



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Unity – Dignity – Labour



## RABAT PROCESS

### Thematic Meeting on Asylum and International Protection in the Rabat Process Region

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# PRESENTATION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC







# INTRODUCTION

A Central African state, the Central African Republic is bordered to the north by Chad, to the north-east by Sudan, to the East by South Sudan, to the south by the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo and to the west by Cameroon.

With a population of 4,616,000 (2013 estimate) on an area of 623,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the CAR is not exempt from migration given its geographical location in the centre of Africa and its borders with seven (7) countries.



## INTRODUCTION (Cont. and end)



For several years, this country has been going through a major political crisis of which the consequences in terms of displacement and violence are considerable and unprecedented for the population.

Is this situation not a challenge for international protection?  
Is the government able to provide services to people who need protection?

A synthesis analysis of the government's policy on the issue of migration, and an assessment of the situation in the Central African Republic allow us to establish an approach to the issue of asylum and international protection in this country.





# SYNTHESIS ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION



The CAR is equipped with republican institutions and legal instruments responsible for managing foreigners within its territory.

## 1. Republican institutions

There are:

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad;  
the Ministry for Public Security and of Emigration-  
Immigration in charge of the control of foreigners;



# SYNTHESIS ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION (Cont.)



- The Ministry of Internal Administration and Decentralisation in charge of their naturalisation;
- The Department of Trade in charge of foreigner's investments;
- The Ministry for International Cooperation with a focal point on migration.

## 2. Legal instruments

They are established at two levels: international and national.





# SYNTHESIS ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION



(Cont.)

## a) *International legal instruments*

The commitment of the CAR to Human Rights in general and notably those of migrant populations is determined by its support for nearly all international and regional legal instruments, including:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified on 16 March 1971;
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified on 8 May 1981;
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, ratified on 26 August 1986;



# SYNTHESIS ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION (Cont.)



- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 23 June 1991;
- The Statute of the International Criminal Court ratified on 3 October 2001;
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; ratified on 3 July 2002.





# SYNTHESIS ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION



(Cont.)

## *b) National legal instruments*

The CAR has adopted various national legislation relating to foreigners:

The Constitution of 27 December 2004 solemnly proclaimed non-discrimination and equality between all people living in the Central African Republic and ensuring their physical protection in all areas (nationals or foreigners);

- Law no. 60.70 on Residence of Foreigners in the Central African Republic;
- Decree no. 60.63 laying down the procedures for preparing foreigners' identity cards;
- Decree no. 60.66 specifying the fees for issuing foreigners' identity cards and their yearly visas;



# SYNTHESIS ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT 'S POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION

(Cont.)



- Decree no. 61.056 specifying the repatriation deposit rate and the conditions form general or individual exemptions from deposits;
- Decree no. 85.205 laying down the procedures for issuing residence permits for foreign residents...

As a result of the above, the issue of migration appears in line with the policy of the Central African government. The analysis of this national legislation sufficiently demonstrates that the issue of legal and illegal migration is regulated in the Central African Republic.





# ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE CAR



The current humanitarian crisis follows two years of political conflict, which have led to great instability and widespread violence, perpetrated by two opposing factions.

Since December 2013, around 25 % of the Central African population has been displaced inside the territory as the conflict has created a deep ethnic-religious division in the country.

At the height of the unrest, at the beginning of 2014, more than 930,000 people were displaced. This conflict also had regional repercussions: more than 190,000 Central African refugees fled to Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad in December 2013.



# STATISSTICAL OVERVIEW OF MIGRANTS IN CAR



TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	TOTAL	ASSISTED	TOTAL
REFUGEE	DRC	5,320		5,320
	SUDAN	5,730		
ASYLUM SEEKERS	DRC	1,160	910	580
	VARIOUS COUNTRIES	510		130
RETURNED REFUGEES	CAR			25,000
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS	CAR	500,000	300,000	180,000
DISPLACED PERSONS RETURNED HOME		30,000	180,000	120,000





# Locatiing Internally Displaced Persons:



Displaced Muslims at the enclave of Saint Martyrs de l'Ouganda in Carnot Parish (south-west of the CAR)





# Locating Internally Displaced Persons (cont.)



Displaced persons at Berberati Diocese (Mambéré Kadeï south-west of the CAR)





# Locating of Internally Displaced Persons (cont.)



Returned and displaced persons at Moyen-Sido (visited by UNHCR in the north of the CAR)  
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# Locating Internally Displaced Persons (cont. and end)



Internally Displaced Persons at Bambari (centre of the CAR)





## Consequences of the crisis on migrants



The crisis has had repercussions on migrants (asylum seekers and refugees), mainly on Congolese from the DRC and Sudanese; some 6,000 Congolese refugees have chosen to return to their country; Nonetheless, the government's position vis-à-vis asylum remains constructive.

### Global approach to solving the Migration crisis

- Establishing an operational framework for managing the migration crisis;
- The migration situation before, during and after the crisis;
- The type of consequence arising from the various possibilities, including humanitarian possibilities (needs in terms of food safety and clothing, managing the transport of the population towards better conditions);



# Consequences of the crisis on migrants (cont. and end)



- Prospects for development and peace;
- The implications of the consequences for a rapid, predictable and accountable response in the interest of the population in distress.

The needs of mobile and vulnerable populations are not covered by existing mechanisms, particularly international migrants who find themselves in a country of transit or destination.





# Short-, medium- and long-term consequences on displacement



## In the short-term

- Continuous internal displacement;
- Cross-border displacement in the subregion;
- Spontaneous return;
- Displacement linked to food insecurity.



## Short-, medium- and long-term consequences on displacement (cont. and end)



### In the medium-term

- Return of displaced persons in case of improved safety conditions;
- In case of persistent insecurity;
- Increased migration of the active population to areas with natural resources;
- Challenges of social cohesion between different groups;
- Displacement of nomadic pastoralists influenced by the security situation and by risks related to illicit arms trade;
- Disputes between returnees and non-displaced persons about property issues.





## In the long-term

- Return of displaced persons and transnational migrants towards opportunities and economic security;
- Challenges of social cohesion between different groups;
- Disputes between displaced persons who have returned and those who were not displaced;
- Increase in the transhumance and their activities due to pasture, water and climate.



## **Mobility situation before 2013**

The Central African Republic has always been a host country; until 2013, i.e. before the massive crisis, which has shaken this country, it had always welcomed and protected foreigners of different status (asylum seekers, refugees, etc.) and of various nationalities. In 2003 there were already 44,753 refugees and asylum seekers ; in 2013 there were 17,865.





# CONCLUSION

For some time, thanks to the support of the international community, through Sangaris, Eufor and MINUSCA forces, security is starting to return to the country although there still area few areas harbouring armed groups awaiting the disarmament and demobilisation process. The tireless efforts of international and national NGOs, which encouraged the return of some Internally Displaced Persons and refugees to their respective communities. The international community, which has continuously come to the aid of the Central African Republic, should be thanked.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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