



Oumarou Boubakari is a Peace Facilitator within the Catholic Relief Services' STaR II program in Mokolo, in Far North Cameroon. Working in villages where hundreds of internally displaced families have resettled in host communities, his role is to help foster peace and social cohesion amongst different ethnic and religious groups. © Jennifer Lazuta / CRS

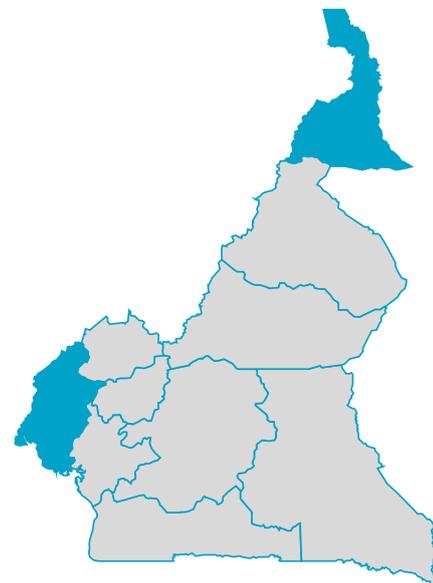
CRS in Cameroon

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPOND TO EMERGENCY NEEDS

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has worked in Cameroon since 1960. In response to the country's strategic needs, CRS' first interventions in Cameroon aimed to reduce infant mortality and increase food security. Since then, CRS' projects in Cameroon have strengthened local capacity in healthcare and in response to emergencies, including the Anglophone crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions, the Lake Chad Basin crisis in the Far North, and the influx of refugees from Central African Republic. Working with local partners, CRS is providing direct services and addressing the structural barriers affecting the populations living in the most vulnerable conditions. In FY2023, CRS Cameroon reached 138,381 people with life-changing services in all 10 regions of Cameroon.

KEY PROGRAMMING AREAS

- Emergency Response and Recovery
- Local Leadership
- Partnership and Capacity Strengthening
- Health



138,381

PEOPLE REACHED IN FY2023

\$6.87 million

RESOURCES SPENT IN FY2023

42 partners

WORKING ACROSS CAMEROON



EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Anglophone Crisis Emergency Response (ACER) project. To respond to the most urgent needs of populations affected by the conflict in Cameroon's Northwest region, CRS has been working with the Archdiocese of Bamenda since 2019 to provide food and non-food items (NFI) to vulnerable displaced and local families via electronic vouchers with funds from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). In the fourth phase of the project, CRS has disbursed funds via e-vouchers to over 2,000 families for food and household items. ACER IV also offered poultry training activities to 568 individuals in 110 families to enable them to meet their basic needs more sustainably in the future. By October 2023, 96.67% of participant families reported "little to no hunger," a decrease of over 76% from the project's baseline survey in April 2023.

Stabilization and Reconciliation in the Lake Chad Region (STaR) Phase II Project. Through this multi-sectorial project implemented across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, CRS is supporting the recovery of families affected by the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) crisis, thanks to funding from KfW. In the Far North of Cameroon, STaR Phase II plans to reach 16,000 individuals with activities that improve access to basic infrastructure and services, equip families with tools and skills to set up or improve livelihoods, reinforce social cohesion, and improve local governance. In FY2023, the project trained over 4,500 participants on rain-fed farming techniques and best practices, created 15 new Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), and provided training and seeds and tools to 370 families for dry season farming. The project also trained and deployed 20 social cohesion facilitators and 20 youth ambassadors to reinforce positive inter- and intra-community relationships.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Advancing Local Leadership in the Right Way (ALL Right). CRS Cameroon has supported the capacity strengthening of National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon (NECC) since the early 2000s. Starting in 2020, CRS has worked more intensively to prepare NECC to become a prime recipient of USAID funding for the CoSMO project. The CRS-funded ALL Right project provides complementary funding to intensify and extend the capacity strengthening support to help NECC become a local leader in development and humanitarian work. Since the start of the project in May 2022, CRS supported the creation of the Projects Unit under the NECC Secretariat to oversee and ensure the quality of programs and operations across NECC. CRS also provided technical and financial support to NECC in the development of the CoSMO proposal to USAID and funded the participation of key NECC staff in resource mobilization and communications trainings.

West Africa Rapid Response Fund (RRF). The West Africa RRF project is a CRS initiative designed to meet unanticipated needs, ensuring rapid, short-term, life-saving assistance through Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Multi-Purpose Cash (MPCA), and Shelter and Settlement (S&S) interventions. Through organizational and emergency

response capacity building, the project emphasizes the use of local partner networks to deepen the potential for sustainability and transition. CRS coordinates with other humanitarian actors in Cameroon to preliminarily assess stressors, shocks, and implementing gaps. A network of local and international partners can then raise alerts for funding for approval by the donor, USAID/BHA.

Empowering Partner Organizations Working on Emergency Responses in West/Central Africa (EMPOWER-WCA). Through this USAID/BHA-funded project, CRS is supporting 10 local humanitarian actors to improve their access to and capacity to serve in leadership positions within humanitarian coordination forums. The project focuses on strengthening local organizations' policies, systems, and structures needed to successfully fill leadership roles in humanitarian coordination groups as well as reducing barriers to these organizations' inclusion in humanitarian forums.



HEALTH

Key Interventions to Develop Systems and Services for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (KIDSS). From 2014 to March 2023, CRS implemented the USAID-funded KIDSS project, which strengthened the capacity of the Cameroonian government, civil society, communities, and families to care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in line with the objectives of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). CRS scaled up to support child-focused, family-centered interventions in over 60 health districts across all 10 regions of Cameroon. In FY2022, the project served 62,913 participants, including 10,708 children and adolescents living with HIV. CRS also supported NECC to improve its organizational capacity to become a prime recipient of USAID-PEPFAR funding through rigorous assessment, capacity strengthening, and continuous accompaniment. Following a successful application prepared with support from CRS, NECC signed an award agreement with USAID to implement the Consolidating Systems and Services for the Management of OVC (CoSMO) project over 5 years starting in January 2023.

CRS Strategic Change Platform 4: Multi-sectoral Malaria Integration. With private funding, CRS Cameroon implemented a pilot that integrated malaria interventions into the KIDSS project. This pilot aimed to improve access and use of integrated malaria prevention and treatment services for OVC and their families affected by HIV. The project trained community health workers already visiting KIDSS participants to raise their awareness about malaria prevention, identification, and treatment options. The health workers also tested suspected malaria cases and offered treatment for uncomplicated malaria cases within the communities.

Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC). Funded by the President's Malaria Initiative, the project reached 1,658,424 children under 5 years with lifesaving malaria prophylaxis.