

## KEY FIGURES

**60,000**

Beneficiaries of which **50,000** refugees from Cameroon

**89%**

Women and children among spontaneous arrivals

**82,632**

Refugees and host community members benefited from High Energy Biscuits (HEB) and in-kind food distribution

**43,498**

Refugees pre-registered as of 1<sup>st</sup> February

**14,904**

Medical consultations and referrals were made, including 1,876 prenatal consultations

**8,304**

Persons with specific needs were identified

**1,757**

Emergency shelters provided

## Composition of Sectoral Working Group



# CHAD – REFUGEES FROM CAMEROON

## INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

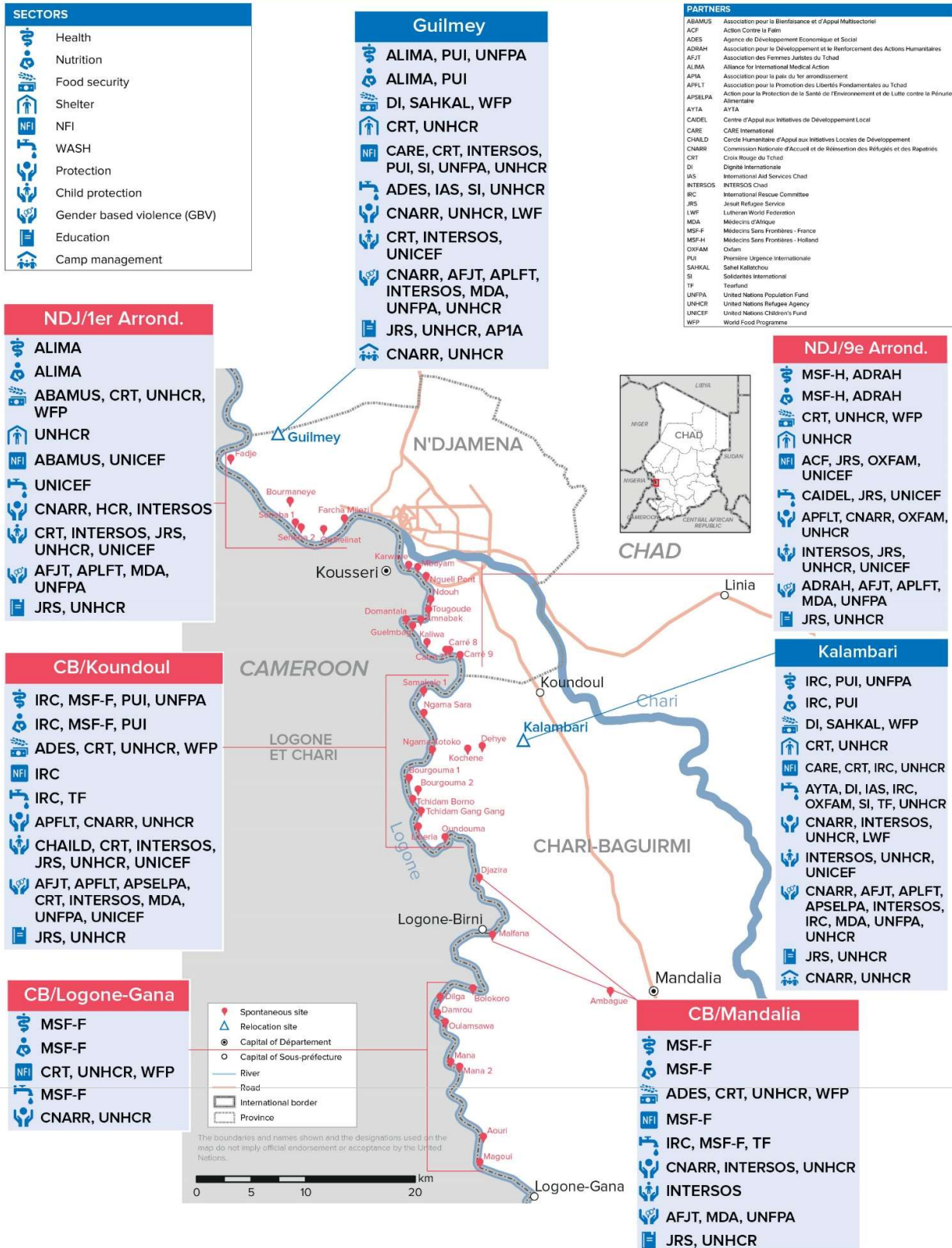


#1 - February 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Following renewed armed clashes in December 2021 and early January 2022 between herders and fishermen along the Cameroon/Chad border, some 60,000 persons have been impacted, including some 50,000 refugees fleeing their home to Chad in search of safety, and 10,000 Chadian host community members.
- Chad reaffirmed its hospitality towards the new arrivals and opened its borders, receiving refugees fleeing the conflict. Since the onset of the crisis, and in line with previous refugee responses mounted in the country, the humanitarian partners immediately responded to the Government's request for support by initiating and coordinating a multisectoral humanitarian response at field level.
- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), the Inter-Agency response efforts prioritize immediate life-saving assistance to approximately 60,000 persons, including 50,000 refugees from Cameroon and 10,000 host community members<sup>1</sup>. Food, other protection and medical services, shelter and WASH, including site planning and development, as well as the provision of core relief items (CRIs) such as blankets and mats, have been mobilized.
- The humanitarian response has been structured in 3 main phases: 1/ initial provision of life-saving assistance, protection, and identification of persons with specific needs (December-January); 2/ Relocation of part of the refugee population into 2 identified camps, with a capacity to host 12,000 refugees, based on a risk mitigation approach and needs-based logic (January); 3/ Stabilization of the situation and provision of full-fledged assistance in camps, as well as scale-up of protection and assistance to all refugees – in camps and out-of-camp (January-ongoing).
- While the two first phases of the humanitarian response are nearly completed, with the creation and support of 2 camps, namely Guilmeiy and Kalambari, discussions are ongoing with relevant authorities to respond in a more predictable manner to needs identified among the refugee populations living in sites and in some 40 villages along the border. Basic assistance has been delivered to refugees whether in camps or out of camps (hot meals, general food distribution, limited wash infrastructures and health services) or is being planned (common basket of CRIs). And 7,964 refugees have been relocated so far to Guilmeiy and Kalambari camps.
- As resources and capacities have been stretched (and for some sectors, resources diverted from much needed assistance to other populations in the east), further support from new actors and donors is particularly needed for food and nutrition.

<sup>1</sup> Those population figures/ population in need will be re-confirmed during the process leading up to the Country Response Plan.



Data sources: Cameroonian Emergency Sector partners - Feedback: Filip Hilgert, hilgert@unhcr.org

Creation date: 3 February 2022

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

---

- Clashes between communities of herders, farmers and fishermen broke out on 5 December 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. This wave of violence forced an estimated 100,000 to flee from Cameroon to Chad around Ndjamena and south of the city, according to the authorities.
- This conflict is the result of growing inter-communal tensions around the Lake Chad Basin. Grappling with immense challenges including endemic poverty, weak public services and governance, and chronic insecurity caused by protracted armed conflicts, these historically under-served areas face increasing environmental degradation, further fuelling food insecurity and competition over scarce resources.
- Multi-functional teams composed of the Government, UN agencies, national and international NGOs have undertaken rapid needs assessments, which have served as the basis for the ongoing Inter-Agency operational response. Life-saving activities immediately started and are ongoing, such as the provision of health care, including through mobile clinics, and the distribution of hot meals followed by general distribution of food by WFP and its partners. To provide shelter and meet urgent basic needs, CRIs were procured locally and internationally.
- Unlike the first refugee influx in August, Chadian authorities have requested that refugees be relocated to formal sites away from the border for their own safety. UNHCR therefore supported Chadian authorities in the search for suitable relocation sites, while also exploring the possibility of out-of-camp interventions in some spontaneous sites that could be developed, using an area-based approach that would support refugees and lessen the impact on host populations.
- Two newly developed sites with a combined capacity to host 12,000 refugees were set up at Guilmey and Kalambari in Chad, so far 7,694 individuals have been relocated to the two sites.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

---



Protection Working Group

---

### Current situation

- At the outset of the emergency in December 2021, humanitarian partners focused their initial response on life-saving assistance, protection delivery and identification of persons with specific needs among the refugees who had settled in a total of 42 informal refugee sites along the Logone River border between the two countries.
- As of 1 February, 43,498 refugees were pre-registered in 40 out of 42 sites (including 8,600 refugees remaining from the August 2021 influx). Of the preregistered population, 61% are children, 60% are female, women and children make up 89% of the population. So far, 8,304 persons with specific needs - more than 19% of the total population - were identified. The unfolding strategy of relocation of the newly arrived refugees away from the border (rural axis) and the accommodation of the conflicting parties in different sites are at the same time serving as a protection tool and risk mitigation measures in terms of security.

### Achievements and Impact

- Relocation of pre-registered refugees started on 5 January 2022. As of 1 February, 2,718 individuals/884 households have been relocated to the camp of Guilmey in N'Djamena, 4,976 individuals/1,550 households to the camp of Kalambari in Chari-Baguirmi province. The national gendarmerie ensures the security of the two camps to guarantee the physical protection of the refugees and maintain the civilian character of the sites.
- Following the completion of the biometric registration, more accurate data will be available to initiate the issuance of civil documents to refugees. The Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR) confirmed the intention of the Chadian government to recognize refugees under prima facie in accordance with Article 1 paragraph 2 of the 1969 OAU Convention. On the other hand, the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANATS), in charge of civil documentation, will strive to provide birth certificates to any Cameroonian refugee child born on the Chadian territory during this crisis. A tracing and family reunification mechanism has been set up at the sites to help separated and unaccompanied minors to find their parents lost during the flight.

### Child protection

- Child protection-related activities have been initiated and coordinated, including referral pathways and awareness raising, along with monitoring activities for the prevention of abuse and exploitation. In addition, with the support of UNICEF and INTERSOS, a tracing and family reunification mechanism has been launched at the sites to help separated and unaccompanied minors to find their parents. At Guilmey, the National Sub-Coordination Group for Peace of the 1st

arrondissement, a body composed of 16 members including five women (all qualified teachers), has engaged with communities, including children, in sensitization and awareness raising activities on peace and peaceful coexistence.

### Gender-based Violence

- As part of GBV assistance activities, four psychosocial support centres for survivors have been set up in four sites. At camp level, several partners have set up a prevention and response mechanism to GBV cases and are ready to receive referrals for follow-up and assistance. Referral pathways are being strengthened in both camps. In Kalambari, the national NGO SAHKAL has erected a makeshift delivery room and two waiting and reception areas for pregnant women. In addition, awareness-raising campaigns are conducted on the sites and a referral and psychosocial support mechanism has been set up.



### Education Sectoral Working Group

---

#### **Current Situation**

- Education, an important protection tool, will be paramount in the overall response. In Chad, the pre-registered refugees include over 9,400 children of primary school age and 4,300 of secondary school age. Resumption of classes is essential for their educational progression and their emotional stability. Without a quick return to school, they will face significant protection risks such as exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence.

#### **Achievements and Impact**

- Classes have resumed for all students at Guilmeiy and Kalambari camps. The identification of teachers within the refugee community has started, which, once shared with the Ministry of Education (MoE), will enable this refugee teacher workforce to be trained in the Chadian curriculum and apply it in schools that will be welcoming refugees. Teacher training is planned as soon as relocation has been completed. In Guilmeiy and Kalambari, registration and outdoor classes have started thanks to the support of volunteer Chadian and refugee teachers, and special attention has been given to refugees that are set to take national exams in June. In both sites, the village public primary school will be strengthened with temporary classrooms, learning and teaching material, and an annex primary section will be created at Kalambari camp to accommodate younger students.



### Shelter and CRIs Sectoral Working Group

---

#### **Current Situation**

- Two newly developed camps (Guilmeiy and Kalambari) with a combined capacity for 12,000 refugees have been set up. Both are equipped with one health post, boreholes, latrines, and shelters. Since 5 January 2022 more than 7,600 refugees have been relocated to these two sites. UNHCR distributed CRI kits to refugees relocated to the two camps. In the border villages, where refugees still live among host populations, humanitarian partners are continuing to carry out protection interventions, food assistance (second distribution by WFP was being organized at the beginning of February) and operate mobile health clinics.
- With many of the refugees, including a majority of women and children, living in dire conditions, the provision of shelter and CRIs were critical to their physical protection. The technical team worked on the design of site infrastructures and shelters and indicated the key requirements in terms of WASH for the immediate relocation phase, to ensure a short transition to the accommodation of refugees in semi-durable shelters. To meet basic needs and provide shelter, UNHCR and its partners procured supplies locally and, due to extremely limited stocks in Chad, internationally. CRIs distributions are being conducted by partners in various spontaneous sites.

#### **Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR has built 1,757 emergency shelters and 50 communal shelters (for 2500 persons) as well as 2 registration centres and 2 health posts (1 in each camp respectively). In total 10,680 individuals (4,182 households) have been assisted by UNHCR, partners and private donors in sites located in the urban area, and 6000 individuals (2,450 households) in rural sites.
- As part of CRI assistance, UNHCR distributed 10,806 blankets, 7,239 mats, 7,706 bars of soap (180 gr), 3,647 buckets, 2,855 jerrycans, 3,760 kitchen sets, and 1,747 mosquito nets to relocated refugee families. On 12 January, the Embassy of Cameroon distributed a range of NFIs in Kalambari relocation site, including mattresses, blankets, mats, oil, water, etc. MSF-F also assisted 5,900 individuals from both host and refugee communities with blankets, jerrycans and mosquito nets in several sites along the river on the rural axis. On the urban axis, ACF distributed 4,000 kits composed of jerrycans, mosquito nets, blankets and sleeping mats, together with a cash assistance of 17,000 XAF targeting 4,000 households. Oxfam also assisted refugees with CRIs kits (soap, buckets, clothes, underwear).



### **Current Situation**

- The situation in Chad was already fragile before the arrival of the new refugees, as the country has one of the highest levels of hunger in the world according to WFP. At the onset of the emergency, as part of the life-saving activities, UNHCR activated until 22 December the provision of hot meals in all camps, the preparation of which was supported by the Chadian Red Cross in the rural areas and by ADES in the urban locations. On 11 December 2021, WFP started the distribution of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) followed by in-kind food distribution in the sites initially identified and reached 82,632 people.

### **Achievements and Impact**

- Food assistance distributions for January are ongoing and WFP will reach all registered refugee relocation sites as well as villages at the border with Cameroun. Malnutrition screening has been conducted by UNICEF and UNHCR. Its results show that severe acute malnutrition stood at 1.1%; moderate acute malnutrition at 23.1%; and global acute malnutrition at 24.2%. Children with severe acute malnutrition are being referred to partners operating on site. Provision of plumpy nut has been reinforced by UNICEF for the partners intervening in the spontaneous sites and in the camps.
- In addition, several urgent actions have been implemented in collaboration with UNICEF and the health districts: 9,025 children were dewormed with albendazole; 10,785 children have received the Vit A supplement; severe acute malnourished children are treated. WFP availed Supercereal Plus to prevent malnutrition in 15,840 children and 7,200 pregnant and lactating women, distributions will start during the first two weeks of February.
- WFP organized, with the support of UNHCR, a blanket feeding operation for Cameroonian refugee children from 6 to 23 months. The blanket feeding will be coupled with the general food distribution to protect the children's ration.



### **Current Situation**

- Humanitarian partners quickly conducted needs assessments and UNHCR organized sectoral coordination with the health authorities and other key health actors such as IRC, MSF, UNFPA, PUI, ADES and ALIMA.
- The initial health care was based on a "mobile" concept. The new arrivals included wounded people, who required immediate referrals upon arrival and hospitalization (in Mandalia and in Ndjama, as well as, for severe cases, referrals to the General Hospital).
- The overall response is now consisting of a combination of mobile clinics deployed by partners in the host villages and two MSF fixed health posts in the major sites. Mobile clinics and fixed health posts are organized by MSF, IRC and ADES, supported by UNFPA midwives, who provide essential care to women, children and the wounded, establishing a minimum emergency facility including clinical management of rape and HIV. The two large camps designated by the government have seen the establishment of a Health Centre providing the full minimum package of care. Community awareness and active search for specific cases is being set up in the two camps as well as outside the camps.

### **Achievements and Impact**

- The Provision of the complete minimum package of care started in the new camps of Kalambari and Guilmei including curative, prenatal and postnatal consultations, delivery and emergency neonatal obstetrical care, and referrals to secondary level.
- As part of the fight against malaria, 7,750 Long Lasting Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Nets have been distributed to 3,181 refugees and members of the host community.
- The vaccination for COVID-19 started in Guilmei, with 1,894 refugees vaccinated so far.
- The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is now implemented by UNHCR and UNFPA to ensure that all affected populations have access to lifesaving SRH services.
- UNFPA and UNHCR distributed 1,350 dignity kits and 260 baby kits, and 156 deliveries were performed including 153 live births.



## Current Situation

- Prior to the relocation of refugees to the two new camps, the construction of water infrastructure, including latrines/showers and boreholes was crucial. In parallel, limited wash interventions was organized in host communities/ places of spontaneous arrival.

## Achievements and Impact

- To improve the living conditions of refugees living in spontaneous sites in Ndjamena, UNICEF has constructed 60 latrines and 60 showers in Milezi and Karwaye and distributed 500 household kits in Milezi and Amnaback.
- In Kalambari camp, all 17 planned boreholes have been completed (11 by UNHCR, 4 boreholes by Dignité and 2 boreholes by Oxfam). The average number of litres of potable water available per person per day stands at 23 litres (compared to the emergency standard of 15 litres p/p/d). As of 29 January, to ensure access to adequate sanitation infrastructures, 358 latrines and 390 showers have been built out of 458 facilities planned. Oxfam and Tearfund are currently constructing 45 latrines/45 showers and 21 latrines respectively. This support will help to cover the needs of two additional blocks, noting that, overall, the number of persons per latrine/toilet currently stands at 13 persons (compared to the emergency standards of 20 persons per latrine). Hygiene promotion sessions are being conducted by IRC, AYTA and IAS to encourage refugees to use WASH facilities appropriately.
- In Guilmeiy camp, all water and sanitation infrastructures planned have been completed (5 boreholes, 147 latrines and 147 showers). Solidarités international has constructed 12 latrines and 12 showers. Hygiene promotion sessions and solid waste management are ongoing with the support of Solidarités International and IAS. 34 refuse bins have been installed with daily collection.

## REMAINING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

---

- A hybrid approach to refugee settlements has been agreed in principle with Authorities in Chad. This involves relocating some refugee populations to the existing two camps and a possible third camp in the South, in addition to supporting several spontaneous settlements with the host communities/ in villages. Out of camp assistance is therefore being strengthened considering the hybrid approach. Basic assistance (food, health, CRIs, health, wash, etc) needs to continue and be strengthened in all refugee locations. Assistance delivery options will take into account the overall Government strategy with possible “one-stop shops” and capacities for services and distributions in out-of-camp settlements.
- In parallel, additional capacity and resources will need to be mobilised to ensure that all protection-related needs and risks are being responded to and mitigated. This will particularly focus on adequate interventions for child protection, GBV (including early and sustained attention to PSEA), and community-based approaches and assistance to Persons with Specific Needs notably Persons with Disabilities. It will also support inter-community tolerance, which will be in turn strengthened by activities promoting peaceful co-existence (bringing additional external expertise).
- In terms of infrastructure, the overall response has already taken into account the transition to semi-durable infrastructure in camps (latrines, water pumps, shelters). This transition is being accelerated, primarily for shelters and basic services (education, health), in order to ensure better protection of refugees. The modality of assistance delivery will be reviewed, with a focus towards Cash based interventions for specific purposes.
- In terms of education, educational support to children living outside the two relocation camps, who now have been out of school for over 6 weeks, remains a challenge. In all assessed locations, existing schools lack infrastructure and staffing. While refugee teachers have been identified among the community in Guilmeiy and Kalambari, and will receive training in the Chadian curriculum, all arrival sites need state-appointed teachers at all levels (primary and secondary).
- The overall humanitarian response will gradually shift, based on consultations with Chadian authorities, refugees and host populations, to integrate an area-based approach.

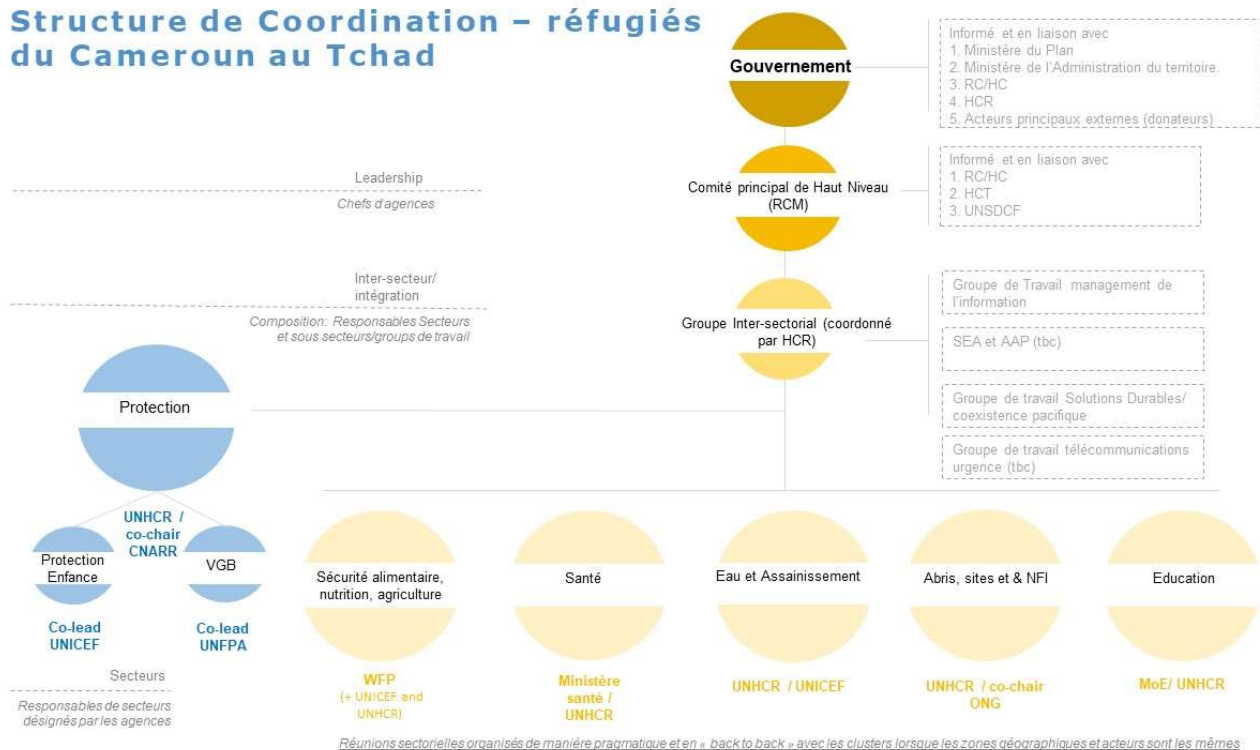
## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

---

- A total of 49 partners are taking part in the emergency response, including the Government, 11 UN agencies, 20 international and 8 local NGOs. Collaboration with the Government and partnerships have been key in ensuring a quick response to this complex emergency in difficult settings.

- The response to this refugee situation complements the overall humanitarian response: it is an integral yet distinct element in the overall humanitarian coordination architecture. With the support of other UN agencies and numerous non-governmental NGOs, UNHCR leads and coordinates the refugee response in line with the Refugee Coordination Model and in support of the Government of Chad. The refugee coordination is reinforcing synergies between all stakeholders, is supporting the response to urgent protection and assistance needs and backs the Chadian government's responsibility to protect refugees. In addition, an Inter-Agency Country Response Plan (CRP) is under preparation and should be ready by the end of March.
- At present, the following sectors have been activated and are meeting at least once a week (noting that the periodicity of such meetings will be regularly reviewed): Food Security and Nutrition, Health, WASH, Shelter and CRIs. The refugee Protection Working Group now embeds two subsectors, on child protection and GBV. These Sectoral Working Groups form the backbone of the coordination of the humanitarian response.
- While in December 2021, daily operational coordination meetings were taking place to share vital information on the unfolding situation and humanitarian needs identified, with the setup of sectoral coordination and the activation of all sectors, general meetings are now taking place on a weekly basis (Monday 4 pm).
- Given the fluidity of the crisis, the coordination modalities will be reviewed continuously and adjusted according to the evolving situation on the ground, in full respect of globally established mandated roles and responsibilities.

## Structure de Coordination – réfugiés du Cameroun au Tchad



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- In close collaboration with the RC/HC office, a grant of US \$6M from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) Rapid Response envelope was prepared and granted to 4 sectors: Protection, including Child Protection and Education, Health, PSEA, GBV and Shelter/CRIs.
- The development of the CRP is under preparation and Sectoral Working Groups are currently developing their response strategy. The CRP will be country-specific, covering the year 2022 (with a mid-year revision), and will serve as a coordination, advocacy and resource mobilization tool. It will include humanitarian activities as well as durable solutions components (and will address host community needs, in addition to those of refugees).

### Contacts:

Antony Akumu Abogi, Senior Emergency Coordinator, Tel: +235 69039736, Email: [abogi@unhcr.org](mailto:abogi@unhcr.org)

Florent Marty, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator, Tel: +235 69039539, Email: [marty@unhcr.org](mailto:marty@unhcr.org)

Bernadette Mah Ippet, External Relation Officer, Tel: +235 69039729, Email: [ippetlet@unhcr.org](mailto:ippetlet@unhcr.org)