

Cameroon

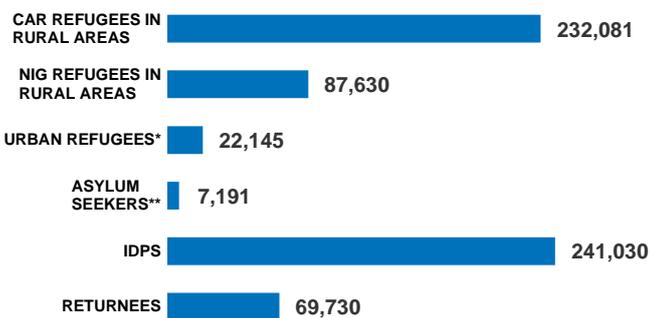
March 2018

Cameroon currently has **659,807 people of concern**, including **249,053 Central African refugees** and **89,543 Nigerian refugees** registered by UNHCR.

Rapid Interagency Assessment mission carried out to the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon.

Significant increase of new refugee arrivals at the Gourounguel transit center in the Far North region.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (659,807 AS OF 31 MARCH)



*Incl. 16,972 Central Africans and 1,913 Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.

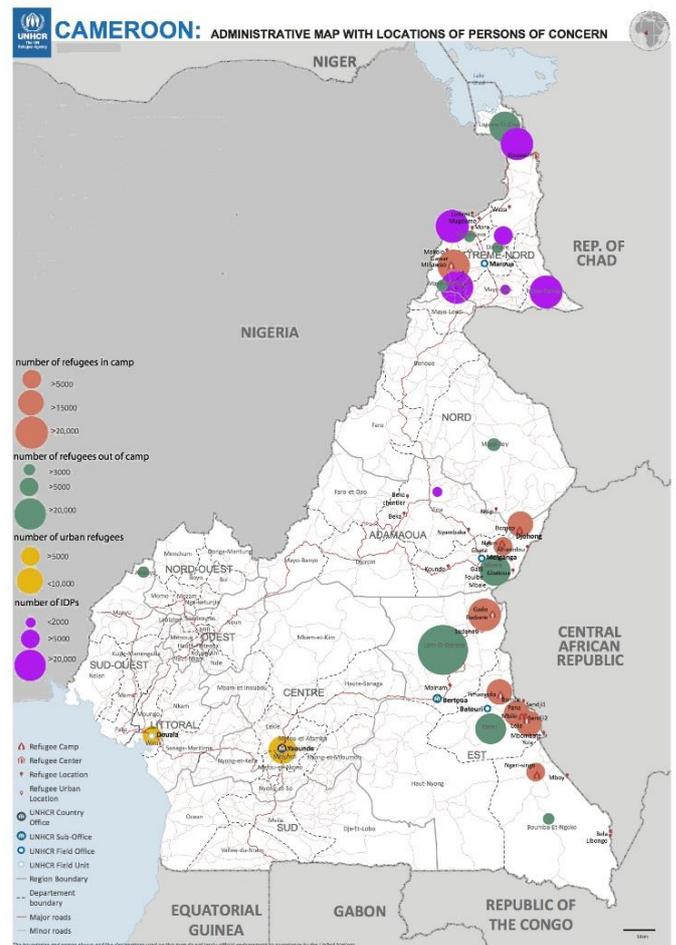
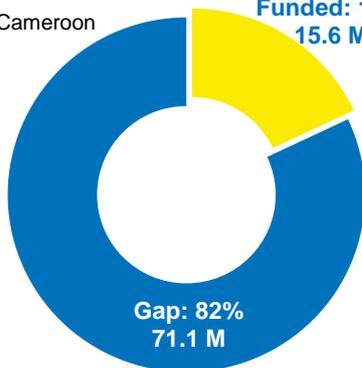
**Incl. 6,032, Central Africans and 8 Nigerian asylum seekers living in urban areas.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH)

USD 86.7 M

Requested for Cameroon

Funded: 18%
15.6 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 244

144 National Staff

50 International Staff

50 Affiliate workforce (7 International and 43 National)

9 OFFICES:

Representation – Yaounde

Sub Offices – Bertoua, Meiganga and Maroua

Field Offices – Batouri, Djohong, Touboro and Douala

Field Unit – Kousseri

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees in collaboration with:

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women Empowerment and 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 International* and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **Operational coordination:** *In accordance with the “Joint OCHA-UNHCR Note on Mixed Situations – Coordination in Practice” the responsibility to coordinate the overall humanitarian response in the Far North has been delegated to UNHCR. UNHCR sectors are utilized to deliver assistance to IDPs and other affected groups. All sectors are operational holding regular meetings. Each sector is led by a Government entity and co-led by UN agencies. There is also a bi-monthly UNHCR-chaired Multi-Sector Operations Team meeting in Maroua, bringing together more than 40 humanitarian partners intervening in the region. 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 DEVELOPMENTS

- The security situation in the Far North region worsened during the month of March; with all three departments of Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga and Logone et Chari concerned, however, with military bases in the Logone et Chari especially targeted by non-state armed groups. Military personnel were ambushed and attacked resulting in several casualties. In addition, elements of non-state armed groups continued to carry out kidnappings of children, stealing cattle, pillaging of homes and shops and setting fire to properties. This situation continues to affect our protection and assistance responses as staff movement has been restricted in certain areas.
- On 2 March, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) undertook a mission to Minawao refugee camp with the aim to familiarize itself with the activities implemented for refugees through their funding. The visit included a stop at the biometric registration centre, followed by various health facilities run by International Medical Corps., school infrastructure, energy facilities, reforestation programmes and WASH activities.
- The French Development Agency (AFD) visited Mbile refugee site on 2 March to enquire about the integration of Central African refugees and their perspectives on returning to the Central African Republic. The mission met with refugees in focus groups and expressed their interest to finance government institutions and NGOs to support the development of host areas through self-reliance projects for refugees and host communities for the improvement of refugee integration. AFD also expressed interest in assisting their villages of origin hoping that these development efforts could contribute to peace and stability and perhaps much later to the return of refugees. The mission also visited the village of Ourou Say and Gbiti in Kette district to meet local populations that would also benefit from self-reliance projects.
- On 7 March 2018, a mission of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) visited Minawao camp to carry out a monitoring/evaluation of the level of implementation of the activities it finances such as protection activities in the transit center, the biometric verification exercise as well as WASH activities and infrastructure. The mission also met with the central refugee committee to hear upon their needs and recommendations to improve conditions in the camp.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

North-West and South-West Regions

- Following the joint high-level scoping mission conducted to the North West and South West regions from 7-9 February made up of the Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR and UNICEF representatives in Cameroon, alongside the Director of the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) of the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT), a Rapid Interagency Assessment mission was carried out in the two regions. The overall objective of this assessment was “to provide valid information at community level to identify critical needs according to geographic areas and sectors, assessing most important issues and their underlying factors, the on-going humanitarian response, humanitarian access and identifying information gaps and needs”. The mission met with local, traditional and religious authorities, as well as displaced persons and a range of key informants. Protection was identifying as a major cross-cutting issue, as well as priority needs relating to shelter/NFIs, WASH, food security, education and health. The humanitarian community continues to analyse findings in order to develop an appropriate response.

Far North Region

- The incursions and attacks perpetrated along the Cameroon/Nigeria borders and within Cameroonian territory lead to further movements of populations seeking safety. The immediate consequence has been the significant increase of new refugee arrivals and several Cameroonian IDPs at the Gourounguel transit center. Over 2,100 new refugee arrivals were registered during the reporting period. By the end of the month all refugee had been transferred to Minawao refugee camp where shelter and other assistance is being provided.
- For refugee and IDP parents in the Gawar, Minawao and Zamai areas, awareness-raising sessions were organized to encourage parent participation in communal sensitization efforts on the importance of education. UNHCR and its partners have been increasing the number of activities aimed at maintaining and raising attendance rates in the abovementioned areas. Over 1,100 parents participated and said that although it had not been a priority until recently, school attendance and the importance of education was slowly becoming engrained in their day to day lives and those of their children. Since the beginning of the year, there has been a noteworthy increase in primary school attendance rates but a drop at the secondary level.

East, Adamaoua and North Regions

- On 5 and 7 March, regional workshops took place in Bertoua and Ngaoundere respectively, to validate the data collected for the elaboration of the joint Support Plan for CAR refugee hosting areas in the North, Adamawa and East regions. The objectives of these workshops were to provide the participants with the results of the data collected in the field from various administrative and traditional authorities, as well as host and refugee communities in the abovementioned regions. In addition, they were to validate the needs assessment by municipality and sector (WASH, education, health, civil status/birth registration, and livelihoods). A total of 86 villages in 17 municipalities are concerned by the Support Plan. Participants in the workshops included the Governors of the regions, the Prefects, Mayors, regional and departmental delegates of the concerned sectoral ministries. Other government, humanitarian and development partners were also present, including the National Programme for Participatory Development (PNDP), *le Fonds spécial d'Équipement et d'Intervention Intercommunale* (FEICOM), *le Bureau National de l'État Civil* (BUNEC), World Bank, AFD and international NGOs working in the concerned areas. It is to be recalled that in October 2016, the Ministry for Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) and UNHCR signed a partnership agreement aimed at supporting the development of communities hosting CAR refugees.
- Following border monitoring activities in the North region, it was determined that a significant number of new arrivals were in the locality of Touboro. Thereafter, pre-registration missions by UNHCR and its partners, the Lutheran World Federation and International Medical Corps to the localities of Mbaimboum, Helbao and Touboro took place in order to determine any specific needs. In order to obtain a better idea of the profile and number of arrivals, UNHCR began a biometric verification exercise with a total of 1,447 refugees registered in UNHCR's database (as at end March). It should be noted that 1,613 asylum seekers (572 households) were still waiting to be registered.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2018**

African Development Bank | Canada | CERF | European Union | Japan | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom | United States of America | Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Private donors Spain

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

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