

Cameroon MCO

(Multi Country Operation - Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome & Principe)

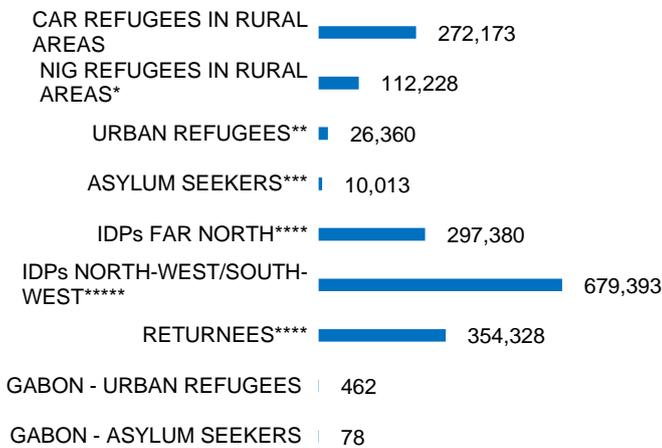
March 2020

Cameroon currently has 1,751,875 people of concern, including 272,173 Central African Republic refugees, 112,228 Nigerian refugees, 36,373 urban refugees and asylum seekers, 976,773 IDPs (297,380 in the Far North and 679,393 in the North West and South West regions) and 354,328 returnees (former IDPs) in the Far North region.

Cameroon recorded its first COVID-19 case on 06 March. UNHCR has been mobilizing efforts together with the Government and partners to prevent and respond to the pandemic. These include training medical staff, setting up health infrastructures and distribution of basic hygiene items to refugees, IDPs and other persons of concern.

Security in the Far North remains volatile with series of Boko Haram attacks. On 23 March attacks were perpetrated on Nigerian and Chadian armies. Potential retaliation of the multinational joint arm force in the Lake Chad region and extremists attacks are likely to cause displacements of civilians.

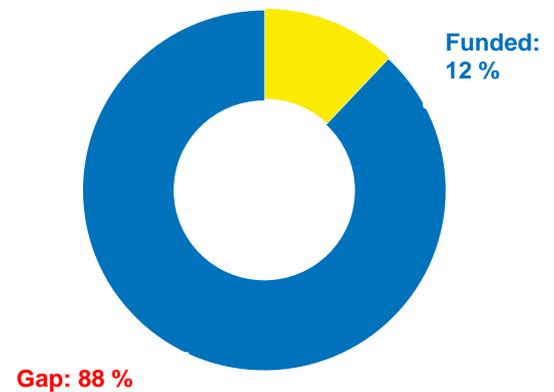
POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 MARCH 2020)



FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2020)

USD 89.7 million

Requested for Cameroon MCO in 2020



UNHCR PRESENCE

MCO Cameroon Staff:

- 206 National Staff
- 64 International Staff
- 05 Gabon staff

Offices:

- 01 Branch Office in Yaounde
- 03 Sub Offices: Bertoua, Maroua, Buea
- 06 Field Offices: Batouri, Meiganga, Djohong, Touborro, Douala and Bamenda
- 01 Field Unit – Kousseri
- 01 Gabon operation



Development of quarantine centers in a refugee site

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern in collaboration with:

- **Governmental Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women's Empowerment and the Family, Social Affairs, Justice, Basic Education, Water and Energy, Youth and Civic Education, the National Employment Fund, the *Secrétariat Technique des Organes de Gestion du Statut des réfugiés* and others.
 - **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 Internationales and CARE International.
 - **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
 - **Operational coordination:** The response for Central African refugees is managed in line with the *Refugee Coordination Model* and includes local authorities who are engaged in the management of the refugee operation. In the North West and South West regions, UNHCR ensures the leadership of protection and shelter/NFI Clusters for the delivery of protection and assistance to IDPs. In the Far North, given the mixed situation (IDP and returnees and refugees, the Coordination is under the lead of the regional authorities with UNHCR as co-lead.
- As from early 2020, the operational responsibility of UNHCR Cameroon has been extended to cover UNHCR mandate activities in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe. 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 as well as the Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Country Team.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- **On 23 March 2020 simultaneous Boko Haram attacks were perpetrated on Nigerian and Chadian armies in the lake Chad region. 70 Nigerians and 98 Chadian soldiers were reportedly killed in the attacks.** The retaliation of multinational joint forces on extremist groups caused fear among civilians causing the displacement of people in the Lake Chad region.
- In the North West and South West regions, Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) have changed their attack strategy by targeting humanitarian workers. The aim is to draw the attention of the international community on the Anglophone crisis. **On 24 March, UNHCR partner's monitoring team was held hostage in Talangaye Village in the South-West Region.** They were released some hours later with UNHCR's vehicle (used by the partner) partially vandalized.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- **Registration** – Though borders have been closed because of COVID-19, UNHCR continues to register new arrivals from Nigeria. The reported attacks on Nigeria and Chadian armies, and the retaliation by the Multinational joint force are the major causes of the movements. However, security check, protection screening, registration and documentation activities are carried out normally in the transit center of Gourenouel. **As of 31st March 2020, UNHCR reported 1,170 new arrivals only for March and a total of 3,574 since the beginning of the year.** In all refugee hosting locations, registration activities are carried out and COVID-19 mitigation measures observed.
- **Protection monitoring** - Despite COVID-19 displacements were observed in the Far North and in both the South-West and North West regions; mainly due to insecurity. Focus group discussions and assessments have been carried out in the 2 anglophone regions to identify the IDPs' pressing needs ahead of the HCT and further assist in Agencies' decision-making for the response.
- **Education** – UNHCR has involved parents in the management of their children's education. Thus, 28 Parents' Teachers Associations (APEE) are supported to undertake commercial and agricultural production activities in CAR refugee hosting locations in the North, East and Adamawa regions. **The objective of the action is to allow parents to contribute to the education of their children.** From 02 to 08 March, a livelihood sufficiency programme team monitored the microproject to produce watermelons in Batouri, East region. This was to assist beneficiaries to prepare their activities ahead of the rainy season.

Community mobilization

The 35th edition of the International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in all refugee hosting locations (field offices, Douala and Yaounde). A series of activities was organized with the participation of beneficiaries and other stakeholders including authorities and private sectors. **In Batouri, humanitarian female workers were mobilized to honor fellow women who, for various reasons, could not join others to commemorate the special day.** They visited female prisoners in the main prison, and other women who are with their disabled children at the reeducation center. They assisted these fellow women with foodstuff, hygiene kits and special kits for the disabled children.

Shelter and NFI Assistance

The local authorities in the North West region (Ndop Central subdivision) provided authorization to UNHCR's partner, Plan International to assist identified vulnerable internally displaced households in the subdivisions till 31st July 2020 (as from March 2020). **Consequently, sensitization, information and identification activities were conducted in IDP hosting villages of Bamunka, Bamali and Bamessing.** At the same time, an assessment for the renewal of NFI kits was carried out in Goulfey Fadge 1 and 2 in the Far North region. 160 IDP households in need of NFI kits were identified (90 households in Goulfey Fadge 1 and 70 others in Goulfey Fadge 2). Also, **many households in the refugee sites in the East, Adamawa, and North regions do not have adequate containers to collect and store water for some time. As a result, they are obliged to frequently go to water points and are exposed to COVID-19.** There is a need to assist them with the provision of these items especially given the health crisis now.

Health

UNHCR and partners have put in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in refugee, IDP and returnee communities as well as in public places. Moreover, **awareness-raising sessions on hygiene and the prevention of COVID-19 are organized with handwashing stations set up in public places and households. Masks to be distributed to beneficiaries have been ordered.** In the Minawao camp hosting Nigerian refugees, the health committee monitors medical conditions of patients, and an **isolation room has been set up to manage any eventual or suspected case of COVID-19.** Similarly, in the East, North and Adamaoua regions, quarantine and isolation facilities have been set up to monitor and manage suspected cases. **UNHCR also organized three (03) training workshops from 25 to 27 March 2020 in Meiganga, Garoua-Boulai and Batouri.** The aim was to strengthen the capacities of health workers to adequately respond to suspected cases.

Water and Sanitation

In late March 2020, the average water production in the Minawao camp was about 600 m3 per day for a ratio of 09 liters per day per person with a gap of 707 m3 to reach the standard of 20 liters per person per day. A water-trucking system has been put in place in partnership with the national water supply company to increase supply in the camp and ensure the application of hygiene and sanitation measures for the prevention of COVID-19.

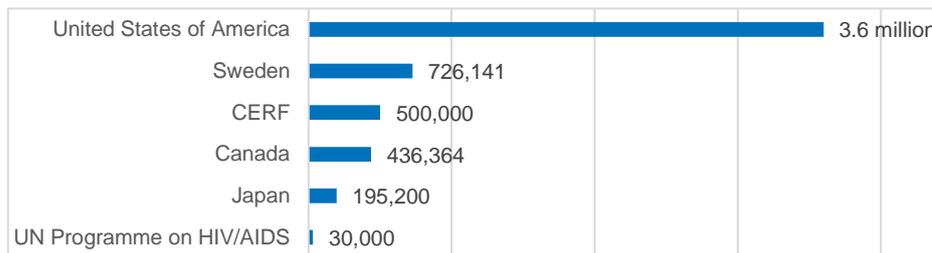
Durable Solutions

On 11 March a convoy for 99 households was organized for the voluntary return of CAR refugees to their country of origin. **A total of 250 individuals departed Lolo refugee site to Berberati and Carnot in CAR.** However, repatriation activities have been suspended in line with Government confinement measures and to protect refugees as well as UNHCR staff and partners from the spread of the virus. Despite the current health situation, intentions for voluntary return continued to be registered, updated and confirmed in the database for possible convoys after the pandemic, when the situation allows.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for the enormous support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation in Cameroon as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD 4.3 million



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds to Cameroon in 2020

United States of America 13.9 million | Canada 3.7 million | Sweden 3 million | Private donors Australia 2.1 million |

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2020

Sweden 76.4 | Norway 41.4 million| Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million| United Kingdom 31.7 million| Germany 25.9 million| Private donors Spain 20 million| Switzerland 16.4 | Private donors Republic of Korea 10.5 million|

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors.



CONTACTS

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

Melvis Lu-Uh Kimbi, Snr Communication/Public Information Assistant - kimbi@unhcr.org, Tel: +237 222 202 954, Cell +237 691 1427 88

Assoumia Foulah Marie-Ange, Associate Reporting Officer, foulah@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