

30 September 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4 / 5	3.3 million	2.1 million	\$359 million	17.1%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNO 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HRP 2025)
62 MSEK	-	5.4 MSEK	67.4 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

The humanitarian landscape in Cameroon is characterised by several multifaceted and protracted crises driven by ongoing armed conflict and recurring climate shocks, leading to persistent internal and sub-regional displacement. In 2025, 3.3 million people out of Cameroon's total population of 28.6 million, are estimated to need humanitarian assistance and protection. This is a slight decrease from 2024 (3.4 million). The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) will target 2.1 million people, which is also a slight decrease from 2024 when 2.3 million people were targeted. The HRP 2024 was funded to 45 per cent and in 2023 to 34 per cent. In September 2025, the HRP is funded at 17.1 per cent.

There are nearly one million internally displaced persons (IDPs), half a million returnees, and nearly half a million refugees and asylum seekers in Cameroon. The main drivers of humanitarian needs are the armed conflicts in the Lake Chad basin (which started in Nigeria in the early 2000 and spread to Cameroon in 2014) and in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) anglophone regions (which started in 2017), together with the impact of the Central African Republic (CAR) refugee crisis (which started in 2006 and escalated again in 2013 and 2014). The most acute needs are found in the Far North (FN) and the NWSW regions. Deadly floods are a recurring phenomenon on an almost annual basis which affected 460,000 people in 2024.

Humanitarian needs are further compounded by structural development weaknesses and chronic vulnerabilities, including to natural disasters. New or repeated displacement, weak state presence and insufficient humanitarian assistance contribute to the erosion of the already limited resilience of the affected populations and to enduring humanitarian needs.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Some 3.3 million people in Cameroon need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2025 due to the effects on their lives and living conditions of conflict and violence, climate shocks and disease outbreaks. Populations in nine out of ten regions of Cameroon continue, to various extents, to be impacted by three complex and prolonged humanitarian crises: the Lake Chad basin armed conflict, the North-West and South-West (NWSW) socio-political crisis and the impact of influx of Central African Republic (CAR) refugees in the eastern regions. In 2024, over 2.5 million people were projected to face acute food insecurity.

The security environment in Cameroon remains precarious, with widespread insecurity in the Far North and the NWSW regions. Attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and criminal activities are rampant, affecting civilians and security forces alike. The situation has led to a proliferation of weapons and an increase in violent incidents, including theft, extortion, and kidnapping. Since 2021, an increase in attacks on humanitarian workers in the NWSW regions has been recorded. Access difficulties have limited the assistance to populations in need, particularly in crisis zones. In the NWSW regions, for example, the challenges include frequent clashes between government forces and NSAGs, delays at roadblocks, car hijackings, "ghost town" days - enforced shutdowns during which movement, commercial activity, and public services are halted under threat of violence, primarily by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in urban and rural areas of the North-West and South-West regions - harassment, and intimidation of humanitarian workers. In October 2025, Cameroon will hold presidential elections where the incumbent president, 91-year old Paul Biya, will seek an eighth term of seven years, following a 2008 constitutional amendment that removed term limits. Political and ethnic tensions are on the rise, both on- and off-line, and could potentially aggravate the humanitarian situation.

In the Far North, over 570,000 people are displaced due to violence and natural disasters, including IDPs and refugees from Nigeria. There are also nearly 200,000 returnees. The main humanitarian needs are protection, food, shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs) and access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services. Civilians in conflict-affected areas continue to be killed, injured and kidnapped, and their belongings and livelihoods damaged, destroyed and looted. Only 40 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water and more than 600,000 people lack adequate shelter. Hundreds of thousands of children are exposed to critical protection risks, including family separation and school dropout, among others.

The crisis in the North-West and South-West remains characterised by human rights violations and abuses, multiple and short-term displacements as well as pendular movements because of violence, fear of attacks, and hostilities between parties. There are over 650,000 internally displaced people from the crisis in the two regions, as well as in neighbouring regions. Protection, food security, access to education and drinking water are the most acute needs in these regions. Almost 500,000 people are lacking adequate shelter, and over a third of schools are not functional. Educational facilities, staff and school children continue to be targeted by

non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). There is continuous destruction of houses and farms as well as looting of properties, which limits access of affected people to adequate housing and food.

Cameroon is hosting over 350,000 refugees from CAR, over 90 per cent of which live in the country's eastern regions (Adamawa, North, East). Access to livelihoods, food, WASH services and education remains limited for them and their host communities. The number of refugees continues to exert significant pressure on natural resources and basic social services in the host areas, which often creates conflicts between the refugees and host populations over the use of scarce resources, including land.

Humanitarian needs are further compounded by structural weaknesses. Cameroon is ranking 151 out of 193 in the 2023/2024 Human Development Index. High poverty rates, gender inequalities, and limited access to basic services and opportunities are prevalent, particularly in rural areas and certain regions like the Far North. The informal labour market dominates, with agriculture, including livestock breeding, being the primary sector, employing a significant portion of the population, especially women.

Cameroon was ranked the world's most neglected displacement crisis in 2024 by the Norwegian Refugee Council, reflecting the combination of chronic underfunding, lack of political engagement, and minimal media attention. Without renewed and sustained donor support, humanitarian access, protection monitoring, and life-saving assistance risk further collapse, leaving millions of vulnerable Cameroonians and refugees without critical support.

3. The humanitarian response

In 2025, humanitarian partners plan to reach 2.1 million people (64 per cent of people in need). However, in light of the drastic reductions in US funding, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is currently undertaking a re-prioritization exercise. In 2024, the HRP was funded to 46 per cent and US funding made up 45 per cent of all humanitarian funding in Cameroon. Without taking into account likely reductions from other key donors (Germany, France, UK, etc.), as of the time of writing, the HRP was only 17.1 per cent funded overall (USD 53.1 million out of USD 359.3 million required).

Funding cuts, particularly following the withdrawal of US support, have forced a “hyper-prioritisation” of the Cameroon HRP, narrowing assistance to 1.3 million people with the most urgent needs out of the 2.1 million originally targeted. This has left significant gaps across food security, health, education, shelter, WASH, and refugee support, with many vulnerable communities excluded from aid. The protection impact is especially severe: monitoring systems in the NWSW have collapsed, humanitarian presence in the Far North has been reduced, and civilians are increasingly exposed to unchecked violations including abductions, arbitrary arrests, gender-based violence, and child recruitment. Refugee support has been cut by a third, and hundreds of thousands lack adequate shelter. Coordination structures are undergoing major reform as part of the ongoing Humanitarian Reset, which aims to establish a leaner and more cost-effective system in light of shrinking resources. The transition is planned in three

phases: in 2025 the HCT and Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) continue to function with OCHA support; in 2026, coordination will shift to a rebranded ISWG and a lighter Humanitarian Response Plan; and by 2027, cluster functions are expected to be deactivated and coordination handed over to government and the UNCT, with OCHA reduced to a medium-sized Humanitarian Advisory Team focused on advocacy, preparedness, and monitoring.

Already in 2025, coordination and information management capacity is stretched thin, with most cluster leads “double-hatting” and several areas, such as health, housing, land and property (HLP) and refugee response in the NWSW and East, lacking dedicated IM support. Some critical shared services, like INSO and UNHAS, are also threatened by US funding cuts and may have to scale back. These changes raise concerns that reduced coordination capacity, combined with gaps in security analysis, logistics, and humanitarian access, will further weaken the ability of partners to deliver an effective response

Hence, as of today and until the funding situation becomes clearer, there is limited visibility on the final priorities under Cameroon’s response plan in 2025, while recognizing that each crisis within the country requires its distinct approach. In the NWSW, the protection of victims of violence and emergency assistance in food, nutrition, health, WASH, shelter, and education should continue to be a priority, as will assistance to the most vulnerable among forcibly displaced people – due to conflict and flooding – and host communities in the Far North. The geographically disparate crises in Cameroon, where in addition access is hampered due to armed conflict in the FN and NWSW regions, and the political sensitivities connected to the conflict in the Anglophone region, makes it challenging and expensive for humanitarian actors to operate.

4. Sida’s humanitarian allocation

Sida’s focus should remain on addressing immediate needs, ensuring protection and reinforcing resilience under an integrated, multisectoral approach aimed at meeting the basic needs of affected populations. Given the relatively low funding level of the HRP in the past two years (35 – 40 per cent), in conjunction with the US funding cuts, partners need to prioritise and focus on the most vulnerable.

As in previous years, Sida will concentrate its allocations to a few partners to facilitate coordination and follow-up. This includes two international NGOs receiving multi-year programme based funding (IRC and NRC), alongside two multilateral partners (UNICEF and UNCHR). Sida will continue to prioritise partners with strong capacity to operate in hard-to-reach areas where needs are most acute, i.e. the FN and NWSW regions, and who are able to rapidly respond to emerging or deteriorating needs.

In 2025, additional funding was allocated to support DRC’s localisation and outreach efforts in the Northwest region. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of six local organisations to provide assistance to newly displaced households in the most hard-to-reach areas. This project

is co-funded by ECHO. NRC's annual allocation with funding for improved coordination of International NGOs (INGOs) members of the CHINGO network (Coordination of Humanitarian International Non-Governmental Organisations) hosted by NRC also received a top up. The top up Includes a component of capacity building for local NGOs, members of the CHOI network (Cameroon Humanitarian Organisation Initiative). Sida's initial allocation for Cameroon in 2025 amounts to 62 MSEK and the allocation between partners is shown in the table below.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
IRC	Health, Protection	15,000,000 ¹
NRC	WASH, Shelter, Education, ICLA, FSL, Protection	17,000,000 ²
DRC	Localisation, Access	10,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	10,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-sector refugee response	10,000,000
TOTAL		62,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2025 (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ³	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
MSB	1,088,000	-
OCHA	3,200,000	-
WFP	1,135,775	-
TOTAL	5,423,775	-

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

¹ Already committed in 2023 under a Multi-Year Funding agreement.

² Whereas 15 MSEK were already committed in 2023 under a Multi-Year Funding agreement, an additional 2 MSEK is allocated for support to the NGO network CHINGO.

³ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.