

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2021 World Refugee Day**
theme: Together we heal, learn, and shine.
 - Education:** 1.9 million school aged children need education assistance in humanitarian contexts.
 - COVID-19:** 80,953 cumulative cases and 1,325 deaths as of 30 June 2021.
- Ten per cent (78,476) of the people targeted for the vaccination in 2021 have received the first or/and the second dose of vaccine.

FIGURES

(OCHA/IOM APRIL 2021, UNHCR MAY 2021, IOM JUNE 2020, OCHA FEBRUARY 2020)

4.4 million

People in need of humanitarian assistance

3 million

People targeted by the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan

1 million

Internally displaced people

449,796

Refugees and asylum seekers

465,757

Returnees (previously IDPs)

FUNDING

AS OF 30 JUNE 2021
(HRP 2021, FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICES - FTS)

362 million

Requested in US dollar

19.6 per cent

funded



Credit: UNHCR

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WORLD REFUGEE DAY: CAMEROON JOINS THE CELEBRATION

Each year on 20 June, World Refugee Day highlights the situation of people forced to flee their home countries to escape conflict or persecution.



World Refugee Day 2021 in Bertoua, East region
Exhibition and sale of products made by refugees
Credit: UNHCR

Cameroon hosts 449,796 refugees, mostly from the Central African Republic (CAR), Nigeria and Chad. These populations, often stripped of their dignity and possessions, are generously welcomed by the Cameroonian government and local population and supported by humanitarian actors. Communities in several regions of the country also welcome Cameroonian displaced persons who had fled their villages and land because of violence.

The theme of this year's World Refugee Day, **'Together we heal, learn, and shine'**, highlights the power of inclusion. Given the opportunity, refugees can contribute to a stronger, safer and more vibrant world. That is why the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres called for greater inclusion of refugees in health systems, schools, and sports.

The spirit of inclusion therefore entails the inclusion of displaced people into local, regional and national initiatives, so that they can empower themselves, and thereby reduce the pressure on host communities and governments. This allows them to maintain their dignity, provide for their families, and send their children to school.



Government, Donors, United Nations and other International Organisations at the official ceremony at the Ministry of External relations on 24 June 2021

Credit: UNHCR

"It is important to support the Government in building secondary schools to support bringing children to the third cycle," said the Representative of UNHCR in Cameroon, Mr. Olivier Beer. UNHCR facilitates primary education for children, but they often do not continue with secondary school because of the lack of school infrastructure in some parts of the country.

"In Cameroon, the inclusion of refugees in health, education and employment programmes is effective," said the Secretary General of the Ministry of External relations, Mr. Chinmoun Oumarou. "Two years after the first Global Forum on Refugees which was held in Geneva, the inclusion of refugees in education, health, socio professional support and their provision with protection are reflected through actions taken by the Government in favor of refugees in the domains of health, education and employment," he added.

*"On this World Refugee Day,
I call on communities and
governments to integrate
refugees in health care,
education and sport."
Antonio Guterres, UN
Secretary-General*

In collaboration with the Government, host communities, local authorities, and partners, UNHCR contributed to the strengthening of the health response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the most remote areas of the country through a partnership with the Ministry of Public Health which allowed to cover 30 per cent of the cost of refugees' health care in Cameroon, while including refugees in national COVID-19 vaccination plans. The agency also provided financial support to 28,000 refugees in line with the national social safety nets as well as facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 3,800 Nigerian refugees and 2,000 Central African refugees.

The World Refugee Day is an opportunity to build empathy and understanding for the plight of refugees and to highlight their ability to withstand hardship and rebuild their lives. In Cameroon, UNHCR and partners carried out several activities from 19 to 24 June in the Centre, East, Littoral and Far North regions in support of refugees, including exhibitions of art products, sports and cultural activities, themed radio programmes, etc.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST



Credit: UNICEF/Beguel

Students in Cameroon are at the end of another school year in which thousands of them have not been able to receive education.

In the North-West and South-West regions, the number of functional schools and students attendance remained low. In the South-West, only 23 per cent of primary schools and 25 per cent of secondary schools were operational during the 2020-2021 academic year. Accessing education premises in such a volatile environment has proven to be risky for children and teachers as attacks against schools continued and became more violent.



Credit: OCHA/Mouangue

During the 2020-2021 school year, non-State armed groups (NSAGs) in the North-West and South-West regions burned schools, and kidnapped or killed students and teachers. They used schools as bases¹, torturing and holding people hostage in and near their premises. The crisis on education is related to a wider range of severe protection risks including sexual exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, forced recruitment by armed forces, arbitrary arrest, early marriage and teenage pregnancy. Many children have been separated from their families or have had to head households as their caregivers were killed during the conflict. Attacks against school facilities, teachers and parents who send their children to school, and children who participate in learning exercises continued throughout the academic year. In 2021, over 1.9 million school aged children need humanitarian education assistance in Cameroon.

UN agencies, NGOs, and local communities have developed alternative learning programmes, in order to provide educational support to children who are unable to continue their formal education. UNICEF provided alternative learning services to over 3,500 children who never attended school or dropped out as they could not integrate into the formal education system in the South-West region. Entitled “Access to alternative learning program to crisis affected children including IDPs through Radio Education in Fako and Meme divisions of the South-West region”, the programme was funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and implemented by Community Humanitarian Emergency Board International (COHEB).

“Most of these children are coming from the bushes. They are really happy to be in this area to learn in the safe learning spaces we have created,” said Njato Georges, the project coordinator of COHEB in the South-West. “Some of them who could not read because they had not been to school for two or three years now can read, write and calculate,” he added.

Communities responded well to the radio education programme. 11-year-old girl Favour dreams of becoming a doctor. She resumed her education through the radio learning programme after three years without attending school. Her school was destroyed, and she was forced to escape with her family from their village in the North-West region.

Many children who are affected by the security situation still cannot access education. Children’s needs remain critical. As of 30 June, only eight per cent of the education requirements in the Humanitarian Response Plan was funded.

Furthermore, education in the Far North region of Cameroon is a sector requiring significant support. As a result of the protracted displacement, education services degraded, especially considering the additional number of students from displaced families which took a toll on host communities while affecting schools’ capacities to deliver high quality education. In the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga and Logone et Chari divisions, 62 schools remained closed and 50 others destroyed for many years and have never been rebuilt. Additionally, the region faces recurrent floods due to climate change. In September and October 2020, the floods devastated communities, school infrastructures and educational material, leaving more than 18,000 students out of school.

¹ Source: <https://unicefcameroon.medium.com/when-alternative-learning-program-provide-children-with-a-protective-learning-routine-5ece736a1709>

RESURGENCE OF MEASLES CASES IN CAMEROON



Credit: OCHA/MOUANGUE

On 28 June 2021, the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) announced 237 cases of measles in the country and four related deaths in the first six months of the year.

The measles epidemic has affected 16 health districts in seven of the ten regions of Cameroon: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far-North, West, Littoral, and North-West. According to the EPI, the steady increase in the number of cases is due to the low measles vaccination coverage. 73 per cent of the confirmed cases have not been vaccinated and 52 per cent of the cases are children aged between 9 and 59 months.

The current COVID-19 pandemic, the security situation, and the closure of 25 per cent of the health facilities in the North-West and South-West regions led to limited epidemiological surveillance and affected vaccination activities. More than half of the confirmed measles cases, 149 patients, are from the eastern regions, which host more than 320,000 Central African refugees.

CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION WORKSHOP IN THE FAR NORTH REGION OF CAMEROON



Credit: OCHA/Motchouang

From 22 to 23 June 2021, OCHA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated a civil-military coordination (CMCoord) workshop in Maroua, in the Far North region. The workshop's objective was to provide local authorities, members of the security, defense forces, and humanitarian organisations with an understanding of the concept of civil-military coordination, to promote humanitarian principles and to raise awareness of the common challenges of protecting civilians in conflict situations and maintaining humanitarian space and access to populations.

"The humanitarian response in the Far North region takes place in a complex emergency context combining the presence of Nigerian refugees, population displacements as well as vulnerabilities linked to food insecurity, malnutrition and sometimes epidemics and natural disasters such as floods," said the representative of the Governor of the Far North region. "In this context, humanitarian actors and Defence and Security Forces work together daily to serve the population. It is

important that these two groups get to know each other and lay the foundations for an essential dialogue that will enable them to increase their understanding of each other's mandates, to avoid misunderstandings and to respect humanitarian principles and human rights," he added.

About the civil-military Coordination

Civil-military coordination is the essential dialogue and interaction between humanitarian actors and defence and security forces in humanitarian emergencies, to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid rivalries, and minimise incompatibilities. In the Far North region, many humanitarian actors are engaged in responding to the needs of vulnerable people, refugees, IDPs, and host communities. The CMCoord Platform in the Far North facilitated by OCHA brings together representatives of humanitarian actors, the Governorate and security and defense forces.

COMING EVENT – WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY ON 19 AUGUST 2021

The World Humanitarian Day is the UN's annual flagship humanitarian campaign, reaching millions of people to advocate for the well-being and dignity of crisis-affected populations, for aid workers' safety and for urgent action to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.



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