



# CAMEROON

## FACTSHEET

September 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

**135,294**

CAR refugees registered by UNHCR since December 2013

**58,220**

Nigerian refugees registered since May 2013

**81,693**

Personnes Déplacées Internes dans la région de l'Extrême Nord

## Population of concern

A total of **319,699** people of concern

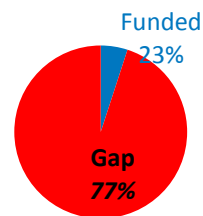
### By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Central African Republic	253,042
Nigeria	61,203
Chad	1,599
Rwanda	760
Others	3,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>319,699</b>

## Funding

UNHCR funding requirements include Refugee Regional Response Plan for CAR and Nigerian refugees

**USD 114,697,644**



## UNHCR Presence

### Staff:

**43** International staff

**99** National staff

**46** UN Volunteers (8 International and 38 National)

### Offices:

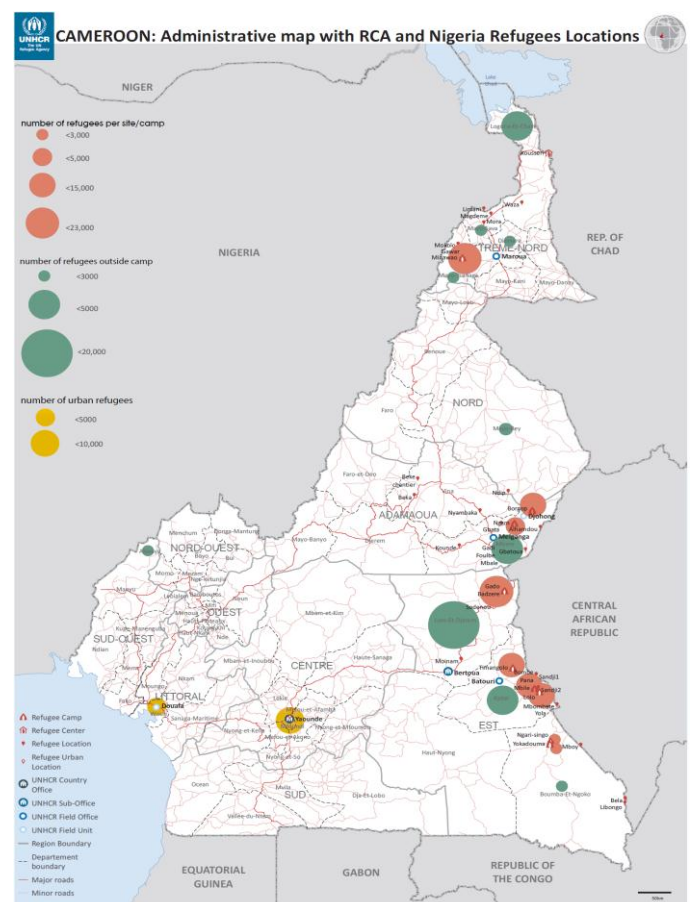
**7** offices located in:

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, 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), Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), *Association de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes* (ALVF), CARE International, Croix Rouge Française (CRF), FAIRMED, International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief), 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, Solidarités International and UN Women
  - **Operational Partners:** *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF); Plan Cameroon
  - **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO and IOM.
- UNHCR coordinates inter sectorial response for IDPs in the Far North through the Refugee Coordination Model. Sectors were settled up and mutisectoral response started.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- The security situation in the Far North region remains volatile and unpredictable after suicide bombings that hit the towns of Fotokol, Kerawa, Kolofata, Mora at the Nigerian border and Maroua, the regional capital, claiming dozens of civilian lives. These attacks have created an environment of suspicion towards Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers outside the camp, and also exerted much pressure on the asylum space. In response to these attacks, the Far North region underwent an important reinforcement of military and law enforcement officials to ward off further terrorist attacks. Elsewhere in the country, these tragic events in the Far North Region impacted on both urban asylum seekers and refugees in the East and Adamaoua.
- To ensure that persons in need of international protection continue to have access to it, UNHCR in collaboration with Cameroonian authorities set up joint screening of non-registered Nigerians at the recently established transit center in Gourounguel, about 4 kilometers from Minawao camp, prior to their transfer to the camp.

# MAIN ACTIVITIES

## Protection

- Spontaneous arrivals from the border locations of Far North region continue to be reported with on average 100 people arriving daily. Since the beginning of the year 2015, 20,553 new arrivals were registered. The spontaneous arrivals and transfers to Minawao Camp have only helped to exacerbate the thorny issue of capacity, infrastructure and water resources in the camp. By end August, the camp was hosting 46082 refugees while this camp was established with a maximum capacity of 20,000 people. This overpopulation has significant repercussions on the well-being of the refugees as well as the host communities. All the critical problems emerging in this camp derive from the fact that the camp is congested. UNHCR has lodged a request to the Government to allocate a second site to direct all the new arrivals but also decongest some of the camp residents to the new site. The request is being reviewed at the highest level of the State.
- Attacks perpetrated by Nigerian insurgents in Cameroon and clashes between them and the Cameroonian army in villages/towns located along the border with Nigeria, provoked the displacement of thousands of Cameroonian civilians towards other villages or towns far away from the border within the Far North region. A profiling made jointly by the UNHCR and OIM in collaboration with other humanitarian actors revealed that there are 81,693 internal displaced persons in this region, mainly in the Subdivisions of Mayo- Tsanaga, Mayo-Sava, Logone-et-Chari and Diamare. Most of these people live in host families, and the humanitarian actors as a whole, under UNHCR

coordination are putting together their efforts to provide adequate responses to their needs, as well as to those of the host populations.

- In line with its facilitation role for the participation of CAR refugees to the upcoming elections, UNHCR launched sensitization campaigns and related preparatory activities aimed at rallying refugees who wish to vote. In parallel, Government of Japan donated USD 150,000 to support UNHCR efforts in facilitating refugees' participation to the Car presidential elections. Following the decision of the CAR Transitional Council to allow CAR refugees in asylum countries to take part in the upcoming elections in their country, UNHCR was assigned the role of facilitator in the draft tripartite agreement between the CAR, Cameroon and UNHCR.
- In the light of the significant population management challenges Cameroon has been facing over the last two years with massive influxes of CAR refugees and subsequently Nigerian Refugees, UNHCR is assessing the possibility to conduct a biometric verification exercise in Cameroon in 2015-2016 targeting CAR and Nigerian refugees. In this view, a registration and biometric expert from UNHCR Geneva carried out a mission in the East and North regions to assess the feasibility and present a plan for a biometric verification exercise and the implementation of the biometric identity management system (BIMS) in Cameroon in 2015-2016. Despite verification exercises undertaken in the East in 2013 for the old CAR refugee caseload, the accuracy of statistical data of the refugee population produced by UNHCR Cameroon continue to be regularly challenged by some audiences. Moreover, the continuous threat of Nigerian insurgents and the terror attacks in the Far North Region have led to restrictive security measures by Cameroonian government 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.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [United States of America](#) | [Japan](#) | [CERF](#) | [EU](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [ADB](#) | [France](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [ECOWAS](#) |

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#### Links:

<http://data.unhcr.org/car-> <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a03e1926.html>  
<http://data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation>