

Cameroon

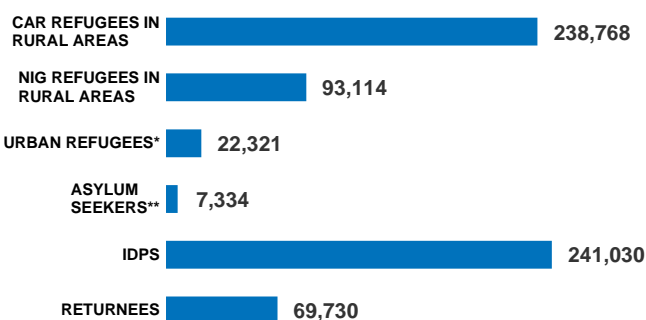
April 2018

Cameroon currently has **672,297 people of concern**, including **255,907 Central African refugees** and **95,027 Nigerian refugees**.

Mission from HQ to explore options for **targeting assistance to vulnerable CAR refugees**, using both food and cash transfers.

UNHCR alarmed at new incidents of refoulement of Nigerian refugees in the Far North region.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (672,297 AS OF 30 APRIL)



*Incl. 17,139 Central Africans and 1,913 Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.

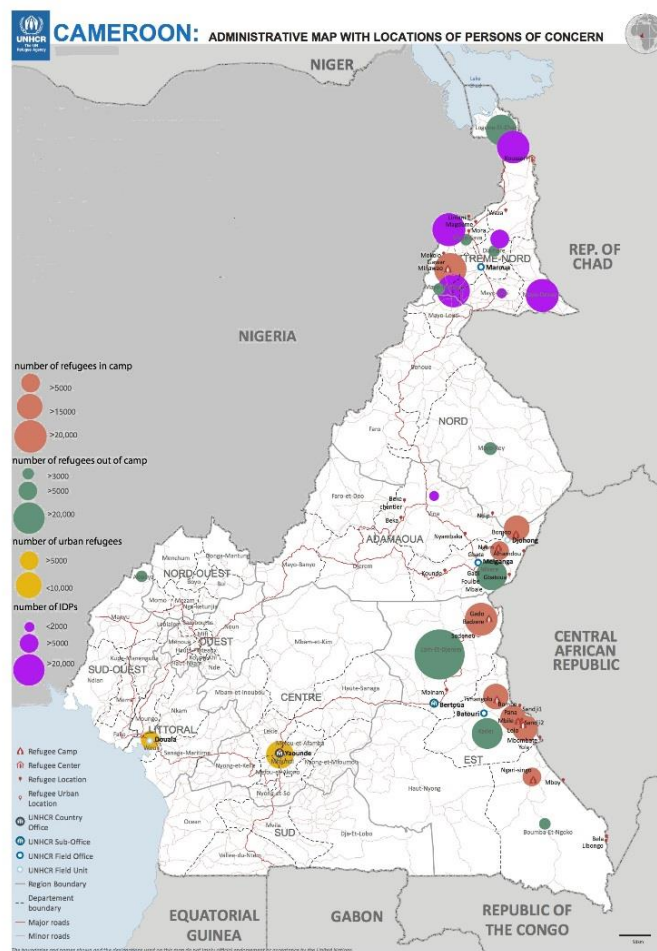
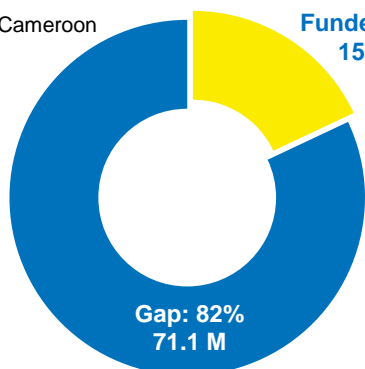
**Incl. 6,136 Central Africans and 8 Nigerian asylum seekers living in urban areas.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL)

USD 86.7 M

Requested for Cameroon

**Funded: 18%
15.6 M**



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 244

144 National Staff

50 International Staff

50 Affiliate workforce (7 International and 43 National)

9 OFFICES:

Representation – Yaounde

Sub Offices – Bertoua, Meiganga and Maroua

Field Offices – Batouri, Djohong, Touboro and Douala

Field Unit – Kousseri

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees 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 International* and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **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 UNHCR-chaired Multi-Sector Operations Team meeting in Maroua, bringing together more than 40 humanitarian partners intervening in the region. 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 DEVELOPMENTS

- UNHCR participated in a joint inter-agency mission, organized by USAID and UNICEF, from 11-13 April to the department of Kadey (East region), alongside WFP, UNWomen and UNFPA. The main objectives of the joint mission were to assess the situation of both Central African refugees and host populations in within the context of resilience. The mission focused on the assessment of protection needs, food security and livelihoods as well as access to basic social services (education, health, drinking water and sanitation). The mission met with local authorities, undertook a visit to the gold mines of Kambele, the refugee site of Timangolo and the host village of Gbakim. During discussions with refugees, issues highlighted included the targeting exercise, livelihood activities, additional assistance in terms of health, education and NFI distributions. The mission concluded with a roundtable discussion with all humanitarian actors in the department of Kadey.
- On 27 April, UNHCR's Representative and the Governor of the East region, in the presence of regional authorities, inaugurated the opening of the extension of the health centre in Mandjou which will cater to mother and child healthcare. The building was financed by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and constructed by Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA). The previous day, on 26 April, UNHCR's Representative, handed over classrooms built by UNHCR in Nagonda (Garoua Boulai) to the Ministry of Basic Education. This event saw the participation of local education authorities, traditional leaders and students from both the refugee and host population communities.
- Concerned about the targeting of assistance for CAR refugees, a multi-functional mission from UNHCR Geneva explored options in order to reach a larger number of refugees with much needed food and cash assistance. The mission focused on Food Security and Nutrition, Cash-based Interventions (CBI) and Social Protection, spending nearly 3 weeks visiting refugees, host populations, national authorities, NGO partners and other UN agencies in Cameroon (23 April to 10 May, ongoing). Current levels of food assistance do not adequately meet the basic needs of refugees and certain negative coping strategies, while difficult to monitor, have been observed, including: refugees moving towards the sites in order to access assistance, refugees moving to the mines to work, child labour, rumours of returns to CAR and recruitment into armed groups. WFP and UNHCR are jointly working on a solution to prioritize those most in need of food assistance (and produce updated beneficiary lists). As a complementary measure, and in collaboration with the government and the Social Safety Net Project, UNHCR is launching its Transitional Safety Net for CAR refugees, delivering multi-purpose cash transfers in-line with the national system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Far North Region

- The incursions and attacks perpetrated along the Cameroon/Nigeria borders and within Cameroonian territory led to further movements of populations seeking safety. The immediate consequence has been the significant increase of new refugee arrivals and several Cameroonian IDPs to Gourounguel transit center. Over 5,500 new refugee arrivals have been registered since the beginning of the year. By the end of the month all refugee had been transferred to Minawao refugee camp where shelter and other assistance is being provided.
- Biometric registration officially began in Minawao camp on 31 January 2018. At that date, the camp hosted 62,508 registered refugees. The mass exercise took place until 28 February 2018, followed by a catch-up period for absentees and data consolidation. A total 42,149 individuals were physically verified in Minawao camp during the mass exercise. Through the continuous registration process, the number of verified refugees has amounted to 48,265 individuals, as of 28 April 2018, of which 25,793 (53%) are women/girls. The purpose of the operation was to update basic identity data, to ensure biometric enrollment of people over 4 years of age, to carry-out in-depth identification of people with specific needs, to collect data and information on return intentions and to renew all documents (ration cards and refugee attestations). New arrivals and births were progressively taken into account during the exercise. Persons who were absent during the exercise and who later present themselves to the registration center are taken into account by the continuous registration process. The camp's population will therefore evolve according to the absences that present themselves and that are verified over time. Biometric registration will also be carried out at a later stage for refugees living outside the camp, in collaboration with the administrative authorities of the departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Tsanaga and Mayo Sava, where 22,982 refugees have been registered and 21,867 remain to be registered in Logone et Chari, following information received from authorities.
- As part of the implementation process of the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees seeking to return to Adamawa State in Nigeria, UNHCR facilitated an information session on 25 April in Minawao camp which focused on the various modalities that would lead to the first repatriation operations. This session was attended by all partners involved in the camp, several religious leaders and the various leaders of the zones within the camp. Subsequently, over three days, refugees interested in returning were invited to register for voluntary repatriation. More than 1,000 refugees expressed their interest to be repatriated to Adamawa State, however, just over 100 are from Adamawa State. The registration operation of those willing to return is scheduled to continue during the next few weeks.
- On 20 April, UNHCR issued a press release announcing its alarm at the recent incidents of refoulement in the Far North region of Cameroon. A total 385 Nigerian refugees have been forcibly sent back to Nigeria since the beginning of the year. UNHCR reiterated its support to the government of Cameroon to assist in ensuring that all those seeking international protection have access to efficient screening and registration procedures, as well as appropriate reception arrangements.

East, Adamaoua and North Regions

- On 26 April, UNHCR was informed by local immigration authorities in Garoua Boulai of the arrival on 25 April of 107 asylum-seekers escorted by MINUSCA. A mission was carried out to the area where it was noted that they are majoritarily women and children of Christian faith and coming from Bangui and its surroundings fearing reprisal attacks by the ex-Seleka. Many in the group quickly integrated the refugee community in Garoua Boulai and informed authorities that more are expected to arrive. Monitoring the movements in Garoua Boulai and eventually conducting registration will need to be carried out.
- In the East and Adamaoua regions, continued biometric registration activities took place in the localities of Mandjou, Ndanga Gandima, Garga Sarali, Boulembe, Mbile and Ngam with close to 500 new arrivals registered during the reporting period. The main border entry points were Garoua Boulai, Gbiti and Kentzou. New arrivals continue to be reported, however, with several stating that they plan to return as soon as the current tensions subside. The border entry points along the border with the Central African Republic remained open.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2018**

African Development Bank | Canada | CERF | European Union | Japan | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom | United States of America | Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Private donors Spain | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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CONTACTS

Xavier Bourgois, Public Information Officer, Cameroon
bourgois@unhcr.org, Tel: +237 222 202 954, Cell +237 690 049 996

Kabami Kalumiya, Associate External Relations Officer, Cameroon
kalumiya@unhcr.org, Tel: +237 222 202 954, Cell +237 691 141 226

LINKS : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/cmr> – Twitter : @RefugeesCmr – Facebook : UNHCR Cameroun – Instagram: hrcameroun