



## Cameroon

### ECHO FACTSHEET

#### Facts & Figures

- Cameroon hosts approximately **359 000 refugees**: **274 000 from Central African Republic and 85 000 from Nigeria** (UNHCR, IOM)
- There are **182 000 internally displaced persons due to conflict** (IOM)
- In 2017, 63 000 children are forecast to suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition in four regions affected by crisis in Cameroon. (UNICEF)
- 2.4 million people at risk of food insecurity** of whom 1.5 million located in the Far North (OCHA)

#### Funding

European Commission humanitarian funding :

**€ 25.1 million in 2016**

**€ 25.2 million in 2015**



Water point for refugees from Central African Republic ©Paul Duke/Solidarités International

#### Key messages

- Cameroon is hosting around **359 000 refugees**. Approximately 59 000 of them are Nigerian refugees fleeing Boko Haram violence and living in the Minawao camp, and 274 000 are from Central African Republic (CAR). In addition, some **182 000 persons are internally displaced (IDPs)** in the Far North region because of the conflict, an **increase of 15% since April 2016**.
- 180 000 people are in need of immediate food assistance** in the Far North region, and in some areas of this remote part of the country, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) levels exceed the 2% emergency threshold.
- The number of children forecast to suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition in 2017 is 63 000, 31 000 of whom in the Far North Region.
- Refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) living in the East and North regions are still entirely relying on the humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs.
- The European Commission has substantially increased its humanitarian support. The €11 million initial allocation for Cameroon at the start of 2016 were increased through the year to adapt to the existing needs, totalling **€25.2 million in December 2016**.
- With European Commission humanitarian funding emergency assistance is provided to IDPs, refugees and host populations in terms of **shelter, food, safe drinking water and sanitation, primary healthcare, support to livelihoods and protection**. Furthermore, the **acute food and nutrition insecurity** of the most vulnerable population is addressed.
- The provision of humanitarian assistance remains crucial and should be associated to the design of more sustainable strategies of response, to improve livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees. In parallel, properly linking humanitarian assistance to development actions is of paramount importance so as to build the resilience of vulnerable populations.

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## Humanitarian situation and needs

The **Lake Chad basin crisis** has quickly become one of Africa's most acute crises and the **fastest growing displacement emergency**. Cameroon is one of the four countries affected. The year 2015 saw a dramatic increase in the number of **Nigerian refugees who have fled Boko Haram violence** and are now present in the Far North region of Cameroon. In **Minawao refugee camp**, currently hosting 59 000 persons, water availability remains a serious issue (refugees currently have access to 12 liters of water per person per day, whereas the minimum standard is 15 liters per person per day). Shelters as well as latrines and showers are also insufficient to meet refugees' needs.

**Arrivals at Minawao are continuous** and, according to UNHCR, about half of new arrivals are coming from IDP camps in Nigeria with the related documentation provided by the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Close to **26 000 unregistered refugees** are located outside the camp with no protection or assistance, according to the October 2016's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), conducted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). UNHCR is working with the Government through mobile mixed Protection Committees in order to proceed to the census/registration of out-of-camp refugees.

Boko Haram regularly conduct attacks inside Cameroon, and this has caused significant internal displacement of Cameroonian nationals. According to the DTM, the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to the conflict is 182 000.

Reduced access for humanitarian organisations due to insecurity has rendered **difficult to deliver the humanitarian assistance outside the Minawao refugee camp**.

In addition, **renewed violence in Central African Republic** in late 2013 has since sent 158 500 people fleeing across the border and settling in the eastern part of Cameroon, where 115 000 CAR refugees already lived. The total number of Central African refugees today stands at **274 500 refugees**. Only half of them are located in the seven dedicated sites set up by UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency. The remaining half is staying in villages. Even if the situation of the CAR refugees has improved, most of them are still entirely relying on the humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs. The situation in CAR remains fragile.

Host communities are also suffering from the sudden influx and presence of displaced populations and refugees. World Food Programme's latest Emergency Food Security Assessment (October 2016) indicates that **23.8% of households are food insecure** in the four regions of Cameroon affected by a crisis. Nearly 80% of the population in the Far North is either poor or very poor, with limited access to basic services and essential food commodities. Compared to 2015, food insecurity has further deteriorated in the Adamaoua region where 39% of households are food insecure.

**Regarding the nutrition situation, the preliminary results of the nutrition survey conducted in October 2016 found 2% of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in the northern part of the Far North region, equivalent to the WHO emergency threshold. In the eastern region of Adamaoua hosting CAR refugees, the rate of SAM is also alarming, at 1.8%.**

## The European Union's humanitarian response

In 2016, EU's humanitarian assistance to Cameroon totaled **€25.1 million**. The €11 million initial allocation was increased throughout the year to adapt to the existing needs, with additional envelopes to respond to unmet needs in the Far North (€3.1 million), to reinforce the response in the east of the country (3 million) and to support access to education and the protection of children affected by the conflict in the Far North region (€1 million from the Education in Emergencies initiative). The additional € 7 million allocated in December 2016 for assistance to populations affected by the Lake Chad crisis will be implemented in 2017.

In 2015, the European Commission's allocation for both emergencies, in the eastern and northern part of the country as well as the impact of El Niño, was **€ 25.2 million**.

The funds contribute to maintain the humanitarian response to refugees from Nigeria and Central African Republic, as well as to Internally Displaced persons and to vulnerable host communities. Protection, food,



access to water and sanitation, healthcare and emergency education are the main axes of work. In addition, it was necessary to adapt the previous nutrition programmes, focused on prevention, to allow them to respond to the current nutrition emergency.

## Examples of humanitarian projects in Cameroon



The Far North region of Cameroon, already amongst the poorest of the country, has been the scenario of massive displacement due to the Boko Haram crisis. The area is receiving refugees from Nigeria and the armed group's attacks inside Cameroon have also displaced internally over 150 000 people. The EU's humanitarian department ECHO is funding emergency assistance both inside Minawao refugee camp, hosting 59 000 people, as well as outside of the camp and in the host communities, very much affected as well by the crisis. Food, access to water and sanitation, healthcare and protection are among the actions funded. © EC/ECHO/D.Buyse

Children are among the most vulnerable victims during and in the immediate aftermath of a crisis. With funding from the **Education in Emergencies** initiative, UNICEF has provided training to teachers –both Nigerian and Cameroonian- on how to deal with children affected by trauma and provide psycho-social support. The project promotes close collaboration between schools and child protection services to identify children in need of specialised support. Thanks to a media partnership with community radio stations, these are broadcasting education programmes to remote communities so children can continue their education. ©UNICEF Cameroon



Some 274 000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) live in the Adamaoua and North regions of Cameroon. About 80 000 live in the seven refugee sites set up by UNHCR. The Commission's humanitarian department has been supporting different partner organisations such as **Première Urgence Internationale, the Red Cross, Solidarités International, WFP** and **UNHCR** in order to meet the refugees' needs in terms of food, nutrition care, protection, shelter and non-food items. ©OCHA/Ivo Brandau