



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES

CHANGING LIVES



WFP Cameroon Operational Update

January - March 2023

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The humanitarian situation in the **Northwest** and **Southwest** regions remained unstable, with reports of armed conflict and crimes against civilians. This crisis, in its sixth year, has led to spates of displacements within and outside the regions. As of March 2023, there were about 628,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from these two regions ([unhcr.org](https://www.unhcr.org))

In the **Far North Region**, the non-state armed groups' insurgencies in the Lake Chad Basin since 2014 have resulted in influxes of refugees from Nigeria. In 2022, there were 1,200 new refugees, the lowest so far, bringing the total to 124,000 by March 2023. Additionally, floods in 2022 forced about 70,000 people to displace, bringing the total number of IDPs to more than 385,000.

The **East, Adamawa, and North regions** remained stable despite the protracted conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) that led to influxes of refugees to these regions. UNHCR estimated 9,500 new CAR refugees arrived in 2022, the lowest so far since the escalation in 2014. As of March 2023, there were about 349,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon, 94 percent of whom are in these three border regions.

Food Security Analysis

According to preliminary results of the *Cadre Harmonisé* (March 2023), 3 million people are severely food insecure from January to May 2023 (five percent increase in comparison to the same period in 2022). This includes almost 336,000 persons in 'extreme/emergency' food insecurity situations (IPC4), an increase of 32 percent to the same period in 2022. For the projected period, similarly to last year, about 2.3 million will be in severe food insecurity from June to August. Although this period is the lean season in the northern regions, it coincides with harvesting season in the southern regions which will lead to a net increase in available foodstuff. The regions already suffering from protracted crises are more vulnerable to new crises (Northwest, Southwest and Far North).

Impact of the Ukraine crisis

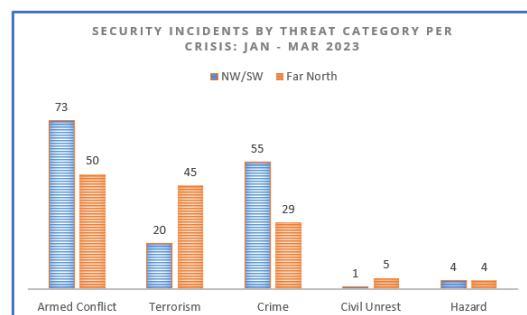
The crisis in Ukraine has exacerbated the food insecurity situation in Cameroon. It has disrupted supply chains and caused price increases for consumer goods and main imports such as wheat, fertilizers and construction materials.

The rising cost of food in most local markets made it harder for households in Cameroon to easily get food on the table. According to WFP's price monitoring system, the tubers' price increased by over 15 percent in the Far-North, North and North-West Regions in January 2023, compared to December 2022. The cereal prices increased in the Southern regions.

According to [Trading Economics](https://www.tradingeconomics.com), the cost of food was 9.5 percent higher in the first quarter of 2023 than in the same period in 2022. The high inflation rate ([6.3 percent in 2022](https://www.tradingeconomics.com)) coupled with the increase in the price of fuel and transportation will further limit households' purchasing power, particularly the urban poor and those affected by various crises who rely on market purchases, thereby creating a gap to resort to negative coping strategies.

Security Updates

The security situation in the NWSW generally improved in the first quarter of 2023 when compared to the same period in 2022, but worsened in the Far North across the categories. This same trend is observed when the current situation is compared to the previous quarter (October to December 2022).



WFP RESPONSE

Lake Chad Basin Crisis: Far North Region

In the Far North, armed conflicts from the insurgencies and climate-driven inter-community clashes have displaced thousands of people. In addition, the region suffers severe impacts of climate change and epidemics including recurrent long periods of droughts, high-impact floods and cholera epidemics. In 2022, floods affected more than 313,000 people in the Far North region, destroying their habitat and livelihoods, forcing more than 70,000 to displace.

According to the preliminary results of the March 2023 *Cadre Harmonisé*, there are about 701,000 severely food-insecure people between January and May 2023, five percent less compared to the same period in 2022. The report projects a 34 percent increase in June-August 2023, because of the lean season.

On the other hand, according to the preliminary findings of the 2022 SMART¹ nutrition survey, the nutrition situation of children aged 6-59 months in the Far North has worsened. The region has a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 8.0 percent (from 5.9 in 2021) and a severe

acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 1.7 percent (from 0.2 in 2021). The GAM rate is critical among IDPs in the Far North (10 percent) and out-of-camp refugees (8.5 percent).

WFP targets IDPs, residents and in-camp and out-of-camp refugees, assisting them monthly through emergency food assistance, providing specialised nutritious foods (SNFs) to pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), children between 6-59 months of age and resilience support. Under the rapid response mechanism, WFP assisted more than 63,300 flood-affected people between December 2022 and March 2023.

Key Achievements

FN	Previous quarter	Current quarter
	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023
Emergency food assist	119,115	168,671
School meals	23,636	51,381
Nutrition interventions	26,483	17,142
Food for asset creation for early recovery	14,742	-
Food for asset creation for resilience	6,602	-
Total benf	190,578	237,194
Total food/mt	3,339	3,990
Total cash/USD	895,011	1 million

Coop Partner Q4 2022: INTERSOS, Plan International, EFA

CAR Crisis: East, North, and Adamawa regions

The East, Adamawa, and North regions have hosted refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) since 2003. These regions remain relatively secure despite reports of sporadic clashes in Central African Republic side of the borders with Cameroon. WFP operations continue without disruptions.

However, these regions have persistently high rates of malnutrition. The SMART survey (2022) preliminary results revealed the GAM rates in children under five in these regions are between 3.9-6.9 percent (3.8-4.8 percent in 2021), while the SAM rates range from 1.1-2.6 percent (32.8-40.2 percent). The GAM situation is critical for refugees (17 percent for off-site refugees and 9.2-13.6 percent for in-camp refugees). Additionally, according to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS, 2018) over 38 percent of children under the age of five are stunted.

Consequently, WFP's assistance includes a Nutrition Assessment Counselling and Support (NACS) component. NACS comprises a package of SNFs, educational talks, home visits and cooking demonstrations for PBW and people living with HIV

(PLHIV). WFP targets IDPs, residents and in-camp and out-of-camp refugees, assisting them monthly through emergency food assistance, providing specialised nutritious foods (SNFs) to PBW, children between 6-59 months of age and resilience support.

According to preliminary results of the March 2023 *Cadre Harmonisé*, almost 377,000 people are severely food-insecure between January and May 2023, representing a 19 percent increase from the same period in 2022. The report further projects that there will be about 322,600 food-insecure people between June and August 2023.

Key Achievements

CAR response	Previous quarter	Current quarter
	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023
Emergency food assist	92,763	112,800
School meals/HGSF	-	4,111
Nutrition interventions	393	2,750
Food for asset creation for early recovery	2,500	11,834
Food for asset creation for resilience	7,509	-
Total benf	103,165	131,495
Total food/mt	1,133	1,163
Total cash/USD	1.3 million	1.5 million

Coop Partners Q1 2023: ADRA, APROSPEN, ASAD, ASOPV, IMC, Plan International

Undernutrition remains a public health concern in Cameroon, with persistently high rates of stunting, wasting and multiple micronutrient deficiencies (particularly iron among children and women).

Regions	Global acute malnutr rate (%)	Severe acute malnutr rate (%)
Far North	8.0	1.7
North	6.9	2.6
Adamawa	6.6	1.3
East	3.9	1.1

The national average prevalence is twenty-nine percent for stunting and four percent for acute malnutrition in children between 6-59 months. The SMART nutrition survey conducted in December 2022 revealed a deterioration in the nutrition situation across all four target regions (Far North, North, Adamawa and East).

¹ SMART - Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions

Northwest / Southwest regions

The Northwest and Southwest regions continue to face growing humanitarian challenges as violent clashes and insecurity remain widespread. These are accompanied by increasing humanitarian access challenges. Furthermore, access to essential social services in hard-to-reach areas remains hard.

According to the *Cadre Harmonisé*, there are 1.2 million food-insecure people in both regions from January-May 2023, representing a five percent reduction in the number when compared to the same period in 2022. For the projected period (June-August 2023), it is estimated that the number will drop to less than 774,000 people as this corresponds to the harvesting season.

The beneficiaries of WFP's assistance comprise food insecure IDPs, returnees, people living with special needs including PLHIV, vulnerable local communities, children aged 6 to 23 months, PBW in the Northwest and Southwest. Under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM),

WFP is able to respond to emergency situations by providing assistance to communities facing humanitarian crises. In March 2023 the Organization provided in-kind food assistance to 321 households following heavy rainfall that resulted to heavy flooding and mudslides, displacing hundreds of people.

Key Achievements

NWSW	Previous quarter	Current quarter
	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023
Emergency food assist	279,407	260,391
Nutrition interventions	-	7,789
Total benf	279,407	268,180
Total food/mt	4,586	4,583
Total cash/USD	1.3 million	1.9 million

Coop Partners Q1 2023: AIRD, AMEF, Caritas Bamenda, Caritas Kumba, Caritas Mamfe, COMINSUD, DEMTOU, INTERSOS, LUKMEF, Plan International, SHUMAS, Social Welfare Caritas Kumba, Sudahser

WFP SERVICES

WFP Supply Chain Operations

Local Procurement

WFP supports smallholder farmers through its resilience activities to increase their agricultural production, thus enabling access to new value chain opportunities. WFP's assistance comprises agricultural skills capacity strengthening and post-harvest management, including the construction of drying areas and storage facilities. On the other hand, WFP provides a ready market in its operations in Cameroon and the sub-region.

In 2022, WFP injected over USD **4.7 million** into the national economy by purchasing over **9,000 mt** of food commodities from local suppliers.

Local Purchase 2022		
Commodities	Metric tonnage	USD Value
Rice	1,140	621,184
Sorghum	4,644	1,882,172
Salt	814	180,591
Beans	2,415	2,018,907
	9,013	4,702,854

Douala logistics operations

Douala is a hub for the Global Commodity Management Facilities (GCMF) stocks. GCMF purchases food commodities from local, regional or international markets and prepositions them for countries in the Central and West African regions that intend to buy. This vital service helps reduce procurement lead time and provides advance financing for immediate response.

In this regard, WFP is managing two bonded warehouses in the Douala Port for GCMF and Cameroon food commodities, with a total storage capacity of 33,000 metric tons.

Commodities through Douala Corridor						
Recipient country	Tonnage received			Tonnage dispatched		
	2018-2021	2022	Q1 2023	2018-2021	2022	Q1 2023
Cameroon	66,317	11,264	160	131,080	27,148	8,301
CAR	56,866	15,621	0	99,424	29,205	4,131
Chad	101,390	15,511	0	156,301	25,142	3,895
GCMF	194,048	39,686	22,949	0	0	0
Others*	0	0	0	10,778	2,016	0
TOTAL	418,621	82,082	23,109	397,583	83,511	16,327

*Nigeria, Gambia, Kenya, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Rep of Congo, Burkina Faso

UNHAS Operations

WFP operates a United Nations Humanitarian Air Service in Cameroon that provides safe, reliable and timely air transport services to humanitarian actors and partners. However, due to some new bottlenecks, flights were again temporarily suspended in January 2023, a month after they resumed from a 6-month suspension and are

set to resume at the end of April 2023.

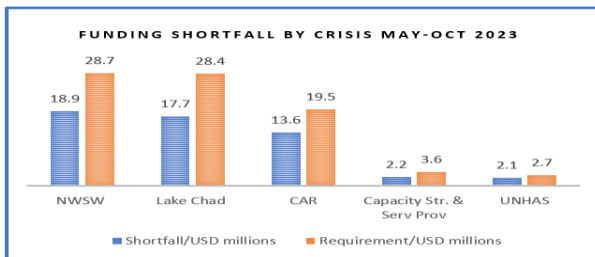
In 2022, UNHAS transported 1,560 from over 55 partner agencies, diplomatic missions and humanitarian organisations.

WFP thanks its partners for their constant support



Pipeline situation

From May to October 2023, WFP has a 66 percent funding shortfall representing a gap of USD 54.5 million to sustain life-saving interventions targeting the most vulnerable.



Funding shortfall per crisis for May-Oct 2023

Crisis/Service	Shortfall/USD	% Shortfall
NWSW	18.9 million	66%
Lake Chad	17.7 million	62%
CAR	13.6 million	70%
Capacity Str. & Serv Prov	2.2 million	61%
UNHAS	2.1 million	75%
	54.5 million	66%

Gender, Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Gender equality and protection are embedded in WFP operations, as WFP leverages partnerships for gender transformation and the execution of capacity strengthening and research on underlying gender barriers to improve inclusive food systems.

WFP ensures that beneficiaries' opinions are considered in decisions that affect them. Respect, dignity, protection, and accountability to affected people (AAP) are key elements of WFP's interventions. Accordingly, WFP's 2022 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) indicated an improvement or stability in protection indicators. 96 percent of beneficiaries reported having no access issues (to food distribution sites) compared to 87 percent in 2021. Meanwhile, the safety (96 percent) and dignified (87 percent) conditions of food assistance remain the same as in 2021.

To safeguard the unbiased flow of communication between both parties, WFP's complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFM) are functional in all the beneficiary communities, including feedback desks at distribution points, community complaint committees and a hotline. WFP's hotline, 8099, is accessible to partners and beneficiaries. In the first quarter of 2023, over 3,200 cases were received of which 56 percent were complaints. These were resolved on average within 2.7 days. To improve the process, WFP created a CFM working group which is an external entity and a CFM taskforce which will act as advisory body to WFP Management.

Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2026

It is rooted in operationalising the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus approach, empowering communities, including the most marginalised, 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 forced 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.
2. Provide capacity strengthening on emergency preparedness and response to local authorities and humanitarian partners working in crisis-affected 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.
5. 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

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