

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern 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:** 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 HIGHLIGHTS

- The month of January was marked by **a surge in violence by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) with repeated attacks** in the Far North region characterized by killings, kidnappings and the burning of villages and foodstuff. On 14 January an attack in the North-eastern Nigerian town of Rann had immediate repercussions in Cameroon's Far North region whereby more than 9,000 people crossed over, seeking refuge in Goura and Medina in the department of Logone et Chari. Another attack in Loumani, a locality close to Rann on the night of 26 January, and the withdrawal of Cameroonian elements of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) from the town of Rann, saw an influx of some 35,000 Nigerian asylum seekers into Goura, Cameroon. On 31 January, UNHCR's Assistant Representative (Operations) accompanied the Humanitarian Coordinator, Allegra Baiocchi, to Goura where, together with other partners, they took stock of the emergency situation, the current coordinated response and assessed the needs.
- Following reports of *refoulement* in mid-January and the news of a significant influx of asylum seekers from Nigeria, UNHCR's **Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees in charge of Protection, Volker Türk undertook a mission to Cameroon** from 29-30 January. He held talks with the Minister of External Relations, Lejeune Mbella Mbella and with the Minister of State, Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic, Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh where they discussed the displacement situation in Cameroon and the protection and security challenges. Mr Türk also met with the Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon, with the Country Director of the World Bank, Elisabeth Huybens, the US Ambassador, Peter Barlerin, as well as members of the donor community and diplomatic corps.
- From 28-29 January, Nigeria hosted the **2nd Regional Protection Dialogue** (RPD2) for populations affected by the ongoing instability in the Lake Chad Basin. The Dialogue, which was hosted by Nigeria with facilitation by UNHCR, took stock of progress, examined the current challenges and renewed the commitments of the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria to collectively enhance protection and respond to the most urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other affected populations in the Lake Chad Basin. NSAGs have terrorized north-east Nigeria since 2009 leading to millions being internally displaced and tens of thousands others fleeing into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The governments reaffirmed the importance of the renewed commitments to addressing issues highlighted in the 2016 Abuja Action Statement of the first RPD. The main issues were based on five thematic areas: Forced Displacement and Freedom of Movement in Conflict; Civil-Military Coordination and the Civilian Character of Refugee and IDP Hosting Areas; Persons with Specific Protection Risks; Comprehensive Solutions Approach and Right to Nationality and Documentation.
- UNHCR, together with the UN Development Programme and other partners, launched the **2019 Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP)**, an appeal for US\$135 million to help hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the worsening Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin region. The newly launched aid appeal aims to broaden the humanitarian response towards a longer-term approach - to support those forced to flee and the communities hosting them. Refugee hosting communities are already living below the poverty line and in dire need of aid themselves with their ability to help the displaced being stretched to the limit. The 40 UN agencies and humanitarian organizations that joined the 2019 Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), will cater for the

needs of a quarter million Nigerian refugees and 55,000 of their hosts in Niger, Cameroon and Chad. In Cameroon, 22 partners involved have planned a response that targets 99,500 refugees, 20,000 individuals from host communities and which will require US\$ 65.1 million.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- From 7–11 January, a delegation from the **Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) undertook a visit to the Lom et Djerem and Kadey departments of the East region** of Cameroon. The objective of their mission was to evaluate and obtain a better understanding of the impact of the presence of refugees in the region. They were also interested in knowing about the assistance provided by UNHCR and partners to refugees and host communities. In Bertoua and Batouri, the delegation met with UNHCR staff, partners, refugees and host communities in order for them to obtain a wholesome understanding of the most pressing issues. While conveying government's appreciation of the work done by UNHCR and its partners, the delegation gave room for proposals to be made on both sides in a bid to foster a better working and collaboration platform.
- On 11 January, UNHCR officially handed over **1,200 birth certificate booklets to the Governor of the Far North Region** for onward transmission to the National Civil Status Bureau (BUNEC). UNHCR's support is a key child protection tool towards efforts at enabling children to benefit from their rights of citizenship and ending the risk of statelessness. Many children in the region usually lack the document to complete their files for end of school year examinations. In total, 38,163 children at the end of their primary education will be without birth certificates, thus exposed to the risk of statelessness.
- As part of the Bill & Melinda Gates project, UNHCR handed over **medical equipment to the Mokolo District Hospital, in the Far North region**. This donation consisted mainly of improving the technical platform for childbirth and gynecological-obstetrical surgery in the health facility. The new equipment will improve the quality of care of pregnant women during surgical procedures and consequently contribute to the reduction of mortality related to child-rearing and child birth; within the refugee and host population communities. In parallel, UNHCR and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) handed over hospital equipment to the Garoua Boulai district hospital (East region). The hospital equipment were acquired with the objective of boosting the operational capacity of the hospital and to improve the level of healthcare given to refugees and host communities.
- In the **South West region**, in Meme and Manyu divisions, all planned NFI kits have been distributed despite ongoing insecurity and the interruption to transportation. By end January, a total of 6,017 NFI kits had been distributed covering the needs of 34,986 people. A total of 4,000 shelter kits and wooden beams are pre-positioned in Kumba and are to be distributed next month, security conditions permitting, to 12,900 IDPs in Meme Division and 7,100 in Manyu Division. In addition, recent protection monitoring missions have identified and documented a total 1,893 protection incidents since mid-November 2018.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

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