

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
RAPID RESPONSE  
ASSISTANCE TO UNHAS  
2020**

**20-RR-CAF-46567**

Denise Brown

Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator

## PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

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### Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:

Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

12 April 2021

An After-Action Review was conducted during the UNHAS Steering Committee held on 26 March 2021 and the HCT meeting held on 12 April 2021. The participants of the Steering Committee included the Humanitarian Coordinator ( Denise Brown ), who serves as the President, the representative of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance; USAID/BHA ( Dimitry Obolenski), the representative of the European Commission; ECHO (Van Bunnan Nicolas), the Country Director of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Vedaste Kalima), Country Director of the World Food Programme (Peter Schaller), Deputy Country Director of UNICEF (Paolo Marchi), and the UNHAS Chief Aviation Officer ( Kennedy Ooro)

Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).

Yes  No

Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

Yes  No

## 1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

### Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

The CERF RR Grant to UNHAS allowed the humanitarian community to stay and deliver at a critical time of a sharp rise in armed violence and conflict in several parts of the country due to election-related violence. The timeliness of the grant occurred in a context of unprecedented security and access challenges, with most of the country inaccessible by road due to insecurity and ongoing military operations, while at the same time humanitarian needs kept increasing. UNHAS enabled 2,000 aid-workers to reach affected communities to carry out multisectoral assessments and provide lifesaving assistance. Equally important to me, UNHAS ensured the safety and the well-being of the humanitarian personnel in performing 100% of the requested security evacuations in coordination with NGO and UN agencies. The grant supported our duty-of-care and humanitarian deliveries to hard-to-reach areas. For instance, on 2 January 2021, UNHAS helicopter reached the city of Dékoa, in Kemo Prefecture, with 11 humanitarian workers on board and over 300kg of medicines and PB5 and WASH items for over 10,000 people. The humanitarian team conducted multisectoral assessments, provided lifesaving assistance to ensure the functioning of the health facility. Less than a few days after, thanks to UNHAS, an INGO medical team was deployed in Dekoa and launched its operations in town and along key axes through mobile clinics to ensure access to healthcare across the sub-prefecture. The story of Dékoa is one of the many confirming that the CERF grant saved lives in an effective and timely manner in 2021.

### CERF's Added Value:

The CERF allocation allowed an effective, coordinated and efficient response to the multiple and violent shocks across the country in the first quarter of 2021. For instance, medical teams were deployed to respond to a monkey-pocks outbreak in Dimbi (Basse-Kotto); emergency response teams and supplies were deployed in Bouca (Ouham), Bouar (Nana-Mambéré) during violent combats. UNHAS created a momentum for kick-start emergency response and scale up provision of assistance in key hotspots. Furthermore, the CERF grant allowed to maintain and intensify the response in areas where needs were the highest (severity 4), by pre-positioning critical cargo and deploying teams to key humanitarian hubs such as Bambari (Ouaka), Bangassou (Mbomou), Paoua (Ouham-Pendé), Grimari (Ouaka) and Ouango (Basse-Kotto).

The CERF grant also acted as a catalytic source of funding and helped UNHAS mobilise additional resources to sustain operations. USAID/BHA contributed US\$ 6 million, Germany contributed to US\$ 568,828 and Canada contributed US\$ 426,078. This amounts to a total of US\$ 6,994,908 received from other donors.

#### Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to people in need?

Yes

Partially

No

#### Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs?

Yes

Partially

No

#### Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes

Partially

No

#### Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

Yes

Partially

No

## Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas<sup>1</sup>:

The CERF allocation contributed to the protection priority area through improved access to the affected civilian population, trapped by the election-related violence, increasingly exposed to protection risks and with very limited freedom of movement. By enabling humanitarian partners to access these communities, UNHAS ensured that the humanitarian community understood their needs, addressed urgent gaps, and amplified their voices through strengthened advocacy. In addition, the allocation contributed to the protection of women and girls, who are often the first victims when a conflict broke. UNHAS facilitated the deployment of humanitarian experts trained to assess the specific needs of women and girls and transported essential GBV and reproductive health cargo.

**Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)**

<b>Total amount required for the humanitarian response</b>	<b>22,600,000</b>
CERF	1,000,994
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	0
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	6,994,906
<b>Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)</b>	<b>7,995,900*</b>

\*UNHAS cost recoveries amounted to US\$ 1,222,695. This brings the total funds received for the response to US\$ 9,218,595

**Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)**

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
WFP	20-RR-WFP-058	Common Services - Humanitarian Air Services	1,000,994
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,000,994</b>

**Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)**

<b>Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods</b>	<b>1,000,994</b>
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0
<b>Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,994</b>

\* Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex

<sup>1</sup> In January 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility when funding is allocated to humanitarian action. The ERC therefore recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and HCTs/UNCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. These areas are: (1) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (2) programmes targeting disabled people; (3) education in protracted crises; and (4) other aspects of protection. While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the questions and answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

## 2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

### Overview of the Humanitarian Situation:

An estimated 2.8 million people (57 per cent of the population) were already in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in the Central African Republic when the HNO 2021 was published in October 2020, an 8 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Since then, the humanitarian situation further deteriorated due to the election-related violence that broke out in mid-December 2020 with a devastating effect on civilians. During that period, access to health and nutrition services broke down, thousands of schools closed, food insecurity raised, and protection-related incidents spiked. From mid-December to 31 March 2021 alone, 374,000 people were newly displaced within the country.

Providing humanitarian assistance to these people in need is complicated and risky, because armed groups control large swathes of the territory and only 2.5 per cent of the country's roads are paved. As anticipated in the CERF proposal in December, the sharp escalation of the conflict since December 2020 led to further access constraints and a higher dependency on air service as the only reliable and safe means of transportation. From January to March 2021 alone, 168 incidents against humanitarians were recorded, with one aid workers killed and two injured,

### Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

The CERF contribution allowed UNHAS to provide air service and facilitate humanitarian access to the most remote and inaccessible locations and beneficiaries. In January 2021, the high level of violence and the intensification of military operations had severely constrained humanitarian access. Key humanitarian hubs such as Bouar, Bria, Bangassou, or Batangafo were no longer accessible by road while humanitarian needs kept growing. The continuity of humanitarian operations relied on UNHAS air services and innovative access solutions.

At this critical time and in line with the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNHAS:

- Enabled the emergency response in deploying humanitarian personnel and lifesaving emergency cargo across the country. 2,004 passengers and 51 metric tons of cargo were transported in 37 localities. With this air support, the humanitarian community was able to continue assisting the most affected communities but to also respond to the multiple onset emergencies that emerged with the surge of violence linked to the general elections in December 2020.country.
- Allowed the response to kick-off in four destinations only accessible by helicopter that faced epidemic outbreaks or displacement emergencies. In Dimbi for instance (Basse-Kotto), the helicopter rotation permitted to deploy the necessary medical personnel and cargo to respond to a monkey-pox outbreak. In Dekoa, a first responder helicopter mission allowed to assess the humanitarian needs of 5,000 newly displaced people and provided them with emergency food, WASH and health assistance.
- Ensured humanitarian safety and well-being through security and medical evacuations. 58 humanitarian workers were relocated for security reasons for three organizations (MDA, UNOCHA, UNHCR) from two locations (Bangassou, Bouar). In addition, UNHAS evacuated two humanitarian actors from Zemio to Bangassou for medical reasons for one NGO (ALIMA). UNHAS performed 100 per cent of all medical and security evacuations requested.

The humanitarian community in CAR is strongly dependent on UNHAS for its ability to stay and deliver. For instance, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides safe, flexible, efficient, and cost-effective passenger and cargo transport services to 183 organizations in the Central African Republic. Sustaining UNHAS's role is all the more critical at this time of rising insecurity, enabling humanitarian organizations to stay and deliver while ensuring a duty of care to UN personnel. The current UNHAS fleet's current capacity can carry 2,050 passengers and 30,000 kilograms of cargo per month and is on standby in the event of a security or medical evacuation.

### **People Directly Reached:**

During this period, UNHAS facilitated the air transport of humanitarian workers and cargo from 183 User Organizations including United Nations Agencies, NGOs, Diplomatic Corps, and Donor representatives.

UNHAS does not directly deal with beneficiaries but ensures that humanitarian actors can easily reach beneficiaries in locations where emergency assistance is required.

### **People Indirectly Reached:**

Through its service delivery to humanitarian actors, UNHAS indirectly supported the affected population who were targeted for assistance in various humanitarian projects across the country.

**Table 4: Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Sector/Cluster\***

Sector/Cluster	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Common Services - Humanitarian Air Service	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

**Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category\***

<b>Category</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Reached</b>
Refugees	N/A	N/A
Returnees	N/A	N/A
Internally displaced people	N/A	N/A
Host communities	N/A	N/A
Other affected people	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\***

<b>Sex &amp; Age</b>	<b>Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*</b>		<b>Number of people with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>	
	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Reached</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Reached</b>
<b>Women</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Men</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Girls</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Boys</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>



## PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 3. PROJECT REPORTS

#### 3.1 Project Report 20-RR-WFP-058

1. Project Information			
Agency:	WFP	Country:	Central African Republic
Sector/cluster:	Common Services - Humanitarian Air Service	CERF project code:	20-RR-WFP-058
Project title:	Provide Humanitarian Air Service in Central African Republic (CAR)		
Start date:	01/01/2021	End date:	30/06/2021
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>

Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 22,600,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 7,995,900
	Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 1,000,994
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 0
	Government Partners	US\$ 0
	International NGOs	US\$ 0
	National NGOs	US\$ 0
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 0	

#### 2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through this CERF contribution, UNHAS provided air transport services to humanitarian actors for the implementation of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. During the reporting period (1-16 January 2021), UNHAS safely transported 2,004 passengers and 51 metric tons of humanitarian cargo. UNHAS served 23 regular destinations, 10 ad hoc locations and 4 hard-to-reach locations that could only be operated by the helicopter. The locations served by UNHAS included hard to reach areas such as Ouango, Bouca, Dekoa and Dimbi (helicopter destinations) and hotspots such as Bangassou, Zemio, Batangafo and Obo, where the bulk of the humanitarian response is concentrated.

The UNHAS budget for 2021 is USD 22.6 million. Therefore, the CERF contribution covered 16 days of UNHAS operations in January 2021.

#### 3. Changes and Amendments

N/A

#### 4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\*

Sector/cluster	Common Services - Humanitarian Air Service									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Returnees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Internally displaced people	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Host communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other affected people	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>										
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

## 5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

As 2.8 million people are targeted under the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNHAS provided services that would benefit all vulnerable groups targeted for humanitarian assistance. This includes Internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees, host communities, people living with HIV, women and children.

## 6. CERF Results Framework

**Project objective** Provide air service to transport passengers and light essential cargo across the country.

**Output 1** Provide safe, efficient and effective air transport services for the humanitarian community

**Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?** Yes  No

**Sector/cluster** Common Services - Humanitarian Air Services

Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Total volume of light cargo transported per month (mt)	25	51.3	PMT
Indicator 1.2	Total number of passengers transported per month	2,050	2,004	PMT
Indicator 1.3	Total number of destinations served	33 across all prefectures in the country	37 destinations	Take flite software

**Explanation of output and indicators variance:** UNHAS served 23 regular and 10 ad hoc destinations per the weekly flight schedules. In addition, UNHAS used helicopters to reach 4 ad hoc destinations where no options exist for fixed-wing aircraft. The four destinations served between January to March were Ouango, Bouca, Dekoua and Dimbi.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Transport humanitarian cargo and personnel to various locations	WFP

**Output 2** Provide safe, effective and efficient medical and security evacuations for humanitarian personnel if and when required

**Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?** Yes  No

**Sector/cluster** Common Services - Humanitarian Air Service

Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Percentage response to duly requested medical and security evacuation	100%	100%	UNHAS Statistics

**Explanation of output and indicators variance:** N/A

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 2.1	Transport humanitarian cargo and personnel to various locations	WFP

## 7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas<sup>2</sup> often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

### a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)<sup>3</sup>:

UNHAS is not directly involved with crisis-affected people. However, UNHAS supports the HCT-led AAP agenda and strategy by facilitating access for humanitarian actors to gather data on humanitarian needs across the country, especially inaccessible remote areas. UNHAS also promotes accountability to its users and ensures they are engaged in implementing the project through the Users' Group Committee (UGC), composed of NGOs, UN agencies, and donor representatives. The UGC continuously discusses the users' needs and ensures all demands are addressed. Flight schedules and the operational fleet are adjusted based on input from the User Group Committee, Steering Committee meetings and day-to-day monitoring of operational statistics to ensure that user demands are met.

### b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

UNHAS has a feedback and complaint mechanism that enables users to provide feedback on the services offered. User complaints are logged into a database as an open case and assigned to the relevant operational unit for investigation and redress. The user receives regular updates until the issue is resolved and closed in the system. UNHAS also receives user feedback through periodic surveys.

### c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):

All complaints regarding the UNHAS project are made through the complaint mechanism which provides user confidentiality. UNHAS ensures that all complaints or issues raised are resolved before it's closed in the system.

### d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

UNHAS is not in direct contact with the affected populations. As a result, gender identification did not apply to this project. UNHAS does not provide services to the humanitarian community based on gender. However, UNHAS continued to promote the adoption of staff codes of conduct to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). To ensure gender equality in its workforce, UNHAS continued to use a gender transformative recruitment system. Currently, 44 per cent of the UNHAS workforce is composed of female.

### e. People with disabilities (PwD):

The UNHAS project does not specifically target certain groups or vulnerabilities. However, provisions have been made on flights to accommodate people with disabilities.

### f. Protection:

<sup>2</sup> These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

The operations of UNHAS are aligned with the 2021 CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), through which all user organisations ensure the protection of all persons affected and at-risk in their interventions. UNHAS also ensure that the safety of aircraft and passengers.

**g. Education:**

N/A

**8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)**

**Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?**

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
No	No	N/A

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

N/A

**9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities**

Title	Weblink
Donor logo in UNHAS premises and aircraft as below	N/A

