

Cameroon

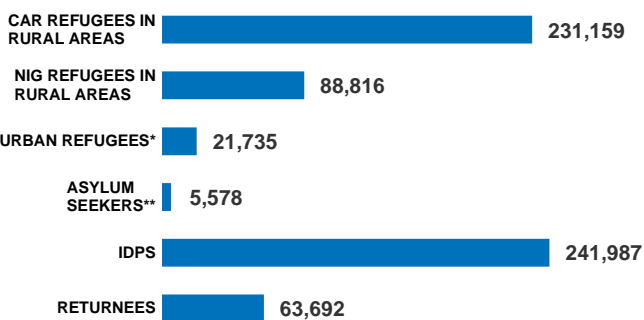
November 2017

Cameroon currently has **652,967 people of concern**, including **247,777 Central African refugees** and **90,728 Nigerian refugees**.

Meeting of the **Technical Working Group for the voluntary repatriation** of Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon, in Yola, Nigeria.

A two-day workshop on **'Targeting Strategy for Assistance for Central African Refugees in Cameroon'** took place in Yaounde.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (652,967 AS OF 30 NOVEMBER)

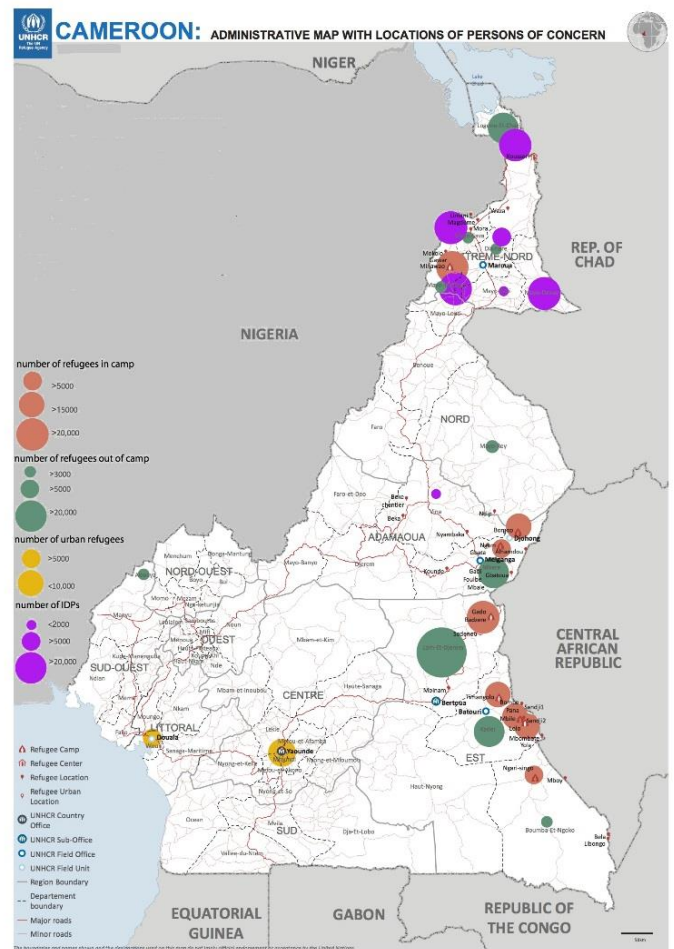
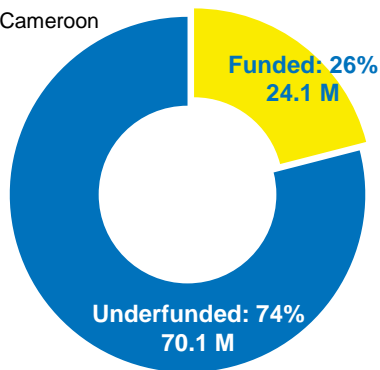


*Incl. **16,618** Central Africans and **1,912** Nigerian refugees living in urban areas.
Incl. **4,568 Central Africans and **9** Nigerians living in urban areas.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER)

USD 94.2 M

Requested for Cameroon



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 225

130 National Staff

53 International Staff

42 UN Volunteers (7 International and 35 National)

9 OFFICES:

Branch Office – Yaounde

Sub Offices – Batouri, Meiganga and Maroua

Field Offices – Djohong

Field Unit – Douala, Touboro and Kousseri

Liaison Office - Bertoua

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees in collaboration with:

- **Government Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women Empowerment and 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 des réfugiés.
- **Implementing Partners:**, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Agence pour le Développement Economique et Social (ADES), CAMWATER, 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 and Red Deporte, IEDA Relief, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF) and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- **Operational coordination:** *In accordance with the “Joint OCHA-UNHCR Note on Mixed Situations – Coordination in Practice” the responsibility to coordinate the overall humanitarian response in the Far North has been delegated to UNHCR. UNHCR sectors are utilized to deliver assistance to IDPs and other affected groups. All sectors are operational holding regular meetings. Each sector is led by a Government entity and co-led by UN agencies. There is also a bi-monthly UNHCR-chaired Multi-Sector Operations Team meeting in Maroua, bringing together more than 40 humanitarian partners intervening in the region. 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.*

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- A two-day workshop on ‘Targeting Strategy for Assistance for Central African Refugees in Cameroon’ took place in Yaounde from 29-30 November 2017. The workshop was intended for UNHCR and WFP staff as well as key donor representatives. It follows on from the joint UNHCR / WFP Targeting Consultation in Budapest on 21-22 November 2017. The objective of the workshop was to agree on a targeting approach based on socio-economic vulnerability rather than status and on the implementation strategy for 2018. The two agencies are planning to work together on a joint basic needs and food security assessment approach; the targeting methodology will therefore apply to both food and non-food assistance, whether delivered through cash or in-kind transfer modalities. In addition, the workshop saw the participation of the American University of Beirut (AUB) who has been supporting UNHCR and WFP in the econometric analysis of existing data, in order to assess the food security status and socio-economic vulnerability of the Central African refugees who currently receive assistance. AUB proposed a methodology and their preliminary analysis of the data, which will inform the formulation of the UNHCR-WFP joint targeting strategy. This will enable the two agencies to progress towards a common understanding of the definition of vulnerability in the context of Cameroon and to agree upon eligibility criteria.
- Within the framework of the implementation of the Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian Refugees living in Cameroon, signed on 2 March 2017 by UNHCR and the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria and in line with the recommendations of the Repatriation Action Plan adopted on 10 August 2017, a meeting of the Technical Working Group was held in Yola from 27 November to 1 December 2017. During the meeting, the Working Group also conducted an evaluation of return conditions in Mubi and the town of Yola. It was noted that security conditions had considerably improved in Adamawa State and that return in safety and dignity is possible to most areas. In parallel to the Technical Working group meeting, a “Go and See” visit was organised for three refugee leaders from Minawao camp. The visit was designed to give the refugees the opportunity to assess for themselves the situation in return areas of Adamawa State, so as to enable them to provide information to other refugees from

that area living in Minawao camp. The date of the first repatriation movement has been tentatively scheduled for 8 February 2018 should all required conditions be in place and responsibilities on all sides undertaken.

- On 24 November 2017, UNHCR carried out a mission to Kolofata following an alert received about the movement of 80 Nigerians coming from Assigashia (department of Mayo-Tsanaga) and stating their wish to return to Pulka, Nigeria, by their own means. They were briefly stopped along the way by military forces, but were thereafter allowed to continue, however, away from the direction of Pulka. It was in Kerawa (department of Mayo-Sava) that the group was stopped again, before being escorted by the Cameroonian army to the border on 23 November, where they were reportedly taken by the Nigerian army to the IDP site in Banki as the security situation in Pulka is too unstable. UNHCR has requested that authorities provide the list of those taken to Banki so that they can be identified as they may have been registered during UNHCR's registration exercise in Mayo Tsanaga a few months ago.
- UNHCR's Representative in Cameroon, opened a new office in Touboro (North region) on 1 November. Touboro has registered nearly 7,000 new Central African refugees in 2017, adding to more than 12,000 already present since 2014. The opening of this new office is justified by the need for UNHCR to provide assistance closer to its main beneficiaries who were previously being assisted by the UNHCR office in Meiganga.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- On 11 November, on the occasion of the celebration of the third anniversary of the global "#IBelong" campaign on the reduction of the risks of statelessness, UNHCR organized, alongside the Ministries of External Relations and Territorial Administration and Decentralization, walks across the country to raise awareness and public engagement on the statelessness campaign. This campaign, aimed at informing authorities and raising awareness among Cameroonians about statelessness and its risks, was carried out in several regions of Cameroon from 10-11 November. The problem of statelessness is little known in the country where its main risks concern the birth registration rate, considered very low in some regions. In this regard, UNHCR is working with the Government, agencies of the United Nations system, as well as civil society to improve mechanisms for the identification and prevention of statelessness in Cameroon.
- As part of the process of preventing and reducing statelessness and its risks, birth certificates were provided to parents of children born in the sites of Timangolo and Lolo (East region) during the month of November. Ceremonies organized for the events saw the presence of local authorities and humanitarian actors. In Timangolo, a total of 251 birth certificates were provided to parents of children born between 2016 and 2017. In Lolo, 193 birth certificates were handed out. It was emphasized to all attending that a birth certificate is an essential document providing legal existence to an individual and therefore allowing him to fully enjoy all their rights as well as reducing the risks and consequences of statelessness.
- From 2-3 November 2017, a return intention survey was carried out in Minawao camp. A total of 40 investigators interviewed some 4,000 households. Data processing is underway and the results will enable the operation to understand the intentions of the refugees as well as the trends on voluntary repatriation. This is the second return intention survey this year with results of the survey carried out in May showing that 44% of Nigerian refugees intended to return soon. This was a significant drop from 2016 where 70% expressed their wish to return home.
- The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign runs annually from 25 November to 10 December. This year, UNHCR adopted the theme: *"Leave No One Behind – Working Together to End Sexual and Gender Based Violence"*. In Cameroon, the launch of the activities saw the participation of the authorities, refugees, host communities, and partners in the field and urban areas. The campaign period is a critical moment for intensifying our efforts to address the pervasive problem of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and its lifelong consequences for individuals, families and communities.

EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2017**

Canada | CERF | Denmark | European Union | France | Japan | Netherlands (Private) | Republic of Korea | Spain (private) | United States of America | United Kingdom | UN Prog on HIV/AIDS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Private Donors Spain (35 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (15 M) | France (14 M) | Private Donors USA (13 M) | Germany (12 M) | Italy (10 M)

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