



According to UNHCR, the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic remains dire with insecurity hampering the delivery of aid to the more than 935,000 people displaced by the violence.

“People are hiding in the bush, fearing fresh attacks,” spokesperson Babar Baloch told journalists in Geneva citing reports from colleagues at the UN Refugee Agency ( [UNHCR](#) ).

Targeted attacks against civilians, looting and the presence of armed elements at some displacement sites had severely limited humanitarian agencies' access to those in need of urgent assistance.

This deteriorating situation, coupled with the long distances between internally displaced persons' (IDPs) sites outside the capital, Bangui, and poor road infrastructure, make it increasingly difficult to reach people displaced by the conflict.

He also cited a “complete breakdown in law and order” as a challenge to putting in place an effective system for aid distribution.

The spokesperson said that despite an international military presence near Bangui airport, they “had not been able to secure conditions for the humanitarian agencies to do their job effectively”.

More troops and effective operational coordination was needed for the UN-mandated International Support Mission, an African Union (AU) peacekeeping force known by its French acronym MISCA to respond effectively to the insecurity, Mr. Baloch said.

UNHCR is scaling up its presence in the country. In addition, since the previous Sunday, the UN agency has organized airlifts from its regional warehouses of vehicles and relief items, such as tents, blankets, and plastic sheets.

Distribution of shelter materials and other relief items is more challenging, Mr. Baloch said, given the increasing numbers of families in need.

“In the previous week, the number of IDPs arriving at the airport had almost doubled, and now there were some 100,000 people there,” he said.

More than half of Bangui's total population - some 512,672 people – are currently sheltering in 67 sites in Bangui or living with host families, according to UNHCR figures. Sixty per cent of those displaced are children.

Continued clashes in Bossangoa, 300 km north of Bangui, had also led to an increase in displaced families, particularly at two nearby sites known as Archbishop and École Liberté.

Also in CAR, the UN World Health Organization ( [WHO](#) ) is today starting a vaccination campaign against measles in parts of the country with support from the UN Children's Fund ( [UNICEF](#) ) and other partners.

Over the next three to five days, some 50,000 doses of the vaccine will be given to children between six months and 15 years of age seeing refuge at the Bangui airport. WHO has confirmed three cases of the viral infection there.