



CAMEROON

FACTSHEET

October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

138,243

CAR refugees registered by UNHCR since December 2013

63,598

Nigerian refugees in the Far North region (of which 48,601 registered at Minawao camp)

92,658

Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North region

Population of concern

A total of **423,174** people of concern

By country of origin

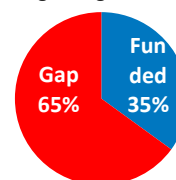
Country	Total PoC
Central African Republic	239,518
Nigeria	63,174
Urban refugees*	21,787
Asylum seekers	6,037
IDPs	92,658
Total	423,174

*Incl. CAR and Nigerian refugees living in urban areas

Funding

UNHCR funding requirements include Refugee Regional Response Plan for CAR and Nigerian refugees

USD 75,933,401



UNHCR Presence

Staff: 228

60 International staff

127 National staff

41 UN Volunteers (6 International and 35 National)

Offices:

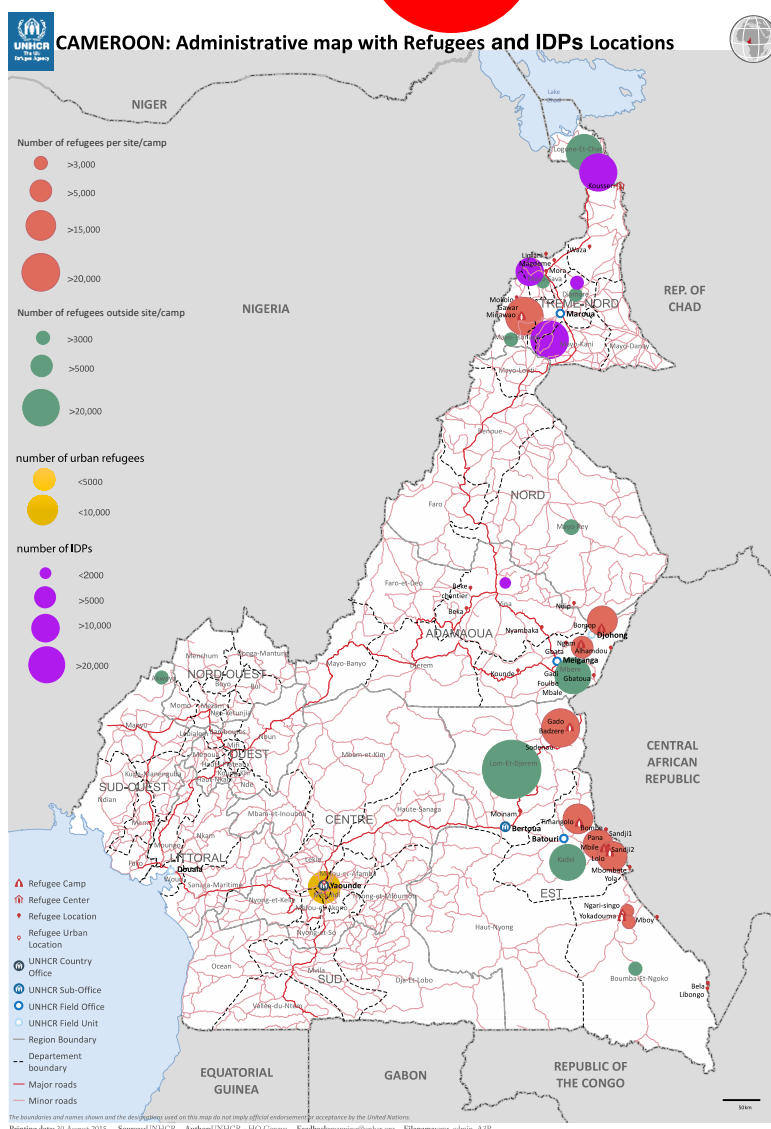
7 offices located in:

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, Public Health, Women Empowerment and Family, Social Affairs, Justice, Basic Education, Water and Energy, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Youth and the National Employment Fund.
- **Implementing Partners:** *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), *Agence pour le Développement Economique et Social* (ADES), *Association de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes* (ALVF), CARE International, Croix Rouge Française (CRF), Femmes Action et Développement (FADEC), FAIRMED, International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief), 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, Solidarités International.
- **Operational Partners:** *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF), ICRC and CARE France
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, OCHA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNDP and IOM
- **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; while the accountability of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for these populations is maintained. 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 Multi-Sector Operations Team meeting chaired by UNHCR. The response for CAR refugees is managed in line with the *Refugee Coordination Model*. Sectorial groups have been established by UNHCR, covering the whole operational area, and region-based coordination mechanisms exist, although mostly in the East region. Local authorities have been very engaged in the management of the refugee operation, in particular the Governors of the North, East and Adamaoua regions, the administrative authorities at the *department* and *arrondissement* levels, armed forces and delegates from line ministries at the regional level. UN agencies and international NGOs have been instrumental in implementing activities for CAR refugees and host populations.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

2,228 Nigerian asylum seekers, mainly of women and children; as well as some internally displaced persons fleeing violence on both sides of the Nigeria-Cameroon border arrived in the locality of Zelevet in the Far North region. According to the authorities, this group of people lives in extremely precarious conditions. Many of them are sick, vulnerable and considerably weakened. Authorities also report that these people are destitute and undernourished. Apparently, these people lived since 2014 between the border localities of Nigeria and Cameroon in precarious conditions resources hoping for a return of the security in their zones of origin. UNHCR, local authorities and other UN sister agencies are encouraging a transfer to the camp of Minawao where they would benefit from adequate protection and assistance. Zelevet is a Cameroonian border locality situated at less than one kilometer from the border with Nigeria. This locality and all surrounding villages are deserted due to repeated incursions by Nigerian insurgents.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- In the Far North region, **spontaneous arrivals from border locations continue to be reported**. In the course of October, 1,240 new arrivals were registered at the transit center and transferred to Minawao camp by UNHCR. Since the beginning of this year, 24,901 arrivals were registered and transferred to the camp, bringing its total population to 47,322 as of 31 October 2015. Initially constructed for maximum 20,000 refugees, Minawao is operating well beyond absorption capacity. With people continuing to arrive, camp infrastructure and supply is put under serious strain; particularly drinking water supply becomes ever more challenging. In close collaboration with authorities, the UNHCR co-led WASH sector has agreed on the construction of a permanent water supply system, piping water from the town of Mokolo to the camp and its surrounding villages. The congestion of the camp bears several risks, such as

outbreaks of epidemics and has significant repercussions on the well-being of refugees and host communities. Given that despite UNHCR's advocacy efforts the opening of a second camp is not an option at this point, UNHCR and its partners continue to explore opportunities to decongest the camp and to increase its absorption capacity.

- A second round of **profiling jointly conducted by UNHCR and IOM** within four Departments of the Far North region, has identified some 92,700 Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North. In addition, some 15,500 refugees who have spontaneously settled in villages were identified. Most of the forcibly displaced people seem to have found temporary shelter living in host families. Under UNHCR's overall coordination, all sectors are making efforts to step-up their response to the most urgent needs of IDPs, out of camp refugees and host populations; however, ongoing incursions and attacks by insurgents seriously limit humanitarian access to these people.
- In the spirit of UN Security Council resolutions encouraging inclusive elections to help foster reconciliation and achieve lasting peace in CAR, and as per the tripartite agreement between the Governments of CAR, Cameroon and UNHCR on the participation of CAR refugees in Cameroon in the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, **UNHCR conducted mass sensitization campaigns and related preparatory activities for refugees who wish to vote** in the regions of East, Adamaoua and North as well as in the cities of Yaoundé and Douala. As a result, some 109,000 potential voters were identified among the CAR refugee population, and their enrolment into electoral lists is ongoing. Following the decision of the CAR Transitional Council to allow CAR refugees in asylum countries to take part in the upcoming elections, UNHCR was asked to help facilitate the participation of refugees.
- UNHCR and the Government pursue preparations for the **biometric verification and registration** of all refugees and asylum seekers living in Cameroon. This operation aims to ensure better protection and assistance for refugees by verifying and updating their profiles, including family relationships, specific needs etc. For the refugees, this exercise will include the delivery of new and standardized refugee certificates, new ration cards and the renewal of identification cards. In the longer term, biometric registration is critical for obtaining reliable data on refugee movements and statistics. This operation will start in Yaoundé and will continue in other locations hosting refugees and asylum seekers in the course of 2016. This exercise is of particular importance in light of the continuous threat posed by insurgent incursions and terror attacks, which have triggered more restrictive security measures towards non-nationals and in particular those without documentation.
- UNHCR has finalized the 2016 inter-agency planning process for the refugee response. In the context of the planning process for the Cameroon chapters of the two Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRPs) for the CAR and Nigeria situation, two planning workshops involving all humanitarian partners as well as government counterparts were held in Bertoua (1-2 October) and Maroua (7-8 October). At these workshops, the overall response strategies were discussed and validated as well as each sector response plan. Apart from UNHCR's programmes, more than 40 projects were submitted and validated in the context of the CAR RRRP and some 25 projects within the Nigeria RRRP. The total needs of CAR and Nigerian refugees amount to more than US\$ 175 million. The refugee response plans have been integrated in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016.
- Within the context of UNHCR's efforts to increase its institutional support to local authorities, the UNHCR Representative donated four Pick-Up Trucks to the Governors of the Adamaoua and Far North regions to increase their capacity in providing military escorts to aid workers operating in areas requiring such security measures. In addition, desktops and office items were provided to local authorities in Bertoua, Garoua-Boulai, Adamaoua, Meiganga, Batouri in the East region, and in Maroua and Mokolo in the Far North region.
- UNHCR and its partners are coordinating their efforts to find a more durable solution to the critical water situation at Minawao camp. An analysis of the situation of water at the camp of Minawao, led by a group of hydraulic experts and including the Prefecture of Mokolo, resulted in an agreement to construct a permanent water supply system, piping water from Mokolo town to the camp and its surrounding villages (26 km). With new arrivals continuing and availability of drinking water already below the standard (20 liters per person/day), this project is a priority for the humanitarian community. The Government of Cameroon through CAMWATER made a generous commitment to support this project bearing over 40 % of its costs.

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

United States of America | Japan | CERF | EU | United Kingdom | ADB | France | Denmark | Switzerland | ECOWAS |

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Links:

<http://data.unhcr.org/car>

<http://data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation>