FACT SHEET

UNHCR Cameroon Multi-Country Office (MCO)

January-June 2026

The Cameroon MCO covers Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Across the MCO, conflict and displacement continue to drive protection risks and humanitarian needs among forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

UNHCR works with governments and partners to strengthen protection, expand access to services and promote durable solutions.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Cameroon*

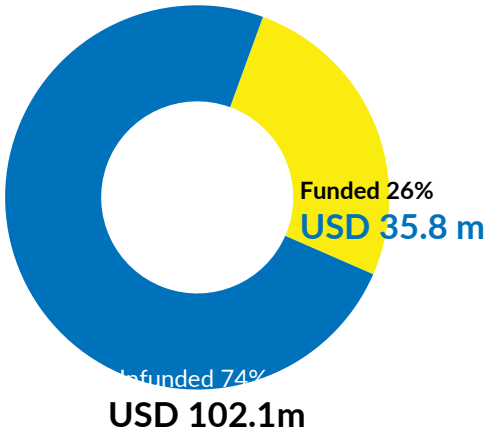
Cameroun : Statistiques des personnes déplacées de force (June 2026) ; Gouvernement du Cameroun avec le support du HCR. The reduction in the number of refugees is due to ongoing continuous verification/verification and the deactivation of absent refugees.

IDPs and IDP Returnees*** *IOM, OCHA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment (MSNA)*

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2026)

USD 137.9 million

Requested for the Cameroon Operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 155

123 National Staff

32 International Staff

Offices: 7

1 Branch Office Yaoundé

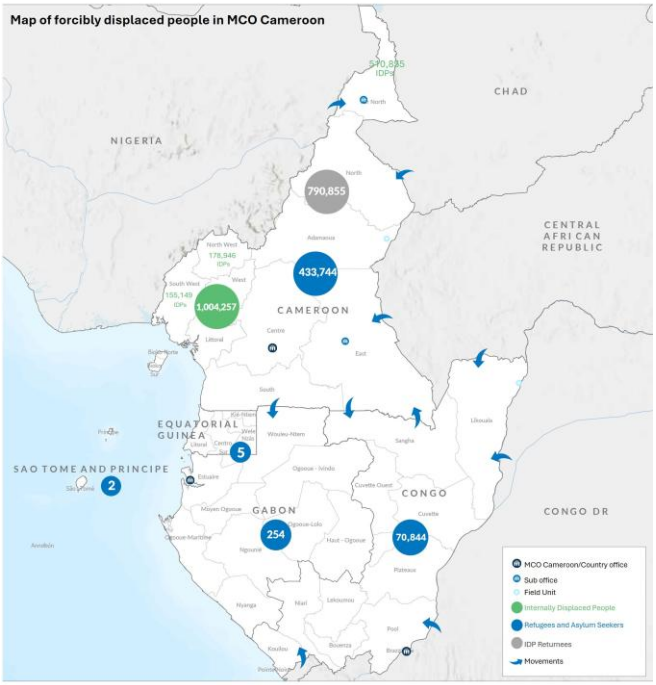
2 Sub Offices: Bertoua and Maroua

1 Field Unit Meiganga

1 Field Unit Bétou, Republic of Congo

1 National Office, Brazzaville, RoC

1 Liaison Office, Libreville, Gabon



Refugees from Central Africa Republic exhibit their livelihood products at World Refugee Commemoration in Batouri, East region, Cameroon. ©UNHCR/Myriam NdengBapouh

Working with Partners

- UNHCR coordinates refugee and IDP responses across the MCO through the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), Protection and Shelter Clusters, while strengthening national protection systems and advancing the humanitarian reset to progressively transfer coordination responsibilities to government institutions.
- UNHCR leads or co-leads refugee and mixed displacement coordination mechanisms across Cameroon, supporting refugee status determination (RSD), registration, socio-economic data collection and evidence-based planning, while strengthening humanitarian access, site management and service delivery for refugees and internally displaced persons.
- Under the humanitarian reset, UNHCR supported the operationalisation of area-based coordination, finalised sector transition plans, advanced the phased transfer of coordination responsibilities to government-led

structures, and strengthened the evidence base for the 2027 humanitarian response through a comprehensive multi-sectoral needs assessment.

Main Activities

Protection

- The Cameroon MCO hosts 504,850 refugees and asylum-seekers as of June 2026, including 475,401 refugees and 29,448 asylum-seekers. Cameroon hosts the largest numbers, with 433,744 refugees and asylum-seekers, followed by the Republic of Congo with 70,844. The remaining caseload remains comparatively small across Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe.
- More than 1,600 incidents were recorded across UNHCR operational areas between January and June 2026, with the North-West (43%), Far North and South-West remaining the most affected regions. Criminality, terrorism and armed conflict continued to drive displacement, protection risks and humanitarian access constraints.
- UNHCR strengthened protection services by monitoring 17,083 protection incidents, registering 11,452 individuals, assisting 199 GBV survivors, supporting 2,478 persons with specific needs, conducting 25 Best Interests Procedures for vulnerable children, and providing legal assistance to 314 individuals.

Refugee Status Determination

UNHCR supports national asylum systems and is working to strengthen the capacity of the authorities in Cameroon to carry out Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and accelerating asylum procedures. Since the beginning of 2026, 8,656 individuals have been recognized as refugees across the Cameroon MCO, including 8,507 in Cameroon and 149 in the Republic of Congo, while ongoing backlog clearance has reduced waiting times and improved access to refugee status, legal documentation and protection.

Community-based protection

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Education

To promote equitable access to education, UNHCR supports quality and inclusive education through school enrolment, retention and higher education opportunities. In Cameroon, 25 refugee students benefited from the DAFI scholarship programme. Through the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) project, UNHCR strengthened refugees' access to inclusive education within the national education system. More than 12,200 refugee children and adolescents accessed or remained in school through the provision of school supplies and financial support, improved learning infrastructure, inclusive education for children with disabilities, and support for the issuance of 2,000 birth certificates, reducing barriers to enrolment and official examinations.

Health

To improve health outcomes, UNHCR supports access to quality healthcare by strengthening inclusion in national health systems and expanding essential health services. In Cameroon, 102,364 refugees were enrolled by the Ministry of Health (MINSANTE) the in the national health insurance scheme and 27,792 refugees accessed primary and specialised healthcare services.

Food Security and Nutrition

- To strengthen food security and improve nutrition, UNHCR provides targeted assistance, nutrition services and climate-resilient livelihood support. In Cameroon, 155 children with severe acute malnutrition received life-saving treatment with partner support.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNHCR expands access to safe WASH services to improve public health and living conditions. UNHCR and the Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER) signed a partnership agreement aimed at strengthening sustainable access to safe drinking water for Nigerian refugees living in Minawao camp and surrounding host communities in Cameroon's Far North Region. It marks an important step in advancing refugee inclusion in national systems, fully aligned with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and UNHCR's 50by35 vision of reducing aid dependency through sustainable and nationally owned systems.

Shelter and NFIs

UNHCR provides emergency shelter and core relief items to meet the immediate needs of displaced populations during emergencies.
During the reporting period, 1,924 Emergency Family Shelter Kits and 1,863 Core Relief Item (CRI) Kits were distributed, reaching a total of 4,175 people, including 1,241 refugees, 310 host community members, and 2,624 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Energy and Environment

The operation promotes sustainable energy solutions that improve household well-being, reduce environmental degradation and strengthen climate resilience. Since the beginning of 2026, over 45,500 fruit and forest seedlings have been planted or distributed, 1,234 households have produced 24,900 kg of biomass briquettes, and approximately 180,000 refugees and host community members have benefited from clean energy and environmental restoration initiatives.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

Through sustained advocacy with national and local authorities and private landowners, UNHCR is expanding refugees access to arable land, strengthening self-reliance, food security and social cohesion. Nearly 250 hectares of land have been made available in the East Region, enabling 43 mixed refugee and host community members to engage in agropastoral activities, while more than 182 hectares have been allocated in the Far North for agricultural production, with additional land currently being formalised. Despite these gains, limited access to government-issued identity documents continues to limit secure land tenure for refugees. UNHCR and its partners are advocating for improved access to legal documentation to advance socio-economic inclusion and sustainable self-reliance.

Durable Solutions

UNHCR advances durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, integration, resettlement and complementary pathways. Since the beginning of 2026, 3,701 refugees have voluntarily returned to Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR), 225 refugees have been submitted for resettlement, and 124 refugees have departed for Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. Complementary pathways have enabled five refugee students to access international scholarships, 24 refugees to pursue labour mobility opportunities in Canada, and 11 individuals to reunite with their families. Durable solutions assessments covering 30,035 households and more than 115,809 refugees continue to inform evidence-based planning and solutions programming.

Financial Information (As of June 2026)

UNHCR Cameroon sincerely thanks the Government of Cameroon and other donors, including Canada | España con ACNUR | European Union | Germany | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | private sector donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted funds which allow critical flexibility for UNHCR's response in 2026:
Australia| Australia for UNHCR | Austria | Argentina for UNHCR | Belgium | Canada | China | Denmark | European Union | España con ACNUR | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Japan | Japan for UNHCR | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Netherlands (Kingdom of the Netherlands) | New Zealand for UNHCR | Norway | Other private donors | Private donors in the Republic of Korea | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland | Switzerland for UNHCR | UK for UNHCR | UNO Flüchtlingshilfe | USA for UNHCR

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Operational Data Portal
www.unhcr.org/Africa/cameroon