

UNFPA Cameroon CO - Situation Report # 12

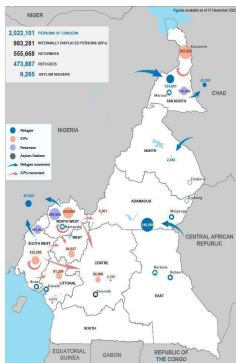
From 01 to 30 September, 2023



Country:	<i>UNFPA Cameroon</i>
Crises Locations:	Far-North region (Lake Chad Basin crisis), North-West and South-West regions (socio-political crisis), Adamawa, East and North regions (Central African refugees' crisis)
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Summary of Humanitarian Situation in Numbers

	1,069,757 Internally-displaced persons: (357,631 Far-North, 366,315 North-West South-West, 226,233 other regions)		477,209 Refugees: (349,290 Central Africans, 127,919 Nigerians)
	4.7 million people in need		2.7 million people targeted
	1,128,000 women of reproductive age targeted by UNFPA		799,000 young and adolescent girls (10-19)
	13,608 births expected to happen within any given month		13.6 Million USD required - 32% received



1. Highlights of the humanitarian situation, including security concerns

Far-North (FN) region: The security situation remains uncertain and unpredictable with a resurgence of incursions into Cameroonian territory by NSAGs. Several terrorist acts occurred during the period under review in different localities of Logone-and-Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga Divisions. These attacks caused several deaths and casualties. Looting and burning of houses have been recorded, as has been theft of livestock. The low level of attention given to the situation in the FN by the media is the cause of a strong feeling of resentment among the populations. This is a potential cause of concern in the short run.

North-West and South-West regions (NW/SW): The situation in the NW/SW regions deteriorated with the separatist fighters imposing lockdowns during the greater part of the month to boycott school resumption on one part, and on the other, to mark what they consider their Independence Day, which is October 1st. There have been attacks, burning down of vehicles, and killing of some civilians in both regions due to the non-respect of imposed ghost towns. Unconfirmed figures show very low school enrolment and suggest that an increasingly large number of young people have gone to regions non affected by the conflict to continue schooling. There are accounts of attacks by separatists on government forces, and vice versa. "Monday ghost towns" continue and are still slowing down socioeconomic activities.

Adamawa, East and North Regions: As of August 2023, UNHCR ([Country - Cameroon](#)) estimates at about 353,000 the number of CAR refugees living in and off camps in the eastern regions. The 5 GIZ partners who were kidnapped in the locality of Touboro have been released. Theft and threats of kidnappings remain a major issue for both the local population and development/humanitarian workers.

2. Humanitarian Needs: With the volatile and unpredictable nature of the various crises in Cameroon, the needs of the affected populations have been increasing over the days. While in some localities the number of IDPs keeps on increasing, in others, the major challenge is supporting returnees as they try to reconstruct their lives in destroyed villages. Meanwhile, following repeated attacks in border localities in the Far North region, there has been an influx of Nigerian refugees. Those living in the Minawao Camp in Mayo Tsanaga Division are estimated at about 70,000 persons, 23% of whom are women of reproductive age. An average of 77 births are recorded every month in the camp, suggesting the unmet need for family planning. In order to address the SRH & protection needs of the refugees, UNFPA needs adequate resources. This is true in the case of the eastern regions where most of the protection and SRH needs of the forcibly-displaced people remain unaddressed.

3. Response by the Government: As insecurity increased in September in the NW/SW regions, the government deployed additional security forces to the North-West and South-West regions to improve security and protect civilians. On another note, the government recently resolved to escort heavy-duty trucks transporting cocoa in the South West region. According to the Minister of Trade, the measure is intended to secure these goods, reportedly being smuggled into neighboring Nigeria by separatists. The South West is one of Cameroon's major cocoa production basins.

4. Response by the UN System in Cameroon: The key information is the visit to Cameroon by UNHCR Regional Director for West and Central Africa Abdouraouf Gnon-Konde to advocate for the inclusion of refugees and other forcibly-displaced persons in national and local development plans with the partnership of UN Agencies. During his stay in the country, he visited the Zamay IDP camp and the Minawao refugee camp in Mayo Tsanaga Division of the Far North region.

5. UNFPA Country Office Response: The programme continued to provide lifesaving protection and SRH services in the underserved areas of the humanitarian regions with funding from BHA-USAID and Norway in the FN region and UN CERF in the NW/SW regions, reaching out to a total of 6,584 additional persons through various interventions (sensitization and awareness raising, provision of SRH/GBV services, distribution of DK, safe deliveries etc.).

a. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights:

- 34 humanitarian midwives have been deployed on the fields to provide critical comprehensive SRH services in 05 regions.
- 9,480 contraceptives new users including 5,150 adolescents and youths were reached by a campaign and information-raising sessions to offer family planning services in the FN, North, Adamawa and East regions, as part the 17th World Contraception Day's activities in the period from 23 to 30 September. In the Minawao refugee camp in the Far North region, some 219 women received modern methods of contraception.
- A national consultation for the repositioning of SRHiE was held from 12-16 September with 43 participants, including government officials, humanitarian partners and CSOs, under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health and the support of UNFPA. This was to discuss the challenges and opportunities for improving SRH in humanitarian settings, and to finalize the Minimum Initial Service Package Readiness Assessment (MRA).
- 30,752 persons including young people and adolescents were reached in the communities, schools and social media by a sensitization campaign and training in SRH/FP done by 30 young persons from the YouthFP platform supported by UNFPA.
- 60 baby boxes have been distributed to vulnerable women who have recently given birth at the local health facility of Bana on the sidelines of the 2023 annual retreat held.

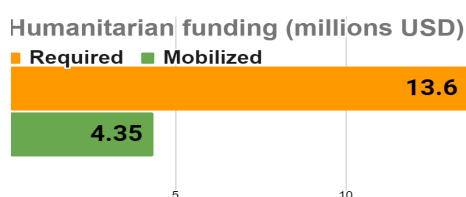
b. GBV Prevention & Response:

- 30 civilians and military personnel from the Ministry of Defence in Yaounde were trained by UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, and that of Justice to care for GBV survivors by applying a multi-sectoral, survivor-centered approach.
- 75 employees of mining companies and traditional rulers in the localities of Betare Oya and Garoua-Boulai, East region, have seen their capacities reinforced from 23-27 September on the sidelines of World Contraception Day, in GBV prevention and response, and the promotion of gender equality.
- UNFPA took part in a high-level panel discussion at G100 Women Leaders Migrant & Refugee Resettlement Wing for the Central African Meeting aiming to identify good practices regarding the integration of SRH & GBV services in IDPs settings.

The people reached by UNFPA from January to September 2023 is as follows:

 273,212 people reached with integrated GBV/SRH	 218,213 People reached with GBV/protection messages	 4,283 people reached with dignity kits distribution
 42 UNFPA-supported Static health facilities to deliver SRH/GBV Services	 225 mobile outreach activities to support SRH and GBV services	 237 post rape kits / reproductive health commodities distributed
 10,003 safe deliveries supported 16 new midwives deployed in humanitarian settings	 238 people trained in various topics (CMR, IPV, MISP, MHPSS, SRH/FP, etc)	 476 men, boys and leaders engaged in activities to support social norms change (access to services by survivors)

6. Resources mobilization



- **Current donors:** BHA-USAID, CERF, EF-406, Norwegian Funds, AfDB
- **Funding gap:** 9.45 Millions USD;
- **Proposals submitted to:** KOICA, JAPAN, HIP 2023 Norway

7. Staffing and Human Resources

→ The recruitment of the new staff for the BHA and Norwegian projects is now ongoing under fast track procedures activation.

8. Challenges

→ The humanitarian crises in Cameroon can be termed the forgotten crises because they are off major donors' radar.

9. Support Needed (RO and HQs)

→ Technical assistance needed from RO/HRD to support the ECHO proposal preparation and CVA implementation.

PHOTO GALLERY



The capacity-building workshop of 30 civilian and military personnel of the Ministry of Defence on GBV was appreciated by the Representative of Defence and UNFPA Resident Representative Dr. Justin Koffi.



Donation of baby boxes to health facilities in Bana, West region. The West region is hosting a significant proportion of refugees from conflict-stricken NW/SW regions. Photo credit: @UNFPACameroon, September 2023



Snapshot of Koza, Mozogo and Djingliya, in Mayo Tsanga Division where the BHA/USAID project is being implemented. Here, an average of 27 to 40 monthly births are recorded. Credit Photo credit: @UNFPACameroon, September 2023



Be it in the Far-North, Adamawa, North or East region where celebrations marking World Contraception Day were held, refugee women queued up to receive modern methods of contraception. Photo credit: @UNFPACameroon, September 2023



Workshop on the repositioning of SRHR in emergency settings Photo credit: @UNFPACameroon, September 2023



The meeting with youth- and women-led organizations in Bana on the sidelines of the annual retreat, highlighted the immensity of the task and the steps required to achieve the 3 Zeros.



Imams, preachers and muslim dignitaries were trained in their role in preventing violent extremism and radicalization. Photo credit: @UNFPACameroon, September 2023



THANK YOU

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