

Situation report on the emergency of new refugees in Cameroon

CHAD, Province of Chari-Baguirmi

8 749

Number of individuals registered (L1) by UNHCR
(2,248 households)

93%

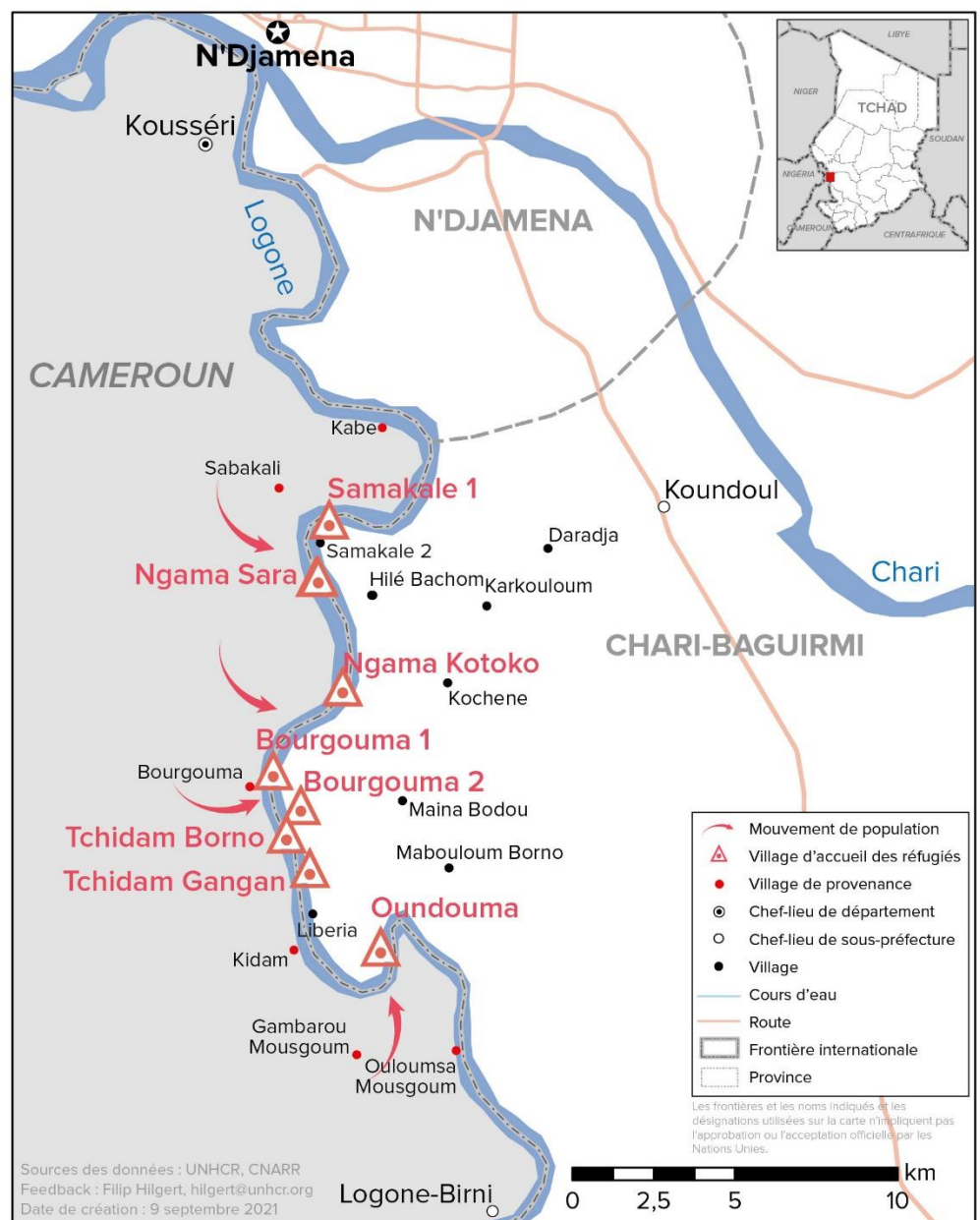
Percentage of women and children

5 208

Number of curative consultations

289 991

Number of hot meals distributed



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS :

- The latest registration figures count **8,749 individuals, 2,248 families**.
- The Chad Red Cross (CRT) distributed **289,991 hot meals**.
- The mobile clinics conducted **5,208 consultations**.
- **30 latrines and 30 showers** have been installed.
- **12 community sheds have been built**.
- **4 midwives** provide support to pregnant women and **1,000 dignity kits** have been distributed.
- **10,000 impregnated mosquito nets** were distributed.

COORDINATION :

1) Thursday 16 September Cross-border meeting

The Cameroonian authorities made a second visit to Chad at the Oundouma site. The mission led by the Prefect of Chari was received by the Chadian authorities at the border between the two countries. The objective was to continue sensitization for the voluntary return of Cameroonian refugees. The Prefect and his entourage indicated to the refugees that calm and security had returned to their villages. They added that all IDPs had returned and had received assistance from WFP and the government. Finally, the Prefect of Chari informed his compatriots that a census of the population in the localities of origin of the refugees would be held shortly and that those who do not attend would be considered absent.

As for the refugees, their representatives set as preconditions for their return the effective disarmament of the belligerents; the provision of assistance and education for their children for a period of one year.

The Governor of Chari-Barguimi, UNHCR and the Cameroonian side are in favour of a "go and see visit" as soon as possible.

2) Thursday 16 September Joint UNHCR and WFP mission

On the same day, a joint UNHCR and WFP team visited the villages of Samakale, Ngama Sara, Ngama Kotoko, Bourgouma-01 and Oundouma.

The objectives of these visits were to make sure the food rations were distributed and collected by the refugees, to ensure that all refugees are well informed that no further food distributions are planned, and to listen to refugees about their food resources, current livelihoods and short-term prospects.

The rations planned for 15 days will not cover the entire period. For many refugees, these resources are already completely, or almost completely consumed.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY SECTOR :



REGISTRATION

The latest registration figures count 8,749 people in 9 villages. Women represent 59% (5,135) and 41%, and men (3,614).

Among women, 65% were under 18 (3,350) and 35% were adults (1,785), and among men, 83% were under 18 (2,977) and 17% were adults (637).

Adult men represent only 7% of the registered population, while women and children represent 93%.

Of the 2,248 families identified, 80% (1,793) say they want to return to their country of origin, and 20% (455) say they prefer not to return.



PROTECTION

Child welfare, including recreation

UNHCR conducted a joint education-child protection mission to the main sites to assess the overall child protection situation and gain insight into educational needs and then consider appropriate actions.

A UNHCR-UNICEF meeting was held to ensure coordination of interventions to address child protection needs. A visit to refugee sites was organized with the CRT, which will act on behalf of UNICEF.

UNICEF intends to position itself to carry out a range of activities for children, including recreational activities, psychosocial care and multisectoral assistance.

A meeting between UNHCR and its partner JRS was held to define the major activities to be implemented, including the establishment of community-based child protection mechanisms, including temporary foster families, and the conduct of best interest procedures for the identified UASC as a prelude to the repatriation plan that is currently being developed.



HEALTH / NUTRITION

5,208 curative consultations have been carried out since 17 August by ADES mobile clinics, MSF France and IRC health posts, including 3,786 for refugees and 1,422 for nationals of the host villages; 3,254 consultations were related to malaria, i.e. 62.5% of cases.

As part of the monitoring of acute malnutrition, 2,472 children were measured for routine nutritional screening, 246 were screened for moderate acute malnutrition and 183 for severe acute malnutrition, with 7 referrals to the Toukra UNT for medical complications.

In the context of maternal health activities, 154 prenatal consultations were carried out for refugee and indigenous women and 19 deliveries were made. 59 new members of the family planning programme were registered.

A distribution of long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets for refugees and indigenous people was coupled with the general distribution of food organized from 10 to 13 by the CRT.



FOOD SAFETY

From 19 August to 10 September 2021, 289,991 hot meals were distributed by the Chad Red Cross with UNHCR support in the distribution sites of Oundouma (122,763 hot meals including Tchidam Ganga, Liberia), Ngama Kotoko (66,372 hot meals), Ngama Sara (47,429 hot meals including Samakale 2), Bourgouma 01 (53,427 hot meals including Bourgouma 2, Tchidam Borno).

A food distribution organized by the WFP with the Chad Red Cross took place from 10 to 13 at the sites of Ngama Sara, Ngama Kotoko, Bourgouma and Oundouma 1 for all refugees.



EDUCATION

Two missions, one joint with child protection with JRS from 10 to 12 September and the other multi-sector with CNARR on 14 September were organised. The first mission allowed the organisation of focus groups with local authorities, the host community and refugees in the villages of Ngama-Kotoko, Bourgouma 1 and 2 and Oundouma. The discussions highlighted the need to vacate occupied classrooms in Ngama-Kotoko and Oundouma schools in order to prepare for the start of the school year on the Chad side on October 1st. The mission of 14 September led to the identification of two relocation sites within the villages to allow the schools to be vacated.

The area presents great challenges in terms of education, with a significant lack of infrastructure, teachers and equipment, and a lower proportion of girls than boys enrolled in school, mainly due to child marriages and lack of financial resources. The dynamics are similar for both population groups. It should be noted that there is a significant number (570 in the 4 villages surveyed) of Cameroonian children at the middle and secondary levels. The number of teachers among the refugee population is low, only one was counted, the other teachers initially present on the Chad side having, according to the information provided, returned to Cameroon for the start of the school year.

The refugee families generally indicated that they would prefer their children to be able to return to schools on the Cameroon side, but only if the security situation allowed and if financial support was provided. He also indicated that schools have not been targeted on the Cameroon side. It should be noted that according to a Child Protection mission with UNICEF, some refugee children from the village of Ngama-Sara have resumed school in Cameroon by commuting daily.

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