



Contribution to GPC update, 10 October 2017

1. The general situation in CAR continue to be characterized by humanitarian access hindrance, resulting in an increased protection risks as well as the aggravation of vulnerabilities for affected population. In fact, in the course of September, most humanitarian actors have temporally relocated from two main humanitarian zones (Batangafo and Bocaranga) following direct attacks against humanitarians or deterioration of the security situation due to fighting between armed groups. It has been observed that in such situations, local NGOs are the ones who sometimes remain on ground. That is why, in order to maintain a certain level of humanitarian presence even in case of security deterioration, the Protection Cluster has adopted a capacity building plan for local NGOs members of the Cluster. A series of training will be conducted from October, beginning in Bangui but with a focus at provincial level.
2. The situation in Bangassou remains of concern. Threats and harassment by armed groups against the IDPs communities (mainly Muslims) who are hosted in a secondary school within Bangassou (Petit Séminaire de Bangassou) continue. Moreover, the school authorities keep demanding that the IDPs vacate the place so that learning activities resume. In order to diffuse the tensions, the humanitarian community in cooperation with national authorities have been studying relocation option of the IDPs to another site within the town. Some of the IDPs have also requested to be relocated in other parts of the country. The process is ongoing and an FPU (Formed Police Unit) of the peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA) has been deployed in Bangassou in that perspective.
3. The child protection sub-cluster in CAR has underlined the increase of incidents involving children. Children are representing the 47% of affected population in CAR and the worsening crisis is taking a heavy toll on children. Large-scale violence, displacement, poverty and lack of social services result in a serious deterioration of the protection situation of children in the country. Recruitment and use of children by armed groups is among the primary concerns. Since the beginning of 2017, 143 gross human rights violation against children were reported by the MRM in CAR. 195 were the children involved (including 110 girls).

The total number of children associated with armed groups is estimated between 13.000 since the beginning of the conflict in 2014 according to Child Protection actors. From 1 January to 30 September 2017, 2.533 children (633 girls), formerly associated with armed groups benefited from child DDR interventions. Efforts in this area need to be strengthened as the lack of funding to implement identification, demobilization and reintegration of children associated with armed groups remains a major concern.

Violence against children, including witchcraft accusation, sexual and gender-based violence, remains an issue of considerable magnitude. Displacement also facilitates trafficking in children and impacts children's access to key protection services, including social services, education and health. That make them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. One third of all children in CAR cannot return to school. However, where children are able to attend school, positive results are noted: in the emergency schools in Bambari (Ouaka prefecture) and Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Gribizi prefecture), all children managed to obtain their certificate of primary education.

Family separation also continues to be one of the major issue in CAR. Girls and boys are separated from their parents following forced displacement or other violent events linked to the crisis. From 1st January to 30 September, 229 unaccompanied children (including 91 girls) benefited from the IDTR (Identification, Demobilization, Transfer and Reintegration) process in CAR. Additionally, as regularly underlined by various child protection actors through reports and advocacy notes, the psychosocial needs of children remain considerable as an important number of children have experienced or witnessed violence in their communities.

4. The HLP Working Group, under the leadership of NRC, has drafted an advocacy note encouraging the government to make key changes to the land related legal framework, especially the 1899 decree outlining the 14 steps necessary to obtaining a title deed in CAR. The goal is to encourage durable solutions and to ensure greater security of tenure (less than one percent of property owners have an official document pertaining to land rights in CAR). The Working Group will share the advocacy note with key leaders and partners this month.