

# Cameroon

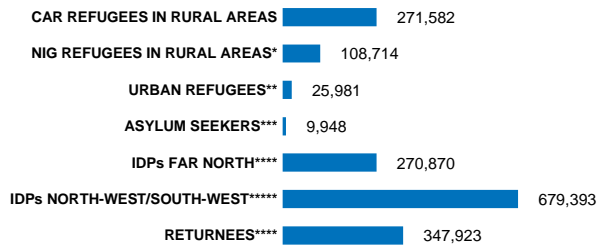
December 2019

Cameroon currently has 1,714,411 people of concern, including 403,414 refugees; with 292,787 Central African and 110,627 Nigerian refugees.

By 31 December, 3,309 refugees from the Central African Republic were assisted by UNHCR and the governments of Cameroon and CAR in a voluntary return home in safety and dignity, representing 82% of the planned 4,000 in 2019.

A joint mission of World Bank and PNDP visited Nigerian refugees in the Far North in line with the subsequent implementation of projects under the IDA-18 sub-window for refugees and host communities.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (1,713,168 AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019)



\* Verification exercise still in progress

\*\* Incl. 21,205 Central Africans and 1,913 Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.

\*\*\* Incl. 7,398 Central Africans and 57 Nigerian asylum seekers living in urban areas.

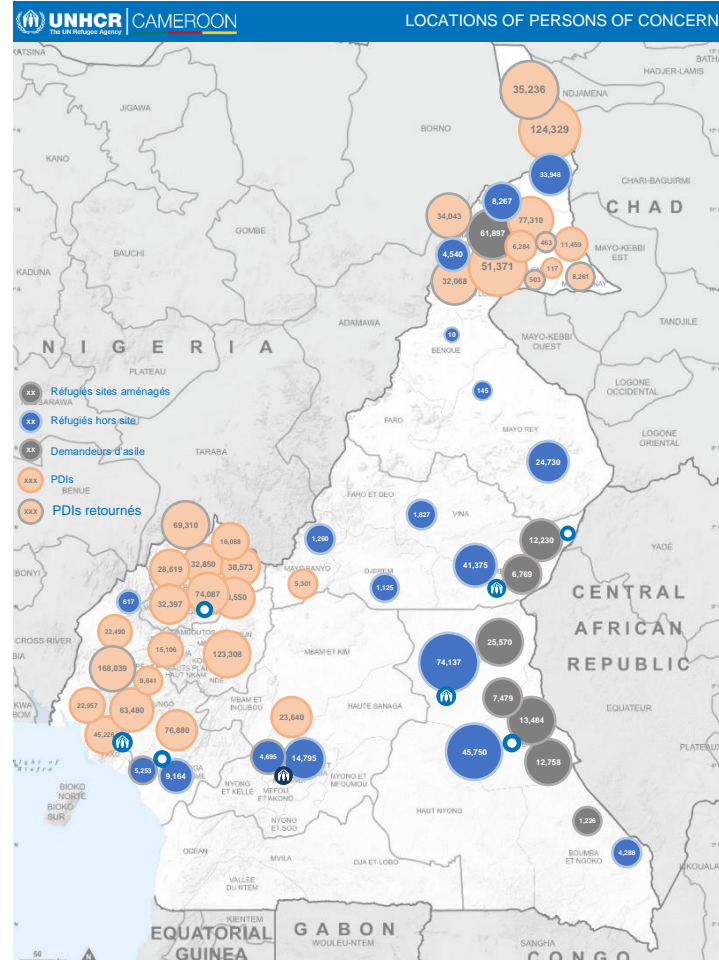
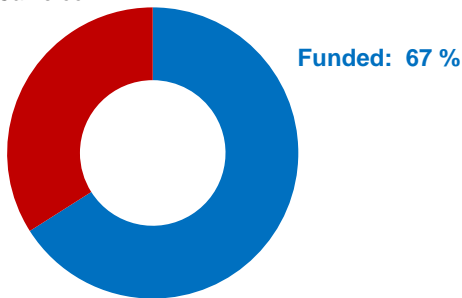
\*\*\*\* Source: IOM DTM #16.

\*\*\*\*\* Source: OCHA.

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019)

**USD 90.3 M**

Requested for Cameroon



UNHCR High Profile Supporter, Alexandre Song (middle) & outgoing UNHCR Representative, Kouassi Lazare Etien (first from left) greeting finalists of national football tournament for refugees and host communities.

## UNHCR PRESENCE

**Staff: 271**

**167 National Staff**

**47 International Staff**

**57 Affiliate workforce (9 International and 48 National)**

## 11 OFFICES:

Representation – Yaounde

Sub-Offices – Bertoua, Meiganga, Maroua, Buea

Field Offices – Batouri, Djohong, Touboro, Douala and Bamenda

Field Unit – Kousseri

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern in collaboration with:

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women's Empowerment and the 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 de 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, 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, ILO, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **Operational coordination:** 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.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation in the North West and South West Regions remained very tense with an increase in incidents of violence. These included kidnappings, killings, clashes between non state armed groups and government forces and burning of houses. **On 05 December, a joint UN mission from Bamenda to Kumbo, in the Bui Division of the North West region was caught in a crossfire at Sop village. Fortunately, no one was hurt.** Stability was reported in some major urban areas in the South West region. The return of some IDPs and resumption of commercial activities in these areas has at the same time also caused an increase in crimes and attacks like banditry and pickpocketing. In addition, attacks on individuals who have expressed the intention to take part in forthcoming parliamentary and municipal elections in the regions by unknown armed persons suspected to be separatist fighters, further raise concerns about the security situation in the days ahead.
- **UN agencies in the North West during the reporting period discussed modalities for joint monitoring and reporting on population movement and on modalities for more synergy in implementing projects.** From 27 to 28 December, a joint OCHA/UNHCR Rapid Humanitarian Needs Assessment mission of limited scope was undertaken to the localities of Ndop, Jakiri and Kumbo to meet with Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, government, local and religious authorities and partners.
- **The security situation in the Far North region also witnessed an increase in violence with random attacks by the Boko Haram group in the three divisions of Mayo Tsanaga, Mayo Sava and Logone and Chari.** In the night of 10 to 11 December in the locality of Wambaché in Kolofata district, Mayo Sava Division, the military post was attacked. Similarly, 36 fishermen from Cameroon and other neighboring countries were abducted on 22 December by Boko Haram around the Lake Chad, and over 50 corpses of fishermen allegedly killed by the group, were later discovered by end of December. Meanwhile in the Mayo-Sava and Mayo Tsanaga divisions internal displacements were also observed due to the insecurity.
- **By mid-December, a total of 51 schools were reportedly touched by floods in Logone and Chari division, Far North, affecting about 15,000 school children.** 22 schools were affected in Zina, 15 in Logone Birni, 07 in Waza and 07 in Darak.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- **As of 31 December 2019, a total of 3,309 Central African refugees had voluntarily returned home in safety and dignity.** The 8<sup>th</sup> and last convoy for 2019 was made up of 69 households representing 221 individuals from the sites of Timangolo (195), Mbile (22) and Kentzou (4) who left for Bouar (203) and Baboua (18) in the Nana-Mambere prefecture, in CAR. They also represent the first convoy in the voluntary repatriation process to the Nana-Mambere. **This represents over 80% of the planned figure of 4,000 for 2019.** The facilitated repatriation follows the signing of a Tripartite Agreement on 29 June 2019 between the Governments of Cameroon and CAR, and UNHCR. In 2020, UNHCR plans to assist 20,000 more. In a related development, the Bishop of Bouar in the Nana Mambere prefecture in CAR paid a visit to the Gado site on 15 December 2019. He met with refugees to explain to them the situation in the area and actions undertaken by ecumenical groups to bring peace and ensure the reintegration of returnees in the country.
- On 04 December 2019, the **World Bank Regional Practice Manager for West and Central Africa and the national coordinator of the Community-driven Development Programme (PNDP) visited the Far North region in preparation for the implementation of the 04 projects of the IDA 18 sub-window for refugees and host**

**communities.** They visited the Minawao refugee camp and were impressed with the quality of healthcare and education services provided to the Nigerian refugees, as well as livelihood activities for both refugees and host communities. A key recommendation from the visit was for more collaboration and coordination of humanitarian and development actors around the refugee hosting municipalities for a more comprehensive response to persons in need.

- **Stakeholders involved in civil status documentation in the Far North took part in a consultation meeting on the week of 02 to 06 December, to present their different activities, examine challenges and harmonize approaches for better results and to avoid duplication of documents.** Organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council, the meeting brought together the National Civil Status Registration Office, BUNEC, government institutions, UNHCR, the UN Development Fund and other field partners. BUNEC also presented its procedures for the identification of children and persons without birth certificates in the field. Participants recommended the systematic sharing of databases for better consolidation and cleaning of files to avoid duplication.
- **UNHCR and UN WOMEN jointly organized a training on Sexual and Gender-based violence, SGBV, for members of the armed forces and magistrates in Kousseri, Far North region.** Participants who also benefitted from training in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, PSEA and international protection expressed interest in refugee-related issues like the principle of non-refoulement and refugee documentation by UNHCR. **Similarly, in the North West region, a training on SGBV in Emergency situations with over 50 participants from UN agencies, INGO and NNGOs was organised as part of the 16 days of activism against Gender-based Violence.** The training was to strengthen the capacity of the SGBV actors to be able to provide coordinated response to the needs of SGBV cases in the area.
- **A mission from the Norwegian Capacity (NORCAP) of the Norwegian Refugee Council was in the East region from 10 to 12 December under the framework of the 'Education in the Sahel' project.** The mission met with education stakeholders, government officials and local authorities in Kentzou and Mandjou with regard to monitoring on submissions for official exams by student/pupil refugees. The mission also visited schools to have firsthand information on the learning conditions and environment of refugee children and host population. **Gaps at the institutional and community levels were identified and recommendations for better access to quality education for refugee children were made.**
- Refugees and host communities from the Far North, East and Adamawa regions as well as from Douala and Yaounde took part in a nationwide solidarity football tournament, whose final was played in Yaounde on 21 December 2019. **The tournament organized by Cameroonian International Footballer and UNHCR High Profile Supporter, Alexandre Song and the UNHCR country office sought to promote the virtues of inclusion and social cohesion through sports.** The team of refugees and Cameroonians from Douala, Littoral region won in the final over their counterparts from Lolo in the East, to take home the trophy of the tournament dubbed "A Song's Solidarity Games for Refugees."

## EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

### Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds to Cameroon in 2019

United States of America 36.6 million | Private donors Australia 13.7 million | Canada 6.8 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.8 million | Private donors Germany 2.8 million Finland 2.2 million | Germany 2.1 million | Luxembourg | Sweden | Private donors | CERF | European Union | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Japan | Canada | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2019

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 73.8 million | United Kingdom 44.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 43.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 41.8 million | Germany 28.9 million | Japan 25.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Italy 17.5 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors USA 15 million | France 14 million | Private donors Sweden 13.6 million | Ireland 10.2 million | Italy 10 million |

### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Austria | Argentina | Australia | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Costa Rica | Estonia | Indonesia | Kuwait | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors.



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