

278,136

From Central African Republic registered by UNHCR, of which 259,145 refugees in rural areas of East, Adamawa and North regions, and 18,991 in the urban areas of Yaounde and Douala

93,422

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

223,642

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

Population of concern

644,479 people of concern to UNHCR

Details

CAR (East, Adamawa and North)	259,145
Nigeria	93,422
Urban refugees*	20,778
Asylum seekers*	4,057
IDPs	223,642
IDP returnees**	43,435
Total	644,479

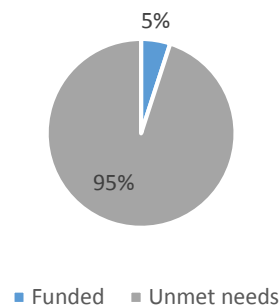
*Incl. CAR and Nigerian living in urban areas

**Incl. 5,302 Cameroonian Nationals who returned from foreign countries

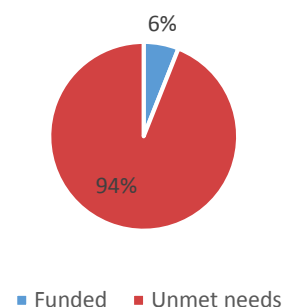
Funding situation

(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: 238

56 International staff

136 National staff

46 UN Volunteers (11 International and 35 National)

Offices:

7 offices:

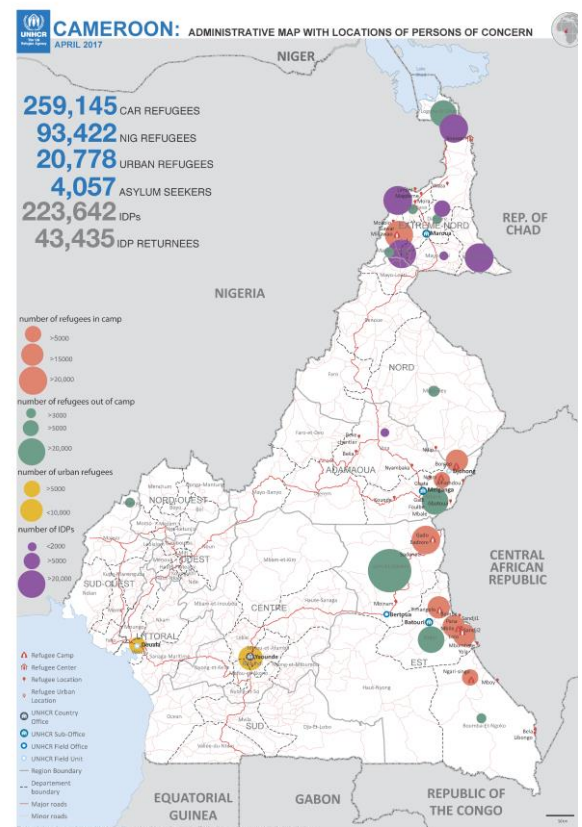
Branch Office – Yaoundé

Sub Offices – Batouri, Meiganga and Maroua

Field Offices – Djohong

Field Unit – Douala

Liaison Office – Bertoua



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 - Internationale* (PUI) and Public Concern.
- **Operational Partners:** ; ICRC, Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), ASOL and Red Deporte, IEDA Relief, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF) and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **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

- The security situation in the Far North region remains uncertain. During the month of April, 781 new arrivals from Nigeria were screened at Gourounguel transit center and thereafter registered in Minawao refugee camp. Some had previously settled in the villages of Zhélevet, Double, Tchakarmari and Madaga in Cameroon whilst others came directly from the villages of Mubi, Agappalawa, Banki, Maiduguri, Pulka and Chinene in Nigeria, seeking family reunification, as well as protection and assistance due to difficult living conditions and the fear of Boko Haram incursions.
- In the Central African Republic, elements of the ex-Seleka and RJ / MPC coalition attempted to take control of the localities of Bang and Ngaoundaye, resulting in movements of people to Cameroon. A monitoring mission led by UNHCR visited the entry point town of Mbaimboum (North region) from 5 to 7 April and found that most of the Central African who arrived there had already returned to Ngaoundaye and Bang. About 80 asylum seekers (24 households), mostly women and young children, remained in Mbaimboum with relatives who have been settled there for some time.
- The Cameroonian Minister of Public Health, HE Mr. André Mama Fouda, visited the Central African refugee site of Gado on 11 April as part of his tour in the East and Adamawa regions. Accompanied by administrative authorities, he held a meeting with the refugee community and inaugurated the newly built maternity unit at the Integrated Health Center of Gado. He reassured the refugee community that appropriate measures are being taken to ensure that the living conditions of refugees in Cameroon are improved. The representative of the refugee community then expressed his gratitude to UNHCR and all the partners for health care provided to them since the opening of the health post in Gado.
- Mr. Kouassi Lazare Etien, UNHCR's Representative in Cameroon, accompanied by Mr. Modibo Traoré, Head of the UNOCHA Country Office, undertook a joint mission to the different UNHCR intervention zones in the field. During the mission, Mr. Etien, amongst other activities, inaugurated the new library for elementary and secondary school students in Minawao camp and inaugurated 4 primary school classrooms for Central African refugees and the host community in Timangolo. Mr. Etien expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Cameroonian Government and

citizens for their legendary hospitality and generosity to Central African refugees, the majority of whom live peacefully and harmoniously with their hosts.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection:

- From 9-16 April, approximately 1,754 Nigerian refugees spontaneously left Minawao camp by their own means to Banki in Nigeria, their area of origin. The main reasons evoked for their sudden departures included the will of Banki's political leaders to mobilize refugees in the forthcoming municipal elections; the return to stability in Banki area and the possibility of the resumption of economic activities. Issues related to the reduction of food rations and the instability of water supply were also discussed. However, the supply of drinking water is being regularized.
In order to ensure that the returns are conducted in a secure manner, the Divisional Officer of Mayo-Tsanaga, UNHCR and humanitarian partners met with members of the central refugee committee on 10 April and advised refugees who wish to return to communicate this to authorities in order to take necessary security measures within Cameroon up until they cross the border. On 13 April, UNHCR, the Administrator of Minawao camp and humanitarian actors met with the refugee community and block leaders. They informed and sensitized them on the prerequisites and conditions for voluntary return, as well as on the imminent establishment of the Tripartite Commissions (Cameroon-Nigeria-UNHCR), which will organize the different stages of voluntary repatriation. They were reminded that although the decision to return is free, it is essential to ensure safe return especially considering the current security situation in the Far North region. During a field mission from 17 to 22 April, UNHCR's Deputy Representative in Cameroon obtained from the Governor of the Far North region his agreement to establish three new transit centers, based in Mora for the department of Mayo-Sava, in Boukoula for the Mayo-Tsanaga and in Fotokol for the Logone-Chari. These new transit centers are designed to receive and facilitate the voluntary return of Nigerian refugees.
- During the reporting period, 20 people arrived at Kolofata Customs post from the State of Borno in Nigeria where they fled clashes between the Nigerian armed forces and Boko Haram. This brings to 300 individuals (107 households) the number of people present on this site. They were all screened during a joint protection mission by UNHCR, INTERSOS and the Joint Protection Committees of Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga. They have limited access to basic services, especially health services. The majority received health care and medicines related to developed diseases (measles, malaria, gastric pain, diarrhea, etc.). UNHCR is conducting discussions with the regional administrative authorities to transfer them to the transit center of Gourounguel where they will be screened and then taken to the Minawao camp for registration.
- Some 34 asylum-seekers were returned to Gambaru in Nigeria by the Cameroonian military authorities, including 24 from Kousseri on 18 April and 10 from Fotokol on 21 April. UNHCR continues its advocacy efforts with military and administrative authorities at the local, regional and capital levels in order to put an end to the issue of forced returns.
- In order to strengthen birth registration mechanisms and prevent the risks of statelessness, a coordination and exchange workshop on birth registration strategy in the localities of Djohong, Ngaoui and Meiganga took place in Meiganga on 26 and 27 April, with the presence of concerned ministries (Social Affairs, Basic Education, Health, Justice, Youth and Civic Education, Territorial Administration and Decentralization). The participants were able to analyze the situation and defined a common strategy based on six pillars: advocacy, capacity-building of civil registration centers, community mobilization, birth certificate process through supplementary judgment, monitoring and evaluation and mobilization of resources. At the end of the workshop, an action plan was adopted and a task force was set up to finalize, implement and monitor the strategy.

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 23,539 individuals (12,391 women and 11,148 men) were verified during the reporting period in the localities of Gbiti, Tocktoyo, Kentzou, Boubara, Kette and Garoua Boulai in the East region. A total of 194,854 refugees (102,947 women and 91,907 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>