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GA 3: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

Research Report

TOPIC 2: Establishing an immediate solution to the refugee crises in Central Africa.



Rakshikaa Rathakrishnan & Niv O'Reagan

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Introduction:

The refugee problem in Central Africa has escalated to dangerous proportions. Conflict, bloodshed, and instability have caused millions of people to be displaced both internally and across borders. Due to the circumstances, there is now a great need for humanitarian assistance, which includes provisions of food, medical care, shelter, and education. Understanding that this situation is incredibly complex and can be linked to numerous factors and conflicts is crucial.

Definition of Key Terms:

(terms from previous reports may apply to this case as well)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)- People who are forced out of their homes but remain within their countries' borders.

Protracted crisis- Situations characterised by recurrent natural disasters and/or conflict, longevity of food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to the crises.¹

Reintegration- The process of re-including a person in their country of origin.

¹"EiE Glossary Protracted crisis." n.d. <https://inee.org/eie-glossary/protracted-crisis#:~:text=Situations%20characterized%20by%20recurrent%20natural,to%20react%20to%20the%20crises.>

Socioeconomic inclusion- Making sure that every part of society, migrants in this case, have fair access to opportunities within social and economic markets as employees, leaders, consumers, entrepreneurs, and community members.

Inter-communal tensions- Tensions between one or more communities.

Cross-border displacement- Situations where people flee across borders to other countries.

Statelessness- A stateless person is one who is not considered a national by any state, and therefore has no place of origin.

Background Information

The refugee crisis in the Central African region has its history in drawn out conflicts and political instability. In the Central African Republic (CAR), the situation became significantly worse following the 2013 coup, which removed President François Bozizé². This started a brutal civil war between the Seleka rebels, who were predominantly Muslim, and the Christian anti-Balaka militia. The fighting has caused violence throughout the entire country and countless human rights violations, displacing millions of civilians.

In South Sudan, ethnic divisions and a struggle for power between President Kiir's Dinka and Vice President Machar's Nuer led to a civil war in 2013³. The conflict led to horrific atrocities, famine, and widespread displacement which still affect the population to this day.

Meanwhile, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), armed groups have fought for control of the mineral-rich eastern regions, contributing to decades of instability and displacement. Many human rights violations have also been reported on the populations living in such regions from both national and international cooperations, which openly exploit the poor conditions for cheap, and oftentimes forced, labour.

Refugees from these countries often flee to neighbouring nations like Uganda, Chad, Cameroon, and Rwanda, where they face overcrowded camps and limited access to basic services and face severe discrimination. Host countries, already facing their own challenges, struggle with the additional burden of large refugee populations, putting pressure on local economies, infrastructure, and social services and failing to incorporate these large populations into such systems. For refugees, the journey is extremely dangerous, including food insecurity and exploitation in whichever direction they go. The crisis underscores the need for long-term

²"Conflict in the Central African Republic | Global Conflict Tracker." n.d. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-central-african-republic>.

³"Conflict between Dinka and Nuer in South Sudan." n.d. Climate-Diplomacy. <https://climate-diplomacy.org/case-studies/conflict-between-dinka-and-nuer-south-sudan>.

peacebuilding efforts, regional cooperation, and greater international support to address both immediate humanitarian needs and the underlying causes of displacement.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Central African Republic

A landlocked country in the middle of Africa, CAR is one of the most affected countries in Africa. With over 1.3 million⁴ people displaced within and across borders, there has been much focus on the many conflicts in the area for decades.

South Sudan

Following a gruesome and prolonged civil war, South Sudan has been struggling with people being unable to return. The main struggle for the humanitarian support missions in place is significant lack of funding⁵. There are over 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries with an additional 2 million IDPs⁶.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

One of the most affected countries in the world, over 8.4 million⁷ people are forcibly displaced due to large amounts of ethnic violence and conflicts between local armed groups in the north of the country. Severe underfunding is the root cause of failing, with only 30%⁸ of the necessary funding is available to

CAR Solutions Support Platform (CAR-SSP)

Launched in November 2023, is a multilateral initiative co-chaired by the African Development Bank and UNHCR. It aims to address forced displacement challenges in CAR through three pillars: voluntary repatriation, reintegration in CAR, and socioeconomic integration in host countries. The platform mobilises humanitarian, development, peace, and private sector actors to

⁴“Central African Republic situation.” n.d. Global Focus. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/central-african-republic-situation-global-appeal-2024>.

⁵“South Sudan (RRP).” 2024. Humanitarian Action. <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1215/article/south-sudan-rrp-1>.

⁶“South Sudan situation | Global Focus.” n.d. UNHCR Global Focus. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/south-sudan-situation>.

⁷“Democratic Republic of the Congo situation | Global Focus.” n.d. UNHCR Global Focus. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/democratic-republic-congo-situation>.

⁸“Democratic Republic of the Congo (RRP).” 2024. Democratic Republic of the Congo (RRP) | Humanitarian Action. <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2025/article/democratic-republic-congo-rrp-1>.

support sustainable solutions for displaced Central Africans, including refugees, internally displaced people, and returnees.⁹

Relevant UN Resolutions

[S/RES/2149](#) (2014)¹⁰:

This resolution, adopted on April 10, 2014, established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) following the violence that had become a crisis in the CAR. The resolution mainly outlined the Mandate for MINUSCA, authorising its support in CAR with a focus on civilian safety, disarmament and restoration of State authority and rule of law. The mandate aligned its support with ongoing political and humanitarian efforts already in place, citing the African Union, regional organisations, and other international actors as well as several past UN resolutions regarding the issue.

[S/RES/2709](#) (2023)¹¹:

Adopted 30th of November, 2023, this resolution mainly called for a detailed review of MINUSCA focusing on threats such as armed groups, intercommunal violence, and governance challenges. Mainly, this resolution aims to reform MINUSCA to assist the government in recovery and development, as well as strengthening UN peacekeeping for wider availability of use.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Yaounde Declaration

The 2013 Yaoundé Declaration aimed to strengthen regional cooperation in addressing the African refugee crisis. It called for improved protection of displaced populations, better response to their needs, and collaboration between African states and international partners. The declaration emphasised the importance of peace and shared responsibility in solving one of the most concerning crises in central Africa. It also sought to enhance the legal framework for refugee protection and support humanitarian efforts across the continent.¹²

⁹“Central African Republic Solutions Support Platform (CAR-SSP).” n.d. The Global Compact on Refugees. <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/central-african-republic-solutions-support-platform-car-ssp>.

¹⁰“S/RES/2149.” n.d. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n14/295/81/pdf/n1429581.pdf>.

¹¹“S/RES/2709” n.d. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/356/82/pdf/n2335682.pdf>.

¹²“Central African Republic situation.” n.d. Global Focus. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/central-african-republic-situation-global-appeal-2024>.

The Central African Republic (CAR) Peace Process

The process itself is a series of negotiations and agreements which work to resolve ongoing conflicts in the country. Big achievements have been the Libreville Agreements in 2013¹³ and the Khartoum Agreement in 2019¹⁴, which looked to create cooperation between the government and several armed groups for peaceful resolutions. The process mainly focuses on promoting national reconciliation, an increase in individual security, and returning displaced populations to their homes. But political instability and never ending violence have slowed and blocked full implementation continuously.

Possible Solutions

Enhanced regional cooperation:

Full implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration signed by CAR and six neighbouring countries. As well as collaboration among signatory countries to address forced displacement issues such as negotiations for conflict and return policies.

Increased humanitarian and development investments:

As lack of financial aid is one of the largest issues, restricting humanitarian efforts, mobilisation of financial, material, and technical assistance from international partners focusing on underfunded protection programmes to scale up operations is essential.

Sustainable return and reintegration programmes:

Support for voluntary repatriation of refugees, UNHCR has methods and initiatives to assist returnees.

Addressing root causes:

Support for peace and reconciliation efforts in conflict zones, as well as investments in infrastructure, essential services, and income-generating opportunities in return areas, which will also aid the poverty/exploited labour crisis which is prevalent, especially in the DRC.

¹³“Agreements Signed Today in Libreville to Halt Recent Rebellion in Central African Republic, Provide Map for Political Transition, Security Council Told | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” n.d. United Nations. <https://press.un.org/en/2013/sc10879.doc.htm>.

¹⁴“Central African Republic: UN chief hails signing of new peace agreement.” 2019. UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1032091>.

Socioeconomic inclusion initiatives:

Creating a more sustainable and comfortable environment with growing livelihood opportunities to boost self-reliance for returnees.

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