

Cameroon

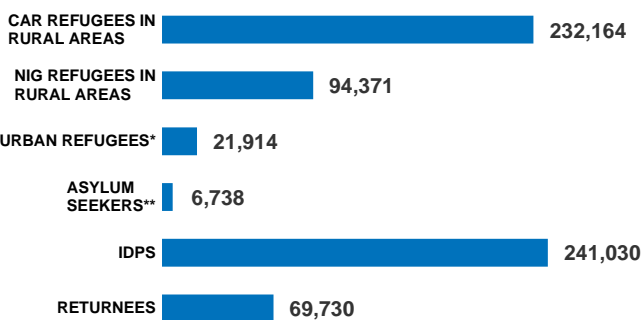
January 2018

Cameroon currently has **665,947 people of concern**, including **248,926 Central African refugees** and **96,283 Nigerian refugees**.

Gourenquiel transit centre continued to see **growing numbers of new arrivals** due to upsurge of attacks within Cameroon.

Official launch of biometric registration in Minawao camp on 31 January. All refugee certificates are to be renewed during this exercise.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (665,947 AS OF 31 JANUARY)



*Incl. 16,762 Central Africans and 1,912 Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.

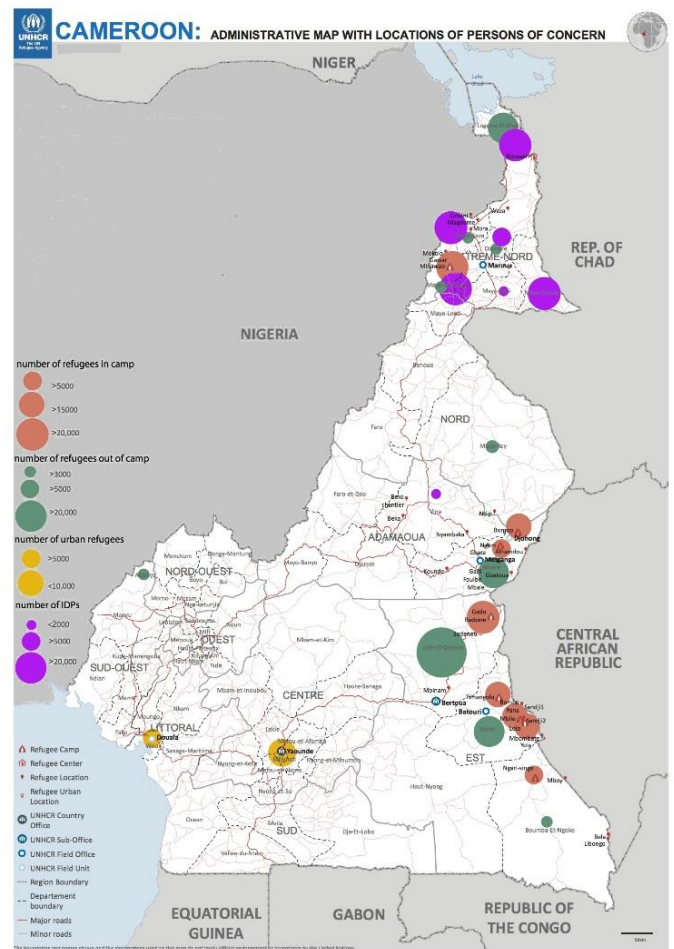
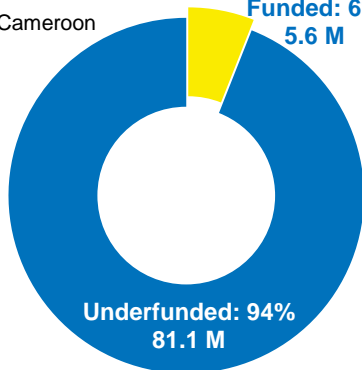
**Incl. 5,638 Central Africans and 9 Nigerian asylum seekers living in urban areas.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY)

USD 86.7 M

Requested for Cameroon

Funded: 6%
5.6 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 225

130 National Staff

53 International Staff

42 UN Volunteers (7 International and 35 National)

9 OFFICES:

Branch Office – Yaounde

Sub Offices – Batouri, Meiganga and Maroua

Field Offices – Djohong and Douala

Field Units – Touboro and Kousseri

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), 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), *Solidarités International* 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. 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

- Security incidents in the Far North region increased considerably compared to December 2017; with all three departments, Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga and Logone et Chari, concerned. The modus operandi of non-state armed groups has changed whereby fewer suicide attacks are carried out and instead an increase in kidnapping of children, pillaging of homes, setting fire to properties and cattle robbery have been reported. The attacks persist despite the presence of regional military forces. The military operations have however forced the non-state armed groups to disperse and to reconstitute themselves into smaller and more mobile groups along the border; possibly a reason for the increase in attacks (at least an average of 10 a week this month). The security environment has forced the Cameroonian military to also continue carrying out targeted military push back activities. All of this resulting in the additional displacement of Nigerians and Cameroonians along the border which is affecting our protection and assistance response as staff movement has been restricted in certain areas.
- Within the context of the project partnership agreement between UNHCR and the ILO, “Exploring Public Options for Health Insurance and Health Services Provision for Refugees”, an ILO mission was fielded to Cameroon from 21-30 January. The objective of this project is to bring together the social protection expertise of ILO with the refugee protection mandate of UNHCR in order to seek opportunities and implement integration schemes for refugees into existing national social protection systems. A particular focus will be made regarding health insurance schemes with the aim to allow refugees to access health services at the same level as nationals, through shared risk mechanisms. UNHCR is unable to integrate its health services into the national system without the larger-scale support to the national health system by development initiatives. The mission team will be responsible for developing an in-depth feasibility study to explore options for the inclusion of certain refugee populations, including potential benefit schedules and necessary contribution rates. The mission met with several development donors and agencies in Yaounde before undertaking a mission to Gado refugee site in the East region where they met with refugees, national health authorities and partners.
- On 25 January, UNHCR hosted a workshop in order to validate the operation’s livelihood strategy 2018-2020. Participants included relevant government authorities, donors, financial and development institutions and partners involved in livelihood projects. The four regions in the country concerned, the Far North, North, Adamaoua and East, have been particularly hit by the continued steady arrival of refugees over the years and have seen their already weak social structures and fragile security environment further affected. UNHCR and its partners elaborated the multi-year

strategy to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of refugees with a view of reducing their dependency on humanitarian assistance.

- Various donor missions took place during the reporting period: the Canadian High Commissioner visited Timangolo refugee site on 17 January where she listened to the concerns of refugees and expressed Canada's continued solidarity with the refugee response; the Head of the EU Delegation visited Minawao camp on 18 January to obtain a better understanding of the multisector response and assess activities carried out for refugees and their impact. On 29 January, a representative of the Global Issues and Development Branch of the Government of Canada also undertook a mission to Minawao camp to oversee activities implemented and to hear from refugees their most critical needs.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Far North Region

- Close to 2,000 new arrivals have been registered at Gourenquiel transit centre since the beginning of the year. The majority are elderly, women and young children having fled villages where they were previously settled along the border with Nigeria such as Zélévet, Kangaleri, Tcharmari. Some also had arrived directly from Nigeria including the towns of Maiduguri, Mubi, Yola looking to be reunited with their families already in Minawao camp. The voluntary repatriation operation, to begin by mid-March, is a reason cited by some new arrivals for their arrival at Minawao; in order to have a refugee attestation upon their return and to prevent any assimilation with non-state armed groups, as well as to receive material and financial assistance during the time to return. A poor harvest season a lack of any livelihood activities in areas along the border are also reasons provided for displacement.
- Biometric registration officially began in Minawao camp population on 31 January. During this exercise, all refugee certificates and ration cards registered at Minawao camp will be renewed. This exercise will increase the quality of our data and provide more reliable figures for planning purposes, as well as identifying the most vulnerable needs. Biometric registration will also be carried out at a later stage for refugees living outside the camp in conjunction with the administrative authorities of the three departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Tsanaga and Mayo Sava.
- Sensitization and pre-registration activities continued for refugees in Minawao camp interested in voluntary repatriation to Adamawa State, Nigeria. By the end of the month, 193 refugees (55 households) had expressed their interest to return.

East, Adamaoua and North Regions

- As part of the implementation of the Partnership Agreement signed in October 2016 between UNHCR and MINEPAT on the support to the development of refugee hosting areas in Cameroon, particularly in the East, Adamawa and North regions, UNHCR is developing the Support Plan for the 16 main municipalities hosting the largest number of Central African refugees in the concerned regions. During the month of January, ACED, the organization in charge of supporting this process, deployed 13 teams in 81 villages in order to collect the needs of both host and refugee populations. The data was collected from various stakeholders among which the relevant sectors (education, health, water, civil status, and livelihoods), mayors, chiefs of district health center, and host and refugee populations. The collected needs have been captured in an application in order to consolidate them in a sufficiently usable form. Once the capture is complete, the data will be analyzed and presented to the different stakeholders at two regional workshops (late February and early March). During these workshops, participants will validate the data and prioritize the needs. The data and needs thus validated will be used for the elaboration of the Support Plan, which already receives funding from the IDA 18 of the World Bank in its sub-window for refugees and host populations.
- Joint UNHCR and WFP sensitization campaigns took place in the East and Adamaoua regions regarding the targeting strategy for Central African refugees. Due to continued underfunding, the number of beneficiaries of food assistance has been considerably reduced and a targeting approach based on socio-economic vulnerability rather than status has been considered. UNHCR and WFP met with concerned authorities in the region, partners and with refugees in and out of sites. Refugees were informed that food assistance would be provided to those most in need based on the targeting exercise and that they would continue to seek alternative means of assistance, such as self-reliance and livelihood activities, for those affected by this new approach. Refugees indeed insisted on the need to provide additional livelihood activities for them to be able to work and provide for their families.

EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon**

Canada | CERF | China | Denmark | European Union | France | Israel | Japan | Netherlands (Private) | Republic of Korea | Spain (private) | Turkey | United States of America | United Kingdom | UN Prog on HIV/AIDS | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | African Development Bank

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LINKS : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/cmr> – Twitter : @RefugeesCmr – Facebook : UNHCR Cameroun – Instagram: hcrcameroun