Each year, Sida conducts a humanitarian allocation exercise in which a large part of its humanitarian budget is allocated to emergencies worldwide. The allocation and subsequent disbursement of funds takes place in the beginning of the year to ensure predictability for humanitarian organizations and to allow for best possible operational planning. In an effort to truly adhere to the humanitarian principles, Sida’s humanitarian assistance is grounded in the four humanitarian principles, and in particular impartiality, with its compelling urge to ensure that humanitarian action is carried out based on “needs alone”, giving priority to the “most urgent cases of distress”. Therefore, Sida’s allocation methodology is grounded in several objective indicators such as; the scale of humanitarian needs (number of people in need), the severity of humanitarian needs (including food insecurity/IPC levels), the number of people targeted for the humanitarian response, the financial coverage of the respective humanitarian appeal, national capacities to respond and underlying risks, as well as distinct indicators related to forgotten crises. Sida also strongly supports the humanitarian coordination structures. Besides this initial allocation, another part of the humanitarian budget is set aside as an emergency reserve for sudden onset emergencies and deteriorating humanitarian situations. This reserve allows Sida to quickly allocate funding to any humanitarian situation throughout the year, including additional funding to Cameroon.

For 2019, Cameroon is allocated an initial 49 MSEK. Close monitoring and analysis of the situation in Cameroon will continue throughout the year and will inform possible decisions on additional funding.

1. CRISIS OVERVIEW

1.1. Type of crisis

Conflict

- **Background/Underlying cause:** Until recently Cameroon has not been suffering from significant internal conflict but has had to handle the consequences of conflicts in Nigeria and CAR. Conflict spill-over effects has been seen in the far north when elements belonging to the armed group Boko Haram started to attack villages on the Cameroonian side of the Nigeria/Cameroon border. Humanitarian needs have risen sharply during the last few years and the crisis has gradually shifted from two distinct refugee crises (CAR crisis and Nigeria crisis) affecting the east and the north, to a mixed setting crisis that includes high number of IDPs. In 2018 alarming levels of insecurity has been recorded in the anglophone parts of Cameroon, following the declaration of the independent country calling itself “Ambazonia”. No country in the world has recognised this territorial claim and claim for independence, including Cameroon. About 30 000 Cameroonian asylum seekers have been registered in Nigeria and approximately 250 000 are IDPs in the affected region.

- **Main stakeholders in the conflict:** The conflict in Cameroon is an asymmetrical conflict between the state and armed groups like Boko Haram and IS for West Africa and independence oriented armed groups in the English-speaking parts of the country. The emerging conflict internally in Cameroon are anglophone groups against what they perceive as an unequal representation in deciding forums and their part of the country’s resources manifested by the presence of state actors such as national army, schools and municipal buildings. The educational system has been a target and many schools in the anglophone regions have been closed.

- **Cross border implications** Cameroon is host to about 105,000 Nigerian refugees and approximately 250,000 CAR refugees. Borders to Nigeria have been closed, but some border posts are now temporarily open for trade, which helps economic recovery. At least 30 000 Cameroonians have fled to Nigeria due to the anglophone regions.

- **Trends:** Cameroon is currently in a negative conflict development dynamic. In a situation when efforts should be made to integrate the CAR refugees in the local Cameroonian economy and to assist IDPs in the north to return to their places of origin and helped to rebuild their homes and livelihoods, instead efforts are being mobilised around the internal francophone/anglophone divide in the country. Despite
large grants from the World Bank to target communities who have received many refugees, there is a risk that most effort will go to the internal conflict, and to fight the Boko Haram in the north.

**Natural disaster**

- **Nature of disaster** Situated between the arid and semi-arid north towards Lake Chad and rainforests in the south Cameroon holds some of the world’s highest annual rainfalls are recorded in locations in Cameroon with an average of over 10 000 mm/year and also extremely dry areas in the north where rain barely occurs at all. The northern part of the country has a typical Sahel-climate with distinct dry and rainy seasons, the centre has a savanna type of landscape and the south and central regions have tropical rainforests and year around rains. 2018 seems to have been a favourable year in terms of rainfall with good crops and good growth on pasture lands. Deforestation in rain forest regions is a major threat to production and the environment.

- **Resilience and coping mechanisms:** Since the country covers several climate zones, coping mechanisms and resilience strategies differ depending on where in the country this is being studied. In the Sahelian parts of the country, vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies are similar to the neighbouring Sahel-countries. The restriction on using boats on Lake Chad due to the security situation has affected fishing adversely. Cross border trade is picking up and contributing to economic recovery.

1.2. **Geographical areas and affected population**

- The Nigeria crisis and Boko Haram attacks have affected the extreme north and along the Cameroon/Nigeria border, specially towards Borno state but also down along Adamawa state border of Nigeria. The CAR crisis has affected the western parts of the country and refugees are either hosted in camps or in host communities, depending on when they crossed the border. The crisis in the North West, South West and coastal regions (anglophone areas) suffer from a general crisis affecting the whole area.

- Vulnerabilities are widespread in affected areas, but the group that seems to have the least support are IDPs. No deeper score on vulnerabilities on gender, age or social group is defined in any vulnerability analysis other than that women, children, elderly and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable.

- For 2019 approximately 4,3 million persons in Cameroon will be in need of humanitarian assistance. Target in the HRP is to reach 2,3 million beneficiaries. Efforts are made to progress beyond sectors, and a non-status (IDP, refugee, returnee) and needs alone is being applied. Since 2017 Cameroon is also part of the “why not cash” initiative that aims at promoting cash-based programming. A multisectoral approach is promoted among agencies and humanitarian organisations.

1.3. **Critical assumptions, risks and threats**

- The major risks for the general population is an escalation of conflict, both internally and in neighbouring countries. Drought and floods may also result in increased food insecurity. Lack of basic social services due to a slowness of government structures to resume activities in areas where IDPs are returning is a risk for children to miss out of school and suffer from the lack of access to functioning health services. The elections could be held as planned in October 2018, but allegations were made that these were not done in a correct manner. In the elections President Paul Biya was re-elected for a renewed term. Cameroon ranks 25 on Transparency International's corruption index, which indicates a high level of corruption.

- Following the agreement between Nigeria and Cameroon on safe returns for refugees, Nigerian refugees will probably continue to return, despite the volatile situation in Northeast Nigeria. Social and economic integration for CAR refugees will continue to be difficult since poverty is also general among host communities. Recovery in the anglophone parts of the country paired with political reforms to promote decentralisation and self-governance are unlikely and these aspects are a risk of fuelling the conflict even further. Intensified internal conflict in Western Cameroon is the largest threat at this
moment, and an escalating conflict will have negative consequences for the people and increase humanitarian needs.

- Humanitarian access has improved and areas that were unreachable just a year ago, such as the Logone et Chari district in the extreme north, is now accessible to humanitarian organisations. On some roads military escorts are still necessary and humanitarian flights continue to be crucial to humanitarian access.

1.4. Strategic objectives and priorities of the Humanitarian Response Plan

- The response plan takes in account lifesaving humanitarian interventions in crisis and displacement affected areas of the country. Cameroon doesn’t have a HCT protection strategy. This may be because the coordination system only late 2018 shifted form a UNHCR sectoral coordination model to a OCHA led cluster coordination response model. Nevertheless, protection is well covered in the response plan, and is showing agility as a special contingency plan was set up to prepare for any civil unrest due to the elections in 2018. The response plan for the North West and the South West has been slow to develop, much because access difficulties and reluctance form a authorities to grant access to the MIRA needs assessment teams. Gender analysis is done on partner and intervention level as well as analysis on vulnerabilities for people with special needs. AAP is mostly dealt with through participatory needs assessments and complaint mechanisms and could hence be improved. The entire response plan for 2019 is 392 MUSD. Sida partners are strong in presence in areas of Cameroon with the most acute humanitarian needs. The absence of a bilateral development cooperation strategy between Sweden and Cameroon leaves the CAR refugees and their needs for durable solutions through local social and economic integration underfunded.

2. IN COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN CAPACITIES

2.1. National and local capacities and constraints

- Government: Cameroon is a country with more economic resources than most of the G5 countries and is on a similar economic development level as Nigeria. Despite this availability of resources, distribution of wealth and development of infrastructure is uneven. Insecurity in the northern parts of the country has led to many schools and health centres to be closed. The National Cameroonian army has a strong presence in the north through the special brigades (BIR).

- Civil Society: Civil society is weak and national NGOs act more like contractors to INGOs and UN than representatives of an independent civil society. The “GONGO” phenomena is common and NGOs without affiliation to the state are often restricted or their staff and members threatened.

- Community and household level: Household capacity to cope is strong in the shorter term, as diversification and alternative incomes quickly are adapted. Negative coping strategies such as survival sex and premature sale of assets is noted among CAR refugees.

2.2. International operational capacities and constraints

- Leadership and Coordination: OCHA is now established in Cameroon and is since late 2018 leading the cluster rollout of the humanitarian response. As many new humanitarian actors are in the process of finding their space in Cameroon, the role of OCHA is crucial to mobilise and organise response and assist organisations to get operational.

- Humanitarian Agencies: The number of humanitarian actors (INGOs) have increased significantly in the last years. The movement now is to increase coverage in the extreme north in the Logone et Chari district, as well as in the Anglophone regions, where most IDPs with humanitarian needs are found. A recovery process is also necessary to assist former IDPs who have been able to return when the security situation has improved.

- Implementing partners: The HCT is functional and the sectoral coordination is also active. Relevant UN agencies have been able to shift from development-oriented interventions towards a humanitarian intervention modality of work. This is particularly valid for UNICEF. The Red Cross has also
successfully developed their programme towards a humanitarian profile. This is also the case for PLAN.

- **Development actors:** The Cameroonian state is a strong actor and compared to many other countries in the region, the state has capacities to take lead in development. A relatively well-educated population and an economy that is diversified has the potential to be an engine for development. State administration needs to be modernised and reformed, and the decentralisation process has been challenged by the threat of fragmentation of the country similar to what has happened with the anglophone parts of the country. Underlying cultural and ethnic divides are at risk of being catalysts for conflict and are now repressed. Only few international development actors are present, mostly UN agencies and some sectoral specialised organisations. Swedish WWF has a strong cooperation with partners in Cameroon for preservation of nature and wildlife. Environment and peace are probably the most important aspects to consider for a resilient development approach.

2.3. **International and regional assistance**

- **Donors:** Sida has responded to the humanitarian needs in Cameroon by approving Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) funding and subsequently continued with project funding for subsequent years. The current multiyear HRP is for 2017-2020 and the possibility to fund multiyear initiatives is being explored. Sida is currently availing resources, both as RRM response to partners intervening in the Anglophone areas of Cameroon, and in Nigeria to work with Cameroonian refugees who have fled across the border. Secondments through the MSB has also been approved for the anglophone crisis.

- **Regional organisations:** The regional dimensions in all the three crises that Cameroon is experiencing is still to be developed. Despite a regional LCB HNO, very few organisations are working through a cross border approach. The main regional organisation is the Lake Chad Basin Commission established in 1964.

2.4. **Access situation**

- Access has improved in Logone et Chari in the Extreme North and most of the major UN agencies and INGOs are looking to expand in this area. Infrastructure is a problem and there are plans to consider the possibility to prepare a landing strip to be used by UNHAS in Kousseri. Road travel from Maroua to Kousseri still need armed escorts due to the risk of banditry. The North West and South West has limited access, but this situation is improving.

3. **SIDA’S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN**

3.1. **The role of Sida**

- **Earlier assistance and results:** Sida has responded to the humanitarian needs in Cameroon by approving Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) funding and subsequently continued with project funding for subsequent years. The current multiyear HRP is for 2017-2020 and the possibility to fund multiyear initiatives has been explored. Establishing a link between humanitarian support and longer-term development is challenging since there is no bilateral development cooperation between Sweden and Cameroon. An increased support and cooperation between Sweden and the Lake Chad Basin Commission is desired to address root causes to vulnerabilities.

- **Lessons learnt:** The humanitarian intervention has grown significantly over the last three years, and the learning from this is that a mix of funding opportunities to start quickly with their interventions, such as the Sida RRM mechanism has opened space for other funding opportunities from other donors. Several Sida strategic partners are also implementing partners for UN agencies, and could only become so from having staff on the ground. The structures already established in Yaoundé facilitates the response in the Anglophone areas of Cameroon. Localisation is a challenge since existing local NGOs often are closely tied to the state and hence doesn't comply with the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality.
3.2. Response Priorities 2019

- **Humanitarian Focus**: An increased focus will be on the Anglophone crisis in the North West and the South West regions of Cameroon. Despite the volatile situation, the focus of Sida support will be on direct lifesaving interventions, but with a recovery perspective in mind. Security will only be restored when shelter and economic activities are recovered by crisis affected populations. This is also a way to avoid aid-dependency between beneficiaries and humanitarian agencies. All Sida funded interventions must include gender integration and environmental consequence descriptions leading towards conservation of nature and plans for effective use of resources included in the proposals. Conflict analysis and a “do no harm” analysis is also required.

- **Field follow-up**: In 2019 follow-up needs to be done to assess the situation and humanitarian response in the Anglophone areas of Cameroon. If possible, a partner visit to Logone et Chari and Maroua is desired. A minimum of two field visits is recommended during the year.

3.3. Partners

- **IRC**: IRC’s programme in Maroua and the Logone et Chari areas in northern Cameroon aims at assisting the crisis affected populations including IDPs through Cash-Based Interventions, Psychosocial Support, and a Microfinance project. The support is a top-up of previously agreed support. The IRC will conduct a livelihoods and labour market assessment; identify and strengthen existing community-based networks, establish village savings and loans associations, and provide support for income-generating activities. The intervention has been followed up in the field on several occasions and is seen as a very high-quality intervention with well-integrated protection and gender dimensions. Also, the integrated approach to relief, recovery and durable solutions is appreciated.

- **Plan**: Responding to the needs in the North West and South West Plan is planning to expand its response in the area building on an earlier RRM funding from Sida. Plan is also supported in the north of Cameroon for work in the Minawao refugee camp and host communities. Plan will continue to meet humanitarian needs, while at the same time strengthening the phase-out strategy.

- **Swedish Red Cross**: In 2019, SRC will, through the IFRC, provide support to the Cameroon Red Cross Society, which primarily focuses on support for internally displaced persons and the host population in the north-east of Cameroon, as other humanitarian actors in the region mainly focus on refugees from neighboring countries. The support includes water and sanitation interventions for 10,000 people, dissemination of information (hygiene) and training of 350 volunteers in first aid and psychosocial support. First aid and psychosocial support are important components of the support as the population is regularly exposed to violence, including suicide bombers in public places.

- **OCHA**: Cameroon has now rolled out the cluster system and OCHA is well established and will continue to coordinate HCT and the inter-cluster coordination.

- **UNHAS**: The United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) provides the humanitarian response in Cameroon with necessary logistical support.

- **UNICEF**: The UNICEF support for 2019 will be important to respond to humanitarian needs in the Anglophone areas of Cameroon, the extreme North and the Eastern parts of the country to target refugees from Central African Republic (CAR). UNICEF will provide an integrated, rights-based assistance package to the most conflict-affected populations.

- **UNHCR**: Support to the country programme with response to IDPs in Anglophone areas, refugees from CAR and refugees from Nigeria. For the Nigeria refugee situation funding is also provided through the RRRP framework to UNHCR.
## SIDA’s HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO Cameroon in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended partner for Sida support</th>
<th>Sector/focus of work (incl. cross sectoral/multipurpose programming) and response modalities (e.g. in-kind, services, CVP or a mix)</th>
<th>Proposed amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>Multisectoral project with a focus on livelihoods</td>
<td>5 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>Multisectoral project in the North in the West</td>
<td>7 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Programme support to the North and West</td>
<td>8 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>Project support to the North and a delegate</td>
<td>7 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>4 000 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>Access/logistic</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Budget support to HAC</td>
<td>8 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Budget support to country programme</td>
<td>7 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>49 000 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4. Strategic funding in protracted crises

- **FAO**: 2019 is year three of a 3-year project targeting the north of Cameroon with durable solutions for IDPs and host communities with a funding of 4 MSEK/Year. Previously agreed funding to Plan 6 MSEK and IRC 3 MSEK.

### 3.5. Synergies with long-term development assistance

- Cameroon is a pilot country for the New Way of Working. Regional Sida support is described in previous regional chapter.