

Cameroon

July-August 2024

Over the reporting period, **49,542** refugees and IDPs received **cash assistance**, addressing their needs for protection, livelihoods, shelter, education, and non-food items.

In line with **social protection** and inclusion values, UNHCR supported **refugees** in showcasing their artistic talents at the 8th International Crafts Fair of Cameroon (SIARC).

23,850 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have gained access to **clean cooking fuels**, improving their living conditions, and significantly reducing environmental impact.

KEY INDICATORS

80,000 Refugees

Now have access to Universal Health coverage.

40%

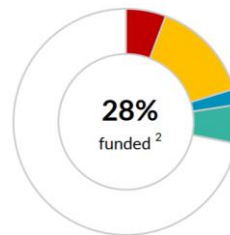
Data collected so far for the Forced Displacement Survey in six regions of Cameroon.

10,570

Refugees have been Registered and obtained their refugee documents.

\$135.7 million

UNHCR's Financial Requirements (as of 31 August 2024)



CAMEROON MCO
as of 31 August 2024

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)



Refugees displaying hand crafted made artifacts at 8th International Crafts Fair of Cameroon (SIARC) UNHCR @Mbazazi/2024



Eco-friendly briquettes (cooking charcoal) provide safe and better alternative for cooking, hence protecting environment UNHCR @Helen Ngoh/2022

Operational Context

- UNHCR continues its effort of providing **Protection, Coordination, and seeking durable solutions** to challenges of forcibly displaced and stateless people in Cameroon. Ongoing Protection and Security Crises continue to expose forcibly displaced persons to multidimensional vulnerabilities while causing population movements and impacting negatively humanitarian activities. Efforts to improve education access, include refugees in the government educational systems, as well as enrolment rates were increased in a back-to-school campaign in the urban areas of the country.



Refugee girl in Yaounde receives didactic materials to ease preparations for back-to-school. UNHCR @Ruth Mbendong/2024

- UNHCR Cameroon organized a Mid-Year Results workshop to present the main achievements of the operation for the first half of 2024. The workshop was attended by 11 representatives from the various governmental bodies: Ministry of External Relations/MINREX, Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development/MINDDEVEL, Ministry of Health/MINSANTE, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development/MINEPAT, Ministry of Basic Education/MINEBASE, Ministry of Secondary Education/MINSEC and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/MINADER. The conclusions drawn will inform the priorities for the second half of the year, as well as the priorities for 2025.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

The protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a national NGO, Respect Cameroon, on the Co-coordination of the protection sector in the country. This is the first time in Cameroon, that a national organization is occupying such a strategic role in the cluster protection platform highlighting a clear change from the norm of having only international organization as co-facilitator.

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 10, 570 refugees received their Refugee Identification Card. UNHCR continues advocating towards the issuance of refugee cards by the national authorities (DGSN).
- **Holding of the second panel for the Best Interest Determination of a Child:** On 12 and 13 August 2024 at the UNHCR office in Douala, in the event attended by Ministry of Women Empowerment and Family (MINPROFF), UNHCR, Nylon Hospital, and the partner Plan International, eight cases (seven girls and one boy) referred by resettlement were deliberated. During the session, the panel approved the decision of 5 cases authorizing the children to be considered in the resettlement procedure with their guardians.
- **The flagship Forced Displacement Survey** was launched in January 2024, with data collection starting in July. It has now reached about 40 per cent of the 5,416 randomly selected households participating in this survey in six regions: Far North, North, Adamawa, East, Centre, and Littoral. The survey covers various aspects of the refugee life and living conditions including political, judiciary, economic and socioeconomic variables. This survey is the first of its kind in Cameroon to meet internationally accepted standards. In partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and the National Institute of Statistics, UNHCR is supporting the execution of the survey, which is piloted in only three countries globally: Cameroon, Sudan, and Pakistan.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Refugees at Minawao camp organized a protest due to the discontinuation of food assistance. The Secretary General of the Governor's Office and the UNHCR Head of the Sub-Office intervened and organized discussions with refugees to restore order.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Academic year 2024-2025:** a total of **880** children have received their educational grant assistance, comprising 631 primary school children, 243 secondary school children and 08 children with special needs.
- UNHCR and partner are currently running a Back-to-School Campaign in Yaoundé and Douala urban centers, aimed at increasing the enrollment rate of refugee boys and girls. This initiative is expected to greatly encourage refugee children to return to school with peace of mind.
- **38 refugee students** have registered for the General Certificate Examinations (GCE) at the Ordinary and Advanced Levels. Their cumulative pass rate is 68.4 per cent.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps:

More than 28,000 refugee children are out of preschool school level. At primary level, over 47,000 refugee children are out of school in Cameroon, and more than 84,000 refugee children and teenagers are out of school at secondary level.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- 80,000 refugees now have access to healthcare through universal health coverage. This provides free or subsidized access to treatment for malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, kidney failure, and subsidized care for pregnant women.
- In camp, site, and host communities, 78,600 refugee consultations and treatment in UNHCR supported health care services allowed refugees to maintain a healthy lifestyle, including reproductive, mental, and psychosocial health. Furthermore, UNHCR also provides education and sensitization on family planning and women health especially during post-natal consultations in health facilities.
- The Ministry of Health in Cameroon has issued a press release declaring the Monkeypox outbreak as a Public Health Emergency. Cameroon is on high alert, as a country known to be endemic for Monkeypox and has already recorded 30 suspected cases, 05 confirmed and 02 deaths. UNHCR continues to collaborate with the authorities to support on the communication efforts to contain and control the spread of the epidemic in the country.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Further to the press release issued by the Ministry of Health in Cameroon declaring the Monkeypox outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Concern, UNHCR has participated in the ongoing coordination discussions and continues collaborating with the authorities to support on the communication to contain and control the spread of the epidemic in the country, including between the forcibly displaced communities.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- The rate of new cases of malnutrition in May 2024 was 30 per cent higher than in May 2023, and 84 per cent higher than in May 2022. In June, the total number of new cases of malnutrition for the first half of the year was 18 per cent higher than in June 2023 (for the same period) and 51 per cent higher than in June 2022.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- Following UNHCR's increased advocacy efforts in maintaining water networks, repairing broken hand pumps, capacity building, and improving the proximity to water sources, refugees' access to and water supply has improved. Over **23,814** households have now access to drinking water, averaging 16.92 liters per person per day in the Minawao refugee camp further to the enhancement of the water supply by CAMWATER, with an increase from 200 m3 per day to 450 m3 per day.
- Similarly, 30 per cent of families have latrines at the Minawao camp. 821.4 m³ of latrine sludge emptied in six months and buried in the camp's wastewater treatment plant basins and allowing the manufacture of 360 bags of 50 kilos of composted manure from the refugees to improve the yield of the refugees' agricultural activities.
- The Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) has been essential to control the supply of drinking water in Minawao and Gado. The RTM was installed in November 2023 as a pilot project in Cameroon to remotely monitor, in real time, the quality and operation of drinking water systems by providing quantitative and graphical data.

**SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS(NFIS)****Shelter and NFIs Cluster**

- The Shelter/NFI Cluster led by UNHCR provided emergency, transitional and durable shelter interventions together with 21 other partners which has improved the lives of 80,870 internally displaced people and vulnerable host communities out of 1.1 million individual needs assessed in Cameroon.

Achievements and Impact

- In the Far North region, 5,602 households have been assisted with shelter items/kits while a total of 1,892 households gained access to transitional/emergency shelters and with UNHCR support, houses were rehabilitated or reconstructed for 1,170 refugees.

- In the North-West, South-West regions 5,464 households have been supported with shelter items/kits and household items while 1,982 households gained access to shelter through rental support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

The Shelter/NFI Cluster is among the least funded sectors in Cameroon, with less than 20 per cent of the 29 million USD required, according to the OCHA's Financial Tracking System.



ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- In 2024, from January to June, 55,000 fruit, nutritional and forest tree seedlings in nurseries in the camp and in host communities have been produced, promotion of soilless agriculture, agroforestry practices, reforestation and protection in Minawao, Mayo-Tsanaga, Logone et Chari; given to date, 546,315 forest, fruit and nutritional seedlings planted (501,315 in an ordinary way and 44,792 seedlings with the Cocoon technique) in the camp and in the host community covering more than 900 ha et 55 green spaces, with a tree survival rate of 86 per cent.
- A total of 15 environmental education sessions for communities on the protection and maintenance of trees and the risks of abusive cutting of firewood and on the promotion of alternative sources of energy reached 14,809 households of 59,685 people (14 per cent Men, 21 per cent Women, 3 per cent Boys and 35 per cent Girls) in the Far North region.
- 1,657 households have benefited from training in the manufacture of improved cookstoves and ecological briquettes and on the method of carbonization in the open air from their household solid waste in Minawao camp. With the support of UNHCR, refugees in Minawao refugee camp ensured the production of eco-friendly briquettes to replace firewood, reduce the time spent collecting wood as well as reduce the health risks and sexual abuse of women and girls who travel long distances in search of wood.
- To date, **545,103 kg of briquettes** were produced at home by 7,929 households, and 526 improved clay stoves in 304 households in Logone and Chari. These efforts contribute to the improvement of refugee environment and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Furthermore, 624 households received 45,000 kg of rice husk biomass to households for the manufacture of ecological charcoal.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impacts

- In collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, some 5,820 refugees have been given access to land and property, as well as tools for farming, livestock breeding and fish farming. Access to market-oriented vocational training, financial services and employment has been facilitated for 246 people.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR provided support to 50 Nigerian refugee households, comprising 243 individuals, as they voluntarily returned to Banki, Northeast Nigeria. This initiative is part of the larger effort to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of 14,000 refugees who expressed their intention to return to Nigeria. UNHCR remains committed to advocating for the fulfillment of agreements made during the tripartite negotiations, urging the Government to honour its commitment to provide durable solutions for all refugees in the country.
- In the Eastern Region of Cameroon and urban areas, Return Intentions Survey conducted among 28,400 CAR refugees revealed that only 26 percent of CAR refugees are willing to return to their country of origin. Urban refugees were less likely (79 per cent) to return to their country than refugees in the Eastern region (73 per cent). UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of a total of 12,729 refugees to CAR, including 4,545 only in 2024.
- 10 refugees from Minawao camp, East region and Yaounde showcased their artistic talents at the 8th International Crafts Fair of Cameroon (SIARC) as a preview of the developing partnership with the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MINPMEESA) to ensure the inclusion of refugees in the job market in Cameroon as well as through the provision of support for establishment of cooperatives.
- 18 refugees graduated from a six-month vocational training in automotive repair and maintenance techniques conducted by CFAO Motors Cameroon in Douala, Cameroon, as result from the collaboration from Japanese company Toyota Tsusho Corporation (TTC) and UNHCR. The training covered a range of skills, including preventive maintenance, engine, transmission, braking, suspension, electrical, tyre and air conditioning maintenance.
- Out of a quota of 1,000 individuals for 2024 there were 467 individual cases of refugees submitted to various resettlement countries for consideration, namely Canada (109), France (141), Australia (06), Germany (01) and the USA (210). There were 706 refugee departures to Australia (87), Canada (102), France (171), Finland (04), Germany (01), Norway (04), and the USA (337).

Coordination and Partnership for Solutions

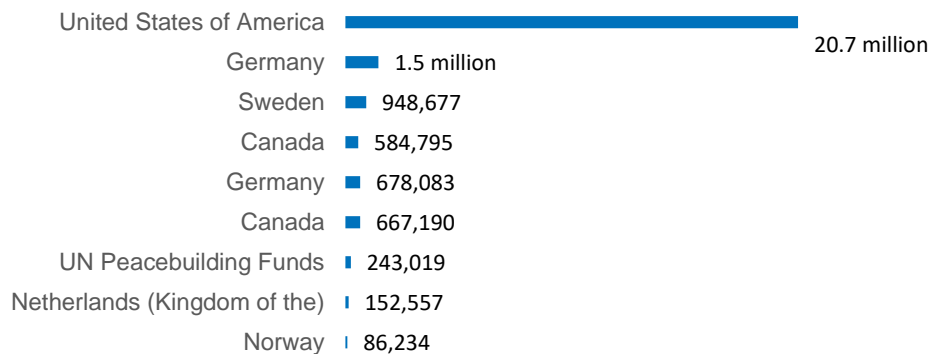
- President of Cameroon, H.E. Paul Biya granted an equivalent of 100 million FCFA (\$US 161,300) worth of food items, including rice, corn, flour, oil, and legumes, to refugees in Minawao. UNHCR Representative *ad interim* in Cameroon, Cesar Mbavu Tshilombo and Far North Governor, Midjiyawa Bakary took part on the distribution ceremony of the items to the refugee communities.
- The Multi-Partner Committee (CMP), which serves as a platform for coordination and dialogue between the Government and Cameroon's technical and financial partners, met on 10 July 2024 in Yaoundé. The meeting was attended by three Secretaries General of the main ministries (MINREX, MINAT, and MINDDEVEL) and

the Resident Coordinator of the UN system. At the committee's request, UNHCR presented on the inclusion of refugees into development projects and programmes. The Agency also emphasized on the shift from care and maintenance programming to sustainable programming and called on development partners to support the Government in these efforts.

Financial Information

The total recorded contributions for the Cameroon MCO amount to **USD 38 million**, out of a total of USD 135.7 million requirement. This leaves an indicative **funding gap** of USD 97,584,176 representing **72 per cent of the financial needs**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed directly to this operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds:



UNHCR Cameroon thanks

Government of Cameroon | Canada | Education Cannot Wait | Germany | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Toyota Tsusho Corporation | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UNCERF | UNAIDS | United States of America

Special thanks to the major donors of softly restricted and regional funds in 2024

Australia for UNHCR 6.5 million | Norway 2.8 million | Italy 2.5 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted funds in 2024

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | España con ACNUR 44 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of) 36.3 million | France 33.6 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Japan for UNHCR 23.4 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 20.1 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Belgium 14.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Private donors in Italy 12.8 million | Australia 10.7 million

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