

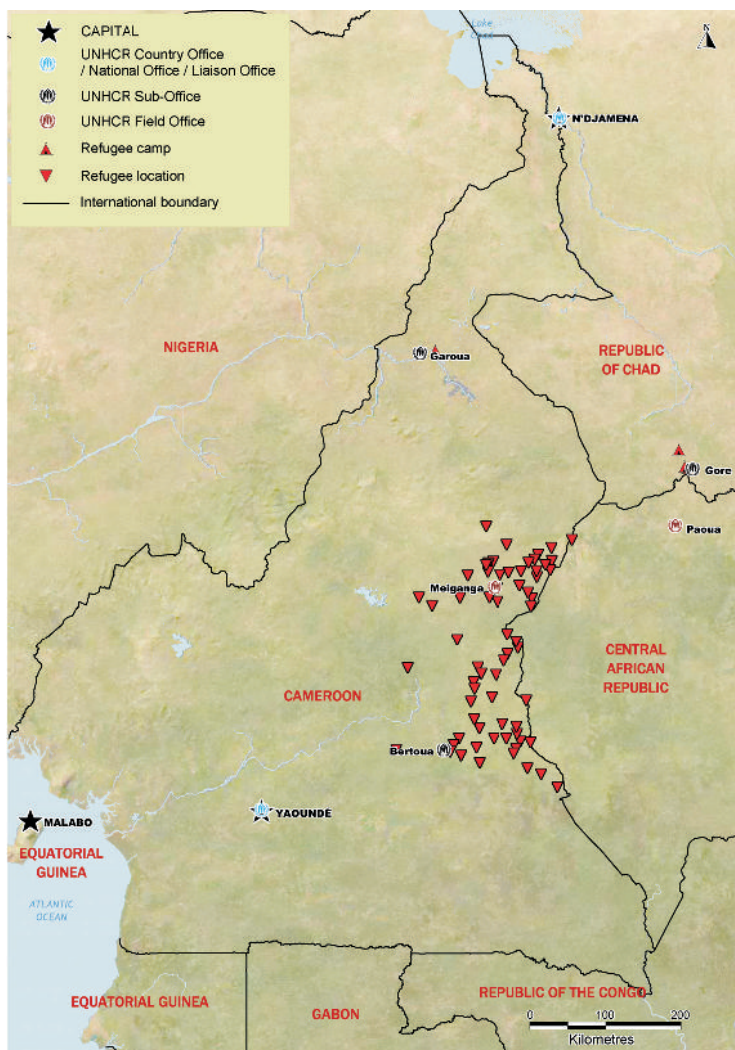
# CAMEROON

## Operational highlights

- UNHCR registered more than 18,250 additional refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2009, bringing the total number of refugees in Cameroon's East and Adamaoua regions to 80,880. All refugees were provided with ration cards.
- The Office conducted seven protection training sessions in Yaoundé, Douala, Garoua and Bertoua that targeted some 300 government officials, including immigration officers, police and security personnel, judges and prosecutors.
- The construction and rehabilitation of classrooms in the East and Adamaoua regions significantly improved primary education for host community and refugee children in these regions. In some areas, the arrival of refugees raised the teacher/pupil ratio from 1:50 to 1:80.
- With the transfer of Chadian refugees from Langui Camp to Taparé-Poli postponed, UNHCR worked to improve the living condition of these refugees

## Working environment

Despite civil unrest arising from protests in 2008 against the soaring costs of essential goods and fuel, and attempts to amend the constitution, Cameroon remained a safe haven for people of concern in the region. However, efforts to boost the economy did not significantly raise the country's growth rate, which hovered at less than 4.5 per cent. High unemployment and food prices offered few economic opportunities and seriously affected the most vulnerable, especially refugees, who faced difficulties finding employment, limiting their prospects for integration.



In the East and Adamaoua regions, the two poorest regions in the country, security along the border with the CAR remained a concern. Although the Government deployed an armed battalion in the area, humanitarian actors required armed escorts. A Field Safety Officer was deployed

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Central African Republic	85,800	85,800	53	60
	Chad	8,300	8,300	45	34
	Nigeria	2,900	-	53	51
	Rwanda	1,400	1,400	49	29
	DRC	700	700	46	39
	Various	800	800	33	23
Asylum-seekers	Central African Rep.	500	500	40	37
	Chad	300	300	33	27
	Guinea	170	170	2	1
	DRC	120	120	28	30
	Rwanda	110	110	44	41
	Various	80	80	7	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>101,180</b>	<b>98,280</b>		

to Adamaoua to assess the worsening security conditions in the region.

## | Achievements and impact |

### ● Main objectives

UNHCR worked to improve the national protection framework by advocating for the creation of a national eligibility commission for refugee status determination (RSD) and the building of national capacity to manage refugee issues. The Office intended to issue tamper-proof identification documents to all refugees and certificates to asylum-seekers.

To meet the basic needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR aimed to ensure access to comprehensive primary health care for refugees in both rural and urban environments; support income-generating activities through micro-loans and quick-impact projects to encourage self-sufficiency; and facilitate access to primary education for all refugee children of school age, and secondary or university education for some youths and adolescents. It also sought to ensure better water and sanitation services and to meet the basic food needs of refugees.

### ● Protection and solutions

Cameroon is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1969 OAU Convention, and the Government adopted a national refugee law in 2005. However, the decree for its enforcement has not yet been signed. In the meantime, registration, RSD and documentation remain the responsibility of UNHCR.

Tamper-proof identification cards and family certificates were issued to all urban and camp-based adult refugees and

to 75 per cent of refugees in settlements, in order to facilitate free movement and reduce harassment by the police. Refugees enjoyed freedom of movement and access to public services in Cameroon.

In 2009, some 62 urban refugees were assisted by UNHCR in returning voluntarily to their countries of origin or nationality. Resettlement remained an important protection tool for refugees in Cameroon; in 2009 a total of 87 cases (some 296 individuals) were submitted or resubmitted and some 92 people departed for accepting countries.

All health centres providing care to refugees from CAR in the East and Adamaoua regions were helped in improving birth registration. Some 190 birth-registration booklets were printed and distributed to the health centres.

### ● Activities and assistance

**Community services:** UNHCR provided social counselling and psychological support to refugee victims of sexual and gender-based violence in urban areas, and implementing partners trained some 61 individuals in preventing and responding to such violence. There were 31 reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence. In Langui camp, 13 cases of domestic violence were also reported, including one case of rape.

In the Adamaoua region, a UNHCR programme to address sexual and gender-based violence provided medical and psychological support to survivors. All women and girls of childbearing age were provided with sanitary materials and soap. In urban areas, vulnerable refugees benefited from monthly subsistence allowances. UNHCR helped to establish six women's associations in urban areas. Some 17 women received training in food-processing and decoration during celebrations to mark the Day of the African Woman.



Young boys and girls recite Koranic verses in the compound of their traditional tribal leader.

UNHCR / F. NOY



**Crop production:** UNHCR provided technical assistance and 44,000 cassava cuttings to help nearly 250 refugee families cultivate four hectares of cassava. Some 2,500 seed kits, 3,700 tools and 50 tons of fertilizer, as well as technical assistance, were provided to some 2,190 vulnerable households for market gardening on 27.2 hectares of land. In Langui camp, 260 refugees, including 70 women, cultivated some 55 metric tons of maize, sorghum, rice and peanut. They were provided with seeds, hand tools, fertilizers and pesticides.

**Domestic needs and household support:** All camp-based refugee households in Langui received NFIs, including 1,290 plastic sheets, 1,070 cooking stoves, 1,550 buckets, 3,325 blankets, 3,200 10-litre jerry cans, 800 washing bowls, 1,065 kettles, 1,020 mosquito nets, 1,060 large sleeping mats, 100 small sleeping mats, 1,080 kitchen sets, 110 plastic rolls and 7 hurricane lanterns.

**Education:** For urban refugees, financial support was granted to 1,600 children aged 5 to 15 years enrolled in national primary schools. In addition, 139 secondary scholarships and 32 higher education scholarships were awarded to refugee students, as were 68 DAFI scholarships. Fourteen scholarships for short-term training courses were also granted.

In Langui, a primary school established in 2008 by UNHCR enrolled more than 95 per cent of school-age refugee children in the camp. Fifty-six students in the camp were provided with financial and material support to attend secondary school. The camp school was provided with 150 benches and its facilities partially refurbished.

In the East and Adamaoua regions, UNHCR constructed 10 blocks of classrooms and gave financial support to parents of 10,130 children. Some 2,500 benches were supplied to various schools hosting refugee children.

**Fisheries:** In Langui camp, 41 fishermen organized in associations were supplied with 15 nets, 700 hooks, 20 plastic basins, lead sinkers and a boat.

**Food:** Refugees in Langui Camp and refugees from CAR settled in the East and Adamaoua regions benefited from monthly WFP rations. In addition to regular rations, supplementary food supplies were given to groups with specific needs in the camp and to the refugees from CAR settled in the East and Adamaoua regions.

**Health and nutrition:** All camp-based refugees in Langui received basic health care and were referred to hospitals outside the camp when necessary. The main health indicators were within acceptable standards. UNHCR signed agreements with 42 integrated health centres and seven district hospitals for the medical care and referral of refugees from CAR. However, finding a standard approach to the delivery of health services to CAR refugees remained a challenge.

Forty-two supplementary and seven therapeutic feeding centres were supported by UNHCR and WFP. Seven health centres were rehabilitated. Urban refugees in Yaoundé received full primary health care. All persons living with HIV and AIDS received regular monthly subsistence allowances and supplementary food items.

**Income generation:** Small-business grants were given to 13 urban refugees (35 per cent women) to help them become self-reliant. Sixty-four quick-impact projects helped the neediest families. In addition, 50 refugees were trained to run small businesses. This scheme was not effective as many refugees did not implement their projects and the rate of repayment was less than 2 per cent. In Langui camp, 28 refugees (50 per cent women) benefited from microcredit.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR regularly updated the registration of refugees and provided them with legal assistance. The registration of some 14,700 new refugees was carried out in October 2009 in the East and Adamaoua regions. Training in protection and related legal issues was organized for government and immigration officials, police and security officers, judges and prosecutors. In Yaoundé, more than 2,900 asylum-seekers were registered, 3,830 RSD applications adjudicated and some 1,760 individuals granted refugee status. The average length of time between registration and an RSD interview decreased from three to two months.

**Livestock:** In the Adamaoua and East regions, technical assistance was provided and 50 tons of feed were distributed to 1,000 households of refugees and host families who owned poultry.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR covered the operational, management and staffing costs of all its implementing partners. Vehicles and other assets were made available. Partners received training on key policy and operational issues. In February 2009, the Office conducted two workshops on project implementation in Yaoundé and Garoua. An independent audit verified the financial statements and internal control mechanisms of these implementing partners.

**Sanitation:** Following sensitization meetings held with refugee committees, most latrines, showers and pits within the camps were kept clean. Some 78 latrines were constructed and 65 rehabilitated. The latrine-to-user ratio is currently 1:23. Some 125 showers were built in the camps and 19 garbage pits dug. Two wells equipped with hand pumps were built. This partially improved sanitary conditions for the refugees, although the gaps were still considerable.

In the East and Adamaoua regions, 40 ventilated pit latrines were built in several schools that accommodate refugee children. Some 390 hygiene kits were provided to 50 schools and more than 200 families. More than 240 sensitization sessions on hygiene and sanitation were held for a total of 3,900 persons.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** In Langui camp, 680 traditional mud-brick and pan-roofed shelters were built and allocated to refugee families to improve their living conditions. For those unwilling to occupy mud-brick houses, 190 plastic huts were provided and 85 tents repaired.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR organized the delivery of food to camp and refugee settlements during food distribution.

**Water:** In Langui camp, an average of 21 litres of water per person per day was provided to refugees. In the East and Adamaoua regions, where 80,080 CAR refugees were settled, 28 wells and 18 boreholes were built and equipped with hand pumps; 22 non-functional wells and boreholes were repaired; and 35 hand pumps replaced. Seventy-one water management committees were set up and trained. Nonetheless, water supply in the area remained below standards.

## Organization and implementation

In 2009, UNHCR had a country office in Yaoundé, two field offices in Bertoua and Garoua and a satellite office in Douala. The Office employed 53 staff members, including 32 nationals, 6 international staff and 15 UNVs.

Working with others: UNHCR worked closely with government departments and international and national partners. The Office also enjoyed the support of many UN agencies and local communities.

## Financial information

Cameroon was one of eight countries selected in 2008 for the pilot global needs assessment process. The assessment identified gaps in the provision of water, NFIs and education. UNHCR developed six projects responding to these needs, costing more than USD 5 million. An additional USD 1.2 million was made available for two of these projects, allowing UNHCR to increase provision of water, malaria nets and

NFIs to refugees, as well as build and improve additional classrooms in twenty schools in remote areas for refugee children. Exchange-rate fluctuations led to some budget reductions despite increasing needs. Implementation stood at 99 per cent.

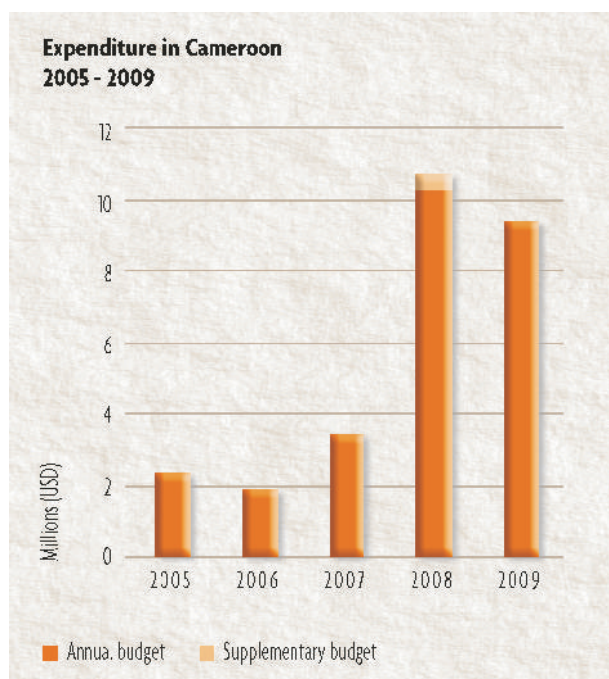
### Constraints

The lack of enforcement of the national refugee law, difficult socio-economic conditions, limited options for self-reliance and a significant increase in the cost of living posed challenges for UNHCR in Cameroon.

CAR refugees remained scattered in more than 70 settlements along the border in the Adamaoua and East regions. Their mobility and dispersion in insecure territory, in addition to bad road conditions, hindered humanitarian access to the area and considerably increased operational costs. Refugees faced difficulties accessing formal employment, which made it difficult for them to become self-reliant and fully integrated. The limited number of implementing partners constrained UNHCR's activities.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR's operation in Cameroon has been expanding since 2007, mainly due to the increasing number of CAR refugees in the Adamaoua and East regions. Despite many obstacles such as security problems and limitations among implementing partners, UNHCR met most of its programme objectives through strong partnerships with the Government and other actors. However, the Office needs to increase its implementing capacity. Efforts are underway to involve development actors in key programmes in order to strengthen the integrated approach in addressing the needs of refugees.



Partners
<b>Implementing partners</b> <p><b>Government:</b> Ministries of External Relations, Territorial Administration, Public Health, Basic Education, and Women's Empowerment and the Family</p> <p><b>NGOs:</b> The Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), the Association for the Fight against Violence on Women (ALVF) (for assistance of urban refugees and asylum-seekers), IFRC, ActionAid (for the assistance of Chadian refugees in the Langui Camp, <i>Première Urgence</i>, Plan International Cameroon (for the assistance of Central African refugees in the East and Adamaoua regions)</p>
<b>Operational partners</b> <p><b>NGOs:</b> <i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i>, International Medical Corps and International Relief and Development</p> <p><b>Others:</b> WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA</p>

### Budget, income and expenditure in Cameroon (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	11,673,990	932,872	8,577,930	9,510,802	9,398,460
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,683,990</b>	<b>932,872</b>	<b>8,587,930</b>	<b>9,520,802</b>	<b>9,408,460</b>

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

### Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Cameroon (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,516,184	0	1,516,184	0
Community services	161,670	0	161,670	126,922
Crop production	118,918	0	118,918	135,317
Domestic needs and household support	276,477	0	276,477	22,662
Education	273,963	0	273,963	158,981
Food	19,111	0	19,111	0
Health and nutrition	621,247	0	621,247	449,213
Income generation	28,142	0	28,142	34,773
Legal assistance	440,809	0	440,809	0
Livestock animal husbandry	0	0	0	148,434
Operational support (to agencies)	604,895	0	604,895	598,809
Sanitation	81,838	0	81,838	55,361
Shelter and infrastructure	253,110	0	253,110	20,955
Transport and logistics	461,480	0	461,480	254,032
Water	131,444	0	131,444	394,703
Instalments to implementing partners	3,182,145	10,000	3,192,145	(2,400,162)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>8,171,434</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>8,181,434</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,227,026	0	1,227,026	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>9,398,460</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>9,408,460</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

(3,883)

#### Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	4,635,604	10,000	4,645,604	
Reporting received	(1,453,459)	0	(1,453,459)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>3,182,145</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>3,192,145</b>	

#### Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:				
Outstanding 1st January				2,435,896
Reporting received				(2,400,162)
Refunded to UNHCR				(918)
Currency adjustment				0
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>				<b>34,817</b>