



Cameroon

Making Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals by Enhancing Human Security in the Maga, Kousserie, and Moulvudaye Regions of North Cameroon

Background information

Cameroon's Far North region hosts one of the most vulnerable populations in the country. Entrenched poverty, negative consequences of climate change, violence by extremist groups, and ongoing crises in neighboring countries have led to large-scale displacement and an influx of refugees in a region that is already overstretched and fragile. Women and youth are particularly vulnerable as they are often excluded from decision-making and economic opportunities. With 30% of the region's population under the age of 20, the combination of these vulnerabilities is contributing to disenfranchisement, which is a potential risk factor for radicalization.

Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) allow the area to recover from and become more resilient to natural disasters and conflicts; (ii) improve access to basic social services including health, child protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene; (iii) enhance the capacity of the local administration to manage and coordinate disaster risk reduction; (iv) build the capacities of internally-displaced persons and host communities to prevent and respond to radicalization and violent extremism, as well as socially and economically reintegrate marginalized, radicalized or at-risk women and youth.



DURATION

December 2016 – December 2019



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNDP, UNICEF, FAO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Youth and Civic Education, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family



BENEFICIARIES

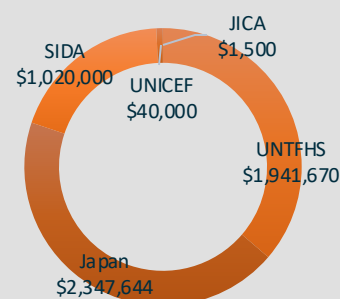
223,000



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 5,350,814

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits 223,068 people in the communes of Maga, Kousserie, and Moulvudaye including 18,300 women, 40,900 youth, and 500 civil servants. The wider population of the target areas stands to benefit indirectly from the programme as well.

Applying the Human Security Approach

Sustainably strengthening community resilience requires a comprehensive, people-centered approach. The programme applies the human security framework to assess interconnected insecurities, challenges, and threats. By addressing the root causes of the most pressing community needs, it enhances the impact of ongoing humanitarian efforts in northern Cameroon. The programme implements agricultural interventions for internally displaced populations to improve both livelihood opportunities and food security. At the same time, cash-for-work activities for vulnerable youth and women strengthen community resilience through increased employment and infrastructure rehabilitation.

By using the human security framework, the programme ensures that policies are tailored to local realities, resources, and capacities. Local mechanisms are established to collect data and feedback from community members, which is then centralized, analyzed, and shared with national authorities to inform locally-driven policies and programming.

The programme also promotes community engagement in setting up and managing local structures, particularly among the most vulnerable. These included natural resources management committees, early warning systems, and conflict prevention and management committees. For example, the programme supports the creation of community-based listening groups as platforms for raising awareness on health practices and the prevention of violent extremism. This empowers communities to actively participate in the design and implementation of inclusive, sustainable solutions.

Additionally, the programme fosters peaceful coexistence by creating mechanisms for multi-stakeholder dialogue and strengthening social ties. Inter-religious dialogues are established, building on existing networks of religious leaders. These platforms support community acceptance and ownership of the programme, while interfaith spaces help combat discrimination and promote social cohesion.

Achievements

- The programme significantly improved access to essential services for vulnerable populations. It reached 8,640 children with vital services on hygiene and sanitation practices and trained 233 households, providing them with WASH kits to improve living conditions. Additionally, 175 social workers from government child protection institutions were trained to better manage issues related to child violence, exploitation, and abuse.
- To boost livelihoods, the programme supported 500 youths by helping them develop business plans and providing starter kits to launch small businesses in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, dressmaking, carpentry, and retail. It also rehabilitated five key infrastructures, including youth and social affairs centers, to promote community development and youth engagement.
- The programme enhanced food security for vulnerable communities by improving animal health and hygiene. Four vaccination parks were built, and livestock markets were equipped with water points and renovated sheds. Furthermore, 2,700 breeding animals were distributed to 900 households, along with technical kits that included vaccines, vitamins, and feed, promoting sustainable farming practices.
- To strengthen disaster preparedness, the programme established two early warning systems and trained 489 individuals in disaster risk and emergency management. Local Emergency Committees were formed, and disaster response plans were developed to improve community resilience.
- In response to the growing threat of violent extremism, the programme identified five conflict management mechanisms and created a database of at-risk youth. These youths were provided with psychosocial support and vocational training to aid their reintegration into the community. Awareness campaigns on preventing violent extremism were also conducted using posters, flyers, and radio programmes.



www.un.org/humansecurity



humansecurity@un.org



[@UNHumanSecurity](https://twitter.com/UNHumanSecurity)



[@UNTFHS](https://www.facebook.com/UNTFHS)



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.