



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Cameroon Country Brief May 2024

In Numbers



204,963 people assisted

847 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 413,560 in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 53 million six-month net funding requirements (June–November 2024)

Operational Context

According to the *Cameroon Humanitarian Response Plan 2024*, 3.4 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2024 – a 28 percent decrease from 2023.

Cameroon has been significantly affected by three complex crises: armed conflicts between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and state security forces in the Northwest and the Southwest Regions; the insurgency of NSAGs, as well as climate-related disasters in the Far North Region; and an influx of Central African Republic refugees in the Adamawa, East and North Regions. These crises led to over 1 million internally displaced persons and 477,000 refugees (*UNHCR, May 2024*).

Furthermore, the inflationary effects of the Ukraine crisis on commodity markets and global supply chain disruptions contributed to increased living costs, which prevented vulnerable populations from meeting their basic needs. The November 2023 *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis revealed that 2.9 million people were severely food-insecure between October–December 2023 (similar data to 2022).

WFP operations in Cameroon focus on crisis response, resilience building and mitigating the root causes of food insecurity. WFP also supports national institutions to strengthen capacities to manage food and nutrition programmes, and to further develop the social protection system. WFP has been present in Cameroon since 1978.



Population: 28.6 million

2024 Human Development Index:
Ranked 151st out of 193 countries

Income Level: Lower-middle

Chronic malnutrition: 28.9 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months

Operational Updates

- **Food assistance during emergencies:** WFP assisted 61,840 refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and vulnerable host populations, distributing 397 mt of food. The reduced number of beneficiaries stems from ongoing profiling of refugees in the Far North and resource shortfall.
- **Malnutrition prevention and management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP continued nutrition screenings for children aged 6 to 59 months, while 203 mt of specialised nutritious foods (SNFs) were distributed to about 56,670 people. The beneficiaries included about 42,070 children aged 6-59 months (37,890 malnourished children enrolled in MAM management programme), 14,580 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G). WFP monitoring revealed that there was a 50 percent increase in MAM cases across 23 health facilities in Logone et Chari and Mayo Danay divisions (Far North Region) between January and May 2024.
- **School feeding:** Home-grown school feeding activities continued in the Adamawa, East and Far North regions. WFP provided 67,250 schoolchildren with nutritious porridge and locally produced and processed meals during school recess. WFP paid cooperatives supplying food items to the schools a total of US\$ 274,300 in exchange for the food commodities. On the other hand, WFP regional bureau and headquarters team trained 12 school directors and 18 WFP staff on use of the WFP Schools Connect platform. Nine schools have been co-opted and equipped for the pilot phase before an eventual national rollout.
- **Resilience building activities:** WFP and partners continued to collaborate with communities emerging from crisis to build their resilience and restore livelihoods. Assets created and managed in May included community farms and nurseries, farmer field schools, fishpond creation, poultry farms, warehouse construction, feeder road rehabilitation. WFP supported 19,200 participants with US\$ 139,200 and 122 mt of food.
- The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** operated flights to Maroua and N'Djamena (Chad) from Yaounde. This included 13 return flights for 267 passengers from 38 partner organisations.

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Photo Caption: Community members participating in the construction of a fishpond in Akum (Northwest Region) under the food assistance for asset creation activity. Credit: WFP partner (Intersos)/Kinfer Aileen Nyah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2022–2026)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
729.6 million	212.4 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (Jun–Nov 2024)
149.9 million	53 million

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations including refugees, IDPs, returnees and the host population in Cameroon have safe access to adequate and nutritious food during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide 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 crisis-affected areas

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Children aged 6-23 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and breastfeeding women and other nutritionally vulnerable people in prioritised regions have improved nutrition status and resilience in line with national standards by 2026.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide an integrated nutrition package to beneficiaries, including access to nutritious food, quality care, SBCC, and capacity strengthening to prevent malnutrition.

Strategic Result 3: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure and climate-affected populations and smallholder farmers have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to shocks by 2026.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support to targeted groups including through productive asset creation and regeneration, and value chain development

Strategic Result 4: Countries have strengthened their capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions and partners have strengthened their capacities to manage food and nutrition programmes and social protection systems by 2030.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- 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.

Strategic Result 5: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: The government, humanitarian, and development partners in Cameroon can reach vulnerable populations and respond to emergencies throughout the year.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

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

Monitoring

- In April 2024, WFP carried out a **mobile vulnerability assessment and monitoring (mVAM)** in all ten regions of the country. The findings revealed that 42.1 percent of households have inadequate food consumption, a 10.9 percent decrease from April 2023. Additionally, 74.6 percent of households (reduced coping strategies index, rCSI of 15.8) reported that they reduced the number of meals eaten during the day or relied on less preferred and less expensive food due to hardship. Finally, 80 percent of respondents indicated they used livelihood coping strategies in the past month, while 31.5 percent used crisis coping strategies which are directly associated with reduced future productivity. These statistics indicate an increase in vulnerabilities which affect the food and nutrition security situation.

Challenges

- **Limited humanitarian access** remained one of WFP's biggest operational challenges in the Far North, Northwest, and Southwest Regions, primarily due to security issues/concerns. Separatist fighters in the Northwest and Southwest enforced several localized lockdowns for 3-4 days before national events (Labour Day on May 1 and National Day on May 20), slowing down humanitarian activities.
- **Severe resource shortfall** is affecting all programme areas of WFP's Cameroon operation, with nutrition assistance being critically affected. It is projected that there will be further increases as the peak of the lean season approaches (July-August). Consequently, it is estimated that about 50,000 children suffering from MAM, along with pregnant and breastfeeding women in the 15 most affected health districts in the Far North, will lack access to life-saving nutritious food at the peak of the lean season. WFP will conduct another mass screening in July and carry out further analysis and advocate for increased assistance.

Donors

Donors to WFP Cameroon's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022–2026 include Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Cargill, China, Commercial Bank of Cameroon, Education Cannot Wait, European Commission, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Monaco, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, various United Nations agencies, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Kingdom, United States of America, World Bank and additional private donors.