EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR’S
KEY MESSAGES ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
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Key Messages

1. The emergency in the Central African Republic continues to have dramatic humanitarian consequences for people throughout the country. The entire population of 4.6 million people is affected, and tens of thousands of people urgently need protection, emergency shelter, food aid and healthcare.

2. The collapse of state authorities and the total breakdown of law and order have led to widespread human rights violations, including killings, rapes, torture, arbitrary arrests and the recruitment of child soldiers. Around a million people are internally displaced, including more than 100,000 in Bangui. An estimated 240,000 refugees and returnees have fled since December 2013, more than 200,000 of them to Chad and Cameroon, creating a strain on host communities.

3. Insecurity is making it difficult to support people with humanitarian aid. Aid workers have been targeted, hindering distribution. Schools and hospitals have been attacked, making it more difficult for communities to recover and rebuild.

4. International forces on the ground are doing their best to protect civilians, particularly displaced people sheltering at IDP sites, and they have saved many lives. However, they cannot protect everyone who needs it. Recent violent incidents in Bambari and Paoua have shown the limitations of these forces. The number of uniformed personnel must be increased, particularly specialized police units, and peacekeeping forces that are already operating in CAR, including the Sangaris and EUFOR, must stay on for the long-term.

5. The number of aid workers in CAR has more than doubled since the situation was declared an L3 emergency – the highest level of crisis response – in December 2013. We have stepped up operations and are getting aid to people who need it. United Nations agencies and NGOs have helped half a million people with food, emergency shelter, basic household items and access to safe drinking water. Seeds have been distributed, enabling more than 60,000 families to plant maize, rice and ground nuts. Nearly half a million mosquito nets are being distributed.

6. Underfunding is seriously undermining humanitarian operations. Agencies are short of stocks to respond to the increased needs. Tens of thousands of lives are at risk for lack of drugs, food and nutrition supplements, clean water and sanitation services. Shortages of fuel and aircraft are affecting the transport of these vital supplies.