

CONTEXT

- Conflict, organized armed group activity, recurrent climatic shocks, and resulting internal and regional displacement continue to generate humanitarian needs in Cameroon. As a result, an estimated 4.7 million people countrywide will require humanitarian assistance in 2023, the UN reports. Moreover, despite improved food security outcomes in some areas of the country following the September harvest, households in Cameroon’s Northwest and Southwest regions will likely continue to face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity between October 2023 and January 2024 due to the compounding effects of persisting conflict and insecurity on agricultural activities and trade, according to a September Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis.¹
- Nearly 646,000 Cameroonians remained internally displaced in Northwest and Southwest as of September 2023 as conflict between non-state armed groups and government security forces persisted, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The conflict—which began in 2016—has resulted in human rights violations against civilian populations, the destruction of property, and the disruption of livelihood activities. Fighting has also hindered humanitarian assistance activities with reports of abductions of humanitarian actors and repeated lockdowns, the UN reports. An additional 428,000 people remained displaced in the Far North Region as of September 2023, where attacks by the Islamic State West African Province against the Cameroonian military and violence against civilians continue to drive both new and protracted population displacement and limit humanitarian access in the region’s Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions. Several armed incursions during April and May 2023 displaced thousands of people in Mayo-Tsanaga’s Mayo-Moskota and Mokolo sub-divisions, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports.
- Conflict and insecurity continue to disrupt livelihood activities, markets, and trade across Cameroon’s Northwest, Southwest, and Far North regions, resulting in reduced access to food and income and heightened staple food prices, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). In the Northwest and Southwest regions, sporadic clashes between government forces and non-state armed groups continue to impede households’ access to income-earning activities and inflate production and trade costs. The price of maize remained elevated during September despite the seasonal harvest; specifically, maize prices increased by an estimated 14 percent in areas of Northwest and 35 percent in Southwest, FEWS NET reports.
- As of September 2023, nearly 477,000 refugees—sheltering mostly in the Adamaoua, East, and North regions—remained displaced by armed conflict, intercommunal violence, the effects of climate change, and political instability



¹ 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, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC Phase 5 is referred to as “Catastrophe” when classifying a household and “Famine” when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

in neighboring Central African Republic (CAR), according to UNHCR. Many of these refugees are unable to return to CAR, primarily due to fears of ongoing violence, and currently live in poorly protected and crowded conditions without access to basic services or adequate livelihood opportunities. The influx of CAR refugees has strained host communities' response capacity as resources for relief efforts and government-led social services remain limited amid growing needs in other areas of Cameroon.

ASSISTANCE

- With nearly \$26 million in FY 2023 funding, USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide life-saving emergency food and nutrition assistance to more than 563,000 people including internally displaced persons, refugees, and host communities in the Adamaoua, East, Far North, North, Northwest, and Southwest regions.
- In the Northwest, USAID/BHA awarded International Medical Corps with \$2 million to conduct health and nutrition activities for nearly 66,000 people during FY 2023. Furthermore, in the Far North and Moloko regions, USAID/BHA provided \$1.4 million to Alliance for International Medical Action to deliver health and nutrition services to nearly 200,000 people.
- USAID/BHA also provided \$1.6 million in FY 2023 funding to the Norwegian Refugee Council to provide agriculture, cash, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance to nearly 34,000 conflict-affected people in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.
- USAID/BHA awarded Catholic Relief Services \$2.5 million to deliver agriculture, food, and shelter assistance to 10,800 people in Northwest's Boyo, Bui, Mezam, Momo, and Ngo-Ketunjia divisions. Activities include poultry production training and support.

USAID/BHA Funding in the Cameroon ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$65,333,343	–	\$65,333,343
FY 2023	\$43,886,632	–	\$43,886,632

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of October 31, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Includes funding for programs that integrate early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities with emergency response.