

# CAMEROON: COVID-19 SITUATION

As of 14 April 2020

## KEY FIGURES

# 846

Total number of confirmed cases in Cameroon.

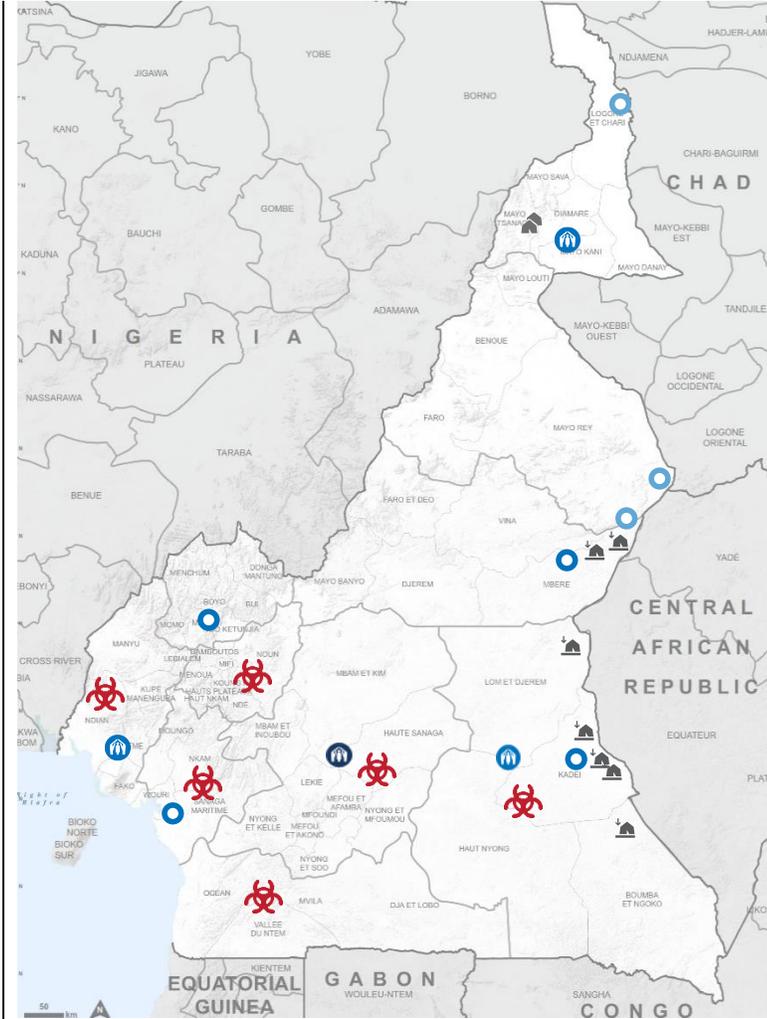
**98** Number of recovered cases of **13** Number of deaths recorded

**Regions Affected** – Centre, Littoral, West, South West, South and North West

# 00

Reported Cases of Refugees Infected with the Covid-19

Zone/Camp /Sites	# de cas	# de Guéris	# de décès
Borgop	00	00	00
Gado	00	00	00
Ngam	00	00	00
Lolo	00	00	00
Mbile	00	00	00
Ngarissingo	00	00	00
Timangolo	00	00	00
Yaounde	00	00	00
Douala	00	00	00
Minawao	00	00	00
Zone rurale	00	00	00



**Legend**

-  COVID-19 Detection
-  Minawao Camp
-  Sites
- UNHCR OFFICES**
-  Representation
-  Sub Offices
-  Field Office
-  Field Unit

## I - OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

### Coordination

- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has designated a focal point in charge of Refugees and IDPs emergency/epidemic management;
- Setting up of inter-sectoral outbreak preparedness and response team at regional levels by local authorities and at the level of sites by UNHCR;
- UNHCR and partners have elaborated a multi-sector action plan;
- Compulsory wearing of masks in all public places, instituted by government as of 13 April.

**Melvis Lu-uh Kimbi** – Snr Comm/PI Assistant, Cameroon Operation; [kimbi@unhcr.org](mailto:kimbi@unhcr.org), Tel; +90 237 01 2105  
**Benoit Kayembe**, Public Health and Nutrition Officer, Cameroon Operation; [kayembe@unhcr.org](mailto:kayembe@unhcr.org), Tel: +90 237 01 2700  
**Jean Bosco Rushatsi**, Representative a.i., Cameroon Operation, [rushatsi@unhcr.org](mailto:rushatsi@unhcr.org), Tel: +90 221 02 2300  
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- Meeting between UNHCR and the World Bank (WB) on 04 April, on the institution's plans to support government in preventing the spread of Covid-19. It came out of the meeting that the WB has disbursed 6.5 million USD for government, to cover an emergency action plan elaborated and validated by government, and a command for hospital equipment and medication.
- UNHCR and the World Bank have accepted to work on an emergency action plan, estimated at one (1) to two (2) million USD to support refugee-hosting communities and refugees sites/camps.
- UNHCR takes part in the weekly coordination meetings piloted by the Ministry of Public Health at the national level. At the regional level, sub and field offices are working in collaboration with local government officials on Covid-19.
- The World Food Programme, (WFP) has reassured there are no fears of shortage in food items distributed to Persons of Concern, PoCs in the camps and sites. Discussions have been finalized in the field for WFP to provide feeding for the refugees placed in quarantine.
- There is an ongoing assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on protection activities in South West region. UNHCR's Protection Cluster and protection partners in South West met with WHO during the week to assess the impact and risks of Covid-19 on internally displaced persons. All UNHCR-led sectors are contributing to the WHO/OCHA strategy on Covid-19 interventions.
- From 24 to 28 March UNHCR, the Ministry of health and partners undertook a second joint mission to strengthen the capacity of actors in Adamawa and East regions, in setting up prevention mechanisms and managing possible cases of Covid-19 in the refugee settlements.



### Surveillance, Case Investigation, Emergency Response Team

In the East and Adamawa regions, with a good number of refugees, 41 suspected cases have been reported, including some already dead and those placed in quarantine and isolation. Out of this number, officials have confirmed 04 cases in the East.

#### Host Community

- Health authorities in Bertoua, East region confirmed four (4) cases of Covid-19, including 1 death at the Bertoua Regional Hospital;
- In Kentzou, 1 suspected case with Covid-19 was identified since 30 March and is still awaiting test results. This case (father of 8 children) is still in isolation and his close family members are still in quarantine;
- In Garoua-Boulai, 02 suspected cases have been reported and samples have been taken and 02 others placed in quarantine.

#### Refugees

- In the sites, 13 refugees from countries or regions with active outbreaks in Covid-19 cases were quarantined (including 7 in Lolo, 1 in Mbile and 5 in Gado);
- Off-site, 2 refugees were quarantined in Betare-Oya.
- At the Borgop site, in the Adamawa region, 10 people from Yaounde and Douala were quarantined. Among them 3 developed symptoms and were placed in isolation. Only two out of the three (2 out of 3) had their samples taken due to lack of equipment at the Delegation for Health in Ngaoundéré. The samples were sent to Garoua and the results came out negative



### Entry Points

- Systematic control of all newcomers, notably temperature checks and medical assessments at entry points for all refugees coming into camps and sites.
- There have been displacements among the IDP populations, out of fear of contracting the new coronavirus. Between 20 and 29 March 2020, 1,637 IDPs returned to the North West from the West, Littoral and Centre regions; while another 1,455 IDPs returned to the South West region. In the Far

Melvis Lu-uh Kimbi – Snr Comm/PI Assistant, Cameroon Operation; [kimbi@unhcr.org](mailto:kimbi@unhcr.org), Tel: +90 237 01 2105

Benoit Kayembe, Public Health and Nutrition Officer, Cameroon Operation; [kayembe@unhcr.org](mailto:kayembe@unhcr.org), Tel: +90 237 01 2700

Jean Bosco Rushatsi, Representative a.i., Cameroon Operation, [rushatsi@unhcr.org](mailto:rushatsi@unhcr.org), Tel: +90 221 02 2300

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North, 530 people wishing to cross the border from Chad to Cameroon were blocked at separate entry points.

- Borders between Cameroon and the Central African Republic in the Kadey and the Boumba and Ngoko divisions are closed for movement of people except for goods and commercial activities. Preventive measures for handwashing and temperature taking are observed at the borders.

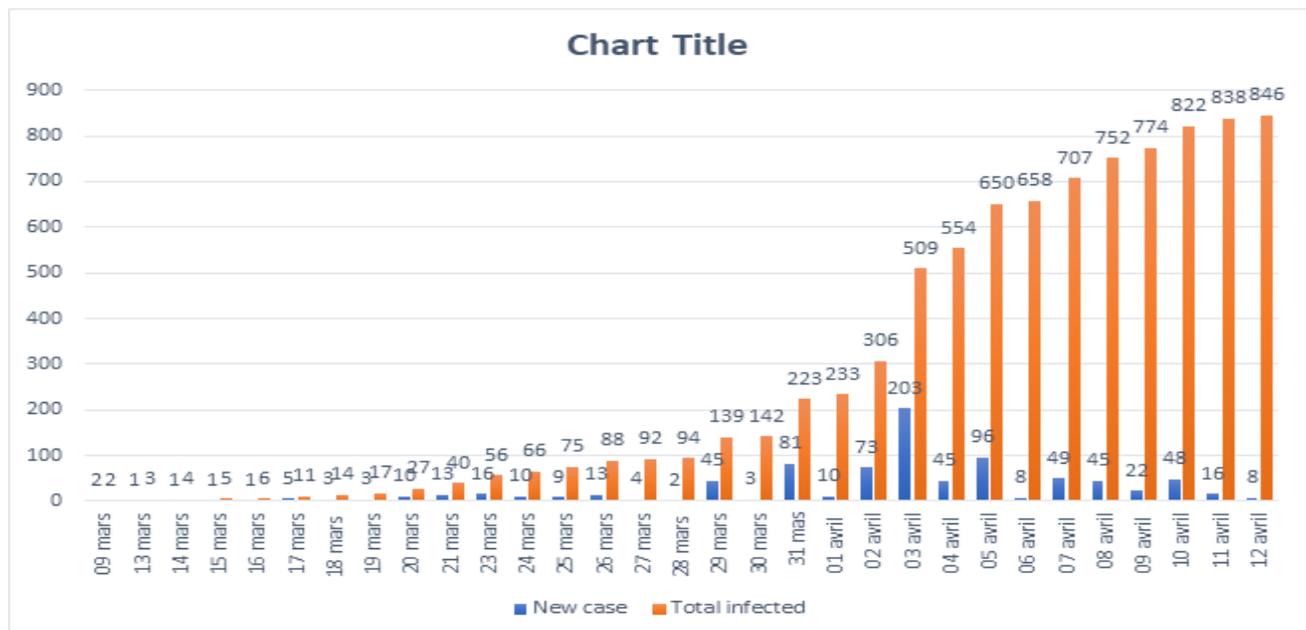


### Infection, Prevention & Control (IPC)

- 40 Refugee Housing Units (RHU) are being set up to facilitate the provision of isolation and quarantine facilities in the 07 sites in the East and Adamawa regions. At the Gado site, 08 RHUs have been set up, each with a capacity of 10 to 15 beds. The structures are similarly being set up in Timangolo and Mbile, two of the four sites where 21 RHUs will be set up.
- Cameroon has made compulsory the wearing of masks in public places. In the Minawao camp in Maroua, Far North region, female refugees who completed vocational training in sewing, have begun sewing masks with cloth as a measure to mitigate the coronavirus transmission among the community. This is also as an income generating activity for the refugees. The advantage of the locally produced face masks is that they are washable, thus reusable as compared to the model proposed on the market, which is intended for single use, for a period of 02 to 03 hours.
- A 14 day-quarantine has been made compulsory for all refugees and PoCs coming in from other parts of the country to refugee hosting camps and sites, especially those coming from the urban areas of Yaounde and Douala heavily affected by the Covid-19.
- Daily sensitization of refugees, host communities and IDPs on handwashing techniques and basic guide on setting up Tippy Tap in households.



### Case Management





### Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- In collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), UNHCR has made available 26,498 bars of soaps of 250g each for distribution in the four sites of Lolo, Mbilé, Timangolo and Ngarissingo in the East region. The distribution started on 11 April 2020 with each refugee receiving 01 soap. Out of a total of 82,824 refugees settled in the Kadey and Boumba and Ngoko divisions, there is a gap of 56,326 savons.
- In total, 142,032 bars of soap of 250g each were dispatched for distribution to POCs, including other basic hygiene items for women of childbearing age and the elderly.
- UNHCR and its partner, PUBLIC CONCERN proceeded to the installation of 10 handwashing devices (buckets and soaps) in 05 sites in Kousseri, Far North Region (Shehuri, Bling, Tilde Makary, Tilde Logone birni and Millimari). This was accompanied by practical handwashing and awareness sessions on preventive measures. Posters were also distributed to the communities.
- 04 Health institutions in Douala, Littoral region where urban refugees receive medical assistance have been offered items such as hand sanitizers, handwashing stations, bleach, masks and savons to strengthen their capacities in managing cases of Covid-19.
- In the Lolo, Mbilé, Timangolo and Ngarissingo sites in the East, UNHCR's partner, 'Agence de Developpement Economique et Social' (ADES) has been carrying out the repair of broken water points, setting up of handwashing facilities, improvement of access to water in the sites, latrine rehabilitation and construction of new latrines/showers in isolation centers and quarantine facilities.



Pic 1 & 2  
 Setting up of the  
 Refugee Housing  
 Units, RHU in sites.



### Communication Risk and Community Engagement

- Training of 100 people, including health personnel (60) and community health workers (40) from the Health Districts of Batouri, Kette, Ndelele and Yokadouma by the Ministry of Public Health, with the financial support of the partner PLAN from 9 to 10 April 2020 in Batouri. UNHCR and its partners, PLAN, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) and ADES are working to coordinate efforts to avoid duplication of activities.
- UNHCR's partner, PLAN is carrying on with sensitization at the Mbilé, Lolo, Timangolo and Ngarissingo sites on preventive measures against Covid-19 with focus on wash and health for refugees and the surrounding villages for host population.
- 84 community relays and peer educators have been trained at the Gado site on the prevention of the coronavirus and especially on communication methodology.
- Sensitization and information sessions for refugee and national community and traditional leaders led by the UNHCR and partners continues in Lolo and Mbilé sites through interactive exchanges with the community with the involvement of various partners on government preventive measures on the response against Covid-19.

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- Door-to-door sensitization campaigns at the Timangolo site and in the host communities in the East (Belita II, Gbiti, Kette, Yokadouma) by the health partner AHA.
- Training of 61 members of the protection committees in Meme and Fako, South West region and 35 community relays to strengthen community surveillance networks and highlight preventive measures against Covid-19.
- Training of 92 partners, 130 community health workers, 630 community leaders and 482 other community members on preventing the spread of Covid-19 in the East region. So far, 59 sessions on Covid-19 have been held in the 07 sites in the East and Adamawa regions.
- Discussion with other agencies to set up a stabilization room in response to the Covid-19 case management of UN staff who may become ill and require emergency medical assistance (in Buea, South West region).



### Internal Measures – UNHCR

- UNHCR is gradually implementing the Business Continuity Plan (BCP), in its different offices. The Yaounde office is completely on teleworking for three days, to prepare for any eventualities should there be total lockdown in the country or in the Yaounde, which is the most affected area so far with over 400 cases alone.
- All hygiene and sanitation measures have been reinforced for staff, and partners including the use of masks which has been made compulsory by government and the setting up of hygiene and sanitation measures in the different offices for staff, POCs and visitors.