

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 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), 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 Internationale* and CARE International.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, 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

- On 20 November, the U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon, H.E. Peter Henry Barlerin, accompanied by the Representative of WFP in Cameroon and the Food for Peace Officer of USAID, met with humanitarian actors in Ngaoundéré, capital of Adamaoua region. During the discussions, the Ambassador highlighted that the situation of Central African refugees continues to be of concern. Humanitarian actors mentioned the problem of a reduction in financial resources over the years despite ever increasing needs. The security situation in the Central African Republic is not favorable for voluntary return despite the existence of some pendular movements of refugees. We should continue to ensure the self-reliance of refugees and host communities through livelihood and cash-based activities.
- On 15 November, a European Union (EU) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) delegation undertook a mission to the Far North region of Cameroon. The delegation met with Nigerian refugee leaders in Minawao camp who exposed the various difficulties they face on a daily basis including, access to firewood, alternative sources of energy, insufficient teaching materials and school supplies, insufficient income-generating activities and vocational training for young people, and insufficient medication. The mission renewed its commitment and support to the refugees of Minawao camp and to efforts already being undertaken, especially in their home country so that they can return in safety and dignity. The mission also visited Gourounguel Transit Center to obtain an insight into the reception and registration process of new arrivals.
- The Spanish NGO, *España con ACNUR*, (Spain with UNHCR) undertook a mission to Cameroon from 17-23 November. After a briefing in Yaounde on 19 November, the mission continued to Bertoua where they were received by the Governor of the East region. *España con ACNUR*, who over the years has been a strong supporter and mobilizer of funds for Central African refugees, arrived in Batouri on 20 November where they met with local authorities and thereafter went on to visit Timagolo refugee site and participated in a ceremony where birth certificates were being issued and provided to the parents of refugees born in the site. From 21-22 November, the mission was able to see and understand activities being carried out by UNHCR and its partners in the refugee sites of Gado (East Adamaoua) and Ngam (Adamaoua region). The purpose of this mission was to obtain a better understanding of the of Central African refugee situation, to assess the impact of partners' activities and to determine the gaps and needs in order to mobilize additional resources.
- The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign runs annually from 25 November to 10 December. This year, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, called for “renewed and bold action to better protect refugees and displaced people from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), in the workplace”. In Cameroon, the launch of activities to commemorate the 16 Days, 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 SGBV in the workplace and its lasting consequences for individuals, families and communities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Biometric registration for out-of-camp Nigerian refugees began on 3 November in the department of Logone-et-Chari in collaboration with local authorities, the Joint Protection Committees and Intersos. The exercise aims to protect and document more than 38,715 Nigerian refugees in this department. It is fully in line with the recommendations of the session of the Technical Working Group of the Tripartite Agreement held in August 2018, with a view to putting in place sustainable solutions and the free movement of the populations concerned. As of 30 November, 14,539 refugees (4,032 households) had been registered.
- In the South West region, as a result of unexpected obstacles related to administrative barriers and logistical constraints, the distribution of NFI kits to IDPs be rescheduled on several occasions during the reporting period. By end November, a total of 586 NFI kits had been distributed covering the needs of 3,522 persons. At least 2,336 households have been identified as being urgently in need of shelter assistance and another 1,461 in need of NFIs. Efforts are being made to address these needs as soon as possible. In addition, recent protection monitoring missions have identified and documented 320 cases involving human rights violations and abuses. This brings to 625 the total number of protection incidents recorded since mid-November 2018.
- UNHCR provides, on a limited basis, scholarships for refugees at the tertiary level in universities and polytechnic institutions through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI). In Cameroon, in order to reinforce the capacity building of the DAFI scholarship focal points, a workshop was held in Bertoua from 6-7 November with the participation of UNHCR and Plan International Maroua. During the course of the workshop, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were revised and scholarships reviewed. New DAFI scholarships were attributed (they rose from 2 to 8 scholarships) and 18 were renewed bringing the total number of scholarships to 26 for the 2018-2019 academic year. The purpose of the DAFI Programme is to contribute to the self-reliance of refugees by providing them with a professional qualification for future employment. Scholarships are granted only for studies in the country of asylum.
- From 26-29 November, UNHCR conducted and facilitated capacity building sessions in Yamba, Ngaoui, Ngam and Batoua-Godolé (Adamaoua region), areas bordering the Central African Republic. The sessions were carried out for 61 administrative authorities and defense forces focusing on the international protection of Central African refugees. They provided an opportunity to discuss issues related to the freedom of movement of refugees; access to documentation; and the respect for the rights of refugees involved in judicial proceedings. Several recommendations formulated included: the continuation of advocacy efforts with authorities in order to remove any restrictions on the movement of refugees; increased information awareness campaigns for refugees and local populations on the importance of civil documentation (birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, etc); advocacy efforts with local authorities to reduce noted delays in the issuance of birth certificates.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2018

African Development Bank | Canada | CERF | European Union | France | Japan | Republic of Korea | Sweden | United Kingdom | United States of America | Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | Private donors Spain | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

CONTACTS

Xavier Bourgois, Public Information Officer

bourgois@unhcr.org, Tel: +237 222 202 954, Cell +237 690 049 996

Kabami Kalumiya, Associate External Relations Officer

kalumiya@unhcr.org, Tel: +237 222 202 954, Cell +237 691 141 226

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