in Nana-Gribizi. A private company commissioned by UNICEF built 16 new boreholes under a campaign to construct 40 this year. This included the drilling of four boreholes in Ouham, bringing the total number of boreholes in the region to 20 out of a planned 25. The drilling of the remaining five boreholes in Ouham is scheduled for July. The EU is monitoring the water facility project.

Thanks to UNICEF CAR's cooperation with the French NGO Solidarités, 15 hand pumps along the Kabo - Moyenne Sido axis were repaired. This has allowed at least 5,661 people in the region to access safe, clean water.



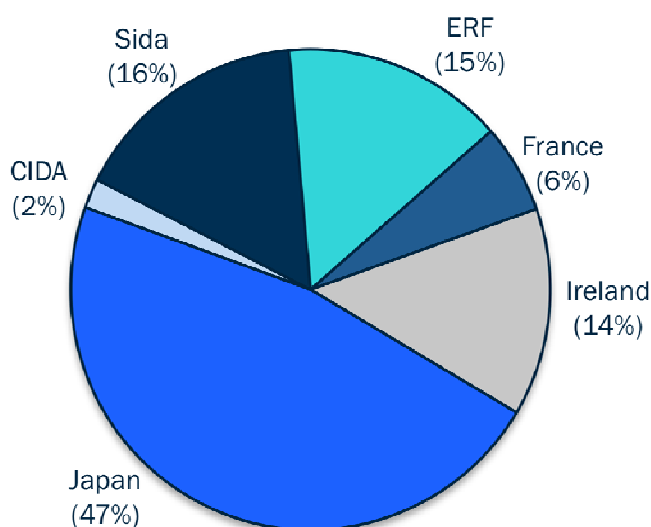
A boy collecting water in Sam Ouandja
© UNICEF CAR/2008/Holtz

UNICEF CAR Funding

CAP Funding Status in June 2008

Appeal Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet Requirements (US\$)	Unfunded
Education	3,500,000	2,350,000	1,150,000	33%
Health and Nutrition	6,307,340	531,761	5,775,579	37%
NFIs and Shelter	1,669,200	0	1,669,200	100%
Protection	2,263,850	507,396	1,756,454	78%
Water and Sanitation	1,966,550	1,240,700	725,850	37%
Cross-Sectoral	N/A	366,621	N/A	N/A
Monitoring/Evaluation	N/A	306,012	N/A	N/A
Total:	15,706,940	5,302,490	11,077,083	71%

Funding Received in June 2008



UNICEF would like to express its gratitude to those donors who have recently contributed to the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). Your donations have significantly improved the ability of UNICEF CAR to respond to the needs of some of the country’s most vulnerable women and children. UNICEF hopes that such support will continue in the future so that it can expand its programmes to areas where they are most needed – most notably **Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation** and **Protection**, for which funding is most lacking.

Contact

Anne Boher, UNICEF Communications Officer
 Email: aboher@unicef.org, Tel: +236 21612850, Mob: +236 75589601
 UNICEF Bangui, PO Box 907, CAR. Web: www.unicef.org