



WFP Cameroon Country Brief

Highlights

- In the Far North region, the ongoing violence continues to fuel new displacement – as of February 2016, the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) is estimated at 169,970 individuals, including some 30,600 persons displaced by flooding and other natural disasters (IOM February 2016).
- In eastern Cameroon, WFP was forced to reduce the food ration for C.A.R. refugees in March due to resourcing gaps.
- In April, WFP plans to launch its first cash assistance programmes in Cameroon, targeting C.A.R. refugees in the East region and IDPs in select areas of the Far North, where markets are functioning and capable of supporting a cash-based response.

WFP Assistance

WFP responds to the simultaneous crises in Cameroon through a mix of relief, recovery and development activities: In addition to its ongoing emergency responses assisting refugees from C.A.R. and Nigeria, IDPs and targeted local populations, WFP is supporting the Government in the implementation of its development and recovery priorities in the structurally poor northern part of the country.

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Emergency Food Assistance to refugees, IDPs, and Host Populations in the Far North region			
EMOP 200777 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2016)	40.7 m	23.8 m (59%)	8.1 m
Emergency Food Assistance to refugees from C.A.R			
EMOP 200799 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2016)	36.8 m	17 m (46%)	15 m
Country Programme – Providing food security and stability in Cameroon			
CP 200330 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017)	21.4 m	6 m (28%)	2.3 m
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)			
SO 200895, (Jan 2015 – Dec 2016)	7.1 m	2.9 m (42%)	n/a

* April – September 2016

EMOP 200777: The Emergency Operation addresses critical food and nutrition needs of crisis-affected households in areas of the Far North region impacted by the Boko Haram crisis, including Nigerian refugees, IDPs and targeted vulnerable local populations. In collaboration with the Government and partner agencies, WFP is transitioning a portion of assistance towards cash and recovery activities in 2016 to support livelihood assets creation and promote self-sufficiency and resilience efforts.

EMOP 200799: The operation supports refugee populations located along border regions of C.A.R. (East, Adamawa and North regions) with general

food distribution – 23,000 refugees in the Gado refugee site will shift to cash assistance as of April. Children and pregnant and nursing women amongst refugees and host populations alike receive nutrition support aimed at preventing and treating moderate acute malnutrition. Additionally, WFP supports malnourished individuals living with HIV. They receive nutritional assistance through the Food by Prescription Programme. WFP is introducing a new nutrition strategy in the first half of 2016, shifting nutrition interventions from a curative to preventive approach.

CP 200330: The Country Programme, implemented in the northern regions, aims to increase the food security of households and mitigate the effects of climate shocks by improving access to food through the implementation of social protection safety nets and sustainable management of community grain stocks, promotion of primary education, particularly for girls and nutrition security for vulnerable groups. The Government supports the Country Programme through an annual in-kind contribution of maize.

UNHAS 200895: WFP manages a Humanitarian air service operation since November 2015, to ensure access, and safe and reliable air transport services to the humanitarian community. The flights link Maroua, Ngaoundere and Garoua from its base in Yaoundé, as well as Maroua and N'Djamena with support from UNHAS Chad.

In Numbers

- 2.7 m people affected
- 2.3 m people in need of food assistance
- 500,000 people displaced

355,707 People Assisted
February 2016



March 2016

Main Photo Credit: Adel Sarkozi

Operational Updates

- **Far North region (EMOP 200777):** In March WFP stepped up assistance, reaching some 115,000 IDPs and vulnerable local populations through food assistance. Additionally, 54,000 Nigerian refugees in the Minawao refugee camp received food support. In February, WFP expanded the malnutrition prevention programme from initially targeting refugees in the Minawao camp, to IDPs and host populations in five priority districts of the Far North; in March, 30,000 children under five benefited from malnutrition prevention activities and 24,900 malnourished children and pregnant and nursing women from treatment activities.
- **Food security Monitoring:** The food security situation remains critical in the Far North due to ongoing violence and continued displacements. WFP is regularly monitoring food security and market developments in the Far North, using mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) as a tool to gather more timely food security information in difficult-to-access communities where regular face-to-face surveys are not possible due to insecurity. Findings from the Far North region confirm a precarious food insecurity situation of populations in the affected areas.
- **Eastern Cameroon (EMOP 200799):** WFP continues to provide food and nutrition support to 156,000 C.A.R. refugees registered by UNHCR, including 18,000 refugees who arrived prior 2014. Due to resourcing gaps, WFP had to cut the number of general food distribution ration days in March to 15 days instead of the usual 30 days. Nutrition treatment and prevention activities continued as planned.
- **Country Programme (CP 200330):** WFP and the government have initiated delivery of food to primary schools in most food insecure districts in northern Cameroon, to benefit students through the school semester. However, due to lack of resources, a significantly lower number of schools than foreseen will be assisted.

Challenges

- The volatile security situation in the Far North, with continuous attacks and bombings, challenges access to those in need.
- Resourcing levels remain limited to respond to the tremendous needs of vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Cameroon. Due to significant resourcing gaps under the C.A.R. refugee operation, WFP's food stocks were not sufficient to fully cover implementation of activities for refugees in March and WFP was forced to reduce the number of general food distribution ration days – serving people a 15 days ration instead of the usual 30 days.

Country Background



Cameroon's economic growth over the last decade has been too slow to lead to sustainable development and poverty reduction – nearly 40 percent of its population are still living below the poverty line.

Cameroon's northern regions located in the Sahelian band are the most deprived. Communities in these regions have suffered years of successive natural disasters and below average harvests, with little means to resist the continuous cycle of shocks and stresses. In 2015, food insecurity reached alarming levels: an estimated 2.3 million people are food insecure in the four poorest region – over 60 percent of whom are located in the Far North region, where 1 in 3 people are moderately or severely food insecure. In border areas of Nigeria where Boko Haram insurgents operate, the number of people facing food insecurity more than doubled between June and September last year.

Similarly, the SMART survey conducted by UNICEF in 2015 indicates an increase in malnutrition rates, especially in the Far North, compared to results from 2013 and 2014. Furthermore, stunting is a major public health issue in northern Cameroon, well above the WHO critical threshold.

WFP has been present in Cameroon since 1978.

Population: **22 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
153 out of 187

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **35.8% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

USA, UK, EU, Japan, UN CERF, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Canada, France, Switzerland

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