

**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

**86,729**

Nigerian refugees in the Far North region (of which 62,829 have been registered in Minawao camp)

**191,908**

Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North region (*sources: DTM by IOM as of January 2017 and UNHCR protection monitoring Flash Updates*)

## Population of concern

**597,931** people of concern to UNHCR

### By country of origin

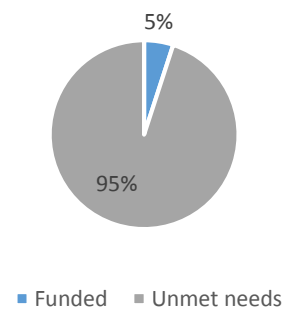
Country	Total PoC
CAR	259,145
Nigeria	86,729
Urban refugees*	20,670
Asylum seekers	3,814
IDPs	191,908
IDPs returnees**	35,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>597,931</b>

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

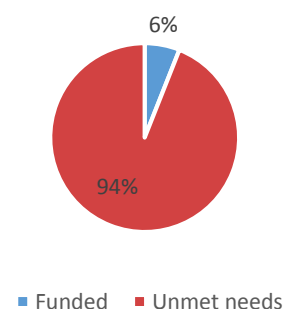
\*\*Incl. 3,314 Cameroonian Nationals who returned from foreign countries

**Funding situation** (including UNHCR's regular country Programme). The operation is 17% funded (US\$ 16.0 m received out of 94.2 m requested. The overall funding gap for UNHCR Cameroon amounts hence to US\$ 78.3 m)

CAR Situation  
UNHCR Cameroon  
budgetary requirements:  
US\$ 55.5 million  
04 Apr 2017



Nigeria Situation  
UNHCR Cameroon  
budgetary requirements:  
US\$ 38.7 million  
04 Apr 2017



## UNHCR Presence

**Staff: 237**

**54** International staff

**137** National staff

**46** UN Volunteers (11 International and 35 National)

### Offices:

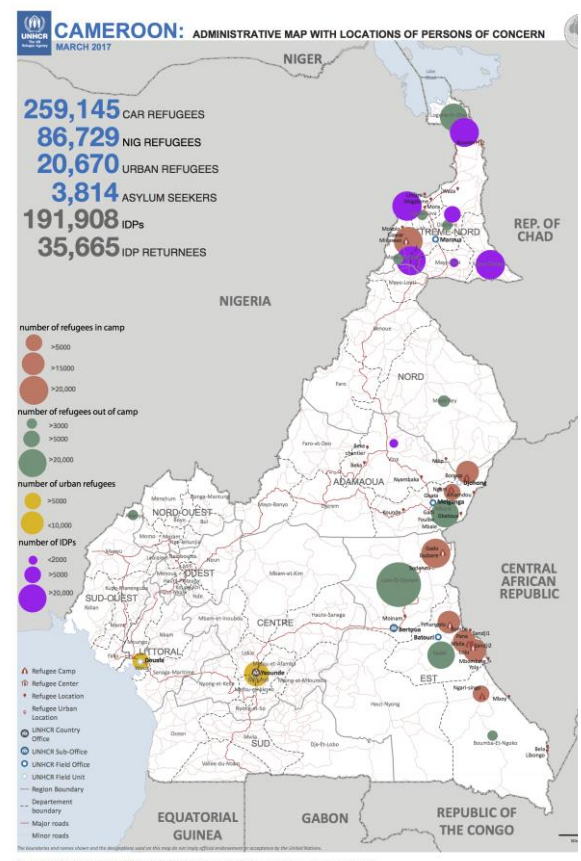
**7** offices:

Branch Office – Yaoundé

Sub Offices – Batouri, Meiganga and Maroua

Field Offices – Bertoua and Djohong

Field Unit – Douala



## 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, 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), CAMWATER, , 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 - International* (PUI), Public Concern and.
- **Operational Partners:** ; ICRC, Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), ASOL and Red Deporte, IEDA Relief, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), CARE International.
- **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 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. 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

- UNHCR undertook a mission to Bétaré-Oya in the East region on 4 March and registered 176 new Central African asylum seekers (58 households). The majority are Christians of the Gbaya ethnic group who fled exactions carried out by Peuhls rebel groups in the area of Bocaranga in the CAR. A medical and nutritional screening was carried out and cases of acute pathologies were treated.
- The security situation in the Far North region remains uncertain. During the month of March, 529 (198 households) new arrivals from Nigeria were registered at Gourounguel transit center. They came from the Cameroonian villages of Zhélevet, Tchakarmari and Mémé and various Nigerian villages along the border, seeking family reunification as well as protection and assistance due to difficult living conditions and the fear of Boko Haram incursions. Some 2,254 Nigerians also arrived in the localities of Dabanga, Waza, and Sale in the department of Logone et Chari, and Kolofata and Kerawa in the department of Mayo Sava. They essentially came from Nigerian villages in Borno state (Maloum Kari, Djabari, Blamassa, Abudja, Gumba, Yerwa, Bargino, Daradjaman, and Bomari) where they fled confrontation between the Nigerian armed forces and Boko Haram fighters. Most of these newcomers are settled in the customs building in Kolofata and show signs of malnutrition, dehydration and fragile health.
- On 2 March, the Governments of Cameroon, Nigeria and UNHCR signed, the Tripartite Agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon. This document is a legal framework setting out the modalities for the voluntary return of more than 85,000 Nigerian refugees in the Far North region, of whom approximately 62,000 live in Minawao camp. The Agreement stipulates that repatriation, which is a voluntary decision, will only take place once conditions are conducive for their return in safety and dignity.
- On 3 March, a delegation of the 15 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council visited Maroua. This took place within a wider context to visit and focus attention on the humanitarian situation of countries of the Lake Chad Basin. . The objective of the mission was to assess the challenges in fighting Boko Haram, and to appreciate efforts concerning humanitarian emergency and development. In Maroua, they met with local authorities and

humanitarian actors, as well as a group of Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons and two children victims of Boko Haram's violence.

- The Cameroonian government, the World Bank, the European Union and UN agencies organized a workshop in Bertoua, on 28 March, on the common understanding of the process of rehabilitation and consolidation of peace (RCP) in Cameroon, in particular in the regions of the East, Adamawa, the North and the Far North that host refugees and internally displaced persons in an environment already struggling with infrastructural challenges. A joint assessment and strategic prioritization of needs to sustainably address these challenges will be conducted. The main objectives of the RCP process are to establish an inclusive process and build mutual understanding both of the underlying causes of the crises affecting Cameroon and on the structural challenges Cameroon must meet for the recovery and peacebuilding; and develop a mutual accountability framework that will promote more effective coordination and implementation. The process will be based on five main themes: security, forced displacement and protection; governance and basic social services; economic and territorial integration; access to land and agricultural production; and the commitment and inclusion of youth. Stakeholders in this process will develop a strategy by June 2017 to achieve these objectives, and activities and programs will be implemented from the second half of the current year.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection:

- UNHCR, INTERSOS and the Joint Protection Committee undertook a mission to Kolofata on 27 March and noted the critical situation in which Nigerian refugees in the area. The mission recommended: (i) that the Joint Committee supports UNHCR in advocating not only for access to refugees in Kolofata and Kerawa but also for the army to agree on joint security and protection screening in order to enable refugees to benefit from better reception conditions; (ii) that UNHCR participates in the improvement of the reception area if the customs site, where they are currently settled, is recognized as a point of regrouping and screening; and (iii) that a screening team, such as the one in the transit center, should be put in place.
- Some 2,075 asylum-seekers were returned to Banki and Gambaru in Nigeria during the month of March by Cameroonian military authorities despite UNHCR's advocacy efforts and numerous exchanges with military and administrative authorities at the local, regional and capital level. These returns are not only a breach of the 1951 Refugee Convention but also increase risks of statelessness in the region as in some cases UNHCR has recorded those returned across the border have been found to be Cameroonian and were rounded up by mistake. It is common in this region to find people who lack documentary proof of their nationality.
- From 20-21 March, UNHCR organized a workshop in Maroua to evaluate and plan the activities of the Joint Protection Committees (composed of local authorities and UNHCR) which were established in the Logone-Et-Chari, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga departments in April 2016 in order to monitor protection issues in those areas. The workshop was attended by members of the joint committees, representatives of various local administrations, UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs. The main protection issues, gaps and challenges were discussed and UNHCR's strategic focus on international protection in the operational zone was presented. Recommendations were made on setting up faster response mechanisms for interventions during population movements, strengthening the capacities of the members of the Joint Protection Committees and other members of the Protection network on the voluntary repatriation process.

### Food security:

- Cash Based Transfer (CBT) activities benefiting Central African refugees were evaluated at the Gado site on 9 March during an ECHO mission, accompanied by WFP. Following discussions with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), partner in charge of the programme implementation, the Complaints Committee members and various focus groups the mission was able to identify the concerns of beneficiaries. CBT activities are also ongoing in the refugee sites of Timangolo and Lolo. Refugees are still receiving only half of monthly ration CFAF 4,400 (\$ 7.50) per person, as a result of the 50% cut in the food ration due to the budget deficits facing WFP. This situation tends to increase cases of malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and lactating women, as was observed during the last active nutritional screening carried out in Mbile and Lolo refugee sites and in the areas of Gadji, Mbounou, Belita, Yokadouma North, Gari-Gombo and Yokadouma South, where 43 cases of malnourished children aged 5 years were detected amongst the 2,043 screened. UNHCR and WFP are continuing their joint advocacy efforts with key donors to address the funding crisis and its visible impacts.

**Documentation:**

- The biometric verification and registration exercise for Central African refugees and asylum seekers living in the regions of East, Adamawa and North is ongoing. A total of 22,946 individuals (12,143 women and 10,803 men) were verified during the reporting period in the localities of Gaina, Kwele, Taparé, Mandjou, Bouli, Ndokayo, Kentzou and Gbiti in the East region. A total of 137,202 refugees (72,598 women and 64,604 men) have 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.

*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:*

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**Links:** <http://data.unhcr.org/car> -<http://data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation>