

CAMEROON

Working environment

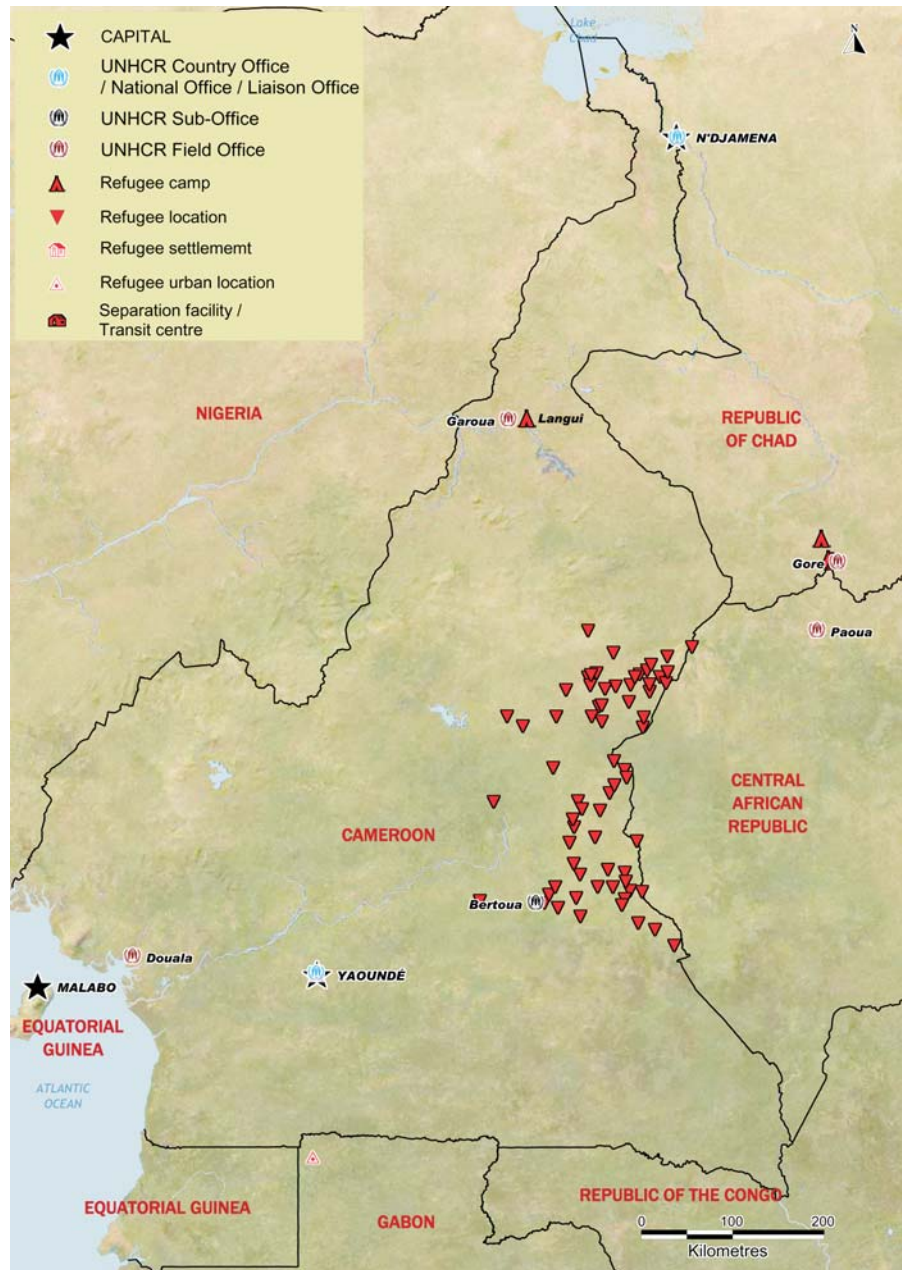
The context

Despite the economic crisis and some socio-political tensions due to high unemployment and the rising cost of living, Cameroon remains an attractive destination for many refugees and asylum-seekers from the Central African and Great Lakes region. Even in the East and Adamaoua regions of the country, where security had been fragile, the situation has improved significantly with the deployment of Government forces. On the other hand, the legal framework for the protection of refugees is not fully effective, pending the implementation of a decree creating a Commission for eligibility and appeals.

UNHCR works with the Cameroonian authorities to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to more than 100,000 people of concern, including a total of some 14,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas and 80,900 Central African refugees in the Adamaoua and East regions. Refugees enjoy the same rights to basic services as the host population in Cameroon

The needs

Although the delivery of protection and humanitarian assistance has improved, several gaps remain unaddressed. Malnutrition is widespread among children under five and pregnant women, while primary health services for urban refugees are inadequate.



Planning figures for Cameroon

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Central African Rep.	105,500	105,500	110,000	110,000
	Chad	8,400	8,400	7,500	7,500
	Rwanda	1,600	1,600	1,000	1,000
	Various	4,600	4,600	5,000	5,000
Asylum-seekers	Central African Rep.	200	200	200	200
	Chad	150	150	150	150
	Guinea	50	50	50	50
	Various	100	100	100	100
Total		120,600	120,600	124,000	124,000

| Strategy and activities in 2011 |



Ethnic Mboro refugees from the Central African Republic rely on UNHCR assistance, including wells to provide water, while they take refuge in Cameroon.

UNHCR / F. NOY

Urban refugees have to cater for most of their own basic needs. They usually live in unsanitary conditions, with no access to adequate drinking water. The most vulnerable refugees, including the elderly and chronically ill, require continued financial assistance. Most people of concern to UNHCR also need shelter assistance.

In the East and the Adamaoua regions, general health levels remain below standards. Some health centres are under-equipped, and refugees have to travel long distances to reach a health facility. The morbidity rate in the refugee population remains high, and the immunization coverage of refugee children is well below the national average.

Food security is a critical issue in the East and Adamaoua regions, where some 80,900 Central African refugees are largely dependent on humanitarian aid. The latest evaluations reveal that 11.6 per cent of these refugees suffer from malnutrition, and that 2.2 per cent of them are severely malnourished.

In urban areas, UNHCR will continue to ensure international protection for refugees and conduct RSD. The Office will also focus on building the capacity of government partners to aid a gradual transfer of RSD and documentation responsibilities to the Cameroonian authorities. In light of the possible invocation of the cessation clause for Rwandan refugees, UNHCR will continue to promote their repatriation. Voluntary and safe repatriation will also be pursued for other refugee populations, and resettlement will be offered to refugees with specific protection or medical needs.

UNHCR will advocate with the authorities to grant residence permits to long-staying refugees in urban areas. Emphasis will also be placed on providing for the basic needs of refugees and improving services such as education, health, HIV and AIDS support and assistance to people with special needs. In this respect, the Office will also continue to ensure that urban refugee children have access to education at the primary and lower-secondary levels. Some students at the post-secondary level will benefit from scholarship grants.

The Office plans to repatriate some 1,000 Chadian refugees in a safe and voluntary manner. For those remaining in Langui camp, social services will be strengthened and local integration opportunities explored. Camp infrastructure has improved and some of the refugees now live in semi-durable shelters. The Office will pursue its efforts to improve shelter for the refugees remaining in the camp.

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- The national protection framework is strengthened.
 - ☞ Advocacy results in stronger application of the law on refugees and greater knowledge of refugees' rights.
 - ☞ The local authorities are trained to provide protection.

Fair protection processes

- Asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient procedures for refugee status determination (RSD).
 - ☞ All asylum-seekers have access to timely and fair RSD procedures.
- Populations of concern are registered and provided with civil status documentation.
 - ☞ All refugees and asylum-seekers are registered and newborns are provided with birth certificates.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

Basic needs and services

- The food security situation is improved.
 - ☞ At least 10 per cent of refugees from the Central African Republic achieve food security.

- Provide basic domestic and hygiene items.
 - ☞ All women of childbearing age receive sanitary materials every month.
- The capacity of local health facilities is improved.
 - ☞ All refugees have access to quality medical care.
- Assist people living with HIV and AIDS.
 - ☞ All refugees living with HIV and AIDS are assisted.
- Access to education for children and adolescents is promoted.
 - ☞ At least 60 per cent of school-aged children are enrolled in primary schools.
- Groups with specific needs are assisted.
 - ☞ All urban refugees with specific needs receive adequate assistance.

Community participation and self-management

- Refugees' self-reliance is improved.
 - ☞ Some 200 urban refugees develop successful income-generating activities with UNHCR's help.

Durable solutions

- Voluntary repatriation is promoted.
 - ☞ Some 1,000 Chadian refugees are repatriated from Langui.
- Resettlement opportunities are offered to persons with special needs.
 - ☞ Some 400 refugees with specific needs are resettled.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	5
□ Total staff	83
International	7
National	43
UNVs	21
Others	12

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs:

International Medical Corps
 Africa Humanitarian Action
 International Relief and Development
Première Urgence
 Plan International
 Public Concern
Association de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes
 Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Others:

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Croix-Rouge camerounaise
 WFP

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of External Relations
 Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
 Presidency of the Republic (National security and armed forces)
 Ministry of Basic Education
 Ministry of Secondary and Technical Education
 Ministry of Public Health
 Ministry of Social Affairs

Others:

FAO
 IOM
 UNDP
 UNESCO
 UNFPA
 UNICEF
 UNIFEM
 WHO

The assistance programme for the Central African refugees living in the Adamaoua and East regions is at a critical stage, as food assistance provided by WFP will be terminated at the end of 2010. UNHCR's 2011 strategy will aim at putting in place income-generating activities and community-empowerment projects to help refugees meet their food needs and to support the transition from emergency relief to self-reliance. The Office will also distribute targeted food rations to vulnerable refugees.

UNHCR will pursue its efforts to ensure refugees have access to education and to primary health care. Special attention will be paid to sensitization and prevention programmes to address HIV and AIDS as well as sexual and gender-based violence. To tackle the situation of undocumented refugee children born in Cameroon, UNHCR will continue to sensitize parents on the need for documentation, assist the Cameroonian authorities to issue birth certificates, and facilitate procedures to apply for judicial rulings when needed.

UNHCR will advocate for the local integration of Nigerian refugees living in the Aoua and the north-west regions, and will also focus on naturalization opportunities for these refugees.

○ Constraints

The security situation in some parts of the East and Adamaoua provinces remains a concern. In addition, the country's socio-economic situation prevents urban refugees from becoming self-reliant.

Central African refugees are settled in more than 70 sites spread over a territory of more than 30,000 square kilometers. Poor roads and the difficulty for both refugees and host populations to access

basic services such as health care and water, further hinder UNHCR's capacity to provide protection and assistance to its people of concern.

Organization and implementation

○ Coordination

UNHCR's operations are implemented in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon as well as implementing and operational partners. UNHCR will also cooperate with WFP, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA in areas such as food distribution, food security, nutritional support and maternal health.

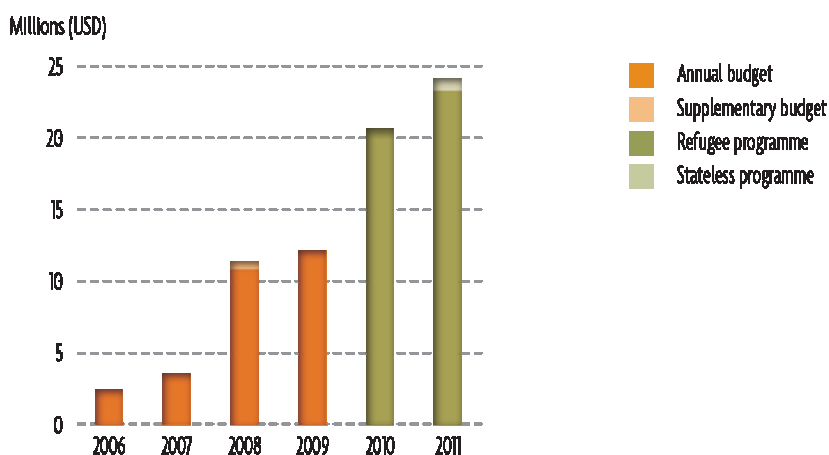
Monthly general coordination meetings for all UNHCR-funded programmes will continue, as will sectoral meetings in each field office. UNHCR is involved in the elaboration of inter-agency programmes and will continue to participate in the implementation of UNDAF activities.

A humanitarian crisis prevention forum chaired by UNHCR meets quarterly and holds extraordinary meetings depending on the circumstances. This forum gathers UN agencies such as UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and WHO, as well as the Red Cross Movement.

Financial information

The steady influx of refugees into Cameroon since 2006, mainly from Chad and the Central African Republic, has resulted in a growing budget for UNHCR's operations in the country. The gaps identified during the comprehensive needs assessment were mainly related to basic needs and essential services, which have been reflected in the 2011 budget of USD 23.9 million.

UNHCR's budget in Cameroon 2006 – 2011



2011 UNHCR Budget for Cameroon (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	0	19,563	19,563
National legal framework	156,916	95,645	252,561
National administrative framework	175,713	0	175,713
Prevention of statelessness	0	184,982	184,982
Cooperation with partners	1,089,318	62,797	1,152,116
National development policies	41,394	0	41,394
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	24,476	0	24,476
Environmental protection	144,487	0	144,487
Subtotal	1,632,304	362,988	1,995,291
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Registration and profiling	484,913	0	484,913
Fair and efficient status determination	483,126	0	483,126
Family reunification	90,218	0	90,218
Individual documentation	171,433	0	171,433
Civil status documentation	326,462	136,889	463,351
Subtotal	1,556,152	136,889	1,693,041
Security from violence and exploitation			
Impact on host communities	126,112	0	126,112
Community security management system	46,222	0	46,222
Gender-based violence	420,561	0	420,561
Protection of children	120,133	0	120,133
Non-arbitrary detention	212,390	0	212,390
Access to legal remedies	66,785	0	66,785
Subtotal	992,203	0	992,203
Basic needs and essential services			
Food security	198,506	0	198,506
Nutrition	371,999	0	371,999
Water	897,779	0	897,779
Shelter and other infrastructure	248,320	0	248,320
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,072,455	0	1,072,455
Primary health care	2,254,788	0	2,254,788
HIV and AIDS	461,078	0	461,078
Education	1,952,672	0	1,952,672
Sanitation services	556,424	0	556,424
Services for groups with specific needs	566,456	0	566,456
Subtotal	8,580,476	0	8,580,476
Community participation and self-management			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	252,122	84,256	336,377
Community self-management and equal representation	282,297	0	282,297
Camp management and coordination	48,973	0	48,973
Self-reliance and livelihoods	2,731,632	0	2,731,632
Subtotal	3,315,023	84,256	3,399,279

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Not all asylum-seekers will be registered and documented in a timely manner, exposing them to prosecution for illegal immigration.
- Newborns will not receive civil status documentation.
- Malnutrition will increase among refugee children.
- The time frame for RSD procedures will be prolonged, generating a backlog of unprocessed asylum claims.
- Some schools and health centres will not receive supplies and basic equipment.
- About 100 health-centre workers in the areas of reproductive health and HIV and AIDS will not benefit from training workshops.
- Some 42 primary health centres will not be equipped with incinerators.
- At least 10 health centres will not receive the minimum HIV and AIDS packages (universal precautions, safe blood transfusions, condom distribution, prevention and care of opportunistic infection).
- Training for refugees in small-business practices will be limited.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Durable solutions			
Durable solutions strategy	64,410	0	64,410
Voluntary return	709,603	0	709,603
Resettlement	425,868	0	425,868
Local integration support	1,530,727	0	1,530,727
Reduction of statelessness	0	165,085	165,085
Subtotal	2,730,608	165,085	2,895,693
External relations			
Resource mobilisation	27,335	0	27,335
Partnership	91,918	77,843	169,761
Public information	96,617	59,046	155,663
Subtotal	215,870	136,889	352,759
Logistics and operations support			
Supply chain and logistics	2,197,671	0	2,197,671
Programme management, coordination and support	1,614,220	176,893	1,791,113
Subtotal	3,811,892	176,893	3,988,785
Total	22,834,527	1,063,000	23,897,527
2010 Revised budget	20,661,773	0	20,661,773