

Cameroon – Chad Emergency

31 December 2021

Some tensions can still be observed in the Chad – Cameroon border area. Despite this, calm has now been restored in all affected areas of Far North Cameroon. The situation in Chad is also calm.

Two suitable sites for relocation have now been identified by the Government in Chad, with UNHCR’s support. Relocations are due to start soon. They will help improve refugees’ living conditions and protection environment and mitigate security risks by allowing them to move away from the border.

The shelter response and protection monitoring are underway, making good progress in both Chad and Far North Cameroon.

KEY INDICATORS

35,784 refugees who fled from Cameroon have been pre-registered by UNHCR and the Chadian Government as of 31 December

Source: Ongoing pre-registration by UNHCR and the Government, 31 out of 39 sites covered. Initially, the government and local authorities are estimating the number of arrivals at 100,000. The pre-registration of new arrivals will continue as access improves. In the meantime, the Chad operation is working on a planning figure of 60,000 refugees for a six-month response, which also takes into account the needs of the host communities in order to foster a peaceful coexistence.

88% of the refugees in Chad are women and children

Source: ongoing pre-registration of refugees in Chad by UNHCR and the authorities as of 27/12/2021.

MAP | Influx of refugees from Far North Cameroon into Chad - N'Djamena / Chari-Baguirmi Province



THE CONTEXT

Clashes between communities of herders, farmers and fishermen broke out on 5 December in the village of Ouloumsa, Far North Cameroon. Violence quickly spread to neighbouring villages before reaching Kousséri, the administrative centre and main commercial hub of Logone and Chari division, on 8 December.

Previous inter-communal clashes had taken place in August this year, and had displaced some 23,000 people across Cameroon and Chad. The repatriation of the 8,500 refugees who had remained in Chad was at an advanced stage of discussion between the two countries when the new clashes broke out.

On 15 December, a Level 2 emergency has been declared for the UNHCR Operation in Chad. The Level 1 emergency for Cameroon, which was declared following the previous inter-communal clashes in August, is maintained.

Operational Context

Population movements and security situation in Far North Cameroon and Chad

- The affected areas of Far North Cameroon remain calm, and the security and defence forces deployed by the Government are still present.
- The situation in Chad has been calm since the start of the crisis. Access to territory and asylum is guaranteed by the Government.
- The crossing point between N'Djamena in Chad and Kousseri in Far North Cameroon is active. Daily crossings along the river between villages of origin in Cameroon and areas of displacement in Chad were observed during the border monitoring on 29 December, though the exact nature of the population movements is not yet known. The situation at the border area remains tense due to security concerns.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Far North Cameroon

- **Population profiling and Protection monitoring** | According to the Government, there are 36,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Far North Cameroon as a result of the crisis. A multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) is planned from 4 to 7 January 2022 in collaboration with the Direction de Protection Civile (DPC) and will provide more precise indications on the number of IDPs and on the population's profile. Protection monitoring is still ongoing in the host localities of Kousseri, Makary and Waza.
- **Shelter and Core relief items (CRIs)** | In Diamaré, UNHCR has built 25 community shelters with capacity to host 300 people each and 7,500 people in total. At the IDP site of Domayo, IOM has constructed 28 family shelters which can accommodate at least 2,500 individuals.
- **Coordination and Partnerships** | In accordance with IASC Transformative Agenda and UNHCR's IDP Policy, UNHCR is leading the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Protection clusters. Key actors so far have been OCHA, AAEDC, ICRC, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, MSF, the French Red Cross and Action Against Hunger (AAH). Weekly coordination meetings are now taking place in Maroua and Kousseri, and OCHA is liaising with the authorities.

Chad

- **Protection monitoring and pre-registration** | Four more informal sites were identified in the past week, bringing the total of informal sites to 39. The pre-registration exercise launched by the Government and UNHCR on 14 December with the support of the Red Cross is making progress, with 5 new informal sites surveyed this week: 35,784 people representing 13,667 households have now been pre-registered in 31 sites. On 29 December, a border monitoring team visited the remaining 8 sites along the southern riverside. The exact number of refugees remains uncertain. These locations face the villages of origin and refugees are reportedly commuting between the two sides, spending the night on the Chadian shores. Considering that this population is not currently willing to relocate, ad-hoc assistance will be provided in the near future in coordination with other operational partners. Several other refugees, whose number is difficult to verify, are reportedly hosted by the local population.
- **Population profile** | Though the proportions are slightly fluctuating, pre-registration is still confirming a highly vulnerable population profile. 88.2% of the pre-registered refugees are women and children, and 20% have specific needs.
- **Relocation** | Following joint assessment of 10 potential sites by UNHCR and the Government, 2 sites (Guilmey in the urban area and Kalambari in the rural area) were identified as viable for the relocation of an

estimated total of 12,000 refugees. Planning permits have been requested and technical development has started.

- **Shelter and Core relief items (CRIs)** | An international order for core relief items for 60,000 refugees has been placed. They will be brought to Chad via airlift and road transportation, and will supplement locally procured items which have been pre-positioned in UNHCR warehouses. They are expected to arrive by early January.
- **Coordination and Partnerships** |. The Protection Working group established on 20 December is meeting daily, while the frequency of the meetings of the operational cell established on 9 December has been reduced to twice a week.

Funding situation

Financial resources in both countries remain critically low. As of 7 December, both the Chad and Cameroon operations were funded at 54% and 52% respectively.

The emergency has created new pressing needs, and UNHCR immediately availed funding from its emergency reserve to be able to initiate the response without delay. However, greater targeted financial support is urgently needed for UNHCR to continue providing life-saving assistance and responding to the crisis.

We are particularly grateful to donors providing unearmarked funding, which gives us the flexibility we need to quickly reach those most in need in emergency situations like this.



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