

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Cameroon Multi Country**

## Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

**Contact us**

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

**Downloaded date:** 31/05/2024

# Table of Contents

## Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

## Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

## Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The political situation in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Cameroon, the countries covered by the UNHCR Multi-Country Office (MCO), was relatively stable in 2023 despite the putsch that overthrew the former President in Gabon. However, Cameroon's security situation continued to worsen in the Far North, Northwest (NW), and Southwest (SW) regions. Ongoing insecurity along borders with Nigeria triggered population movements in the Far North, NW, and SW regions. Non-state armed groups (NSAGs) attacks and insurgency including counterinsurgency from National Defense Forces displaced over 13,000 Nigerian refugees to the Minawao camp in the Far North and tens of thousands Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the NW and SW regions. The humanitarian access shrank, and the period between July and November was recorded as the worst in terms of protection of civilians as the rate of attacks increased with the number of affected populations who could not have access to protection services because of the high level of insecurity. Access to the displaced population remained tenuous, undermining protection responses and solutions. Natural disasters, such as heavy rains, landslides, seasonal floods, and road destruction also triggered population movements and further impeded humanitarian access. The overall humanitarian situation is bleak as per Cameroon's 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) reports one out of six people living in Cameroon need humanitarian assistance and protection with a total of 4.7 million people in need. As of 31 December 2023, Cameroon hosted more than 478,000 refugees with 73% from the Central African Republic (CAR), 26% from Nigeria, and 1% coming from 40 different countries. The August 2023 IOM/OCHA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported 1,650,000 IDP and returnees. There was a 5% decrease in IDPs number and a 4% increase in returnees in NW & SW regions compared to 2022. High inflation attributed to the weakening of the value chain during the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war continued to affect the economies of the countries covered by the MCO. Furthermore, forcibly displaced persons were affected by the reduced humanitarian funding which necessitated a revision of existing UNHCR approaches and a shift towards complementarities with other humanitarian and development actors.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**By 2026 forcibly displaced and stateless persons are registered, documented, and benefit from a favorable protection environment.**

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Cameroon	1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	94.90%
Cameroon	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.50%	80.00%
Gabon	1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Gabon	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoyed favorable protection environments in 2023 following the capacity development support provided by UNHCR to the State of Cameroon. This support permitted more displaced persons to access efficient Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures which enabled them to have access to their rights to protection, mobility, safety, health care etc. In addition to this, Cameroon's asylum legal framework is compliant with the 1951 Geneva Convention and 1969 OAU Conventions and equally upholds international standards as well as an open-door policy which make the environment favorable for the establishment of RSD.

As the 2005 Refugee Law and 2011 Decree guided its asylum policies in 2023 amidst global issues, Cameroon continued to facilitate access to effective RSD procedures for those seeking international protection, including those in mixed migration movements thanks to the quality trainings provided by UNHCR. Consequently, 95% of the targeted number of refugees seeking international protection, were able to access asylum procedures. To reach this target, the support provided by UNHCR to the government's Technical Secretariat, enabled 6,071 individuals to apply for asylum and to have access to procedures out of 6,397 individuals who contacted UNHCR for registration in Yaoundé and Douala. This result demonstrates an increase in the number of refugees accessing asylum procedures when compared to the 2022 result where 326 refugees got access asylum procedures.

On the other hand, more forcibly displaced and stateless persons enjoyed their rights to freedom of movements as 80% them were able to move freely within Cameroon. UNHCR's provision of education and awareness raising activities towards security forces, border and immigration officials, police officers, the organization of workshops and coordination meetings for sharing of information continued to greatly contribute to the creation of Favorable Protection Environments. For instance, within the UNHCR MCO Cameroon framework, advocacy for establishing an effective national asylum system in Equatorial Guinea and São Tome and Príncipe continued until Sao Tome and Principe has finally ratified asylum conventions. Regarding Gabon, capacity-building by UNHCR for government asylum authorities led to the effective transfer of RSD and registration competencies in 2023, including training on the UNHCR database (proGres) tool and RSD, as well as Standard Operation Plan revision.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**By 2026, forcibly displaced and stateless persons access quality basic social services in an equitable and sustainable manner to realize their full human potential and enhance their social and economic well-being.**

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Cameroon	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	30.00%	21.00%
Cameroon	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6.40%	46.08%
Cameroon	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	IDPs	0.00%	0.00%
Cameroon	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.00%	34.03%
Gabon	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.93%	46.08%
Gabon	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	34.03%

According to the 2022 World Bank report, the extreme poverty rate in Cameroon is estimated at 25.3 % in 2021, the same as in 2020, driven by the widening inequality in rural areas. Between 2001 and 2014, urban communities witnessed a decline in the poverty rate of 4% points, whereas rural communities experienced an increase of 6 % points. Rural areas, especially in conflict-affected regions, continue to experience deprivation in access to basic infrastructure and essential social services. Consequently, the vulnerability of forcibly displaced and stateless persons increased with devastating impacts as they face limited access to basic social services. UNHCR and partners' collaborative interventions in 2023 pivoted towards development-led approaches to address situations which contributed to the improvement of the social and economic well-being of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host communities.

The 2023 Cameroon HNO report confirms that there has been some economic progress, but poverty remains a significant problem. As the complex crisis affecting Cameroon continued to increase the number of people living below the national poverty line, the case of refugees became worst as they face challenges accessing basic social services. For instance, the majority of refugees worked in informal sectors.

With UNHCR'S intervention, more forcibly displaced and stateless persons (225,000) were able to reside in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities. Access to safe and secure shelter was improved through the provision of cash, kits for construction, rehabilitation establishment and support for the construction committees led to better protection outcomes. Also, income generated from the production and selling of briquettes contributed to an increase in socio-economic and food security. Moreover, improved supply of water by 6% that accounted for an increase to 86%, resulted in improved health as more refugees had access to basic drinking water, with an average of 14 litter per person per day. Better water sources also mean less expenditure on health, as displaced people were less likely to fall ill and were thus better able to remain economically productive. Death rate also reduced as there was no cholera outbreak like the case of 2022 and also due to UNHCR, WHO, Government and partners' support that increased the accessibility and utilization of medical services as well as expansion of vaccine coverage to children.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**By 2026, gaps in key socio-economic indicators are reduced and forcibly displaced persons and stateless, including women, girls and youth benefit from greater gender equality and empowerment.**

**By 2026, more people, forcibly displaced and stateless persons benefit equitably from increased opportunities in a green, diversified, transformative, resilient and inclusive economy that creates decent jobs in productive sectors.**

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Cameroon	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
Cameroon	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.37%	0.01%
Cameroon	3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48.00%	30.39%
Cameroon	3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71.00%	5.57%
Cameroon	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	15.00%	15.00%
Cameroon	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36.20%	34.59%
Gabon	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	4.26%
Gabon	3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	30.39%
Gabon	3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	20.00%
Gabon	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.93%	34.59%

In Cameroon, particularly in regions that host refugees, unemployment rate is high with two out of five refugees being in a situation of economic inactivity. Limited access to documentation, job opportunities, and low level of education and professional training hindered displaced peoples' enjoyment of full employment rights.

However, the intervention of UNHCR in collaboration with partners' support to refugees and host populations to build value chains (plant, forest, animal, and fishery) contributed to increased income and self-employment opportunities. With the proportion of 25 percent of Refugees and Asylum-seekers who had access to decent work, 53% of refugees employed got improved financial autonomy following the provision of bank accounts and accessibility to other financial institutions. With agriculture as the main source of employment, access to 988 hectares of land, and provision of tools for farming, livestock breeding and pisciculture to 1,630 farmers in Far North and East region with UNHCR support contributed to increased agricultural productivity.

Moreover, enhanced capacity building, mentoring and participation at trade and craft fairs, as well as the provision of starter kits boosted the entrepreneurship and opportunities of refugees. 18 refugees underwent training in motor mechanics in urban areas, and with the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP) support, refugees in the Far North, East and Adamawa region are effectively running cooperatives. The establishment of a livelihood platform and partnership with ILO, WFP, FAO, and GIZ contributed to the empowerment and inclusion of refugees.

UNHCR and partners in collaboration with the government supported access to the enrollment of 48,668 refugee children in primary education and 4,268 in secondary education. This achievement was realized through the strengthening of community-based approach that, organizing back-to-school campaigns, providing financial support to 334 teachers, and pedagogic materials to teachers in Minawao refugee camp. Also, 13,328 pupils in the Minawao camp were motivated by the provision of school materials, infrastructure and coordination which contributed to the improvement of quality education. Joint projects like Education Cannot Wait and Second Chance Education with other UN agencies contributed to improved education in conflict-affected zones as 13,333 refugee children were kept in school.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**By 2026, conducive conditions in countries of origin will foster return in safety and dignity.**

### Expand access to third country solutions (GCR Objective 3)

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Cameroon	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,880	3,049
Cameroon	4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	173	878
Cameroon	4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	6
Cameroon	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24	5
Gabon	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2	3,049
Gabon	4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Gabon	4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	6
Gabon	4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	0	0
Gabon	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10	5

More refugees and asylum seekers had access to durable solutions composed of voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and complementary pathways (medical evacuations, family reunification, labor mobility and educational opportunities) and local integration.

Out of 10,000 refugees that expressed intention to return, 3,049 refugees voluntarily returned in dignity and safety to their country of origin (Nigeria, Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad), thanks to UNHCR and its partners collaboration with the government. The result demonstrates an increment in voluntary repatriation of 2,036 refugees from 2022. Returnees included mostly urban refugees, 96% of whom were Central Africans, and 4% from Chad. In the Far North region, UNHCR facilitated the return of 1,319 individuals (347 households) to Borno State, Nigeria. In the East and Adamawa Regions 1,613 CAR refugees benefited from voluntary repatriation to CAR. UNHCR and its implementing partners took the lead role in collaboration with the government of Cameroon and in the countries of origin to ensure the success of the voluntary repatriation process. High level of sensitization activities motivated many refugees to request for voluntary repatriation.

During the reporting period, 923 refugees (493 females and 430 males) were resettled from Cameroon to various countries thanks to UNHCR's interventions and advocacy with an increase of over 200 refugees compared to 2022 departures. Over 65% of the departed refugees in 2023 had been submitted under the category of survivors of violence and or torture and 20 % of refugees were under urgent medical needs. Resettlement opportunities accorded the refugees an opportunity to restart their lives, live in safety and dignity.

Resettlement was complemented by safe and regulated avenues in 2023 resulting to six refugee students who were accepted to pursue their master's degrees in France and Germany with 5 refugees whose residency status is granted or confirmed. Despite this effort, less than half of the 18 targeted refugees benefitted from the scholarship opportunities. The major setback to attaining this objective was the lack of biometric readable travel documents (CTDs).

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts



The political situation in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Cameroon, the countries covered by the UNHCR Multi-Country Office (MCO), was relatively stable in 2023 despite the putsch that overthrew the former President in Gabon. However, Cameroon's security situation continued to worsen in the Far North, Northwest (NW), and Southwest (SW) regions. Ongoing insecurity along borders with Nigeria triggered population movements in the Far North, NW, and SW regions. Non-state armed groups (NSAGs) attacks and insurgency including counterinsurgency from National Defense Forces displaced over 13,000 Nigerian refugees to the Minawao camp in the Far North and tens of thousands Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the NW and SW regions. The humanitarian access shrank, and the period between July and November was recorded as the worst in terms of protection of civilians as the rate of attacks increased with the number of affected populations who could not have access to protection services because of the high level of insecurity. Access to the displaced population remained tenuous, undermining protection responses and solutions. Natural disasters, such as heavy rains, landslides, seasonal floods, and road destruction also triggered population movements and further impeded humanitarian access.

The overall humanitarian situation is bleak as per Cameroon's 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) reports one out of six people living in Cameroon need humanitarian assistance and protection with a total of 4.7 million people in need. As of 31 December 2023, Cameroon hosted more than 478,000 refugees with 73% from the Central African Republic (CAR), 26% from Nigeria, and 1% coming from 40 different countries. The August 2023 IOM/OCHA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported 1,650,000 IDP and returnees. There was a 5% decrease in IDPs number and a 4% increase in returnees in NW & SW regions compared to 2022. High inflation attributed to the weakening of the value chain during the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war continued to affect the economies of the countries covered by the MCO. Furthermore, forcibly displaced persons were affected by the reduced humanitarian funding which necessitated a revision of existing UNHCR approaches and a shift towards complementarities with other humanitarian and development actors.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

With the efforts to 'deliver as one' and work as one, UNESCO and UNHCR organized a workshop in the Minawao camp for refugees and host communities to identify challenges and needs related to safeguarding cultural heritage in forced displacement. Against this backdrop, UNHCR participated in the 18th Conference on Cultural Heritage in Botswana, sharing the experience of Cameroon and advocating for the inclusion of heritage preservation in humanitarian responses. Discussions highlighted the importance of Minawao as a preservation site for over 20 languages spoken, with 90% of speakers residing in the camp. The partnership between UNHCR and ILO was impactful in the areas of livelihood, social cohesion, GBV, and HIV/AIDS prevention in the eastern regions, and it is expected in 2024 to improve access to decent employment for refugees.

The Peace Building Fund (PBF) project, a collaborative effort of FAO, UNDP, UNHCR, and IOM, was instrumental in improving stability, peace, and recovery in communities affected by intercommunal violence. The project's focus on 10 locations and the successful implementation of joint interventions, such as the restoration of justice and linkages between agricultural activities, demonstrated the importance of collective and concentrated interventions. UNHCR's continued collaboration with IOM on resettlement activities, health assessments, and international departures further underscored its commitment to collective action.

UNHCR's direct advocacy and collaboration with resettlement countries and embassies, such as France, Italy, Canada, and the USA, played a crucial role in developing complementary pathways in labor mobility, higher education, and family reunification. The organization's collaboration with field implementing partners and the government ensured the implementation of planned activities effectively. The involvement of Cameroonian authorities from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) in the Best Interest Determination assessments and decisions affecting separated and unaccompanied children further highlighted the organization's proactive approach. The support provided by the Cameroon government in issuing school certificates to children attending school also contributed to the successful reintegration of children into their country of origin upon return. UNHCR also collaborated with international organizations like the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the Cameroonian authorities to ensure civil documentation for the children under the repatriation process through the civil status registry centers.

The Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) funded by Education Cannot Wait has strengthened the resilience of the education system and increased opportunities for all girls and boys affected by the various crises in Cameroon to access inclusive quality education in a healthy, safe, and protective environment. This has been achieved through a multi-year investment of a consortium of grantees, including the Norwegian Refugee Council (\$3 million), Plan International (\$3.2 million), UNESCO (\$3.5 million), UNICEF (\$6.8 million), UNHCR (\$5.6 million) and the World Food Programme (\$2.9 million), in line with the Cameroonian government's plans for education in crisis-affected areas of the country. The impactful partnership through the MYRP will be instrumental in addressing gaps identified in 2023 in the education sector.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

**Forced displaced persons to UNHCR have access to asylum, registration and an identity document issued by the Government.**

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE (Effects of armed conflicts -registration and profiling - Civil registration)**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	55.46%	100.00%	86.74%
Cameroon MCO	1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	82.83%	80.00%	77.00%
Cameroon MCO	1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24.00%	80.00%	73.07%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

More forcibly displaced and stateless persons benefited from international protection in 2023 due to a conducive protection environment witnessed in the 4 countries covered by UNHCR MCO Cameroon though the target was not met due to operational constraints of funding and staffing. In this light, 87% of refugees and asylum seekers were registered on an individual basis, 77% of children under 5 years of age's births were registered with a civil authority and 73% of forcibly displaced and stateless persons benefited from legally recognized identity documents or credentials.

Furthermore, in partnership with the government's RSD authority, the Technical Secretariat, and other partners, UNHCR Cameroon organized registration and verification exercises across urban centers and regions including the East, Adamaoua, Centre and North regions. These efforts resulted in the identification and registration of over 35,000 individuals, comprising 11,500 newborns, 18,500 new arrivals from CAR and Nigeria, and approximately 5,000 new asylum seekers in 2023.

Additionally, UNHCR and Cameroon authorities conducted verification exercises mainly in the eastern regions, verifying approximately 126,000 refugees and asylum seekers. A total of 28,000 refugee cases were inactivated in the UNHCR database as they were not present during the verification. Subsequently, 90,000 refugees and asylum seekers obtained valid identification documents from UNHCR, while 124 refugees received Refugees ID Cards from the government in Douala. However, the UNHCR database proGres indicates that by the end of 2023, 73% of refugees possessed valid documents delivered by UNHCR. Collaborating with Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), 159 certificates served as substitutes for birth certificates, aiding individuals born in their home countries under UNHCR's mandate to fulfill various requirements such as school enrollment.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

**Forced displaced person to UNHCR have access to a procedure that meets international standards**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	749.00	60.00	366.00
Cameroon MCO	2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	100.00%	92.08%
Cameroon MCO	2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By the end of 2022, there was a large backlog of asylum seekers awaiting RSD procedures. In 2023, most of these asylum seekers were able to access RSD procedures, with an average processing time of about 11 months between registration and the first-instance asylum decision. In addition, 92% of asylum seekers had access to an effective appeal mechanism and legal advice following the rejection of their application at first instance. Subsequently, a few cases were processed using accelerated RSD procedures with an average time of 30 days. As a result of the "Coup de Poing" operation carried out between 2022 and 2023, the processing time from the first instance interview to the decisions was significantly reduced from 60 days in 2022 to 30-45 days in 2023. This remarkable achievement was made possible by strengthening the capacities of the Technical Secretariat (ST), which demonstrated its commitment to continuously improving its services. UNHCR actively supported the ST through training on simplified and accelerated procedures, and on using forms for fast-tracking manifestly unfounded applications. 98% of the 2021 backlog was cleared.

Asylum seekers' access to appeal procedures was also guaranteed, with 92% of appeals processed in 2023. UNHCR continued its advocacy efforts towards the Cameroonian government for the full transfer of the refugee status determination process to State authorities. Consequently, Applicants are obtaining status clarification much faster and if recognized as refugees, it also opens perspectives more rapidly for their protection, assistance, and durable solutions.

Also, asylum seekers are now treated with more fairness, efficiency, and dignity in Cameroon. These tangible improvements reinforce the protection of vulnerable persons forced to flee their country. Some challenges remain nonetheless for 2024, including staff departure at the Technical Secretariat (TS), the continuous arrival of new asylum applicants especially from Chad due to the socio-political crisis and Niger since the events of 27 July 2023, having overthrown the president, as well as, the lack of staff entirely dedicated to RSD, having generated a new backlog of over 10,000 persons. Decentralization of services and deployment of mobile processing units in rural areas will be welcome. Performance indicators were also established to make Technical Secretariat staff more accountable. And UNHCR plans to continue supporting initiatives to strengthen Technical Secretariat operational abilities. With these combined efforts from UNHCR and the devoted Technical Secretariat, the way for the consolidation of achievements and further improvements in deadlines and quality of asylum case processing in Cameroon in 2024 has been paved.

## 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**Forcibly displaced and stateless to UNHCR benefit from protection offered by international, regional and national legal instruments and frameworks adopted and promulgated by the**

**government**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not yet aligned ≤69 points	Broadly aligned: ≥ 90 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points
Cameroon MCO	3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Stateless Persons	Not yet aligned ≤69 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, the advocacy made by the Cameroon Multi-Country Office and key partners for displaced and stateless people to benefit from the international protection offered by international, regional and national legal instruments and frameworks adopted and promulgated by Cameroon recorded the following results: \*Sao Tome et Principe enacted the instruments of ratification of four international conventions: the two Statelessness Conventions, the 1969 Refugee Convention, and the 2009 Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The accession to these four conventions contributes to improving the legal framework for the protection of refugees, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons and provides a robust foundation for collaborative efforts to address these gaps. On 15 January 2024, Sao Tome officially deposited its instruments of accession to the two statelessness Conventions.

In Cameroon, the Ministry of Justice and UNHCR organized a workshop on statelessness in October 2023, which was attended by various stakeholders with diverse profiles and the regional focal point on statelessness from Dakar. Several recommendations were made on the legislative, operational, strategic, and structural levels. The most important being that which recommends the acceleration of Cameroon's accession to two statelessness Conventions, preferably by 2024, and of which the representatives of the services of the Prime minister, of MINJUSTICE and MINREX have committed to carrying out the necessary follow-up. The workshop also provided an opportunity to strengthen participants' knowledge on this subject, which remains insufficiently known by institutional and non-institutional actors active in activities related to issues such as nationality, civil status and involuntary displacement.

In December 2023, a workshop was organized by the Ministry of Justice, ICRC, and UNHCR to accelerate the domestication of the Kampala Convention ratified by Cameroon and enhanced IDP protection. The said workshop was attended by almost all key actors from public administrations, NGOs, civil society, and agencies of the United Nations system. As a result, the domestication process will be monitored by a committee set up for this purpose. The workshop provided an opportunity to strengthen participants' knowledge of the protection of internally displaced persons.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

### LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Response and prevention of VBG

**Protection monitoring is established and effective in relevant locations**

**Women and young girls and boys are protected from all forms of violence and discrimination against them in all areas of public life. (UNSDCF)**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	37.40%	37.00%	100.00%
Cameroon MCO	4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.40%	50.00%	100.00%
Cameroon MCO	4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.20%	100.00%	47.00%
Cameroon MCO	4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	IDPs	10.10%	23.00%	27.00%
Cameroon MCO	4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.10%	25.00%	27.00%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite not reaching some targets, the rate of gender-based violence (GBV) greatly reduced in 2023 as more forcibly displaced and stateless persons were able to access available GBV services WITH 47% not accepting violence against women and 27% satisfied with GBV case management services. In Cameroon, the primary objective for 2023 was to enhance the protection environment by disseminating GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) tools. This involved building the capacity of ministry staff in GBVIMS, strengthening coordination, reviewing strategy and SOP documents according to the GBV policy, and reinforcing prevention, mitigation, and response. The strategy to fight against GBV in situations of forced displacement for 2023-2026 was reviewed and updated with input from the UNHCR and partners, UN agencies, and the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF). The objective of this update was to provide a roadmap for strengthening GBV programming for forcibly displaced people and building a solid foundation for developing specific action plans for each area of intervention. Thus, GBV survivors of number 2,124 received medical, legal, judicial, and psychosocial support.

GBV incidents mainly affected women (97%) and the most frequent incidents were denial of resources and service opportunities (41%), physical assault (19%), psychological and emotional violence (16%), rape (15%), forced marriage (5%) and sexual assault (4%). The protection environment related to GBV has improved slightly because of various capacity-building and awareness-raising activities as well as multi-faceted and coordinated responses. Similarly, advocacy actions have been carried out with local and traditional leaders and other relevant stakeholders to end harmful traditional practices.

The positive parenting program, led by MINPROFF in partnership with all stakeholders and funded by key donors, worked with families through awareness-raising and educational talks to encourage them to adopt positive behavior to reduce harmful traditional practices such as child marriage. Moreover, a positive mentality change was experienced due to the high engagement of community, religious, and traditional leaders, in verifying the age of those getting married which helped to reduce the incidence of forced and early marriages from 10% in 2022 to 6.5% (with rates dropping from 8% to 5% for those under the age of 18) in 2023. This approach has also helped to decrease gender-based violence (GBV) in general, with an increase of approximately 8% in reported cases compared to the previous year. Furthermore, there has been a noticeable shift in the community's attitude towards seeking help in response to rights violations. This is evidenced by the fact that 7.5% of survivors of sexual violence opted for legal support in 2023.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection



## LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE-Protection of Children

**The capacities of the social protection system are built to adequately address the needs of children, teenagers, youth, women and people left behind, with a view to reducing inequalities (UNSDCF)**

**The capacities of the social protection system are built to adequately address the needs of children, teenagers, youth, women and people left behind, with a view to reducing inequalities (UNSDCF)**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	IDPs	36.20%	100.00%	100.00%
Cameroon MCO	5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36.20%	100.00%	100.00%
Cameroon MCO	5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	30.00%	70.00%	31.43%
Cameroon MCO	5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.12%	70.00%	31.00%
Cameroon MCO	5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	IDPs	80.00%	100.00%	19.01%
Cameroon MCO	5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.00%	100.00%	18.99%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Social protection systems play a crucial role in improving human capital, empowering people, and reducing poverty, and vulnerability. UNHCR has contributed to building the social protection systems' capacity to address the needs of children, teenagers, youth, women, and marginalized people, to reduce inequalities. UNHCR supported Best Interests Procedures to identify children at heightened risk, and 100% of these children received support, which helped reduce child protection risks. Best Interests Determination (BID) Panels received technical support through capacity-building provided to communities to improve prevention, identification, and follow-up of protection cases. UNHCR partners received training to facilitate activities in line with the assessments of best interest using UNHCR database. In the Far North, UNHCR and its partners worked together to improve the child protection system and strengthen the capacities of child Protection Sub-Groups. The participation of parents and children helped reinforce the smooth running of community child protection mechanisms. Dedicated infrastructure was rehabilitated to ensure safety and confidentiality in line with child protection principles.

Moreover, 31% more children participated in community-based child protection programs, a slight increase in the attendance rate at Child-Friendly Spaces. More child protection incidents identified using child-friendly feedback mechanisms resulted in positive behavior change in refugee, host, and IDP communities as they contributed to identifying child abuse cases. 996 Best Interests Assessments (BIA) were carried out, and 191 BID reports were produced. Compared to 2022 (89), there was an improvement in the best interest procedure, which recorded 3,343 cases in 2023. This was due to the support provided to foster families, the strengthening of the best interest procedure, and the holding of the BID panels. This raised awareness of children's rights and provided access to child protection services, including access to education and the facilitation of providing birth certificates for children. This also facilitated their access to durable solutions like voluntary repatriation and resettlement. In 2023, eight (8) refugees, including four girls, took part in the 34th session of the Children's Parliament organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs during which they exchanged views with their peers and raised issues faced by refugee children, with National Assembly members and the Ministries responsible for children. Today, State services are willing to integrate refugees into their programming similarly to national citizens.

Although the target was not reached, 19.9% of unaccompanied and separated children benefited from appropriate alternative care arrangements. Additionally, children at heightened risk were supported by a Best Interests Procedure, with 31% participating in community-based child protection programs.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

**Forcibly displaced and stateless to UNHCR have fair and equitable access to justice**

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Access to justice**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

More Forcibly displaced and stateless persons benefited from fair and equitable access to justice in 2023. UNHCR provided legal assistance to forcibly displaced persons in total, 1,058 individuals received legal assistance: 310 were assisted in Douala, 185 in Maroua, 396 in Bertoua, and 167 in Yaounde. The main concerns addressed were civil and political rights (threat to physical integrity, arbitrary arrest, and illegal custody), economic and social rights, nonpayment of salaries, and wrongful dismissal).

UNHCR and partners intervention, which includes advocacy efforts, capacity-building by humanitarian actors in collaboration with administrative and judicial authorities, field visits, awareness-raising among beneficiaries about their rights, and legal representation, have made strides towards improving access to fair justice for forcibly displaced people. This has been achieved through the involvement of refugee communities, prisons, and border monitoring, advocacy for freedom of movement, raising awareness on the rights and duties of refugees, and highlighting the civil and humanitarian nature of asylum.

Improvement has been particularly evident in civil and military courts, as stipulated in Article 2, paragraph 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the preamble to Law No. 96/06 of 18 January 1996, revising the Constitution of Cameroon. Thus, 65 significant protection incidents have been reported, and 90 protection cases identified on the field were referred to the various protection services during the 82 protection monitoring field missions done in the Eastern facade. 4 GBV cases ended in 2023 with the conviction of the perpetrators and compensation for damages, although there had not been a single conviction linked to GBV during the previous two years. Consequently, survivors of GBV are increasingly willing to come forward to denounce, and the tendency for perpetrators to go unpunished is reducing. Overall, around 50 refugees were acquitted and released, including 13 people who were sentenced to life imprisonment in Maroua.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

**Communities are mobilized to ensure gender equality and progress in the empowerment of young people, women, girls, and other vulnerable groups**

**Community based approach is strengthened and effective in relevant locations**

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Peaceful co-existence**



Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	IDPs	62.00%	64.00%	53.00%
Cameroon MCO	7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.00%	70.00%	70.00%
Cameroon MCO	7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	47.40%	60.00%	47.01%
Cameroon MCO	7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	47.40%	60.00%	53.06%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

High mobilization of communities by UNHCR in 2023 promoted gender equality and recorded progress in the empowerment of young people, women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. In this light, 70% of forcibly displaced and stateless persons had access to effective feedback and response mechanisms. Consequently, ownership and sustainability were enhanced through the establishment and support of 38 community-based mechanisms that met the needs of hard-to-reach populations and ensured the participation of all vulnerable groups in targeted areas. This was done through Cash for Protection to address the most urgent need of victims of human rights violations, including GBV survivors and persons at risk of GBV, as well as children at risk. On the other hand, the establishment of the one-stop shop in Yaoundé contributed to improved well-being as UNHCR and its partners offered all services in one place and the services registered significant participation of 1,355 persons, including 57% of women.

In addition, women's economic power was improved by providing 300 women and girls cash for start-up kits to start small income-generating activities, vocational training in various fields, and reinforcement of protection committees, which consequently contributed to the reduction of gender-based violence. In the Far North, improved accountability to communities because of assessment was shared with the displaced communities for evidenced-informed decision-making and a greater voice in the representation of their needs.

On the other hand, 53% of active female participants were placed on leadership structures, highlighting a 45% increase from 2022. Consequently, they became strong advocates on issues related to women's rights. In Logone-Birni (PBF), women were included as members of customary courts. They were accepted in their communities as land and property owners and traditional village customary leaders.

The Government also reinforced the established community-based mechanism by legalizing the Committee for Refugees in the Communes of Cameroon. Equally, community development was achieved because 36 community protection plans were produced with the support of the existing 44 Community Protection Committees in collaboration with a decentralized local council.

Moreover, improved economic empowerment for more community members, especially women, was realized through the identification and validation of 08 quick-impact projects by the community structures. These projects enhanced peaceful coexistence and quality of life for forcibly displaced people and host communities. Finally, improved community feedback was realized through the establishment and support of 74 community-based complaints, feedback, and response mechanisms, building the capacity of community committees, resulting in 65% of displaced persons access to safe and effective feedback and response mechanisms, whereby enhancing trust and confidence between the persons we serve and UNHCR and partners.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE-People with special needs benefit from assistance appropriate to their situation allowing them to access basic social services of quality in an equitable and sustainable manner in order to realize their full human potential and increase their social and economic well-being.**

**Population in need benefit from assistance appropriate to their situation allowing them to access basic social services of quality in an equitable and sustainable manner**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	19.88%	38.00%	38.20%
Cameroon MCO	8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	38.00%	52.12%
Cameroon MCO	8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	20.00%	20.67%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, despite the challenges in reaching targets, UNHCR impacted refugees and asylum seekers' lives by providing quality social services equitably and sustainably through cash transfers or in-kind assistance, and material support (non-cash) to mitigate protection vulnerabilities. Furthermore, a total of 36,550 persons received in-kind food assistance support, which addressed immediate food security concerns and laid the foundation for sustainable resilience. This contributed to the prevention of malnutrition and met the energy needs of the people we serve. Furthermore, 27 % of food assistance distributions in which the composition of the food basket met the recommendations of the latest needs assessment, including a JAM, was provided by UNHCR. In Minawao camp, 11/12 monthly food distributions were carried out. On average, 60% of the food basket, or 1,350 Kcal (381g/day), was distributed to 73,2347 refugees. Regarding contributions, WFP's logistical prowess and nutritional expertise, along with local NGO support, enhanced the success of interventions. The impact was reflected in a survey that demonstrates a 40% improvement in food security among beneficiaries, as well as personal stories that highlighted the direct benefits to their lives.

UNHCR supported 18,492 people with cash for NFIs, exceeding their initial target of 15,000, contributing 19.6% of the total 2023 response in the NW/SW regions. Emphasis was put on the most vulnerable, and the cash allowed them to buy NFIs of choice, thus improving their dignity and well-being. Shelter and NFIs were provided to 93,509 people - 33.8% of the targeted affected population (276,620 persons)-in four regions. Cash assistance reached 12,517 persons to cover their basic needs. This assistance was provided in the form of multi-purpose cash to vulnerable refugees, IDPs, and host community individuals, including survivors of gender-based violence, women, and girls at risk, enabling them to build resilience, access basic social services such as medical and legal care, and meet immediate protection needs. It also reduced their exposure to negative coping mechanisms, helping to restore their dignity and well-being. In addition, 17,393 students received cash for education – to pursue their studies, and 2,250 households of 11,796 persons received cash grants to kick-start income-generating activities and support the creation of joint economic initiatives. 2,041 households of 12,204 persons received cash for shelter, and 4,018 households of 24,507 persons received cash for non-food items to improve their living conditions and dignity while reducing protection risks.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**Institutional and community actors are equipped to design and implement inclusive, integrated and innovative actions to improve the state of the environment and biodiversity and contribute to the fight against climate change. (UNSDCF)**

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Shelter and infrastructure - Forcibly displaced and stateless to UNHCR have access to housing appropriate to their displacement situation, within a framework that meets national standards in terms of town planning**

**Population have access to housing appropriate to their displacement situation, within a framework that meets national standards including land use planning**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	30.00%	67.00%	75.38%
Cameroon MCO	9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	75.00%	82.20%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Even though more forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Cameroon accessed adequate shelter within a framework that meets international humanitarian standards, national building code and urban planning, the 2023 target was not met due to reduced funding and scarcity of resources.

The 12,204 forcibly displaced and stateless persons who received cash for transitional shelter registered improved access to housing that supported the construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of shelters and houses. This enabled households to rehabilitate their transitional shelter. Nevertheless, compared to 2022, there was a 25% increase in the proportion of habitable and affordable housing for refugees and a 3% increase for IDPs and returnees in 2023.

Additionally, with revitalized committees and capacities, 210 refugees formed 7 housing assistance committees and benefited from a series of capacity-building training. The support provided by UNHCR allowed these committees to self-rehabilitate 278 transitional shelters and self-construct 188 others, thereby contributing to the improvement of access to quality housing for 1,865 refugees.

Furthermore, a total of 25 construction tool kits were distributed. In the Departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Danay, and Mayo Tsanaga, the provision of shelter assistance to forcibly displaced persons had a profound impact. It enabled 4,127 IDPs and 45,600 refugees to regain a sense of belonging, dignity, security, and trust and significantly reduced overcrowding, thereby improving their living conditions.

The provision of shelter was done through the distribution of 4,000 roof kits, the installation of 2,763 tents at the camp, and cash assistance for displaced people in Mayo Tsanaga and Mayo Danay. This provided protection against weather and external threats that they faced at the transit center and, community shelters for refugees, and collective housing for displaced persons.

In Eastern Façade (North, Adamaoua and East regions), refugees' access to quality housing improved by 1%, thereby strengthening the protection of 1,350 of the most vulnerable.

For refugees living outside of camps, the INGO NRC improved access to quality housing for 363 vulnerable people (including 277 refugees and 86 people from the host community) in the locality of Nyabi, Batouri district. This change was achieved by constructing 57 permanent shelters (including 44 for refugees and 13 for the host community).

These impactful actions were made possible through the generous funding from key donors, marking UNHCR's significant contribution to the shelter cluster for the response of IDPs and returnees. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of collective action in addressing the needs of the displaced persons.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**Children under five, pregnant and lactating women, teenagers, the elderly and vulnerable communities have increased and equitable access to safe, nutritious, adequate, diversified and secure food and malnutrition prevention services. (UNSDCF)**

**Increased equitable and sustainable access of children under five, pregnant and lactating women, teenagers, the elderly and vulnerable communities to safe, nutritious, adequate, and malnutrition prevention services**

**Increased equitable and sustainable access of newborns, children, teenagers, women and men to quality health services for prevention and treatment (UNSDCF)**

**The capacities of the national health system are strengthened to provide essential, high-quality services to all, and respond effectively to emergencies and epidemics. (UNSDCF)**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.74%	95.00%	98.40%
Cameroon MCO	10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.20%	95.00%	96.40%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Even though more forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Cameroon accessed adequate shelter within a framework that meets international humanitarian standards, national building code and urban planning, the 2023 target was not met due to reduced funding and scarcity of resources.

The 12,204 forcibly displaced and stateless persons who received cash for transitional shelter registered improved access to housing that supported the construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of shelters and houses. This enabled households to rehabilitate their transitional shelter. Nevertheless, compared to 2022, there was a 25% increase in the proportion of habitable and affordable housing for refugees and a 3% increase for IDPs and returnees in 2023.

Additionally, with revitalized committees and capacities, 210 refugees formed 7 housing assistance committees, benefited from a series of capacity-building training. The support provided by UNHCR allowed these committees to self-rehabilitate 278 transitional shelters and self-construct 188 others, thereby contributing to the improvement of access to quality housing for 1,865 refugees.

Furthermore, a total of 25 construction tool kits were distributed. In the Departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Danay, and Mayo Tsanaga, the provision of shelter assistance to forcibly displaced persons had a profound impact. It enabled 4,127 IDPs and 45,600 refugees to regain a sense of belonging, dignity, security, and trust and significantly reduced overcrowding, thereby improving their living conditions.

The provision of shelter was done through the distribution of 4,000 roof kits, the installation of 2,763 tents at the camp, and cash assistance for displaced people in Mayo Tsanaga and Mayo Danay. This provided protection against weather and external threats that they faced at the transit center, community shelters for refugees, and collective housing for displaced persons.

In Eastern Façade (North, Adamaoua and East regions), refugees' access to quality housing improved by 1%, thereby strengthening the protection of 1,350 of the most vulnerable.

For refugees living outside of camps, the INGO NRC improved access to quality housing for 363 vulnerable people (including 277 refugees and 86 people from the host community) in the locality of Nyabi, Batouri district. This change was achieved by constructing 57 permanent shelters (including 44 for refugees and 13 for the host community).

These impactful actions were made possible through generous funding from key donors, marking UNHCR's significant contribution to the shelter cluster for the response of IDPs and returnees. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of collective action in addressing the needs of the displaced persons.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

**Increased access of children, teenagers, youth, especially girls, and vulnerable groups to inclusive quality education, including literacy training. (UNSDCF)**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	5.00%	6.02%
Cameroon MCO	11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	29.57%	29.00%	30.23%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Some children, teenagers, youth, especially girls, and vulnerable groups had access to inclusive quality education, including literacy training, which led to an improved level of education although the target was not met due to limited material, technical and financial resources. Despite the challenges, 6% of forcibly displaced and stateless persons enrolled in tertiary and higher education while 30% enrolled in the national education system. In sum, 48,668 refugee children were enrolled in primary and 4,257 in secondary school, out of the 174,890 school-age children in these two cycles. Interventions made by the government, UNHCR and partners have contributed to reaching 30% of refugee children and adolescents enrolled in public primary and secondary schools in Cameroon.

The government of Cameroon accelerated the finalization of the national education sector strategy 2022-2030, which also considers refugees in Cameroon. The Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP), which targeted 23% of refugees across the country also provided education to some refugees through activities like training of head teachers, training of district inspectors and mayors from the 64 target communes on the aims of the programme and the collection of data on education. Their involvement in programme, through these trainings, has facilitated access to education for refugee children and adolescents. Compared to 2022's enrolment rate which stood at 29%, there was an increase of around 1% in the number of children whose access to education was facilitated.

UNHCR and partner interventions focused on providing support that centers around people. This includes support for 96 children living with disabilities, cash transfers for 7,332 children to pay for their school fees, hygiene, and school kits, and distribution of school uniforms to children in the Minawao camp. The approach strengthened the community-based approach, which involved organizing back-to-school campaigns, providing financial support to 334 teachers, and teaching materials to teachers in Minawao. Additionally, school materials were provided to a total of 13,328 students in the Minawao camp. The interventions also focused on institutional capacity-building, such as equipping classrooms with desks, rehabilitating school infrastructure, and coordination between stakeholders in the education sector. In higher education, UNHCR's interventions, in collaboration with its partner Plan International and the Ministry of Higher Education, facilitated access to higher education for 6% of young refugees in Cameroon. The Ministry has been heavily involved in the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI programme) currently providing scholarships to 86 university students, running workshops and monitoring it through its focal point.

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Forcibly displaced and stateless to UNHCR, as well as the host populations in the host areas or villages, have sufficient access to adequate hygiene and sanitation services, and to quality drinking water in quantity**

**People we work for and with, as well as the host populations, have access to adequate hygiene, sanitation services, drinking water in quality and quantity**



Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.14%	85.00%	99.30%
Cameroon MCO	12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	40.00%	42.06%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

A great number of the people we serve have accessed adequate hygiene, sanitation services, and drinking water in quality and quantity through UNHCR's provision of basic drinking water services and safe household toilets to forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Providing basic drinking water services to 99% of refugees improved health status, livelihood, and security in 2023 for forcibly displaced and stateless persons together with host populations due to high access to adequate hygiene, sanitation services, and drinking water in quality and quantity. An average of 14 liters per person was provided per day. This highlights an increase of 6% from 2022 due to quality maintenance of the water network, increased supply of potable water by the Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (Camwater), installation of Real-Time Monitoring (RTM), fixing of broken hand pumps, awareness-raising campaigns, capacity building, and improving water fetching points proximity.

On the other hand, 36% of refugee households got safe access to family latrines, demonstrating a 5% increase from 2022. However, despite the progress made, the target of 45% was not achieved due to the increased number of newly arrived refugees and the inability to replace filled latrines. Despite these setbacks, actions taken still positively impacted refugee and host population lives as follows:

Reduced level of GBV following protection services provided to women and girls and

The promotion of good hygiene practices, adequate availability of clean water in quantity and quality, and improved nutritional status for children have reduced diarrhea and water-borne diseases.

Increased level of education due to children's gain of time from fetching water, giving them more time to go to school.

Menstrual hygiene was improved through distributing and sensitizing menstrual kits to girls and women of childbearing age.

The rate of open defecation was reduced from 34% to 22%, thereby improving the health and well-being of the people we serve.

Efforts were made to avoid cholera risks in Minawao by taking evidence-based actions such as strengthening the drinking water supply, implementing RTM, managing fecal sludge better, and raising awareness. 18,000 kg of compost was produced from latrine sludge to improve refugees' agricultural activities, leading to a 20% increase. Internal WASH expertise was used to support the Education Cannot Wait project, and UNHCR's leadership in sectoral coordination mechanisms was strengthened to include refugees. The transfer of responsibilities to municipalities and communities was intensified for better sustainability and appropriation of WASH infrastructures. The Camwater, Water and Energy Department, and the local authorities, in collaboration with the UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, and NGOs contributed to all the achievements.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

## Increased equitable and sustainable access of youth aged 15-35 to vocational training and learning opportunities, relevant to the productive sector. UNSDCF)

### LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Livelihoods and Self-reliance-

#### LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE-Market information mechanisms are strengthened

Refugee and host community self-reliance is strengthened (GCR Outcome 2.2) through Promising value chains (plant, forest, animal and fishery) with high export potential are developed and promoted (UNSDCF)

Refugees are able to actively participate in the social and economic life of host countries (GCR Outcome 2.1)

Very small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperative societies and start-ups, led primarily by youth, women and vulnerable groups, have better access to inclusive financing mechanisms (UNSDCF)

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.00%	40.00%	59.04%
Cameroon MCO	13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Cameroon MCO	13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.00%	66.00%	66.58%
Cameroon MCO	13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.00%	20.00%	40.00%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite the improved economic well-being of more forcibly displaced and stateless persons in 2023 following the strengthening of their self-reliance by promoting and developing promising value chains (plant, forest, animal, and fishery) with high export potential, the target was not reached. However, some efforts were made, such as the provision of accounts in banks or other financial institution or with a mobile money service provider to the people we serve. Creating a livelihood platform and establishing a new roadmap, including a coaching and monitoring system for agricultural cooperatives was the main progressive change in 2023. Rural beneficiaries in Far North and Eastern Facade saw an increased in their yields after 1,630 farmers (61% women) had access to 988 hectares of land and assets (tools and seeds), and livestock breeders and fish farmers. The production increased the quality and quantity of their food rations. About 60% of the total production was used for self-consumption, while 40% was sold on the local markets. More than 59% reported an increase in income, with notable improvements in food security and diversification of income-generating activities.

The success of the initiatives was due to collective effort of the beneficiaries. Farmers monitored the market and stored their agricultural produce to sell during periods of price spikes. They also secured seeds for the 2024 season. As the cooperatives' incomes increased, the members in the Far North opened savings accounts, totaling a sum of 14,176,730 XAF, which they used to cover their children's education and some of their healthcare expenses.

Technical skills enhancement, entrepreneurship mentoring, and trade and craft fair participation benefitted many individuals. The trade fair participation, in particular, has been instrumental in helping entrepreneurs expand their customer base and increase their revenues. Furthermore, MINEFOP has contributed to the Far North through capacity building on basic accounting techniques while technical supervision was provided to cooperatives in the East. In Yaoundé and Douala, vocational training and entrepreneurship mentoring significant impact on the urban refugees. These initiatives have effectively increased the employability of 74% of the target population in various fields, including paramedical, tailoring,

administrative, graphic design, refrigeration and air conditioning, automotive mechanics, pisciculture, and poultry farming. Establishing a livelihood platform improved the empowerment and inclusion of refugees, reaching up to 42% of the planning target. The new partnerships created with the ILO, WFP, FAO, and GIZ will undoubtedly enhance the targeting of beneficiaries and optimize interventions.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**LOGONE BIRNI EMERGENCY RESPONSE - IDPs are able to return and reintegrate socially and economically (GCR Outcome 4.2)**

**Refugees and IDPs are able to return and reintegrate socially and economically (GCR Outcome 4.2)**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR facilitated the acquisition of legally recognized identity documents to returnees which enabled them to enjoy their basic human rights. In addition, UNHCR assisted in the voluntary repatriation of 2,964 refugees to their country of origin. In the Far North, UNHCR facilitated the return of 1,319 refugees (347 households) to the Borno State, Nigeria, and in Bertoua, 1,613 CAR refugees living in the eastern side of Cameroon benefited from voluntary repatriation towards the CAR through the border points of Garoua Boulai and Gamboula. UNHCR and its implementing partners took the lead role in collaborating with the authorities in Cameroon and in the receiving countries to ensure the success of the voluntary repatriation process. Thanks to the efforts of the UNHCR's partners, NRC and DRC, and civil status centers, children involved in the repatriation operation were able to obtain civil documentation. Where necessary, Best Interest Determination assessments were conducted with the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) to identify children at risk.

State schools had issued school certificates to children attending school, which will help them continue their education and reintegrate successfully into their home country. The collaboration of all actors, including UNHCR, its partners, and the authorities, has ensured the success of the activities in 2023. UNHCR advocated for children and parents who did not possess civil documents despite being born in their country of origin. The Agency worked with authorities in the receiving countries to ensure that refugees departing from their country are provided with support to acquire civil documents as a part of the tripartite agreement and obligation of the receiving state, especially in Central African Republic. UNHCR also ensured that refugees who do not have government-issued documents receive UNHCR registration certificates. This certificate facilitates their registration in their country of origin upon their return.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Refugees have access to Resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries (GCR Outcome 3.2)**

**Refugees in need have access to resettlement opportunities in an increasing number of countries (GCR Outcome 3.1)**

Plan	Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
Cameroon MCO	15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	554	850	1,017
Cameroon MCO	15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.00	1.50	890.00



Cameroon MCO	15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2	7	6
--------------	---	-----------------------------	---	---	---

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, more refugees enjoyed their full human rights after leaving their asylum countries for other countries. They got access to complementary pathways for admission to third countries and resettlement opportunities in an increasing number of countries. In the effort to realize this impact, 1,022 refugees in need were submitted by UNHCR for resettlement, with the average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority standing at 890 days, while the number of 6 forcibly displaced and stateless people were admitted through complementary pathways from the host country.

Furthermore, UNHCR has advocated with various resettlement countries to increase resettlement quotas and complementary pathways for opportunities for refugees in Cameroon. This resulted in allocating a resettlement quota of 850 individuals to Cameroon. By the end of the year, the operation exceeded the available assigned quota by submitting 1,022 individuals, and the USA accommodated the extra submissions. Recorded delays caused by COVID-19 significantly affected several cases placed on hold in the preceding years. However, due to continued advocacy, the waiting time gradually improved in recent years. For instance, in 2023, approximately 115 refugees submitted to various resettlement countries during the year received positive decisions and departed within eight months, while about 328 refugees departed within a year.

UNHCR supported the departure of 923 refugees, primarily to the USA, Canada, and France, which demonstrates a 30 % increase compared to 2022 of 710 individuals. The resettled refugees enjoy their rights on equal footing with the citizens of the countries that received them, as they received free education, health insurance and social security, vocational training, and better job opportunities. Consequently, their whole well-being improved sustainably as they enjoyed their required basic human rights. These achievements resulted in a positive mentality change towards resettlement actions due to organized anti-fraud campaigns and awareness-raising sessions targeted toward community and religious leaders and representatives of women, men, boys, and girls across the operation. Through partnership with the French Embassy and the University for Refugees Corridor program in France, six refugee students received scholarship awards to study in France and Germany. This opportunity will go a long way to increase their chances of securing employment globally, their likelihood of being empowered and becoming autonomous, and their ability to support their families and themselves.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

## Refugees are able to locally integrate socially and economically

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Cameroon's stable security and sociopolitical and economic environment have laid a strong foundation for refugee economic integration. A significant 85 percent of refugees live harmoniously and share resources with the host community. Since 2022, UNHCR's strategy has been instrumental in supporting refugees' legal and socioeconomic integration in Cameroon, marking a notable success in this endeavor.

Although Cameroonian authorities have yet to provide a permanent solution for local integration, except for celebrating mixed marriages, the Government supports socioeconomic activities that empower refugees. In the East and Adamawa zones, 930 households organized into 40 cooperatives engage in agricultural and livestock activities on 450 hectares of land. Additionally, 97 young people benefited from skills training funded by the UNHCR. In Douala and Yaoundé, 17 refugees participated in mechanic training and the skills they acquired facilitated refugees' employment and integration in Cameroon and beyond. UNHCR collaborated with six countries to find solutions for CAR refugees and Cameroon has already a sound protection framework for the legal integration of refugees since 2005. According to Law No. 2005/006 and decree 2011/389, refugees can enjoy the same rights as nationals and they can also apply for a residency permit, permanent residency, and naturalization.

UNHCR signed MoUs and established partnerships and collaboration with institutions to enhance refugee integration:

- Launch of the Durable Solutions Support Platform in CAR: Following the Regional Ministerial Conference on Solutions on Forced Displacement in the context of the Central African crisis organized in Yaoundé in 2022, UNHCR and the Governments of the CAR and Cameroon met and validated the launch of the coordination platform; Signature of an MoU with the Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies (BUCREP) guaranteeing the inclusion of refugees in the fourth general population and housing census in Cameroon; Launch of the digital platform "Opportunities for Refugees" under the patronage of the Minister for Employment and Vocational Training to showcase the skills and achievements of refugee graduates in Cameroon and help them find employment

opportunities. UNHCR advocated and successfully obtained the ability to enroll refugee women in universal health coverage, enabling them to access free treatment for malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis; with documentation, UNHCR advocated since 2022 and the Cameroonian Government has already issued 5,124 issued refugee identification cards to facilitate their protection and access to rights. The Forced Displacement Survey on the socio-economic profiling of refugee households under implementation in partnership with National Institute of Statistics will provide more information on access to housing, land, and inclusion of refugees into the National Social Protection System

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR established Standard Operating Procedure on complaints and feedback mechanisms to keep forcibly displaced people informed about the activities and the services available. The refugee population had access to safe and effective feedback and response mechanisms. The complaint management mechanisms positively impacted community governance by strengthening the involvement and participation of refugees in the design and implementation of assistance programmes.

The establishment of a one-stop shop offering all UNHCR services in Yaoundé provided refugees and asylum seekers with access to quality services in one place, reducing transport costs and waiting times. The Refugee Association - Comité de Réfugiés dans les Communes au Cameroun (CRCC)- was legalized and became operational in Yaoundé and Douala, allowing 84 refugees (51% women) to carry out small-scale advocacy work for protection. Women's participation in leadership and management structures also increased to 49%, compared to 28% in 2022. Women's overall community participation also increased as a

result of their membership in leadership committees. Participatory assessments were conducted in the Far North, Adamaoua, East, North-West, South-West, Littoral and Centre regions, allowing 4,255 (42% of women and girls) to identify their protection risks and propose prioritized solutions. Persons with disabilities were also prioritized during UNHCR protection and response activities to improve on condition and gain some level of dignity. For instance, they received special treatment during the shelters and NFIs cash assistance. Their positioning was facilitated on the distribution sites, and their items were transported in a secure and easily accessible location. These solutions included facilitating access to vocational training for young people, granting valid travel documents, increasing income-generating activities, improving healthcare access, increasing the number of teachers, and strengthening lobbying for refugee identity cards. Additionally, the CRCCs communicated more about their activities to encourage community involvement.

## Section 3: Resources

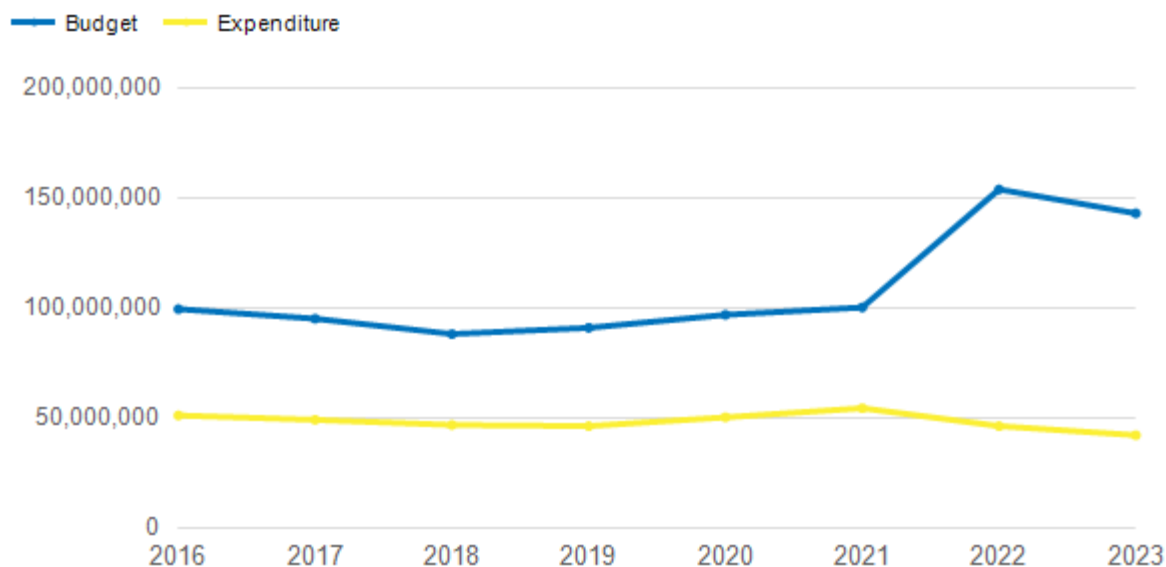
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

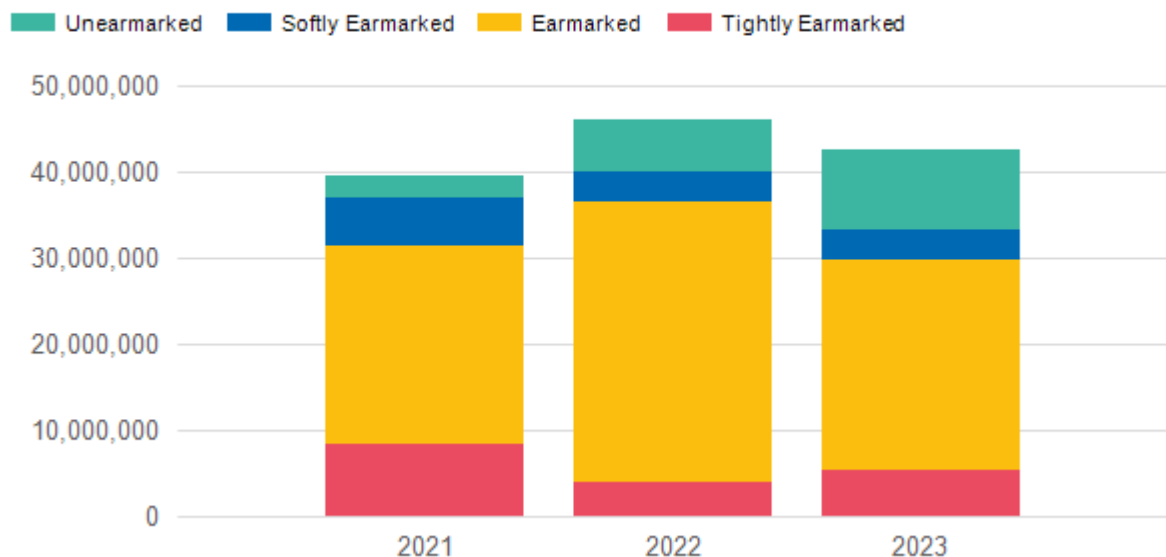
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	18,343,912	9,723,560	53.01%	9,723,560	100.00%
IA2: Assist	68,944,937	22,389,032	32.47%	22,389,032	100.00%
IA3: Empower	42,987,721	7,674,114	17.85%	7,674,114	100.00%
IA4: Solve	12,499,537	2,219,164	17.75%	2,219,164	100.00%
All Impact Areas		1,191,299			
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,776,108</b>	<b>43,197,168</b>	<b>30.26%</b>	<b>42,005,870</b>	<b>97.24%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	7,247,785	6,214,030	85.74%	6,214,030	100.00%
OA2: Status	1,634,141	1,548,210	94.74%	1,548,210	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	6,710,129	755,627	11.26%	755,627	100.00%
OA4: GBV	18,744,837	2,722,194	14.52%	2,722,194	100.00%
OA5: Children	3,392,657	2,375,124	70.01%	2,375,124	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,751,857	634,511	23.06%	634,511	100.00%
OA7: Community	5,565,437	1,045,783	18.79%	1,045,783	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	20,381,590	2,527,301	12.40%	2,527,301	100.00%
OA9: Housing	17,649,551	2,818,819	15.97%	2,577,509	91.44%
OA10: Health	5,655,463	3,311,073	58.55%	3,311,073	100.00%
OA11: Education	6,220,524	3,371,494	54.20%	2,451,497	72.71%
OA12: WASH	2,549,478	1,574,024	61.74%	1,574,024	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	14,353,484	2,393,683	16.68%	2,393,683	100.00%
OA14: Return	7,323,408	1,096,228	14.97%	1,096,228	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	4,021,925	706,167	17.56%	706,167	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	1,154,205	416,769	36.11%	416,769	100.00%
EA17: Systems	7,033,634	3,186,700	45.31%	3,186,700	100.00%
EA18: Support	7,617,130	6,115,163	80.28%	6,115,163	100.00%
EA20: External	2,768,873	354,275	12.79%	354,275	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		29,992			
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,776,108</b>	<b>43,197,168</b>	<b>30.26%</b>	<b>42,005,870</b>	<b>97.24%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

The implementation of the MCO Cameroon 2022-2026 Strategic Plan in 2023, despite the unfortunate decrease in funding over the past two years, is a testament to its resilience and adaptability. This decrease in funding results from overall humanitarian funding reductions and donor attention shifting elsewhere, but the plan has adapted to these challenges.

UNHCR’s 2023 requirements to provide essential protection and respond to the basic needs of forcibly

displaced and stateless persons totaled \$142.8 million, a 7 % decrease from 2022. However, the funding remained quite stable, at 30% in 2023 against 31% in 2022, thanks to the collective effort of our generous donors. These include government, inter-government, private sector, and UN pooled fund sources. Government donors, including the United States, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and the UK, provided 86 percent of funding, followed by UN funding with 12 percent (CERF, ECW, Joint UNAIDS, UN Peacebuilding Fund). UNHCR's top donors in 2023 remained the United States, followed by Germany and CERF.

Thanks to donor support, the operation was able to prioritize protection and solutions outcomes, including:

- Implement the Yaoundé declaration and find cross-border solutions for CAR refugees.
- Voluntary repatriation for 3,049 CAR and Nigeria refugees
- Resettlement of more than 923 refugees.
- Verification of over 126,000 and registered 35,000 new refugees.
- Gradual transfer of registration and RSD to the government counterpart.

The main expenditures by impact and outcome areas were Assist at 47% followed by Empower at 30%, Protect at 14%, and Solve at 9%. UNHCR focused on its protection mandate while coordinating with other UN agencies and humanitarian actors as well as government entities for the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in their programmes.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The operation has conducted its second year of strategic moment of reflection. During the workshop, stakeholders recommended MCO Cameroon to enhance its partnerships with governmental entities for the inclusion of refugees in the national programs. The recommendation is linked to additional commitments of the Government of Cameroon during the last Global Refugee Forum 2023 that took place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva. As a show case, the experience of the MoU between the Ministry of health and UNHCR on the provision of health has been flagged as a success show case. In this vein, it was recommended to extend partnership with MINDEVEL, MINPAT, World Bank and AfDB, EU and other development actors.

Regarding the implementation of outcomes, stakeholders recommended to focus on the protection monitoring of areas where UNHCR has closed office due the limited fundings. As like last year, it was recommended to prioritize and mobilize adequate resources to improve the quality of registration and documentation of refugees and asylum seekers and to conform to UNHCR standards. UNHCR strategy in dealing with refugee status determination cases has been effective in managing the backlog of asylum applications. In this regard, it was recommended to formalize collaboration with the three ministries of education, namely: the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB), the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP).



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)