



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Psychosocial and Mental Health

As lead agency for migration and migration-related challenges, one of IOM's primary responsibilities is to address the expressed needs of migrants displaced by conflict. In response to the deteriorating security situation in Bangui, Central African Republic since December 2013, IOM has developed several projects responding to the needs of people affected by violence, many of whom have been displaced from their homes.



IOM's psychosocial and mental health project is designed to address the needs of Bangui's population, particularly those living in areas that have experienced extreme violence. Carried out through implementing partners the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Coopi, IOM has focused on the 3rd, 4th and 7th arrondissements, which were the main centres of violence when the Seleka group attacked Bangui.

The psychosocial program is now running six listening/community centres and three mobile teams at sites in these three arrondissements. These centres are staffed by 24 national psychosocial workers, trained by an IOM psychologist in stress management, active listening and group discussion.

Services include individual and group support, such as counselling, group discussions, group activities for vulnerable, home visits, special support for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors and HIV+ people, community mobilization and sensitization, traditional healing, and public activities.

IOM and COOPI are working on special cases in the 4th arrondissement with a group of 40 teenage girls who were affected by GBV. An assessment is planned to see if there is need for similar services in other arrondissements.

Since beginning in May, the project has 8,807 beneficiaries:

- 942 individual counselling sessions
- 5,363 participants in community sensitization activities
- 820 participants in special group activities (274 sessions held)
- 546 mobile team / home visits
- 1,136 consultations related to GBV

IOM is re-launching the Mental Health Psycho-social (MHPSS) working group in CAR. Led by IOM, the group will be made up of 10-15 NGOs, UN agencies, CAR government representatives and the head of the psychiatric unit from the General Bangui Hospital.



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