Operational Context
An estimated 40 percent of Cameroon’s 27.2 million people live below the poverty line, rising up to 52 percent for women. The human development index remains low (0.563 compared to a global average of 0.737 (UNDP, 2020) and Cameroon ranks 141 out of 189 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (UNDP, 2020). The country has been significantly affected by three complex crises: armed conflict between non-state armed groups and state forces escalating in the North West and South West regions; non-State armed groups (NSAGs) insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin resulting in an influx of refugees from Nigeria as well as internal displacements in the Far North Region; and the influx of Central African Republic (CAR) refugees in the East, Adamawa, and North regions. These resulted in over 1 million internally displaced people and more than 449,000 refugees.

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP March 2021) revealed that 4.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Cameroon, with more than 2.4 million estimated to be food insecure between October and December 2021 (Cadre Harmonisé November 2021 figures).

The vulnerabilities have been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Centre for Disease Control, CDC, as of 10 January 2022 there were 109,666 confirmed cases and 1,853 COVID-related deaths reported since the pandemic began. About 43 percent have received at least one dose of the vaccine, with only 34 percent having received two doses.

WFP carries out emergency food assistance and nutrition support in all the three crises, while building the resilience and livelihoods of host populations. WFP has been present in Cameroon since 1978.

Income Level: Lower middle
Severe acute malnutrition: 1.6 percent of children aged 6-59
Population: 27.2 million
2019 Human Development Index: 153 out of 189

In Numbers
3,903 mt of food distributed
USD 566,540 cash transfer value distributed
USD 43.8 million (January 2022 to June 2022) net funding requirements
572,999 people (304,733 women) assisted in November 2021

Operational Updates
North-West/South-West L2 response
- Under its crisis response operations in the North-West and South-West regions, WFP distributed 1,388 mt of food and USD 332,932 cash transfers to 209,787 beneficiaries (56 percent women) as unconditional resource transfer (URT).
- As part of its malnutrition prevention programme, WFP provided 39 mt of specialised nutritious foods (SNFs) to 8,295 children aged 6-59 months and to 4,545 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs).

Lake Chad response
- In the Far North Region, WFP supported 107,591 beneficiaries (54 percent women) with 1,020 mt of food and USD 233,608 cash transfers as URT.
- WFP also provided 46 mt of SNFs to 14,880 children aged 6-59 months as part of its nutrition prevention intervention.
- In November, WFP distributed 328 mt of food to 71,938 school children under its school feeding programme.
- To promote resilience, WFP provided 106 mt of food to 10,000 beneficiaries, 54 percent of whom were women. Assets being created include rehabilitation of irrigation canals, construction of granaries, tree planting, community farms for cereals and vegetables, fishponds, digging of wells and water points for animals, rehabilitation of farm roads.

Central African Republic (CAR) refugees’ response
- Under the CAR crisis response, WFP assisted 93,815 beneficiaries (53 percent women) with 761 mt of food to as URT.
- WFP further assisted 37,127 children aged 6-59 months with 123 mt of SNFs for malnutrition prevention and 363 children for malnutrition treatment.
- To enable refugees to build their resilience through assets creation, WFP provided 92 mt of food to 14,658 beneficiaries, 62 percent of whom are women. Ongoing activities include the construction of five community food storage houses (capacity 8 mt each); construction of a 7.5 metres water channel for fishponds and weeding and ridging of 100 hectares of farm. Eight storage houses, of an average capacity of 9.5 mt, have already been completed.
- Eight WFP-supported farmers’ groups (host population) were legalized into cooperatives.

UNHAS
- UNHAS transported 309 passengers on two routes in December: Bamenda and Maroua/N’Djamena, bringing the total number of passengers transported in 2021 to 4,914. Overall, 14.99 mt of cargo was also transported from January to December 2021.
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Populations affected by disasters, including refugees, IDPs and host populations in the Far North, North, Adamawa, East, North West and South West regions have safe access to adequate and nutritious food during and after crises.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**
- Provide unconditional food assistance with accompanying social and behavioral change communication for vulnerable households affected by disaster.

**Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Children aged 6-59 months and vulnerable women and men in food-insecure prioritized districts have reduced malnutrition rates in line with national standards by 2020.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**
- Implement malnutrition prevention activities including BSF for children aged 6-59 months, treatment of MAM for children aged 24-59 months and food by prescription for malnourished ART patients.
- Train community health workers in malnutrition prevention through multi-sectoral coordination systems and partnerships.
- Enhance capacities in health districts to implement the joint action plan and support SUN.

**Strategic Result 3: Improve small holders’ productivity**

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Food-insecure smallholders, especially women, in prioritized districts of the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions have sustainably increased incomes to enhance their self-reliance and livelihoods and improve their productivity.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance for small-scale farmers and cooperatives – prioritizing women’s representation and leadership – in post-harvest management and value-chain opportunities, in collaboration with IFAD and FAO.

**Strategic Result 5: Capacity strengthening**

**Strategic Outcome 5:** The Government’s work to achieve Zero Hunger is supported by effective partnerships by 2030.

**Focus area:** Root causes

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**Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership**

**Strategic Outcome 6:** The humanitarian community and development partners in Cameroon have access to common services until appropriate and sustainable alternatives are available and reliable all year

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**
- Provide safe and reliable air services for the humanitarian community until alternatives are available.
- Provide supply chain services to humanitarian and development partners, including transport, storage of food and non-food items.

**Challenges**

- The security situation in the North West and South West remained volatile with regular abductions, roadblocks, clashes between non-state armed groups, use of more sophisticated weapons, mass arrests and detention of civilians. In December 2021, there were incidents of looting and diversion of commodities meant for humanitarian interventions, including from WFP cooperating partners. Nonetheless, WFP and its partners endeavoured to reach targeted vulnerable populations, and no incidents were reported at distribution points.
- Meanwhile, the Far North once again experienced another incident of violent intercommunal clashes in December 2021 between the Massa and Mousgouny (mainly farmers and fishermen), and the Arabe-Choa (herders and traders) in the Logone-et-Chari and Mayo Danay Divisions. Between August and December, the conflict had led to displacement of about 36,000 people internally and approximately 35,000 externally (to Chad).
- Additionally, the security situation in the East Region was relatively calm but unpredictable, especially along the border with the Central African Republic where two cases of ambush were reported on the Cameroon side in December 2021. There were no incidents recorded in the refugee communities served.
- Finally, UNHAS experienced challenges linked to the imposition of reduced flight capacity on the Yaounde-Maroua route and the temporary suspension of flights to Bamenda (North West) by the airports authority for security reasons.

**Cadre Harmonisé**

- According to the November 2021 Cadre Harmonisé, 2.4 million persons were food insecure from October to December 2021 (IPC 3 and above), representing 9.2 percent of the population. Of this number, 47.5 percent are found in the North West South West L2 operation. The modelling projection for the period June-August 2022 estimates that the number of food-insecure people will experience a slight drop to 9 percent of the population. Between 2019 and 2021, there has been an increase in the number of food insecure people from 1.4 million to 2.4 million, peaking in 2020 at 2.7 million.
- WFP supports about 1 million persons through food distributions and cash-based transfers, and distributions are at 50 to 70 percent rations due to funding shortfalls.

**Donors**

Donors in 2021 included Canada, China, European Commission, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. Additional support was provided by UN CERF.