

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



CONCERN  
worldwide

## FAST FACTS



**Central African Republic (CAR)** is a landlocked country located in the middle of the African continent. CAR became independent in 1960. Despite being a resource rich nation, it is one of the least developed countries in the world which has seen a great deal of violence and political instability.



**Capital:** Bangui



**Population:** 4.6 million



**Currency:** CFA Franc



**Land area:** 622, 984 sq km



**Borders:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Chad, South Sudan, Sudan, Republic of Congo



**Language:** French, Sangho



**Religion:** Christianity, Islam and Indigenous beliefs



**Climate:** Tropical with one rainy season (December-March), prone to flooding in some parts of the country



**Terrain:** Mostly flat with some high areas and scattered hills



**Natural resources:** Diamonds, oil, timber, gold



**National day:** 13<sup>th</sup> August (Independence Day)



**Symbol:** Elephant



**National anthem:** La Renaissance



**Landmarks:** Pipi Natural Bridge, Bouar megaliths, Lengo cliff art



**Wildlife:** Gorillas, African Elephant

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- How would your life change if your area was affected by conflict?
- What do you think are the short term consequences of conflict? What are the long term consequences?
- Conflict can come at a great financial cost, but what other costs are there? E.g. human costs



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: A COUNTRY IN CRISIS



1960



DAVID DACKO BECOMES THE **PRESIDENT** OF THE NOW INDEPENDENT **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** AFTER IT GAINS INDEPENDENCE FROM FRANCE

1976



MILITARY LEADER JEAN BEDAL-BOKASSA DECLARES HIMSELF AS **EMPEROR** AND RENAMES THE COUNTRY '**CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE**'

1979



BOKASSA IS OUSTED IN A **MILITARY COUP**

1993



FIRST **DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT** IN 12 YEARS GAINS POWER

2005



**FLOODING** IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL LEAVES UP TO **20,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS**



**THOUSANDS FLEE CONFLICT** TO CHAD AND THERE IS AN APPEAL TO HELP THE '**FORGOTTEN EMERGENCY**'

2007



**PEACE ACCORD SIGNED**, AND PEOPLE URGED TO LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS



UN PEACE KEEPERS SENT IN TO **PROTECT PEOPLE FROM THE VIOLENCE** IN DARFUR (SUDAN) WHICH IS SPILLING OVER THE BORDER

2009



**CLASHES** BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE REBELS CONTINUE



UN REPORTS THAT **OVER A MILLION PEOPLE** HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE UNREST

2011



THERE ARE WARNINGS OF A **CHRONICAL MEDICAL EMERGENCY** IN CAR DUE TO DISEASE EPIDEMICS, CONFLICT AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

2015



THE UN STATES THAT INCREASING VIOLENCE HAS FORCED **TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLES TO FLEE THEIR HOMES** TO SAFETY

2017



UNHCR STATES THAT (AS OF OCT-NOV 2016) THERE ARE **476,193 REFUGEES** IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS **434,174 IDPS** (INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLES)



**2 MILLION PEOPLE** ARE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE, WITH SOME REGIONS BEING AT **EMERGENCY LEVEL** IN TERMS OF FOOD INSECURITY (WFP)

## KEY WORDS

- **Refugee:** A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence
- **Internally displaced person (IDP):** a person who has been forced to flee his or her home for the same reason as a refugee, but remains in his or her own country and has not crossed an international border.
- **Peace accord:** An official agreement to end a conflict or to come to peace
- **Epidemic:** A wide spread occurrence of an infectious disease



The world must work together to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 16 in Central African Republic



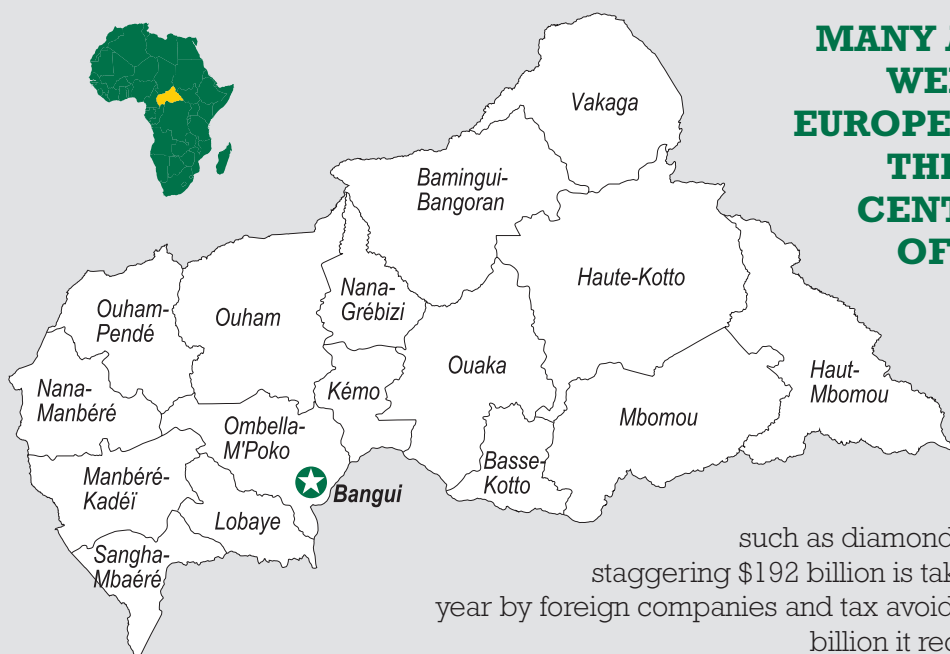
## GOAL 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ensure that people have access to healthcare, vaccines and medicines and help countries manage risks.

## GOAL 16 PEACE AND JUSTICE



Promote peaceful, stable and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all.



**MANY AFRICAN NATIONS WERE COLONISED BY EUROPEAN POWERS UNTIL THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE LEGACY OF WHICH CAN STILL BE SEEN TODAY.**

Despite countries gaining their freedom, the exploitation of Africa continues. Africa is rich in natural resources

such as diamonds, precious metals and oil. A staggering \$192 billion is taken out of the continent each year by foreign companies and tax avoidance, compared to the \$134 billion it receives in aid and investment.

Financial profits from such exploitation benefit companies who have control over these resources with little going back into the nations the resources are extracted from. Additionally, resource extraction has environmental impacts which contribute to climate change.

# CONFLICT AND INSTABILITY IN CAR

Central African Republic has suffered a great amount of conflict since its independence, which is a contributing factor to the fact that it is one of the world's least developed nations.

Conflict has a human cost: this means loss of life, but also a loss of livelihoods, human rights and opportunities for the citizens of the nation. For many, this has also meant that they have had to leave their homes to move to other parts of the country, or to move to other nations nearby.

In addition to this, CAR also has faced natural disasters further impacting on the lives of citizens, and is currently facing an emergency situation in regards to access to food with up to 2 million people in need of assistance.



## What is Concern doing?

Concern has been working in CAR since March 2014. Our work there is focused on providing humanitarian assistance, building the resilience of communities and alleviating the suffering of conflict-affected communities. Recent conflict has severely affected the livelihoods and living conditions of over half of the population, and 2.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Prolonged conflict has led to a reduction in income and access to food, and communities struggle to meet their basic needs such as food, healthcare and education. The destruction of infrastructure has left huge portions of the rural population without access to clean drinking water, has restricted their ability to farm land and grow their own crops for proper nutrition.

Concern is delivering programmes addressing these issues around food and nutrition, livelihoods, sanitation and hygiene.



## Want to Learn MORE?

Concern Worldwide's Active Citizenship Team run workshops for students during the academic year. If you are interested in exploring and critically examining global issues in the classroom please contact us on [schools@concern.net](mailto:schools@concern.net)



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### READ



Find our latest updates at the Concern **blog**!

### WATCH



Checkout **videos** of the projects that we are working on

### ACT



Run a fundraiser at your school or youth group to raise awareness for the work we are doing

WRITTEN BY: Lauren Wright - Active Citizenship, Concern Worldwide