

## **WFP** Cameroon Operational Update

July - September 2022

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## **OPERATIONAL CONTEXT**

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CHANGING LIVES

In the **North West and South West** regions, due to the protracted separatist conflict, the displacement of populations continues. As of September 2022, about 597,000 people<sup>1</sup> were still displaced in these two regions.

In the **Far North** region, the non-state armed groups insurgency persists in the LakeChad Basin resulting in an influx of refugees from Nigeria. As of September 2022, there were about 131,000 refugees from Nigeria as well as about 377,000 internally displaced people.

In the **East, Adamawa, and North regions**, the influx of Central African Republic (CAR) refugees continues unabated due to continued violence in CAR. As of September 2022, there were more than 332,000 refugees in these regions from the Central African Republic.

## **Food Security Analysis**

According to the food security analysis of March 2022, about 2.9 million people (10.8 percent of the population) are food insecure with 254,000 persons in 'extreme' or 'emergency' food insecurity situation (Integrated Phase Classification, IPC level 4). Meanwhile, the number of people in 'crisis' and 'emergency' situations (IPC levels 3 and 4) has increased by 26.3 percent from 1.9 million in June-August 2021 to 2.4 million in the same period in 2022.

#### Impact of the Ukraine crisis

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has led to increases in the prices of food and non-food items, thus potentially driving up hunger and posing a threat to food security. Russia is a leading supplier of wheat and fertilizers to Cameroon, with market shares of 43 percent and 45 percent respectively.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, Cameroon imports 35 percent of its steel from Ukraine as well as large amounts of soybean oil and dried legumes. 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). In addition to the increase in the prices of imported commodities, the country is experiencing price surges in staple foods produced locally. From WFP's market monitoring of 30 markets in Cameroon:

- The price of cereals increased by up to 15 percent in August 2022 compared to July 2022 and by nearly 25 percent compared to the average of the last five years
- Vegetable oils, in general, have experienced an increase of 35 percent compared to August 2021.

It is also expected that the purchasing power of households will decrease as most depend on market purchases for food. Likewise, the cost of humanitarian assistance will increase, due to the disruption of the global supply chain.

## Security Updates

The continuous deterioration of the security situation in Cameroon has resulted in the shrinking of the humanitarian space, and limited access to vulnerable communities.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>UNHCR Cameroon - Statistics - August 2022</u>

## WFP Response

#### L2 Crisis: North West / South West regions

The North West and South West (NWSW) regions of Cameroon continue to face growing humanitarian challenges as violent clashes and insecurity remain widespread. These are accompanied by increasing humanitarian access challenges. Furthermore, access to basic social services in hard-to-reach areas remains hard.

The Cadre Harmonisé projected that about 980,000 people are severely food insecure between June and August 2022, compared to 955,000 people during the same period in 2021

#### **Key Achievements**

| NWSW                    | Previous quarter<br>Apr-Jun 2022 | Current quarter<br>Jul-Sep 2022 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Emergency food assist   | 258,932                          | 193,176                         |
| Nutrition interventions | 16,290                           | -                               |
| Total benf              | 271,381                          | 193,176                         |
| Total food/mt           | 3,868                            | 3,244                           |
| Total cash/USD          | 1,230,860                        | 902,278                         |

**Coop Partners Q3 2022:** AIRD, AMEF, Caritas Bamenda, Caritas Kumba, COMINSUD, INTERSOS, LUKMEF, Plan International, SHUMAS



## Lake Chad Basin Crisis: Far North Region

In the Far North, armed conflict has displaced thousands of people since while at the same time the region suffers severe impacts of climate change. The region is experiencing recurrent droughts, floods and cholera epidemics. In total, hostilities have uprooted almost 610,000 people as of July 2021.<sup>3</sup> The insurgencies have also led to more than 131,000 Nigerian refugees in the region.

Conflicts driven by impacts of climate change – severe competition over natural resources intensified in 2021 and is likely to continue in 2022. Intercommunal clashes in the Logone et Chari Division in August and December 2021 led to the displacement of more than 60,000 people to Chad and internally. In September 2022, about 37,000 people were affected by floods, and 1,500 ha of cultivated farmland was completely submerged.

Furthermore, the Cadre Harmonisé projects that about 942,000 people will be severely food insecure in these regions from June to August 2022, corresponding to the lean season. WFP has already provided assistance to 12,245 people in response to the lean season.

#### **Key Achievements**

|                         | Previous quarter Current quarter |              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| FN                      | Apr-Jun 2022                     | Jul-Sep 2022 |
| Emergency food assist   | 124,943                          | 111,344      |
| School meals            | 71,993                           | -            |
| Nutrition interventions | 5,460                            | -            |
| Total benf              | 191,628                          | 111,344      |
| Total food/mt           | 3,371                            | 2,248        |
| Total cash/USD          | 434,962                          | 616,220      |

Coop Partner Q3 2022: INTERSOS, Plan International, EFA

## Home Grown School Feeding Pilot

WFP Cameroon is leveraging its expertise in food security, logistics, and school meals, to support the resilience of communities through Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF). HGSF builds a sustainable school feeding model that supports the local economy through procuring foods locally, which potentially strengthens communities' capacities and livelihood opportunities. This in turn promotes local agriculture production and boosts the local economy.

In the Adamawa and East regions where the pilot HGSF was initiated, WFP procured and distributed locally produced yogurt, bread made from cassava flour and eggs to over 900 students in three schools (Adamawa) and daily cooked meals to close to 2,500 pupils (East). WFP is working with the Ministry of Basic Education to scale up the programme to include more schools and school gardens and continue the support to small-holder farmers in the East, Adamawa, North and Far North regions.



#### CAR Crisis: East, North, and Adamawa regions

The East, Adamawa, and North regions have been hosting refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) since 2003. As of September 2022, there are more than 351,500 refugees from CAR in Cameroon. In addition to emergency food assistance and resilience-building activities, WFP is implementing the HGSF pilots in these regions, with locallyproduced food items. WFP in collaboration with the government and other partners will provide technical and material support to smallholder farmers who supply the produce for the school feeding programme. WFP also assists through the Nutrition Assessment Counselling and Support (NACS) interventions comprising a package of specialised nutritious foods, educational talks, home visits and cooking demos to pregnant and lactating women and people living with HIV.

According to the November 2021 Cadre Harmonisé, it is projected that more than 295,000 persons will be severely food insecure in the East, Adamawa, and North regions between June and August 2022.



MINEPIA tastes the deliciousness of locally sourced and produced meals Photo: WFP/Aurelie Lecrivain

#### **Key Achievements**

| CAR response              | Previous quarter<br>Apr-Jun 2022 | Current quarter<br>Jul-Sep 2022 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Emergency food assist     | 93,198                           | 90,217                          |
| School Feeding            | -                                | -                               |
| Assist for asset creation | -                                | -                               |
| Nutrition interventions   | 2,557                            | 2,749                           |
| Total benf                | 95,598                           | 92,966                          |
| Total food/mt             | 1,003                            | 879                             |
| Total cash/USD            | 1,115,772                        | 1,047,023                       |

**Coop Partners Q3 2022:** ADRA, APROSPEN, ASAD, ASOPV, Cameroon Red Cross, IMC, Plan International, WARDA

#### **UNHAS Operations**

UNHAS Cameroon served four destinations on a regular basis, three internal: Bamenda, Maroua, Yaoundé, and one international: N'Djamena. However, all UNHAS flights temporarily suspended in June 2022 due to denied clearances from the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authorities .

UNHAS accounted for 2 percent market share of the total number of transported passengers in Cameroon, and injected an average of USD 1 million per year in the local economy.

## **WFP Supply Chain Operations**

#### Local Procurement

WFP is supporting smallholder farmers to increase their agricultural production. Activities include capacity strengthening on good agricultural practices, access to productive inputs, financing, and post-harvest management including storage. WFP also provides a ready market in its operations in Cameroon and the Central African region.

Between 2018 and 2021, WFP injected over **USD 47** million into the national economy through the purchase of over 70,200 mt of food commodities from local suppliers. Between January and August 2022, WFP made purchases of food commodities from local suppliers worth almost USD 3.9 million.

| Local Purchase January-August 2022 |                |           |  |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| Commodities                        | Metric tonnage | USD Value |  |
| Rice                               | 590            | 330,389   |  |
| Sorghum                            | 4,394          | 1,781,314 |  |
| Salt                               | 409            | 86,194    |  |
| Beans                              | 2,000          | 1,676,428 |  |
|                                    | 7,393          | 3,874,324 |  |

## **Douala logistics operations**

Douala is a storage hub for the Global Commodity Management Facilities (GCMF) stocks. GCMF purchases and prepositions WFP food commodities for countries in the Central and West African region that intends to buy.

This vital service helps to reduce procurement lead-time and also serves as an advance financing for immediate response. WFP is managing two bonded warehouses in Douala with capacity storage of 33,000 MT, in which are stocked GCMF and Cameroon food commodities.

| Commodities through Douala Corridor Jan-September 2022 |               |                  |           |                    |  |
|--|---------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|--|
| Recipient  | Tonnage recei | Tonnage received |           | Tonnage dispatched |  |
| country  | 2018-2021     | Q1 2022          | 2018-2021 | Q1 2022            |  |
| Cameroon   | 66,317        | 7700             | 131,080   | 10,636             |  |
| CAR  | 56,866        | 13642            | 99,424    | 12,988             |  |
| Chad   | 101,390       | 6824             | 156,301   | 15,354             |  |
| GCMF   | 194,048       | 17759            | 1,956     | 0                  |  |
| Others*  | 0             | 0                | 8,822     | 2,016              |  |
| TOTAL  | 418,621       | 45,925           | 397,583   | 40,994             |  |

#### MILDA Project

WFP is working with the Ministry of Health under the MILDA\* project. WFP will transport 16.8 million longlasting mosquito nets (LLMN) from the port in Douala to temporal warehouses and then to 1,413 health areas in eight regions of Cameroon. Distributions started in April 2022 and as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, WFP had distributed 5.8 million LLMN planned total for the first phase and 4.7 million for the second phase.

\*MILDA (fr) Moustiquaires Imprégnées à Longue Durée d'Action

## **Pipeline situation**

From November 2022 to April 2023, WFP has a 51 percent funding shortfall representing a gap of USD 37.8 million to sustain life-saving interventions targeting the most vulnerable.



#### Funding shortfall per crisis for Nov 2022-Apr 2023

| <b>•</b> •                   |               |             |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Crisis/Service               | Shortfall/USD | % Shortfall |
| NWSW                         | 9.8 million   | 38%         |
| Lake Chad                    | 15.4 million  | 60%         |
| CAR                          | 8.3 million   | 51%         |
| Capacity Str. & Serv<br>Prov | 2.0 million   | 53%         |
| UNHAS                        | 2.2 million   | 82%         |
|                              | 37.8 million  | 51%         |

# Gender Protection and accountability to affected populations

Gender and protection is a priority to WFP operations. Gender transformation is embedded in the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and revision of the National Gender Policy (2021-2030). These include leveraging partnerships for gender transformation and the execution of capacity strengthening and research on underlying gender barriers to improve inclusive food systems.

Furthermore, WFP has been entrusted to lead the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) taskforce for the United Nations in Cameroon and NGO partners.

WFP ensures the protection of beneficiaries on the way to/from food distribution points, as well as in the use of their entitlements. Over 95 percent of beneficiaries attested to receiving their assistance without any safety challenges.

WFP's hotline **8099** is accessible to partners and beneficiaries for complaints and feedback, while staff are trained to handle and respond on time. In the third quarter of 2022, over 3,782 complaints were received with an average solving time of 4.4 days and average resolution rate of 83.8 percent.

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## Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2026

WFP Executive Board endorsed Cameroon's 2nd generation Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in February 2022. The plan will run from March 2022 to December 2026.

It is rooted in operationalising the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus approach, empowering communities, including the most marginalized, to be at the centre of decision-making.

The activities are designed to incorporate cross-cutting themes including gender, protection, climate-friendly interventions, and resilience-building.

The CSP focuses on a phased approach to provide the most appropriate assistance to refugees, IDPs, and host communities based on their levels of vulnerability.

In the face of a shock or a sudden onset of emergencies such as displacements, WFP will provide life-saving assistance, integrating the transition to early recovery and resilience building, culminating in self-reliance to graduate from assistance.

An essential foundation will be the collaboration with the Government of Cameroon to develop an adaptive and shock-responsive social protection system.

The implementation is organized around five strategic outcomes with seven activities:

- **1.** Provide an integrated food and nutritional assistance to crisis-affected populations to support their self-reliance and recovery needs.
- Provide capacity strengthening on emergency preparedness and response to local authorities and humanitarian partners working in crisisaffected areas
- **3.** Provide an integrated nutrition package to beneficiaries including access to nutritious food, quality care, SBCC, and capacity strengthening to prevent malnutrition.
- **4.** Provide livelihood support to targeted groups including through productive asset creation and regeneration, and value chain development.
- Provide capacity strengthening to national institutions and partners on the management of food and nutrition programmes, social protection, emergency preparedness and response, disaster management and supply chain services.
- **6.** Provide UNHAS to the Government, humanitarian partners.
- **7.** Provide on demand supply chain, ICT and coordination services to the Government, humanitarian and development partners