

Cameroon – Complex Emergencies

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

27.2 MILLION	4.4 MILLION	1 MILLION	2.6 MILLION	452,420
Estimated Population of Cameroon	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	Estimated Number of IDPs in Cameroon	Estimated Number of People in Need of Food Assistance	Estimated Number of Refugees in Cameroon
<i>UN – July 2021</i>	<i>UN – March 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – August 2021</i>	<i>CH – May 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – August 2021</i>

- Armed conflict and attacks on civilians have displaced more than 1 million people in Cameroon’s Far North, Northwest, and Southwest regions. Separately, insecurity in neighboring countries has also displaced more than 450,000 refugees into Cameroon.
- Protracted conflict, poor harvests, and the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related movement restrictions continue to limit access to food, leaving more than 2.6 million people in need of emergency food assistance between January and May.
- USG implementing partners have scaled up emergency food assistance with nearly \$25 million in dedicated funding for conflict-affected individuals experiencing acute food insecurity.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Cameroon Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$45,858,339
	State/PRM ²	\$36,281,300
Total		\$82,139,639

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Armed Attacks and Climatic Shocks Drive Displacement in Far North

Security conditions in Far North Region continue to deteriorate due to escalating organized armed group (OAG) activity in the Lake Chad Basin, including abductions of civilians for ransom, frequent raids using improvised explosive devices, and the looting of villages and camps hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to the UN. Ongoing insecurity due to armed group activity—compounded by increasingly frequent climatic shocks, such as flooding—has contributed to widespread displacement, deteriorating food insecurity conditions, poverty, and structural underdevelopment throughout the region. More than 340,000 IDPs and nearly 119,000 Nigerian refugees were sheltering in Far North by late August, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Most recently, OAG attacks targeting civilians and security forces in Far North’s Logone-et-Chari Department on August 14 displaced approximately 1,400 civilians to nearby towns, the UN reports. OAG attacks have become considerably more frequent since July 2020, with areas of Far North bordering northwestern Nigeria most affected. While OAG elements continue to carry out attacks against Government of the Republic of Cameroon (GoRC) security forces, they more frequently target civilian populations, especially during the June-to-October rainy season when heavy rainfall and flooding limit security forces’ access to rural areas. Many IDPs in the Far North continue to shelter in makeshift settlements and are in need of emergency food and nutrition, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.

Northwest–Southwest Crisis Displaces More Than 711,000 People

Ongoing conflict between non-state armed group (NSAG) actors and government security forces in Northwest and Southwest regions has generated widespread displacement and disrupted livelihoods among vulnerable populations, exacerbating humanitarian needs. Conflict-related violence had internally displaced more than 711,000 people in Northwest and Southwest as of late August, with an additional 67,500 individuals fleeing to neighboring Nigeria, according to UNHCR. NSAG attacks on government forces have also destroyed public infrastructure and caused civilian deaths, including a September 13 attack that resulted in seven civilian deaths in Northwest, international media report. Widespread conflict-related displacement has resulted in acute food insecurity and significant protection risks in these regions, which were once Cameroon’s most prosperous. In particular, displaced women and children—who constitute more than 50 percent of Cameroon’s total IDP population—are at a heightened risk of forced marriage, gender-based violence (GBV), and human trafficking, according to the UN. Ongoing violence in Northwest and Southwest has also disrupted school attendance in conflict-affected areas, posing additional protection risks to school-aged children, international media report.

Conflict in CAR Drives Cross-Border Displacement Into Cameroon

Armed conflict and political instability in the Central African Republic (CAR) have driven large-scale displacement from conflict-affected areas of western CAR into eastern Cameroon’s Adamaoua, East, and North regions, with more than 331,000 refugees from CAR sheltering in Cameroon as of August 2021, according to UNHCR. Throughout 2020 and 2021, armed groups operating in western CAR escalated attacks against CAR security forces, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), and local populations, generating an increase in movements of vulnerable populations across the porous CAR–Cameroon border. Humanitarian actors recorded more than 13,000 new refugee arrivals—more than half of whom are children—in eastern Cameroon between December 2020 and August 2021, with approximately 2,500 new arrivals from CAR recorded during August alone, UNHCR reports. Humanitarian needs continue to increase in eastern Cameroon due to limited

livelihood opportunities in refugee-hosting communities, instability in CAR undermining repatriation efforts, and limited funding to respond to the crisis due to growing needs in other areas of the country.

2.6 Million People Required Emergency Food Assistance in Early 2021

CH Phase Classifications June – August 2021	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	220,601 people in Emergency
Phase 3	1,700,201 people in Crisis
Phase 2	4,517,348 people in Stress
Phase 1	19,493,119 people Minimally Food Insecure

Protracted conflict, limited livelihood opportunities, vulnerability to climatic shocks, and the socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related movement restrictions have exacerbated food insecurity across Cameroon’s crisis-affected regions, according to a May 2021 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis. As a result, more than 2.6 million people in Cameroon likely experienced Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and required emergency food assistance to meet their basic needs between January and May.³ The number of people in need of emergency food assistance in Cameroon is projected to have declined to more than 1.9 million between June and August; however, this number is expected to rise significantly in the coming months as rising food prices and below-average harvests limit food access across much of the country, according to CH.

Active conflict and fear of violence have disrupted agriculture and livelihoods in Northwest and Southwest, leaving nearly 1.2 million people in these regions in need of emergency food assistance between January and May, according to CH. Below-average local food production during the 2021 harvest season, combined with supply chain disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, have limited

supplies of staple foods and resulted in increased food prices in most major markets in Northwest and Southwest, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. While CH reports that the number of people experiencing Crisis or worse outcomes in the two regions declined to less than 955,000 between June and August, acute food insecurity in Northwest and Southwest is expected to deteriorate between October 2021 and January 2022, when most agricultural households will likely exhaust their reserved food stores and face limited purchasing power in local markets.

Below-average food production has also increased staple food prices in Far North, where insecurity related to OAG attacks has similarly disrupted agriculture and livelihood activities. As a result, households in Far North’s Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone-et-Chari departments—where OAG activity is primarily concentrated—have reported employing emergency coping strategies such as borrowing money, limiting the size and frequency of meals, and selling household items for food, according to FEWS NET. More than 380,000 individuals in Far North—more than 8 percent of the region’s total population—required emergency food assistance between June and August, according to CH. Although staple food prices in Far North are expected to stabilize as food becomes more widely available during the main harvesting season between September 2021 and January 2022, poor households in the most conflict-affected areas of the region are expected to continue experiencing Crisis levels of acute food insecurity throughout the harvest season. Furthermore, agro-pastoral households in Far North remain vulnerable to increasingly frequent climatic shocks, such as severe flooding in October 2020 which displaced thousands of residents, destroyed homes, and inundated farms and roads in Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Danay departments, according to the UN.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5) for acute food insecurity. The Cadre Harmonisé (CH), a framework to analyze acute food insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel, uses a separate but similar scale ranging from Minimal (Phase 1) to Famine (Phase 5).

KEY FIGURES



\$34 Million

In dedicated USG support for life-saving food assistance



\$2.4 Million

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health and nutrition programming



143,000

Estimated number of people supported by USG-funded protection programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Cameroon, USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and six non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced rice, sorghum, and vegetable oil, as well as cash transfers and food vouchers redeemable for food baskets in local markets—to populations in need. With approximately \$34 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA-supported food assistance has reached vulnerable populations—including IDPs, refugees, and host community members—in food-insecure regions across Cameroon. With USAID/BHA support, WFP reached more than 418,000 people in Cameroon with 3,300 metric tons (MT) of life-saving food assistance during July, including nearly 132,000 people in Northwest and Southwest, and approximately 105,000 people in Far North. UN and NGO partners also provide supplementary nutrition assistance to conflict-affected populations in Cameroon, especially pregnant and lactating women and children ages five years and younger.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

With more than \$2.4 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supports three NGO partners to provide life-saving health care and nutrition activities to conflict-affected people in Cameroon. USAID/BHA supports International Medical Corps (IMC) to improve availability, access, and utilization of primary health care services—including postnatal care, treatment for common childhood illnesses, mental health, and provision of essential medicines—for more than 26,000 people in Northwest's Momo Department.

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and three NGO partners to provide protection services to vulnerable populations, including women and girls, fleeing armed conflict in Cameroon. USAID/BHA implementing partners in Far North work with nearly 27,000 IDPs and host community members to facilitate GBV risk mitigation activities, conduct protection rapid assessments, provide crisis case management and clinical referrals, and raise community awareness of GBV and other protection-related issues. In addition, State/PRM partner UNHCR has supported more than 116,000 individuals in Far North, Northwest, and Southwest with GBV awareness-raising activities since January. Furthermore, State/PRM partners IMC is providing protection and psychosocial support services to refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria sheltering in Cameroon.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports several NGO partners in implementing critical shelter and settlements programs. For example, one USAID/BHA partner is providing electronic vouchers for relief commodities, allowing households

to overcome elevated market prices to restore essential household items following shocks. Another USAID/BHA partner is providing shelter and household items to IDPs in Northwest and Southwest, reaching more than 37,000 people with shelter assistance during 2021.



141,000

Estimated number of people reached with USAID/BHA-funded WASH programming

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Cameroon to prevent communicable disease outbreaks and acute malnutrition in children and mothers. USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH activities that assist IDPs, as well as refugees originating from CAR and Nigeria. For example, State/PRM partner UNHCR and an implementing partner conducted an evaluation to assess the impact of awareness campaigns on environmental hygiene, malaria, and COVID-19 prevention in Far North's Minawao refugee camp, finding that nearly 19,000 individuals had adopted improved WASH practices. In addition, through partnership with UNICEF and four NGO partners, USAID/BHA provides critical WASH activities to more than 141,000 vulnerable individuals in Cameroon, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems, and providing safe drinking water. USAID/BHA also supports the construction of raised family latrines in IDP sites to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera in the event of flooding.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Years of armed conflict—characterized by frequent attacks on civilians and widespread protection violations—have triggered a humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, which comprises Cameroon's Far North Region, Chad's Lac Region, Niger's Diffa Region, and northeastern Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. The violence—including deliberate attacks targeting relief workers—has displaced more than 3 million people in this region; hindered agricultural production, livelihoods, and cross-border trade; prevented delivery of humanitarian assistance; and restricted access to basic services among affected populations.
- Since 2016, sustained conflict between separatist armed groups and GoRC security forces in Cameroon's Northwest and Southwest regions has driven widespread displacement, upended livelihoods, disrupted agriculture, and forced school closures, according to the UN. Armed conflict, below-average agricultural production, high food prices, and limited access to public services have resulted in a food security and protection crisis in these regions, which were once Cameroon's most prosperous.
- Violence and instability in neighboring CAR continue to fuel a protracted refugee crisis in Cameroon's Adamaoua, East, and North regions, with an estimated 331,000 refugees and vulnerable host communities living near the CAR border. Humanitarian needs continue to increase in the area, as instability in CAR continues to displace refugees into Cameroon, where they face limited livelihood opportunities and lack access to basic services.
- On February 4, 2021, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Vernelle T. Fitzpatrick reissued a disaster declaration for Cameroon in FY 2021 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the country's three complex emergencies.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAMEROON RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ALIMA	Health, Nutrition	Far North	\$1,000,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements	Northwest	\$2,250,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, Protection	Adamaoua, East, Southwest	\$2,500,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Northwest	\$1,381,500
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Northwest, Southwest	\$399,834
INSO	HCIMA	Northwest, Southwest	\$600,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Agriculture, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Far North	\$2,493,182
Intersos	Agriculture, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Far North	\$1,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$100,000
	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Northwest, Southwest	\$1,468,058
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Far North	\$1,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$700,000
	Food Assistance—13,150 metric tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid ²	Adamaoua, East, Far North, North, Northwest, Southwest	\$18,375,702
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Northwest, Southwest	\$7,000,000
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Adamaoua, East, North	\$4,000,000
	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$90,063
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$45,858,339
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Health, Livelihoods, Multi-Sector Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$11,956,500
Julia V. Taft Refugee Fund Awardee	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$24,800
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,600,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$36,281,300
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CAMEROON RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$82,139,639

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse

space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)