

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

- The **2019 Humanitarian Response Plan was launched on February 20, with a total budget of \$299M**. The plan, launched in the presence of government and humanitarian partners, seeks **to assist 2.3 million people considered to be in urgent need in 8 of the country's 10 regions**. According to the plan, humanitarian needs have increased by 1/3 due to the upsurge in insecurity and violence, which leaves around one in six people – mostly women and children – in dire need of assistance, out of a total of 4.3 million people who actually need support. The response plan will therefore focus on providing immediate assistance to save lives, supporting and protecting affected civilians, identifying risks and vulnerabilities to support the resilience of communities to violence.
- The security situation in Cameroon's Far North Region in February has remained unstable and uncertain with the **Boko Haram group carrying out spontaneous attacks**. These attacks include kidnappings, killings, looting, burning of villages and theft of foodstuffs. The group made an unsuccessful attempt to cut off the national road number 01 linking Kousseri to Maroua, but was stopped by security forces.
- After the scaling-up of humanitarian response to more than 40,000 refugees who arrived in Goura at the end of January, **the last days of the month of February were marked by the massive return to Nigeria of the majority of the 40,386 Nigerian refugees** (women, men and children) who were settled in and around Goura. According to monitoring, these people went back to Rann, from where they had fled violence. This return followed the visit to Goura of a high-level delegation from the Government of Nigeria, including the Deputy Governor of Borno State and the Mayor of Rann on 26 February 2019. The Nigerian delegation reassured refugees of their safety back in Rann, announcing the deployment of security forces there. Over 30,000 people reportedly returned on foot to Rann town between 27 and 28 February 2019. Other groups of people have moved to neighbouring villages in Cameroon including Fotokol. UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation in case of returns and is also keeping close contacts with UNHCR colleagues in the Maiduguri – Nigeria Office. Meanwhile UNHCR field office in Maroua organised a meeting with its operational and implementing partners to evaluate the situation and come up with a harmonised plan of action for remaining populations and possible future influxes. They are currently working on an emergency plan and response strategy to different future scenarios. Finally, given the current situation in Logone-et-Chari division, UNHCR is strengthening its Kousseri Office.
- The situation in Cameroon's North West and South West regions continues to be tense with continuing armed attacks, destruction of infrastructure and property, as well as kidnapping. The month of **February was particularly marked by an almost 2-week lockdown**, hindering access to the populations in need of humanitarian assistance.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- From 05 to 07 February, **the Minister of Territorial Administration, was in Ngaoundere, Belel, Babongo, Djohong and Tibati**. His mission was to assess measures put in place to counter the increasing phenomenon of kidnapping for ransom in the Adamawa region. In Djohong, he met with refugees from Ngam and Borgop sites and handed out gifts from the president to victims of insecurity in the Adamawa. He also unveiled plans by government to step up security measures in the region. The population, especially refugees, acknowledged in particular the deployment of 130 elements of the Multi-Intervention Regiment of the National Gendarmerie to reinforce security in the Adamawa.
- **10,635 children were vaccinated against measles and 12,453 against poliomyelitis** at the site in Goura and its neighbouring villages during an immunisation campaign from 15 to 18 February. These children represent 55,3 % and 94,4% respectively of the target population of children for the campaign aged between 0-15 years.
- The Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) exercise was conducted in all UNHCR offices in February to better understand and analyse the overall situation and needs of refugees and other persons of concern. In a follow-up to this, UNHCR has been meeting with its partners in preparation for the 2020 Country Operations Plan (COP) planning exercise, which is scheduled to be held in March.
- **Representatives from Land Life Company paid a working visit to the Minawao camp** to monitor the tree planting project with the use of the cocoon technology. The project funded by the Dutch Postcode Lottery and implemented by UNHCR in 2017 seeks to reduce the pressure on the environment caused by both global warming and human activities. The partner, Land Life planted the first tree during the kickoff exercise in Minawao and in host communities, where some 37,478 trees have been planted on a surface area of 72.51 ha. Meanwhile reforestation and efforts for alternative energy sources funded by UNHCR in the camp are ongoing. The partner, Lutheran World Federation undertook a visit there to carry out door-to-door campaigns on how to care for the plants in 08 blocks and 423 homes.
- **Humanitarian activities in the South-West and North-West were restricted in February** due to recurrent ghost-towns and a “lock-down” declared by armed groups in these regions between 05 to 14 February. UNHCR’s partner was however able to begin the distribution of 800 shelter kits in Banga-Bakundu, in the Meme Division of the South West Region.
- **From 26 to 27 February 2019, the African Union in Ndjamena organised a workshop** with the aim of validating the protection strategy of civilians by the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF). UNHCR, in attendance with other agencies and partners used the opportunity to highlight the importance of the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons while insisting on access to asylum, the principle of non-refoulement and the respect of the humanitarian and civil nature of asylum amongst others.
- From 23 February, **UNHCR Cameroon has been hosting a mission supporting the roll-out of proGres v4**, an updated and expanded version of its current registration data-base. The mission is providing training and technical support to the operation and will continue until 15 March.

EXTERNAL / DONOR RELATIONS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to Cameroon in 2019

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Sweden (90 M) | Denmark (55 M) | Norway (45 M) | Netherlands (38 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Germany (27 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

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