



HIGHLIGHTS

259,145

CAR refugees registered by UNHCR in rural areas in the East, Adamaoua and North regions, of which 158,418 arrived since December 2013

72,062

Nigerian refugees in the Far North region (of which 56,210 are registered at Minawao camp)

158,316

Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North region (source: latest DTM by IOM)

Population of concern

A total of **547,703** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
CAR	259,145
Nigeria	72,062
Urban refugees*	22,222
Asylum seekers	5,373
IDPs	158,316
IDPs returnees	30,585
Total	547,703

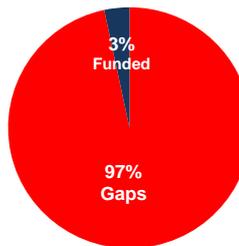
*Incl. CAR and Nigerian refugees living in urban settings

Funding

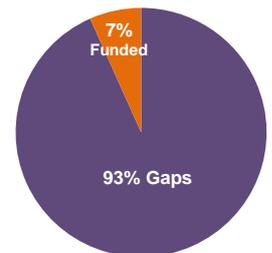
USD 84,373,124

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

CAR Refugees
Requirement: 55,474,813



NIGERIAN Refugees
Requirement: 27,898,311



*As of 8 March 2016

UNHCR Presence

Staff: 240

61 International staff

136 National staff

43 UN Volunteers (7 International and 35 National)

Offices:

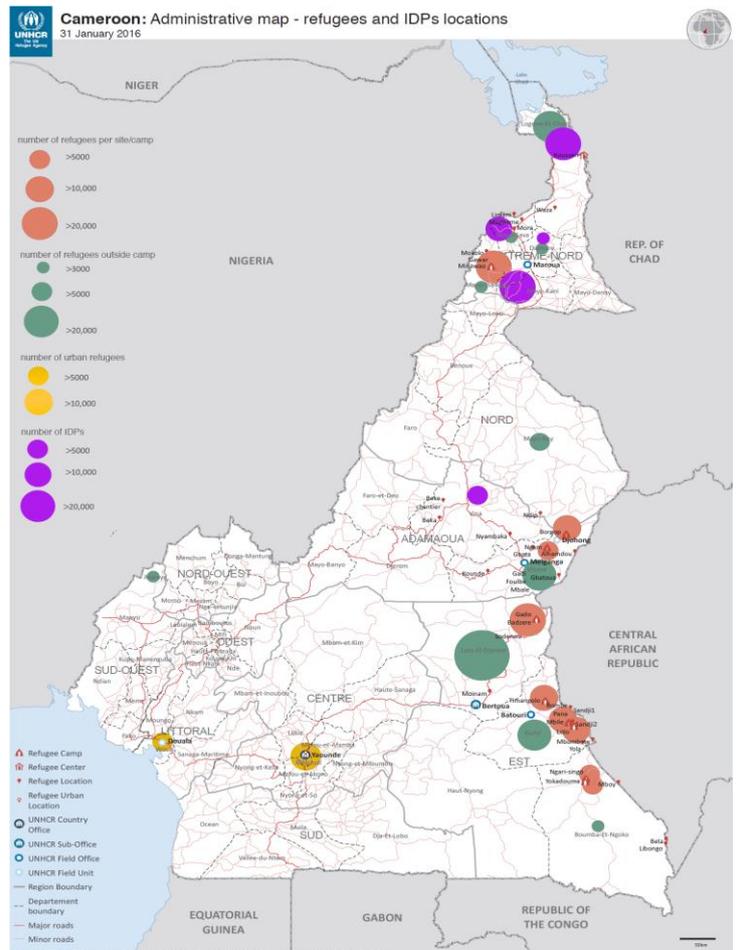
7 offices:

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. 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 regional Multi-Sector Operations Team meeting in Maroua chaired by UNHCR, which brings together more than 40 humanitarian partners intervening in the Far North region.

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.

At 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.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

From 22- 24 February, the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr. Volker Turk accompanied by the Director of the African Bureau, Mr. Valentin Tapsoba and the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the CAR and Nigeria situations, Ms. Liz Ahua visited Cameroon to obtain a better understanding of the humanitarian situation in the Far North. They met with government officials, key donors and UN sister agency representatives to discuss the possible elaboration of **a tri-partite agreement on specifying modalities regarding the management of Nigerian refugees, including for the voluntary repatriation of Nigerians refugees**. During this visit, Mr. Turk reiterated UNHCR’s commitment to work closely with the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria to guarantee the right of refugees to voluntary return to their country in safety and dignity. When visiting the refugee camp of Minawao, Mr. Turk also met with the refugee community who cautioned that the time had not yet come to seriously consider return prospects due to continuing insecurity in most of their villages back home. They urged their government to first take all necessary measures to restore peace and stability in the north-east region of Nigeria to allow them to return home in safety.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Ongoing incursions perpetrated by Boko Haram terrorists into Cameroonian territory **continued to provoke significant population movements**. As a result, refugees initially located in border villages are now seeking safety further inland in Minawao camp. Since the beginning of the year, 3,829 refugees arrived spontaneously at Minawao camp, bringing its total population to 56,210 as of 29 February. Most new arrivals to Minawao camp had previously sought asylum 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 of 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 issue. 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, as well as environmental degradation.
- Thousands of the CAR refugees in Cameroon took part in **the second round of Central African Republic's presidential election**. With the elections completed, hopes are now high that CAR is moving towards a new era of peace and reconciliation after years of violence, suffering and forced displacement, and that voluntary return in safety and dignity can soon be considered. Despite UNHCR efforts to increase refugee participation at the second round, only, 13,378 refugees casted their votes out of 29,573 who had signed-up to electoral lists. At the first round, 20,417 refugees voted, representing a participation rate of 69 per cent. The participation of CAR refugees in Cameroon in the presidential elections is in line with 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 pursued the **biometric verification and registration exercise** of all refugees and asylum seekers living in the East region of Cameroon. This operation was completed in Yaoundé and Douala and is due to be completed by the end of August within areas hosting refugees in the East, Adamaoua and North regions. 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 needs, movements and statistics, and will serve as a crucial protection tool.
- Given the scarcity of potable water in Minawao camp and its surroundings, UNHCR in partnership with the Government of Cameroon and CamWater, puts in place **a permanent water supply system**, piping water from Mokolo town to the camp and its surrounding villages (26 km). With high rates of new arrivals, the availability of drinking water in Minawao camp currently stands at 13 liters per person per day, which is well below the standard of 20 liters per person and day. Works on the water supply system are advancing as scheduled. More than 40 of the pipeline are completed, and the pipeline is planned 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 in 2015 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/NigeriaSituatio>