

CAMEROON: COVID-19 SITUATION

 As of **06 May 2020**

KEY FIGURES (source Min of Pub Health)

2,265 as of 06 May 2020

Total number of confirmed cases in Cameroon.

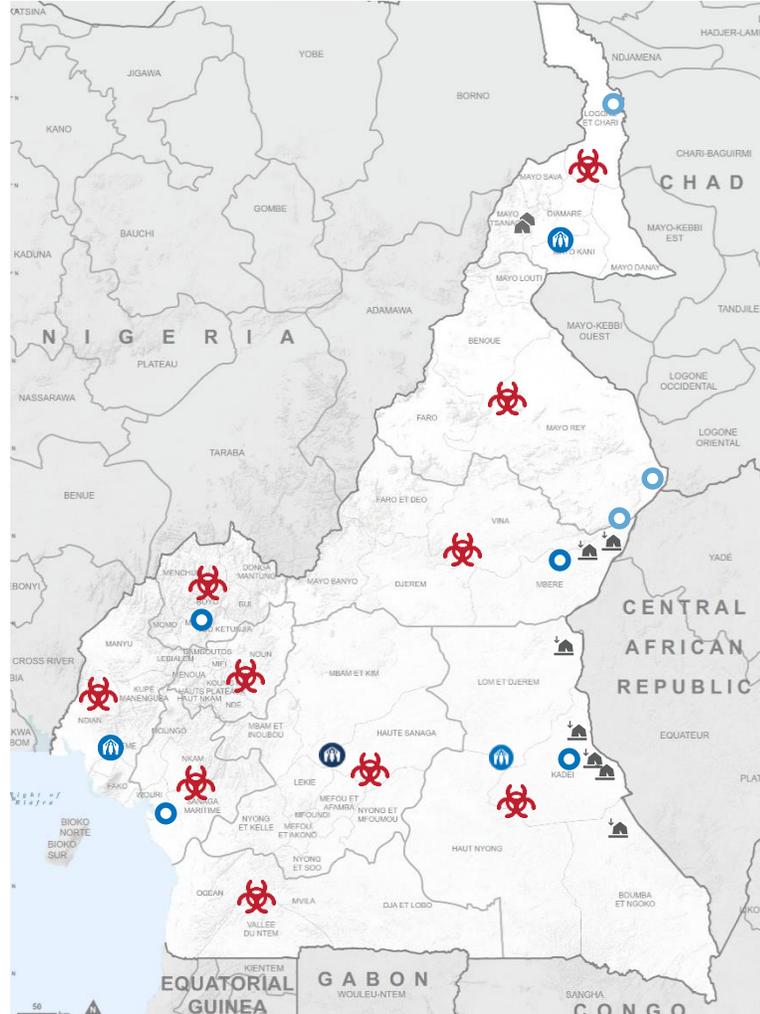
934 Number of recovered cases	of	108 Number of deaths recorded
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All 10 Regions Affected – Centre, Littoral, West, South West, South, East, Adamawa, North, North West and Far North.

01

Reported Cases of Refugees Infected with the Covid-19

Zone/Camp /Sites	# de cas	# Guéris	# de décès
Borgop	00	00	00
Gado	00	00	00
Ngam	00	00	00
Lolo	00	00	00
Mbile	00	00	00
Ngarissingo	00	00	00
Timangolo	00	00	00
Yaounde	01	00	00
Douala	00	00	00
Minawao	00	00	00
Zone rurale	00	00	00



Legend

-  COVID-19 Detection
-  Minawao Camp
-  Sites
- UNHCR OFFICES**
-  Representation
-  Sub Offices
-  Field Office
-  Field Unit

I - OPERATIONAL RESPONSE



Coordination

- The government of Cameroon has relaxed some of the COVID-19 lockdown Measures so as to 'ease' the negative economic impact of the pandemic on the population, especially businesspersons. In a declaration on 30 April, the Prime Minister announced 19 new measures including the opening of bars, restaurants and other leisure spots as from 6pm (local time) and lifting the measure on the mandatory number of passengers in all public transport by bus and taxi. He however reiterated the population must continue to wear masks in public places and respect the social distancing measures. UNHCR continues to take part in the national response Plan for COVID-19 working closely with the Ministry of Public Health at the national, regional and local levels and other administrative sectors.

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- On 30 April 2020, UNHCR through the Bertoua Sub Office, East region handed over medical and hygiene equipment to the Regional Delegation of Public Health as part of support to government's efforts in the fight against COVID-19. The donation of equipment comprising of buckets for handwashing, oxygen concentrators, hand sanitizers, megaphones, infrared thermometers, soaps, sprays, bleach, protective glasses, gloves and personal protective equipment took place in the presence of the region's Governor. The equipment will be immediately redistributed to pre-selected district health facilities. Similarly, hygiene kits comprising of buckets, soap, hand sanitizers and bleach were handed to the Bertoua Central prison by UNHCR on 05 May to step up the hygiene situation in the penitentiary in the fight against COVID-19.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon was in the Far North region where she was briefed on UNHCR's activities in favour of refugees, Internally Displaced persons, IDPS and host communities in response to COVID-19 in the region. These include the setting up of isolation and quarantine centres and support for the Mokolo district hospital and the Maroua regional hospital, as well as other related activities in the camp and out of camp for persons of concern, PoCs.
- UNHCR together with the World Health Organization, partners and government authorities undertook a joint visit on 28 April 2020 to assess the area for the setting up of Refugee Housing Units, RHUs, to serve as isolation units at the Bertoua Regional Hospital, in a bid to assist the health institution step up its management capacity of cases in the East. Similarly, discussions are afoot with heads of district hospitals for the construction of semi-durable isolation facilities. The identification process has already been complete in four (4) District Hospitals in Adamawa and North regions, with a technical visit to evaluate the areas scheduled in the days ahead.
- UNICEF, UNHCR, local government officials and partners in the East and Adamawa regions, are working together to ensure school-going children are involved in catch-up classes organised at the national level and dispensed through the state radio and television by government. In this light, the regional delegation for education has requested support to boost the capacity of community radios which can ensure continuity. Similarly, in the Far North, UNHCR has been working with the regional delegation of Secondary education for the production of course materials to be made available to students as part of alternative education activities within the COVID-19 context.
- Following a World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR meeting on 17 April in the East region to assess the operational challenges related to food assistance within the context of COVID-19, targeted food distribution for April and May 2020 for the benefit of 21,395 refugees representing 4,165 households (2,445 in Adamawa, 1,348 in the North and 372 in the East-Garoua-Boulai) which started on 17 April 2020 ended on 01 May.



Surveillance, Case Investigation, Emergency Response Team

- The East region hosting over 200,000 Central African refugees in sites and host communities now counts 19 cases of the Covid-19 infection, as of 04 May 2020 marking a sharp increase up from 04 at the start of last week. The Far North region with over 100,000 Nigerian refugees also recorded its first case on 27 April 2020, and now counts 02. All ten regions in Cameroon are currently affected by the pandemic, with the Centre and Littoral regions carrying the highest figures of infections.



Entry Points

- 01 cross-border movement of 32 individuals for four households was recorded between 27 and 02 May in the Far North region. Borders remain officially closed in Cameroon as part of measures to contain the virus, nonetheless, refugee families and asylum seekers in almost insignificant numbers move about in border localities around the country. On 26 April, 69 persons (24 children, 23 women and 22 men), with 68 coming from Yaounde and 01 from Bafoussam crossed the border into CAR to participate in a mourning ceremony of one of their relatives. Among them 23 possess neither refugee identity cards nor attestations for asylum seekers. They intend to return to Cameroon after the ceremony.
- There is the systematic control of all new arrivals, notably temperature checks and medical assessments at entry points and especially for all refugees returning to the camps and sites.



Laboratory

- Following a recent decision by government to decentralize the screening capacity for COVID-19, laboratories of regional hospitals have been equipped to ensure sample testing. These include the Bertoua regional hospital in the East, while the process is still ongoing in other areas like Maroua in the Far North. These two regions among others, host a large number of refugees in the country.

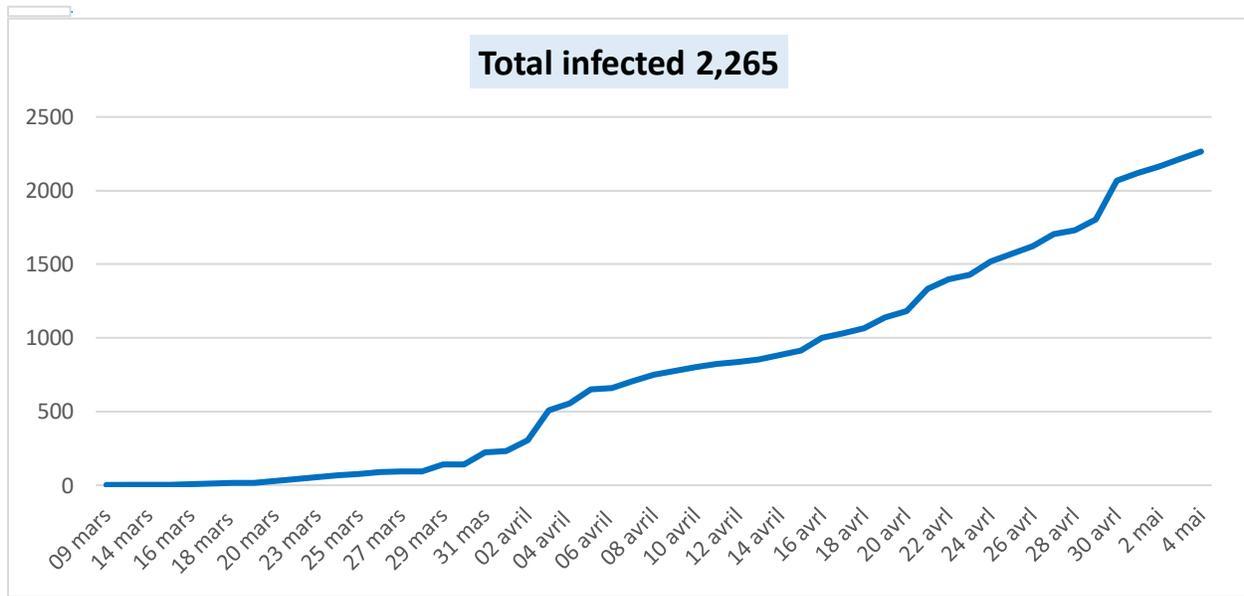


Infection, Prevention & Control (IPC)

- A total of 8,226 masks were distributed to 8,226 individuals in response to COVID-19 in the Minawao camp as of 02 May. The wearing of masks in public places was made compulsory some weeks back by government. Meanwhile in the Minawao camp, refugee women who received training in sewing with the support of UNHCR partners, have begun making masks, under the supervision of partners, as an income-generating activity.
- 20 RHUs to serve as quarantine and isolation units have been set up in the Far North. Seventeen (17) of them have been set up around the Minawao camp as quarantine units and 03 at the Mokolo district hospital to serve as isolation units.
- Eleven (11) new arrivals identified at the Mbile and Ngarissingo sites have all been placed under quarantine as part of prevention measures. These include 04 refugees from Cameroon's Coastal town of Kribi, who transited through Yaounde in Mbile; and 03 refugees returning from the Central African Republic for the Ngarissingo site, with 02 patients referred from Bertoua to Yokadouma after their medical treatment at the Bertoua regional hospital alongside 02 family members.
- The 14 day-quarantine required for all refugees and PoCs coming in from other parts of the country to refugee hosting camps and sites, is being respected. All incoming cases are systematically and spontaneously reported by community workers and leaders following intensive sensitization that has been taking place in the various refugees sites/camp and host communities.



Case Management



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- 66,080 pieces of soap have been distributed to refugees in the Minawao camp, to enable and encourage households and individuals to uphold handwashing at the entrance and exit of the sites and also at home.
- Between 27 and 02 May, UNHCR undertook the setting up of handwashing stations in households and at the water point in Mbilé, and continued sensitizations for the prevention of COVID-19 with focus on handwashing and hygiene measures at the different water points in the East.

- UNHCR is working to improve on water supply across the different sites and host communities to ensure access to water for all PoCs. In this light, 04 broken water points have been repaired, including 03 in Gado and 01 in Ngam, in the East region. While access to water remains a challenge for many households, most households in the sites do not have adequate containers for the collection and storage of potable water that would enable them to avoid frequent visits to water points where regular contact with others presents a risk.

Pic 1;
Handwashing station in front of a food joint at the Minawao camp



Pic 2;
A refugee washing his hands, at a handwashing station at the Minawao camp.



Communication Risk and Community Engagement

- 194 Community Relay workers are taking part in a training for community health workers at the Lolo, Mbile, Timangolo and Ngarissingo sites and in the out-of-site localities of Belita II, Gbiti and Kette in the East region. Meanwhile awareness-raising sessions continue to be organized on specific themes related to COVID-19 preventive measures and the wearing of face masks in public places in strict compliance with the measures prescribed by government.
- In collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation, LWF, and the International Medical Corp, IMC, nine (09) refugee women including three (03) in Lolo and six (06) in Timangolo, in the East region have been trained and supported with equipment for the production of protective masks against COVID-19. The women who are all survivors of gender-based violence, will develop their socio-economic resilience, especially in this period when refugees are encouraged to limit their movements as much as possible. In the meantime, refugees at the Gado site are committed to helping each other protect themselves against the COVID-19 pandemic by making masks with the support and supervision of LWF to be shared among the refugee population at the site.
- Thirty-eight (38) Community leaders in the Far North took part in a sensitization session on ways to effectively disseminate in the community, the toll-free number (8064) to call to report or seek information on COVID-19 related issues.
- During the week of 27 April to 01 May, UNHCR field partners carried out door to door campaigns targeting 10,500 refugees and host populations in the Lolo, Timangolo, Mbile, Ngarissingo, Kette sites as well as in the communities in Yokadouma and Batouri, all in the East region. Major zones targeted included the Integrated Health centres in these areas.
- UNHCR's partner, Plan International in the North West and South West regions is carrying out sensitization campaigns in IDP communities on COVID-19 preventive measures put in place by government.
- In the Far North, at the Minawao camp, sensitization on environmental hygiene and prevention of COVID-19 was organised for 2,927 people in 585 households and on 28 April, UNHCR's partner PUBLIC CONCERN carried out sensitizations on barrier measures at the Shehourri and Millimari sites in Makary, still in the Far North. 130 households representing 386 people were sensitized.



Internal Measures – UNHCR

- UNHCR is gradually implementing the Business Continuity Plan (BCP), in its different offices. All hygiene and sanitation measures have been reinforced for staff and partners including the use of masks which has been made compulsory by government and the setting up of hygiene and sanitation measures in the different offices for staff, POCs and visitors.