

UNFPA responds to the Central African Republic humanitarian crisis by providing lifesaving reproductive health services and ensuring that women and Girls are protected against sexual violence

□ **Bangui, 3 February 2014**— As part of the humanitarian community, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has responded to the crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) by providing emergency assistance, including clean delivery kits to affected women and girls of childbearing age and Post-rape kits to victims of Sexual Gender Based violence.

Aligning its interventions to the 100 DAY PLAN of the humanitarian community, a plan agreed upon by the United Nations and Non Government Organizations, for priority humanitarian action in the Central African Republic, UNFPA has activated its internal Fast Tracking Procedures as a mean to deliver more quickly and effectively its humanitarian assistance to people in need over the 100 days. “ We have to scale up our operations, including our humanitarian presence, to be able to respond to the severity of the situation, as this is the first Level 3 crisis in Africa,” said Benoit Kalasa, the UNFPA Director for West and Central Africa.

The crisis has directly or indirectly affected most of the 4,5 millions inhabitants of the country. OCHA estimates that about 902,000 people have fled their homes, while 2.2 million people need humanitarian aid. Over 512,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) are reported in the capital Bangui alone.

UNFPA estimated that there are 225,500 women of child bearing age (15-49 years), including 45,100 pregnant women in the country, with an expected over 3,100 births per month and 4,510 women who risk sexual violence.

“The needs are huge, as health facilities have been looted of everything, including drugs and equipment and that health officials from almost all rural districts have abandoned their posts, seeking refuge in Bangui, the Capital and elsewhere,” declared Hamadou Lougue, Officer in Charge of the UNFPA Office in CAR, before adding “ but the humanitarian community is working together to rapidly respond and UNFPA has provided to 69 health centers and the 54 out of 67 internally displaced persons sites in Bangui with full sets of reproductive health commodities. In collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council and International Organization for Migration, UNFPA is also ensuring that all reported cases are provided with rapid and timely medical attention, and are properly and confidentially documented.”

In this regard, UNFPA has prepositioned 350 individual post-rape kits. UNFPA is committed to working jointly with the rest of the UN system and other humanitarian organizations to provide needed support, focusing on addressing the needs of the affected population, particularly women and young girls, and mitigating the impact of gender-based violence, and is making arrangements to open sub offices in Bambari, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa, in order to expand its presence in the country.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that is delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.□

□ **For more information or media inquiries, please contact:**

□ **In Bangui:** □ Hamadou Lougué, OIC UNFPA/CAR,
lougue@unfpa.org, Tel.: +236 70 55 15 86

Aminata Séguétio-Koné, Humanitarian Coordinator;
seguetio@unfpa.org; Tel. : +236 70 55 15 89

In Dakar : Judicael Elidje, Regional Humanitarian Adviser ;
elidje@unfpa.org; Tel. : +221 78 634 6229