

CONTEXT

- Conflict, displacement, epidemics, and recurrent climatic shocks have created complex humanitarian emergencies in three distinct areas of Cameroon: Far North Region; Northwest and Southwest regions; and Adamaoua, East, and North regions. Approximately 4.4 million people in Cameroon will require humanitarian assistance in 2021, including 1.2 million people affected by the Far North crisis, nearly 2.2 million people affected by the crisis in Northwest and Southwest, and approximately 757,000 people affected by the Central African Republic (CAR) crisis, according to the UN. Additionally, more than 1.9 million people face Crisis and greater levels of food insecurity requiring emergency food assistance, according to a March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis.
- In Northwest and Southwest regions, ongoing conflict since 2016 between non-state armed groups and government security forces has internally displaced an estimated 711,000 Cameroonians and prompted 67,000 people to flee to neighboring Nigeria, according to the Office of the UN Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Active conflict, fear of violence, and forced lockdowns have upended livelihoods, disrupted agriculture, and resulted in a food security and protection crisis in these regions, which were once Cameroon's most prosperous. Conflict, limited agricultural production, and high food prices are expected to persist in the coming months, resulting in continued food insecurity and high levels of wasting—the most severe form of malnutrition—according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- In Far North Region, armed group activity, attacks on civilians, and climatic shocks have exacerbated poverty, structural underdevelopment, and chronic food insecurity, culminating in the second largest humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin after Nigeria, according to the UN. As a result, the Far North currently hosts approximately 322,000 internally displaced Cameroonians, more than 118,000 Nigerian refugees, and many other highly vulnerable, conflict-affected households. More than 380,000 people face Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity due to conflict, diminished agricultural production, and increased cost of food staples, according to CH.¹ These conditions have been further compounded by increasingly frequent climatic shocks, including severe flooding in October 2020 which displaced thousands of residents, destroyed homes, and inundated farms and roads in Far North's Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Danay departments.
- Violence and instability in neighboring CAR continue to fuel a protracted refugee crisis in Adamaoua, East, and North regions, with an estimated 328,000 CAR refugees and vulnerable host community members currently living near the CAR border. Humanitarian needs continue to increase in the area, exacerbated by the dearth of livelihood opportunities in refugee-sheltering communities, limited refugee repatriation due to continued sociopolitical instability in CAR, and inadequate funding for relief efforts as needs grow in other areas of Cameroon.



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. The Cadre Harmonisé (CH), a similar tool used only in West Africa, has a similar scale ranging from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

ASSISTANCE

- With approximately \$29 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) has partnered with the UN World Food Program to provide life-saving emergency food assistance to more than 1.3 million people in Northwest, Southwest, Far North, East, Adamaoua, and North regions.

- In Far North Region, USAID/BHA has partnered with health-focused non-governmental organization (NGO) the Alliance for International Medical Action to promote maternal and child health for an estimated 308,000

vulnerable individuals—including approximately 46,000 displaced Cameroonians—by providing staff to health facilities to assist women in childbirth and treat wasting and other diseases in children. In addition, USAID/BHA

partner INTERSOS in Far North Region has distributed seeds and agricultural tools to an estimated 20,000 refugees and displaced persons, delivered relief commodities to nearly 18,000 vulnerable individuals to meet conflict-affected communities’ basic needs, and provided hygiene kits to an estimated 13,000 individuals to reduce the rate of mortality and morbidity associated with the spread of waterborne diseases.

- In Northwest and Southwest regions in FY 2020 and FY 2021, USAID/BHA NGO partner Catholic Relief Services provided more than 45,000 beneficiaries with food vouchers to support households’ access to diverse and nutritious food options; the NGO also provided an estimated 43,000 beneficiaries with shelter and household items to improve living conditions. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the Norwegian Refugee Council aims to provide over 110,000 individuals in these areas with relief commodity kits, improved sanitation conditions, and access to safe drinking water by July 2022.



USAID/BHA provided grain mills to beneficiaries in villages in Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga departments to improve food processing systems.

Photo credit: INTERSOS

USAID/BHA Funding in Cameroon ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$54,389,152	-	\$54,389,152
FY 2021	\$45,482,427	-	\$45,482,427

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 28, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.