



# CAMEROON AND CHAD EMERGENCY

## UNHCR SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL

JANUARY - JUNE 2022



At Logone Gana in Chad, core relief items are delivered to people of concern on a site that is only accessible by boat | Serge Berthomieu | ©UNHCR

Cover photo: Core relief items are distributed to Cameroonian refugees after they were relocated to Kalambari in Chad | Serge Berthomieu | ©UNHCR

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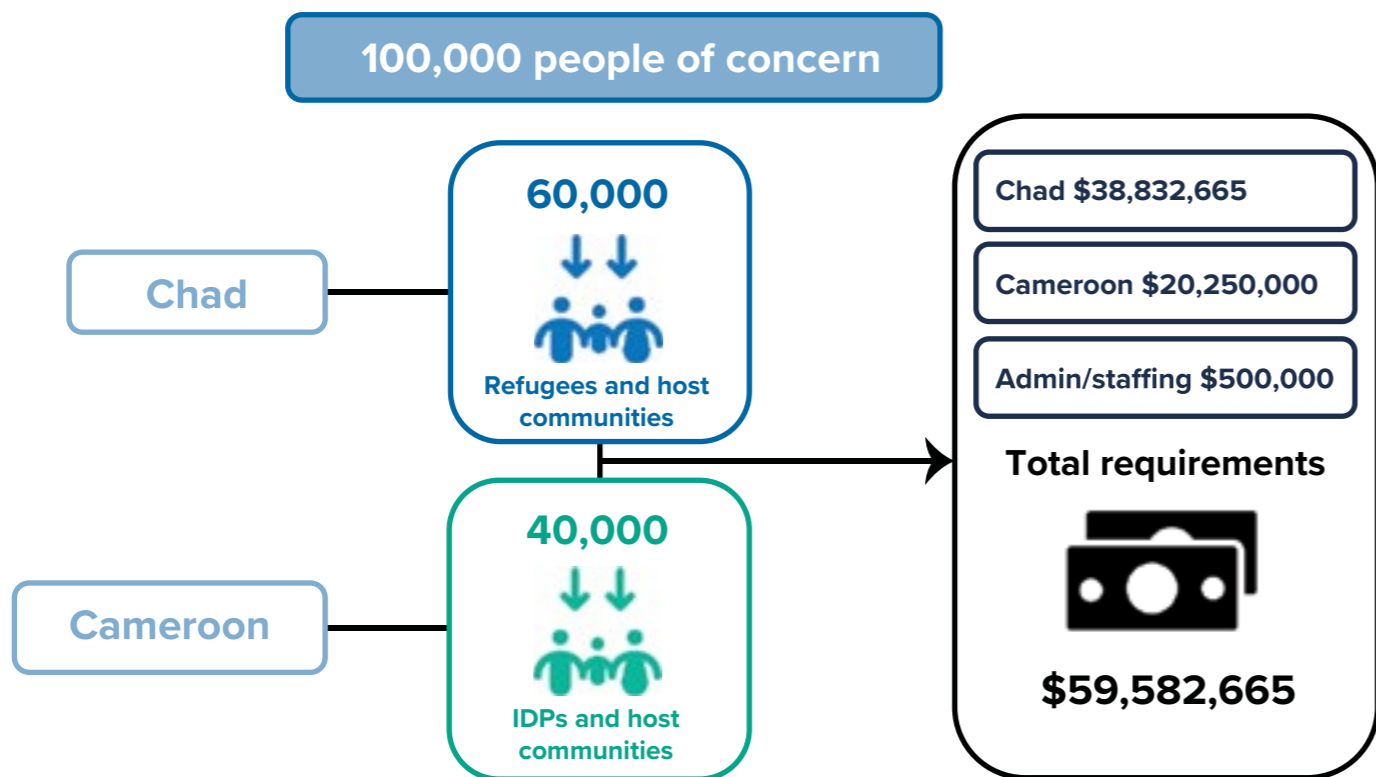
# Overview

On 5 December 2021, clashes over diminishing water resources broke out between herders, farmers and fishermen in Cameroon's Far North region, the second major outbreak of violence within four months. The situation rapidly deteriorated: 112 villages were burned, over 100 people were wounded, and 44 died. This wave of violence forced tens of thousands to flee into neighbouring Chad within two weeks, while around 40,000 people were displaced within Cameroon. This conflict is a result of growing communal tensions around the Lake Chad Basin. Grappling with immense challenges including endemic poverty, weak public services and chronic insecurity caused by protracted armed conflicts, these historically under-served areas face increasing environmental degradation, further fuelling food insecurity and competition over scarce resources.

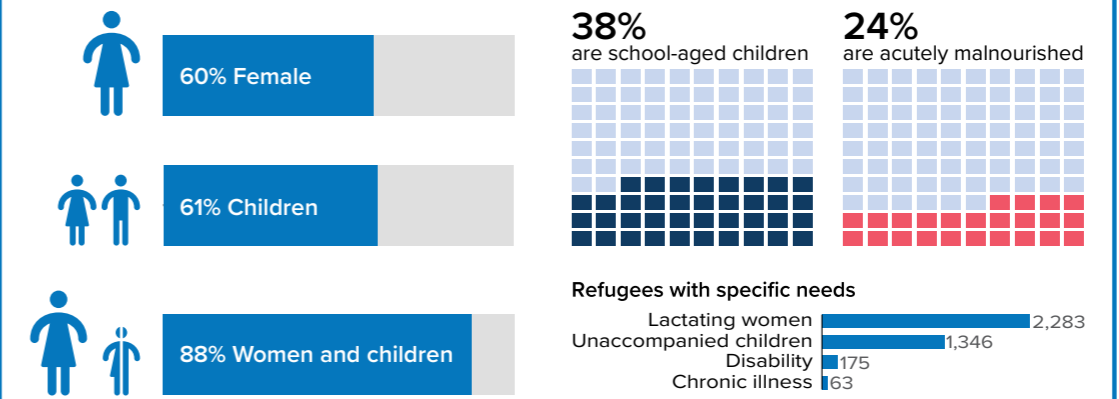
There is an urgent need for targeted assistance and protection of people caught up in this sudden displacement crisis. UNHCR is seeking \$59.6 million for its emergency response and for vital protection and assistance work that it plans to carry out, in concert with the Governments and other partners, between January and June 2022.

This appeal is designed to cover the assistance and protection needs of around 100,000 forcibly displaced Cameroonians and host communities, including 60,000 refugees and host communities in Chad and an estimated 40,000 IDPs and affected members of the host population in Cameroon. The host communities in both countries will benefit from the response, particularly in terms of access to basic public services such as health, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene. With additional resources, UNHCR will be able to expand registration activities and protection services in Cameroon and Chad, to better assess the estimated affected populations and their needs. The appeal anticipates \$38.8 million of needs in Chad and \$20.3 million in Cameroon, and includes \$500,000 to reinforce UNHCR's Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa.

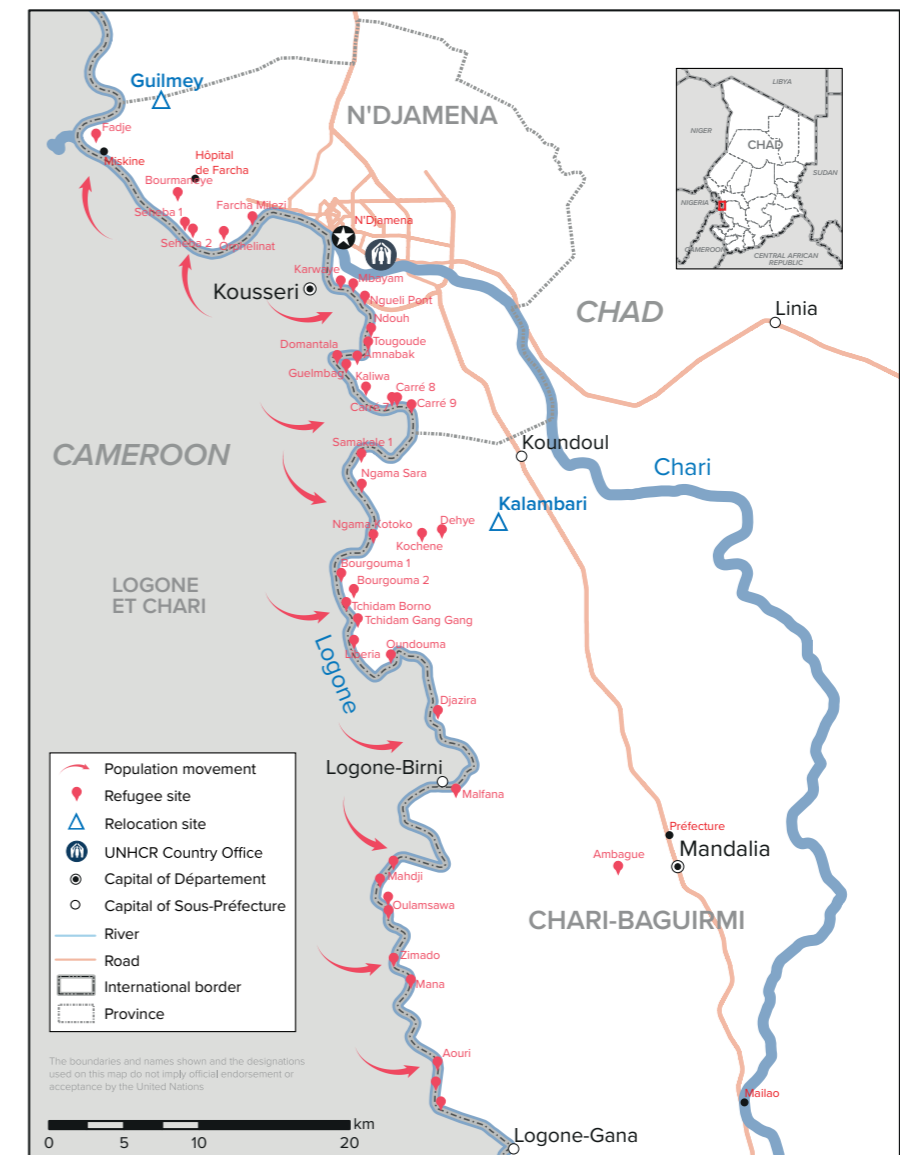
The persisting tensions and the volatility of the situation in the Far North of Cameroon are not conducive for the safe and dignified voluntary return of the populations displaced by the recent crisis. Urgent action is needed to address the root causes of the conflict in order to achieve sustainable peace and solutions.



# Key data on pre-registered refugees in Chad



Source: Population profiling of 36,000 refugees pre-registered in Chad by UNHCR as of 18 January 2022 © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency



Data sources: CNARR, UNHCR CO N'Djamena Author: Filip Hilgert, hilgert@unhcr.org Production date: 12 January 2022

For more information, please visit [Global Focus](#)



Core relief items are loaded onto a plane to be airlifted to Chad | Aristophane Ngargoune | ©UNHCR

## UNHCR's response to date

### Chad

In Chad, UNHCR and its partners focused their initial response on life-saving assistance, protection delivery and identification of persons with specific needs. A particular priority, with more than 20,000 children already counted among the affected population, was the identification of children at risk.

A total of 39 informal refugee sites were identified. Pre-registration of refugees has been completed in 31 sites and is ongoing in the remaining eight. As of 18 January 2022, a total of 36,000 refugees were pre-registered by UNHCR and the Chadian authorities (including 8,600 refugees remaining from the August 2021 influx), 61% of them children and 60% female. In all, women and children accounted for 88.2% of the refugees. UNHCR assessed that 20.2% of the refugees have specific needs.

Life-saving activities included the provision of health care and the distribution of 203,000 hot meals, before WFP took over responsibility for food distribution. To meet basic needs and to provide shelter, UNHCR procured supplies locally and, due to extremely limited stocks in Chad, internationally.

When refugees began to gather in informal sites, UNHCR immediately started supporting Chadian authorities in the search for suitable relocation

sites and exploring the possibility of out-of-camp interventions in some spontaneous sites that could be developed, using an area-based approach that would support refugees and lessen the impact on host populations.

Two newly developed sites with a combined capacity to host 12,000 refugees were set up at Guilmei and Kalambari in Chad. Both were equipped with one health post, boreholes and latrines. Since 5 January 2022, over 4,000 refugees have been relocated to these two sites. UNHCR has built 1,075 emergency shelters and distributed 1,886 blankets, 657 kitchen sets, 782 jerrycans, 799 buckets, 1,124 mats, 221 mosquito nets and 1,886 bars of soap (180gr) to relocated refugee families. In addition, 64 dignity kits and 66 baby kits were given to pregnant women and lactating women respectively.

The search for at least one additional suitable site is ongoing. In the border villages, where refugees still live among host populations, UNHCR and its partners are continuing to carry out protection interventions, operate mobile health clinics, and provide assistance including core relief items (CRIs) and food.

## Cameroon

In Cameroon, UNHCR is coordinating the Protection, Shelter/CRI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters in partnership with other stakeholders. Around 27,000 IDPs are in the Cameroonian department of Logone-et-Chari, the epicentre of the crisis, while over 9,000 are hosted in the Diamare department. As most IDP sites are informal and located in remote areas, access constraints mean that UNHCR's response has been more limited than in Chad.

In Logone-et-Chari, UNHCR and its partners initiated their response in IDP sites but the communal tensions persisting since the beginning of the crisis hindered humanitarian access and the provision of assistance in this department.

The reinforcement of the Cameroonian police and military response in the area has improved the security situation which should allow for more effective assistance in the coming weeks.

In the Diamare department, over 2,500 IDPs are hosted in the Domayo site which was made available by the Government near the city of Maroua. The site is managed under the leadership of UNHCR, which set up coordination mechanisms, conducted protection screening and initiated the community self-management process. UNHCR also built 35 emergency community shelters with a capacity of 1,050 individuals while some 180 family shelters were built by IOM. The IDPs hosted in Domayo site also benefited from food distribution by WFP, and CRIs by IOM, Plan International and other organizations. Solar lamps and tablets were given to children to help them pursue their education while displaced. Assistance is also provided by UNHCR and its partners to IDPs living in spontaneous sites outside across the Diamare department, but the needs remain high.

## Coordination and partnerships

In Cameroon, the Rapid Response Mechanism was already activated under OCHA's coordination after a previous bout of violence between the communities of herdsman and fishermen in the Far North region in August 2021.

UNHCR is leading the Shelter/CRI, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management and the Protection clusters. Weekly coordinating meetings are taking place in Maroua and very soon in Kousseri.

In Chad, UNHCR leads and coordinates the refugee response in line with the Refugee Coordination Model. To do so, UNHCR has designated an

Emergency Coordinator and established a task force leading the coordination efforts. A daily operational coordination meeting launched on 9 December 2021 is now taking place every two weeks and bringing together UN agencies, NGOs and governmental actors involved in the first response. The number of partners increased rapidly from the start of the crisis, reaching around 40 by 15 December 2021.

In both countries, collaboration with the Government and partnerships have been key in UNHCR's ability to respond quickly to this complex emergency in difficult settings.

## Key Challenges

In the Far North region of Cameroon, inter-communal tensions are still high despite the relative calm. UNHCR is operating in a volatile security environment with limited humanitarian access, particularly in the area of Kousseri. Moreover, the IDP sites are scattered and makeshift. Only one site is organized, at the Domayo sports complex. However, with over 2,200 IDPs it is overcrowded and holding more than double its capacity of 1,000 people. A new site is required to decongest Domayo and prevent health and protection risks associated with overcrowding, particularly the risk of gender-based violence.

Communal tensions are also palpable among the Cameroonian refugees who fled to Chad and are scattered across 39 locations, several of which are difficult to access. Registration is crucial in order to understand the extent of the refugees' needs. Additional sites are needed to increase the accommodation capacity beyond the 12,000 places offered by the Guilmei and Kalambari sites. In the meantime, UNHCR is continuing to provide assistance in refugee locations that are accessible, while identifying new sites.



Core relief items are distributed to Cameroonian refugees after they were relocated to Kalambari in Chad | Serge Berthomieu | ©UNHCR

## Urgent Needs

UNHCR's operational response for refugees and IDPs will initially target emergency assistance and protection, prioritizing gender-based violence prevention and response, the provision of shelter and CRIs, and site developments. Construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure, including communal and family latrines and showers and boreholes, is also crucial. Health and nutrition needs are also high among the affected population.

Registration and documentation are urgently needed. According to community leaders in Cameroon, most of the families who were forced to flee lost their identity documents, birth certificates and other civil status documents when their houses were burned down during the conflict.

Considering the very high proportion of children in both the refugee population in Chad and IDPs in Cameroon, child protection and stronger steps

to identify children at risk are urgent. This will be supported by community protection mechanisms, strengthened family tracing and the construction of child-friendly spaces. Education, an important protection tool, will be paramount. In Chad, the pre-registered refugees include over 9,400 children of primary school age and 4,300 of secondary school age. Resumption of classes is essential for their educational progression and their emotional stability. Without a quick return to school, they will face significant protection risks such as exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence.

UNHCR and its partners need greater capacity to carry out protection monitoring. The volatile situation, with people of concern scattered across many hard-to-reach locations, or hard to access due to security considerations, means that mobile teams are required.

## Strategic priorities and planned activities

In Cameroon's Far North region and in Chad, the needs in shelter and core relief items such as blankets, mats and mosquito nets are vast. Meeting shelter needs and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene standards will be a central part of UNHCR's emergency response, systematically informed by protection considerations.

Considering the high numbers of women, children and persons with specific needs, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, and education will be central to UNHCR's protection activities. Given the level of violence that triggered the displacement, protection will also encompass psychosocial support services and activities to promote social cohesion.

UNHCR will scale up its protection activities and border monitoring. This will help to safeguard access to territory and to identify individual and community protection risks and vulnerabilities for appropriate responses. In line with its community-based approach, UNHCR will strengthen community structures and build capacities within refugee, IDP and host populations to empower them and include them in the programming and delivery of the humanitarian response. In both Cameroon and Chad, these activities will be carried out both in planned sites and via the out-of-camp approach.

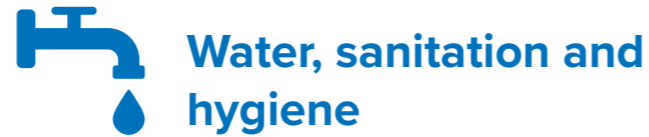


Aerial view of the IDP site hosting more than 2,500 people who fled inter-community violence in recent months in Logone Birni, Cameroon | Xavier Bourgois | ©UNHCR

## UNHCR's protection-sensitive emergency response for refugees and IDPs



Considering the high proportion of children in both the refugee population in Chad and IDPs in Cameroon, there will be a focus on providing appropriate responses to issues related to child protection and on better coordination mechanisms. Activities will include identification of children at risk, particularly unaccompanied children and separated children; activation of community protection mechanisms for better identification and awareness; strengthening of family tracing and reunification processes; and the establishment of recreational activities and construction of child-friendly spaces.



Activities will focus on construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure to improve the supply of clean water and promote hygiene. This will include solarized boreholes, communal and family latrines and showers, and raising awareness among households on good hygiene practices. As access to water resources is one of the root causes of the crisis, the targeted beneficiaries will include IDPs and return areas.



Considering the magnitude of the crisis and the level of poverty among the IDPs and refugees, 10% of IDPs and 20% of refugees are estimated to be persons with specific needs. Targeted support for this group will include cash assistance.



With many of the forcibly displaced homeless or living in dire conditions, the provision of shelter, CRIs and site developments are critical to the physical protection of the refugees and IDPs, who are mainly women and children.



Activities will include direct care and support for survivors – clinical care for survivors, clinical management of rape, and psychosocial support



In Chad, the education response will alleviate the psychological impact of conflict and forced displacement on child refugees. It will give



In both countries the protection response will include UNHCR and partners' mobile teams carrying out protection monitoring in urban and rural areas. In Chad, border monitoring will be key to ensuring access to territory and asylum. In Cameroon, protection monitoring will be crucial to the accurate profiling of the IDP population, in order to assess their needs and plan for solutions.



Protection monitoring will be strengthened in the border and hosting areas and used in a strategic manner to better identify persons with specific needs, target assistance, and inform the programming of the multisectoral response.

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