



COUNTRY PROFILE: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Nature of Conflict

Conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) is internal and revolves both around political governance as well as discontent connected with military and civil servants salary arrears. The CAR is affected by refugee flows resulting from the regional conflict and the intervention of external and surrounding countries' armed forces, but is not actively involved in conflict beyond its borders.

Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DRP)

A national Demobilization and Reintegration Program (PNDR), formulated with the help of UNDP in the second half of the 1990s, focused on voluntary civilian disarmament. Building on this and other past efforts, UNDP has provided assistance to the Government of CAR in developing a **national program** within the MDRP framework.

In view of the relatively small size of the CAR national DDR program, and the Government's relative limited capacity to implement it, the MDRP partnership endorsed the execution of the national program as a **special project** implemented by UNDP in close collaboration with the Government.

Overall program costs will amount to an estimated US\$13 million, of which US\$9.8 million will be financed by the MDRP. The PNDR will consist of four components: 1) Disarmament and reduction of small arms; 2) Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-combatants; 3) Strengthening of the capacities of communities of return to ensure a sustainable reintegration of ex-combatants; and 4) Security for Development.

Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements

| <u>AGREEMENT</u> | <u>YEAR</u> | <u>MAIN POINTS</u> | <u>SIGNATORIES</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Libreville Summit | June 3, 2003 | Acknowledgement of the new CAR government; maintain and reinforce the CEMAC force; integrate the Chadian battalion into the CEMAC force | CEMAC members |
| Bangui Accords | March 21, 2003 | Renewal of the CEMAC force mandate to: Reinforce CAR overall security; Support army (FACA) reform; Support the transition process towards national reconciliation, smooth and quick return to constitutional law and restoration of peace. | CEMAC members |
| Libreville Accords | October 2, 2002 | Chad-CAR border monitoring; Ensure President Patassé security | CEMAC members |

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Links with other conflicts in the region

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Involvement</u> |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dem. Rep. of Congo | The DRC rebel group, the <i>Mouvement de la Libération du Congo</i> (MLC) of Jean-Pierre Bemba, has in the past provided military support to the government of Ange-Félix Patassé. Since the March 15, 2003 coup by General François Bozize, the MLC have withdrawn from the CAR. |
| Sudan | Civil war in Sudan has prompted tens of thousands of refugees to cross the 1,000 km shared border into the CAR. This has led to increased poverty and continued insecurity in eastern CAR. |

Internally Displaced and Refugees

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|----------------------|---|
| Internally Displaced | According to the United Nations 2004 Humanitarian Appeal, there are some 200,000 internally displaced in CAR. |
| CAR Refugees | According to the United Nations 2004 Humanitarian Appeal, some 42,000 refugees have fled to Chad and other countries. |
| Refugees in CAR | As of December 2003, there were about 50,700 refugees residing in the CAR—including approximately 36,700 from Sudan, 10,400 from the DRC, 1,880 from Chad, and 265 from Rwanda and 65 from Burundi. (UNHCR) |