

Cameroon MCO

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

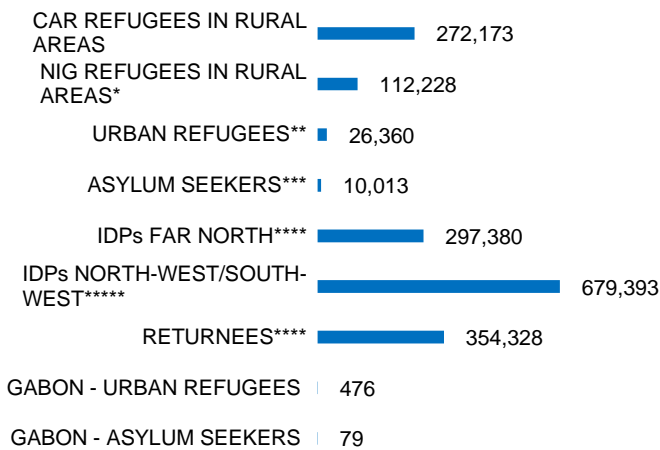
April 2020

Cameroon MCO currently has 1,753,430 people of concern, including 272,144 Central African Republic refugees, 113,420 Nigerian refugees, 36,368 urban refugees and asylum seekers of various nationalities, 976,773 IDPs (297,380 in Far North and 679,393 in North West and South West regions) and 354,328 returnees (former IDPs) in the Far North, North West and South West regions, 476 refugees and 79 asylum seekers in Gabon.

On 30 April 2020, UNHCR donated medical and personal protective equipment to support state hospitals in the East, North and Adamawa regions to fight against COVID-19. In addition, 24 health workers were trained in collaboration with the Regional Health Department and 407 community health workers on community actions within the context of COVID-19 infection and response.

On 22 April 2020, a cross-border meeting was held between UNHCR-Maiduguri, Nigeria and UNHCR, Cameroon, which focused on the about 288 refugees who had crossed the border despite COVID-19 restrictive measures. Participants discussed the issue of prevention and response to COVID-19 in the countries of the Lake Chad Basin and its link with access to asylum.

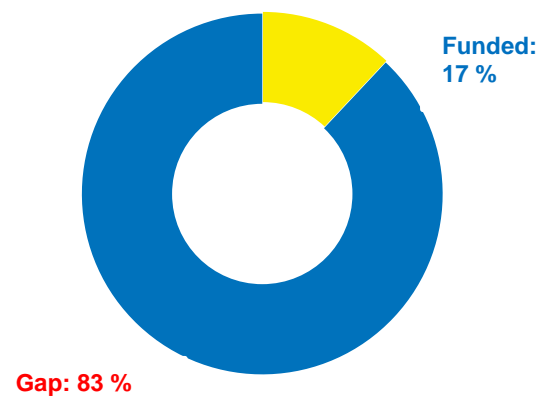
POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 30 APRIL 2020)



FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2020)

USD 89.7 million

Requested for Cameroon MCO in 2020



UNHCR PRESENCE

MCO Cameroon Staff:

218 National Staff
 63 International Staff
 05 Gabon staff

Offices:

- 01 Branch Office in Yaounde
- 03 Sub Offices: Bertoua, Maroua, Buea
- 06 Field Offices: Batouri, Meiganga, Djohong, Touborro, Douala and Bamenda
- 01 Field Unit – Kousseri
- 01 Gabon operation



Un jeune réfugié participe à la production des masques pour la prévention contre la COVID-19

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern in collaboration with:

- **Governmental Partners:** Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Public Health, Women's Empowerment and the Family, Social Affairs, Justice, Basic Education, Water and Energy, Youth and Civic Education, the National Employment Fund, the *Secrétariat Technique des Organes de Gestion du Statut des réfugiés* and others.
- **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 Internationales 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* and includes local authorities who are engaged in the management of the refugee operation. In the North West and South West regions, UNHCR ensures the leadership of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters for the delivery of protection and assistance to IDPs. In the Far North, given the mixed situation (IDP, returnees and refugees), the Coordination is under the lead of the regional authorities with UNHCR as co-lead.

As from early 2020, the operational responsibility of UNHCR Cameroon has been extended to cover UNHCR mandate activities in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe. 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 as well as the Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Country Team.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation remains volatile and of concern in the Far North, given the multiple attacks allegedly carried out by the Boko Haram group. After the Chadian army's "Colère de Boma" operation in the Lake Chad region, the Nigeria army on its part has embarked on a counter-terrorism operation in Yobe State. **These military operations cause the dispersion of terrorist groups who nonetheless continue organizing attacks on small localities.** On 17 April 2020, two (02) shepherds from nomad camp near the town of Garno (Makary) were injured and around 408 heads of cattle taken away by a group of Boko Haram. On the night of 20 to 21 April, the village chief of Tala-Lawa (Mayo Sava), Far North region was killed following an incursion by the same group.
- In the North West and South West regions, there are continuous clashes between government forces and non-state armed groups (NSAGs). The prevailing situation is characterised by kidnappings, lockdowns and ghost towns imposed by NSAGs. **All these incidents further narrow humanitarian access in these two regions.** On 22 April, civilian farms were attacked in Kupe Muanenguba Division, and crops destroyed by NSAG fighters allegedly in retaliation of the killing of suspected separatists by the military.
- **On 22 April 2020, a cross-border meeting (teleconference) was held between the UNHCR sub-Office in Maiduguri, Nigeria and that of Maroua in Cameroon.** This meeting focused on the about **288 refugees who had crossed the border from Cameroon (Amchidé between 07 and 10 April 2020) to return to Nigeria despite the preventive measures.** This was also in a follow up of the recommendations of a previous meeting in December 2019, about spontaneous returns to Nigeria. Participants also discussed the issue of prevention and response to COVID-19 in the countries of the Lake Chad Basin and its link with access to asylum.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

UNHCR has been working with authorities to accompany refugees who benefitted from the provision of the April 2020 Presidential Bill on commuting and reducing prison terms, as part of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. In total, **46 refugees benefitted from the provision of this presidential bill.** In order to prevent spreading of the COVID-19 in their locations of return, these refugees are quarantined for 14 days and assisted during the quarantine period.

Toll-free lines have been set in all regions hosting persons of concern in order to maintain communication on protection issues et provide support.

Community mobilization

Awareness campaigns to ensure respect of COVID-19 preventive measures put in place by the government continued in refugee camp, sites and host communities. In the Far North, **a micro-program on COVID-19 prevention was developed in local languages and broadcast on the community radio 'Echos Des Montagnes' in Mokolo locality.** Portable speakers were used to convey messages on measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 in households, communities and public places. In refugee sites in the East, North and Adamawa regions, hosting Central African refugees, awareness sessions and door-to-door campaigns were organized on COVID-19 prevention measures and mitigation of Gender-Based Violence's risks.

Health

- Since the declaration of the first COVID-19 case in Cameroon on 06 March, **UNHCR has been working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and other stakeholders to support government efforts to prevent and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

40 quarantine and isolation units are set-up in the seven (07) refugee sites in the East, North and Adamawa regions, and another 20 in the Far North region.

- On 30 April 2020, UNHCR donated medical and personal protection equipment, alongside hygiene kits to the Governor of the East Region through its health partner Africa Humanitarian Action, AHA. The support is to boost the capacity of the district hospitals in the region for the management of COVID-19 cases.
- In the Far North, UNHCR has assisted with the setting-up of **20 quarantine and isolation units that will serve as quarantine and isolation facilities in Minawao camp and Mokolo District Hospital**. UNHCR is as well encouraging the local production of reusable masks in vocational training centers. **7,925 masks were distributed to 7,925 individuals in response to health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the Minawao refugee camp.**

General Distribution

In the Far North, 60,083 individuals received food items out of a total of 65,895 planned for the month of April, 60,083 **pieces of soap were also distributed for the COVID-19 prevention Minawao refugee camp.**

Water and Sanitation

As part of COVID-19 prevention, UNHCR increased the supply of water at the Minawao camp through water trucking, which provides an additional 380m3 of water per day. This increased the **ratio of water supplied from 10 litres per person per day ending April to at least 15 litres**. UNHCR is working to improve water supply across the different sites and host communities to ensure access to water for all. **08 handwashing devices are installed in the two (02) health centers in Minawao refugee camp in addition to 34 others in public places.**

Gabon: As of 30 April, there were 276 COVID-19 positive cases in the country (76 recoveries and 3 deaths). **No Person of concern was affected.** Due to the general confinement, no major protection activity was implemented. However, ad hoc support was brought to three refugees for medical and social needs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD 7.6 million

United States of America	5.5 million
Sweden	726,141
CERF	500,000
Canada	436,364
Japan	195,200
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS	30,000

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked and regional funds to Cameroon in 2020

| Germany 38.2 million | United Kingdom 2.5 million | United States of America 21.9 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Canada 10.7 million | private donors Japan 3.5 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | Private donors Australia 2.1 million |

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2020

Sweden 76.4 | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Spain 20 million | Switzerland 16.4 | Private donors Republic of Korea 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/cmr> – Twitter: @RefugeesCmr – Facebook: UNHCR Cameroun – Instagram: hcrcameroun