

# Far North Cameroon Emergency

Reporting period: 5 to 18 February 2022

In **Chad**, relocations are due to resume in the coming days after being paused during the reporting period. A **third relocation site** is being identified in collaboration with the authorities.

In **Far North Cameroon**, the preparation of the **Bogo relocation site** is making good progress. The protection needs assessment confirms the difficult living conditions and **protection needs** of IDPs.

The **Level 1 emergency** which had been declared for **Cameroon** is due to lapse on 25 February, yet funding for the response remains **critically low**.



## KEY INDICATORS

### 6,665 refugees registered in Chad

Ongoing individual registration at Guilmeiy and Kalambari camp (started on 10 and 18 January respectively), as of 17 February.

### 92% IDPs without civil documentation

**Percentage** of adults in Logone and Chari division, Far North Cameroon, who do not have an identity card. 97% of IDPs declared that their civil documentation was lost or destroyed during the flight.



At Kalambari refugee camp in **Chad**, 37 Cameroonian primary school teachers were trained by the Ministry of Education to be able to teach the Chadian curriculum. With over 60% of children among the refugees in Chad, education is a priority protection need. UNHCR / © Priscilla Gomes.

**THE CONTEXT**

Clashes between communities of herders, farmers and fishermen broke out on 5 December 2021 in the village of Ouloumsa, Far North Cameroon. Violence quickly spread to neighbouring villages before reaching Kousseri, the administrative centre and main commercial hub of Logone and Chari division, on 8 December 2021.

Previous inter-communal clashes had occurred in August 2021 and 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.

## Operational Context

### Security situation and population movements

- There are no new developments to report during the period under review. The prevailing security situation in the Far North region of Cameroon remains relatively calm, while the security situation in Chad has been calm and stable since the start of the emergency.
- In addition to some observed pendular movements, return movements to villages of origin are being reported by the RRM in Far North Cameroon. As returns take place, reports of the extent of damage and number of affected villages continue to rise. Verifications on numbers are ongoing.

## UNHCR Emergency Response

### Far North Cameroon

- **Needs assessments** | On 16 February 2022, UNHCR conducted a mission to the Logone Birni to meet with authorities, traditional leader (Sultan) and Senator.
  - The analysis of the data collected by the **joint protection needs assessment mission** confirms the great protection needs of IDPs in Far North Cameroon in terms of legal protection, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and mitigation as well as HLP rights. In Logone and Chari division, **among the 6,718 IDPs surveyed, 92% of adults were not in possession of an identity card, and 97% did not have a birth certificate**, with many reporting it was destroyed or lost when they had to flee. 31% of households faced protection incidents during their flight, such as abuse or attacks by bandits. The lack of civil documentation is a particularly serious protection issue, as it negatively affects other protection areas by creating difficulties for accessing basic services including education, or rights – for instance related to housing, land and property.
- **Protection** | UNHCR is in the process of identifying a new local protection partner, while also working together with protection monitoring partner IRC to determine the area of coverage needed. Activities related to civil documentation have resumed, including in some of the villages affected by inter-communal violence.
- **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** | UNHCR conducted four working sessions with the community management committees of Bogo IDP site. The sessions focused on the housing strategy in the shelters being built in Ardjaniré, the importance of community coexistence, the participation of committees in the management of the sites, and community engagement in child protection. UNHCR built the capacity of 62 leaders, including 15 women, who committed to sensitize their respective communities. A monitoring of services exercise indicated that the shortage of food supplies, lack of water in the Bogo sites, need for latrines, school-drop out rate of IDP children were key gaps and challenges to be addressed.
- **Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)** | During the reporting period, an additional 50 temporary shelters were constructed at Bogo site by UNHCR and IOM, bringing the total number of completed shelters to 200 (out of 300 planned for the site).

- **Coordination and Partnerships** | Coordination efforts among humanitarian actors are currently focused on strengthening mechanisms for collecting and reporting data.
  - Weekly inter-country coordination meetings between Senior Coordinators in Chad and Cameroon have been revived with the aim of exchanging information and strengthening the consistency of the response. They are complemented by bi-weekly meetings of technical sector lead colleagues.

## Chad

- **Relocation** | During the reporting period, relocations were paused. This allowed essential construction to be completed, and food distributions to be carried out. Relocations are due to resume in the coming days, although both camps are now close to full capacity (2,718 individuals relocated to Guilmei camp, 4,976 individuals to Kalambari camp) due to spontaneous arrivals of refugees. All necessary infrastructure has now been completed. Discussions are therefore ongoing with the Chadian authorities to identify a site for a third camp. So far, two sites were surveyed (one was declined, and the other is under evaluation). In line with the recommendation made by the Joint Senior Level Missions, several missions led by the Deputy Representative and the Senior Emergency coordinator took place during the reporting period, with the aim of better defining an applicable out-of-camp policy. The missions visited the most removed informal refugee settlements, and sought to identify remaining gaps, needs and opportunities around which out-of-camp assistance would have to be structured.
- **Registration** | Individual basic registration began on 10 January at Guilmei, and on 18 January at Kalambari camp. As of 17 February, **6,665 individuals had been registered** (3,396 people making up 1,015 households in Kalambari, and 3,269 people making up 967 households in Guilmei). To ensure that protection and assistance reach the beneficiaries who need it the most and mitigate the risk of infiltration by Chadian nationals into the refugee population, UNHCR and CNARR have established a litigation desk in Guilmei and Kalambari.
- **Protection**
  - **Child Protection** | During the reporting period, 20 unaccompanied children at Kalambari and Guilmei camp received kits composed of bed sheets, cookies, soaps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, balloons and bags. The first meeting of the child protection sub-sector took place this week and allowed for the finalization of their strategy. An action plan was put in place to harmonize approaches on case management and capacity building.
  - **Education** | Refugee teacher training is taking place from 15 to 19 February at Kalambari camp, and from 22 to 26 February at Guilmei camp. In order to ensure the safety of children attending school, arrangements are being made to divert the road that passes through Kalambari School. Discussions are also underway with partners to install road signs and speed limits in and around both camps. Providing educational support to children living outside of the two relocations camps remains a challenge and is one of the priorities of the out-of-camp strategy being developed.
  - **Gender-based violence** | As part of the GBV prevention program, 477 people were sensitized to the different types of GBV. During the reporting period, 8 cases of GBV were identified and referred, and 42 people were assisted with dignity kits. A joint field mission organized with UNFPA allowed for exchanges with partners, including those involved in GBV prevention and response in the camp. The first meeting of the sub-group took place on 14 February. One of the group's priorities is to build the capacity of stakeholders in terms of GBV cases.
- **Shelter / Core relief items (CRIs) and WASH** | At both camps, an additional 547 shelters were built during the reporting period. With a total of 2,304 shelters completed (1,850 shelters in Kalambari and 454 shelters in Guilmei), the shelter construction is nearly complete.
- **WASH** | At Kalambari camp, hygiene, sanitation and waste management infrastructure are almost complete, while daily sensitization and hygiene promotion sessions are ongoing. WASH interventions in collaboration with partners are also ongoing to improve the sanitary situation in some spontaneous sites.
- **Nutrition** | The results of the screening for malnutrition conducted at the children's camp in Guilmei in December 2021 show that **1,607 children are suffering from global acute malnutrition**. A screening campaign was conducted from 14 to 18 February at Guilmei and Kalambari camp as well as in informal sites to assess the status of malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months. Partners who have signed a tripartite agreement with UNHCR and WFP will receive food supplements to distribute to children aged 6 to 23 months, and to moderate-acutely malnourished children. In the absence of readily available treatment for

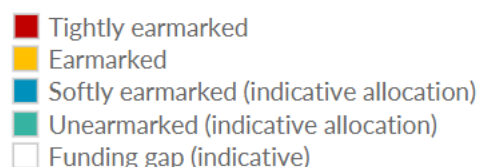
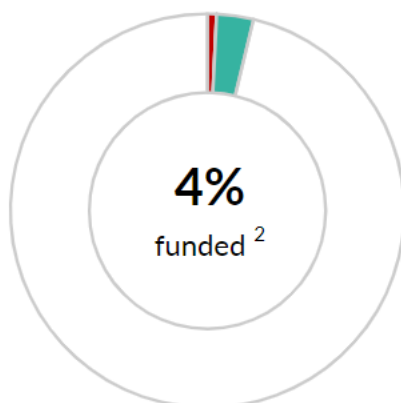
moderate acute malnutrition, a discussion is underway between UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, the Government and partners to establish a simplified protocol for the provision of therapeutic food.

- **Health | A special vaccination campaign for refugees** against measles, meningitis and polio began on 15 February in N'Djamena province, thanks to the actions of the Chadian Ministry of Health which made vaccines available. MSF Switzerland will support the two Health Delegations in organizing the campaign, which will cover all children up to the age of 15. In parallel, **vaccination against COVID-19** is continuing for adults in accordance with the Chadian protocol: 448 refugees have been vaccinated in Kalambari, 225 on the Ngueli axis and 1,894 in Guilmei and Milezi.
- **Coordination and Partnerships | The refugee response plan** preparations are ongoing. So far, 35 NGOs and 6 UN agencies have committed to being part of the plan
  - Government partner **CNARR informed NGOs involved in the response that they must secure authorization** to intervene in the sites from the permanent secretariat of CNARR in order to be granted access. The procedure for requesting authorization was reviewed during **coordination meetings held at Guilmei and Kalambari camps** on 9 and 10 February, during which terms of reference for coordination in the camps were elaborated, and planned infrastructure interventions discussed.
  - Regular **information meetings** with all partners and donors now take place every two weeks, with the next ones planned for 21 February and 7 March.
  - **Inter-sectoral meetings** are still taking place weekly and now include all UN agencies who have a formal co-lead role in the coordination structure (UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA). Steps are being taken to further the inclusion of INGOs and local NGOs in the overall coordination structure.
  - A **validation workshop** took place on 17 February and served to review the **sectoral strategies** (strategic objectives, key actions, target populations and indicators) which are in the process of being finalized.

## Funding situation

In order to meet the unforeseen humanitarian needs caused by this latest wave of violence, UNHCR launched a [supplementary appeal](#) on 21 January, seeking \$59.6 million to provide emergency support and protection to 100,000 refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in Chad and Cameroon.

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



## FAR NORTH CAMEROON SITUATION

as of 15 February 2022

### CONTACTS

#### Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa

**Fatoumata Sinkoun Kaba**, Senior External Engagement Coordinator: [lejeunek@unhcr.org](mailto:lejeunek@unhcr.org),

Tel: +221 78 526 87 14

**Esther Luigi**, Assistant Reporting Officer: [luigi@unhcr.org](mailto:luigi@unhcr.org), Tel: +221 78 606 42 37

[TWITTER](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)