

**259,145**

Central African refugees registered by UNHCR in rural areas in the East, Adamaoua and North regions, of which 158,418 arrived since December 2013

**86,900**

Nigerian refugees in the Far North region (of which 60,157 are registered at Minawao camp)

**198,889**

Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North region (*sources: DTM by IOM as of October 2016 and UNHCR protection monitoring Flash Updates*)

## Population of concern

**603,839** people of concern to UNHCR

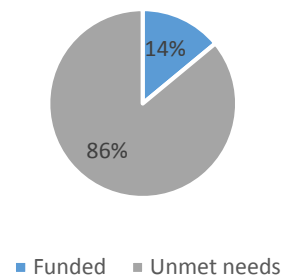
### By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
CAR	<b>259,145</b>
Nigeria	<b>86,900</b>
Urban refugees*	<b>19,559</b>
Asylum seekers	<b>3,278</b>
IDPs	<b>198,889</b>
IDPs returnees	<b>36,068</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>603,839</b>

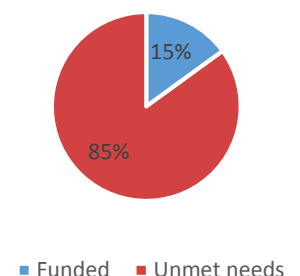
\*Incl. CAR and Nigerian refugees living in urban areas

**Funding situation** (including UNHCR's regular country Programme). The operation is 41% funded (US\$ 40.3 m received out of 98.6 m requested. The overall funding gap for UNHCR Cameroon amounts hence to US\$ 58.3 m)

CAR Situation  
UNHCR Cameroon  
budgetary requirements:  
US\$ 55.5 million  
03 Jan 2017



Nigeria Situation  
UNHCR Cameroon  
budgetary requirements:  
US\$ 27.9 million  
03 Jan 2017



## UNHCR Presence

**Staff: 236**

**54** International staff

**135** National staff

**47** UN Volunteers (14 International and 33 National)

### Offices:

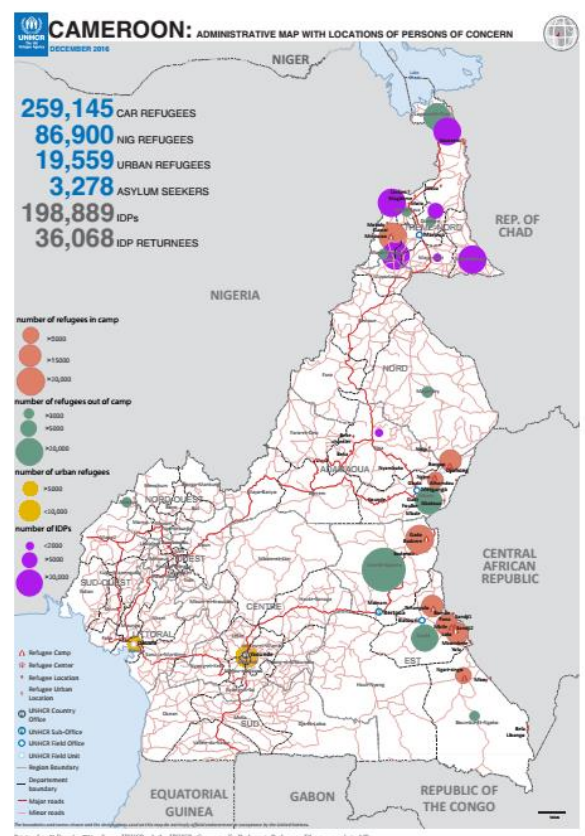
**7** offices:

Branch Office – Yaoundé

Sub Offices – Bertoua and Maroua

Field Offices – Meiganga, Batouri and Douala

Field Unit – Djohong



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees in collaboration with:

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration and Decentralization, 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.
- **Implementing Partners:** *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), *Agence pour le Développement Economique et Social* (ADES), CAMWATER, CARE International, 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 - Assistance Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), Public Concern and Solidarités International.
- **Operational Partners:** Croix Rouge Française (CRF), *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF); ICRC, Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), ASOL and Red Deporte, IEDA Relief.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and OCHA.
- **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 key 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 loosely established by UNHCR, covering the whole operational area. Local authorities have been very engaged in the management of the refugee operation. UN agencies and international NGOs have been instrumental in implementing activities for Central African refugees and host populations.

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.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Filippo Grandi, undertook a mission to Cameroon from 15-16 December. The purpose of the mission was within the wider context of the HC’s mission to countries in Lake Chad Basin region to take stock and assess the humanitarian situation of Nigerian refugees. On 15 December, in Minawao camp, the High Commissioner was able to meet with refugees seeking safety in Cameroon and with the Central Refugee Committee and community leaders, and visited various infrastructures and services put in place to assist the over 60,000 refugees. The High Commissioner expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Government of Cameroon, and all humanitarian partners to ensure the protection and assistance of refugees at Minawao camp. He also stressed that additional efforts are being made by UNHCR and its partners to raise the quality and living conditions of the refugee population, and to facilitate voluntary repatriation if and when conditions in areas of origin have become conducive for return in safety and dignity.

On 16 December, in Yaoundé, the High Commissioner co-chaired, together with the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD) of Cameroon, the launch of the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2017 (RRRP) for Nigerian Refugees across the Lake Chad Basin. The 2017 Nigeria RRRP, which involves 36 partners (UN agencies, national and international NGOs), appeals for approximately USD 241 million to assist over 450,000 people (refugees, host populations and displaced persons). The RRRP lays out in detail the needs and response strategies in the following sectors: protection, education, food security, health, nutrition, livelihoods, environment, shelter and non-food items, water, hygiene and sanitation.

The High Commissioner, in his remarks at the launch event, also noted that the situation of the more than 275,000 Central African refugees that Cameroon is generously hosting remains worrying and should not be forgotten. He underscored the fact that in financial terms, the needs for Central African refugees are higher than those of Nigerian refugees.

In Cameroon, the High Commissioner met with various governmental authorities including the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, the Minister of MINATD and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also held a joint meeting with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), before meeting with UNHCR staff.

- The security situation in the Far North region remains volatile with regular incursions and sustained military operations against Boko Haram hideouts in border areas; however, no major incidents were reported in December. Overall, insecurity remains a major concern and cause of forced displacement; some 510 new refugees were registered at Gourounguel transit center coming from Maiduguri, the local government villages of Bama in Nigeria and from some localities in the Far North region where they had found refuge. Most refugees report having fled insecurity, terrorist threats, violence and the struggle to survive in their areas of origin. All new arrivals are in need of assistance as their livelihoods have been destroyed and many expressed the hope to be reunited with family members in Minawao camp. A total of 1,714 new refugees also arrived in Kerawa and Kolofata during the week of 12 December, with 3,000 internally displaced persons settled in the village of Afade. Registration and emergency assistance for these populations are underway despite limited humanitarian access to these border areas.
- UNHCR and its partners are deeply concerned about the forced return to Nigeria on 17 December by Cameroonian security forces of a considerable number of these newly arrived Nigerian refugees before their status could be determined and confirmed through screening and registration. While UNHCR fully appreciates the extremely difficult security situation in border areas with regular infiltrations and attacks by terrorist, UNHCR and the Humanitarian Coordinator reiterated the need to respect basic humanitarian norms, including the principle of non-refoulement.
- The Central African Republic continued to witness clashes between anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka, resulting in the arrival of some 53 new asylum seekers from Bangui, Boda and Yaloké to Garoua Boulai in the East region. They were screened and provided with assistance.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection:

- Security operations and measures in border areas in the Far North region of Cameroon result in restricted access to asylum as crossing the border is not always possible and as Nigerians who manage to cross into Cameroon are at risk of being returned, as the approximately 1,500 Nigerians who were turned back from Kerawa and Kolofata to a site of displaced persons in Banki, in Nigeria, illustrate. After this incident of refoulement, UNHCR met with the administrative and military authorities in Mora on 21 December. Authorities stated that the operations are carried out for humanitarian reasons as these asylum seekers are living in difficult conditions (lack of food and non-food assistance) because of lack of access to the area by the humanitarian community due to security reasons. UNHCR insisted that such operations are contrary to the principle of non-refoulement, and reiterated to authorities the critical need to establish transit centers in the Departments of Mayo-Sava and Logone et Chari in order to ensure proper reception, screening, status determination and registration of new arrivals. UNHCR's concerns were echoed in a letter that the Humanitarian Coordinator has sent to the Minister of MINATD on that matter.

### Documentation:

- The biometric verification and registration exercise for Central African refugees and asylum seekers living in the regions of East, Adamaoua and North is ongoing. Out of the 259,145 CAR refugees registered in UNHCR's database in the three concerned regions, a total of 113,545 refugees (59,732 women and 53,813 men) have then been biometrically verified since the beginning of the operation in February 2016. The verification and registration exercise aims to ensure better protection and assistance of refugees by verifying and updating their profiles, including information on specific needs, and by registering all refugees based on biometric information.

### Statelessness and risks of statelessness:

- In order to raise awareness and reduce the risks of statelessness, UNHCR participated on 1 December, along with Cameroonian public administrations at the National Assembly, in a workshop which aimed to raise awareness among parliamentarians on the state of human rights, the challenge of assisting internally displaced persons in Cameroon, statelessness and the risks of statelessness. UNHCR presented the risks of statelessness, its causes, consequences, and appealed for Cameroon to ratify both Conventions on the Status of Stateless Persons and the Reduction of Risks of Statelessness. Parliamentarians expressed their concerns about the need to review the Cameroonian nationality law in order to incorporate the possibility of dual citizenship; the need to strengthen the mechanism for issuing birth certificates and issuing national identity cards in order to protect the citizens from the risk of statelessness. They also agreed to address the ratification of the two Conventions to the members of Government concerned.

*UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2016 as well as for the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:*

Canada | EU | France | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain (private) | United States of America | United Kingdom | UN Prog on HIV/AIDS

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