

# Cameroon

## *Executive Summary 2006*

As a result of general insecurity and a serious deterioration of the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), especially in the north, more than 25,700<sup>1</sup> Mbororo refugees fled the Central African Republic and settled in the eastern and Adamaoua provinces of Cameroon.

Armed bands engaged in widespread banditry and terror attacks on rural communities in the region and the Mbororo people, who live largely by herding, quickly became the main targets.

Needs assessments showed that refugees were facing rapidly deteriorating living conditions. It also became clear that there was an urgent need for international protection as CAR refugees did not benefit fully from their fundamental right to freedom of movement within the Cameroonian territory, as they could not present identity papers to the police forces.



## *Decision-making*

UNHCR launched an emergency project in late 2006 and, through Cameroon's Resident Coordinator, was allocated a CERF grant under the rapid-response window in December 2006. The funds were used to ensure international protection and life-saving assistance to CAR refugees, especially in the water, health services, shelter, and non-food items sectors.

## *Results*

**Table 1: Results achieved in 2006**

Agency	Funding	Number of Beneficiaries	Activities
UNHCR	\$ 500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially 30,000 Central African refugees in Cameroon<sup>2</sup> based on estimates from assessment missions</li> <li>Following two registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided 100 percent refugee households ration cards</li> <li>Provided 80.75 percent (representing 6,000 individuals) refugees 18 years old and above and</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The number of targeted beneficiaries was initially 30,000 persons, based on estimates from assessment missions. Following two registration exercises conducted by UNHCR in December 2006 and April 2007, the effective number of CAR refugees was established at 25,704 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Adamaoua and East Provinces of Cameroon

		<p>exercises conducted by UNHCR in December 2006 and April 2007, the effective number of CAR refugees was recorded at 25,704 persons</p>	<p>unaccompanied children with ID documents, which significantly improved their freedom of movement. Distributions were ongoing for the rest of the caseload</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Registered 5,281 new refugees, following a verification exercise (more than 25.86 percent of the initial caseload)</li> <li>■ Conducted three training workshops on refugee law for local authorities in provinces where refugees had settled</li> <li>■ Procured and distributed non-food items amongst the refugees</li> <li>■ Completed preliminary evaluations to determine optimal locations for wells, finalized a tender process. Started construction work on ten water points on 10 June 2007</li> </ul>
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### ***Implementation***

Within the framework of its 2007 project of assistance to CAR refugees, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with CARE Canada to implement activities in the health and water sector as well as logistics activities such as distribution of non-food items. For example, CARE Canada benefited from 28 percent, or \$140,000, of the CERF funding.

UNHCR also developed partnership agreements in the health sector and negotiated with local health facilities that refugees have free access to health care. Essential drugs were procured to be positioned in local health facilities.

In the food/nutrition sector, a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) by WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, CARE and Government representatives was conducted in January 2007. It provided a more precise overview of the humanitarian situation, obtained baseline indicators and defined the roles and responsibilities of each agency/entity. Based on the results of the Joint Assessment Mission and recommendations, WFP submitted an Emergency Operations (EMOP) project, which was approved by its headquarters in April 2007 and started distributing full food baskets to refugees in the following four months. The Joint Assessment Mission results also led to an additional nutritional survey by UNICEF, which subsequently launched a supplementary feeding programme.

To strengthen operational support, a partnership agreement was signed with CARE Canada to implement key sectors such as health, water and logistics. UNHCR and CARE teams were recruited and deployed to the field. A UNHCR field office was established and operationalized in Bertoua (East Province).

## ***Lessons Learned***

The launching of the operation in January 2007, in a region where UNHCR had no physical presence or established partnership, implied some pre-implementation requirements which slowed down the rate of implementation. This included the introduction of a new partnership, the establishment of a field office and the deployment of both UNHCR and staff of implementing partners. The very-tight implementation period of the CERF funds (the three-month timeframe was extended to four months in March 2007 for a project that should actually be operational for a whole year) generated a slight unbalance in operational capacity as the CERF grant represented two thirds of the annual budget for this project.

Additionally, a number of constraints identified when the project was developed severely influenced the project:

- Refugees were spread along the border with Central African Republic over a distance of over 50,000 km<sup>3</sup>, which made access to refugees difficult and the provision of humanitarian aid expensive; and
- Security conditions in the implementation area were very unstable, limiting the movements of humanitarian workers.

Despite the fact that UNHCR Cameroon was allocated a CERF grant from the 2006 funds, the implementation period was from January to April 2007. With an insufficient implementing period, it was not possible for UNHCR to measure the indicators appropriately (baseline indicators only date back to end January 2007).

The allocation of the CERF grant enabled UNHCR to significantly strengthen its collaboration with UN agencies and humanitarian INGOs on the implementation of its project in favor of CAR refugees.

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