

CAMEROON MCO

(Multi-country Operation for Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe)

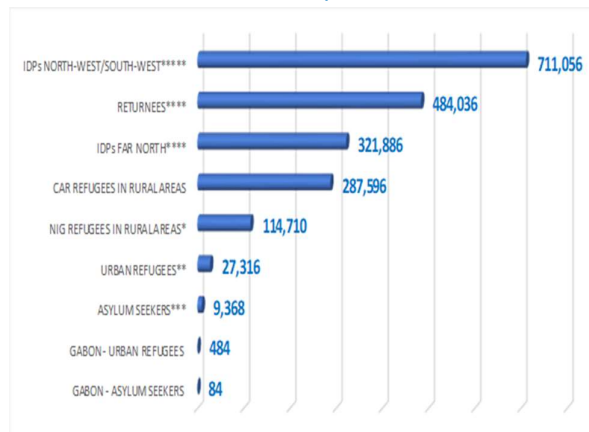
OCTOBER 2020

Cameroon hosts **1,955,968 persons of concern to UNHCR**: 429,622 refugees, 9,368 asylum seekers, 1,032,942 IDPs (321,886 in the Far North and 711,056 in the North West and South West regions), and 484,036 returnees (former IDPs) in the Far North region. **Gabon** hosts **484 refugees and 84 asylum seekers**

The conflicts in the North-West, South-West regions and the Far North continue to take a heavy toll on civilians. UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS recorded **1,608 protection incidents** during October, with NOSO regions and Mayo Sava district being the most affected areas. In the Far North, **35% of the victims are refugees, IDPs and returnees.**

The Ministry of Justice and UNHCR co-organised a workshop for the validation of the **National Action Plan for the fight against Statelessness**. The Action Plan foresees the ratification of the two UN Conventions on Statelessness by mid-2021.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2020)



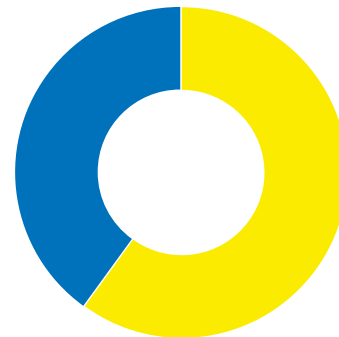
Statistics Figures Sources & Dates

- Cameroon Refugees & Asylum seekers figures, UNHCR Cameroon 31 October 2020
- Gabon Refugees & Asylum seekers figures, UNHCR, 31 October 2020
- IDPs & returnees' figures, IOM & OCHA, 31 October 2020

FUNDING (AS OF OCTOBER 2020)

USD 100.1 million

requested for UNHCR Cameroon MCO



Funded: 60 %

Gap: 40 %

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

222 National Staff
63 International Staff

Offices:

- 01 Branch Office in Yaounde
- 04 Field Offices in Batouri, Meiganga, Douala, Buea, Libreville
- 03 Sub Offices in Bertoua, Maroua, Bamenda
- 03 Field Units in Kousseri, Djohong, Touborro



Working with Partners

- In preparation of the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster organised a series of expert workshops at the regional and national level to analyse and validate the most pressing protection needs in the country. The contributions from all partners will formulate the 2021 response analysis.
- Under the auspices of the Governor of the East Region and in the presence of relevant authorities and partners, UNHCR and UNICEF launched the “Blueprint” initiative. The Blueprint represents a new type of collaboration between the two agencies to ensure the equal and safe inclusion of refugee and host children in the protection, education, WASH and health sectors.
- In Meiganga, UNHCR in collaboration with the Regional Representative of the BUNEC (Bureau National de l'Etat Civil) organised a workshop to promote the creation of birth registration outposts in health centres to facilitate the access to birth registration for refugees and host community members. The initiative foresees the opening of birth registration outposts in 7 municipalities: Meiganga, Djohong, Ngaoundal, Tibati, Tignere, Banyo and Bankim.
- UNHCR, IMC and the Mokolo health district approved a common operational approach for the health sector in the Minawao camp for 2021. The process foresees the transformation of the two health posts in Minawao camp into a District Medical Center (DMC) by June 2021. The availability of resources is a necessary condition for the effective implementation of health activities in January 2021.
- UNHCR is working with partners to reinforce the mechanisms for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). In Douala, UNHCR discussed with SOWAPI (South West Association for Promotion and Integration) the establishment of a protection response vis-à-vis IDPs in the Littoral area, specifically to fight Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. In the East, UNHCR, IMC and UNICEF articulated the rollout of PSEA activities, which include the training of PSEA Focal Points and the establishment of community-based feedback and complaint mechanisms.

Main Activities

Protection

- The Ministry of Justice and UNHCR organised a workshop on the “validation of the National Action Plan to fight statelessness in Cameroon”. The Action Plan reflects the pledges delivered by the Cameroonian Government at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in September 2019. The Action Plan is the result of contributions from several national authorities, NGOs and UN Agencies and aims at the ratification of the two UN Convention on Statelessness by mid-2021. In Gabon, UNHCR and the Director of the Human Rights Department (Ministry of Justice) started the preparations for the first meeting of the National Technical Committee for Statelessness. UNHCR also met with the CEMAC delegation in Cameroon to address the need of a regional impulse to the eradication of statelessness and to explore the possible positive outcomes on persons of concerns deriving from the free circulation regime adopted by the economic and monetary community.
- UNHCR organized a three-day workshop on refugee status determination (RSD) procedures for members of the eligibility and appeal commissions. The workshop is part of a medium-term strategic program to transfer the responsibilities for RSD to governmental authorities.
- In Libreville, Gabon, under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator, UNHCR along with other UN agencies met with the DGD (Direction Générale de la Documentation et de l'immigration) to discuss the coordination for mixed population movements to Gabon. The UN agencies, regrouped in a Taskforce, will organise a workshop in November on Mixed Movements and Human Trafficking: prevention and protection measures. The Taskforce also applied for funds to implement a joint project on “Strengthening Prevention of and Protection and Empowerment in Mixed Migration towards Gabon”.

- After months of suspension due to movement restrictions imposed by the government, the Gabonese National Commission for Refugees (CNR) jointly with UNHCR recommenced field missions in major refugee locations and border crossing points to sensitize immigration agents on protection-sensitive entry measures and access to asylum. The first mission visited Port Gentil, while borders with Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea will be visited in the next month.
- While some countries have indicated a reduction in their refugee resettlement and humanitarian visa programs for the fiscal year 2020-2021, France has expressed interest in receiving urgent cases for resettlement consideration and six families are awaiting the screening by French authorities. Four families (15 individuals) are under consideration for resettlement to Sweden. 12 families (35 individuals) in Maroua and Meiganga were interviewed for resettlement in the month of October and are awaiting final consideration.
- UNHCR regular monitoring indicates that there are currently 111 refugees detained (20 in Doula, 48 in Yaoundé, 26 in Batouri, 17 in other three locations in the Eastern region). Following the prison riots that took place on 22 July 2019 in Yaoundé, UNHCR and legal partners were denied access to the detention centre and the renewal of their entry authorization is still pending. UNHCR maintains access to detention centres in the East and in addition to conducting protection monitoring, it facilitates contact with the families, assists detainees upon release and supports some detainees with material to conduct income-generating activities while in prison.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR is conducting screening and verification exercise for Central African refugees who applied for voluntary repatriation. Seven hundred forty-six (746) individuals have so far been identified, but their confirmation is subjected to medical screening. Additional 839 applicants for the voluntary repatriation are awaiting finalisation of the procedures. The departure for the first group of returnees to the Central African Republic is scheduled for 25 November 2020. An assessment conducted to the Voluntary Repatriation Operations Centers in Gado, Ngam, and Borgop revealed the need for a rapid rehabilitation of the sites and the integration of COVID-19 preventive measures.

Health

- UNHCR continues to support the Government of Cameroon in the prevention and response to COVID-19. An awareness campaign was launched on 28 October 2020 with a message broadcast on CRTV, bulk SMS and voice mail through MTN. The campaign, financed by "UNILEVER-UK", targets refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as well as host communities across Cameroon. Water and Sanitation

Shelter and NFIs

- A total of 1,435 people received Shelter Kits and Core Relief Items in the Southwest Region and in the West Coast. 287 jerry cans and 1,771 cubes of soap were added as support to the COVID-19 response.

Livelihood

- UNHCR and Crédit du Sahel, Microfinance institution providing micro-credits to refugees since 2018, reviewed the functioning of the Nine Common Interest Groups (GIC) financed by the institution. The GICs are groups of entrepreneurs who can access credits between 500,000 and 5 million CFAs. The review showed that the economic challenges posed by COVID-19 had a repercussion on the saving capacity of the entrepreneurs, which might jeopardise their access to other credits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR MCO Cameroon is grateful for the enormous support provided by donors who have contributed to its operation in Cameroon and Gabon as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD 29,03 million for MCO Cameroon as of 31 October 2020

United States of America	23.2 million
France	1.2 million
Qatar	1.2 million
Sweden	726,141
CERF	837,255
Unilever/UK	934,837
Canada	436,364
Luxembourg	209,205
Japan	195,200
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS	153,050

Other Softly Earmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds

Germany 62.7 million | United States of America 46.8 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors Australia 8.4 million | Private donors USA 7.7 million | Private donors Germany 4.5 million | Private donors Japan 4.4 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | France 2.8 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.3 million Holy

Unearmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden 76.4 million | Private donors Spain 52.9 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 27.2 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Japan 21 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 12.4 million | Italy 10.6 million | Private donors Sweden 10.5 million

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors.



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