



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern in collaboration with:

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women's 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), 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, Red Deporte, IEDA Relief, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), *Solidarités Internationale* and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **Operational coordination:** 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. 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.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- **The security situation in Cameroon's Far North Region has remained volatile** with regular attacks from Boko Haram group. Like in previous months, there have been reports of killings, kidnapping, looting and burning of villages, livestock and foodstuff. There was a noted population displacement in the week of 08 to 12 April in the Fotokol area, with 420 persons from Nigue, 586 from Wangaram and 241 from Barawadji displaced for fears of other attacks. The population moved towards Fotokol centre as well as to the IDP camps of Dega and Minimarie, 5km from Fotokol. The main needs are in shelter and nutrition. On 22 April, another attack by the group in Magam Kotoko, Fotokol Sub Division forcefully displaced 548 persons to the localities of Biamo, Krenak, and Messio, adding to fears of more attacks especially in the Ramadan period in early May.
- **2115 Refugees in the Minawao camp have been registered as of 25 April, as candidates for voluntary repatriation by air to Nigeria.** Meanwhile discussions on the voluntary repatriation process are ongoing between the government of Nigeria, Cameroon and UNHCR. A series of meetings have been held with the refugees concerned, local partners, the Cameroonian authorities at the regional level and their Nigerian counterparts to ensure the voluntary repatriation is conducted in safety and dignity, as well as to ensure their sustainable reintegration in Nigeria. Registration is continuing.
- On 02 April, **families rendered homeless by the March 30 storm in Guiwa Yangamo, East Region, began receiving assistance in core relief items, such as blankets, tarpaulins and soap after a multi-sector evaluation visit to the site by UNHCR, government and other partners.** A mobile clinic was set up to carry out sensitisation on hygiene, screening for malnutrition among children less than 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and psychosocial assistance. For the refugees' community, 293 plastic sheets, 16 and half cartons of soap and 339 blankets were provided to 134 affected households. For the host community, 755 plastic sheets, 26 cartons of soap and 151 blankets were made available to 151 households. 114 refugee households further received a 50 percent food ration for 15 days during distribution.
- **The general security situation in the North West and South West Regions has remained volatile** with continued high levels of violence, including kidnappings, killings and burning of houses as fighting continues between government forces and non-state armed groups. On 2 and 3 April, an announced 10-day lockdown from 4 to 13 April 2019 by non-state armed groups caused further displacement, especially in Fako Division. During the reporting period, there was an increase in movements not only within communities of internally displaced persons but also among the general population as a result of the lockdowns and other announced similar plans in May. Access remains a major problem.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- **A joint UN-EU team visited the Far North region from 24 – 25 April to further assess the damage caused by the Boko Haram insurgency**, with the aim of assisting government in finding lasting solutions to the development and humanitarian needs. The team included the Special Representative of the UNSG to Central Africa, Francois Louncy Fall, the Special Representative of the UNSG to West Africa and Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas and the Special Representative of the EU to the Sahel, Angel Losada Fernandez. They held talks with local and administrative authorities and also met the representatives of the refugee communities to evaluate their situation and needs. At the end of the visit, the team disclosed that two billion euros has been raised by the International community as assistance for the affected populations in the four countries of the Lake Chad basin.
- **Both refugees and host communities in Cameroon's Far North are to benefit from a project for the improvement of social inclusion in areas most hit by the crises in the Lake Chad Basin.** Launched on April 05, by the Norwegian Refugee Council and the French Development Agency, AFD, the initiative within the framework of the humanitarian development nexus will strengthen the legal identity framework, social cohesion and access to land rights as well as support for the economic recovery of households and secure access to quality education, especially for girls.
- Between 15 to 19 April, it was reported that there were over 2500 new IDPs in Kumba town, South West Region. At the 'Middle Farms' camp in Limbe, 1000 internally displaced persons were monitored by UNHCR and its partner on 22 April. Most of the IDPs had come from Muea, Ekona, Muyenge, Muyuka, Kumba, Konye, Mbonge, Mamfe, Menji, Fontem, Buea, and Bomaka in Fako, Meme, Lebialem, Manyu, and Ndian Divisions in the South West Region. **Out of the 1,000 persons of concern, over 600 are without birth certificates, school certificates and identification cards (ID) exposing them to protection risks and difficulties in accessing education.**
- By 26 April, **a total of 745 self-built shelters had been completed in the three sites of Gado, Borgop and Ngam in the East Region out of 1350 planned for 2019.** The project also covers the rehabilitation of damaged shelters for the vulnerable with the use of cash-based interventions, (CBI). In Gado, 379 have been completed, with 103 shelters for persons with special needs and 68 rehabilitated. In Borgop, 233 are completed, 18 for persons with special needs and another 35 shelters rehabilitated for this group. In Ngam, 133 shelters are completed with 26 for the vulnerable, added to 11 houses rehabilitated.
- **1,323 households of 6,615 individuals, both IDPs and Out-of-Camp refugees** in the Far North Region, have benefitted from Shelter and Core Relief Items, distributed within the framework of the Japan 4 project, jointly implemented by UNHCR and UNDP. A UNHCR/UNDP team was in Fotokol, in the Logone and Chari Division of the Far North, on 11 April to follow-up on other humanitarian-development nexus schemes within the same framework like the 'cash-for-work' project for the economic empowerment of IDPs and refugees in the community.

### EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

#### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2019

CERF | United States of America | Sweden | European Union | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Japan | Canada | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

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