Far North Cameroon Emergency
Reporting period: 18 March to 22 April 2022

In Far North Cameroon, the first Joint Committee for Peace and Social Cohesion has been established in Logone-Birni district. A new site to set up a third refugee camp has been identified in Chad. So far, close to 12,000 refugees have been relocated and nearly 11,000 individually registered. 88% are women and children.

Efforts to ensure the sustainability of the assistance provided are underway in Cameroon and Chad, through the solarization of boreholes.

SITUATION MAP

FUNDING (AS OF 22 APRIL 2022)
USD 59.6 million
requested for the Far North Cameroon emergency

Image on the right | Access to water at Guilmey camp, Chad.
Children accessing drinking water from standpipes built by UNCHR at Guilmey camp.
25 February 2022. UNHCR / © Aristophe Ngargoune
EMERGENCY UPDATE > Far North Cameroon Emergency / Reporting period: 18 March to 22 April 2022

THE CONTEXT

Clashes between communities of herders, farmers and fishermen broke out on 5 December 2021 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 2021.

Previous inter-communal clashes occurred in August 2021 and displaced some 23,000 people across Cameroon and Chad. 8,500 Cameroonian refugees remained in Chad when the new clashes broke out.

Operational Context

Security situation

- Following incidents of cattle theft at the end of March, the local authorities of Logone-Birni district held a working session with their Chadian counterparts, to reduce and appease inter-communal tensions.

- In a context of growing global food insecurity worsened by chronic underfunding, refugees at Kalambari camp in Chad expressed concerns about the availability and quantity of food distributed in early April. Refugees continue to receive half-rations due to funding shortages across the region.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Far North Cameroon

- **Protection** | A total of 7,102 individuals have been profiled as part of the multi-sectoral assessments carried out in 19 villages of IDP and refugee returnees in Logone-Birni district. Protection monitoring revealed lack or loss of civil documentation to be a key protection issue and shed light on the presence of many out-of-school children and persons with specific needs, who require individual case follow-up. Focus group discussion on the implementation of cash-based interventions (CBI) were organized in Almagoche 1, Arkis, Marmadodji and Dilga Gogom, bringing together over 115 persons of concern.

- **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** | After preparatory visits were paid to local civil and religious authorities, the first Joint Committee for Peace and Social Cohesion in Logone-Birni district was established during the reporting period. So far, 31 out of a planned 48 committee members have been appointed and their role and responsibilities defined by community members.

- **Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRIs) and WASH** | During the reporting period, 24 villages were assisted with shelter. In coordination with UNHCR partner Public Concern, 10,948 people from 1,722 households were assisted and received 1,304 core relief items (CRI) kits, 936 shelter kits and 9 community tool kits. A post-distribution monitoring of shelter kits was carried out in the localities of Arkis and Adjarangoubou, where 47 shelters have been independently rehabilitated by IDPs using kits provided to that effect, as well as monitoring of the shelter rehabilitation activities in Šabla Masga. Efforts to ensure the sustainability of the assistance provided are also underway, with four projects related to the solarization of boreholes in the localities of Iyamagra and Belguede, and of Almagoche and Firkiliwa (two presented, two under construction). To date, 95% of the work to transform existing boreholes into water towers with solarization systems and watering troughs has been completed in Firkiliwa and 85% in Almagoche.

- **Coordination and Partnerships** | A UNHCR-UNESCO meeting on the implementation of the humanitarian-peace-development nexus to foster post-conflict stability in Logone Birni and Mayo Danay took place on 24 March. UNHCR also participated in the Logone and Chari’s humanitarian platform meeting on 14 April. In addition, UNHCR facilitated the resumption of empowerment and livelihood activities by partners Plan International and Jesuit Refugee Services.
Chad

- **Relocation** | As of 01 April 2022, a total of 11,822 individuals have been relocated to the two camps (2,736 to Guilmey and 9,086 to Kalambari). Relocations to Guilmey and Kalambari were paused at the end of March, as the camps reached full capacity. A new site to accommodate a third refugee camp has been identified by the Government with UNHCR support, and relocations will resume once the new camp is ready. As the rainy season is approaching, every effort is made to accelerate relocations, as many refugee-hosting locations risk becoming inaccessible.

- Following the conclusion of evaluation missions to villages hosting refugees, the approach for out-of-camp solutions has been refined. To address security concerns, refugees staying along the river who wish to leave will be relocated at least 10 kilometres away from the border. In parallel, UNHCR and its partners are distributing core relief items to refugees in out-of-camp locations.

- **Registration** | As of 01 April, 10,687 people (3,268 households) have been individually registered at Guilmey and Kalambari camps (3,268 at Guilmey and 7,419 at Kalambari). 65% of individuals registered are children, while women and children make up 88% of the registered population so far. As relocations have been paused, registration has also been suspended as of 1 April and will resume at the same time as relocations do. Until then, the registration team is still delivering refugee certificates and updating data on a daily basis. Following reports of Chadian nationals attempting to register as refugees, fraud prevention procedures in both camps referred suspected cases to evaluate their status and check for protection concerns. At the conclusion of this process, a total of 749 households (614 new households during the reporting period) were referred to more appropriate assistance providers.

- **Community-based protection (CBP)** | Following the creation of refugee community structures at Guilmey camp, refugee sectoral and management committees have also been established in Kalambari camp, in close collaboration with Government partner CNARR. Awareness-raising sessions on the importance and role of community representatives were conducted with the refugee community in the camp and were followed by elections of refugee leaders and representatives. The process improved participation of women in refugee representation structures: of 25 members represented in decision-making committees (Women’s, Youth, and Central committees), 16 are women, demonstrating 64% representation in refugee leadership mechanisms.

- **Child Protection** | During the reporting period, several prevention and response activities were carried out. A total of 1,271 people, including 463 girls/women, were reached through awareness-raising prevention activities organized by partners INTERSOS and the Chadian Red Cross (CRT) at Kalambari and Guilmey. Key themes were COVID-19 prevention, peaceful coexistence, personal hygiene, child protection, early marriage and schooling for children. Best interest assessment procedures were conducted for a total of 20 at-risk children including 11 girls in the two camps. Recreational activities (soccer for boys and girls, skipping rope, Ludo games, songs and stories and musical dances) benefited a total of 788 children, including 473 girls, under the supervision of social workers and community relays of the CRT and INTERSOS. 30 unaccompanied and separated children, including 16 girls, were assisted with core relief items provided by INTERSOS in the camps.

- **Gender-based violence (GBV)** | During the reporting period, partners INTERSOS and Doctors of Africa (MDA) managed 14 cases of women GBV survivors. Follow-up of previous cases involved 7 cases of female survivors who had other needs to manage after the immediate response. Awareness-raising sessions were held with 232 refugees on available care services, domestic violence and child marriage by INTERSOS and MDA.

- **Shelter / Core relief items (CRIs) and WASH** | The technical evaluation in preparation for the construction of the third camp is ongoing. After validation of 10 samples, the construction of semi-durable shelters has started in Kalambari. Distributions of core relief items have reached 3,586 people (1,224 households) at Kalambari camp, and 1,336 people (4,219 households) in Oulamsawa, Mana 1 and Mana 2 sites. Hygiene promotion activities continue at both camps, focusing on defecation practices and food hygiene. At Guilmey, 647 persons including 417 women attended hygiene promotion sessions. During the reporting period, 17 out of 21 clothes washing areas were built at Kalambari, while 5 are underway at Guilmey. Non-functional manual water pumps have also been repaired (2 in Kalambari and 1 in Guilmey). In spontaneous sites in N’Djamena, regular maintenance of existing WASH facilities was carried out in conjunction with hygiene promotion sessions.
Nutrition and Health | The national vaccination campaign against COVID-19 has been launched within the host community and in refugee camps. At Kalambari camp and Ngama Kotoko site, assessments identified 10 severely acutely malnourished children from 6 to 59 months old, and 33 moderately acutely malnourished refugee children. 14 moderately acutely malnourished children were treated at the Ngueli bridge axis.

Coordination and Partnerships | The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was launched on 15 March, together with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Chad. Standard operating procedures for distributions have been finalized to ensure a coordinated approach with partners.

Funding update

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAMEROON AND CHAD SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL | USD
United States of America 11.9 million | CERF 2.9 million

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED OR UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
Sweden 94.9 million | Norway 72.5 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27 million | Private donors Spain 19.9 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million