

Cameroon MCO

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

AUGUST 2020

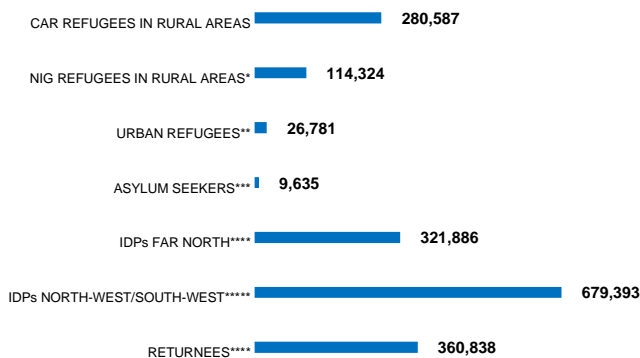
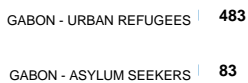
Cameroon MCO currently has **1,794,010** persons of concern, including **280,587** Central African Republic refugees, **114,324** Nigerian refugees, **36,414** refugees and asylum seekers of various nationalities (in urban areas: Yaoundé and Douala), **1,001,279** IDPs (321,886 in the Far North and 679,393 in North West and South West regions) and **360,838** returnees (former IDPs) in the Far North, North West and South West regions in addition to **483** refugees and **83** Asylum seekers in Gabon.

As of 31st of August, **MCO Cameroon Operation is funded at 40%**. This total funding amount of \$40,510,573 leaves an indicative funding gap of \$59,564,040 representing 60% of the financial requirements. 18% of contributions are Unearmarked, 20% are Softly earmarked, 55% are Earmarked, 7% are tightly earmarked, ("Grand Bargain" commitment on reducing the earmarking of donor contribution)

UNDP is collaborating with UNHCR in a pilot project **"Identity for All"** over the period 2020/2021 in the Far North. This project aims at providing civil documentation for IDPs and strengthen the civil status registration procedures. At least 6,000 beneficiaries are targeted including 3,000 women and 3,000 men. 110 civil registration centres will be set-up for this purpose.

Statistics Figures Sources & Dates

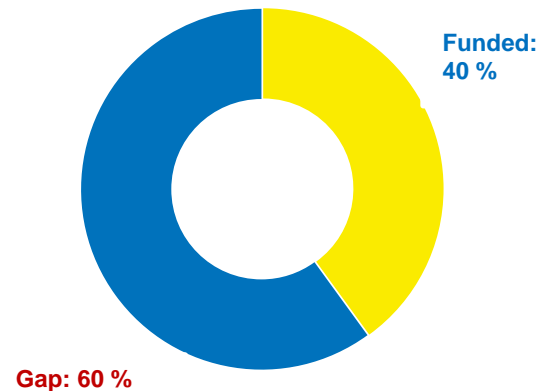
- Cameroon Refugees & Asylum seekers figures, UNHCR Cameroon, 31 August 2020
- Gabon Refugees & Asylum seekers figures, UNHCR, 31 August 2020
- IDPs & returnees' figures, IOM & OCHA, 31 August 2020

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2020)
Cameroon

Gabon

Statistics Figures Sources & Dates

- Cameroon Refugees & Asylum seekers figures, UNHCR Cameroon, 31 August 2020
- Gabon Refugees & Asylum seekers figures, UNHCR, 31 August 2020
- IDPs & returnees' figures, IOM & OCHA, 31 August 2020

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2020)
USD 100.1 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, Bamenda
- 04 Field Offices: Batouri, Meiganga, Douala and Buea
- 03 Field Unit – Kousseri, Djohong, Touborro,
- 01 Gabon operation



Screening / Registration of new arrivals in the locality of Gui Gui, Touboro area, August 2020

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

MCO Cameroon is implementing its Protection and Solutions Strategy in close 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.
The operation is planning to hold a strategic meeting with this category of partner to explore the better way to share the cost related to the provision of health, education, WASH and civil documentation services in the month of October 2020.
- **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. To assess these partners performances in realising the impacts planned, their engagement and alignment with the Operation strategic vision and priorities, an evaluation exercise will be conducted by the operation during the last week of September.
- **Operational Partners:** ICRC, Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), ASOL, Red Deporte, IEDA Relief, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Solidarités Internationales and CARE International. The enhancement of the partnership with non-transactional partners is key for the operation. They will be closely involved in the discussions during the detailed planning exercise with the objective to encourage them to include in their 2021 projects the AOL activities of 2021 COP.
- **Development Partners:** World Bank, African Development Bank, DEVCO, Alliance Française de Développement and Coopération Suisse. MCO is working with these partners for the implementation of the humanitarian development nexus approach and in the search for durable solutions for persons of concern and their hosts.
- **UN Agencies:** WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and UNOCHA.
MCO Cameroon is working towards joint programming and joint delivery with other UN Agencies. In addition to the "Blueprint" project with UNICEF and "Hub support Joint initiative with WFP, a strategic meeting is planned for October, with WHO and UNICEF, in order to explore the possibilities of these agencies taking over the delivery of health and education services to refugees, in close collaboration with the government.
- **Operational coordination:** Response to the Central African refugee situation is managed in line with the Refugee Coordination Model with the involvement of local authorities engaged in refugee management. In the North West and South West regions, UNHCR ensures leadership in the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters for the delivery of protection solutions 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 & Principe. At the capital-level, UNHCR leads the Multi-Sector Operations Team for 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 general security situation in Northwest and Southwest regions (NWSW) remained precarious with increased attacks from Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) and abduction/kidnapping on both civilians and aid workers. This trend is likely to continue as there seems to be a steady inflow of essential component for the fabrication of explosive devices into the region. Staff members have been advised to maintain vigilance and avoid areas with a history of frequent IED attacks.

161 refugee households (9377 individuals) were affected by a serious flood that occurred in Douala on August 21st following heavy rains. A needs assessment exercise was carried out by UNHCR, and the main needs expressed by the victims were mainly need for core relief items, food (basic food) and money to meet other basic needs. A joint assessment mission by UNHCR, OCHA and NGO APA (*Action pour la Paix l'Aide et le Développement*) has been done to evaluate the situation. The Government through the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) provided a humanitarian support with food and non-food donations to the victims. The regional authorities are working towards avoiding such an occurrence in future.

Security incidents In the Far North region between 21 to 28 August 2020, have increasingly been dominant in the Logone and Chari, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga divisions, which are principally refugee and IDP hosting areas. The civilians remain the prime target of attacks by alleged Boko Haram elements.

Floods and overflowing rivers due to heavy rains is limiting humanitarian access to operation areas.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

1,791 new refugee arrivals have been registered Garoua- Boulai, Mbaï-Mboum, Yamba and Ngaoui between the months of June and August 2020 from the Central African Republic, due to the worsening security situation in Besson, Ngueze and Dolé in Nana Mambéré. All the newly arrived refugees have been registered and documented by UNHCR. Most of the new arrivals are female (61 %) and children represent 62 %. The population also includes several elderly persons. These refugees are able enter into the country despite the borders being officially closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An inter-agency mission comprised of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and 8 NGOs conducted an assessment mission in locations of arrival to identify their needs and discuss a response plan.

280 birth certificates were issued to refugee children in the Eastern part of Cameroon in the month of August.

2388 refugee children participated in official exams thanks to the inclusion of refugee children in the national educational response plan for COVID-19.

As of 31st August, 4,696 urban refugee households out of the 6,000, planned have received COVID-19 assistance through CBI approach.

Preparations for the voluntary repatriation of 52 urban refugees are underway. As of 31st August, 9,732 refugees in Eastern Cameroon have expressed their intention to return to CAR. Voluntary repatriation activities will be resumed once the conditions become conducive in CAR.

Resettlement activities are being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic given that no departures have been made since the closing of international borders. Prior to the closure of borders 76 refugees departed on resettlement to the following countries: 14 to Australia, 37 to the USA, 14 to Canada, 02 to Finland and 09 to Norway.

Health

In the Far North, local authorities declared the measles epidemic under control following the vaccination campaign that was organized. Routine Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) activities continue and new arrivals (children aged 6 months to 14 years) at the transit centre are systematically vaccinated against measles. Routine epidemiological surveillance continues in different health districts in refugee and IDP affected areas.

A preventive vaccination campaign against meningococcal meningitis was organized in refugee sites in health districts in the East and Adamawa regions from 24 to 31 August 2020. There was a high participation of refugees.

Livelihoods

Despite the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the agricultural calendar for the 2020 farm year was implemented normally. UNHCR supported agricultural programmes in the East, Adamawa and the North regions shows promising results in terms of agricultural productivity. 96% of planned agricultural fields have been set-up and some are harvesting. The current groundnut and maize productivity are about respectively 4 tons p. ha and 3 tons p. ha, compared to the previous year (resp. 3 tons p. ha and 1.5 tons p. ha).

UNHCR held discussions with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) on 08 August 2020, to discuss the implementation of new livelihoods project funded by PRM for CAR refugees. UNHCR urge humanitarian and development actors to work in synergy for durable solutions to refugees and their host communities.

Environment

In the Far North, UNHCR and partners have organized the planting of a total of 31,326 trees in several designated locations. This action is in line with UNHCR's reforestation strategy in areas affected by the presence of refugees and internally displaced persons. It is important to recall the project "Make Minawao green again" to fight against the deforestation of the region where more than 50,000 trees were planted over a 600 hectares area in and around the camp, by using the "cocoon" technology which allows plants to survive in hostile environment. Positive impacts of this reforestation project are now visible as planted trees have grown.

In the CAR refugee hosting regions, a total of 6,780 kg of briquettes have been produced. 4,880 kg of the production were sold, and the revenue has enabled women producers to meet some of their needs. 1,900 kg of the remaining briquettes were consumed by the women producers in their households. These activities help in preserving the environment.

Food distribution

In response to COVID-19, WFP has organized a two (02) months (August and September) General Food Distribution for CAR refugees. In the Kadey, 9,542 individuals (1,688 households) representing 100%, received food aid. 13,679 other refugees out of 21,233 planned received the food rations in the North and Adamawa regions. 3,679 refugees (690 households) in Lom-Et-Djerem, received 50% of the food basket ration consisting of cereals (rice and sorghum 50% per item), pulses, salt and oil. This ration is the equivalent of 1050 kcal / person / day, well below the norm of 2100 kcal / person / day. These activities were jointly monitored by UNHCR, WFP, and IFRC.

Water Hygiene and Sanitation, WASH

Water supply continued to be challenging in the Minawao camp (67,943 refugees). As of 31 August 2020, the average water production per day is about 812 m3 per day for a ratio of 12 litres per day per person with a gap of 203 m3 to reach the emergency standard of 15 litres/person/ day. This shortage is due to constant vandalization of the water installation line. UNHCR and partners continue to put in effort together to increase the water supply for refugees in the Minawao camp and in out-of-camp refugee hosting

locations. So far, five (05) interventions on the water supply network in Minawao refugee camp are undergoing; a 95 m3 tank base is under construction (40% of achievement); another 30m3 semi-buried tank (37% completed); rehabilitation of 30 boreholes outside the camp for COVID-19 prevention (63% completed).

Shelter /Core Relief Items

536 households in remote communities in Buea and Tiko in the SW region were assisted with NFIs, totalling to about 7121 individuals supported in the region. Some overcrowded households visibly needed more assistance in NFIs and Plan International is currently making provisions to add to the number of NFI kits provided.

In the North West region, 800 households benefited from assistance in core relief items as UNHCR and Plan International carried out distribution in some highly affected communities in Bali.

Close to 8,613 persons received core relief items Gungong, Mbufung, Jam Jam, Mbeluh/Medum, Mbadmande, Kopin, Bali Centre, Njenka villages in the North West region.

Coordination

In August 2020, with the arrival of the Sr. Cluster Coordination Officer (Prot.), UNHCR Cameroon launched a process of strengthening the coordination of the protection sector including defining the 2020-21 Roadmap for strengthening the Protection Sector endorsed by all humanitarian actors. With the support of a ProCap deployee and UNHCR IM emergency deployment for three months, working tools and framework will be strengthened in order to serve the need for a joint protection analysis and advocacy on protection issues.

From 26 - 28 August, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNHCR jointly organized a workshop on human rights monitoring with protection actors from Northwest and Southwest regions. Forty (40) participants attended the workshop and were provided with an overview of monitoring of human rights violations and impacts on civil population in NWSW regions. Consequently, a regional action plan on human rights monitoring for SW/NW is currently under preparation.

MULTI-COUNTRY OPERATION

GABON

- COVID-19: National and international flights have resumed, while the terrestrial and maritime borders remain closed until further notice.
- Operations: As of August 2020, there are 566 persons of concern to UNHCR in Gabon (483 refugees and 83 asylum seekers). UNHCR IP, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), continues to support refugees to achieve legal and socio-economic integration: during the reporting month, one refugee obtained the Gabonese nationality (six from beginning 2020); 10 refugees obtained residence permits (77 from beginning 2020); one undocumented refugee child was supported to obtain a birth certificate. CNR is also continuing to support refugees in the inception of their income generating activities.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- COVID-19: National and international flights have resumed (PRC test demanded at arrival), while the terrestrial and maritime borders remain closed until further notice.
- Operations: UNHCR Representative met with the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea in Cameroon and presented the UNHCR Multi-Country Operation, highlighting UNHCR's interest and availability to support Equatorial Guinea in adopting legislative measures to prevent statelessness and safeguard the right to asylum.

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 27.7 million for MCO Cameroon

United States of America	22.5 million
France	1.2 million
Qatar	1.2 million
Sweden	726,141
CERF	837,255
unilever/UK	454,962
Canada	436,364
Luxembourg	209,205
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

Germany 61.6 million | United States of America 46.8 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors USA 7.4 million | Private donors Australia 5.6 million | Private donors Japan 4.1 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Private donors Germany 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | France 2.8 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.2 million

Unearmarked Contributions | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden 76.4 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Spain 33.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.3 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Japan 11.7 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: Cameroon