

Cameroon

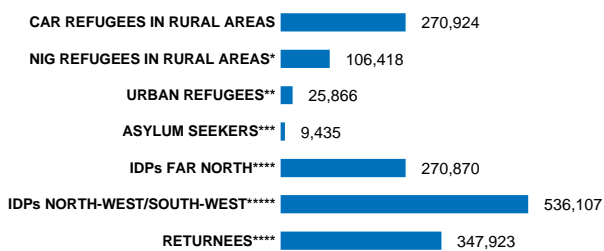
September 2019

Cameroon currently has **1,567,543 people of concern**, including **291,803 Central African** and **108,335 Nigerian refugees**.

Beginning 30 September, Cameroon organized a **one-week major national dialogue** to seek solutions to crisis in the country's English-speaking regions.

On 11 September, **Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Tsutomu Osawa** visited the **Ngam refugee site**, in Adamaoua to assess refugee needs and the work of humanitarians.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (1,567,543 AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER)



* Verification exercise still in progress

** Incl. 20,879 Central Africans and 1,917 Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.

*** Incl. 7,194 Central Africans and 49 Nigerian asylum seekers living in urban areas.

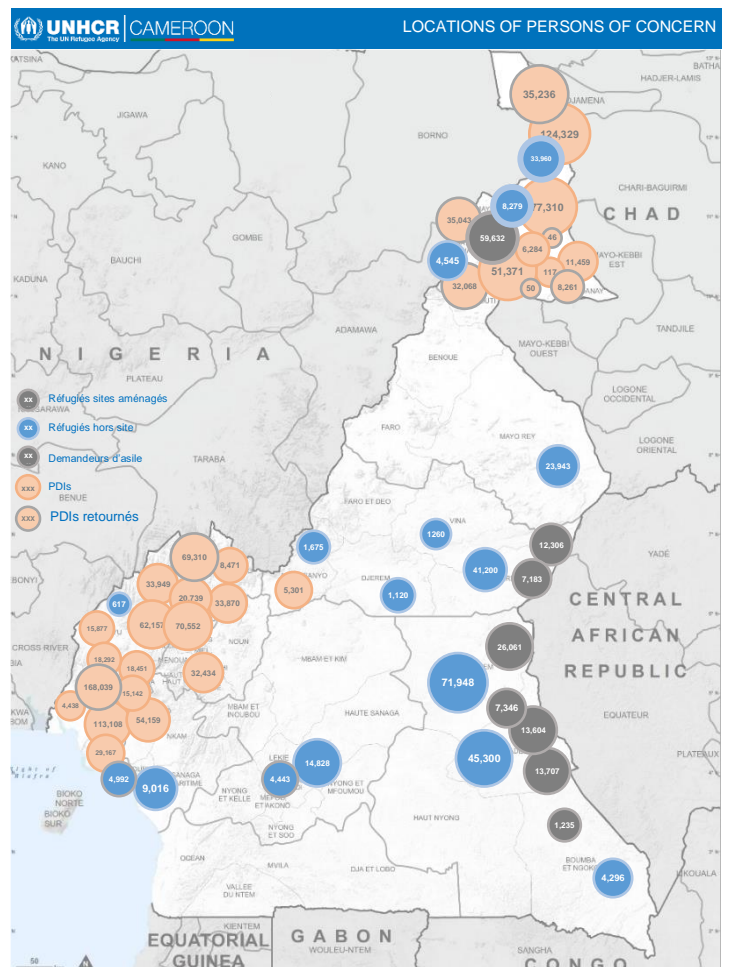
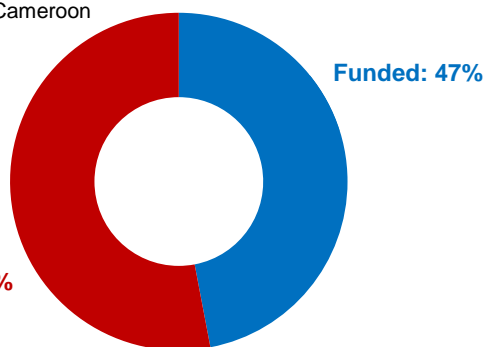
**** Source: IOM DTM #16.

***** Source: OCHA.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER)

USD 90.3 M

Requested for Cameroon



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 278

166 National Staff

48 International Staff

64 Affiliate workforce (16 International and 48 National)

11 OFFICES:

Representation – Yaounde

Sub Offices – Bertoua, Meiganga, Maroua, Buea

Field Offices – Batouri, Djohong, Touboro, Douala and Bamenda

Field Unit – Kousseri

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

- **A major national dialogue to resolve the crisis in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon was organized from 30 September to 04 October**, bringing together the different actors to chart a path for peace. Recommendations from the talks are to be examined by the Head of State.
Nevertheless the security situation in the North West and South West regions deteriorated in September with a two-week lockdown from 02 to 13 September to stifle schools' resumption. This greatly affected activities and caused about 4000 people in Fako division, South West region to flee into the forest. Fighting between non-state armed groups and government soldiers was reported throughout. On 24 September in Bafut, North West region, the perpetuation of armed assaults resulted in the destruction of property and about 60 households were reportedly displaced. Random killings and kidnappings were also reported.
- **The security situation in the Far North Region remained tense with increased incursions from the Boko Haram group**, resulting in kidnappings for ransom, killings, pillaging and burning of villages. It is within this backdrop that Cameroon's Army Chief of Staff visited the region, making a stopover in Kousseri on 11 September, to galvanize the defence forces in their fight against the terrorist group. He also met with security and administrative officials. Notwithstanding, another deadly attack was registered on the night of 14 and 15 September at the Soueram security unit in the Logone and Chari Division.
Similarly, the rainy season in the region caused significant damage to crops, raising fears of a food insecurity in the coming months.
- **A planned voluntary repatriation for Central African refugees initially scheduled for 02 October, was postponed on 27 September.** This was due to ongoing operations in the West of CAR by the UN Stabilization Mission, MINUSCA. By the start of September, UNHCR had registered 6,350 refugees representing 1,848 households desiring to voluntarily return home. The refugees from the Ngam and Borgop sites in Adamaoua, and Gado, Lolo, Mbile, Timangolo and Kentzou in the East region, identified the following prefectures of return: Nana Mambere, Mambere Kadei, Bangui, Lobaye, Ombelle Mpoko, Nana-Grebizi, Bamingui-Bangoran and Ouham Pende. Meanwhile, important documents like school attendance slips and certificates, birth certificates and updated medical files etc are being issued. In the meantime, yellow fever vaccination is ongoing in Gado. Between 23 to 27 September, 362 people were vaccinated. Pregnant women and children below 9 months who are not eligible to receive the vaccine are being given certificates of medical contraindication to use during the repatriation.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- **On 30 September, administrative officials including the Divisional Officer for Garoua Boulai in the East, paid an information and sensitization visit** to refugee group leaders and heads of refugee families registered for voluntary repatriation. The visit was to explain to them why the repatriation process initially scheduled to officially take off on 02 October 2019 was postponed to a later date. Within the same context, UNHCR paid a similar visit to the governors of the Adamaoua and East regions and the Senior Divisional Officer for the Mbere.

Data collection and verification for more candidates willing to return has continued at the different sites. In Timangolo on the week of 23 to 27 September, a total of 210 individuals representing 62 households were registered. 31 of these households representing 98 individuals expressed the wish to be part of the first convoy. A simulation exercise of the repatriation took place on 26 September involving humanitarian actors and refugees in the Gado site.

- **A USAID delegation visited the East to evaluate the work of UNHCR, WFP and other humanitarian partners** in resilience building and fostering development programmes for refugees and communities. The delegation was led by Ms Carell Laurent, West Africa Regional Deputy Mission Director. On 26 September, they discussed with UN agencies, national and international NGOs on developing innovative ideas for projects targeting refugees in a bid to reduce high dependence on food assistance, create food value chains and partner with the private sector. Presenting projects already undertaken in this light, UNHCR also shared some challenges in fostering economic inclusion for all.
- Nigerian refugees in the Minawao camp in the Far North region willing to return home were informed about the **efforts put in place by their home government in the different areas of return**. The information was given by Borno State Governor, Baba Gana Umara Zulum, who alongside Cameroon's Far North Governor, Mijiyawa Bakary visited refugees in the Minawao camp on 17 September. He also thanked UNHCR and Cameroon for support given to refugees who have sought protection in Cameroon, highlighting that work was ongoing to ensure all voluntary returnees were comfortably settled.
- **The Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Tsutomu Osawa visited the Ngam refugee site in the Adamaoua region on 11 September**. The aim of the visit was to assess refugee needs and be acquainted with the work of humanitarians. He was accompanied by World Food Programme's Country Director and local administrative officials of the Mbere Division. The refugee community raised issues of concern like non-assistance to some identified persons with special needs, difficulties in free movement in relation to checks for documents by security officers, long distances between the camp and secondary schools and limited land for agricultural purposes, all pointing to the problem of dwindling resources to support these persons of concern. They were encouraged by administrative officials to approach relevant authorities in case of any abuse, exploitation or unwarranted discrimination, with a toll-free number left at their disposal for complaints and feedback.
- **30 Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, received emergency cash assistance** in the North West region from 23 to 27 September and 1600 shelter kits were set aside for subsequent distribution. In the South West region, **180 shelter kits were distributed to 120 men and 60 women** in Teke village in Kumba III. There is a planned distribution for 1000 shelter kits as soon as security conditions are favourable. Similarly, a selection process is underway to identify 200 vulnerable female IDPs to receive mama kits.
- **UNHCR handed out 69 registers to the National Civil Status Registration Offices** - BUNEC, in the East (57) and Adamaoua (12) regions between 09 and 14 September, to reinforce and promote civil status registration in these regions.
- **10 wood transformation factories** in the East Region have unanimously agreed to make available on a monthly basis about 3,990 m³ of sawdust, for refugees to use in producing ecological charcoal. The initiative is not only for income-generating purposes but also to protect the environment. Negotiations were undertaken during the reporting period by **UNHCR and the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife**. The different actors are working together to see how the project can be both beneficial to refugees and host communities where the factories are set up.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2019

CERF | United States of America | Sweden | European Union | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Japan | Canada | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 47.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 24.1 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Private donors Japan 12.1 million | Private donors Italy 11.1 million | Ireland 10.2 million

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LINKS : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/cmr> – Twitter : @RefugeesCmr – Facebook : UNHCR Cameroun – Instagram: hrcameroun