UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL UPDATE
April-June 2026

Cameroon Multi-Country Office (MCO)

Women in Minawao refugee camp learn bead-making to strengthen self-reliance ©UNHCR

STATISTICS / MAP (as of June 2026)

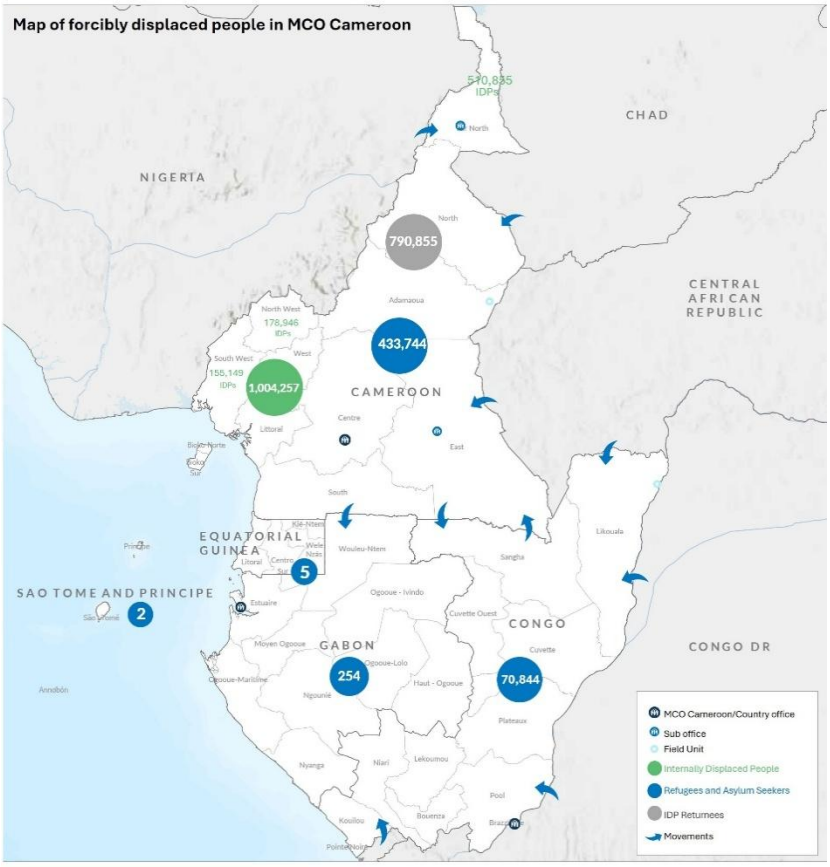
2,299,949
Forcibly displaced people

1,004,257
Internally displaced people

504,850
Refugees and asylum-seekers

790.842
IDP Returnees

UNHCR supports governments in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo (RoC), Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe to protect and assist forcibly displaced and stateless populations, expand access to asylum and essential services, and strengthen national protection systems, advocating for national inclusion, self-reliance and promoting durable solutions. Cameroon hosts the largest displaced population, while the RoC hosts over 70,800 refugees and asylum-seekers.



10,538
refugees registered

558
refugee returnees received cash assistance

43.942
refugee children in school

1.924
IDP returnees and refugees received shelter kits

1.863
families of returnees, received hygiene kit

4.175
people affected by floods received non-food items

Pre-registration for the issuance of Government-issued biometric refugee identity cards. ©UNHCR/Richard Atem

Operational Context

UNHCR Cameroon MCO operates in a complex protection environment shaped by protracted displacement, insecurity and evolving political dynamics.

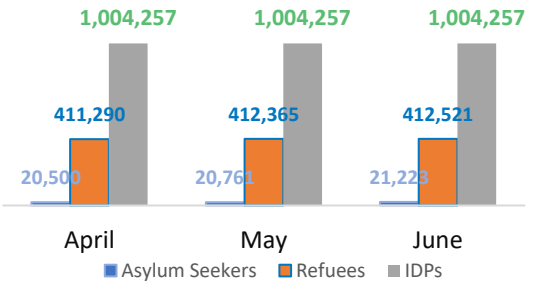
In Cameroon's North-West and South-West, remains volatile, with civilians facing heightened risks of kidnappings, extortion, arbitrary arrests, restrictions on freedom of movements and other human rights violations. In the Far-North, renewed attacks by non-State armed groups resulted in civilian casualties, abductions and fresh displacement, while humanitarian access remains constrained due to worsening insecurity and civilians face heightened protection risks, especially women and children.

These challenges unfolded against a changing political landscape. In Cameroon, preparations and delays for the legislative and municipal elections, were postponed until December 2026, while preparations continued for the electoral cycle. In April 2026, Parliament approved a constitutional amendment redefining presidential succession through the introduction of the office of the vice President, marking a significant shift in the country's institutional framework. Meanwhile, RoC's President, Denis Sassou Nguesso, was re-elected in March. Gabon continued its political transition that began in August 2023, following the successful completion of the presidential and legislative elections in 2025 that established the country's 5th Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe remained politically stable following peaceful presidential and legislative elections held on 19 July. Although the political developments did not significantly alter asylum space during the reporting period, they continued to shape the broader operational environment and engagement with national authorities.

Across the MCO, refugee arrivals from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria combined with localised insecurity, climate-related shocks, funding cuts and limited humanitarian access, placed increasing pressure on national systems and host communities, affecting the delivery of protection and basic services. As of June 2026, the MCO hosts 2,299,949 forcibly displaced and stateless persons, 44% of whom are IDPs, 34% IDP returnees, 22% refugees and asylum seekers. Cameroon hosts 97% of the of the total displaced population in the MCO, reflecting the continued scale of internal displacement alongside refugee movements from neighbouring countries. The RoC host more than 70,800 refugees and asylum-seekers, while Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe remained countries of asylum for smaller refugee populations.

CONTACTS
Caroline Gluck, Senior External Relations Officer, gluck@unhcr.org
Eunice Ohanusi, Associate Reporting Officer, ohanusie@unhcr.org
Links: Facebook @RefugeesCmr | *X @RefugeesCmr | https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/cmr*

Population Trend



Main achievements in sectors

Protection

Registration, Documentation and RSD

In Minawao camp in Cameroon's Far North Region, UNHCR in collaboration with the General Delegation for National Security (DGSN) and the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) carried out a joint refugee card issuance exercise, enrolling nearly 22,000 refugees, representing around 67% of the target population. Data cleaning and validation are ongoing with refugee cards expected to be issued in September 2026. The issuance of refugee ID cards will strengthen legal identity and documentation, facilitating refugees access to protection, basic services and socio-economic opportunities, while supporting their inclusion in national systems.

In June, UNHCR resumed efforts to reduce the refugee status determination (RSD) backlog conducting more than 480 interviews, reviewing over 73,000 case records and identifying more than 1,200 inactive cases for closure following due process. These efforts are expected to accelerate asylum processing and improve timely access to international protection and durable solutions.

In the RoC, UNHCR notified 29 asylum-seekers of their RSD decisions, enabling those recognised as refugees to access legal protection and assistance. In parallel, UNHCR's government counterpart, the National Committee for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) conducted preliminary interviews and facilitated asylum rights and obligations sessions for over 15,000 newly arrived asylum-seekers,

Refugee Verification

To enhance refugee documentation, UNHCR supported a large-scale refugee verification and biometric documentation exercise in Minawao refugee camp in Cameroon between April and May 2026. More than 51,000 refugees were verified, representing 65% of the target population, while nearly 11,000 refugee households were profiled to support evidence-based protection and collaboration with the DGSN, more than 18,600 refugees have received acknowledgement receipts and the exercise will strengthen the quality of refugee data, improved access to legal identity.

Protection Monitoring

UNHCR monitored more than 5,600 protection incidents across Cameroon's Far North region between January and June 2026. Persistent violations of the rights to property, life, alongside GBV and restrictions on freedom of movements and other protection risk were noted. More than 200 abductions were documented, reflecting the deteriorating protection environment and heightened risks facing civilians. The findings informed protection advocacy and the prioritisation of humanitarian responses in the most affected areas.

In the RoC, UNHCR and government counterparts assessed 6,341 newly arrived refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The findings informed humanitarian planning and prioritisation of interventions in health, education, livelihood and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Legal Protection and Access to Justice

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Caroline Gluck, Senior External Relations Officer, gluck@unhcr.org
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To strengthen access to justice for refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR provided legal counselling and support on issues including documentation, detention, family reunification, RSD, GBV, housing and employment in Douala. UNHCR strengthened collaboration with the Cameroon Human Rights Commission to improve the reception, referral and follow-up of urban refugee complaints while intervening in individual cases of arrest and detention to safeguard refugees' rights and promote due process. These efforts supported the gradual transition towards nationally led protection services.

In the RoC, UNHCR strengthened access to justice and legal protection by providing legal counselling and case management to more than 37 refugees and asylum-seekers, including support for detention cases, survivors of GBV and other individuals requiring legal assistance.

Child Protection
In Cameroon, to strengthen national protection systems and promote the inclusion of refugees in Government services, UNHCR worked closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) and other partners to incorporate refugee children into national child protection procedures. In June, an addendum to the national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for child protection case management was developed to ensure that refugee children at risk are systematically included in the national case management and durable solution processes.

To strengthen the inclusion of refugee children participation in decision-making processes affecting their lives, eight refugee children in Cameroon participated in the 27th Children's national Parliament, forum, where they joined their peers in presenting, recommendations to government officials on violence prevention, education and child well-being.

UNHCR supported the operationalisation of its partnership with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), through the validation of a joint 2026 work plan to strengthen protection services for forcibly displaced women and children.

Community-Based Protection
In Bertoua, Cameroon, UNHCR, and MINPROFF organised a joint workshop for government officials, UN agencies, civil society, refugee and IDP-led organisations to validate the community protection workplan, identify priority activities for implementation and strengthening coordination among stakeholders for the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in empowerment programmes.

In Bétou, RoC, 44 refugee girls participated in awareness sessions on child rights, GBV, prevention, sexual and reproductive health, and the importance of girls' education, improving their knowledge of available protection and referral mechanisms.

Statelessness
UNHCR supported the integration of statelessness priorities into Cameroon's National Action Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights (2026-2030). UNHCR also engaged with the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) in the validation of the Ministry's annual human rights report and the national action plan, reinforcing the inclusion of statelessness within the broader national human rights framework.

Education

To strengthen refugee inclusion in national education systems, UNHCR expanded access to higher education through strategic partnerships and scholarship opportunities. In April, UNHCR signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Bertoua to enhance refugee's access to higher education, certified training, research and academic services. As part of the

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agreement, the University committed to waiving tuition fees for around 100 refugee students during the 2026-2027 academic year.

UNHCR promoted South-South learning on refugee inclusion through an exchange visit by a Burundian delegation to Cameroon, showcasing good practices of co-schooling and school feeding programmes that enhance school enrolment and strengthen co-existence of refugees and host community.

Ten refugees in Cameroon were supported in successfully applying for scholarships under DAFI (the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative), increasing opportunities for refugee children to pursue higher education.

In RoC, through the World Bank-funded TRESOR platform, UNHCR strengthened the inclusion of refugees in local education governance. In Bétou, two refugee representatives were integrated into the management committee of the education district, enhancing refugees' participation in education planning and decision-making.

UNHCR and partner joint assessments across refugee hosting sites in the RoC, identified critical education needs arising from the continued influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including inadequate classrooms, school furniture and learning materials. Community consultations also highlighted growing demand for secondary, vocational and higher education opportunities, informing UNHCR and partners advocacy and to expand access to inclusive, quality education and strengthen opportunities for refugee youth.

Cash Assistance

To support reintegration and strengthen self-reliance, UNHCR provided multipurpose cash assistance of USD 43 per person to more than 500 Cameroonian returnees from Chad, enabling them to meet their immediate essential needs upon return. Some 16 refugees, enrolled in automotive mechanics training, received USD 250 each to cover transportation, accommodation and meals, facilitating their participation in vocational skills development. Twenty-four DAFI scholarship recipients each received USD 120 as a living allowance to support their essential needs while pursuing higher education

Health

As of 30 June, more than 100,000 refugees were enrolled in Cameroon's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) - a national health insurance scheme, with enrolment campaigns continuing to expand access to affordable healthcare. More than 55,000 refugees received healthcare services, including free or subsidised treatment for malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and maternal health. In addition, some 1,300 refugees continued receiving free antiretroviral therapy, while around 5,000 antenatal consultations and more than 2,300 skilled deliveries including 147 caesarean sections were supported.

Malaria and respiratory infections were the leading causes of morbidity, particularly among children under five, with 77 deaths recorded during the first six month of the year, mainly due to severe malaria and pneumonia. To address acute malnutrition, around 300 children were admitted for treatment with UNICEF support. UNHCR also strengthened access to specialised care for urban refugees through four agreements with public health facilities in Yaoundé and Douala, enabling more than 1,800 refugees to receive subsidised treatment. Preventive health campaigns reached more than 51,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with awareness messages on cholera and Ebola prevention.

Food Security and Nutrition

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Caroline Gluck, Senior External Relations Officer, gluck@unhcr.org
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In the RoC, UNHCR and World Food Programme (WFP) conducted a joint review of food distributions in refugee hosting sites to strengthen coordination and ensure the continuity of food assistance to refugees.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Amid the cholera outbreak in Likouala, RoC, UNHCR responded by advocating for the inclusion of refugees in the national response and supporting the chlorination and maintenance of three wells in Bétou including conducting sensitisation on hygiene practices, safe water practices. In a meeting with government counterparts, UNHCR underscored the need for safe access to clean water for new arrivals.

Livelihood

In RoC, 7,252 refugees and host community members were registered under the World Bank funded Social Protection and Productive Inclusion of Youth Project (PSIP) in Bétou, with 918 beneficiaries selected to receive livelihood support. The project promotes the inclusion of refugees in national protection programmes, expanding access to economic opportunities, strengthening self-reliance and fostering peaceful co-existence of refugees and host communities.

Solutions

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

UNHCR submitted 144 refugees for resettlement to third countries and facilitated the departure for 72 refugees to Canada, France and the United Kingdom. In parallel, five refugee students departed to Belgium, Italy and Rwanda, to pursue higher education through complementary pathways while 24 skilled refugees were referred by Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) for labour mobility opportunities. In addition, 11 refugees were reunited with family members in France through family reunification procedures.

In the RoC, UNHCR strengthened refugees access to information on durable solutions by conducting three awareness sessions on resettlement and complementary pathways. The sessions provided refugee communities with reliable information on eligibility criteria, procedures and available complementary pathways.

Voluntary Repatriation

While no organised voluntary repatriation movement took place between April-June due to the suspension of return convoys to CAR, UNHCR continued voluntary repatriation counselling intention surveys and durable solutions assessments to support informed decision-making. During the first half of 2026, 3,701 refugees chose to voluntarily return to Nigeria and CAR, while more than 15,000 CAR refugees expressed intentions to return when conditions permit.

UNHCR advanced regional coordination on durable solutions for refugees through the dissemination of findings from an intentions survey covering more than 300 CAR refugee households in Cameroon. The survey confirmed that most refugees do not currently intend to return. The survey helps to inform evidence-based programming, geographic targeting and the prioritisation of civil documentation, social cohesion and eco-economic inclusion initiatives.

UNHCR supports the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration and the Cameroon-CAR Tripartite Agreement to advance durable solutions for CAR refugees, including voluntary repatriation. The MCO progressed the implementation of UNHCR's Global "50 by 35" vision, aiming to halve the number of refugees in protracted displacement reliant on humanitarian aid by 2035, through developing a national roadmap to

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support durable solutions and self-reliance for refugees.

In the RoC, 2,345 CAR refugees from 784 families were registered by UNHCR as wishing to voluntarily return.

UNHCR and government counterparts in RoC conducted a joint information session, reaching 33 refugees and asylum-seekers with information on the future resumption of voluntary repatriation once conditions permit, supporting informed decision-making and return preparedness.

Integration and Inclusion
UNHCR facilitated an exchange visit by a Burundian delegation to Cameroon to share good practices on refugee inclusion in national systems, legal frameworks, documentation, voluntary repatriation and access to rights.

Partnership with Government and Development Actors
In support of refugees' inclusion in national systems, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with Cameroon's national water authority, CAMWATER, to strengthen sustainable access to safe water for refugees in Minawao camp and surrounding host communities, reinforcing national service delivery and benefiting both refugees and host communities.

Under the Promoting Economic and Economic and Social Participation of Internationally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Host Population Communities (PESoP) project in the West Region of Cameroon, UNHCR advanced refugee and IDP inclusion in local development planning by supporting the deployment of a national socio-economic data management systems at the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL), laying the foundation for improved evidence-based planning and service delivery while strengthening cooperation between humanitarian and development partners and advanced the protection-solutions nexus.

Work in Partnerships

Shelter Coordination
In Cameroon, UNHCR finalised the shelter/NFI Transition Plan (2025-2027), setting out a roadmap for the phased handover of the shelter/NFI cluster coordination to Government leadership, including responsibility for sector coordination, technical oversight and information management.

UNHCR strengthened government capacity through the establishment of a national Shelter/NFI data cell and enhanced information management systems while sector reporting was also updated to improve partner reporting and inform the 2026 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA).

Protection Coordination
To ensure continuity of protection coordination during Cameroon's humanitarian transition, UNHCR is leading the national protection sector, coordinating protection actors and the areas of responsibility for child protection, GBV and Housing, Land and Property (HLP). UNHCR is advancing the transition plan and strengthening localised coordination structures to support government-led and area-based mechanisms at the national level and in the North-West, South-West and Far-North Cameroon, facilitating inter-agency coordination, joint protection analysis and response planning to address protection needs of IDPs and other affected populations.

To strengthen protection monitoring across conflict-affected areas in Cameroon, UNHCR supported the harmonisation of protection monitoring tools and methodologies and advanced preparations

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Caroline Gluck, Senior External Relations Officer, gluck@unhcr.org
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for regional capacity-building workshops to improve the quality and consistency of protection data. The strengthened evidence base will inform humanitarian transition planning, inter-agency decision making and the prioritisation of protection responses.

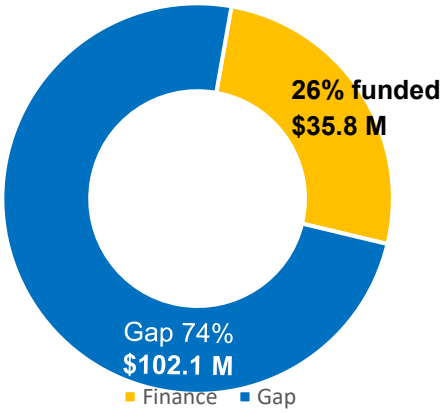
Humanitarian Coordination

On 26 May 2026, the Government of Cameroon, OCHA and humanitarian partners launched the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), marking the full operationalisation of the Area-Based Coordination in the Far North. UNHCR continued to serve as the Co-Chair of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. This support illustrates the strategic role of the local private sector in sustaining the humanitarian response, particularly in the context of logistical constraints, for the benefit of refugees and host communities.

Financial Information

FUNDING AS OF 30 June 2026

$137.9 M required by UNHCR Cameroon MCO



UNHCR is grateful to its donors for their generous contributions, which enable the organisation to support its operation in Cameroon MCO in 2026.

Special thanks to the donors that contributed to UNHCR's Cameroon MCO in 2026:
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UNHCR also extends its appreciation to the donors of flexible funding in 2026:
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