

# Cameroon

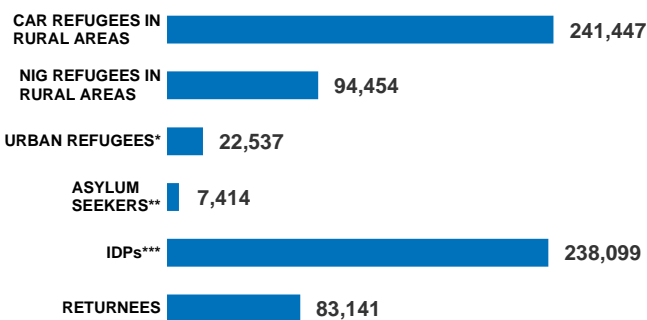
May 2018

Cameroon currently has **687,092 people of concern**, including **258,779 Central African refugees** and **96,367 Nigerian refugees**.

The World Bank approved an **International Development Association package of \$274 million to assist refugees and host communities** in Cameroon.

**New arrivals continue to be registered** in the Far North region as Nigerian refugees seek safety further inland.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (687,092 AS OF 31 MAY)



\*Incl. 17,332 Central Africans and 1,913 Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.

\*\*Incl. 6,153 Central Africans and 8 Nigerian asylum seekers living in urban areas.

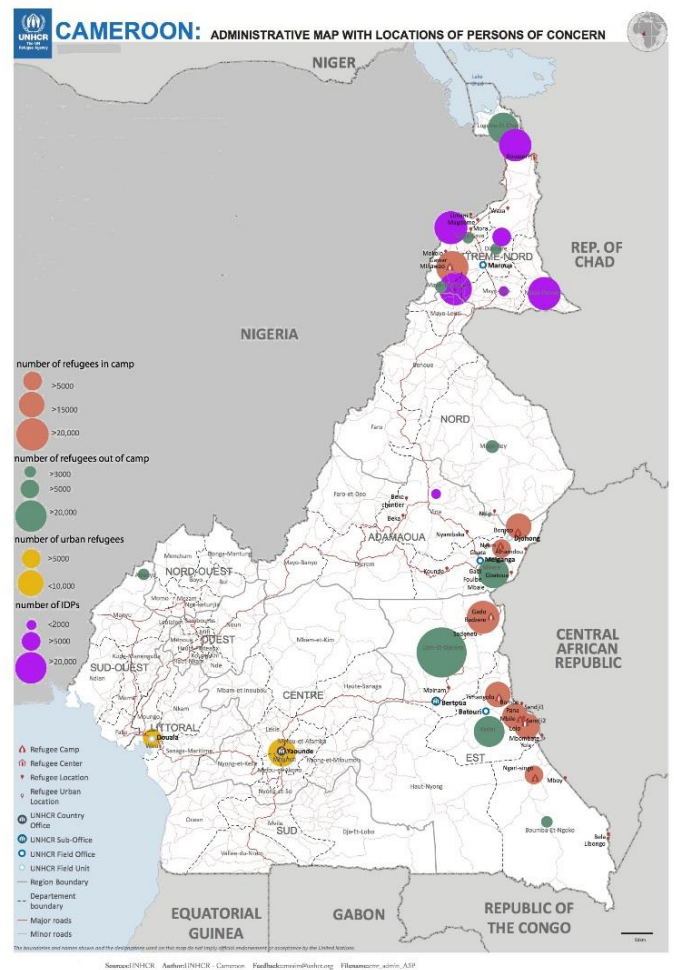
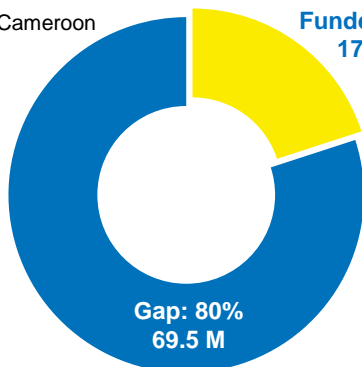
\*\*\*In addition, the Emergency Response Plan, launched by humanitarian partners in May 2018, estimates 160,000 IDPs are displaced in the North-West and South-West regions.

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY)

**USD 86.7 M**

Requested for Cameroon

Funded: 20%  
17.2 M



## UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 242

144 National Staff

49 International Staff

49 Affiliate workforce (8 International and 41 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 Internationale* 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

- On 1 May 2018, the World Bank (WB) approved an International Development Association (IDA) package of \$274 million for four projects focusing on helping refugees and host communities in Cameroon with access to health care, education, social safety nets, and social and economic infrastructure. The package includes a \$130 million grant from the IDA 18 Refugees and Host Communities Sub-Window. Cameroon is the first country worldwide to benefit from \$2 billion of dedicated funding provided by IDA to support low-income countries hosting large numbers of refugees. Working in coordination, the package – consisting of the Social Safety Net Project, Health System Performance Reinforcement Project, Community Development Program Support Project and the Education Reform Support Project – aims to improve access to health care and education for both refugees and host communities. It includes the most vulnerable households in social safety nets, and ensures – via an integrated and inclusive approach - that municipal development plans are developed jointly by host communities and refugees and deliver small public works that are critical to host communities and refugees alike. Throughout the implementation of the projects, UNHCR will support the WB in monitoring the adequacy of the refugee protection framework in Cameroon. An adequate protection framework will remain a precondition for the disbursement of the additional financing under the IDA18 sub-window for host communities and refugees. In this context, the WB will actively support UNHCR’s advocacy efforts with the Government to respect refugee protection principles.
- On 28 May, an Emergency Response Plan was launched in Cameroon to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs in the South-West and North-West regions of the country. The humanitarian community is seeking US\$15 million to deliver life-saving assistance for a targeted 160,000 internally displaced people for an initial period of three months.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation carried out a mission to the Far North during the reporting period. The main objective of the mission was to conduct a baseline assessment in Minawao camp, but also Mokolo District Hospital, the referral hospital, in view of launching a project focused on reproductive health and new-borns. The mission met with local health authorities, UNFPA, as well as other partners to discuss and determine strategies to best implement this new project in favour of refugees and host communities.
- On 24 May, the Belgian Ambassador to Cameroon, Mr. Stéphane Doppagne, undertook a familiarization mission to Mokolo, Zamai and Minawao refugee camp in the Far North region. A visit to some of Minawao’s major structures (health center, cocoon reforestation sites, vocational training center, WASH activities, etc.), provided an overview of efforts being carried out by UNHCR and its partners to protect and assist the refugee community. Exchanges with the refugee community mentioned the need for additional international support from humanitarian and development partners to improve their living conditions.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Far North Region

- The cross-border incursions and attacks perpetrated along the Cameroon/Nigeria borders and within Cameroonian territory led to further movements of populations seeking safety. A total of 985 new arrivals were registered at Gourounguel transit centre. In addition, 106 refugees who had organized their own return to Banki, Nigeria in 2017, returned to Minawao camp citing insecurity and poor living conditions.
- The registration operation of those willing to return to Adamawa State was carried out during the month of May. A total of 732 individuals (185 households) expressed their interest to be repatriated to Adamawa State. More in-depth interviews are to be carried to determine, amongst other things, whether there may be persons with specific needs. UNHCR continues to facilitate information sessions in Minawao camp, attended by all partners, several religious leaders and the various leaders of the zones within the camp, focused on modalities that would lead to the first eventual repatriation operations.
- During the reporting period, ten awareness-raising sessions were conducted to improve coexistence between Nigerian refugees in Minawao and their hosts in surrounding villages. Subjects included respect for community rules (queues for distributions, hygiene, sanitation, etc.) but also to avoid loitering in empty spaces and traffic lanes. The sessions also touched on the prohibition of selling NFIs, on refugee rights and responsibilities, community participation in decision making, and of the management of natural resources. A total of 28,500 individuals benefited from these activities.

### East, Adamaoua and North Regions

- The upsurge of violence in the Central African Republic is driving hundreds of people across the border to seek asylum in Cameroon. They are fleeing clashes between government forces and armed groups following the disarmament programme of armed groups in the localities of the prefecture of Mambéré Kadei. This situation has resulted in the arrival of 1,634 new asylum seekers, according to pre-registration figures, in the localities of Gbiti, Wissambo, Wolo, Djalingo, Bombé- Castle, Dondoube, Bombe- Pana and Kentzou, mainly in the Kadey department (East Region), of which 647 refugees were registered by UNHCR during the reporting period. New arrivals are primarily women and children from several localities in the prefecture of Mambéré Kadei. The pace of the arrivals combined with a very limited presence of humanitarian and law enforcement in these areas underscores the urgency of increasing our response to meet the needs of the people. Joint evaluations by UN agencies and NGOs were conducted in Gbiti and Wissambo. These assessments identified priority needs in terms of WASH, health, shelter and food assistance.
- On 2 May, UNHCR met with Central African refugees in Guiwa to discuss the issue of voluntary repatriation. Guiwa hosts over 2,300 Central African refugees, some of whom are seeking to return home due to a lack of adequate assistance provided in terms of education, health, nutrition and a lack of viable solutions in country of asylum. UNHCR reiterated that every refugee has the right to return to his country if he/she so desires, but that it would not be an organized repatriation. In the coming weeks, UNHCR is to develop key messages on the issue of voluntary return to share with refugees.

### 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 | France | 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

Algeria | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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