

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC (CAR)



MAIN STORIES

Election
Results

New Rebel
Coalition

The Bozizé
Factor

Bangui
Under Threat

HIGHLIGHTS

- Elections were held on 27 December 2020 to elect the President and National Assembly. The incumbent, President Faustin Archange Touadéra, won an outright victory with 346 687 votes (53.92%), making a runoff unnecessary. According to the National Elections Authority (ANE) turnout was 76.31%. The runner-up was Anicet Georges Dologuélé (Party for Central African Renewal – URCA), who won 21.01% of the vote. Martin Ziguélé (Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People – MLPC), came in third with 7.4% of the vote.
- Results of elections for 140 Members of Parliament (MPs) will be announced on 19 January 2021. There will be a rerun of legislative elections in 61 constituencies where insecurity prevented voting. It is not clear when voting will take place.
- Ten of the sixteen presidential candidates announced in a press release that they did not recognise the results of the presidential election and called for its cancellation. Nine of these candidates lodged a complaint at the Constitutional Court to contest Touadéra's victory.
- The African Union (AU) said that election in Bangui went smoothly 'in a peaceful atmosphere'.
- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) denied allegations of electoral fraud levelled against it by URCA.
- Senior officials from the United Nations and regional organisations called on all political actors to respect the final results of the presidential election, and to settle any disputes peacefully and in accordance with the country's laws.
- A new rebel coalition called the Coalition of Patriots for Change (Coalition des patriotes pour le changement, CPC) was created



consisting of the Central African Patriotic Movement (Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique, MPC); the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (Union pour la paix en Centrafrique, UPC); the Popular Front for the Renaissance in the Central African Republic (Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, FPRC); Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R); the anti-Balaka group under the control of Maxime Mokom; and the anti-Balaka group under the control of Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona.

- The Public Prosecutor's Office in Bangui opened a judicial investigation on 4 January 2021 against former President Francois Bozizé and individuals suspected to be the co-perpetrators of recent clashes in the country. Prosecutors have also launched an investigation into Bozizé on accusations by the government that he was plotting a coup with the help of armed groups ahead of the elections.
- Bozizé initially supported the candidacy of Dologuélé before throwing his weight behind the CPC and calling on his supporters not to vote. As a result, Dologuélé distanced himself from Bozizé.
- Two attacks were carried out by the CPC on the outskirts of Bangui in the early hours of 13 January 2021. The simultaneous dawn assaults on army units were the first close to the capital since Touadéra was re-elected. Fighting continued sporadically throughout the day but MINUSCA announced later that the assailants had been pushed back.
- On 7 January 2021, Touadéra declared a nationwide night curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. following armed attacks. It is alleged that Gendarmerie on 14 January 2021 executed six people in the town of Bimbo for breaking the curfew.
- The World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report for January 2021 that growth stood at 0.0% in 2020 and it forecasts that the economy will grow by 3.2% in 2021 and 4.1% in 2022.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report (HDR), published on 15 December 2020,

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shows that Central African Republic's HDI value for 2019 is 0.397 – which put the country in the low human development category – positioning it at 188 out of 189 countries and territories.

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a disbursement to CAR of about \$34.4 million after completing the first and second reviews of its \$115 million loan programme.
- After a catastrophic first quarter amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, diamond exports rose in the second half of 2020, after the arrival of a new trading company from Belgium called CCO. The country exported 12,848 carats in Q3 and 28,500 carats in Q4 2020.
- Russia and Rwanda sent hundreds of troops into the country after an alleged coup bid in December 2020.
- In a letter dated 11 January 2021, attributed to the Russian Ambassador in CAR, Moscow asked the government for the issuance of an authorisation to fly over Central African territory for planes from the Russian Defence Ministry, as well as a landing/take-off clearance at Bangui-Mpoko international airport.
- Russian private security firm Wagner stepped up equipment deliveries to CAR's armed forces before the elections, using a range of cargo plane brokers.
- On 9 January 2021, rebels attacked Bouar, 440 km northwest of the capital and Grimari, 300 km northeast of Bangui, as French warplanes flew over in an apparent attempt to deter an advance on the capital. President Emmanuel Macron's office said the military flight took place at the request of Touadéra and with the permission of MINUSCA.
- The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) invited Touadéra to organise a new inclusive national dialogue, as soon as the electoral process is completed.
- After over a month of closure, commercial traffic between Cameroon's port city of Douala to Bangui resumed on 12 January 2021.

