

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern in collaboration with:

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women's Empowerment and the Family, Social Affairs, Justice, Basic Education, Water and Energy, Youth and Civic Education, the National Employment Fund and others, *Secrétariat Technique des Organes de Gestion du Statut des réfugiés*.
- **Implementing Partners:** Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), *Agence pour le Développement Economique et Social* (ADES), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), FAIRMED, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Intersos, International Medical Corps (IMC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Plan International, *Première Urgence - Internationale* (PUI) and Public Concern.
- **Operational Partners:** ICRC, Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), ASOL, Red Deporte, IEDA Relief, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), *Solidarités Internationale* and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **Operational coordination:** The response for Central African refugees is managed in line with the *Refugee Coordination Model*. Sectorial groups have been established by UNHCR, covering the whole operational area. Local authorities have been very engaged in the management of the refugee operation. At the capital-level, UNHCR leads the Multi-Sector Operations Team for the Refugee Response and the national Protection Working Group, and actively participates in other relevant humanitarian coordination mechanisms and the Humanitarian Country Team.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- In the North-West and South-West regions, the security situation has remained unpredictable. It was predominantly marked by gunfire exchanges between government security forces and non state armed groups, with killings and kidnappings in spite of the major national dialogue that has been organized to resolve the crisis. The tense situation in both regions was aggravated especially in areas concerned with the installation of newly appointed administrative officials. The kidnapping of humanitarian actors in the regions impacted the operations on the ground.
- The security situation in the Far North region also remained volatile and unpredictable. There were repeated incursions and ambushes staged by armed groups at the borders in the Logone and Chari, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga divisions. Access to the 15km border-strip is still subject to escorts. This restricts free access for humanitarians and limits their operations. This has resulted in the suspension of activities beyond Fotokol and Makary in Logone and Chari division.
- A total of 891 refugees from the Central African Republic who were living in Cameroon, have voluntarily returned home in safety and dignity. On 23 October, **Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji** officially launched the first convoy of 223 people from Gado to Bouar in CAR. At the same time another group of 187 individuals, left Lolo for Berberati. This symbolic launch saw the participation of UNHCR's Director for the Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, Ms Millicent Mutuli, UNHCR's Representative in Cameroon, Kouassi Lazare Etien and central and local authorities as well as the local population. On 30 October, 481 refugees in addition left for CAR (176 from Gado for Bouar and 305 from Lolo for Berberati). The ongoing repatriation operation concerns 6,350 refugees who have expressed the desire to return to their country origin. These voluntary returns are being facilitated by road, follow the signing of a tripartite agreement between the Governments of Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR), and UNHCR on 29 June 2019.
- On 22 October, a team from the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid - ECHO paid a visit to the Mbile site hosting refugees, in the East region. The mission discussed with refugees to better understand their situation, needs and challenges. They also had an exchange with the UNCHR team in the field on the humanitarian assistance for Central African Refugees and avenues to improve on the overall response.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Urban refugees who are beneficiaries of the micro loan project put in place by UNHCR to promote their economic inclusion and ensure their access to funding, have kicked off economic activities in Yaoundé and Douala. On 30 October, UNHCR together with its implementing partner PLAN and the media undertook a follow-up visit to some beneficiaries in Yaoundé. The visited projects included a restaurant run by two Central African refugee brothers, a laundry service by a Chadian refugee and a Printing and Photocopying shop by a group of five young Central Africans aged between 21 and 29. The ambitious micro-loan project was put in place in 2018 in partnership with 'Credit du Sahel', and with the technical support of the Ministry of Agriculture. Under the project, the targeted 2,500 urban refugees constitute themselves into Common Initiative Groups to be eligible for a loan ranging from 500,000 XAF to 5 million XAF.

- During the reporting period, **a total of 2,577 shelter kits and 1,600 core relief items were distributed to internally displaced persons, IDPs, in the North West and South West regions.** 997 of the shelter kits were distributed in the localities of Kossala, Kake and Teke in Meme division, South West region. While in the North West region, another 800 shelter kits and 800 core relief items were distributed in Fundong Sub Division notably in Fujua, Mbam, Ngwinkuma, Mentang, Ngwah, while a similar 800 shelter kits and 800 core relief items were distributed in Djichami, Njinikijem, Jinkfuin and Aboh IN Belo Sub Division.
- **UNHCR has initiated steps for coordinated data collection for individuals in need of assistance across the North-West region, with plans to set up a legal clinic** to support beneficiaries in this process. In line with activities to ensure progress in the provision of civil status documentation mainly birth certificates and identity cards, UNHCR met with the President of the Mezam High Court in Bamenda on 25 October. The objective of the meeting was **to cross-check procedures to obtain supplementary judgements for the issuance of birth certificates**, and how to accelerate the procedure of submitting these judgements by the High Court.
- **Municipalities hosting large numbers of refugees and UNHCR have begun strengthening their collaboration in working towards the common good of refugees and host communities. This was the focus of a mission undertaken by UNHCR to the East, Adamawa and North regions on 23 October.** It was also to continue advocacy with these municipalities for the integration of the needs of refugees into the local development plans and programmes. The priority needs were defined in collaboration with the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) during the elaboration of the main CAR refugee-hosting municipalities' plans. The municipalities are currently preparing the 2020 budgets and annual investment plans by including refugees' priority needs in communities where they are highly concentrated.
- **Certificates for refugees in the Minawao camp were renewed on 29 October. The new certificates issued are for a three-year validity.** Most of the expired certificates were those issued during the physical verification and biometric registration which took place in February 2018, for a one-year validity period. This renewal exercise will as well allow for the update of information for people already in UNHCR's database, including an update of the addresses of households in the camp.
- The government of Cameroon together with humanitarian actors assisted over 19,000 victims of heavy floods in Maga, Mayo Danai division of the Far North. Thanks to funds disbursed by government, the affected population was given non food items, shelter kits and medication on 18 October, during the visit of Territorial Administration Minister. By **14 October, 400 people were reportedly displaced by the floods in the Logone Birni and Logone and Chari divisions** to the localities of Yaré Mré Arabe, Mré Kotoko, Ngoudougouli, Sakin and North Karam. This number is **in addition to the 40,000 previously announced** in reports by humanitarian actors who carried out the first monitoring of the flood situation in Zina, Far North.

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