

CAMEROON MCO

(Multi-country Operation for Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe)

Cameroon hosts **1,960,832 persons of concern to UNHCR**: 443,854 refugees, 7,545 asylum seekers, 1,032,942 internally displaced persons (321,886 in the Far North and 711,056 in the North West and South West regions), and 465,757 returnees (former IDPs). **Gabon** hosts **473 refugees and 84 asylum seekers**.

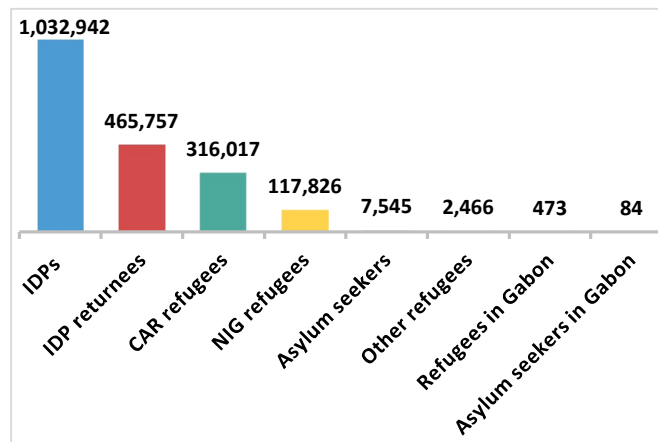
UNHCR began the transfer of newly arrived Central African refugees to the Gado settlement in the East, as Cameroon continued to receive people fleeing violence in the Central African Republic. **3,184 individuals sought refuge in Garoua-Boulai and other areas** in the region during the reporting month. A total of **5,655 people** crossed into Cameroon since mid-December.

The North-west and South-west regions witnessed a recrudescence of armed confrontations between non state armed groups (NSAGs) and the army, as well as a surge in the detonation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), **leading to frequent displacement of civilians**.

Statistics Figures Sources & Dates

- Cameroon refugee & asylum seeker figures, UNHCR Cameroon 31 January 2021
- Gabon refugees & asylum seeker figures, UNHCR, 31 January 2021
- IDP & returnee figures, IOM & OCHA, 31 January 2021

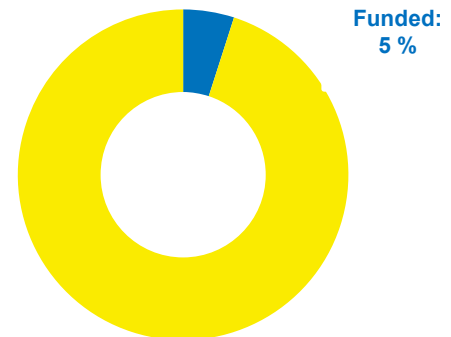
POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2021)



FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2021)

USD 100 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



Gap: 95%

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 222 National Staff

63 International Staff

Offices:

01 MCO in Yaoundé

04 Field Offices in Batouri, Buea, Douala, Meiganga,

03 Sub Offices in Bertoua, Maroua, Bamenda

01 Liaison Office in Libreville, Gabon

03 Field Units in Djohong, Kousseri, Touboro



New Central African refugees in Garoua-Boulai ©UNHCR/XavierBourgois

Working with Partners

- In the East region, following the transfer of newly arrived CAR refugees to the Gado-Badzéré site, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and other humanitarian and government partners coordinated in the provision of emergency assistance comprising food, shelter, dignity kits and non-food items (NFIs)
- A joint UNHCR-UNOCHA-UNICEF-FAO mission carried out a rapid need assessment in Bangem and Tombel in the South West region. The most pressing needs of IDP returnees relate to healthcare, shelter, livelihoods, water and sanitation, education, and civil documentation. In Bangem, partners distributed food and WASH kits and provided psychosocial support. In Wum and Batibo, in the North West, OCHA, UNICEF and UNHCR met with IDPs, returnees, community leaders and women to understand their needs and inform the response.
- The Shelter and NFI cluster in the Far North outlined a plan of assistance for 2021, which includes the construction/rehabilitation of 1320 emergency and transitional shelters, as well as the distribution of 5685 shelter and NFI kits to refugees and IDPs in the region, by the Norwegian Refugee Council and the IOM.
- The Mixed Migration Task Force in Gabon, which includes UNHCR, held working sessions and submitted a concept note and budget for the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, to be jointly implemented by IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. The project aims to provide a comprehensive inter-agency approach to the management of mixed migration in Gabon.

Main Activities



Protection

- The borders between Cameroon and the Central African Republic remained officially closed, but people fleeing insecurity in CAR retained access to asylum through unofficial entry points. 1,121 new Central African refugees were transferred from Garoua-Boulai to the Gado refugee settlement in the East region, among them 204 children in school age. Discussions with education officials are underway for their inclusion in primary and secondary schools in Gado. WFP distributed food, while UNFPA provided dignity kits and kitchen items.
- The North West and South West regions witnessed a recrudescence in armed confrontations between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and the army coupled with a surge in the detonation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). UNHCR is analyzing the needs of about 1,400 newly displaced people within the North West to guide the humanitarian response.
- 36 protection incidents including the destruction of homes, threat to life and SGBV were reported in North West and South West. Legal action was initiated for four cases of physical violence and three cases of rape. The rape cases were also referred to health officials and received psychosocial support simultaneously.
- About 3,000 persons of concern in the North West and South West received civil documentation with support from UNHCR's partners, the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA) and Intersos. This included birth certificates for children aged 11 - 13 years, which allowed them to register for the First School Leaving Certificate Examination (FSLCE). 150,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs were found to be in need of birth registration and other civil documents. In Douala, the NGO Women Peace Initiative transmitted 124 apparent age certificates for refugee children to UNHCR for follow up with legal, council and BUNEC (National Civil Status Registration Office).

- During its regular detention monitoring activities, UNHCR identified 18 persons of concern in detention in Douala. In Bertoua, 10 new detentions were recorded in January, bringing to 113 the number of refugees held in Bertoua prison.



Durable Solutions

- 2991 Nigerian refugees representing 843 households in the Minawao camp in the Far North expressed their intention to return home. Most of them signalled their desire to return to Borno State - only 24 individuals asked to return to other states. The collection of return intentions will continue in the coming month.
- UNHCR conducted a preliminary assessment for the potential resettlement of 29 individuals in Douala. Two urgent cases of seven individuals were referred to the hub and one case submitted to Sweden, while 25 people were offered resettlement counselling. In the East region, a working session with IMC to identify suitable cases for resettlement took place. Particular attention was paid to 10 cases of unaccompanied children.



Health

- New CAR refugees transferred to the Gado settlement received medical screening, including Covid-19 tests and nutritional evaluation. One person tested positive for Covid-19. One child was found with acute malnutrition. 131 children were vaccinated against measles, and 57 patients, including six with chronic illness, received medical consultations.
- UNHCR handed over to the Ministry of Public Health the Covid-19 treatment centre in Batouri. The centre with a 40-bed capacity was built by the partner ADES and funded by UNHCR.



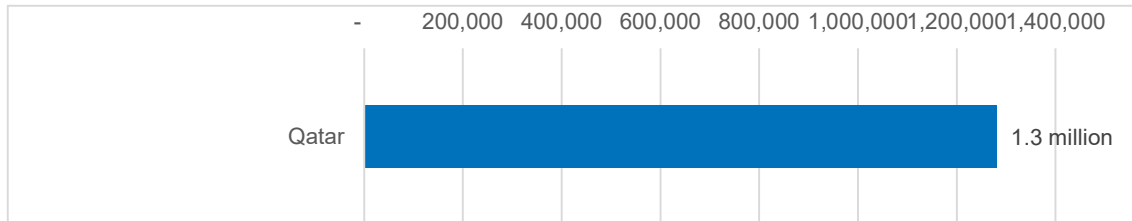
Shelter and NFIs

- Three hectares of land around the Gado-Badzéré settlement were cleared for the construction of shelters for new CAR refugees. 80 emergency shelters were implanted and 66 completed. A Covid-19 centre was rehabilitated and converted to a transit centre for new refugees. In total, 234 shelters were built or rehabilitated for new arrivals.
- 353 vulnerable households in Mankon, Bamenda received core relief items after security challenges impeded their distribution last year.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR MCO Cameroon is grateful for the enormous support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation in Cameroon and Gabon as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD 1,3 million for MCO Cameroon as of 31 January 2021



Other Softly Earmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds
 Germany | Private donors

Unearmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden 76.4 million | Private donors Spain 66.8 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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