

# CAMEROON MCO

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

Cameroon hosts **1,960,194 persons of concern to UNHCR**: 436,397 refugees, 6,819 asylum seekers, 1,032,942 internally displaced persons, IDPs (321,886 in the Far North and 711,056 in the North West and South West regions), and 484,036 returnees (former IDPs). **Gabon hosts 473 refugees and 84 asylum seekers.**

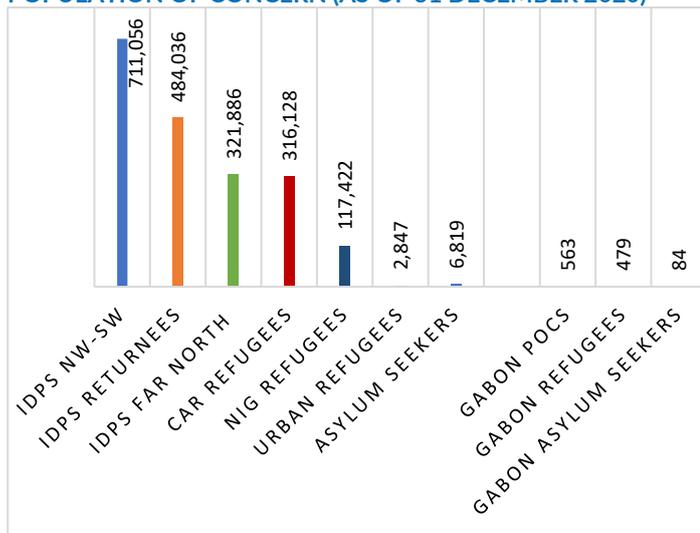
**2481 Central Africans crossed into Cameroon at Garoua-Boulai in the East Region**, in fear of violence related to the 27 December presidential and legislative elections in the Central African Republic. The borders between CAR and Cameroon closed during the last week of the month. However, the asylum institution was preserved, and its civilian character maintained, allowing free access to Cameroonian territory. No refoulement was recorded.

Insecurity in the North West and South West regions continued within the month, with abductions and the detonation of improvised explosive devices among recorded incidents. Protection assessments in both regions revealed **8,701 IDPs** and **1,173 returnees in pressing need of core relief items.**

## Statistics Figures Sources & Dates

- Cameroon refugee & asylum seeker figures, UNHCR Cameroon 31 December 2020
- Gabon refugees & asylum seeker figures, UNHCR, 31 December 2020
- IDP & returnee figures, IOM & OCHA, 31 December 2020

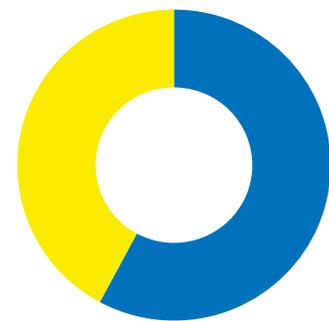
## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020)



## FUNDING (AS OF DECEMBER 2020)

**USD 99.1 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020



Gap: 42.15%

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 222 National Staff
- 63 International Staff

### Offices:

- 01 MCO in Yaoundé
- 05 Field Offices in Batouri, Buea, Douala, Djohong, Meiganga,
- 03 Sub Offices in Bertoua, Maroua, Bamenda
- 01 Liaison Office in Libreville, Gabon
- 02 Field Units in Kousseri, Touboro



Families arrived in Garoua-Boulai, Cameroon after fleeing the Central African Republic ©UNHCR

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR, other agencies in the UN System, partner NGOs and government officials met in mid-December, and put in place a contingency plan in anticipation of the impact of the 27 December presidential and legislative elections in the Central African Republic on movements across the CAR-Cameroon border. A rapid assessment of the needs of newly arrived refugees in Garoua-Boulai was later jointly carried out by the UNHCR, UNS agencies and partners.
- UNHCR organised a workshop for stakeholders in Buea on the risks of statelessness, the lack of civil status documents and to agree to recommendations for the facilitation of the issuance of birth certificates and IDs for IDPs in need. It involved 38 representatives of stakeholders including the administration, judiciary, councils, national and international NGOs as well as UNICEF, UNFPA and OCHA. INTERSOS, the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, CHRDA, judiciary and council officials also discussed operational modalities related to the ongoing implementation of the UNHCR/INTEROS/CHRDA Tripartite Agreement on civil documentation for IDPs.
- UNHCR and the NGO Reset the Mind jointly visited internally displaced persons in three localities in Douala. Issues raised included the lack of civil status documents, young girls resorting to survival sex and lack of access to education for children. Lack of access to health care, clean water and toilets as well as livelihood issues were also reported. UNHCR will coordinate with other UN agencies to provide them assistance.
- The UNHCR, the Lutheran World Federation, LWF, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, IITA, and government agriculture officials undertook a joint mission to Gado, Garoua-Boulai, Touboro and Djohong in the East Region, to define the areas covered by the 03-year pilot phase of an IITA/UNHCR project to improve agricultural production for the benefit of Central African refugees and their hosts in these localities.
- In Gabon, a joint UNHCR-CNR (National Census Commission) and government mission in the Haut Ogooué province took place to raise awareness among gendarmerie, immigration and administrative officials about their intersecting services, the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, access to asylum, and the rights and duties of these groups. A group discussion with refugees and asylum seekers from Franceville revealed difficulties in legal and economic integration of these Persons of Concern, PoC.

## Main Activities



### Protection

- 2481 new refugees, from the Central African Republic crossed the border into Cameroon at Garoua-Boulai in the East Region, in fear of election-related violence in the Central African Republic. Cameroon closed its borders during the last week of December, even though refugees could cross at unofficial entry points. No refoulement was reported.
- A total of 74 flash alerts were recorded in the North West and South West, including abductions and the detonation of IEDs, showing evidence of significant security concerns and protection violations. The UNHCR/INTEROS toll-free hotline (8564) recorded 48 calls that reported SGBV and other protection incidents.
- UNHCR and partners conducted eight protection assessments in the North West and South West. 8,701 IDPs and 1,173 returnees were found to be in pressing need of core relief items, services for women and children and livelihood for household heads. 31 survivors of rape, sexual and physical assault were identified in the North West and South West. Psychosocial services and follow up were provided for 26 of them and case management is ongoing. Cash assistance was given to 18 persons and material assistance to 320 people during activities

marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Bamenda. In the East, 09 cases of SGBV were identified and provided with psychosocial support.

- 460 protection incidents were documented among PoC in the Far North, majority of which were thefts and lootings, followed by extortion of property, and assault and battery. NFI kits that included masks, soap bars and mosquito nets were distributed to internally displaced persons and the host population of Kaya, in Mayo Kani division. 650 IDPs benefited from this assistance.
- UNHCR partner Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, CHRDA, facilitated the issuance of 1,670 birth certificates and 732 identity cards in the North West and South West regions. In the East region, UNHCR facilitated the issuance of 57 birth certificates and 64 birth declarations. In Douala, 12 refugee couples legalised their unions in a joint event alongside 3 Cameroonian couples.
- During its regular detention monitoring activities, UNHCR identified 18 refugees in prison in Maroua. 17 refugees in detention at the Douala Central Prison received a one-off COVID 19 cash assistance while 920 pieces of soap and donated clothing were shared among the most vulnerable inmates of the prison, including nationals. 30 refugees in prison in Batouri received their monthly quota of food items.



### Durable Solutions

- 1250 Central African refugees in the East Region returned home in voluntary repatriation convoys organised by UNHCR in collaboration with national authorities. 47 other refugees (20 from Yaoundé and 27 from Douala) returned home to Bangui via the Douala International Airport.
- One Central African refugee in Douala was resettled in Sweden.



### Health

- 15 young refugee volunteers in Douala sensitized 115 children in 03 schools about Covid-19 and gave out buckets, soap and other items to help prevention efforts.
- In the Minawao camp, 11,591 consultations were carried out and malaria was found to be the most common cause of illness.



### Shelter and NFIs

- 08 community shelters were built in Minawao and are occupied by new arrivals and other households without family shelters. The extension works on 03 distribution sheds in the camp were completed and can now hold twice the number of people as before during distribution periods, 160 with social distancing but up to 320 in normal times.



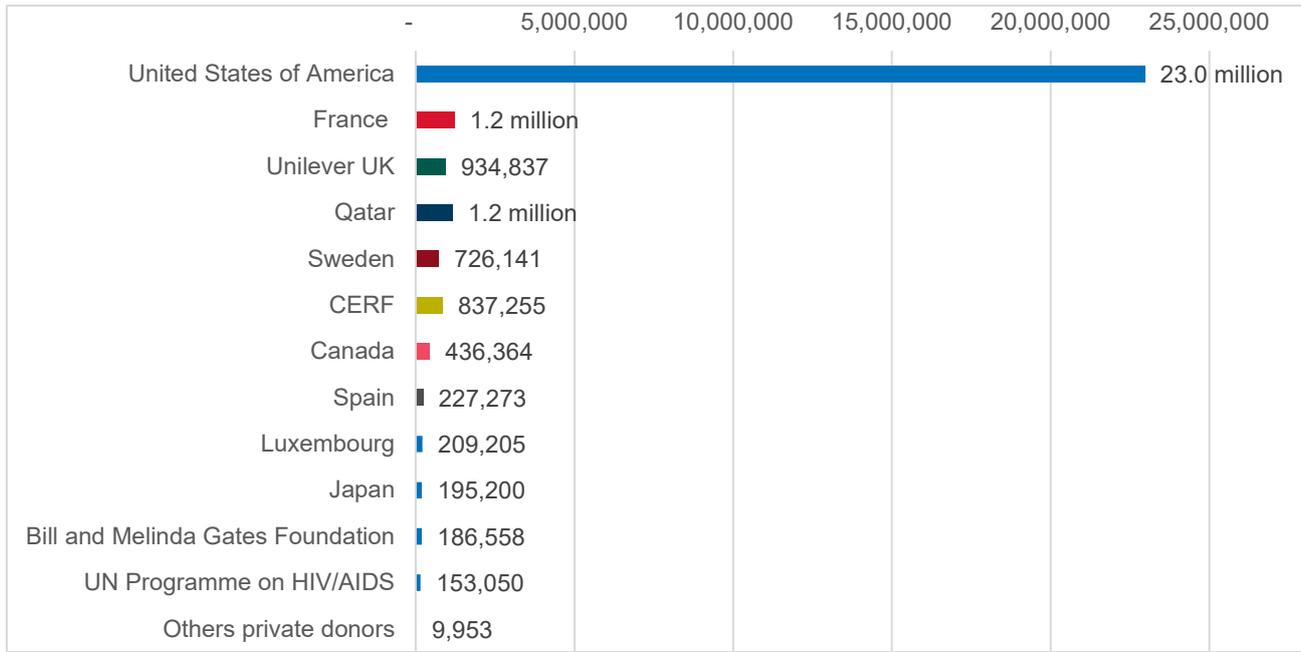
### Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

- In the Far North, 50 women received kits made up of agricultural tools (watering cans, hoes, sprayers, wheelbarrows) and seeds, vegetables, and organic compost, to start micro-gardens around their huts. 40 people trained in soap production received support kits for the creation of soap production units. 2,500 bars of soap were made this month (a total of 9,500 pieces in total) and 5,500 pieces were purchased by the UNHCR for 687,500 CFA francs.
- Refugees and hosts benefiting from support in agriculture programmes in the East region sold 43 tons of maize for 6,652,000 CFA francs, 09 tons of groundnuts for 1,380,000 CFA francs and 119,000 CFA francs worth of cassava. The income from these sales helped households to purchase children's school supplies and pay school fees.

## 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 15 December 2020



### Other Softly Earmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds

Germany 70.9 million | United States of America 46.8 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Private donors Australia 11.4 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors USA 8.7 million | Private donors Germany 6 million | Private donors Japan 4.5 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | France 2.8 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.3 million | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 million

### Unearmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden 76.4 million | Private donors Spain 66.8 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Private donors Japan 27.8 million | Germany 25.9 million | Japan 23.8 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 15.7 million | France 14 million | Private donors Sweden 11.7 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million

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

Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors



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