Operational Context

An estimated 40 percent of Cameroon’s 27.2 million people live below the poverty line, of which 52 percent are women. According to the Cameroon Humanitarian Response Plan 2022, 3.9 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2022. Cameroon has been significantly affected by three complex crises: armed conflict between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and state forces in the North-West and South-West regions; NSAGs insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin affecting the Far North Region, and the influx of Central African Republic (CAR) refugees in the East, Adamawa, and North regions. These resulted in over 955,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and 485,000 refugees (JNHR, July 2022).

Furthermore, the protracted socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the inflationary effect of the Ukrainian crisis contribute to increases in the cost of living, which prevent vulnerable populations from meeting their basic needs. Consequently, more than 2.4 million people are projected to reach severe or emergency levels of food insecurity between June and August 2022, as compared to 1.9 million in the same period in 2021. The prices of imported processed food have risen to 25-60 percent above pre-pandemic levels. The cost of food increased by 12 percent in June 2022 compared to June 2021 (Trading economics, July 2022).

Consequently, WFP operations in Cameroon focus on crisis response, resilience building and root causes to prevent further deterioration of the food and nutrition situation while building the capacities of national institutions to manage food/nutrition programmes and develop social protection systems.

In Numbers

- 1,548 mt of food distributed
- USD 1,045,140 cash transfer value distributed
- USD 25.9 m (34 percent, September 2022 to February 2023) net funding requirements
- 268,845 people (149,635 women) assisted in July 2022

Operational Updates

North-West/South-West response

- Under its crisis response operations in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions, WFP distributed 533 mt of food and USD 472,329 to 97,692 beneficiaries (58 percent women) as unconditional resource transfer (URT).

- WFP is preparing to carry out physical verification of beneficiaries amongst 2021 targeted beneficiaries to scale up the cash-based transfer beneficiaries in the North-West Region as per the 2nd generation Country Strategic Plan (CSP02) target. The aim is to increase the current caseload by 10,000 beneficiaries to bring the total to 30,000.

Lake Chad response

- Under the URT in the Far North Region, WFP supported 62,891 in-camp refugees with 702 mt of food and 17,409 internally displaced people (IDPs) with USD 211,524 as cash transfers. 54 percent of the beneficiaries were women.

- UNHCR introduced the Global Distribution Tool for biometric verification of beneficiaries in the Minawao Camp which is home to almost 70,000 refugees from Nigeria; This will improve the efficiency of beneficiaries’ identification and subsequently targeting.

Central African Republic (CAR) refugees’ response

- Under the CAR crisis response, WFP provided assistance to 88,197 beneficiaries (54 percent females) with USD 361,287 as cash and value voucher transfers and 294 mt of food as URT.

- WFP also distributed 19 mt of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) to 318 children aged 6-59 months (53 percent female) and to 2,338 PLWGs.

- The number of beneficiaries is less than envisaged because of the voluntary repatriation of CAR refugees.

- Targeting for resilience activities is at the final stages in the Adamawa and East regions. Meanwhile, about 1,000 Food for Asset participants in the East are engaged in the maintenance of former assets, establishment of community fields and rehabilitation of farm tracks in preparation for the official start of resilience activities in the East Region.

- Prospection of schools for scaling up home-grown school feeding in the North Region is in progress in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic Education

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Photo: Upper arm measurement, Meidougou - Adamawa.
Credit: WFP/Richard Atem (2022)
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2022 Total Requirement (in USD)</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>147 m</td>
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**Activities:**

6. Provide UNHAS to the Government, and humanitarian partners.

7. Provide on-demand supply chain, ICT, and coordination services to the Government, humanitarian, and development partners through WFP Service provision.

**UNHAS**

- UNHAS has still not resumed normal operations since mid-June 2022 when the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA) introduced another layer of approvals for UNHAS flights. Discussions are ongoing between the Government, CCAA, and WFP, with the support of the Resident Coordinator’s Office.

- Humanitarian organisations now rely on the state carrier, CAMAIRCO, and road transportation to travel to other regions.

**Food and Nutrition Security in the context of the Ukraine crisis**

- Cameroon experienced an increase in the prices of imported food and non-food items, as well as price surges in staple foods produced locally. However, the fuel prices at the pump have remained stable because the Cameroon government increased its subsidies on this product to counter the gas price increase in the world market.

- The increase in prices attributed to the conflict in Ukraine comes at a time when households are spending a significant amount of their income on food. According to the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS, 2022), food accounts for at least 65 percent of expenditures in more than 43 percent of households in the North West and the Far North regions. Food consumption score has been declining over the years, with 20 percent of households having unacceptable food consumption in 2021 and 50 percent in 2022.

- If the situation persists, food consumption will likely deteriorate, and the stock for humanitarian response will decline faster due to the rising costs of the operation and an increase in the number of people in need.

- WFP in Cameroon is monitoring market prices monthly and is working closely with the Food Security Cluster members to ensure that the support provided reaches the most vulnerable and helps them to meet their food and dietary needs.

**Challenges**

- The suspension of UNHAS flights since June because of an additional layer of clearance imposed by the CCAA is affecting the humanitarian community, which now relies solely on the state airline; if the negotiations between the stakeholders persist longer, there is the potential of delays in implementing humanitarian activities especially in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions, as well as to Chad.

- Continuous lockdowns and roads affect WFP performance in reaching targeted beneficiaries on time. Resource permitting, multiple rations are envisaged to curtail delays in food assistance.

- WFP sends weekly updates to all staff and regular advisory to partners to reduce security risks of staff and humanitarian goods being looted or diverted. Contracts with transportation companies now include specific guidelines and instructions to transporters to help mitigate security incidents against them and diversion or seizure of WFP commodities.

**Donors**

Donors in 2022 included Canada, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, Private donors, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.