

CAMEROON: COVID-19 SITUATION

As of 20 April 2020

KEY FIGURES (source WHO)

1334 as of 21 April

Total number of confirmed cases in Cameroon.

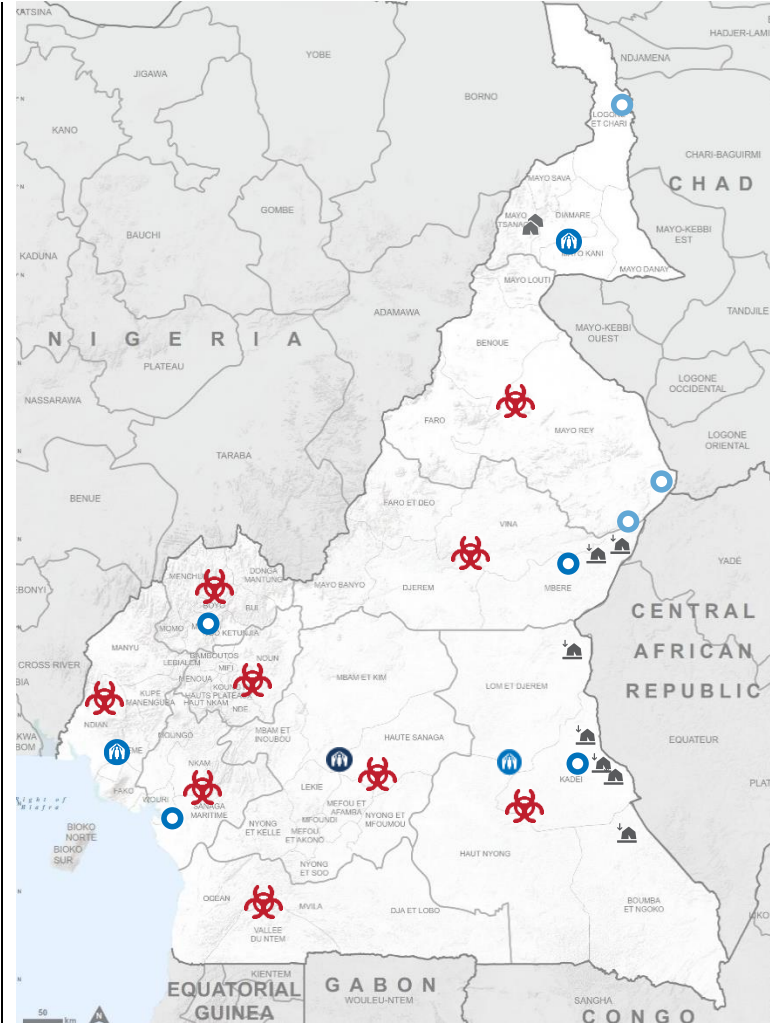
305 Number of recovered cases of **42** Number of deaths recorded

09 Regions Affected – Centre, Littoral, West, South West, South, East, Adamawa, North & North West.








01

Reported Cases of Refugees Infected with the Covid-19

Zone/Camp /Sites	# de cas	# Guéris	# de décès
Borgop	00	00	00
Gado	00	00	00
Ngam	00	00	00
Lolo	00	00	00
Mbile	00	00	00
Ngarissingo	00	00	00
Timangolo	00	00	00
Yaounde	01	00	00
Douala	00	00	00
Minawao	00	00	00
Zone rurale	00	00	00



Legend

-  COVID-19 Detection
-  Minawao Camp
-  Sites
- UNHCR OFFICES**
-  Representation
-  Sub Offices
-  Field Office
-  Field Unit

I - OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

Coordination

- UNHCR takes part in the national response Plan for Covid-19 and partakes in the weekly coordination meetings supervised by the Ministry of Public Health at the national, regional and local levels. UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health to support government efforts against the spread of Covid-19 and its management by boosting the capacity of district hospitals especially in localities hosting persons of concern.

- Following the signing of a decree by the Head of State on 15 April for the remission and commutation of prison terms to decongest prisons as part of measures in the fight against Covid-19, UNHCR and legal partners in Douala are working to determine the impact of this decree on PoCs in detention at the Douala Central Prison, Littoral region.
- Discussions are ongoing at national and field levels with WFP for collaboration in the provision of food assistance to refugees placed in quarantine/isolation, as well as prospects for food distribution to refugees in the case of a complete lockdown following the incidence of the coronavirus in the country.



Surveillance, Case Investigation, Emergency Response Team

- A 25-year-old urban refugee woman in Yaoundé was confirmed positive for the coronavirus, the first case among the refugee community in Cameroon since the outbreak.
- On 18 April, authorities confirmed the first Covid-19 case in the North region, in the town of Guide, Mayo-Louti division. The North region has 25,052 Central African refugees. Similarly, on 17 April, authorities confirmed the 1st positive case of COVID-19 in Ngaoundéré, Adamawa region where there are 65,044 central African refugees and 5,301 internally displaced persons.
- Security officials in the Adamawa will be supporting UNHCR in controlling access to the Ngam and Borgop sites for any strangers as part of measures to reduce the spread of COVID 19.
- A project is ongoing to put in place a toll-free line to strengthen communication and establish direct contact with refugees in the Adamawa region.



Entry Points

- There have been spontaneous and clandestine movement around the borders in the Far North given that Cameroon officially closed its borders as part of measures to contain the coronavirus.
- Systematic control of all newcomers, notably temperature checks and medical assessments at entry points for all refugees coming into camps and sites.



Laboratory

- The Bertoua regional hospital has begun laboratory screening for COVID-19. This comes after a government decision to decentralize Covid-19 screening to the regions. The move will ease early detection and management of cases in rural areas with a good number of PoCs.

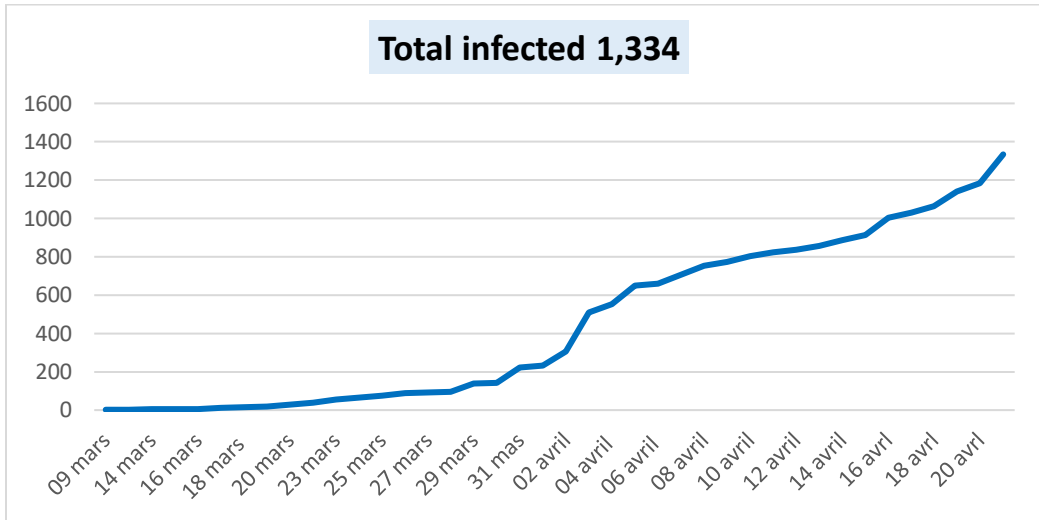


Infection, Prevention & Control (IPC)

- UNHCR and its partner, International Medical Corp (IMC) are partnering with the Mokolo district hospital to strengthen surveillance at the Minawao camp and the transit centre in order to rapidly identify any persons coming from Covid-19 active areas and facilitate management. For this, the needs of the district hospital are being evaluated, with plans for the setting up of an isolation room within the hospital.
- Work is almost complete on the quarantine and isolation units being set up with Refugee Housing Units in the three sites of Gado, Borgop and Ngam in the East and Adamawa regions. With the units set up, accompanying facilities like latrines, showers, waste pits and fences are being constructed. 40 of such Housing units were planned for the 07 sites in the East and Adamawa regions.
- The 14 day-quarantine required for all refugees and PoCs coming in from other parts of the country to refugee hosting camps and sites, is being respected. As of 17 April, 21 PoCs were in quarantine with 19 in Adamawa (7 in Borgop, 6 in Ngam, 6 in Gado) and 2 in the Lom and Djerem in Betaré, East region.
- As of 13 April, the measure for the compulsory wearing of masks against a fine of 6,000XAF went into force throughout the country. UNHCR has encouraged the local production of masks, following standards by refugee women who completed vocational training in sewing in the Minawao camp. The protective cloth masks are reusable.



Case Management



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- UNHCR has concluded a water trucking contract for the supply of 380m3 of water per day at the Minawao camp, Far North region to raise the ratio to at least 15Litres/day/person, above the current supply ratio of 10 litres per person per day.
- As of date 08 handwashing devices are operational at 02 health posts in the Minawao camp with 34 others also placed in public places out of the total of 1800 to 2000 handwashing stations to be installed in the camp. Meanwhile two door-to-door campaigns were carried out in the camp, between 13 and 17 April on the importance of washing hands every time. 611 people in 101 households were sensitized, including 71 men, 103 women, 167 boys and 199 girls.
- A total of 24,117 pieces of soap of 250g were distribution in the sites of Timangolo, Mbile and Lolo, East region with each refugee receiving 01 soap. The distribution exercise will continue in Ngarissingo in the days ahead.
- Work resumed on the construction of a borehole, suspended in 2019 in Gado, East region. The drilling has been completed and pumping tests are underway. This is in an effort to provide adequate water supply to PoCs and host communities in the area.

Pic 1;
Community relay in the Minawao camp, carrying out door-to-door sensitization on preventing spread of Covid-19.



Pic 2;
Demonstration on effective handwashing for community leaders in Timangolo, East region.



Communication Risk and Community Engagement

- The host communities of Doulo in Mayo Sava and Zamay II in Mayo Tsanaga Far North region were 11 to 18 April targeted for awareness-raising on the Coronavirus, specifically on hygiene measures and other measures prescribed by government to combat the pandemic. Similarly, four door-to-door sensitizations were carried out in the communities of Mazi, Gaboua, Koza Oulad and Malta-maya on preventing against the Coronavirus. A total of 44 households of 252 IDPs were visited.
- 1,062 people (801 refugees and 261 members of host communities) in the localities of Mbilé, Gaina, Kette, Timangolo, Boubara and Lolo in the East were sensitized this week on issues related to compliance with prevention measures against COVID-19 put in place by government.
- In the Adamawa and East regions 96,196 people from 23,673 households were reached through door-to-door sensitization sessions on the Covid-19 pandemic. 324 Awareness-raising sessions took place in public places like markets, restaurants, travel agencies/motorcycle parks; Another 48 awareness sessions were organised for community leaders and 22 awareness sessions for traditional rulers. Three community listeners' clubs made up of 09 women and 07 men, were also engaged this week in Gado (01), Borgop (01) and Djom (01) on barrier gestures against Covid-19.
- Awareness-raising is ongoing in the different sectors of the Minawao camp organised in Hausa, Fulfulde and English languages with the use portable speakers. A toll-free number, 8064 for the camp has been made public for any Covid-19 related queries.
- UNHCR's partner Lutheran World Federation, LWF has signed an agreement with a community radio 'Echos des montagnes' in Mokolo, Mayo Tsanaga division, Far North for the broadcast of information podcasts on the Covid-19 pandemic and preventive measures. The broadcast of the audio spots started this week. Meanwhile young refugees are being mobilized on theatrical and musical performances for sensitization purposes in the community. The first rehearsal for the filming of a sketch on the prevention of COVID-19 took place in the Minawao camp by the media club of the bilingual High School with the support and supervision of UNHCR partners LWF and Plan International.
- A group of 28 members of a local voluntary association "Fadden Tourougou Himbe (FTH)" in the East has been trained on raising awareness about the coronavirus. Sessions organised in Ffulde and Gbaya languages between 13 and 17 April targeted businesspersons and drivers. Emphasis was also laid on the use of facemasks and its production following prescribed standards. A total of 1,214 people was reached including 572 refugees, and 642 Cameroonians.



Internal Measures – UNHCR

- UNHCR is gradually implementing the Business Continuity Plan (BCP), in its different offices. All hygiene and sanitation measures have been reinforced for staff and partners including the use of masks which has been made compulsory by government and the setting up of hygiene and sanitation measures in the different offices for staff, POCs and visitors.
- 37 refugees were screened by telephone interview in Maroua, Far North region and their files are being processed. These interviews covered cases of activation, family reunification and separation. As part of measures to ensure that UNHCR continues to provide protection to its PoCs while respecting the Covid-19 distancing measures, online registration with the use of telephones and tablettes is continuing in Maroua. Between 13 and 17 April, 248 people were registered into the database including 152 new births; 11 new arrivals and 85 persons who arrived before 2019 but registered in 2020. Similarly, 75 refugee attestations were printed, and 02 individuals were inactivated for spontaneous departure.