

Cameroon – Chad Emergency

23 December 2021

Pre-registration by UNHCR and Government is ongoing in **Chad**. So far, 26 out of 35 sites have been surveyed and **27,243 refugees** have been pre-registered.

Though the security situation is now calmer in **Far North Cameroon**, **humanitarian access** to internally displaced persons **remains limited**. All people affected by this crisis have **urgent unmet needs for shelter, core relief items and protection**.

It is early to predict the evolution of the situation. The **Level 2 emergency** declaration in **Chad** and **Level 1 emergency** in **Cameroon** will help structure both the emergency and long-term response strategy.

KEY INDICATORS

100,000 refugees in Chad
(estimate by Chad authorities)

So far 27,243 individuals have been pre-registered by UNHCR. Based on these preliminary results, UNHCR projects that 60,000 refugees will be registered

24,500 internally displaced persons in Far North Cameroon

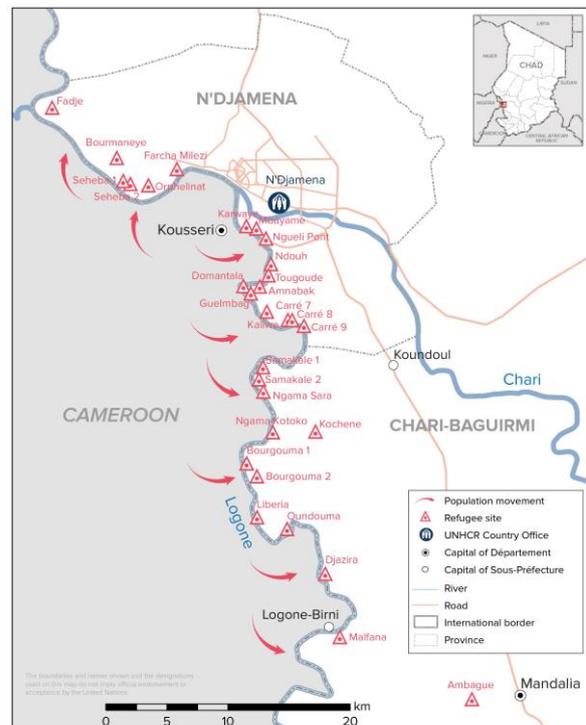
Source: initial estimates by the RRM in Far North Cameroon. Exact figures as of 23/12/21: 24,497 IDPs.

62% of the refugees in Chad are children



Source: ongoing pre-registration of refugees in Chad by UNHCR and the authorities

UNHCR L'Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés
CHAD: Influx of refugees from Cameroon
N'Djamena / Chari-Baguirmi Province 20 December 2021



Data sources: CNARR, UNHCR CO N'Djamena Feedback: Filip Hilgert, hilgert@unhcr.org Production date: 20 December 2021

THE 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.

Previous inter-communal clashes had taken place in August this year, and had 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.

On 15 December, a Level 2 emergency has been declared for the UNHCR Operation in Chad. The Level 1 emergency for Cameroon, which was declared following the previous inter-communal clashes in August, is maintained.

Operational Context

Population movements

- Since the last update published on 16 December, the figures of forced displacement caused by the inter-communal violence in Far North Cameroon have risen. Initial estimates collected by the Rapid Response mechanism (RRM) in the Far North region suggest that there are over 24,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of the conflict, over 60% more than last week's estimate. Local authorities in Chad now estimate that over 100,000 refugees have arrived from Far North Cameroon, up from 80,000 last week.

Security situation in Far North Cameroon and Chad

- Relative calm has been restored in the affected areas of Far North Cameroon. In Kousseri, markets and supermarkets are open and life has returned to normal. The situation in Logone Birni is also calm. Security and defence forces have been deployed by the Government.
- In the Far North region, damage to livelihoods is considerable. Preliminary reports from the Food Security Cluster in Maga subdivision reveal that nearly 50 fishing canoes and several dozen fishing nets have been destroyed. At least 400 heads of cattle have been lost or killed. This is likely to have a negative impact on people's livelihoods and to affect prospects for returns, if people have been forced to abandon their activities or if their tools have been destroyed.
- The situation in Chad has been calm since the start of the crisis. Access to territory and asylum is guaranteed by the Government.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Far North Cameroon

- **Protection** | Protection monitoring by the UNHCR partner Intersos is underway in the host localities of Kousseri, Makary and Waza.
- **Logone and Chari and Diamare** | OCHA announced that humanitarian actors were resuming their activities in the division of Logone and Chari on 22 December. Until then, no response could be carried out in this division, where 80% of the IDPs are currently located, due to security risks and lack of humanitarian access. In the Diamare division, which hosts one identified IDP site, UNHCR has constructed 17 emergency community shelters, with capacity to accommodate up to 8,500 people in total.
- **Maroua** | In spontaneous IDP sites identified in Maroua, UNHCR has participated in the distribution of donations received by the authorities and set up self-management committees which will be headed by community leaders. UNHCR has also carried out sensitization sessions on peaceful cohabitation, hygiene, and sanitation in the community shelters.
- **Coordination and Partnerships** | Relevant Ministries and other stakeholders are involved in the ongoing need-based protection evaluation Kousseri, Makary and Waza. Further assistance in food, core relief items, health, water and sanitation has been provided by the authorities and UNHCR's partners. A borehole situated at the site of the Maroua municipal stadium has been rehabilitated by UNICEF and MINEE, food donations have been distributed by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Senior Divisional Officer of Diamaré, while health partners have tended the wounded.

Chad

- **Relocation and Protection** | 35 informal refugee sites have now been identified, up from 29 last week. The proportion of refugees in rural and urban areas remain stable, with about 55% of refugees currently located in urban areas. UNHCR is still supporting the Government to identify 3 to 4 sites for the relocation of the

refugees. As of 20 December, 5 sites have been visited in urban areas and 2 have been assessed as viable. In addition, border monitoring is being conducted, as well as protection monitoring in refugee-hosting areas.

- **Pre-registration of refugees** | The pre-registration exercise launched by the Government and UNHCR on 14 December with the support of the Red Cross is still ongoing. So far, 26 out of 35 sites have been surveyed and 27,243 refugees (10,004 families) have been pre-registered. Based on these preliminary results, UNHCR projects that 60,000 refugees will be registered. Protection monitoring has also revealed the presence of several refugees hosted by the local population, whose number is hard to verify.
- **Population profile** | First pre-registration confirms a highly vulnerable population profile, with children making up around 62% of the refugees, women and girls 61%, and persons with specific needs 20%. This confirms the need to design a response accounting for many vulnerabilities and individuals with specific protection needs, such as unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and elderly people.
- **Food assistance** | UNHCR initially provided hot meals in the various informal sites as they became known. As of 22 December, WFP has completely taken over food distribution and is covering all identified sites by providing refugees with daily standard food rations. As a result, the distribution of hot meals by UNHCR has been stopped.
- **Shelter and Core relief items** | UNHCR has only been able to mobilize core relief items (CRIs) for fewer than 2,000 people due to limited stock. Because of this, initial distribution has been limited to extremely vulnerable cases, identified through medical or protection referrals. In parallel, an international order for supplies is underway. UNICEF has started the distribution of hygiene kits.
- **Coordination and Partnerships** | The operational cell established on 9 December continues to meet daily, allowing UNHCR and partners involved in the first response to coordinate and share information on the unfolding situation and humanitarian needs identified. In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, a Protection working group has been created on 20 December in addition to the existing Food security and nutrition, Healthcare and WASH working groups which have been in place since 11 December.

Funding situation

Financial resources to respond to the emergency in both countries remain critically low. As of 7 December, both the Chad and Cameroon operations were funded at 54% and 52% respectively. More support is urgently needed for UNHCR to continue providing life-saving assistance during a crisis that is likely to persist.



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