

The needs

UNHCR assessments have identified major gaps in nutrition, water and sanitation, health, education, community services and protection in all refugee sites in Cameroon. The assessments, in which refugees and UNHCR's partners participated, found the acute malnutrition rate among children below five years of age had reached 17.2 per cent, while 68 per cent of households experienced food insecurity. Furthermore, almost half the refugees had no access to safe drinking water.

The Government of Cameroon has requested that refugees from Chad be relocated to a camp in Poli. This site is in need of facilities such as water points and sanitary stations.

UNHCR's programme for refugees living in urban areas needs to consolidate improvements in refugee status determination (RSD), health care and education.

Working environment

The context

With most of its neighbours having experienced armed conflicts or socio-political turmoil in recent years, Cameroon has received large numbers of displaced people. Today it hosts close to 90,000 refugees and asylum-seekers. Of these, more than 14,600 live in urban areas, while some 60,000 others from the Central African Republic (CAR) are settled in villages in East or Adamaoua provinces. After rebel attacks in February 2008 on the capital of Chad, N'djamena, 14,350 Chadians sought refuge among communities in northern Cameroon. Some 5000 of these Chadians live in Langui camp.

For many years Cameroon was considered a safe haven in the region. But in 2007 the country experienced a significant degree of social unrest, and security deteriorated in several towns. Despite efforts to bolster the economy, growth declined from 3.2 per cent in 2006 to 2.7 per cent in 2007.

Main objectives

- Improve the national protection framework by advocating for the establishment of a national eligibility committee and building the capacity of national authorities to address refugee-related issues.
- Provide identification documents to all people of concern.
- Ensure access to primary health care for both urban and rural refugees.
- Support income-generating activities by providing micro-credits and implement rapid-impact projects to aid self-reliance.
- Facilitate access to education for all refugee children of primary school age and 150 refugee children at secondary or university level.
- Provide access to water and sanitation.
- Fulfil the basic food needs of refugees in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF.

Key targets

Central African refugees in East and Adamaoua provinces

- All refugees receive non-food items, including hygiene kits for women, and at least 20 litres of drinking water per person per day.
- Some 90 per cent of refugees receive monthly food rations.
- All refugees, including people living with HIV and AIDS, have access to health care.
- Mortality rates stand at less than one for every 10,000 births and the global malnutrition rate falls below five per cent.
- At least 60 per cent of school-aged children are enrolled in school.
- 60 per cent of refugees engage in agricultural activities.
- All refugees are registered and newborns are given birth certificates.

Chadian refugees in northern Cameroon

- All refugees receive monthly food rations and non-food items, including hygiene kits for women.
- All refugees have access to medical care and receive at least 20 litres of drinking water per person per day.
- Some 30 per cent of refugees participate in community-based activities.
- All school-aged children are enrolled in school.
- All refugees are registered and newborns are given birth certificates.

Urban refugees

- All refugees have access to medical care, and people living with HIV and AIDS are assisted.
- All survivors of sexual and gender-based violence receive medical, psychological and legal assistance.
- All women receive sanitary kits every month.
- Some 100 micro-projects are approved and 80 of these projects are allocated to women. The reimbursement rate of the loan is at least 50 per cent.
- RSD processing time is reduced to three months.
- Some 400 refugees with specific needs are resettled.
- At least 80 per cent of school-aged children are enrolled in primary schools.

Strategy and activities

Comprehensive needs assessments have allowed UNHCR to design plans to provide adequate assistance to both rural and urban refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR will promote the registration of CAR refugees and the delivery of identification cards to them. Community groups will be made more aware of sexual and gender-based violence and the need for children to be enrolled in school. UNHCR will ensure that all refugees receive enough food and non-food items and will monitor their distribution and use. The Office will strengthen collaboration with UN agencies and other partners, and reinforce the operational capacity of implementing partners.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	CAR	64,000	64,000	70,000	70,000
	Chad	14,350	14,350	15,000	15,000
	Nigeria	3,000	-	3,000	-
	Various	2,825	2,825	2,900	2,900
Asylum-seekers	CAR	1,150	1,150	900	900
	Chad	1,200	1,200	900	900
	DRC	300	300	200	200
	Various	850	850	800	800
Total		87,675	84,675	93,700	90,700



A malnourished child is being weighed in the ICRC health center in Maltam camp.

The Office estimates that up to 5,000 refugees from Chad will have to be relocated from the Langui camp to the site in Poli. UNHCR's protection strategy will bid to improve the reporting of, and response to sexual and gender-based violence in camps. Refugee students will be assisted in gaining access to education.

UNHCR Cameroon will continue to protect urban refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from CAR, Chad and the Great Lakes region. The Office will work closely with the national authorities to help these people of concern receive work permits and gain access to public services, such as health care and education. The voluntary repatriation of refugees from the Great Lakes region will be pursued as long as conditions in their countries of origin allow it. UNHCR will also intensify the search for resettlement opportunities, particularly for people with specific protection needs.

Constraints

Access to refugee settlements in the East and Adamaoua provinces remains difficult. Refugees there are settled in 65 sites spread over a territory of 35,000 square kilometres. Security constraints, including attacks by bandits known as *coupeurs de routes* in Adamaoua, may hamper implementation of UNHCR's programme. Poor road conditions,

especially during the rainy season, hinder the provision of relief items.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence	
Number of offices	3
Total staff	51
International	3
National	33
JPOs	1
UNVs	14

Coordination

UNHCR coordinates its activities with the ministries of External Relations and Territorial Administration. The Office also works closely with several NGOs and UN Agencies, including WFP and UNICEF.

Following the expansion of UNHCR's programme in 2008, office structures and implementation strategies have been revamped in order to improve humanitarian responses. UNHCR also began collaboration with new NGO partners that will continue in 2009.

Financial information

With the exception of a slight decline in the annual budget in 2006 due to the finalization of the repatriation operation of Nigerian refugees, Cameroon has experienced a constant increase in its budget, stemming from growing refugee inflows from neighboring countries.

The poor living conditions and political instabilities in CAR caused the new arrival of 20,000 refugees, which is reflected by an increase of the annual budget in 2007. In 2008 and 2009, the annual budget increased due to the continuous influx of refugees, such as the arrival of Chadian refugees.

Partners

Implementing partners

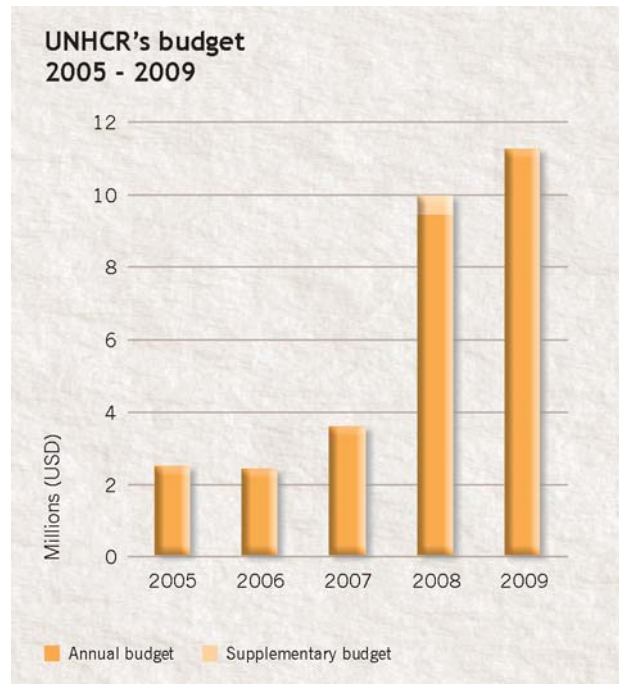
NGOs: *Croix Rouge Camerounaise, BASC CARITAS, Première Urgence, IFRC, Association de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes*

partners

Government agencies: Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, and Decentralization

NGOs: *Médecins Sans Frontières*

Others: FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP



Global Needs Assessment

Cameroon was one of the four UNHCR operations in Africa to pilot the Global Needs Assessment (GNA) exercise in 2008. The objective was to comprehensively map refugee needs, especially in the East and Adamaoua provinces. The results confirmed that due to financial constraints, UNHCR has not fully met several essential needs of refugees.

Without additional financial support in 2009, UNHCR will not be able to meet requirements in the health, water and sanitation, education and protection sectors.

For its Cameroon operations in 2009, UNHCR is seeking to:

- Address acute malnutrition and improve the health of refugees by providing essential medicine, therapeutic food and micronutrients; developing monitoring systems; constructing health centres; and improving HIV and AIDS response.
- Improve access to potable water and sanitary systems by constructing wells, developing

water distribution systems, building latrines and distributing sanitation kits.

- Increase school enrolment rates, especially among girls, by building, rehabilitating and equipping schools in the East and North provinces, and supporting primary education in urban areas.
- Expand livelihoods by lobbying the authorities to permit refugees to use farming land, distributing agricultural tools, providing micro-credits and helping cattle breeders to increase their herds.
- Improve the living conditions of refugees by providing materials to help them maintain their shelters and by supplying non-food and hygiene items, including firewood and female sanitary kits.
- Enhance the protection of women and children by improving referral systems for sexual and gender-based violence and building partners' capacity to protect children.

Budget (USD)				
Activities and services	2008			2009
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget Improving water and sanitation	Total	Annual budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	608,113	0	608,113	1,711,339
Community services	186,015	0	186,015	620,000
Crop production	30,288	0	30,288	195,000
Domestic needs	76,320	0	76,320	220,000
Education	301,489	0	301,489	376,000
Health	277,963	0	277,963	1,034,000
Income generation	50,480	0	50,480	250,000
Legal assistance	266,256	0	266,256	440,000
Livestock	34,326	0	34,326	30,000
Operational support (to agencies)	379,419	0	379,419	693,000
Sanitation	0	150,000	150,000	42,000
Shelter and infrastructure	17,179	0	17,179	140,000
Transport and logistics	115,650	0	115,650	610,000
Water	64,614	350,000	414,614	400,000
Global Needs Assessment	0	0	0	3,000,000
Total operations	2,408,112	500,000	2,908,112	9,761,339
Programme support	742,561	0	742,561	1,483,227
Total	3,150,673	500,000	3,650,673	11,244,566

Note: Supplementary programme budgets exclude 7 per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.