

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women 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 Internationale* and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **Operational coordination:** The response for Central African refugees is managed in line with the *Refugee Coordination Model*. Sectorial groups have been established by UNHCR, covering the whole operational area. Local authorities have been very engaged in the management of the refugee operation. At the capital-level, UNHCR leads the Multi-Sector Operations Team for the Refugee Response and the national Protection Working Group, and actively participates in other relevant humanitarian coordination mechanisms and the Humanitarian Country Team.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR now requires US\$184 million for its operations in Cameroon and Nigeria – including US\$35.4 million needed urgently for critical life-saving assistance.** On **March 26**, an appeal was launched for donors to step up support for the half a million displaced Cameroonians who have survived over a year of ongoing violence in different parts of the country. It is estimated that more than 437,000 people are currently displaced in Cameroon due to the on-going crisis in the North West and South West regions, with an additional 35,000 Cameroonians forced to seek asylum in Nigeria. Having fled with very little or nothing, these persons of concern have sought refuge in impoverished host communities where food supplies are strained and with few facilities for health, education, water and sanitation. Underfunding and insecurity have continued to restrict protection and assistance activities to support the affected population within Cameroon and those in Nigeria are currently hosted in settlements and more than 47 villages along the border.
- Following violence in neighbouring CAR in March, many Central Africans sought refuge in Gbatoua-Godole and its environs (Nondigui and Tapawa) and other localities along the border in the Adamawa and East regions. A joint mission of WFP and UNHCR on **25 and 26 March** identified **694 asylum seekers** with urgent needs in shelter, NFI, nutrition and healthcare. In addition, on the Meiganga-Garoua-Boulai stretch, a further **85 asylum seekers** fleeing from violence in Koude were identified on **March 20**.
- The security situation in Cameroon's Far North Region continues to be volatile, particularly in border areas. An **increase in incursions** has been observed in March with the local population being the main target of attacks from Boko Haram armed groups. These attacks include looting, destruction of dwellings, killings, kidnapping for ransom or for forced recruitment as well as burning of villages and foodstuff. Nonetheless, increased military presence is noted especially in border localities with Nigeria for a defensive front against these attacks.
- **From 05 to 07 March, the Project Head for « Saving Maternal and New-born Lives in Refugee Settings» of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for Chad, Niger and Cameroon, Stephanie Gee, was on a working visit to Cameroon**, particularly to the East where the project is being implemented. She visited the Garoua-Boulai district hospital and the Gado Health Centre and exchanged with health personnel and community workers. Working with the implementing partner, AHA the project head oversaw the training of trainers on modules such as managing postpartum hemorrhage, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, basic care and reanimation for the new-born using the Low Dose High Frequency approach. Already into its 6th month of implementation, the kangaroo mother care system under the project is saving the lives of many premature and low birth weight babies with the use of kangaroo wraps.
- In the North West and South West Regions, the prevailing **security situation has been unpredictable**, with continuing reports of fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups, as well as shootings, kidnappings and destruction of property. **On 26 March, OCHA led a delegation consisting of UN Agencies to Bamenda**, in the North West Region to monitor the humanitarian situation in the region.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- The **UNHCR Country Representatives for Cameroon and Nigeria**, were from **25 to 28 March 2019**, on a field visit to the Far North Region, precisely in the Logone and Chari. During their mission, they met with administrative authorities and military officials. They exchanged with humanitarian actors and visited **the site in Goura, now completely cleared after the departure in late February of the majority of the 40,000 Nigerian asylum seekers** who had settled there. The visit continued to Rann in Nigeria where it was noted that although the Multinational Joint Taskforce is stationed there, Boko Haram remains active in the area and there is no humanitarian aid, thus leaving the population vulnerable. A visit to Ngambaru / Ngala Arab camp (Nigeria) saw a relatively safer haven although its capacity to host more people has been exceeded. IDPs continue to flock in to Ngala where they can have humanitarian assistance although the new arrivals complain of NFI and shelter needs. The two representatives further met with their Chadian counterpart to discuss the common security issues affecting the Lake Chad basin.
- On 28 March, the **Head of Unit for West and Central Africa for the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission, ECHO** was on a visit to Minawao camp accompanied by the Cameroon Desk Officer for the institution. They visited the Gourenquiel transit centre and other structures in the camp, including health, water and protection facilities. Discussions with the refugees' representatives focused on key concerns such as security, repatriation and autonomy etc. The mission also visited IDPs in Zamai to have an understanding of their humanitarian situation.
- **Celebrations to mark World Water Day 2019, on March 22 took place across the different refugee camps and host communities** in Cameroon in the presence of officials of the Ministry of Water and Energy and local representatives. Focus was on improving access to quality and quantity water supply whose overall average in the East for refugees stands at 13.5 litres/person/day. In the Minawao camp in the Far North, where the overall average is about 12l/p/d, issues also related to the environmental and climatic constraints limiting access to water were discussed. Nevertheless, plans are underway to improve the situation and ensure that the standard of **20L/p/d** is met.
- **Many refugees and members of the host community of Guiwa, East Region were made homeless** following **torrential rains on 30 to 31 March**. The strong winds not only destroyed houses but also classrooms of the government primary and secondary schools in Guiwa. Parents indicate that learning material for their children has also been completely destroyed. Households also lost reserves of foodstuff and many refugees have lost identity documents as well as birth certificates and other personal documents. **As of January 2019, the estimated number of refugees in Guiwa stood at 2,326.**
- **On March 21**, the second phase of the **Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) assistance to refugees** kick-started in the camps in Ngam and Borgop (Adamawa) and Gado and Garoua-Boulai (East). **As of 29 March, 17,243** beneficiaries had been reached in Gado and Garoua Boulai.
- Some **3,600 shelter kits have been distributed for the month of March in Meme and Manyu divisions, South West Region**, out of the total 4000 planned, the gap being due to access and other related issues.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

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