



CAMEROON FACTSHEET

January 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

252,537

CAR refugees registered by UNHCR in rural areas of which 152,407 arrived since December 2013

70,658

Nigerian refugees in the Far North region (of which 54,806 are registered at Minawao camp)

158,000

Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North region

Population of concern

A total of **508,709** people of concern

By country of origin

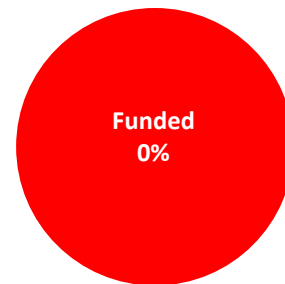
Country	Total PoC
CAR	252,537
Nigeria	70,658
Urban refugees*	22,222
Asylum seekers	5,373
IDPs	158,000
Total	508,709

*Incl. CAR and Nigerian refugees living in urban settings

Funding

USD 84,373,124

UNHCR funding requirements for the Refugee Regional Response Plans for Central African and Nigerian refugees



UNHCR Presence

Staff: 238

61 International staff

136 National staff

41 UN Volunteers (6 International and 35 National)

Offices:

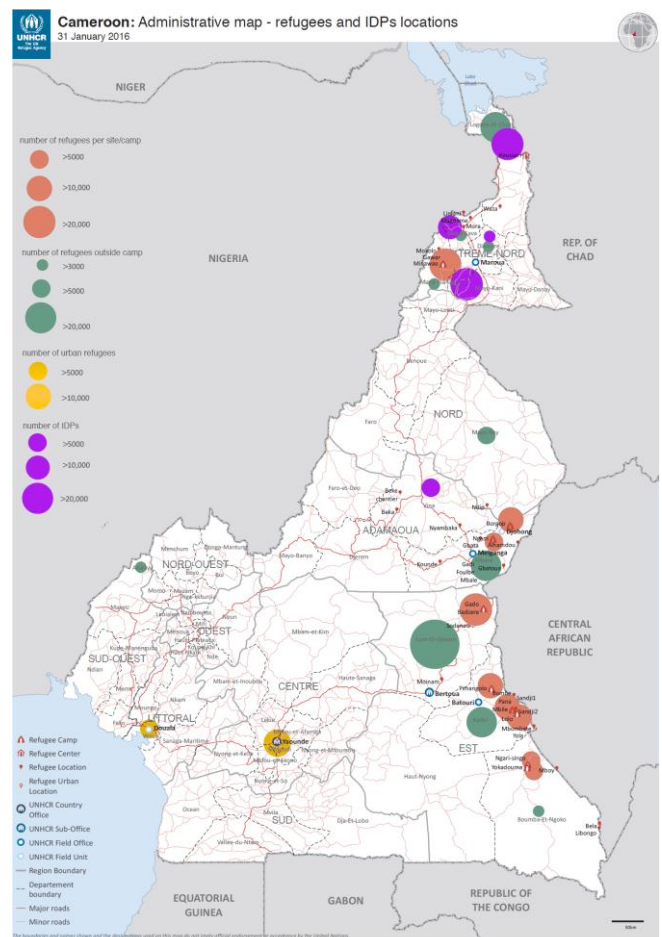
7 offices located in:

Branch Office – Yaoundé

Sub Offices – Bertoua and Maroua

Field Offices – Meiganga, Batouri and Douala

Field Unit – Djohong



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees in collaboration with:
 - **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Economy, Planning and Regional Development Public Health, Women Empowerment and Family, Social Affairs, Justice, Basic Education, Water and Energy, Youth and the National Employment Fund.
 - **Implementing Partners:** *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), *Agence pour le Développement Economique et Social* (ADES), CARE International, Croix Rouge Française (CRF), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), InterSOS, International Medical Corps (IMC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Plan International, *Première Urgence - Assistance Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), Public Concern and Solidarités International.
 - **Operational Partners:** *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF); ICRC, Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), ASOL, FAIRMED, Red Deporte,
 - **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and OCHA.
 - **Operational coordination:** In accordance with the “*Joint OCHA-UNHCR Note on Mixed Situations – Coordination in Practice*” the responsibility to coordinate the overall humanitarian response in the Far North has been delegated to UNHCR. UNHCR sectors are utilized to deliver assistance to IDPs and other affected groups; while the accountability of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for these populations is maintained. All sectors are operational holding regular meetings. Each sector is led by a Government entity and co-led by UN agencies. There is also a bi-monthly Multi-Sector Operations Team meeting chaired by UNHCR.
- The response for CAR refugees is managed in line with the *Refugee Coordination Model*. Sectorial groups have been established by UNHCR, covering the whole operational area, and region-based coordination mechanisms exist, although mostly in the East region. Local authorities have been very engaged in the management of the refugee operation, in particular the Governors of the North, East and Adamaoua regions, the administrative authorities at the *departement* and *arrondissement* levels, armed forces and delegates from line ministries at the regional level. UN agencies and international NGOs have been instrumental in implementing activities for CAR refugees and host populations.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

At the launch of the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon on 25 January in Yaoundé, UNHCR and its partners called on donor nations for more than 187 million dollars to assist hundreds of thousands of people forced to flee conflicts in Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR) and the host communities providing them with shelter and other basic services. During this occasion, the two Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRP) were formally presented requesting, US\$130.8 million to help 234,500 CAR refugees and almost 216,700 host community members and US\$56.36 million for 100,000 Nigerian refugees and 20,000 of the host population in Cameroon.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- In the Far North region, **spontaneous arrivals from border locations continue to be reported**. Between December 2015 and January 2016, around 6,000 new arrivals were registered at the transit center outside Minawao camp and thereafter transferred to the camp by UNHCR. In the course of last year, 35,882 arrivals were registered and transferred to Minawao camp, bringing its total population to 54,806 as of 31 January 2016. New arrivals to Minawao camp had initially sought safety in border areas some months ago hoping that the situation would improve in Nigeria and that they would return home. Initially constructed for a maximum 20,000 refugees, Minawao is operating well beyond absorption capacity. With people continuing to arrive, the camp infrastructure and supply has been put under serious strain; particularly the provision of drinking water which remains a serious. The congestion of the camp bears several risks, such

as outbreaks of epidemics and has significant repercussions on the well-being of the refugees and host communities. Despite UNHCR's advocacy efforts, the opening of a second camp is not an option at this point. UNHCR and its partners therefore continue to explore opportunities to decongest the existing camp and to increase the absorption capacity.

- Preparations for the participation of Central African refugees living in Cameroon in the second round of their country's **presidential election**, initially planned for January 31 and postponed to February 14, were undertaken. UNHCR, the governments of CAR and Cameroon as well as National Authority for the Elections (ANE) increased efforts to improve the process during this second round. At the first round, 20,417 refugees out of 29,573 registered on the electoral lists were able to cast their vote, representing a participation rate of 69 per cent. The participation of CAR refugees in Cameroon in the presidential elections is in line with the UN Security Council resolutions encouraging inclusive elections to help foster reconciliation and achieve lasting peace in CAR and as per the tripartite agreement between the Governments of CAR, Cameroon and UNHCR. UNHCR's role in the election was strictly humanitarian and non-political. The agency informed refugees about the electoral process, facilitated their participation and helped ensure the voluntary nature of the electoral process in a safe environment.
- UNHCR and the Cameroonian Government launched the **biometric verification and registration** of all refugees and asylum seekers living in Cameroon. This operation was completed in Yaoundé and Douala and will continue from 23 February to end of August within areas hosting refugees in the eastern region. The biometric verification and registration exercise aims to ensure better protection and assistance to refugees by verifying and updating refugee profiles, including their profession, education, family relationships, specific needs etc. For the refugees, this exercise will include the delivery of new and standardized refugee certificates, new ration cards and the renewal of identification cards. In the longer term, biometric registration will be critical for obtaining reliable data on refugee movements and statistics. This exercise is of particular importance in light of the continuous threat posed by Boko Haram incursions and terror attacks, which have triggered more restrictive security measures towards non-nationals and in particular those without documentation. The Cameroonian Government therefore has a particular interest in collaborating and strengthening the refugee identity management system.
- To increase provision of water to refugees living in Minawao camp, UNHCR and the Government of Cameroon, through CAMWATER, launched **the construction of a permanent water supply system**, piping water from Mokolo town to the camp and its surrounding villages (26 km). With new arrivals continuing on a daily basis the availability of drinking water in Minawao camp is below the standard of 20 liters per person and day. The water supply system is completed at 33 per cent and expected to be fully completed by the end of March.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as for the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

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Links:

<http://data.unhcr.org/car>
<http://data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation>