

Cameroon

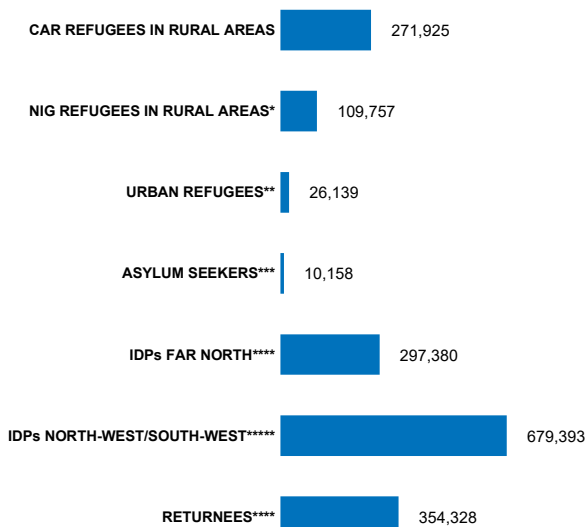
January 2020

Cameroon currently has **1,749,080** people of concern, including **292,787** Central African, **110,627** Nigerian refugees, **976,773** IDPs (297,380 in the Far North and 679,393 in the North West and South West regions) and **354,328** returnees in the Far North region.

From 23 to 31 January 2020, a high level delegation from **BPRM, OFDA** and **Food for Peace** visited Central African and Nigerian refugees hosted in the **Eastern part of Cameroon and Far North** respectively. The objective of the visit was to touch-base with the realities of refugees on the ground.

The displacement trend in the **North West and South West** has been on the rise, with thousands displaced ahead of the **09 February legislative and municipal elections**. From assessments conducted so far, major needs identified by UNHCR and its partners are **protection, SGBV, shelter/NFIs, health and WASH**.

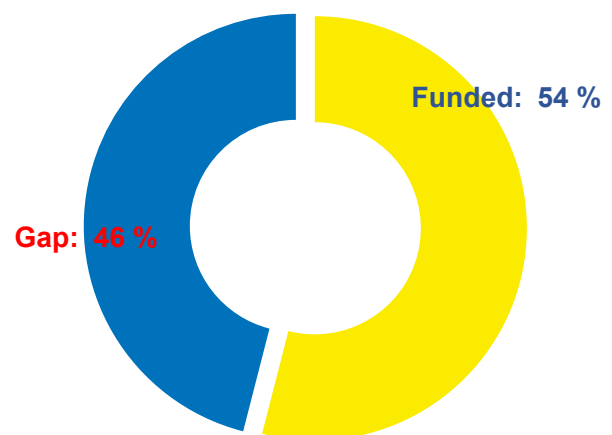
POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2020)



2019 FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2020)

USD 90.2 million

requested for Cameroon in 2019



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

215 National Staff
 56 International Staff

Offices:

01 Branch Office in Yaounde

06 Field Offices: Batouri, Meiganga, Djohong, Touborro, Douala and Bamenda

03 Sub Offices: Bertoua, Maroua, Buea

01 Field Unit – Kousseri



Joint Team of BPRM, OFDA and Food for Peace visiting refugee children (Central Africans) in a classroom at the Gado site in the East region.

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* and includes local authorities who are engaged in the management of the refugee operation. In the North West and South West regions, UNHCR ensures the leadership of protection and shelter/NFI Clusters for the delivery of protection and assistance to IDPs. As from early 2020, the operational responsibility of UNHCR Cameroon has been extended to cover UNHCR mandate activities in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe. 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 as well as the Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Country Team.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- There has been an upsurge in violence in the North West and South West regions with a series of incidents including clashes between government forces and non-state armed groups resulting in deaths, kidnappings for ransom, arbitrary arrests, harassment of unarmed civilians and the burning of houses and villages. **Clashes between the military and NSAGs especially in the run-up to the parliamentary and municipal elections forced hundreds of civilians to flee for safety into nearby bushes, villages and other towns while 8,000 others crossed the border into Nigeria.** This precarious security situation has left the local population in desperate need of assistance in terms of protection, health, including mental health, shelter and food.
- The security situation in the Far North remains precarious with spontaneous attacks by Boko Haram Group. The local populations live in constant psychosis as they continue to be exposed to acts of kidnappings, killings, burning of villages and pillaging. On 10 January, the group during an incursion at 03 km from Zigague (Waza) took away 1,000 heads of oxen. **On 15 January, a group of women was kidnapped while fetching firewood behind Waza mountains and were later released.** On the night of 14 January, the health centre in Sékoulé (12km from Mora) was also attacked. All the medical equipment and medicines at the centre were taken away. **The trend of protection incidents shows that the most affected victims are residents (46%), followed by IDPs (35%), returnees (13%) refugees (6%).**
- **From 23 to 31 January 2020**, a high level US delegation composed of Officials from the **Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration – US Department of State (BPRM), U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Food for Peace (FFP) visited Central African refugees in the East from 23 to 24 January and Nigerian refugees in the Far North from 27 to 31 January.** In both regions, the delegation paid courtesy visits to authorities to appreciate the hospitality of the Cameroonian people and protection provided to refugees. They also met with the internally displaced persons in Zamai in the Far North, as well as with representatives of host communities with whom they discussed provision of assistance. The delegation visited social structures as well, and commended partners on their work. **Unmet needs and gaps to be covered were highlighted such as guaranteeing self-reliance for the vulnerable and providing assistance to persons with specific needs.**

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- **Registration** –1,191 new arrivals of Nigerian Refugees were reported at the end of January 2020. As of 31 January 2020, the total number of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon stood at 109,757 individuals (63,098 in Minawao refugee camp and 46,659 out of camp).
- In 2019, UNHCR Cameroon facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 3,309 CAR refugees to their country of origin. About 10,000 candidates are planned for voluntary return to CAR during 2020. UNHCR - Cameroon and CAR are planning for a cross-border meeting to be held in February in order to discuss practical modalities for the resumption of the facilitated voluntary repatriation.

- **Protection cluster** - The Strategic Advisory group (SAG) of the protection cluster held its first meeting of the year on 21 January 2020 at UNHCR office in Buea, South West region. The meeting was to do an appraisal of 2019 achievements and discuss prospects for 2020. UNHCR committed to work more closely with UNICEF Child Protection sector in order to provide a more coordinated response to IDP children protection needs.
- **SGBV** - From 15 to 17 January, UNHCR organized a workshop on Protection Monitoring in Buea. The aim was to improve data collection and reporting mechanisms in the two English-speaking regions. Another workshop was organized on the provision of mental health care to survivors. An awareness-raising session on sexual and gender-based violence and other human rights violations was also carried out in the course of January.
- On 23 January 2020, UNHCR and partners organized a workshop for medical staff at Garoua-Boulai on their responsibility to deliver medical certificates to survivors and the collection of forensic evidence. **UNHCR and partners have made plans to put in place a strategy to track perpetrators and legal proceedings.** On the same occasion, planned SGBV activities were presented including awareness on child exploitation and peaceful coexistence.
- **Child protection** - At the beginning of the year, 19 CAR refugee children with specific needs were identified in Boumba-et-Ngoko and Lom-Et-Djerem divisions in the East region. Meanwhile 209 other children with special needs received psychosocial support. In addition, assessments of the best interests of the child were carried out for 07 children in the Kadey and 01 in Lom-Et-Djerem still in the East region.

Health

408 cases of measles reported in the Nigerian refugee affected locations in the Far North (Minawao refugee camp, Mokolo and other localities) **were successfully managed.** One death has been recorded since the onset of the disease in 2019 with a gradual decrease in incidence since the beginning of 2020. **Prevention and control measures continue through routine vaccinations, community hygiene promotion, monitoring of past cases,** identification and referencing of suspected measles cases from the community through community outreach agents to health posts for appropriate medical attention.

Food Security and Nutrition

From 20 to 24 January 2020, a general food distribution exercise was organized at the Minawao refugee camp for 61,450 people. Refugees benefitted of food distribution represented 80% of 2,100 (1,618 Kcal of sorghum, vegetables and oil for a total of 12,96 kg per individual.

Water and Sanitation

The supply of safe drinking water for Nigerian refugees in the Far North region remains the greatest challenge for protection and assistance to this population. **The average water produced per day is of 493 m³/d for a ratio of 09 liters per day per person in Minawao camp.** This is mainly due to the perturbation of water supply network from Mokolo to Minawao refugee camp. The situation is expected to improve for an increase to 14 litres per person per day as the ordered motor pump has been received in Minawao refugee camp in January 2020.

Shelter and NFIs

The first 2020 Shelter/NFI cluster meeting was held on 23 January 2020 at UNHCR. About 10 organizations involved in the shelter/ NFI sector in the North West South West attended the meeting where they shared information on 2019 achievements and challenges and discussed prospects for 2020. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) feedback for plans for 2020 and the Cluster end of year report were as well discussed. **In the Far North, 180 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) were converted into 60 community shelters to have a capacity to accommodate about 4,300 people** (in addition to the existing community shelters) as there is continuous movements towards Cameroon because of recurrent attacks by Boko Haram groups along the borders.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

On 17 January 2020, an assessment was carried out in Mbaiboum area on an influx of new refugees from CAR. The new arrivals informed UNHCR that the flight was caused by a conflict between farmers and herders in CAR refugee affected locations. Considering the frequency of conflicts between the two communities in Ngam, UNHCR and partners have organized revitalization of the Peace Fora in CAR refugee affected areas in addition to awareness campaigns on peaceful coexistence.

Durable Solutions

- **In 2019, 158 refugees departed from Cameroon to resettlement countries: 123 to Canada, 28 to USA, and 6 to Sweden.** With an initial target of 600 persons for resettlement by the end of year, 618 refugees had been submitted to resettlement countries: 386 to Canada and 217 to Australia, which remain the two countries with resettlement targets for Cameroon. **Over 60 % of refugees submitted were women and girls at risk, survivors of torture, children at risk, and refugees with medical needs.** UNHCR is starting 2020 with a slightly reduced annual quota of 550 refugees and is committed to increasing the percentage of highly vulnerable refugees.
- **From 23 to 28, a training was organized for the collection of data on the voluntary repatriation of CAR refugees together with deployment of the Global Distribution Tool (GDT).** Awareness sessions were also organized to inform and communicate to refugees about the roll-out, in refugee locations (Borgop, Ngam, Mandjou sites), of the new distribution tool. In addition, information on the resumption of voluntary repatriation activities was shared with refugees in order for those willing to return to bring their intentions forward bearing in mind that returns will be facilitated only to major return areas in

the Nana Mambéré and Mambéré Kadei divisions. **So far, 1,284 individuals (444 households) have expressed their intention to return in 2020.**

Coordination

A joint needs assessment was conducted by UNHCR, UNOCHA and WFP in Bali (North West) on 16 January. Findings of the joint field mission included among others - issues of safety and security, documentation, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), shelter, non-food items (NFIs), education, health, nutrition, livelihood and access to water and sanitation. Humanitarian access is also an issue in the area as movements are being restricted as a result of ongoing military activities or lockdowns decreed by the non-state armed groups. On 15 January, Shelter/NFI Cluster met to discuss on the reduction of influence from lead-organizations on cluster functions and reinforcement of collaboration among sectors to improve multi-sector responses. This aims to reinforce regional position during the advocacy at Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for the enormous support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation in Cameroon as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD 48 million

United States of America					19.7 million
Germany		4.4 million			
CERF		3.8 million			
Danmark		1.5 million			
France		1.1 million			
Japan		880,603			
Sweden		769,992			
Private donors Spain		666,667			
Canada		455,927			
Luxembourg		261,506			
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation		237,255			
European Union		73,038			
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS		30,000			

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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

United States of America 36.6 million | Private donors Australia 14.7 million | Canada 4.6 million | Private donors Bahamas 3.2 million | Private donors Germany 3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.8 million | Finland 2.2 million | Germany 2.1 million | Japan | Luxembourg | European Union | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 83 million | United Kingdom 44.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 43.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 41.8 million | Germany 28.9 million | Japan 25.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Italy 20.1 million | Private donors USA 19.1 million | Private donors Sweden 17.8 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Ireland 10.2 million | Private donors Sweden 10 million | Italy 10 million |

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors.



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