

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW CAMEROON

HUMANITARIAN
PROGRAMME CYCLE
2023
ISSUED MARCH 2023



About

This document is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners. It provides a shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

PHOTO ON COVER

IDPs in Igawa Meme, Far North region

Photo: OCHA/Ariane Maixandau

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Caveat on displacement figures used for the Littoral, West and Centre regions

The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023 have been developed in a collective and collaborative manner with relevant stakeholders. The figures of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Littoral, West and Centre regions have been collected by humanitarian partners through multi-sectoral needs assessments (MSNAs) in consultation with local authorities. They are as follows: 79,954 IDPs in the Littoral, 114,111 IDPs in the West, 60,084 IDPs in the Centre.

Movements of populations linked to the crisis in the North-West and South-West continue to be dynamic, wherefore the IDP figures used refer to a certain moment in time. The Cameroonian Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) estimates that the displacement figures in some regions have evolved as some displaced persons would have decided to integrate locally. Respective figures from MINAT are: 20,375 IDPs in the Littoral, 15,446 IDPs in the West and 30,290 IDPs in the Centre. In 2023, the humanitarian community will continue to engage and work with MINAT, relevant sectoral ministries and development actors who play a central role in efforts to advancing durable solutions to internal displacements.

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OCHA coordinates humanitarian action to ensure crisis-affected people receive the assistance and protection they need. It works to overcome obstacles that impede humanitarian assistance from reaching people affected by crises, and provides leadership in mobilizing assistance and resources on behalf of the humanitarian system.

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<https://response.reliefweb.int/cameroon>

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Summary of Humanitarian Needs and Key Findings

Current figures

PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>59 YEARS)
4.7M	51%	52%	42%	6%



WEST REGION, CAMEROON

An IDP Family displaced from the North-West region.
Photo: OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue

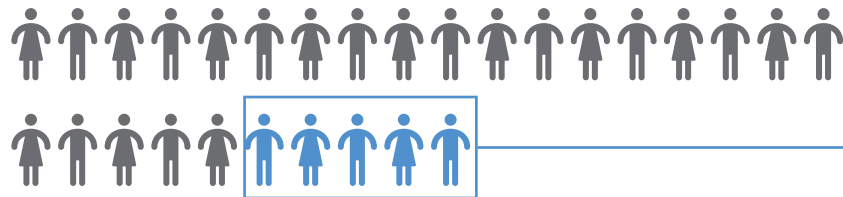
TOTAL POPULATION

28M

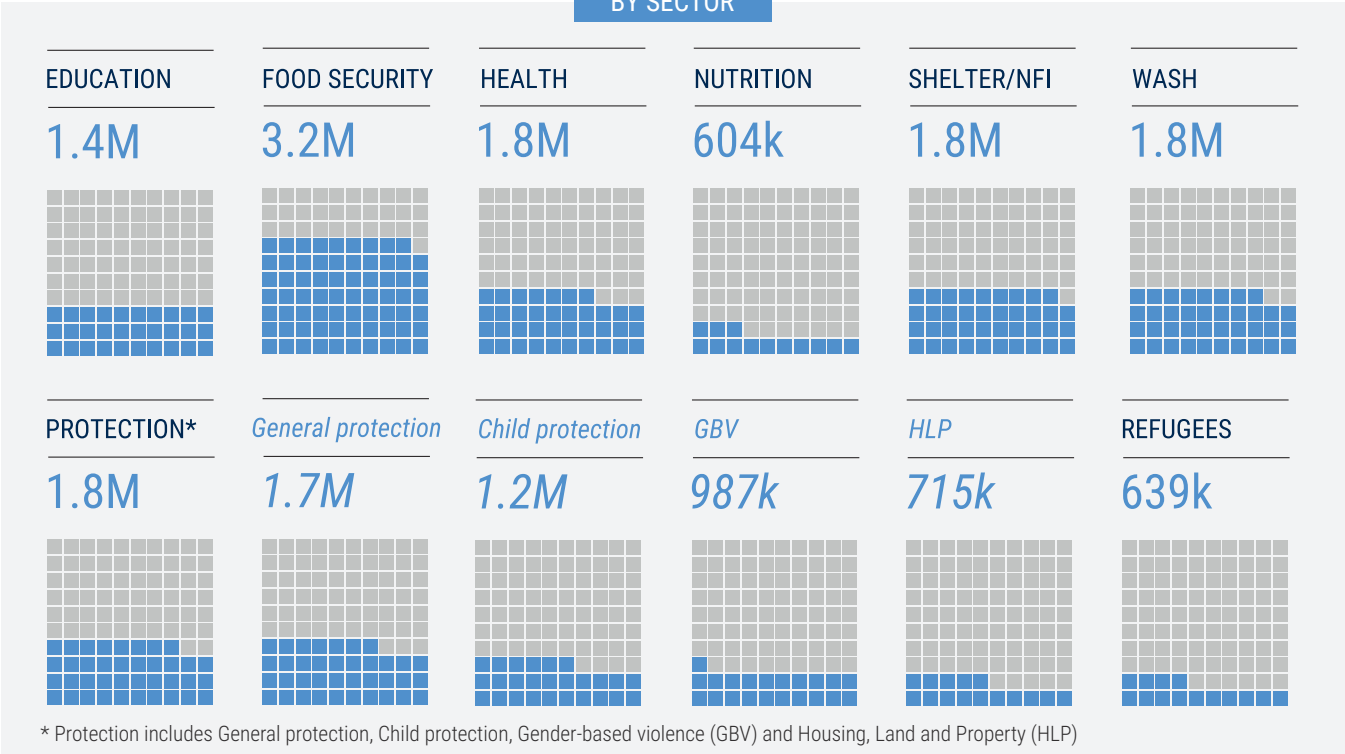


PEOPLE IN NEED

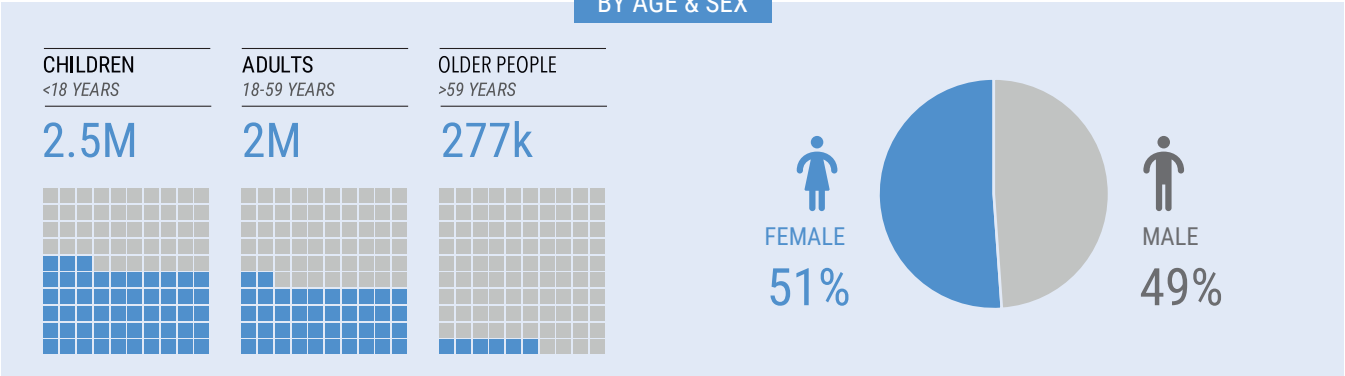
4.7M



BY SECTOR






BY AGE & SEX









Intersectoral severity

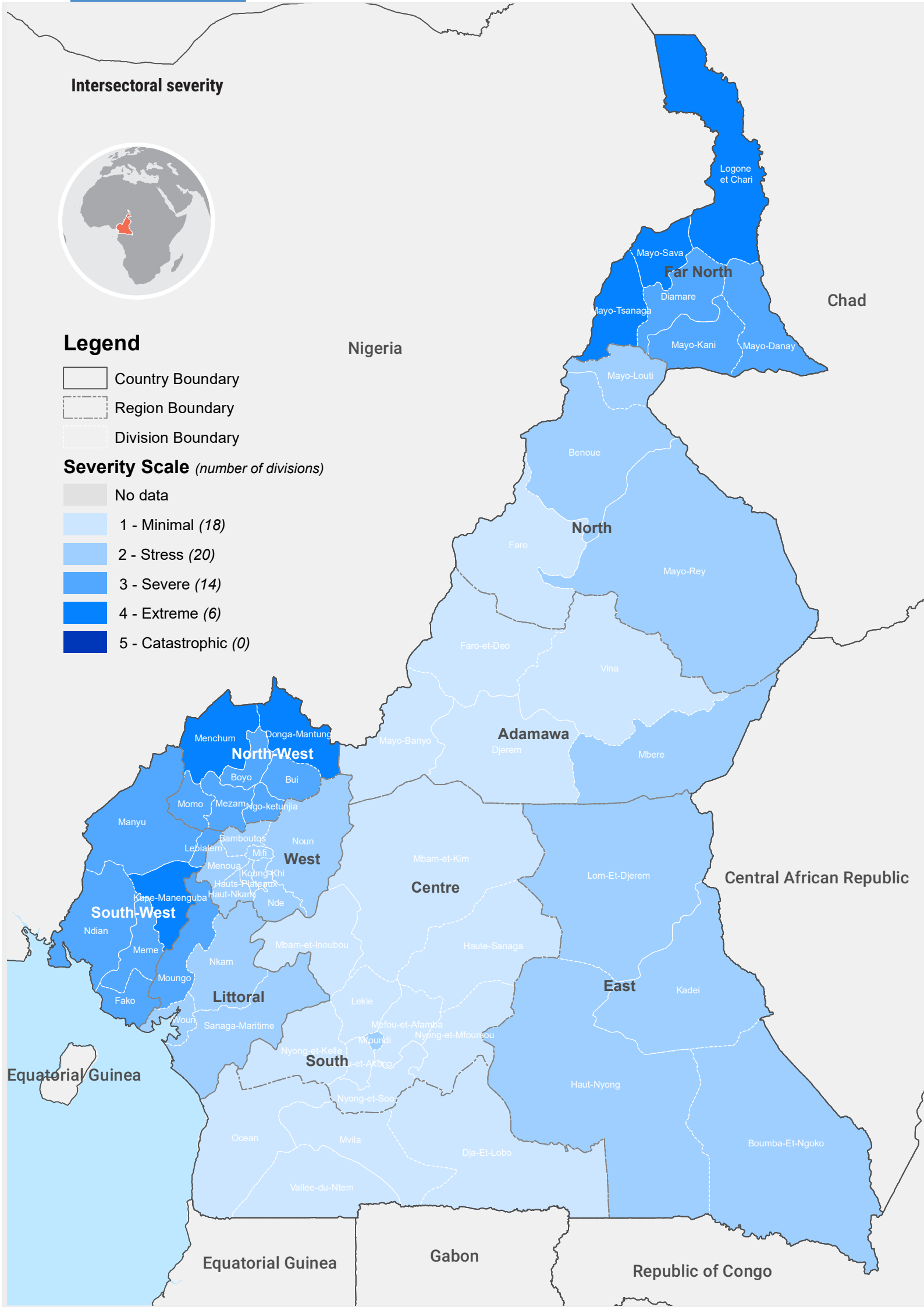


Legend

-  Country Boundary
-  Region Boundary
-  Division Boundary

Severity Scale (number of divisions)

-  No data
-  1 - Minimal (18)
-  2 - Stress (20)
-  3 - Severe (14)
-  4 - Extreme (6)
-  5 - Catastrophic (0)



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

An IDP selling in a market as an income generating activity.

Photo: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeau



Part 1:

Impact of the Crises and Humanitarian Conditions

FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

An internally displaced woman in the IDP site of Maroua who fled the inter-community conflict in Logone Birni.

Photo: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeau



1.1

Context of the Crises

Nine out of ten regions of Cameroon continue to be impacted by three complex humanitarian crises: the Lake Chad basin conflict, the North-West and South-West (NWSW) crisis and the Central African Republic (CAR) refugee crisis. In 2023, one out of six people living in Cameroon needs humanitarian assistance and protection, a total of 4.7 million people. More than 3.2 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity in 2023.¹ There are over two million people on the move as internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, or refugees. Humanitarian needs are compounded by structural development weaknesses and chronic vulnerabilities that further challenge the long-term recovery of affected people. The number of people in need in Cameroon continues to grow due to the impact of conflict and insecurity, epidemics as well as climate-related effects, such as floods and droughts. The prolonged nature of these crises, new and repeated displacement, and insufficient humanitarian assistance are eroding people's already limited resilience. This is leading to an increase in negative coping mechanisms, including child labor, child marriage and survival sex.

Political, socio-cultural, demographic, and economic profiles

Cameroon ranks 151 out of 191 countries as per the 2021/2022 Human Development Index. Although there has been some economic progress, poverty remains a significant problem. An estimated 37.5 per cent of the country's population lives below the poverty line,² with that figure rising above 70 per cent in some regions. Ninety per cent of the labour market in Cameroon is informal, and most of the working-age population is self-employed. The agriculture sector dominates the economy, employing 62 per cent of the labour force, 80 per cent of whom are women. Persistent gender inequalities and socio-cultural constraints, exacerbated by the humanitarian crises, limit women's and youth's

access to basic social services and opportunities. A significant proportion of the population in rural areas is still illiterate, hampering their access to information and opportunities to improve their living conditions and increasing their vulnerability, thereby heightening the risk of being left behind.³

In the **Far North** region, particularly in the Lake Chad basin area, the economic context is marked by poverty; the lack of access to, and sustainable management of, natural resources; limited income-generating and market opportunities; as well as a drastic reduction in agriculture/livestock production and touristic activities due to prevalent insecurity. In Logone Birni, 43 per cent of young people between 15 and 24 years do not go to school nor work.⁴

The **North-West and South-West** regions make a significant contribution to the national economy, especially with regards to the production and export of cash crops. There are notable differences in the economic make-up of the North-West and the South-West. While agriculture remains the largest employment sector across the two regions, employing 47 per cent and 44 per cent of workers in the North-West and South-West respectively, larger cash crop plantations are mostly located in the South-West while the North-West mainly relies on small-scale farming. Prior to the crisis, the South-West managed to cut down its poverty level by more than half while the North-West struggled to reduce its poverty rate and diversify its economy.⁵ Violence, regular lockdowns and closure of roads continue to impact local economies. The crisis provoked the collapse of Cameroon's second largest employer, the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC), which employed over 15,700 people including seasonal workers prior to the crisis. Farmers working for the CDC were forced to abandon palm oil, rubber, and banana plantations. The CDC experienced a steep decline in its operations and

revenues since the onset of the crisis. This decline of a major agro-industrial business brought about the collapse of an entire ecosystem of subcontractors who depended on the CDC to stay operational.⁶ The World Bank estimates that, without the crisis, a growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) of 4.5 per cent in 2019 would have been recorded, instead of the 3.8 per cent registered that year.⁷

Economic activities in the **East, Adamawa, and North** regions focus on trade, livestock, mining, agriculture, handicrafts, and forestry. Companies active in the areas of forestry, mining, and agriculture support the local economy. The three regions have intense trade with neighbouring countries (CAR, the Republic of the Congo, and Chad). CAR refugees and the populations hosting them share cultural, religious, and linguistic affinities, strengthening their integration.

Security environment

Widespread insecurity in the Lake Chad basin and border area with Nigeria continued to affect the **Far North** region in 2022. Attacks against civilians, State security forces (SSF), including army, gendarmerie, and the police, persisted and non-State armed groups (NSAGs) and armed criminals continued to carry out lootings in crisis-affected areas. NSAGs continue to use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the Far North, North-West, and South-West regions, primarily targeting military convoys. However, at least four children and one pregnant woman were killed and twelve civilians, including six children, were injured in the Far North and North-West in 2021 and 2022.⁸

The geostrategic location of the Far North, at the crossroads of important communication routes between Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria, the weak national integration of this region, and the historical neglect of border areas by the State gave rise to various trafficking and criminal activities. Communities which feel left without Government protection take on their own security, leading to violence, death, and a proliferation of weapons.⁹

NSAGs have exploited these vulnerabilities and made the Far North a logistical base, a retreat area, a recruitment pool, a supply granary and impose taxes

on the local population. The conflict with the NSAGs has both amplified and concealed criminal activities and pre-existing inter-community conflicts in the Far North. It amplified them by developing relationships between the NSAGs and local criminal groups and concealed them by redirecting the attention and resources of authorities on the fight against NSAGs to the detriment of other security issues. Moreover, historically, the different ethnic groups of the Far North have always been armed. They now have access to firearms and ammunition, increasing the impact of confrontations. The large livestock markets in the cross-border areas of the Lake Chad basin have facilitated cattle rustling, with the cattle thefts starting to work for NSAGs.¹⁰

Many protection incidents are thus listed in the region: theft, destruction of property, physical attacks, extortion, murder, kidnapping. Finally, the existence of large livestock markets in the Lake Chad basin region has encouraged livestock theft, with cattle rustlers starting to work for NSAGs: 30,000 oxen were stolen in the region between 2014 and 2021.¹¹

In the North-West and South-West regions, high levels of insecurity continued in 2022. The presence of SSF is concentrated along the main roads and cities, leaving many rural areas under the influence of NSAGs, and civilians exposed to risks arising from regular clashes between SSF and NSAGs as well as armed violence among rival armed groups. High levels of criminality and impunity lead to a climate of insecurity with civilians and humanitarian workers facing risks of abduction/ kidnapping for ransom, assault, unlawful detention, carjacking, and threats of violence. The line between targeted, politically motivated acts of violence and criminal activities is increasingly blurred. In 2022, the West region witnessed some NSAG attacks on SSF posts as well as on local markets in small towns bordering the North-West and the South-West regions.

Other parts of Cameroon remain stable and offer relative security, and therefore continue to receive many refugees and IDPs from other regions and neighbouring countries. However, security incidents, including urban crime, kidnappings for ransom, and night-time hijackings continue to be reported in the **East, Adamawa, and North** regions.

Existing legal and policy frameworks

Although Cameroun possesses an elaborate national legislative and regulatory framework, its effectiveness is sometimes undermined by structural and administrative weaknesses.

The judicial system in Cameroon provides for courts of appeal at regional level and courts at divisional level. However, many laws and policy frameworks are not applied and access to the judiciary system is challenging in remote areas. The population often resorts to other forms of justice, namely traditional chiefdoms, religious leaders, and other community mechanisms such as conflict management committees to settle their disputes.

Despite the existence of legislation favorable to gender equality, respective law is inconsistently applied due to the coexistence of positive and customary law and the inaccessibility of courts in rural areas. This contributes to the preservation of sexist attitudes and practices and to keeping women in subordinate positions.¹²

The role of the Government administration and of traditional authorities has been significantly affected by insecurity, especially in the North-West and South-West regions where NSAGs target State institutions and representatives as well as community/religious

leaders in an effort to impose their authority on local communities. At the same time, the implication of some customary leaders in national politics has undermined their authority and acceptance by communities in these two regions.

Infrastructure and technology

Cameroon has nearly 78,000 kilometers of main roads, including 5,133 kilometers of asphalted roads. However, in the Far North, North-West, East, and Adamawa regions the road network is severely degraded and impractical, especially during the rainy season. The electricity network covers only a few localities and remains poor with only 15 per cent of households connected to the electrical grid. The mobile telephone network excludes certain rural areas. In general, men have more access to telephones than women.¹³

Environmental profile

Cameroon is exposed to climatic hazards (low or high rainfall depending on the season and the regions), leading to drought, floods, and landslides. Human-induced deforestation and degradation threaten the existence of its vast and extensive forests,



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

Floods in the Logone et Chari division.

Photo: OCHA/Joelle Kwembi



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

IDP site following the floods in Logone et Chari division.

Photo: PUI

and subsequently the survival of various natural ecosystems and the livelihoods of forest dwellers.¹⁴

The Sahel region has been significantly affected by climate change. Temperatures are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average and the UN estimates that 80 per cent of farmland is degraded.¹⁵ Climate scenarios for Cameroon forecast warming in all regions by 2050, with significant and extensive temperature increases in the northern regions. Climate change is leading to a decrease in precipitation, water scarcity and soil depletion, compromising the livelihoods of farmers, herders, and fishermen.¹⁶

The consequences of climate change have an impact on agricultural production and on transhumance routes and lead to the scarcity of fish by causing the drying up of ponds, the drop in the water level in the river. Meanwhile, fishermen not always respect the periods of the biological reproduction of fish which leads to a decrease in the number and size of the fish.¹⁷ Fishermen thus dig canals, which leads to conflicts between herders and fishermen when transhumance routes are blocked by these canals.

The reduction of resources available to herders, farmers and fishermen increases the risk of conflicts.¹⁸

Farmers are also increasingly using land traditionally used for grazing. At the same time, animal numbers are increasing, and soils are shrinking, forcing herders to graze their herds further south and use land normally reserved for agriculture. Some farmers resort to herbicides and breeders to bush fires in the middle of the dry season to fertilize land, devastating several thousand hectares of pasture each year.¹⁹

Finally, the Logone et Chari division is experiencing an influx of people looking for proximity to water points and access to fishing resources at the Lake Chad and the Logone River. These demographic changes add additional pressure on natural resources.²⁰ Climate change can thus be considered an important cause of population displacements and a key factor preventing their return.²¹

1.2

Shocks and Impact of the Crises

Shocks and ongoing events

The main shocks of the different crises in Cameroon relate to armed violence, natural disasters, and health epidemics. These shocks lead to forced displacement, human rights violations, family separations, stigmatization, and exploitation of those displaced, and the disruption of social cohesion and support structures for vulnerable people. Furthermore, they negatively impact access to basic services, land and economic opportunities.

Shocks related to violence

In the **Far North** region, the civilian population continues to be subject to armed attacks, IEDs, kidnappings, including of children, looting, and destruction of property and infrastructure.

As in 2021, 90 per cent of security incidents in the Far North in 2022 occurred in the Logone et Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions,²² with most attacks taking place in areas close to the Nigerian border. Overall, an important increase in clashes between SSF and NSAGs can be noted in 2022 in comparison to 2021, leading to a significant increase in the number of deaths among NSAG members. In line with this dynamic, there was a 70 per cent decrease of NSAG attacks against civilians, which did not translate in a decrease of civilian killed and kidnapped, but in a decrease of civilians injured.²³ Intercommunal clashes in August and December 2021 in Logone Birni displaced over 70,000 people including to Chad. As of October 2022, only 15,000 have returned to their areas of origin.

The situation in the **North-West and South-West** regions remained tense in 2022, with continued violence, including intercommunal clashes, and targeted attacks, abductions, kidnappings, killings, unlawful arrests, and destruction of property.

Populations, as well as education and healthcare providers in particular, continue to be at high risk when accessing facilities or delivering services.

The two regions saw a sharp increase in security incidents in April and May 2022, but otherwise the number of incidents remained at the same level as in 2021, yet below numbers in 2020.²⁴

In the **eastern regions**, sporadic cross-border movements of armed persons from CAR continue to be reported. The armed conflict in western CAR continues to trigger movements of populations across the border.

Shocks related to natural disasters

Besides recurrent drought and landslides, recurrent floods are among the major risks which Cameroon faces, especially in the Littoral, Far North and North regions. Climate projections have shown an increase in the frequency and magnitude of floods, sea-level rise, storms, mudslides, and soil erosion.²⁵

Impact of floods

Exceptional floods affected over 313,000 people in the Far North in 2022,²⁶ causing at least 23 deaths and displacing over 113,000 people. Inadequate living conditions, including lack of access to drinking water, latrines, and food, were reported from several areas to which people had been displaced. The floods resulted from heavy rainfall, overflowing rivers and/or breached dykes, and had led to the loss of an estimated 31,000 houses, 48,000 hectares of fields and 6,700 animals. Around 151 primary and secondary schools had been flooded, and more than 200 water points and 2,620 latrines submerged. A dozen health facilities were completely flooded and rendered non-operational.

Shocks related to health epidemics

Cameroon is affected by several health epidemics, including cholera, measles, monkey pox, yellow fever, and COVID-19. Limited access to safe drinking water in some areas, inadequate WASH conditions, weak vaccination coverage, population movement, insufficient health facilities and personnel and limited implementation of prevention measures by the population are among the factors contributing to the recurrence of these epidemics.

A **cholera outbreak** was declared by the regional delegation of public health for the South-West on 29 October 2021. Spreading to eight regions, the epidemic remained active in the Far North, Littoral, and Centre regions as of December 2022. As of 27 December 2022, 15,085 cases, including 301 deaths, had been reported. The Littoral region was the most affected region with 7,390 cases including 158 deaths, followed by the South-West with 6,027 cases, including 92 deaths.

The epidemic reached the Far North region in October 2022, including the Minawao refugee camp. As of 2 January 2023, 144 cases were reported in the camp, and 503 cases in the whole region. Access to drinking water and latrines is generally challenging in the Far North region, particularly in the refugee camp and IDP sites. Floods which started in the Far North region mid-August 2022, further increased the risk of the spread of the epidemic. Hundreds of latrines and water points were flooded and access to health facilities and care was made more challenging. The lack of access to drinking water and latrines was further exacerbated.

Impact on people

Protection of Civilians

Hostilities are the direct cause of death and injury, displacement, damage to property and destruction of civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals/health points.

In the **Far North**, most NSAG attacks are predatory, with civilians also sometimes targeted for their perceived collaboration with SSF and local vigilante committees.

Going to school in the **North-West** and **South-West** remains dangerous for children, as well as for teachers, as evidenced by the continuous chain of **violent attacks on education** since 2017. Formal education facilities, staff and students continued to be targeted and attacked in 2022. Meanwhile, some local authorities oppose non-formal education initiatives, which led to the forced closure of several community schools. Certain areas have also become more prone to kidnapping for ransom, with school children particularly at risk of being abducted, tortured, or killed. Most of the reported kidnapping incidents of teachers or students were targeted, others took place in an overall environment of kidnapping for ransom in certain areas of the North-West and South-West regions.

The August 2022 MSNA found that in 83 per cent of the assessed villages, no alternative learning options were available when schools are closed. Insecurity, the distance to go to school and school closures are cited as the primary reasons for displaced children not going to school. However, a 16 per cent increase in overall school enrollment was reported for the first quarter of the 2022/23 school year. As the crisis perdures and children remain without access to education, it is reported that parents are increasingly ready to take greater risks to send their children to school.

Insecurity in the Far North, South-West, and North-West regions continues to exacerbate already limited access to health services. Attacks on and the destruction of basic health infrastructure have led to a drain in health personnel, reducing the availability of health services addressing war injuries and psychosocial trauma related to violence, including sexual violence and rape.

Health care facilities, supplies and workers also continued to be targeted in the **North-West** and **South-West**, while civilians in need of medical services continued to be affected by attacks and movement restrictions. Three health workers were killed in 2022. Ambulances are caught in crossfire, searched by SSF, or carjacked with patients and medical staff by NSAGs. Reports of hospitals and health posts being occupied by security forces, armed incursions by security forces into hospitals, abductions of health workers by NSAGs, attacks and threats to health personnel as well as the

detention of health workers continue to be registered on a regular basis.

In the **Far North**, an NSAG attack on 2 July 2022 led to the temporary closure of the Mada district hospital and the school run on the hospital premises. The Mada hospital, supported by humanitarian partners, provided health care to thousands of vulnerable people in the whole Lake Chad basin region. People suffering from severe medical conditions were forced to seek medical care hundreds of kilometers away in Kousséri or Chad. Local authorities reported numerous deaths of laboring women who were unable to access attended birth services, including cesarean deliveries. The hospital partially reopened on 1 November 2022 for ambulatory services and fully reopened on 14 December 2022.

Displacement

There are over two million people on the move in Cameroon, either as internally displaced persons, returnees, or refugees.²⁷ The number of these displaced people increased slightly since 2020,²⁸ with the largest displacement waves linked to the arrival of the refugees from CAR in 2004 and 2014, as well as the escalation of violence in the Lake Chad basin region since 2014 and in the North-West and South-West since 2017.

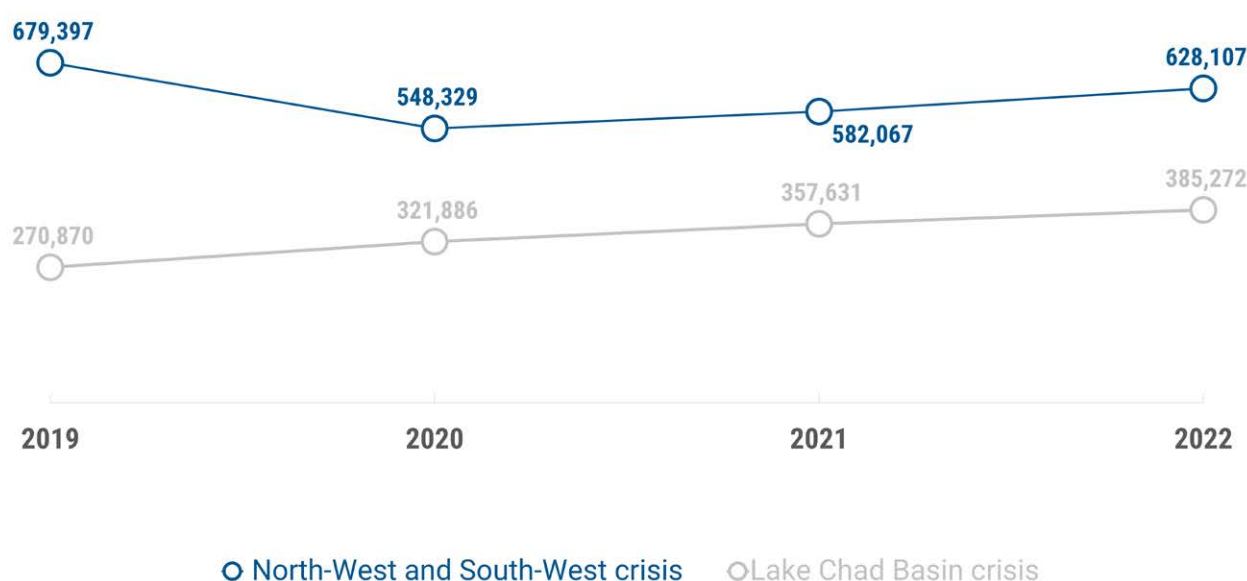
Violence in the **Far North** has led to a steady rise of displacement since 2014. As of October 2022, violence

has uprooted a total of 662,000 people, including 385,000 IDPs, 138,000 people who have returned to their areas of origin and 134,000 Nigerian refugees who have settled in the region; an increase of 77,000 people since October 2021.²⁹

The conflict, clashes between SSF and NSAGs and NSAG attacks were responsible for 90 per cent of the displacement before 2021. Since then, the inter-communal conflict has become an increasingly important reason for displacement. Around 66 per cent of new displacements recorded between January and February 2022 related to the inter-communal conflict that broke out in Logone Birni in December 2021. While there was no further escalation in 2022, inter-community conflict continued to be responsible for 26 per cent of displacement recorded between March and August 2022.³⁰

Return movements have been registered since the beginning of the conflict. Reasons for return mentioned during the August 2022 assessment included improved security in area of return (41 per cent), access to cultivable land (39 per cent), order of the military or civilian authorities (9 per cent), and lack of assistance in area of displacement (4 per cent).³¹ Conditions are not globally conducive to return. Around 76 per cent of IDPs and out-of-camp refugees do not intend to leave their locality of displacement, while the majority of those who have the intention to return to their villages of origin do not know when they will do

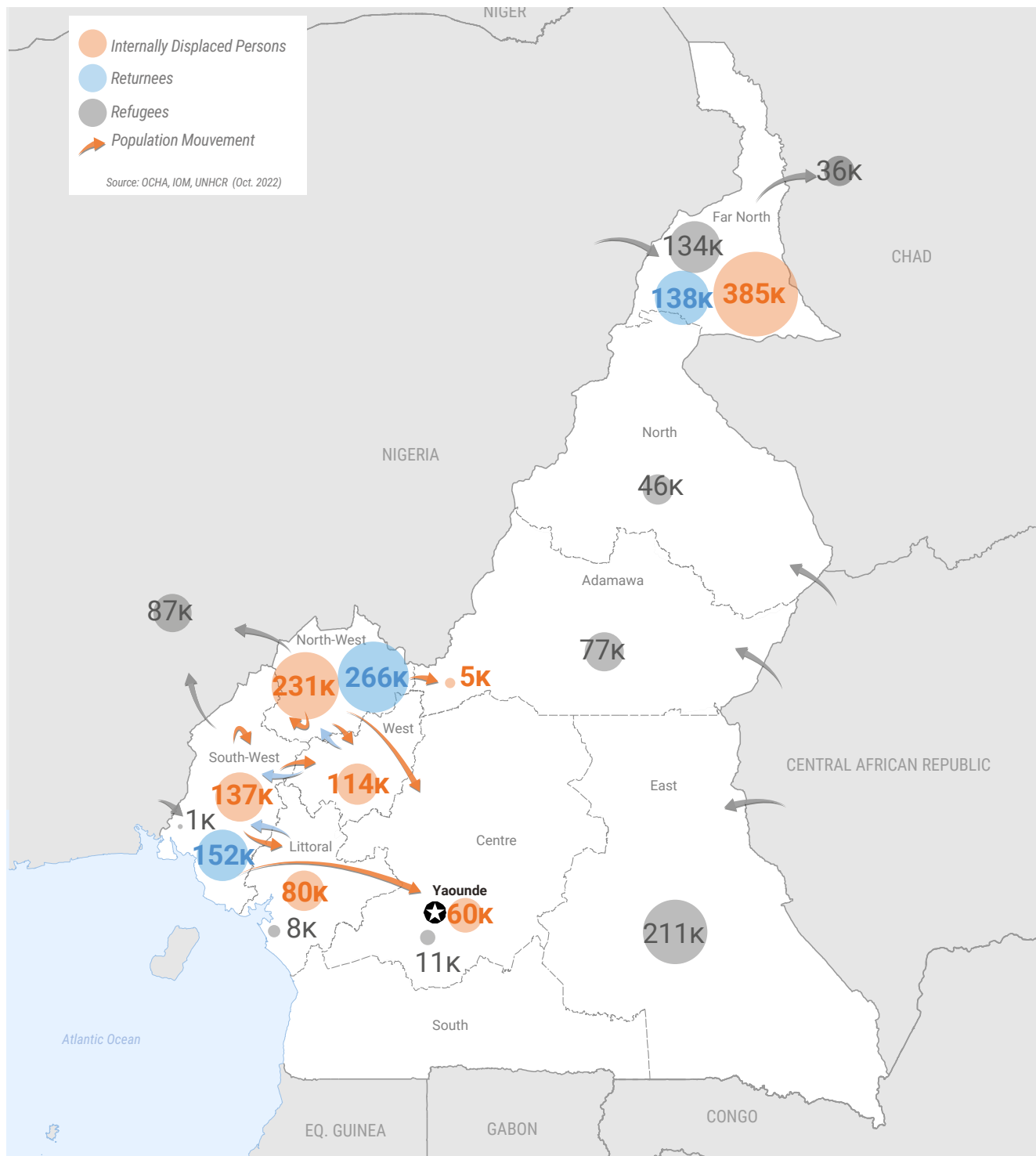
Evolution of IDPs for North-West and South-West and Lake Chad Basin crisis



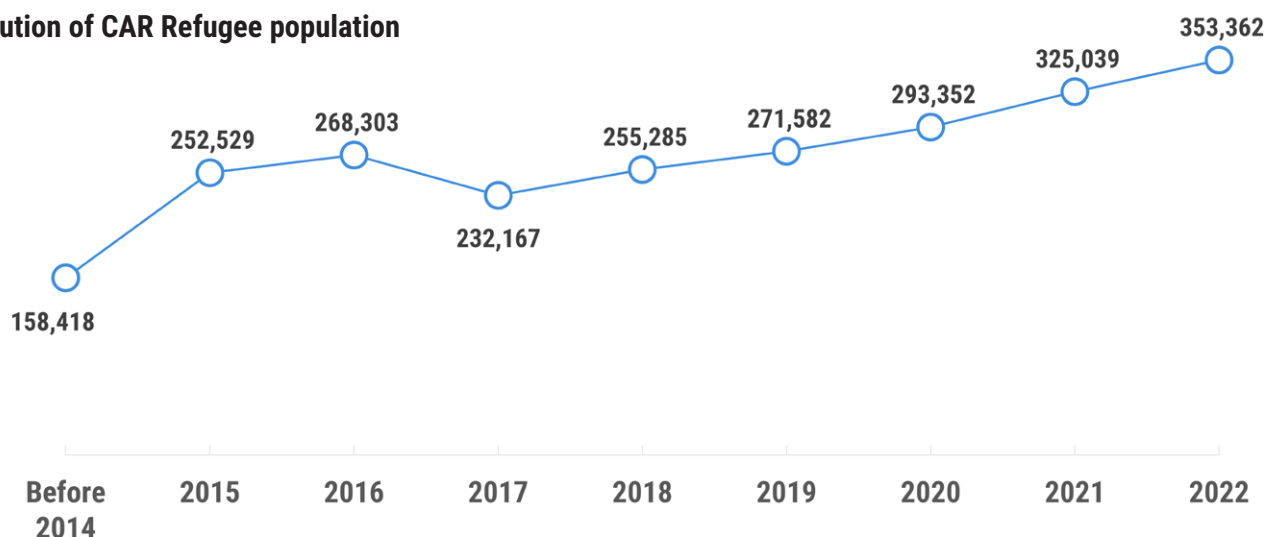
so. Of the people who do not currently intend to return to their areas of origin, the majority intends to settle in the areas of displacement for the long term. Reasons for not intending to return include the lack of security, followed by the absence of civil authorities, basic services, and work opportunities, and destroyed homes in areas of origin.³²

Displacements in the Far North are characterized by their short distances: 97 per cent of IDPs find refuge in a locality within their division of origin, often even in the same district. Pendular displacement is frequent with 40 per cent of the 3,370 households consulted in November 2021, indicating to move back and forth between their village of origin and their location of displacement regularly.³³ The main reasons

Displacements overview



Evolution of CAR Refugee population



*These numbers include CAR refugees in the Adamawa, North and East regions, as well as the mostly urban refugees in the Centre and Littoral regions.
Source: UNHCR*

for these pendular movements are family visits and agricultural activities.³⁴

IDPs usually settle in makeshift shelters, often near a base of the Cameroonian armed forces. When military bases are relocated due to frequent NSAG attacks, the population moves as well.

In the **North-West and South-West**, the socio-political crisis, which has now entered its seventh year, has led to massive population displacements. As of August 2022, the North-West and South-West crisis has displaced almost 715,000 people within Cameroon and to Nigeria.³⁵ Almost 100 per cent of these people are displaced due to the crisis and violence in the North-West and South-West. The majority of the IDPs fled the North-West and South-West regions in 2020 or before.³⁶

Short-term, pendular movement continues within the two regions. Over 94 per cent of these displacements are related to violence and insecurity, driven by fear of attacks (38 per cent), military operations (29 per cent), and confrontations between armed groups (18 per cent). Often people move back and forth between their homes and their places of refuge. As they hide, people build huts and cultivate plots of land. Pendular displacement is observed in 64 per cent of assessed villages of the North-West and in 23 per cent of localities in the South-West. While displacement trends in the North-West remain at the same level since August 2021, there has been a decrease in pendular displacement in the South-West.³⁷ In 57 per cent of

cases, it is the entire household which displaces. In the rest of the cases, men hide alone while their families remain in the villages or move to safer urban areas. Women often visit their homes first to check if the area is safe.

As of August 2022, 377,000 people returned to the North-West and South-West from other regions of Cameroon. All initially left because of the violence, most of them in 2021 or before (72 per cent). Around 37 per cent returned to the North-West and South-West due to a lack of livelihood opportunities in the areas of displacement, 33 per cent because of the relative safety in the village of origin and 23 per cent because of access to farmland.

In the **eastern regions** of Cameroon, an increase in the number of refugees from CAR has been observed. As of October 2022, 335,000 refugees were reported in the East, Adamawa, and North regions, 19,000 more than in October 2021.³⁸ While there is a certain increase in the refugee number due to birth rates, new refugees continue to arrive due to insecurity and clashes in CAR.

Impact on systems and services

Impact on the labour market and the economy

In the **North-West and South-West**, the disruption to supply chains, regular roadblocks and associated increases in transportation costs have contributed to the fluctuation of consumer prices. Passing

roadblocks is often subject to paying a tax to NSAGs, with goods and material at risk to be confiscated or destroyed. Smallholder farmers and people working in rural areas seem to be disproportionately affected by the restrictions on movement as they are unable to transport their products to urban markets, customers are less likely to travel to buy their products, and they are unable to supply themselves with raw materials or inputs. Meanwhile, jobseekers are also finding it harder to find a job. On one hand, this can be explained by the shortage of local jobs, as businesses are forced to close temporarily/permanently or reduce their workforce as a direct consequence of violent lockdowns and “Monday ghost towns”.³⁹ On the other hand, movement restriction, and roadblocks imposed by NSAGs contribute to local populations’ reluctance to seek employment in unstable areas or in Government-run companies. The resulting economic depression has led to mounting psychological impacts among business-owners and the wider population who struggles to access income-generating activities.⁴⁰

Limited access to basic social services

In the **Far North, the North-West and South-West** regions, access to basic social services is disrupted by ongoing insecurity. However, in the Far North, many services have never been available in the first place. For example, 31 per cent of localities assessed have never had a health center and have no health center accessible in proximity. In several divisions in the Far North, there have never been any public sector officials, and only in 7 per cent of villages public sector officials are reported to have left due to insecurity and never returned.⁴¹ The three divisions which border Nigeria (Logone et Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga) have lower access to basic services than the other divisions. Overall, Logone et Chari is the division with the weakest access to services, including health, education, and markets.⁴²

Disruption of social services in many localities in the North-West, South-West, and Far North regions forces people to walk long distances to access those few services remaining, creating additional risks related to arbitrary arrest as well as physical and sexual violence.

The need for safe drinking water remains critical in the whole country, even though the severity of needs varies by region. In the Far North, only 30 per cent of villages have access to drinking water which is supplied on a regular basis. Around 35 per cent of villages in the Mayo-Sava division have no access to drinking water at all.⁴³

Access to drinking water is identified as the top priority need of the displaced population in the North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions. A shortage of safe drinking water in rural areas leads people to rely on unsafe water from streams, rivers, and unprotected wells. The primary challenges faced by displaced populations in these regions to access drinking water include the scarcity of water points, long distance or long waiting time to access the water points, or lack of water containers.⁴⁴

Regardless of the region, fetching water remains a specific activity for girls, boys, and women, exposing them to various protection risks and limiting their time to engage in schooling and income-generating activities.

In the Far North, only in 30 per cent of assessed localities health services are open and functional.⁴⁵ Most of the displaced populations face challenges accessing health services because the services are too costly, specialist services are not available, or the health facility is not easily accessible physically. Access to health care is especially challenging for pregnant women, older people, and persons with disabilities. Only 46 per cent of women give birth in a health center or hospital in the Far North.⁴⁶ Across the country, only 69 per cent of births were assisted by medical personnel and despite the efforts recorded in the fight against maternal mortality, Cameroon’s rate remains quite high (467 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018).⁴⁷

The lack of health facilities also contributes to the spread of epidemics such as cholera and measles, particularly affecting children, and older people.

The suspension of the operations of an international medical non-governmental organization (NGO) in the **North-West** by the Government in December 2020 resulted in a significant gap in the health care

response capacity in this region. In June 2022, the concerned NGO decided to indefinitely suspend its operations in the South-West in response to the detention of four of its staff, which negatively affected the cholera response ongoing in this region at that time. The organization was a key player with regards to case management and primary care, including in hard-to-reach areas, through mobile clinics and working with community health workers. The NGO was one of the few health actors with ambulance services in the North-West and South-West making referrals from remote villages possible. While some health partners have been able to step up activities, the NGO's suspension considerably stretched the response capacity of remaining partners and of Government services.

In the **Littoral and West** regions, access to healthcare is limited due to distance and inadequate financial resources. There is little awareness about sexual and reproductive health services. Early and/or unwanted pregnancies, complications during pregnancies due to inadequate prenatal care were also cited as a major concern by key informants.⁴⁸

In the **eastern regions**, the few existing health centres have been stretched beyond capacity since the arrival of refugees, suffering from insufficient human and material resources. Extreme poverty prevents vulnerable people from paying the costs necessary for health care. Around 70 per cent of health facilities do not have the necessary medical equipment and enough staff to ensure quality health care. Especially children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, persons living with disabilities, older people, and those with chronic diseases face difficulties in accessing health care.

Civil and legal documentation

The disruption of services also affects the delivery of civil and legal documentation, including birth certificates and identity cards, which are only issued by authorities from the place of origin to the requesting parents (principle of territoriality).

In the **Far North** region, 73 per cent of the displaced population does not possess either a birth certificate or a national identity card. Lack of funds (25 per cent), loss (23 per cent), long distance to the centres,

identification posts or courts (21 per cent) or absence of an issuing office (17 per cent), are the main reasons for this lack of documentation.⁴⁹ Access to civil identification documents has deteriorated over the past year.⁵⁰

In many localities in the **North-West and South-West** regions, especially in rural areas, local council authorities in district capitals were closed due to violence. As it became more challenging to access civil and legal documentation due to the retreat of effective Government presence from many villages, and as other needs became more important due to the crisis, people no longer perceive the registration of civil documents, including birth certificates or identity cards, as a priority, resulting in many children not having birth certificates. Some documents were also lost during violence or displacement. In addition, in the North-West and South-West regions, the mistrust towards authorities and the fear of NSAGs potentially targeting people with a Cameroonian identity card contribute to the lack of civil and legal documentation.

Lack of documents also renders access to basic social services such as health care and education challenging. It prevents returnees in particular to prove legal possession of their properties, leading to property related conflicts, including eviction.

There are approximately 16 primary and 96 secondary civil registration centres in the **East, Adamawa and North** regions. Despite the presence of these services, one of the main risks for refugee children born in Cameroon is to remain without a birth certificate, therefore being exposed to statelessness and unable to benefit from the protection services they are entitled to as minors. Structural problems in the civil registration system, cultural and social constraints which give limited importance to the birth certificate, and prohibitive costs of supplementary judgments are part of the causes for CAR refugee children to remain without a birth certificate.

Impact on access⁵¹

The main constraints to the access of affected people to services and assistance and of humanitarians to affected populations, insecurity, poor road conditions,

natural hazards, such as floods, and restrictions by the authorities or the NSAGs on the freedom of movement of people, goods, and services, and underfunding of the humanitarian response.

Government restrictions on UNHAS flights and destinations started in 2020 and culminated in the suspension of all flights in June 2022. This suspension considerably reduced the flexibility and speed of humanitarian interventions while increasing operational costs. Flights have resumed at the end of December 2022 for the Far North region.

Since the second half of 2021, new Government procedures on visa requirements for expatriate staff have continued to cause considerable delays in the deployment of experienced international staff. Meanwhile, customs remain complicated, lengthy, and expensive, in particular for international NGOs for whom tax and customs exemptions are rarely granted.

In the **Far North**, the prevailing insecurity, and attacks by NSAGs limit the freedom of movement of goods and people, including humanitarian actors. Risks for humanitarian workers remain high as NSAGs continue to incite violence against humanitarian organizations. In February 2022, five humanitarian workers were kidnapped in Fotokol, a town located at the border with Nigeria. They were released a month later in March 2022.

In addition, road conditions worsen during the rainy season. For example, the national road between Kousseri and Maroua is frequently unusable between July and October. In addition, there are recurrent bureaucratic access impediments, such as ad-hoc requests by local authorities for humanitarian actors to obtain written authorizations for the implementation of activities, delaying the delivery of assistance.

In the **North-West and South-West** regions, access constraints include insecurity, lockdown days, roadblocks and checkpoints, poor road conditions, and bureaucratic impediments. Restricted movements and security challenges are equal impediments for the population to access basic social services and for the humanitarian actors to provide services. Humanitarian workers have been victims of harassment, extortion, killings, abduction, kidnappings for ransom, and some

supplies and property have been seized or looted. In 2022, three humanitarian workers were killed in the North-West and South-West, four injured, more than a dozen kidnapped and at least four illegally detained.

Government Humanitarian Coordination Centres (HCC) were established in Buea and Bamenda in June 2019 to facilitate activities and communication with humanitarian partners. Despite ongoing dialogue and notification systems put in place, authorities continue to require humanitarian actors to obtain written authorizations for the implementation of humanitarian activities, in particular distributions. Information sharing procedures agreed between these centres and humanitarian actors continue to be renegotiated, and sometimes added on, as was the case in June 2022 in the South-West, when authorizations were also to be obtained from Senior Divisional Officers, leading to heavy administrative procedures and delays for humanitarian operations. In the North-West authorization is to be obtained from the Governor's office.

Overall, the Government remains suspicious over humanitarians accessing areas in the North-West and South-West out of their reach, as evidenced by the detention of several humanitarian workers in 2021 and 2022.

The weekly "ghost town" Mondays enforced by NSAGs particularly affect the civilian population, limiting movement and hence economic and agricultural activities. Lockdown days also cause substantial interruptions in humanitarian operations. Meanwhile, lockdowns are not limited to one day, as evidenced by a three-week lockdown imposed by NSAGs in August and September 2022 which affected the humanitarian operations in the North-West and South-West. While some humanitarian partners were able to continue the provision of limited assistance, including through phone services, most activities and services requiring physical presence or movement of population were put on hold. This led to almost 200,000 people not receiving timely in-kind and voucher/cash food assistance, over 125,000 persons being prevented from accessing primary health services, and the suspension of community mobilization activities, among others. Some schools

were attacked for having started the school year as per the Government calendar.

Overall, the main security threats impacting humanitarian staff in the North-West and South-West regions remain criminal in nature. These include (attempted) kidnapping for ransom, aid diversion and extortion/blackmail. Meanwhile, the UN and its partners continue to face accusations from NSAG in the North-West and South-West regions of working for or supporting the Government. This mistrust poses persistent challenges to humanitarian access. Roadblocks and demands for payment by all parties, despite having received assurances and all required authorizations, cause delays and affect the safety of transported humanitarian goods. In addition, the use of IEDs by NSAGs mostly targeting SSF has also caused civilian victims and remains an important risk factor.

Humanitarian access remains challenging and complex, especially considering the further fragmentation of NSAGs and the emergence of new NSAGs at local level.

The **East, Adamawa, and North** regions are relatively secure. However, security incidents, including urban crime, kidnapping, roadblocks by bandits, and inter-communal conflicts continue to affect these regions as well. Certain incidents, such as kidnappings, are mainly reported in the border area with CAR. Humanitarian actors are not deliberately targeted and security incidents typically do not have a significant impact on humanitarian access, as most incidents take place at night, therefore outside the period authorized for humanitarian activities.



WEST REGION, CAMEROON

Chancel and her children displaced from Oku, North-West region.

Photo: PUI

1.3

Scope of Analysis

The methodological framework for the humanitarian needs analysis underpinning the 2023 HNO remains largely the same as for the 2022 HNO, with some modifications to account for the changing context and to strengthen intersectoral needs analysis.

Inter-sectoral needs analysis covered the five regions affected by the North-West, South-West and Lake Chad basin crises, respectively. UNHCR led the multisectoral refugee analysis in the East, Adamawa, North, Far North regions and in urban centers in the Littoral and Centre regions. The Food Security Sector considered all ten regions in its Cadre Harmonisé analysis, as did the Health Sector which also considered the impact of epidemics and related needs in the South region.

Intersectoral severity analysis was carried out using a combination of contextual and sectoral indicators (see data sources and methodology in annexes). Composite severity modelling allowed for highlighting the most vulnerable geographical areas as well as identifying the population with the most acute needs in each division.

Gender, age, and diversity dimensions were considered during the analysis of humanitarian conditions. Six groups of vulnerable populations were identified and analysis structured accordingly:

- **IDPs** from the North-West, South-West, and Far North regions.
- **Returnees** to the North-West, South-West, and Far North regions, including former IDPs, as well as former Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria and Chad.
- **Refugees** from Nigeria, CAR, and other nationalities.
- **Host communities**, hosting IDPs and/or refugees.
- **Those left behind** are people affected by a shock but who do not flee nor host IDPs and/or

refugees. They have been identified as one of the most vulnerable groups in previous HNOs, but data on this group is for the first time available in 2022 thanks to a shelter household level survey carried out in the Far North, the North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions. The survey confirmed the vulnerability of this group of over 300,000 people.

- **Other people in need**, including a majority of acutely malnourished children and people who are vulnerable due to food insecurity excluding refugee, IDP and returnee and the communities hosting IDPs and/or refugees.
- Other categories of particularly vulnerable people include persons living with physical or mental disabilities, and older people.

1.4

Humanitarian Conditions and Severity of Needs

The combined impact of natural disasters, epidemics and violence in the Lake Chad basin, CAR, and the North-West and South-West regions, has led to a deterioration of the physical and mental well-being, living standards, and coping mechanisms of the people living in Cameroon. The prolonged nature of these crises, insecurity, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly economic fall-out effects from the war in Ukraine, limited access to basic services, and diminished coping capacities leave an estimated 4.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Cameroon in 2023. Humanitarian challenges are exacerbated by structural factors and chronic vulnerabilities hindering long-term recovery of affected people.

Forced displacement has weakened family and community safety nets, stretched already limited basic resources and services, and increased social tensions. People with specific needs, including older people, those living with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses, and pregnant and lactating women, are often left behind when families flee violence, increasing their vulnerability by depriving them of the social safety nets on which their survival and wellbeing depend. Those left behind often remain in areas with no access to basic social services and are frequently difficult to reach by humanitarian workers.

Family separation due to displacement also destroys the community support systems essential for the prevention of protection risks in the absence of social protection services. Continuous population movements frequently overburden already debilitated basic services and reduce access to income-generating opportunities.

Displacement also forces families to live in greater promiscuity with relatives or within the host community, creating risks of sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and assault, particularly against young girls.

Other negative coping mechanisms which are reported include child labor, child marriage and survival sex. Risk tolerance levels have increased, with parents for example risking sending their children to school in insecure regions after several years without education. People return from their areas of displacement due to a lack of livelihood activities and take on more risks to access their farmland, including by paying “taxes” to NSAGs.

In the North-West and South-West, the loss and lack of civil and legal documentation has put the affected population, particularly boys and men, at risk of harassment and arbitrary arrest by law enforcement officials.⁵² The lack of civil and legal documentation, already a problem prior to the crisis, discourages many people from moving around freely, and particularly to cross checkpoints. The lack of documentation not only affects people in the North-West and South-West regions, but also limits the movement of those who fled to other regions.

Conflict remains one of the main drivers of food insecurity. The disruption of markets and food and nutrition services due to violence continues to negatively impact food consumption and nutrition patterns, including the quality of diets. Combined with the impact of climate change and COVID-19, the global consequences of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, in particular the disruption in wheat flour and fertilizer imports, have triggered an increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs in Cameroon since the beginning of 2022,⁵³ leading to a stark increase in food insecurity. Over 3.2 million people are projected to be food insecure in 2023, resorting to crisis or emergency coping strategies to secure household level food security,⁵⁴ compared with 2.4 million food insecure people in 2022.⁵⁵ The North-West, the Far North and the South-West, the regions most affected by violence, exhibit the highest population percentages living in food insecurity.

Meanwhile, food insecurity increased sharply in the Littoral region due to the macro-economic impact of the war in Ukraine, causing food prices to rise, at a time when households are spending a significant amount of their income on food. Food accounts for at least 65 per cent of expenditures in more than 43 per cent of households in the North-West and the Far North regions.⁵⁶ Overall, food consumption has declined over the years, with 50 per cent of households having unacceptable food consumption in 2022 – up from 20 per cent in 2021 – and the risk for a further deterioration is high.⁵⁷

Still recovering from pandemic-related income setbacks, primarily market-dependent urban poor households, particularly those in Yaoundé and Douala, are now either cutting back on the number of meals they eat, exhausting their previous savings, or accruing debt to afford high food prices. In the North-West and South-West increased market reliance and rising staple food prices exacerbate already low household purchasing power.⁵⁸

In the Adamawa, East, and North regions, food and nutrition insecurity are mainly caused by climate shocks and market disruptions, exacerbated by the influx of CAR refugees.

Evidence indicates a gender dimension to food insecurity, with female-headed households more food insecure and more likely to adopt negative coping strategies than those headed by men.⁵⁹

The nutrition situation of CAR refugees, both in sites and in host communities, has been assessed as severe, with a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 12.5 per cent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.6 and 3.4 per cent respectively, indicating a significant degradation since the last survey in 2016 (8 per cent and 7.6 per cent GAM rate).⁶⁰ Although CAR refugees have spent several years in Cameroon, their livelihood options remain limited and fragile, and their dependency on food assistance is elevated. In the Far North, despite the assistance they receive, up to 70 per cent of refugee households in Minawao settlement are unable to meet their essential food needs on their own, which compares to about 61 per cent of refugee households living in host communities.

All refugee households – regardless of their location – spend about 64 per cent of their monthly household expenditures on food.⁶¹

Data shows that the current **employment** status of men and women is very similar in the North-West and South-West, with men tending to earn more than women. While sexual harassment and exploitation from potential employers is not a new phenomenon, sexual exploitation of women has gained ground in the regions due to the precarious socioeconomic and political situation. On the one hand, employers are tempted to profit from the vulnerability of women who are desperately looking for a job; on the other hand, women resort to negative coping mechanisms in a context where towns are emptied from their male population and women forced to become the main breadwinners. Meanwhile, it is being reported that men are excluded from economic support programmes, because they are perceived to be less vulnerable than women. Certain employers are also wary of employing young men, as they are perceived to be more likely to become involved with NSAG groups.⁶²

The decrease in income due to the different shocks is making access to basic social services challenging for populations affected by crises. **Poverty is among the key reasons for not being able to access education and health services.**

In the Far North, the North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions, long distances to access health services are the main reason why healthcare is inaccessible, followed by prohibitive costs for these services. Meanwhile, the costs for education are the primary reason for non-enrolment in schools in the Far North and Littoral and West.⁶³

Humanitarian Conditions by Population Groups

Displaced people

Over two million people are displaced within Cameroon. Population movements are the most visible demonstration of the insecurity. Civilians are fleeing to protect themselves from serious threats to their lives and their physical integrity, as well as to their property.

Displacement jeopardizes access to land to cultivate and implies loss of livestock and families' productive assets, and thus undermines self-reliance for food and other basic needs. IDPs have on average a lower food consumption score than the rest of the population.⁶⁴

Attacks on property and housing continued to be reported in the North-West and South-West regions and the Far North. Many homes have been burnt down since the start of the crisis leaving many displaced families in inadequate or unsafe shelter arrangements, exposing them to further harm.

Internally Displaced Persons

In the Littoral and West regions, IDP access to basic services is further hindered by inadequate financial

resources and fear of stigmatization. Many of those who managed to flee violence end up facing exploitation and abuse within the host community, including sexual violence and exploitation, and resort to negative coping mechanisms. In consultations with partners in Littoral and West regions in October 2022, discrimination, stigma, and exploitation of IDPs were mentioned to be a serious problem. Lack of documentation, stigma as “Amba boys”, “Amba wives” or the “Bamendas”, and the language barrier make it more difficult to find work for IDPs. Meanwhile, IDPs are reported to be paid less and to work longer working hours and to pay higher prices for rent and items on the market. Tensions between IDPs and their host communities are reportedly growing, as the North-West and South-West crisis perdures and host families increasingly struggle to meet their own needs and access services which are further under pressure due to the arrival of the IDPs.

Meanwhile, IDPs seem to be greeted with more hospitality and opportunities for income generating activities in the rural areas of the West and Littoral.



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

IDPs in Igawa Meme.

Photo: OCHA/Ariane Maixandau

While the lack of services in rural areas, especially of schools with an English curriculum, is leading IDPs to settle in urban areas.⁶⁵ However, a certain population movement away from urban centers to rural areas, in search of income generating activities, is observed in the West region.⁶⁶ The vast majority of IDPs from the North-West have an agricultural background and lack the skills to perform income generating activities in urban areas.

Within the North-West and South-West, IDPs also face several unique challenges in finding and keeping secure employment. The most significant challenges they face stem from preconceptions and stereotypes around their ability, work ethic and trustworthiness. In addition, they face the hurdle that they often lack documentation, and are not able to speak the local language. IDPs are thus more likely to have lower earnings than non-IDPs.⁶⁷

In the Far North, stigmatisation or discrimination also continued to be reported by the displaced population as one of their main protection problems.⁶⁸

Returnees

As mentioned in chapter 1.2, people don't necessarily return to their areas of origin because of improved security, but because of a lack of livelihood opportunities in the displacement area, indicating that affected populations might be ready to take greater risks in search of livelihood opportunities. However, returnees face sometimes difficulties regaining access to their land if it was in the meantime cultivated by someone else who may not be ready to give it up again.

Returnees often find their homes partially or completely damaged. In the Far North, most returnees (65 per cent) reside in their original homes, 20 per cent in a new personal residence, 9 per cent in host families, while others stay in collective centers, spontaneous settlements, or in the open.⁶⁹

Refugees

Refugees are often among the most vulnerable population groups. They do not have the economic capacities to meet their essential needs, have poor consumption patterns and demonstrate low livelihood

resilience to cope with resource shortages or any potential shocks. Furthermore, lack of adequate documentation limits their freedom of movement and hampers their access to formal income generating activities.

Host communities

Host communities often share limited resources with the displaced population, further increasing their own vulnerability. Some 56 and 57 per cent of the IDPs live with host families in the Far North and the North-West and South-West respectively.⁷⁰ In the Littoral and West regions, the majority of IDPs lives in rented accommodation (57 per cent), while 37 per cent reside with host families.

Persons living with disabilities

People with disabilities are more likely to be exposed to danger from attacks, due to barriers to escaping and staying out of harm's way, and because of the degradation of the support systems which existed before the crisis.

Persons living with disabilities, as well as older people, are often left behind in the North-West and South-West when families flee violence, because of the barriers related to their disability or because of a preference to stay in a known environment. These reports are supported by the 2022 shelter household level assessment in the West and Littoral regions, which finds proportionally less IDPs living with disabilities in these regions in comparison with the host community. While the number of persons with disabilities continue to increase in the North-West and South-West due to violence, access to specialized services became more challenging as specialized health personnel fled the regions. Persons living with disabilities face increasing difficulties accessing assistance because they lack information about when and where to access assistance and because the distribution site is too far away. The way to access services seem to be a key challenge for persons living with disabilities. Obstacles on the way are cited as the main impediment to access education and food, followed by fear of harassment and negative community perception of disabilities.⁷¹

Persons living with disabilities in the North-West report that the humanitarian crisis has increased their vulnerabilities and has decreased their coping mechanisms. As others, they have often lost their income and/or shelter, but also family members and caregivers. They report depending more on others and mention the loss or damage of their assistive devices. Around 17 per cent of the persons with disabilities consulted, especially those who relocated to other communities, reported that they experienced increased abuse since the onset of the crisis, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. Persons with communication difficulties, those who have difficulties with memory or concentration, and persons with hearing or visual impairments are reported to be particularly vulnerable to abuse during the crisis.⁷²

In the Far North, the presence of persons with disabilities, physical or mental, is reported in all assessed villages.⁷³ In 16 per cent of them, access to school was not possible for children living with disabilities and in 7 per cent of the villages,

water points are inaccessible to people living with disabilities.⁷⁴

Children

Cameroon's population is predominantly young, with half of the population under 19.⁷⁵ Children are at high risk of violence, abuse and exploitation, family separation, and have significant psychosocial needs.

Due to insecurity and population movements, many children have been forced to flee their villages, sometimes being witnesses or victims of violence leading to high levels of stress and trauma and significant negative consequences for their cognitive and emotional development.

In the Far North, North-West, and South-West regions, children are regularly exposed to violence, including kidnappings, abductions, recruitment, maiming, exploitation, and killing,⁷⁶ in addition to the consequences of negative coping mechanisms adopted by their family, such as child marriage



MELON, LITTORAL REGION, CAMEROON

Inclusive education in areas affected by crisis.

Photo: UNICEF/Beguel

and child labour. The mental health of children and caregivers is at stake with children suffering from post-traumatic disorders and emotional distress. They are affected by the fear of, and tensions among, members of communities. Furthermore, the exploitation of children in small businesses exposes them to other risks of abuse and violence that make them even more vulnerable. Displaced children are forced to work in 78 per cent of the assessed locations in the Far North.⁷⁷ Partners in the Littoral and West regions report that child labor is increasing, especially among IDPs, as resilience is decreasing. Children need to work to pay for school fees for themselves or siblings and to complement the income of their parents.

Of the almost 800,000 people displaced within the North-West and South-West,⁷⁸ 62 per cent are children. Almost 3,000 unaccompanied and over 19,000 separated children were reported in 2022 in the North-West and South-West regions, 3,600 unaccompanied and 7,800 separated children were reported in the Littoral and West regions.⁷⁹ It is assumed that the number of unaccompanied and separated children is even higher, as family separation is a major threat in this crisis, as a direct consequence of attacks on villages forcing family members to scatter, but also because families seek economic opportunities in other regions, or because of children being sent to urban centres or other regions to continue their education. Some of these children are involved in some of the worst forms of child labour or survival sex to get access to food and shelter.

The crisis in the **North-West and South-West** has had a major impact on the **Education Sector**. NSAGs have banned Government-administered education since September 2017. Only nine per cent of IDP children go to school in the North-West and South-West regions in 2022. According to Government sources, only 46 per cent of schools were operational in the North-West and South-West in 2022. A two week-long lockdown in early September 2022, in opposition to the Government's reopening of schools for the 2022/2023 academic year, led to violent incidents, limited the population's access to essential services, and delayed humanitarian activities. Children missed two weeks of class.

The ban on Government-administered education by NSAGs and attacks on education have forced many families to send their children to the Littoral, West, and Centre regions where they can pursue their education. However, despite the Government's decree to provide free education to IDP children, thousands of displaced children struggle to access education due to poverty, social exclusion, and financial constraints. In 59 per cent of assessed villages in the Littoral and West regions where displaced children are not going to school, the main reason is that the schools are too expensive.⁸⁰ Key informants in Yaoundé mentioned high school fees and overcrowded classrooms as the main problems for IDP children to access education. Overcrowding is a particular issue for anglophone students wishing to access English-speaking curricula. Some schools have no latrines, others have one for thousands of students and/or no water source.

In the **Far North**, 23 per cent of villages either lack local schools or school access in neighboring regions is inadequate. The situation is most accentuated in Logone et Chari (over 50 per cent of villages lack schools).⁸¹ Access to education for young girls remains very low in the region and in particular in areas bordering Nigeria and around Lake Chad, where less than 50 per cent of girls go to school in certain communities. In other areas there seems to be no apparent discrimination regarding the school enrolment of girls and boys. At the national level, the gender parity rate between girls and boys in primary education and secondary education is 0.99 and 0.98, respectively, which reflects almost equal access to education by gender.

In the Logone et Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions, 2021 data showed that 67 schools were closed, and 50 others had remained destroyed for years, affecting about 35,000 students. Furthermore, the prolonged displacement and refugee influx have further weakened schools in the Mayo-Tsanaga, Logone et Chari, and Mayo-Sava divisions. According to the Education Sector, the student per teacher ratio in the three crisis-affected divisions in the Far North region is 224 students per teacher. Also, 41 per cent of pupils enrolled in primary education lack birth certificates and are therefore not allowed to sit for primary school exams to access secondary school.

Moreover, the high incidence of poverty aggravated by insecurity and displacement affects the availability of teaching and learning materials for the most vulnerable students. Costs, a lack of teachers or learning material and a lack of schools are indicated among the main reasons for why children are not going to school.⁸²

Over 59 per cent of the Nigerian refugee population are children.⁸³ The refugee population in both the settlement and the host community in the Far North is young with more than half of the households having children below the age of 6 and more than 80 per cent having children below the age of 18 years. The persistence of harmful cultural practices combined with the limitations of the judicial system impede the protection of women and children. The risk of ensuing impunity of perpetrators and the complicity of traditional leaders pose serious protection concerns. Thus, the prevention of and response to GBV, early or forced marriage, family separation, exploitation and child labour, remain major challenges. New cases of early marriage and rape of women and girls on their way to their farms or while fetching water, are regularly reported and recorded. About 10 percent of households in both the settlement and the host community indicated to know a household that would – as a means to cope with a lack of access to food - agree to marry off a child.⁸⁴

Children represent 53 per cent of the CAR refugee population with 13 per cent of them (13,656 girls and 10,462 boys) who are at risk.⁸⁵ Because of culture, religion, and poverty, refugee children assume parental responsibilities (children heads of households), are being early married, and are engaged in labour in mining areas. Children are also victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, sometimes within the family. Many refugee children born in Cameroon do not have birth certificates and are at risk of statelessness.

In the **East and Adamawa** regions, school coverage is relatively poor in comparison with other regions. Divisions in which refugee sites are located on average have half the number of school establishments than administrative centres, rendering some areas inhabited by refugees' "educational deserts". The major challenge for accessing secondary education in these

areas is the long distance between refugee sites and secondary schools. Measures taken by parents to ensure school attendance for their children are often limited to boys, with refugee parents rarely sending their daughters to study tens of kilometers away from where they live. In 2020, 85 per cent of out of school refugee children in the eastern regions were girls.

While the average transition rate to secondary school is 65 per cent nationwide, less than 10 per cent of refugee students transition to secondary school: a refugee student in Cameroon is six times less likely than a Cameroonian student to access secondary education. Entrance to primary school is free, but financial fees and a birth certificate are required to transition to secondary school, which is a challenge for refugee families. In general, the access and retention of IDP and refugee students at secondary level are compromised by the precarious economic situation of parents, factors specific to the culture and religion of the parents and insufficient provision of education for out-of-school students. In most of the regions, schools are not inclusive in term of disabilities inclusion, and this leads to the exclusion of children with disabilities for whom the right to education is already not guaranteed in peacetime contexts.

Women and girls

Gender inequality is an important factor influencing coping strategies and affecting the recovery capacities of women and girls. By denying equal rights and opportunities, vulnerabilities are created which are exacerbated in times of crises. Women rarely use, possess and control economic household resources. About 11 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 have a title to a house they own in their own name and 21 per cent own land without having a title, against 15 per cent of men owning a house in their own name and 51 per cent owning land without having a title.⁸⁶ The unpaid workload that reproductive work implies, combined with the fact that women have extremely limited access and control over resources, partly explains why the female population is more affected by poverty.⁸⁷ While 39 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, this rate rises to 51.5 per cent for women. The female unemployment rate is 4.5 per cent compared to 3.1 per cent for men. Additionally, 79.2

per cent of women are underemployed, being primarily employed in informal, low-wage activities.⁸⁸ The fact that they are socially and economically disadvantaged and, also, that they are largely excluded from public decision spheres, including conflict resolution processes, greatly hampers their resilience and their recovery capacity.

Women are also heavily affected by the disruption or loss of livelihoods caused by violence. Being the backbones of rural economies (they represent 80 per cent in the informal agricultural sector), they are called to play an ever-greater role in the fragile economies of the crisis-affected regions. Due to the demographic imbalance the crisis in the North-West and South-West created,⁸⁹ with many men dead, hiding or forced to exile, women are now playing the role of heads of households and providers for the family. They have engaged in a range of economic and social activities, formally played by men, generating a heavy workload. While this has had positive effects, opening space for women to play higher public roles, to mobilise in favour of peace, and to have more say in community decisions, heightened economic and social roles are not always synonymous of a genuine empowerment. They mean more burden and responsibilities for

women and girls, with more frontline activities that place their own safety at risk.⁹⁰

Low living standards and lack of access to essential services, particularly for those displaced, have led to a rise in morbidity.

Although the Penal Code adopted in 2016 has strengthened national legislation through certain provisions that specifically address the issue of GBV and sexual violence, the lack of legal criminalization of domestic violence and marital rape is a major gap in the protection of women's rights and violence against women and girls remains a preoccupying reality in Cameroon.⁹¹ The key drivers of GBV are linked to insufficient literacy among women, particularly in rural areas, as well as poverty and customs.⁹²

While GBV was an existing reality in Cameroon prior to the crises and occurs in areas where guns are silent, risks have been heightened due to the security situation and to displacements: sexual exploitation, child marriage, rape and physical and emotional violence continue to be perpetrated against women and girls particularly, but also against men and boys, in all regions affected by crises. Women and girls are the main victims of GBV, in particular



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

IDPs in Igawa Meme.

Photo: OCHA/Ariane Maixandau

domestic violence, rape, child marriage, and sexual exploitation, due to the combined effect of pre-existing cultural and traditional discriminatory norms and practices, gender discrimination and socio-economic vulnerability caused by the crisis. As men and boys limit their movement to avoid arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention, women and girls are often the ones collecting assistance or undertaking other tasks, such as collecting firewood, which exposes them to heightened risks of violence, including GBV.

Conflict and displacement have aggravated GBV trends in the Far North region. In a context where girls' and women's social and economic status is low, the hardship created by the crisis generates a heightened risk of violence within the home. Men's frustration at being unemployed or underemployed, unable to fulfil their socially expected role of providers and protectors of the family, combined with the fact that violence is considered as socially acceptable in some communities, leads to a recourse to domestic violence as a means of asserting authority and dominance. From January to November 2022, 1,854 cases of GBV were reported in the Far North. The majority of GBV cases reported are denial of resources or opportunities (45 per cent), followed by physical assault (25 per cent), emotional abuse (19 per cent), forced marriage (2 per cent), rape (5 per cent), and sexual assault (3 per cent). Close to 80 per cent of incidents of physical violence were committed by intimate partners.⁹³

On-going violence in the North-West and South-West regions had a major impact on the economy and led to negative coping mechanisms by the affected population. These include survival sex and exploitation, child marriage, and child labour, which are phenomena less culturally rooted in these regions and much more clearly a consequence of the crisis than in the Far North and the eastern regions.

Sexual violence is rampant in the North-West and South-West regions. From January to October 2022, 8,623 GBV incidents were reported to GBV specialized services providers. Around 89 per cent of GBV incident survivors are female, 11 per cent are male, 71 per cent are adults, 23 per cent are children and 4 are persons living with disabilities. About 52 per cent of

the survivors are IDPs, 42 per cent are from the host community, and 6 per cent are returnees.⁹⁴

The majority of GBV cases reported are emotional abuse (31 per cent), followed by denial of resources or opportunities (22 per cent), physical assault (20 per cent), sexual assault (11 per cent), rape (9 per cent), and forced marriage (7 per cent).

Survival sex as negative coping strategy of IDPs from the North-West and South-West who fled to urban centers of the Littoral, West and Centre regions, continues to be reported as a major protection concern.

GBV remains a major issue for CAR refugees. Cultural systems perpetuate harmful traditional practices that promote violence and exploitation of women.

Men and boys

Adolescent boys and men face specific threats and circumstances that leave them vulnerable. They are most at risk of arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention, forced recruitment, and physical violence. This is true for the Far North, North-West, and South-West regions. However, there is little analysis on the risks and vulnerabilities of men and boys in the Far North, wherefore the following focuses on the situation in the North-West and South-West regions, where information is available thanks to an analysis conducted in 2021 by the inter-agency gender advisor for Cameroon.⁹⁵

In the North-West and South-West regions, men and young men remain the primary victims of recorded protection incidents, representing between 85 per cent and 95 per cent of those exposed to torture or inhuman treatment, theft, extortion, and arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention.⁹⁶ As men are the traditional owners of goods and properties, they are more affected than women by theft and extortion. Protection incidents recorded through protection monitoring activities do not cover GBV, as such data is being recorded through the GBV Information Management Service.

Being a man or a boy also means being more exposed to targeted armed attacks, with greater risks of injury or death directly related to the conflict. This peculiar exposure to threats is explained by the specific forms

of discrimination, harassment, and violence they face from the military authorities and NSAGs. As it is men who are expected to fight, it is also them who are perceived as threats by both parties. In an environment of increasing insecurity, curfews, lockdowns, and roadblocks, men and boys are far more likely to be stopped by law enforcement or by NSAGs at checkpoints, especially when lacking identity documents. Neutrality is often impossible. Instead, men often mitigate their exposure to risk by reducing their economic and social activities to the minimum, limiting their movements particularly after it gets dark and avoiding gatherings. Some families limit their sons' movements to prevent them from being forcibly recruited or killed. Young men who still reside in areas where raids are frequent must ensure they are not seen by armed actors. They must stay home as much as possible, hide in the bushes or relocate to other areas. This affects their ability to access essential services and humanitarian assistance.⁹⁷ This also results in a

greater economic and domestic burden on women and girls and their greater exposure to GBV: since women can move where men used to go, wives and children are often the ones to seek humanitarian assistance, work in the fields, and go to the market.

With no immediate solution foreseen to the ongoing crisis, adolescent boys and men feel dispossessed of control over their life and their future and suffer deep psychological impact. Often unable to play the expected role of breadwinner and protector of the family, they feel helpless, causing depression and suicide attempts to rise. It has also contributed, particularly in the case of adolescent males, to a growing use of alcohol and drugs. Some organizations have anecdotal evidence that males, particularly displaced ones, are being sexually exploited, sexually assaulted, and raped by armed or civilian men. These violations remain largely unspoken and hidden.⁹⁸



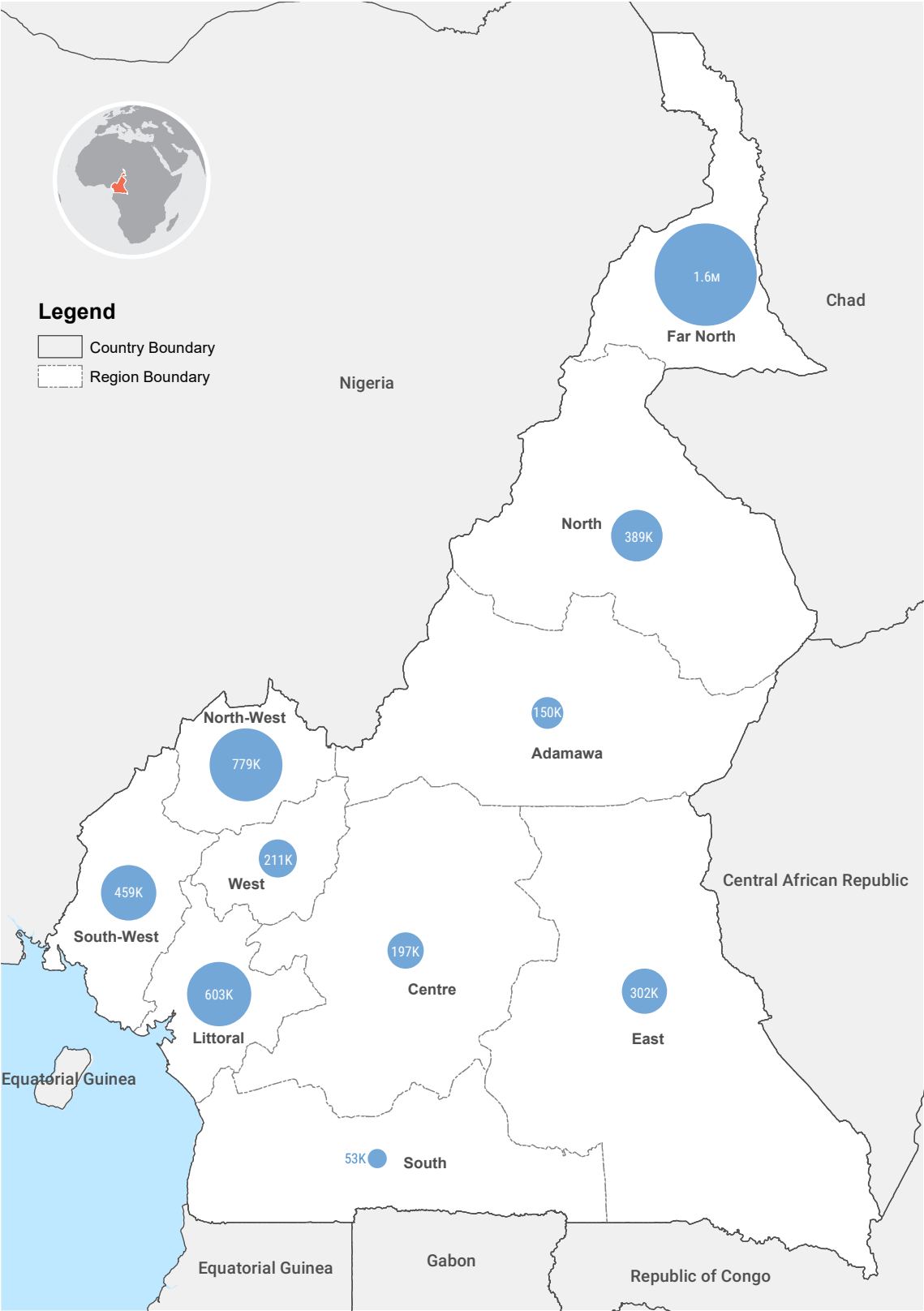
YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

Due to the prevalent insecurity in the North-West, a man left his village and moved to Yaounde with his brother where they share a room.
Photo: GENCAP/Delphine Brun

1.5

Number of People in Need

PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
4.7M	51%	53%	42%	6%





FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

Floods in the Far North.

Photo: UNHCR/Moise Amedje

In 2023, 4.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance in Cameroon. The PIN is considerably higher in comparison to 2022, when 3.9 million people were estimated to need humanitarian assistance. This is mostly due to an important increase in the number of people facing acute food insecurity as well as to the availability of data on the vulnerabilities of the non-displaced people who are not hosting any displaced people.

The number of people in food insecurity rose from 2.4 million in 2022 to 3.2 million in 2023, mostly due to the impact of the war in Ukraine which disrupts global supply chains and causes price increases of key food and non-food commodities, such as wheat, fuel, fertilizers, and construction materials. Meanwhile, the impact of insecurity, floodings, and attacks by granivorous birds also negatively affected the crops in 2022.

Furthermore, while populations who are affected by a shock but do not flee nor host displaced people, have

been identified as one of the most vulnerable groups in previous HNOs, data on this group is for the first time available in 2022 thanks to a shelter household level survey. This group of over 300,000 people has therefore been included in the PIN calculation.

Of the total PIN, 2 million (43 per cent) are people on the move, including IDPs, returnees, and refugees, and 1.4 million (30 per cent) are host community members, thus demonstrating the impact that sharing already limited resources with the displaced population has on the host community. The remaining 1.3 million people (28 per cent) are named “others”. They are people who are neither displaced, nor hosting displaced people. This group includes 848,600 persons who are not affected by any of the three crises, but who are in food insecurity level 3 according to the analysis of Cadre Harmonisé.

While the increase in the overall PIN can thus be explained to a large part by these food insecure people, the PIN increased for the Far North and the CAR



refugee crisis and decreased for the North-West and South-West crisis.

The Far North region experienced exceptional flooding in 2022, severely reducing the crop yields triggering food shortages, and resulting in increased needs in the WASH, Shelter/NFI and Health sectors. The floods and the inter-community violence also led to an increase in the protection needs in this region.⁹⁹ The armed conflict, inter-community violence, the socioeconomic impact of the Ukraine crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and the effects of natural disasters leaves 1.6 million people in need of assistance in 2023. This represents 33 per cent of the overall PIN and an increase of around 300,000 people in comparison to 2022 and 2021.¹⁰⁰

Around 1.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance due to the North-West and South-West crisis in 2023, representing 36 per cent of the total PIN. This is a decrease of almost 350,000 people in comparison with the people in need in 2022,¹⁰¹ to a big extent explained by a decrease in the number of food insecure people in the North-West and South-West regions due to a change in methodology.¹⁰²

Furthermore, over 607,000 people will need assistance in 2023 because of the CAR refugee crisis, most of them in the Adamawa, East, and North regions. This represents an increase of over 130,000 people in comparison to 2022 when 475,000 people were estimated to need assistance because of this crisis. While there was a slight increase in the number of CAR refugees, a larger amount of the host community was included in the PIN (15 per cent in comparison to 10 per cent in 2022), acknowledging the impact the arrival of the refugee has on the local population hosting them.

As in previous years, the severity of needs is highest in the Far North and the North-West and South-West regions with severe (3) to extreme (4) levels of severity. In the Far North, the severity of needs remains extreme in the three regions bordering Nigeria and most affected by NSAG attacks, and home to over 90 per cent of the IDPs, returnees and refugees in the region. In the North-West and South-West, needs are most severe in the Menchum, Donga-Mantung and Kupe-Manenguba divisions, with catastrophic levels of education and shelter and extreme levels of WASH needs.

Part 2:

Risk Analysis and Monitoring of Situation and Needs

FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

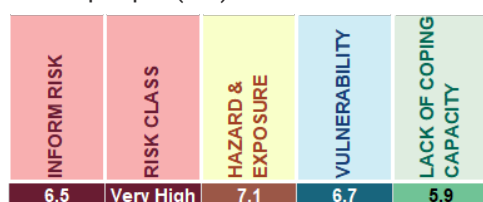
Refugees fleeing intercommunity violence in the Far North of Cameroon, in a refugee camp in Karwei, a few kilometers from Ndjamena, the capital of Chad.
Photo: UNICEF/ Dejongh



2.1 Risk Analysis

The main shocks considered in the following risk analysis until the end of 2023 are armed violence, natural disasters, and health outbreaks.

The INFORM Risk Index continues to classify Cameroon among the countries at high risk of humanitarian crisis. For 2023 Cameroon is ranked 19 out of the 191 countries assessed with 6.5 points on a scale of 10, a similar scoring as in 2021 and 2022.¹⁰³ Cameroon ranked high in the categories of current violent conflict intensity (9), projected conflict risk (9.4) and uprooted people (9.3).¹⁰⁴



INFORM Sahel assesses risks between the different regions of Cameroon.¹⁰⁵ Risks are very high in the Far North (6.9) and the North-West (6.8) and high in the South-West (5.9) and East (5.8) regions. Risks related to food security, displacement, physical infrastructure, and access to health are particularly high in these regions.

A significant de-escalation of the violence in the **North-West and South-West** regions, such as through a negotiated ceasefire or renewed political mediation, is unlikely in 2023. Military operations are expected to continue in the North-West and South-West in 2023, as are asymmetric retaliation attacks by NSAGs. NSAGs are likely to continue enforcing weekly and ad-hoc lockdowns, linked to dates or events with specific political significance, and unlikely to grant clear exemptions for humanitarian actors or activities. This is set to have detrimental effects on the freedom of movement of humanitarian actors and programme delivery.

Meanwhile, divisions between different armed groups increased and the influence of diaspora-based groups

further diminished in 2022. As funding from diaspora-based supporters becomes scarcer, NSAGs will increasingly resort to criminal actions, including illegal taxation and kidnapping for ransom. Criminal gangs, operating either independently from, or in conjunction with, NSAG, will continue to target civilians. Civilian opposition to NSAGs further increased in 2022. A key trend for 2023 is therefore the increased prominence of "self-defense" or "vigilante"-style groups claiming to defend communities in the North-West and South-West regions from predatory NSAGs and/or criminal gangs. Human rights violations committed by parties to the crisis will also remain a conflict driver.

While there has been a certain shift in the narrative of diaspora leaders who increasingly show a certain acceptance towards accessing education, this has not translated into improved access to formal education on the ground, and armed attacks on teachers, pupils and education facilities have continued in the North-West and South-West regions in 2022 and are likely to persist in 2023. Overt criticism of the UN and Western powers continues to be aired on social media by the diaspora leaders and supporters of the separatist cause, with humanitarians being accused of spying on behalf of the Government. Meanwhile, the Government remains suspicious over humanitarians accessing areas out of their reach. Access impediments by the Government, ongoing insecurity, the impact of military operations by SSF, and increasing fragmentation of NSAGs, will continue to render humanitarian access challenging.

In the **Far North** region, NSAGs are likely to continue to target both civilians and SSF. Attacks on military posts and predatory attacks against civilians along the border with Nigeria will continue in 2023 mostly for supply and financing purposes. Significant internal and cross-border population movements are expected to continue following attacks, or as a preventive measure,

with the continued likelihood of large-scale protection incidents and humanitarian needs, both for displaced populations and host communities. As Cameroon's poorest region, the rising living costs will be most acutely felt in the Far North. This is likely to exacerbate pre-existing criminal threats.

Tension or violence around the political transition in Chad and the presidential elections in Nigeria in 2023 are likely to trigger cross-border population movements into Cameroon.

Insecurity is likely to persist in CAR in 2023. This means that CAR refugees in eastern Cameroon are unlikely to return home in large numbers, while new outbreaks of conflict may trigger new arrivals into the country. Meanwhile it remains also likely that organised cross-border crime - especially kidnapping for ransom - will continue to impact the East, North and Adamawa regions.

The risk of flooding remains high in 2023. According to INFORM Sahel, the Littoral, North and Far North regions remain highly physically exposed to floods.

Structural weaknesses and insecurity will continue to limit people's access to essential services. Furthermore, the protracted nature of the crises is leading to a steady decline in living standards and the impact of climate change further exacerbates the consequences of natural disasters, especially flooding, and the conflict over natural resources. Basic social services and access to drinking water and food are also under pressure due to the influx of displaced persons to certain localities. Although conflicts between communities have existed for decades, anecdotal evidence suggests that violent outbreaks are becoming more frequent in recent years. Conflict over limited natural resources has intensified in the second half of 2021 in the Far North. Tension and small-scale inter-communal clashes continued to be reported in 2022. Meanwhile, ethnic and political tensions persisted also between farmers and herders in the North-West and South-West regions, leading to sporadic clashes and population movements. Increased tension between the host and displaced communities and renewed intercommunal violence, followed by population movements, are expected in

2023, in the Far North, as well as in the North-West and South-West regions.

Limited availability of and access to basic health, water, and sanitation services as well as poor vaccination coverage, floods, and population movements favour the outbreak and spread of highly transmissible water-borne and infectious diseases. INFORM assesses the risks of epidemics at 7.9 country wide. Poverty, population behavioural patterns, low level of performance of the health system, and inequalities of access to health services will continue to influence the incidence of epidemics.

The general trend of cholera analysis shows a persistent high number of cases with a case-fatality rate that far exceeds the WHO recommended norm of less than 1 per cent. Cholera outbreaks can be observed during the whole year in Cameroon. It is likely that the cholera outbreak which started in October 2021 in the South-West and Centre regions, and which had affected eight regions as of October 2022, continues in 2023.

Combined with the impact of climate change and COVID-19, the global consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis have triggered an increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs in Cameroon since the beginning of the year. Higher prices were also recorded for fertilizer since the beginning of 2022.¹⁰⁶ Cameroon remains heavily reliant on fuel imports, which renders the country vulnerable to the high energy costs anticipated on the global market in 2023, as well as to supply chain disruptions. This means that food price inflation (already around 13 per cent in Cameroon in 2022) is likely to remain at current levels or to further increase in 2023. Household staples (such as cooking oil and imported grains) will be particularly affected. By October 2022 wheat flour prices had increased by an average of 31 per cent compared to January 2022 (before the beginning of the crisis).¹⁰⁷

In conclusion, it is expected that humanitarian needs will remain severe in 2023, considering the continued high levels of insecurity and possible clashes over scarce resources triggering population displacement, the lack of disaster risk reduction and preparedness efforts, as well as the limited provision of development aid and humanitarian assistance due to underfunding.

2.2

Monitoring of situation and needs

Humanitarian partners in Cameroon have a coherent and systematic method for data collection on population movement and humanitarian needs and will continue to use internationally recommended data collection tools to monitor the changing situation.

Indicators and data that will be monitored in 2023 at the inter-sectoral level include the following:

- The monitoring of IDPs and returnees' movements in the Far North will continue through IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).
- UNHCR will continue to update refugee figures through its ProGres tool.
- Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNA) will also continue to be carried out in 2023 to facilitate an understanding of the changing humanitarian situation and the evolution of needs.
- Among the dynamic tools, IOM-DTM's emergency tracking tool (ETT) and rapid needs assessments, will continue to be used to gain immediate insight on needs of recently displaced populations. Complementing these tools in the Far North, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), led by Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) and Action Contre la Faim (ACF), will continue to carry out rapid multisectoral needs assessments following the displacement of at least 20 households.
- Since April 2022, PUI, in collaboration with a national NGO, is leading a population displacement monitoring mechanism for displacements from the North-West and South-West to the West region. In 2023, further progress is planned with regards to information sharing with IOM's ETT in the North-West and South-West.
- Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRA) will be carried out to gain a rapid understanding of the overall needs of populations recently affected by crisis or disaster.
- For increased situational awareness and context analysis, a wide range of information, including sectoral and inter-sectoral situation reports, 3W, 4W, and 5W, will continue to be monitored and shared through the existing coordination mechanisms.
- At operational level, field monitoring of needs and gaps, including through local partners will continue to be conducted.
- Data from key assessments and surveys such as the Food Standards Agency survey, the Cadre Harmonisé, the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART), the Health Data Monitoring System, etc., will be used to monitor humanitarian needs for certain sectors that may have a major impact on the overall humanitarian situation.

Part 3:

Sectoral Analysis

WEST REGION, CAMEROON

Alice is a widow, mother of 9 and IDP in Ngbetsouem in the West region from Oku in North-West region.

Photo: PUI

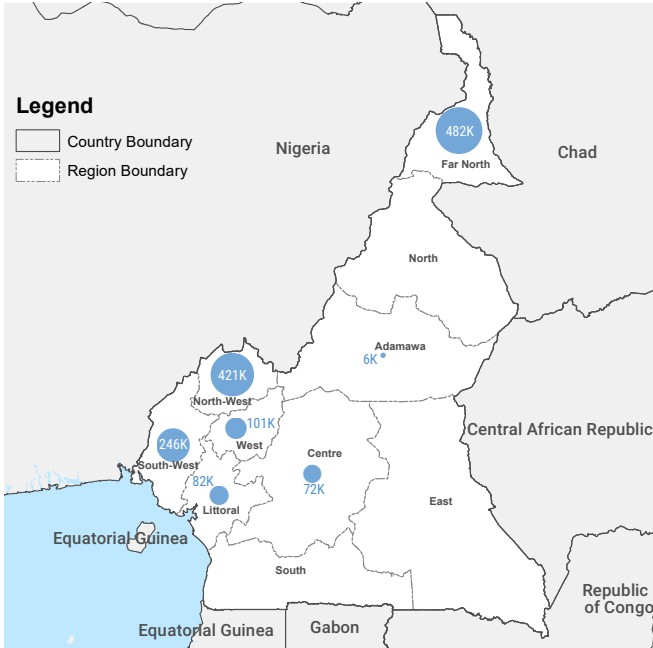


3.1 Education

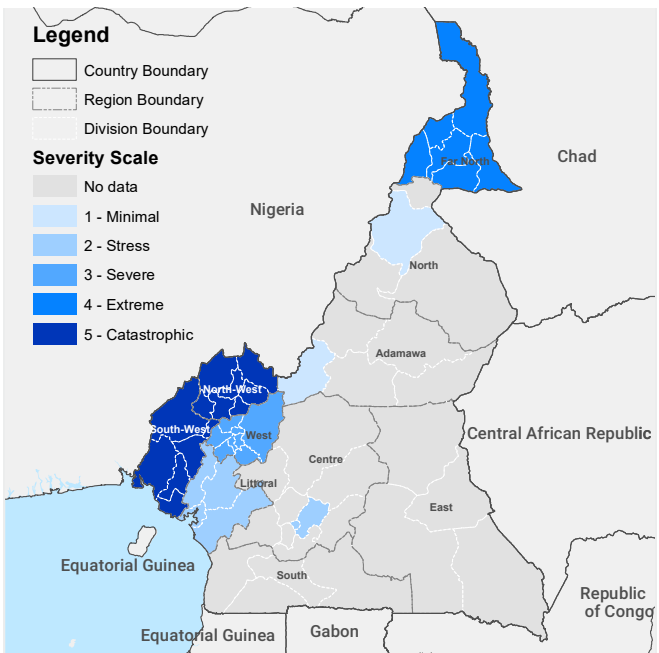


PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
1.4M	50%	91%	9%	0%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Overview

In 2022 more children transitioned from primary to secondary schools, more girls of all ages attended secondary schools, and more girls than boys completed the first cycle of secondary education successfully. Enrollment in pre-primary and in primary services increased. However, evidence from the field suggests that one child out of four did not terminate the elementary school, and for this reason the learning gaps remain important.

Due to the impact of the three humanitarian crises affecting Cameroon, including the cholera epidemic, and the floods in the Far North, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, 1.4 million school-aged children will need assistance in education in 2023. These needs are caused and exacerbated primarily

by structural challenges of the Education Sector, including the insufficient provision of safe drinking water in schools and the lack of teachers, as well as by violence, threats and attacks on education, population displacement, and the low capacity of school systems and communities to absorb additional populations. In zones hosting displaced people, this humanitarian situation has put a strain on local communities and infrastructures.

Families lack the capacity to support children's education due to extreme poverty and food insecurity, compounded by insecurity and displacement. The introduction of school feeding in selected localities in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions has enabled many children to continue to access education services. In 2021/22 only 12,321 children with

disabilities (including 51 per cent physically impaired, 30 per cent visually and 19 per cent hearing impaired children) attended primary education services: children with disabilities are at higher risk of not having access to education and continue to exhibit low enrolment rates at both primary and secondary levels.

In areas of high insecurity, thousands of schools and community learning spaces have been closed. This exposes children to idleness and other protection risks such as child marriage, juvenile delinquency, and drug use. Faced with their parents' lack of income, children can no longer attend school and are forced to perform domestic duties or work. Young and adolescent girls become domestic servants, or "cheap" domestic workers, or are forced to turn to survival sex.

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

An estimated 482,000 school-aged children, including 366,654 IDPs, need humanitarian assistance in the Far North of Cameroon. More than 42,000 internally displaced children (45 per cent girls) in the Far North and 8,650 (44 per cent girls) in the North region are attending primary schools, while 1,560 internally displaced children (51 per cent girls) in the Far North and 8,877 (52 per cent girls) in the North region have attended secondary school services in the 2021/22 school year.

In the Far-North region, the worrying humanitarian situation continues to severely affect children's access to school. The inter-community conflict around cultivable lands between different communities in the Logone et Chari division led to the temporary closure of 26 primary schools in the Logone Birni subdivision, depriving around 10,500 children, including 4,300 girls, of access to education. In addition, 34,600 children (41 per cent girls) who were previously enrolled in the 119 schools which were destroyed or closed because of insecurity, still struggle to attend education activities. Besides, 126 schools have been affected by floods in the Logone et Chari and Mayo-Danay divisions, depriving approximately 38,800 pupils (15,800 girls) of their right to education.

Socio-cultural norms, beliefs, and values toward education of many parents, combined with the lack

of civil documentation, especially birth certificates, coupled with the fact that many children cannot access education or present themselves at the final exams of primary school, hence, cannot transition to secondary education.

In the North and Far North regions, children's learning outcomes are still low as compared to the rest of the country. In 2022, only 33 per cent and 49 per cent of pupils who passed the primary end-of-cycle exams did not show the minimum proficiency in language and numeracy. These low results can be explained by a variety of factors, such as the lack of school materials and the absence of trained teachers.

North-West and South-West crisis

In these two regions, an estimated 667,000 school-aged children need humanitarian assistance, including 367,000 IDPs.

Despite the difficult security situation in the North-West and South-West regions, as well as the three-week long lockdown imposed by NSAGs in opposition to the Government reopening of schools for the 2022/2023 academic year, the school year began timidly in September. Reportedly, 68 per cent of schools in the North-West and 39 per cent of schools in the South-West are non-operational. A total of 2,245 schools are thus still not operational in these two regions.

During the first quarter of the 2022/2023 school year, out of the expected 771,186 students, a total of 418,381 children (54 per cent) responded and actively participated in education activities in primary and secondary schools in the North-West and South-West regions. In the 2021/22 school year, less than 50,000 IDPs attended primary schools and only 8,754 (5,068 girls) IDP adolescents were enrolled in secondary schools in North-West and South-West. This leaves an estimated 225,000 IDPs who have not yet been assisted by Education Cluster partners.

In 2022, Cluster partners reached only 84,870 out-of-school children affected by crisis (43,735 girls), with alternative learning platforms such as radios, online learning, and non-formal education centers. This represents 29 per cent of the 289,000 children targeted under the 2022 HRP.

Most IDPs in the North-West and South-West are still not accessing education in emergency (non-formal) services. Furthermore, continuous attacks on education render the provision of humanitarian assistance (non-formal education), very challenging, as there is no guarantee that non-formal education will not be attacked. Four years after the activation of the Education Cluster in the North-West and South-West, the approaches are timid, and interventions require constant context analysis, especially to verify the acceptance of education in emergency services by parents.

Littoral and West

Meanwhile, IDPs are putting enormous pressure on primary and secondary schools in the Littoral, West and some urban zones of the Center and Adamawa regions. In the 2021/22 school year the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB) enrolled 14,000 IDPs (48 per cent of which girls) in the Center, 22,000 IDPs (48 per cent girls) in Littoral, and 18,000 (49 per cent girls) in the West, while Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) hosted 5,271 IDPs (52 per cent girls) in the

Center, 6,508 IDPs (39 per cent girls) in Littoral, 4,809 IDPs (59 per cent girls) in the West secondary school services. Displaced children struggle to access school due to poverty and social exclusion. The contribution of families to Parent-Teacher associations in secondary school is 17,186 annual FCFA (30 USD) on average. This contribution varies depending on the regions, from 7,360 FCFA in the Far North to 22,490 FCFA in the West and 26,912 FCFA in the Littoral. Girls, including primary school students, reportedly resort to survival sex to pay for their education. On the one hand, education institutions charge higher fees to IDPs; on the other hand, education structures in these areas face difficulties integrating IDPs, with an average student/classroom ratio of up to 200 children. Boys, particularly adolescent boys, are also affected by the situation, resulting in increased child labour and exploitation.

In addition, since hosting communities are French-speaking, the situation of displaced persons and the social cohesion are often difficult.



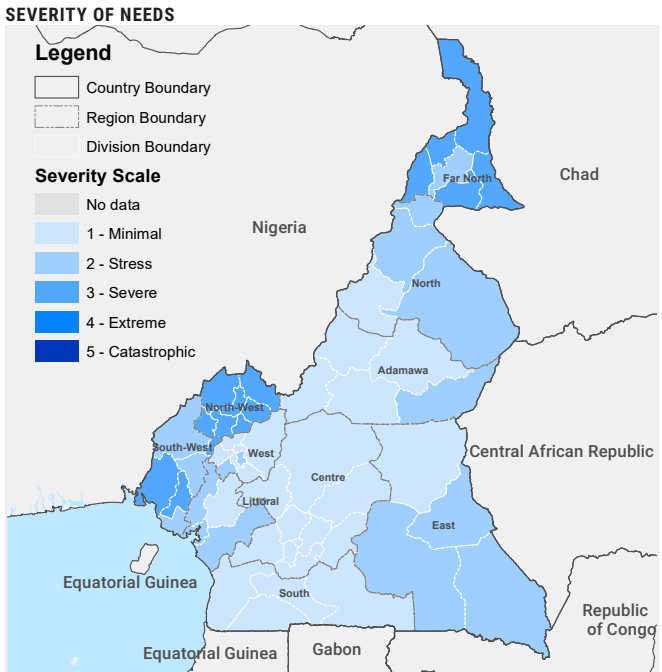
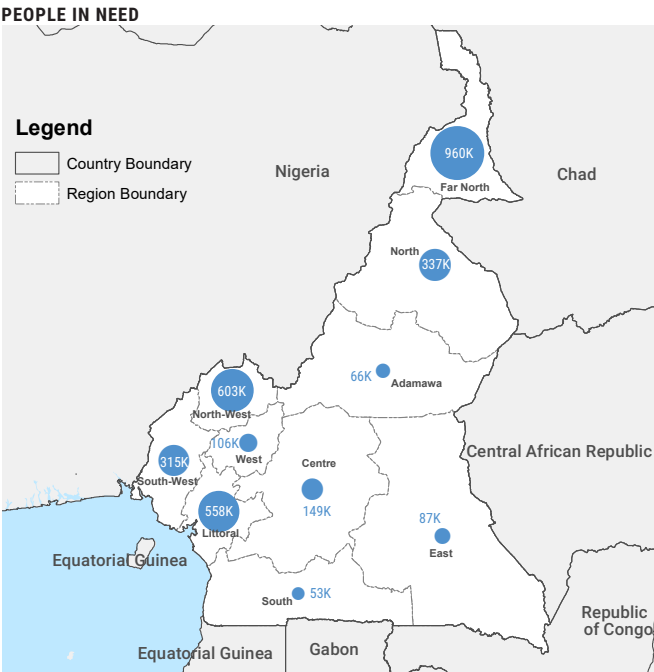
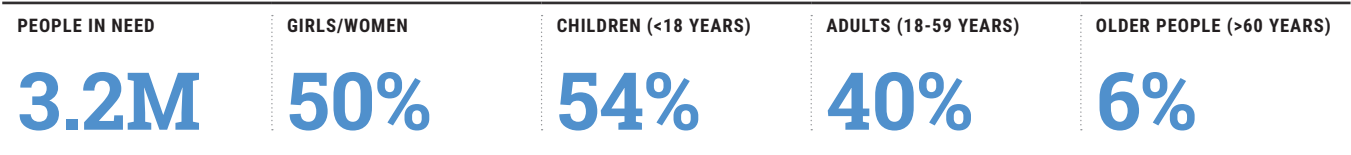
SOUTH-WEST REGION, CAMEROON

An IDP in Buea who benefited from an income generating activity from an NGO.

Photo: OCHA/Giles Clarke



3.2 Food Security



Overview

The results of the October 2022 Cadre Harmonisé analysis indicate that from October to December 2022, 13 per cent of the population are in severe acute food insecurity (3.6 million people) in Cameroon, of which about 1 per cent is in the emergency phase (240,000 people) and over 12 per cent are in the crisis phase (3.4 million people). This represents an increase of 50 per cent compared to the same period last year, when 2.4 million people were acute food insecure. In addition, the number of divisions facing a crisis nationwide has increased from 12 in October 2021 to 17 in October 2022. This confirms a geographical deterioration of the overall food security situation. For the projected period, from June to August 2023, 12 per cent of the Cameroonian population is expected to be in severe acute food insecurity (3.2 million people),

with less than 1 per cent in the emergency phase (206,300 people). Almost 11 per cent are projected to be in the crisis phase from June to August 2023 (3 million people). In 2023, the number of divisions facing a crisis is expected to increase. Between June and August 2023, 15 divisions are expected to fall in crisis compared to 11 reported for the same period in 2022.

Large disparities are observed between the regions. Food insecurity is highest in the regions affected by violence and climate hazards or in the neighboring ones. Over 23 per cent of the population of the North-West, 21.5 per cent of the population of the South-West and 16.7 per cent of the population of the Far North are food insecure.

Unusually, in 2022, the Littoral region, which borders the crisis region of the South-West, has a high

prevalence of acute food insecurity of around 21 per cent. This food insecurity is caused by flooding in Mounjo and Nkam which led to a considerable drop in sown areas and agricultural production compared to the previous season, inflation in the prices of basic foodstuffs and agricultural inputs due to the Ukrainian crisis, and the influx of IDPs from the South-West and North-West.

The continuous high levels of insecurity in the North-West and South-West regions, the persistence of NSAG incursions in the Far North, the rise in conflicts over natural resources (water, pastures, etc.), and floods (in the Far North, North and West) continue to have a severe impact on food security. They lead to population displacements, and the dysfunction of basic social infrastructures (markets, health centers, schools, water points, etc.). Access to basic social services is generally unfavorable to women. This is even more serious for pregnant or breastfeeding women who do not have immediate access to health facilities and are obliged to walk long distances or use unsuitable means of transport.¹⁰⁸ The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), as well as WFP and FAO Food Security Sector assessments, reported an increase in food insecurity and the deterioration of livelihoods as a result of multiple population displacements, but also the continued deterioration of livelihoods that the economic sector in the crisis regions suffers year after year.

In general, the poorest female-headed households are more present in rural areas (58 per cent), than in urban areas (36 per cent). In rural areas, women-headed households are more dependent on primary sector livelihoods (97 per cent of households are involved) whereas in urban areas they are more dependent on secondary (13 per cent) and tertiary (76 per cent) sectors. The weakest livelihoods are reported for people relying on aid and/or donations, forest resources, daily labor and agriculture (cash and food crops); the latter are most often practiced by female-headed households.¹⁰⁹

The 2021/2022 agro-pastoral campaign was negatively impacted by soaring prices for agricultural inputs (mainly fertilizers and phytosanitary products), flooding in the Far North and North regions (mainly

in the divisions of Logone et Chari and Mayo-Danay in the Far North, and Benue Mayo-Rey divisions in the North), the destruction of fields by pachyderms (in the Mayo-Kani division in the Far North), bush fires, attacks of defoliating caterpillars and civil insecurity in the North-West and South-West. These shocks caused a drop in agricultural production in affected localities. Forecast cereal production for the 2021/2022 season is estimated at 3.6 million tones. Comparative analysis reports an increase of 19 per cent in the production, if compared to the total production of the 2020/2021 season, and a decrease of 24 per cent if compared to the past 5 years. Only maize production increased by 34 per cent compared to the previous year. Rice and sorghum production remained relatively stable compared to the previous season, at 270,420 tons and 1 ton respectively. The forecast production of other food crops (macabo/taro and cassava) is estimated at 7.6 million tons for cassava, representing a 6 per cent reduction when compared to the previous season, and 1.6 million tons for macabo/taro, decreasing the production of 9 per cent with respect to the previous season.

In the rural areas, 42 per cent of households are engaged in agricultural activities, but the limited capacity to access farming land and to cover the overall food needs of the family through self-production may affect household food security. Nearly 32 per cent of women cultivate at least one plot of land larger than 1 ha.

Livestock ownership is also an important asset for rural Cameroonian households, regardless of their livelihoods. Selling livestock to generate cash needed to buy food, particularly cereals, is a common practice, particularly in the northern part of the country. In rural areas, food-secure households have an average of 1.95 livestock units, compared to 0.41 for food-insecure households. Nearly a third of the livelihoods of female-headed households come from agricultural production (29 per cent), whereas 68 per cent of livelihoods come from agricultural production and trade for men-headed households, suggesting their greater diversity of income.

Fishing remains a traditional activity dominated exclusively by men. Women are more involved in the

marketing of fishing products, from which they derive very little income, given their role as retail traders, where the cost price does not allow them to make substantial profits. Gathering products is an income activity used by 2.6 per cent of households in rural areas, compared to 1.9 per cent in the urban area surveyed. More than 76 per cent of these products are collected by women, who on average earn less than men.

In Cameroon, about half of the households (49.2 per cent) are dependent on a single source of income in rural areas, especially female-headed households (74 per cent). At the household level, 73 per cent of the heads are men and 27 per cent are women. In rural areas, 30 per cent of household heads have no education. Of these, 51 per cent are literate and 34 per cent have attained a primary level of education. In urban areas, although almost half of the heads of household still have no education (17 per cent), 47 per cent of them have attained primary education and almost 34 per cent secondary education. The proportion of female-headed households with a high level of education is much lower.

The food security situation is further exacerbated by the impacts of the war in Ukraine, which has led to a drastic increase in basic commodities' prices, in particular wheat-based products. The Russo-Ukrainian conflict continues to affect various sectors of the economy, disrupting supply chains and causing price increases on the market. In addition to imported products (wheat, construction materials), there has been a decline in the availability of fertilizers, leading to a sharp rise in their price. In general, the price of agricultural inputs has increased in the second half of 2022. For example, the price of a bag of fertilizer has increased by 60 per cent compared to the same period in 2021; the price of a 50kg bag of urea has risen from 25,000 FCFA francs in 2021 to 40,000 FCFA francs in October 2022 (46 per cent increase); the price of a 50kg bag of NPK 20-10-10 fertilizer has risen from 18,000 to 35,000 FCFA francs over the same period. The price of basic commodities has continued to progressively increase since the beginning of 2022, by 42 per cent if compared to January 2021. In July, the increase was on average 11 per cent with respect to June: examples include the price of yellow maize

(increased of 18 per cent), local rice (15 per cent), red and white sorghum (respectively 64 per cent and 84 per cent), potatoes, taro, and cassava cosses (50 per cent), and shelled groundnuts (6 per cent). As a result of this spike in wheat flour prices, the price of bread, puff balls and pasta also increased on most markets in Cameroon as of March 2022. For instance, by mid-March 2022, the price of a 50 kg bag of flour had risen from 19,000 FCFA to 24,000 FCFA (26 per cent) and, consequently, the price of a 200g baguette of bread rose from 125 FCFA to 150 FCFA. Sufficient alternatives to primary foods have not been identified; thus, the higher prices have resulted in an increased number and severity of food insecure people in the country. This situation is also considered as a threat to the country's stability as it causes tensions and social unrest. Without urgent support, affected populations are at risk of further deterioration of their food and nutrition situation, with an impact on their overall vulnerability.

Markets are experiencing an atypical upward trend in food and non-food prices since the last lean season because of the Ukrainian crisis. One producer out of two reports difficulties in purchasing, particularly in the West (68 per cent), North-West (61 per cent) and South-West (57 per cent) regions due to the deterioration of access (physical and financial) and the Ukrainian crisis, thus resulting in higher transport costs (poor road conditions) and fuel.¹¹⁰

Despite the new harvests, prices have not decreased as usual. This situation has a negative impact on the replenishment of national stocks and on household purchasing power. Furthermore, the increase in fertilizers' prices, combined with the reduction in producers' purchasing power, will negatively affect future rainfed and the dry season's production. In 2022, the prices of rice and wheat increased by 10 to 15 per cent respectively, and refined vegetable oil and locally produced palm oil also rose by 15 per cent. In addition, the prices of livestock and fish products have risen in major consumer centers.

In the projected period (June to August 2023), food access conditions will reach an average of "poor", especially in the northern part of the country. The economic power of households will vary from one

division to another, depending on their income level. Cereal prices will rise depending on whether there is a hunger gap or not, depending on the country's agro-ecological zoning, despite the relative availability of food stocks compared to the five-year average. Some markets will not be easily accessible during the projected period, with likely flooding, continued insecurity in the North-West and South-West, and lack of access for tracks to rural areas in the southern part.

Under the current climate conditions, floods affect an average of 120,000 people every year, about 0.5 per cent of the total population of the country. Most of the potentially affected people are concentrated in the Littoral and northern regions. Floods cause enormous economic losses in addition to the displacement of populations. Under the present climate conditions, an average of almost two million people are annually living in drought-hit areas. The average percentage of potentially affected GDP (i.e. the economic value produced in areas hit by droughts) is about 8 per cent of the total GDP. Affected livestock is estimated at 1.2 million units (34 per cent of the total livestock). Currently, most of the livestock affected by droughts is situated in the North of Cameroon, where droughts are most frequent.¹¹¹

Fear of COVID-19 infection continues to slow the business environment, disrupting daily income opportunities (petty trade and casual labor) for poor urban households and limiting the income-earning capacity. In particular, there is a high concentration of women in the informal sector and in domestic work, where their incomes are well below the poverty line. Furthermore, women-headed households devote a larger share of their income to food expenditure: almost 60 per cent of them devote more than 50 per cent of their expenditure to food. This is indicative of the vulnerability to which women-headed households are exposed. Indeed, 42 per cent of women-headed households are in the "poor" group while only 38 per cent of men are in this category.

Regarding food consumption, 13.9 per cent of households have a poor rate in Cameroon and adopt negative coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals per day and increasing the consumption of non-preferred foods to meet their

basic food needs. Furthermore, 37 per cent of female headed households (27 per cent of the sample) had poor and limited food consumption, compared to 31 per cent of male headed households.

The situation is precarious in the North-West and South-West, plagued by a socio-political crisis, and in the Far North, North, Littoral, West and East regions, where internally displaced persons and refugees put a strain on household stocks. In the North and South-West regions, 40 per cent and 47 per cent of female-headed households are food insecure, compared to 23 per cent and 39 per cent of male-headed households respectively.

Female-headed households have the lowest food diversity, mostly in the Far North (27 per cent) and North (25 per cent) regions, where less than three food groups were consumed in the seven days preceding the survey. Overall, more than 50 per cent of households have developed negative eating strategies, 42 per cent of which are moderate and 13.6 per cent high; in female-headed households, these negative strategies are 60 per cent compared to 54 per cent for men-headed households. In rural areas, female heads of household are even more concerned by the adoption of negative coping strategies. More generally, the rate of food insecurity is higher: (i) among heads of households aged under 25 years, (ii) among heads of households with no education (46.6 per cent) and (iii) in households headed by women belonging to the 'poor' (29 per cent) and 'poorest' (28 per cent) quintiles, i.e. 67 per cent of households headed by 'poor' women, whereas among men, 51 per cent of 'poor' men are food insecure.

Food insecurity is more likely to occur when the household is very poor (58 per cent) or poor (50 per cent), reflecting in particular the most limited ownership of non-productive material assets. In rural areas, 54 per cent of the poorest (very poor and poor) households are food insecure. Low monthly income per person characterizes food-insecure households. In both rural and urban areas, food-insecure households have an average monthly income per person that is twice that of food-secure households. Food-insecure households have significantly lower monthly expenditure per person than food-secure households

in both rural and urban areas. Overall, 42 per cent of food-insecure households have a head of household who is not in school. Moreover, illiteracy of the heads of households is a characteristic of food-insecure households, regardless of their place of residence.

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

In the Far North, in addition to the impact of the Lake Chad basin conflict, inter-communal conflicts caused by competition over scarce resources, such as water, agricultural land livelihoods activities, has been exacerbated by the impact of climate change.

The region most affected by flooding each year is the Far North. Between September and December 2022, almost 55,000 households (about 313,000 people) were affected by flooding in the Mayo-Danay, Logone et Chari, and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions, with at least 23 deaths by drowning reported by authorities. Also 6,735 livestock were lost, and 30,872 houses and 48,500 hectares of crops were damaged or destroyed. This is due to the heavy rainfall that was recorded during the rainy season, as well as the failure of several dykes due to rising river waters.

Agricultural production has dropped in the Logone et Chari division due to reduced rainfall. Furthermore, the limited production was looted in some areas during the intercommunal clashes in December 2021, rendering the livestock situation more precarious in these locations.

In the Far North, high staple grain prices are further aggravating food access for poor households, particularly for those affected by the conflict in the Logone et Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions, who are switching to sorghum and maize because of poor harvests. Wholesale sorghum prices in the reference markets are expected to average 20 to 25 per cent above the five-year average from March to May despite recent Government restrictions on grain exports.

In the Far North region, the price of wheat flour increased significantly from February to March 2022 (+18.6 per cent). The average price of a kilogram of wheat flour was 506 FCFA in February, compared to 600 FCFA in March.¹¹² More poor households are

expected to be in “crisis” (phase 3) from March and through the lean season until August 2023 due to rising commodity prices in a context of high market dependency and low purchasing power. In general, more than 57 per cent of women-headed households have incomes below FCFA 30,000, or 51 per cent below the international poverty line. The female-headed households with the highest average monthly income per person are those dependent on trade (111,039 FCFA), followed by the sale of market garden produce (46,737 FCFA). These incomes are generally less to those of men-headed households, double or even triple those of women headed households in sectors such as livestock farming, cash crop farming and even salaried work.¹¹³

In the projected period, according to the analysis of Cadre Harmonisé, food insecurity will affect 960,000 persons, corresponding to 20.4 per cent of the total population in this region, the divisions affected by the Lake Chad basin conflict being the most affected by acute food insecurity from June to August 2023: 233,000 persons (22 per cent of the population of the Mayo-Tsanaga division), 154,000 persons (21 per cent of the Logone et Chari division), 116,000 persons (22 per cent of the Mayo-Sava division) and 134,000 persons (22 per cent of the Mayo-Kani division). In rural areas, food consumption is more perilous among female headed household in the Far-North (36 per cent) region.

North-West and South-West crisis

Violence continues in the North-West and South-West regions. In the crisis-affected regions, which have experienced six consecutive years of reduced agricultural production compared to the five-year average, household food stocks are below pre-crisis levels. Most poor households that still have stocks of staple foods have enough to support only minimally adequate food consumption for up to one month. The stocks will last three to five months less than in pre-conflict years. In the Momo, Lebiale, Meme and Menchum divisions, where production was lower than in other divisions and compared to the five-year average, poor households exhausted their stocks shortly after harvest in October, four to five months

earlier than usual, and are therefore entirely dependent on buying food on the market.

In most reference markets in the North-West and South-West regions, staple food prices remain above seasonal averages, and are rising as households deplete their stocks of production and become increasingly dependent on the market. Cassava tuber prices in key markets in the South-West have been generally stable since the harvest began in September, declining slightly by about 4 per cent between October and December 2022. The supply of local parboiled rice in most markets increased after the November and December harvest, although production remained below pre-conflict levels, increasing the demand for imported rice above average. Due to continued high global transaction costs, the prices of imported staple food generally remain above the five-year average.

In the South-West region, only 3 per cent of the livelihoods of female-headed households derive from cash crops, mainly in the Fako and Meme divisions. Skilled labour and/or transport is more prevalent in the South-West regions.

According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis, the number of divisions in crisis in the North-West and South-West has increased from 8 divisions in crisis in October 2021 to 12 divisions in crisis this year, including 615,000 people in the North-West and 436,000 people in the South-West in phase 3 and more (Phase 3 to 5). Food consumption is more precarious among female-headed households in the North-West (46 per cent) and South-West (45 per cent) regions.



SOUTH-WEST REGION, CAMEROON

Reducing vulnerability and generating income for crisis-hit communities in Cameroon through mushroom cultivation in Buea.

Photo: FAO/

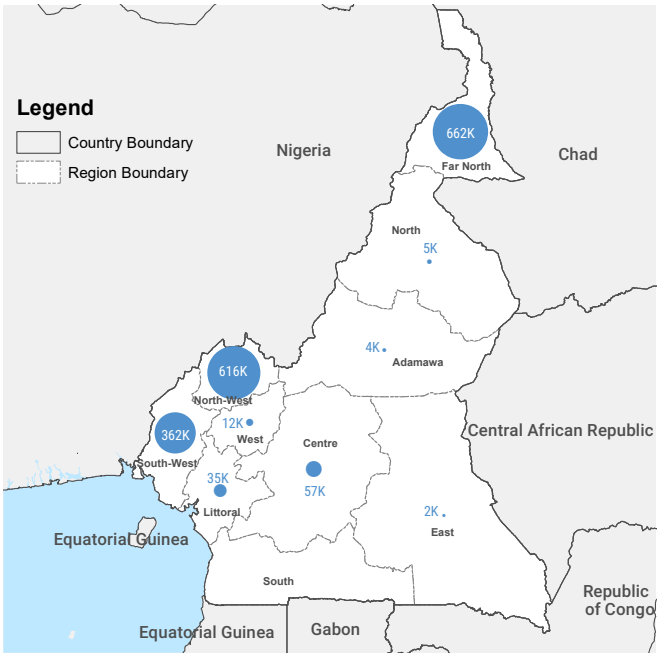
3.3

Health

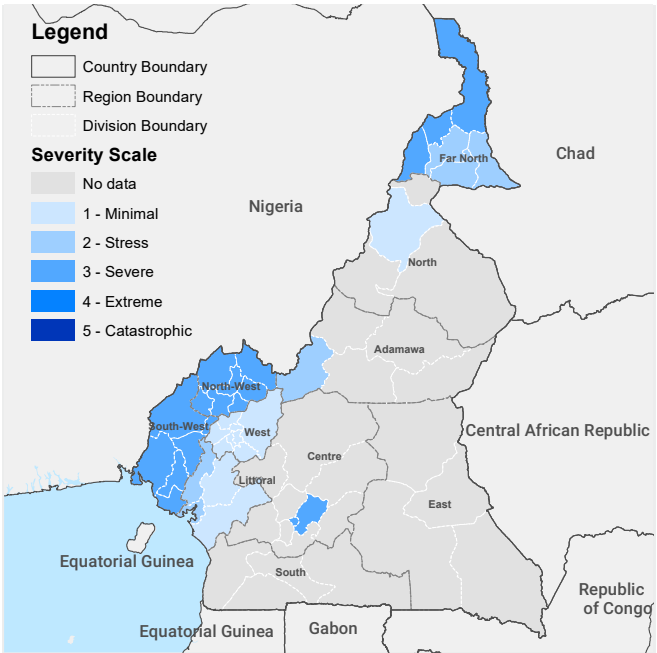


PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
1.8M	53%	59%	33%	7%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Overview

Considering the ongoing humanitarian crises that affect Cameroon with increasing intensity in certain areas, the Health Sector partners estimate that 1.8 million people will need emergency humanitarian health assistance in 2023. The health situation in insecure areas is characterized by a significant reduction of services provided by qualified health personnel, difficult access to essential healthcare and low vaccination coverage of affected populations. These factors have contributed to the resurgence of epidemics such as measles, cholera, and monkeypox. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic declared in March 2020 has been an extra burden to the health system throughout the country, due to the high number of health workers infected (4,724 cases) or succumbing to the disease (61 deaths), and the reluctance to use

routine vaccines, which, coupled with limited access to essential health care, has considerably increased the vulnerability of the populations in all regions. As of 6 November 2022, the Ministry of Public Health reported 13,584 cases of cholera (35 per cent of these cases are women and girls, 7.5 per cent are children under 5, 27.3 per cent are women of childbearing age and 6.8 per cent are people over 60 years) and 288 deaths (35 per cent of these deaths are women, 5.6 per cent are children under 5, 14.8 per cent are women of childbearing age) in the South, Littoral, South-West, West, Far North, East, North and Centre regions. The case-fatality rate is 2.1 per cent. In the same vein, monkeypox is affecting four out of the ten regions, with 74 reported cases, including two deaths with a case fatality rate of 3.2 per cent. The measles epidemic has also been declared in 52 health districts of the

country. In the Far North, North-West, and South-West regions, insecurity has reduced access to essential health services.

As far as sexual and reproductive health is concerned, the maternal mortality ratio is still high, with 406 deaths per 100,000 livebirths. This situation is worsening in the three areas affected by humanitarian crises. One of the causes is home deliveries: In the East region, 56 per cent of deliveries occur at home, while in the Far North region 70 per cent of children are delivered at home. The geographical and financial access of quality emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) services is critically low due to the different crises. Only 26.7 per cent of women give birth in a health facility in the North-West and South-West regions. More than 210 health facilities are no longer functional (destruction or abandonment of health structures by health personnel) in the North-West and South-West regions.¹¹⁴

The gap of midwives in the country is 1,134. Regarding the conflict zones, the number of midwives has reduced as most of them have fled to safer working environments. This has led to task shifting as less qualified staffs like nurses are used to fill in the gap for midwives.

Youth and adolescent are the most vulnerable when it comes to access to reproductive health services in the three areas affected by humanitarian crises.

The socioeconomic condition in the country is characterized by inflation, which has led to the increase in transportation costs, limited availability of sexual and reproductive health services, reduced purchasing power, and ability to afford and access existing services.

Frequent road blockages and “Ghost towns” in the North-West and South-West have increased home and community deliveries as well as delays in referrals, all of which increased maternal deaths from 1.3 per 1,000 in 2021 to 1.6 per 1,000 deliveries in 2022 and neonatal deaths from 0.2 per 1,000 deliveries to 3 per 1,000 deliveries in 2022, according to surveillance data of the Ministry of Public Health. Attacks on healthcare impacted the quality and quantity of services offered as health personnel, including physicians, nurses

and midwives fled affected areas in the North-West and South-West.

In addition, due to the separation of families, financial difficulties, and security threats, there is an increase in the reported number of GBV/SGBV and mental health cases.

The Health Sector partners have identified eight priority needs in the areas affected by crises:

- Response to epidemics
- Clinical medical care for GBV survivors
- Access to essential health care including SRH and mental health
- Safe and dignified childbirth for all vulnerable women of childbearing age
- Regular monitoring of attacks on healthcare
- Minimum initial service package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health response (ante-natal care, family planning, post-abortion care, clinical management of rape etc.) to all pregnant and lactating women
- Availability of high-quality health services (essential healthcare, reproductive health, mental health, trauma care)

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

The repeated attacks by NSAGs significantly impact the vulnerability of the affected population, particularly in regards to physical and mental well-being. Lack of access to clean water, sanitation and health services is the leading cause of cholera and other diseases in the Far North region. In 64 per cent of the villages assessed during the August 2022 MSNA, the displaced population faced problems accessing health services, mainly in the Mayo-Danay, Logone et Chari, and Mayo-Sava divisions, because the health centers are far from dwellings (68 per cent) or the services are not affordable (63 per cent). The lack of health personnel (13 per cent), medicines (14 per cent), equipment (8 per cent), and safety in health facilities (8 per cent) are also reported as reasons hindering access. Access to healthcare is even more challenging for women and children due to the traditional patriarchal organisation of communities, as the adult male, having

the dominant role in families, restricts their access to healthcare.

North-West and South-West crisis

The crisis-affected population in the North-West and South-West regions has similar needs as communities affected by the armed conflict in the Far North. They are namely affected by the epidemics, are physically and mentally traumatized, vulnerable women and adolescent girls lack access to safe deliveries and have difficulties to access essential health care. The main difficulty in the North-West and South-West is the high number of non-functional health structures. In addition, attacks on health personnel have considerably limited human resources as well as the

availability of technical material and equipment in both regions. In 2021, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the South-West region recorded several outbreaks such as cholera, yellow fever, measles, and monkey-pox. Meanwhile, many pregnant women and children did not benefit from routine vaccination activities. Emergency transportation, referral and counter-referral of cases remain a challenge in the access to essential healthcare, including sexual and reproductive care in areas with ongoing strives.

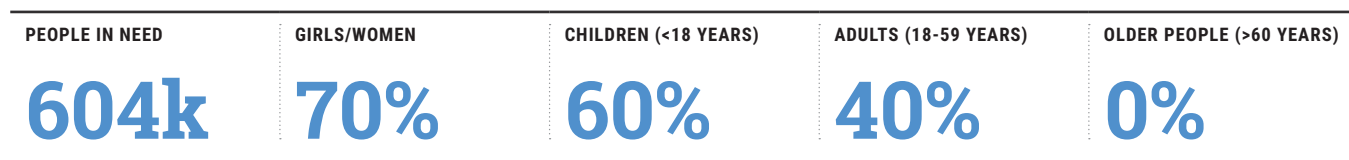


FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

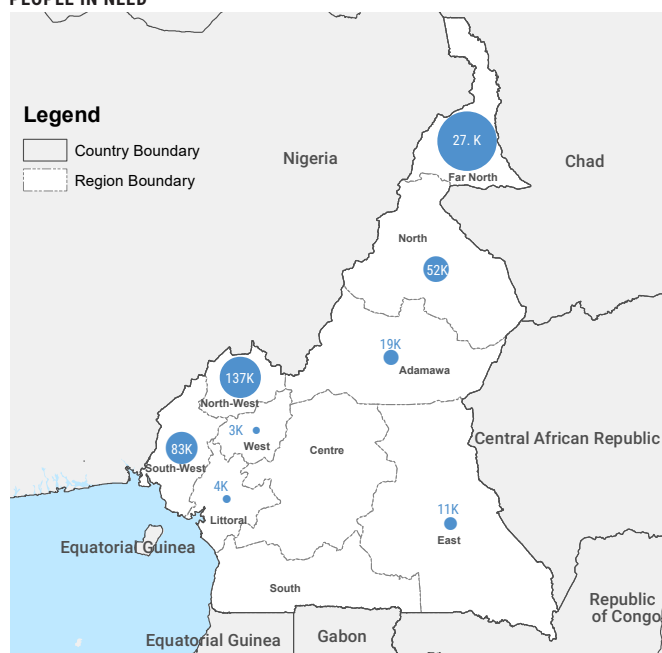
A baby receives a vitamin A supplement, at the integrated health centre of Dougoi, in Maroua.

Photo: UNICEF/ Dejongh

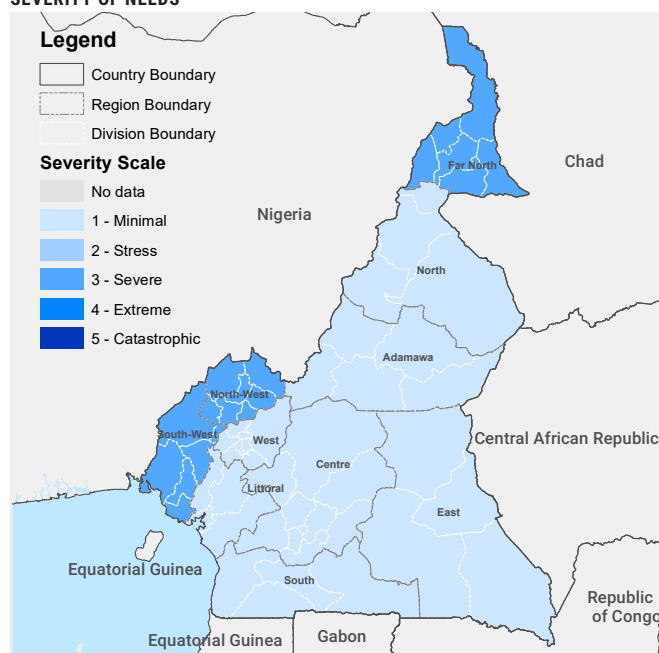
3.4 Nutrition



PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Overview

Regions affected by the humanitarian crises in Cameroon are characterized by the stagnating prevalence of acute malnutrition (5.9 per cent in the Far North, 4.5 per cent in the East and 4.8 per cent in the North), high rates of stunting (over 35 per cent in the Far North and North and over 30 per cent in the East and Adamawa).¹¹⁵ Available studies do not show significant differences between the nutritional status of boys and girls. Micronutrient deficiencies (57 per cent of children and 40 per cent of women of child-bearing age with anemia) also lead to an increased risk of death among the affected population and among vulnerable groups. Malnutrition impacts on and is affected by crisis. In protracted crises, like in Cameroon, the factors responsible for malnutrition are exacerbated and highlight fundamental structural

problems that trap people in a state of constant precariousness. This can cause an alarming increase in acute malnutrition rates and contributes to explain why chronic malnutrition remains unacceptable despite humanitarian assistance.

Protracted displacement crises have a negative impact on individual nutritional status, particularly among vulnerable population groups, including children under 5, pregnant and lactating women and girls, adolescent girls, older people, persons living with disabilities, and those with chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS. Peoples' lives and livelihoods and entire households are affected by limited access to food, health and care in many ways:

- Some families lost their members; others are forced to migrate, or some members are separated

from their relatives and support networks; adults are traumatized or too busy trying to cope with the crisis to provide support to spouses or offspring.

- Food security is undermined by conflict: productive activities are disrupted, food stores are destroyed or looted, livestock is stolen, access to markets is reduced and prices increase. The majority of food insecure people are located in the areas most affected by violence in the North-West, South-West and Far North regions.¹¹⁶

Although food insecurity affects the entire community, women and girls pay the highest price. In Cameroon, among food insecure households, 16 per cent are headed by women and 38 per cent of female-headed households have poor or limited food consumption. Women also have a more severe domestic hunger index.¹¹⁷

- Reduced access to food results in changes in feeding practices (in particular, reduced consumption of vegetables, fruits, and animal-source foods), food preparation, and food allocation within households. Nearly one-third (32.4 per cent) of households in Cameroon have a poorly diversified diet, more so in the Far North (39.1 per cent) and North-West (36.7 per cent) regions.¹¹⁸
- Health services, as in part of Logone et Chari in the Far North, the South-West and North-West, are no longer available or used. The adverse impact of the crises in the Far North and the North-West and South-West on access to health care remains high. Five attacks on health care were reported between 1 August and 30 September 2022 alone.¹¹⁹

Population groups affected by the crises

Women, girls, boys, and men face different risks related to the deterioration of their nutritional status in emergency contexts. These different vulnerabilities are related both to their differing nutritional requirements and socio-cultural factors related to gender.

The needs of infants and young children from birth to two years differ from those of other age groups. As their nutritional needs are different, the texture of their foods and the frequency of their feeding must be adapted to their capacity to chew and the size and

maturity of their digestive system. As highlighted in the Lancet Series in Nutrition in 2008, optimal nutrition and health care of both the mother and infant during the first 1,000 days (the window of opportunity) of an infant's life are closely linked to growth, learning potential and neurodevelopment, in turn affecting long-term outcomes.

How do gender issues affect nutritional status?¹²⁰

- In crisis situations where food is in short supply, women and girls are more likely to reduce their food intake as a coping strategy in favor of other household members. This can contribute to under-nutrition among women and girls. In 2020, food insecurity was 10 per cent higher among women than men globally and the gender gap widened between 2019 and 2020.¹²¹
- Women often face constraints in accessing humanitarian services, including food, due to insecurity, cultural discrimination, and limited mobility.
- Women, especially those who are pregnant or lactating, could be disproportionately affected by under-nutrition due to their increased physiological requirements. Teenage pregnancy can lead to poor health and nutritional status for both the baby and the mother. In crisis-affected regions, more than 15 per cent of the women of reproductive age are at risk of malnutrition or malnourished,¹²² and 48 per cent of adolescent girls are suffering from anemia.¹²³
- While remaining the main caretakers of children and other dependents within a household, women take on additional activities to support household food security, especially in situations where male, formal heads of households, are absent. This often leads to disruption in infant and young child feeding practices and reduced care capacities. In the North-West and South-West regions, 40 per cent and 47 per cent of female-headed households, respectively, are food insecure, compared to 23 per cent and 39 per cent of male-headed households, respectively.¹²⁴
- Single men and boys separated from their families can be at risk of under-nutrition if they do not know how to cook or access food distributions.

The above-mentioned elements, together with the fact that women have less access to assets and resources, and receive lower salaries, while their domestic work burden stays the same or increases, often result in their increased vulnerability. In the worst scenarios, limited opportunities leave many women and girls with untenable options for their own and their families' survival, including transactional sex in exchange for food and basic commodities, and early or forced marriages. In the Far North in 2020, 16 per cent of female-headed households used emergency livelihood strategies like borrowing food, relying on strangers for help, survival prostitution, forced marriages, etc.¹²⁵

It is estimated that a minimum of 126,700 people will suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in 2023, including 3,700 pregnant and lactating women and 123,000 girls and boys under 5.

The results of the latest nutrition survey (with the SMART method) conducted in February 2021 by UNICEF and the Government of Cameroon showed a GAM rate of 5.9 per cent with 0.2 per cent of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), at regional level. The Far North had one of the highest prevalence of chronic malnutrition with 36.4 per cent. In addition, a small-scale SMART survey¹²⁹ conducted in December 2020 in four health areas highly impacted by population

Impact of disabilities on nutritional status

- Children living with disabilities are more likely to be malnourished as malnutrition can cause disabilities and disabilities can also lead to malnutrition, creating a cycle.¹²⁶
- At the same time, children living with disabilities may become malnourished due to difficulties swallowing and feeding, frequent illness, difficulties absorbing nutrients, caregiver's lack of knowledge on feeding and neglect.¹²⁷
- Malnutrition can also result from stigma and discrimination. Due to cultural beliefs, mothers may be encouraged to not breastfeed their infants with disabilities and children and adolescents with disabilities may be fed less, denied food, or provided with less nutritious food than siblings without disabilities.¹²⁸

Older people who suffer from chronic diseases are mostly impacted by limited availability and disruptions to access to essential medicines.

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

In 2023, it is estimated that more than 289,500 people, mainly girls and boys under 5 and pregnant or lactating girls and women, will be vulnerable in the Far North.



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

A baby is being weighed and measured, at the integrated health center of Dougoï, in Maroua.
Photo: UNICEF/Dejongh

displacement (Bodo, Afadé, Kalafarka et Maltam),¹³⁰ showed a GAM rate of 11.1 per cent and SAM rate of 1.8 per cent, tending to support the hypothesis of Sector partners that areas with increased vulnerability factors (such as IDP concentration, low access to health centers and WASH facilities) present higher acute malnutrition rates.

In the Far North, more than 70 per cent of the total IDPs are living in host communities. Over 37 per cent of them are children under 5 and the average number of children per household is 5.8. Together with the host population, they have limited access to drinking water, poor access to health care, poor hygiene, exposed to epidemics, and the consequences of poor crop harvests, which can lead to the rapid deterioration of their nutritional status.

Following the inter-communal conflicts in the Logone Birni district that broke out in 2021, affecting the Logone et Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava and Diamare divisions, up to 47,000 IDPs have been registered while over 12,600 have returned to their localities amidst threats of renewed violence in the area. Their situation remains precarious with limited access to food, health, and WASH services. Severe floods have also recently affected over 313,200 people in areas already fragilized by the security crisis, among them 95,000 children under 5 are at risk of malnutrition.

The situation related to the main underlying causes of malnutrition remains fragile with limited access to drinking water, especially for refugees, IDPs and their host communities. The availability of drinking water is slightly below the minimum emergency water standard: the average amount of drinking water available per person, per day, in the region is 13.5 liters. Only the Mayo-Danay division shows a satisfactory quantity of 20 liters per person, per day.¹³¹ Results from the September 2022 MSNA reveal that quality of drinking water is a major concern with the major concerns being odor, taste and brown color.¹³² Regarding the health situation, across the region, 41.8 per cent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffered from either fever, Acute Respiratory Infection or diarrhea in the two weeks before the SMART survey.¹³³

The indicators related to infant and young child feeding practices are among the poorest in the country, with an exclusive breastfeeding rate of 50 per cent, a timely introduction rate for complementary foods of 33.3 per cent. The proportion of children aged 6 to 23 months with minimum dietary diversity is 46 per cent, the Minawao camp records the lowest rate, at 14 per cent.

North-West and South-West crisis

It is estimated that in 2023 more than 230,700 people, including children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women, will need nutrition services in the North-West, South-West, West and Littoral regions. Up to 48,800 boys and girls under 5 are likely to develop acute malnutrition in these regions, including 11,600 children with severe acute malnutrition.

Populations living in remote areas, IDPs in urban/peri-urban areas, and households/communities hosting IDPs are vulnerable to malnutrition since they are exposed to aggravating factors (food insecurity, limited access to water, poor sanitary conditions, sanitation and hygiene services, and morbidity due to the overstretching of basic social services).

The nutrition situation in the North-West and South-West regions remains unclear due to the absence of a comprehensive nutrition anthropometric survey using the SMART methodology. Proxy data from rapid emergency food security assessments (EFSA) conducted in October 2019 revealed a precarious situation with a proxy GAM of 5.1 per cent and 7.1 per cent in the North-West and South-West regions respectively. Analysis from Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening data conducted by nutrition partners from July to December 2021 showed a proxy GAM prevalence of 1.5 and SAM prevalence of 0.4 per cent in the North-West and the South-West regions. However, these findings are not conclusive of the nutrition status in the two regions as there could be pockets of high nutrition vulnerability that are not yet identified. Prior to the crisis, the North-West and South-West regions presented vulnerabilities to malnutrition with high rates of stunting of 36 per cent and 28 per cent in the North-West and the South-West, respectively. Furthermore, poor indicators on infant and young child feeding practices were reported at 42.5 per

cent for the North-West and 58.3 per cent for South-West of exclusive breast-feeding rates. Proportions of children aged 6 to 23 months who met the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) were reported to be low at 31.8 per cent in the North-West and 20.7 per cent in the South-West. Approximately 40 per cent (44.3 per cent in the North-West and 41.9 per cent in the South-West) of children aged 6 to 59 months were reported to have anemia and, with the ongoing humanitarian crisis, it is very likely that the poor situation of MDD has worsened since then.

Poor host households and displaced populations will continue to face acute food insecurity because of the crisis. According to the results of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis of March 2022, 612,000 people in the North-West and 365,000 in the South-West (25.9 per cent and 25.7 per cent of the population respectively) are in acute food insecurity (phases 3 to 5). Access to health care remains a challenge due to insecurity and persistent attacks on health facilities. While about 71 per cent of the facilities are found to be functional, the majority (58 per cent) of IDPs have limited access to health care due to distance (45 per cent) and financial constraints (17 per cent). Furthermore, the weak disease surveillance system has put the population at risk of epidemics with late detection and limited response capacity resulting in repeated pockets of cholera outbreaks reported in the South-West.

Acute malnutrition of children aged 6 to 59 months is a direct outcome indicator of recent changes in the nutritional status, which could be attributed to changes in food security, health, and WASH situations. Despite low programme coverage in 2022, over 1,300 children aged 6-59 months were admitted for SAM treatment in the North-West and South-West regions.

With the major drivers of malnutrition (food insecurity, morbidity, poor sanitary conditions and repeated internal displacement) expected to follow the same trend in 2023, the nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate.

Central African refugee crisis

The results of the latest nutrition survey (with the SMART method) conducted in February 2021 by

UNICEF and the Government of Cameroon showed GAM rates of 4.8 per cent in the North, 3.8 per cent in the Adamawa and 4.5 per cent in the East with 1 per cent, 0.6 per cent and 0.1 per cent of SAM for the same regions respectively. For chronic malnutrition, prevalence rates were in the alert phase with rates of 32.8 per cent in the East, 34.6 per cent in Adamawa and 40.2 per cent in the North.

The nutrition situation of the CAR refugees living in camps and within host communities is alarming, with a GAM rate of 12.5 per cent and SAM rate of 2.6 and 3.4 per cent respectively, indicating a significant degradation since the last survey in 2016 (8 per cent and 7.6 per cent GAM rate).

In the East, Adamawa and North regions affected by the Central African crisis, close to 82,000¹³⁴ boys and girls under 5 will need treatment for acute malnutrition in 2023, among whom 23,500 will suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Impact of global food crisis

Fuelled by conflict, climate change and the persistent secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global food and nutrition crisis is pushing already vulnerable children into unprecedented levels of food poverty and nutrition vulnerability.¹³⁵ Children living in severe food poverty are particularly vulnerable to severe stunting and wasting – the most life-threatening forms of undernutrition in early childhood – which can increase the children's risk of death by up to 12 times and undermine their ability to reach their full potential.

The year 2022 marked a record-high level of a global food security crisis, with over 40 million people facing emergency or worse (IPC/CH Phase 4 or above) conditions. This number is very likely going to increase and put more people living in a highly constrained environment at risk of death and starvation or push them to the edge of destitution.¹³⁶

The dependency of Cameroon on Ukrainian and mostly Russian imports has exacerbated and already devastated communities suffering from the impacts of conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic, all combining to undermine food security due to rising food costs. Indeed, the prices of the following

products had already increased by more than 10 per cent since December 2021: Rice (10–15 per cent), wheat (more than 10 per cent), vegetable oil (15 per cent), and palm oil (15–20 per cent).¹³⁷ Since 16 March 2022, the price of a 50 kg bag of flour has risen on the Cameroonian market from 19,000 FCFA to 24,000 FCFA (26 per cent increase). At the same time, the price of a 200 g baguette, officially 125 FCFA, has risen to 150 FCFA. Maize prices, which followed a stable to downward trend until the end of 2021, also picked

up from February 2022 onwards. A lack of access to fertilizer also has a significant impact on Cameroonian agricultural production and has thus driven food prices upwards in the Cameroonian markets.



N'DJAMENA, CHAD

Assiam Hassan, a 20-year-old cameroonian woman, with her newborn Abakar, in a refugee camp in Karwei in Chad, at the border with Cameroon.

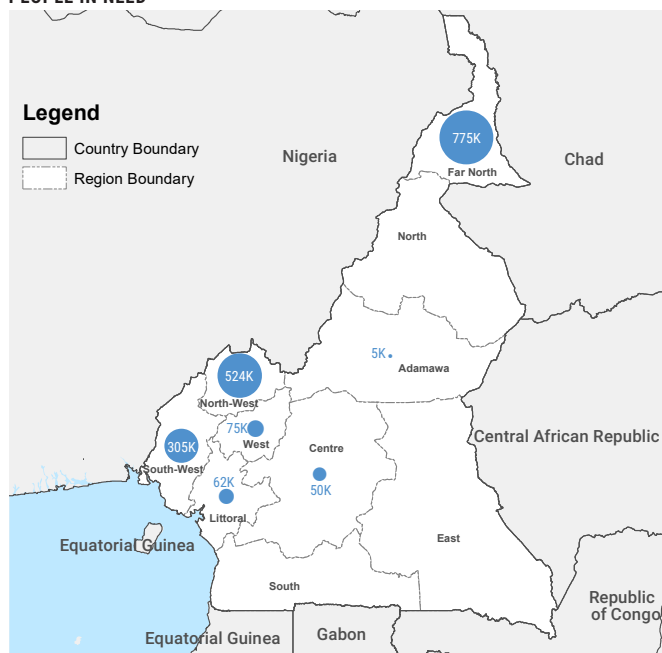
Photo: UNICEF/Dejongh

3.5 Protection¹³⁸

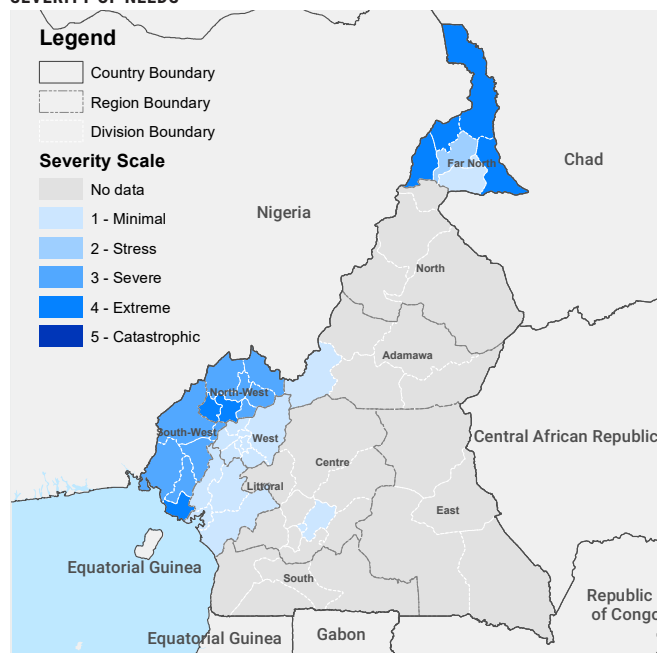


PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
1.8M	50%	53%	41%	6%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Lake Chad Basin crisis (Far North)

In 2022, the situation remained very complex in the Far North due to multiple and mixed situations of displacements, caused by armed conflict, intercommunal violence and natural disasters. Protection monitoring activities in the four divisions of Diamare, Logone et Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga, reported 6,078 security and protection incidents in 2022. This included theft and destruction of property, kidnapping, and killings. Men and boys were the victims of over 78 per cent of these incidents. The highest number of incidents has been recorded in December 2022, with 761 cases.

The lack of civil documentation has been reported as one of the main protection concerns by affected populations in the Far North.¹³⁹ Out of 12,345 identified

and profiled persons, 8,345 do not have identity cards. The lack of civil and legal documentation is exposing affected populations to serious protection risks, such as the restriction of the freedom of movement, arbitrary arrest and detention, denial or limited access to services, loss of property, or inability to claim housing, land and property upon return. Many IDPs are facing the risk of eviction by returnee landlords as they are occupying premises that do not belong to them, facing the risk of secondary displacement.

The presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO), explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IED) left by NSAG has been reported in the Far North region. This continues to cause deaths and injuries, posing a threat to life, especially for displaced persons.

Coupled with insecurity, the Far North region suffered also from the devastating effects of unprecedented floods which caused the displacements of 313,200 individuals (54,845 households) during the last rainy season between August and November.¹⁴⁰ As of early November, many IDPs were still living in informal settlements and temporary shelters, with around 95 per cent of them reporting to not have received any humanitarian assistance. In the Mayo-Danay and Logone et Chari divisions, 63 per cent of IDPs were displaced due to floods and 22 per cent had fled from Chad to escape the flooding.¹⁴¹ The same assessment reported that 95 per cent of persons living with disabilities do not have any tailored-made responses to address their specific needs and 52 per cent of the respondents lost civil and legal documents.

North-West and South-West crisis

In the North-West and South-West regions, displaced persons face daily violations of their human rights from all parties to the crisis.¹⁴² While changes in the protection environment have been registered, key aggravating factors impacting the humanitarian response have been highlighted and brought to the attention of main stakeholders. For example, inter-tribal tensions associated with farmer-herder conflicts appear to have intensified in the North-West, South-West, and West regions. Incidents were for example reported in Acha (Mbengwi, Momo), Abimuchi-Bamendankwe (Mezam), Kambe (Ndonga-Mantung), and Wum (Menchum). Due to increased tensions between herders and farmers and disagreement over traditional leadership, NSAGs are progressively reclaiming the space of traditional leaders for exploiting and seizing crop/cattle/property from both farmers and herders. Most farmers and herders have fled from their farmlands and cannot regain access to and control over their properties.

The Protection Cluster reported a total of 4,190 protection incidents in the North-West and South-West regions from January to December 2022. The increase in security and protection incidents remains a key protection concern. The highest number of incidents has been reported in May 2022, with 839 cases. As per August 2022 data, arbitrary arrest and detention remained very high, with 1,144 cases of unlawful arrest

reported, 157 security incidents, threats to life and personal security, 160 cases of killings and summary executions, 140 cases of torture and inhumane treatment, and 244 cases of physical assault.

In 2022, human rights violations remained widespread and were mostly perpetrated against local populations. For example, 205 cases of kidnappings/abductions of local community members perpetuated by NSAGs have been reported in the localities of Ekombe, Sanje (West-Coast/Fako), and Mbalangi (Mbonge/Meme) in the South-West.

This violence, which has distorted social, cultural, and community structures, has affected women, girls, boys and men differently. They all face common and specific protection risks. Gender-based violence, including sexual violence, physical assault and forced marriage, primarily affect women and girls. They face oppressive gender norms and ever greater poverty and hardship as household heads and family providers confronted with the killing or exiling of their husbands. Protection monitoring data indicate that males represent the vast majority of those exposed to torture or inhuman treatment, theft, extortion, destruction of personal property, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention (around 80 per cent in 2021 and 2022). As men are expected to fight, they are also perceived by armed individuals from both parties as threats. Boys and men mitigate their exposure to risk by reducing their economic and social activities to a minimum, limiting their movements, and censoring their opinions to avoid suspicion that they belong to one side or the other. The lack of civil documentation only exacerbates these problems. Some boys and men end up hiding in the bush, relocating to urban areas, or engaging in pendular displacement where they move back and forth between their home and place of refuge. Still others decide to relocate to other regions.¹⁴³

In the North-West, several attacks by SSFs on NSAG hideouts were reported in Bali and Mezam, and armed confrontations between SSFs and NSAGs in Nkinteh (Bafut/Mezam).¹⁴⁴ The brutal killing of suspected NSAG members was reported also in Mbengwi, Momo and other places. Continuous armed confrontations between SSFs and NSAGs continue to claim civilian

lives, cause apprehension and fear, and triggers new displacements.

In the Littoral (Mongo), the presence of IDP populations is leading to a rise in pressure on limited services and increased community tensions. Displaced communities are harassed and extorted. IDPs access to basic services is compromised by their lack of civil documentation and financial means. Coupled with this, displaced persons continue to be victims of SSF intimidations and threats if they return to their areas of origin.

Increasing discrimination is also reported in some areas such as Boasa (Fako), where local or host communities refused the access of certain protection partners for the provision of agricultural support to IDPs. They claimed assistance for community members, and they refused land access to IDPs. In Buea (Fako), stigma on displaced persons is very high and this is reflected in the use of the local word “Bagili” (strangers) to identify them. In other areas, including Missaka (Fako), IDPs are systematically accused of crimes and negative behaviors (including theft, prostitution, uncleanness, etc.) and, as a result, excluded from key socio-economic and cultural activities.

There is an apparent rise in the trafficking of IDPs for labor or domestic work. IDP children are increasingly sent by their parents to work as housemaids in urban settings in the pursuit of a better life and source of income, exposing them to the risks of exploitation and abuse.

While intermittent and precautionary returns were reported in 2022, returns continue to be limited by frequent lockdowns imposed during key events, such as the Youth Day in February and the National Independence Day in May, as well as by the opening of the school year in September, and other national public holidays in October. The protection environment is therefore affected by lockdowns imposed by NSAGs. This contributes to the deterioration of the security situation and limits humanitarian access in some hard-to-reach areas.

Even if protection risks and needs remain quite similar to previous years, some threats have evolved in 2022, such as the exclusion of IDPs from access to basic services as a result of the refusal of host communities and, in some instances, public authorities.



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

A displaced woman after the intercommunity conflict in the Domayo IDP site in Logone Birni.

Photo: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeau

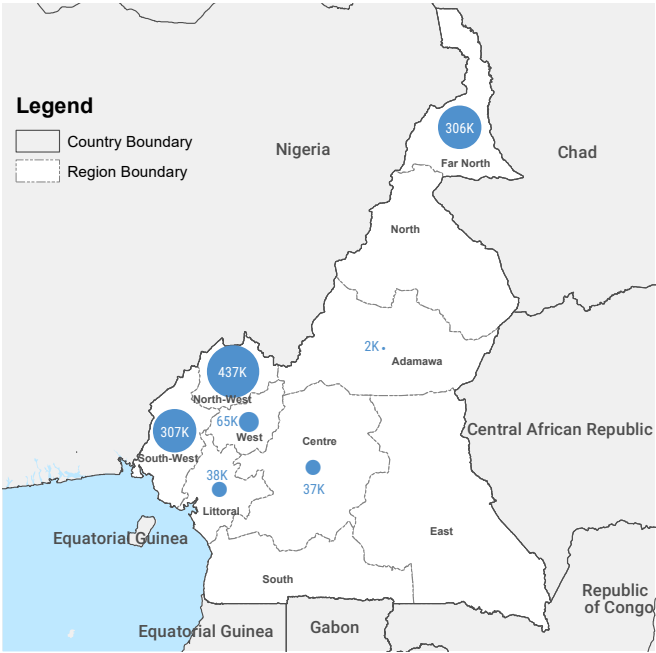


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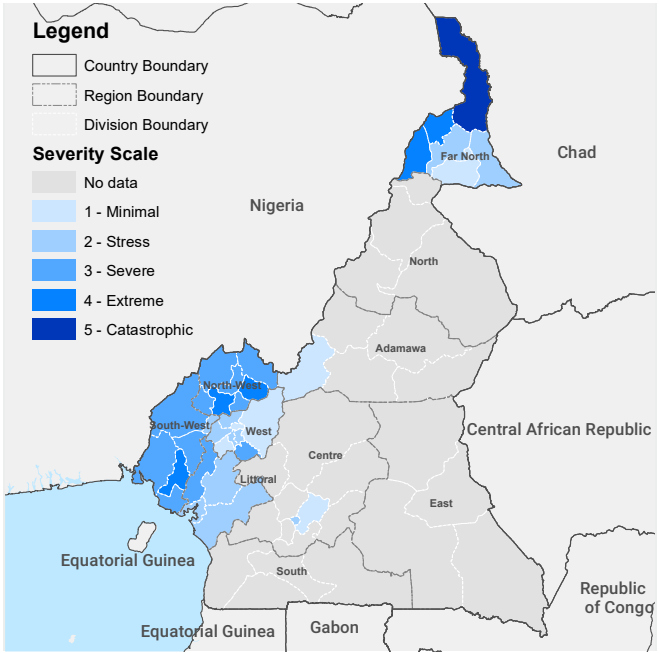
Child Protection

PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
1.2M	52%	91%	9%	0%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Lake Chad Basin crisis (Far North)

Children in the Far North region continue to be affected by limited access to basic social services. Social centers are rare; social workers are unequally deployed in existing centers, or even absent, and some centers are closed due to insecurity and armed attacks. This limits provision of social services to children and caregivers and stifles intervention initiatives in favor of vulnerable children. There are community-based child protection mechanisms in areas with IDPs and out-of-camp refugees. However, they are inadequately resourced and affected by continuous forced displacements and insecurity within the region. Approximately 339,282 people under 18 are currently on the move due to security crisis in the Far North region.¹⁴⁵

In this context, main reported threats for children and their caregivers are family separation caused by forced displacement and abduction of children, often related to NSAG recruitment. Most children and adolescents formerly associated with NSAGs are facing stigmatization and struggle to reintegrate into their communities. This is adding further physical and psychological harm to those already vulnerable.

Families' constraints to access civil status services and birth registration are reflected in the high number of undeclared births. Limited access results from the combination of several factors, such as physical distances to primary-level civil status centers, lack of secondary civil registration centers within certain communities, absence, or lack of, civil status services in health facilities, insufficient staff and transcribers

due to lack of council's budget, high costs of birth certificates, and long judicial procedures.

North-West and South-West crisis

The crisis continues to have devastating effects on the people of North-West and South-West regions especially boys, girls, and their caregivers. According to the latest displacement figures, some 831,138 individuals are displaced in both regions due to insecurity and violence.¹⁴⁶

The root causes of child protection issues lay in the education and judicial systems. Many schools are closed and/or occupied by parties to the conflict, preventing children from attending classes and removing a key component of their protective environment. Due to the fighting, some schools have been destroyed or education personnel has fled. Due to the insecurity, access to justice is precarious and the necessary reforms required to put in place a child-friendly justice system cannot be undertaken in such a volatile environment. The main accusations against older children and youths, which are regularly encountered by the judicial system, are delinquency, minor offenses, or suspicion of belonging to an NSAG.

Most localities have had their councils moved from the villages to central towns, or simply disappeared. People remaining in those villages cannot access registration services for civil documents such as birth certificates for children or identity cards for youths. Consequently, many children do not have birth certificates. This may be because of birth registration workers having abandoned their duty stations in rural areas for safety in urban centers. Additionally, civil documentation such as birth certificates may have been burnt during attacks against their homes by parties to the crisis, or lost while fleeing to safety.

Adolescent boys and girls, children with specific needs, and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are among the most vulnerable groups among IDPs, returnees, and host communities. Lack of access to basic social services, including child protection services, remains a key risk factor, especially for children in rural areas and most remote localities.

While most of the population in the region is vulnerable, children are particularly exposed to different types and forms of protection risks. Most importantly, trauma and the psychological impact of the violence is directly affecting their emotional and cognitive development and remains one of the highest priority needs in 2023.

Family separation is a major threat. Given the fact that education is one of the contested issues by NSAGs, and the consequent closure of several schools, many families decide to send their children to urban areas, where they can more easily access education. This choice may expose children to further protection risks. For example, in a poor economic environment, children hosted by local communities may be neglected due to economical constraints faced by the hosting family, which may prefer to prioritize its own children. For this reason, such children may also face additional threats, including falling victims of traffickers. Children are also separated from their families during displacement following armed attacks against their homes.

Among the displaced children reported in 2022, 2,919 were unaccompanied and 19,092 separated, with little alternative care solutions in place.¹⁴⁷

Incidents caused by IEDs and affecting children in the North-west and South-West continued to be reported in 2022. Three of five incidents reported in May 2022 resulted in injury and death. In the North-West, primary school pupils were victims of an IED explosion on their way to school in Tobin. One pupil died on the spot and the other was seriously injured.

In addition, children engage in dangerous child labor activities, such as underwater sand harvesting, street hawking, and working as farm hands in agricultural plantations for economic purposes. Some are exploited and coerced to engage in transactional sex, early marriage so that the dowry obtained can help the parents make ends meet. Some are recruited by NSAGs or decide to join them because of lack of alternative socio-economic opportunities to survive.

NSAG members also force adolescent girls into child marriage and early pregnancies often follow. Young boys face the threat of recruitment into armed groups while those exiting these groups face the risks of reprisals by the groups as well detention by State

security forces. They are also to point out the camps of the NSAGs that they had been associated with. Youths, especially boys, also are arbitrarily arrested on suspicion of association with NSAGs.

Littoral and West

The latest data report that 194,065 displaced persons due to the conflict in the North-West and South-West regions have settled in the West and Littoral regions. Among those, 57 per cent are children below 18.¹⁴⁸ In 2023, child protection actors estimate that 20,742 children and caregivers need protection assistance and care mainly in Bamboutos and Nde divisions in the West region and in Wouri and Mounjo divisions in the Littoral region.

The main protection threats faced by internally displaced girls and boys living in the West and Littoral regions can be grouped into four categories, namely: sexual violence, including sexual abuse

and exploitation, survival sex, and early and forced marriages, especially for girls. Protection actors also reported the risks of child labour and economic exploitation as well as lack of civil documentation. Child protection risks analysis suggests that due to the nature of the risks in the Littoral region, girls are more exposed than boys.



NORTH-WEST, CAMEROON

Children playing in a school in Bamenda

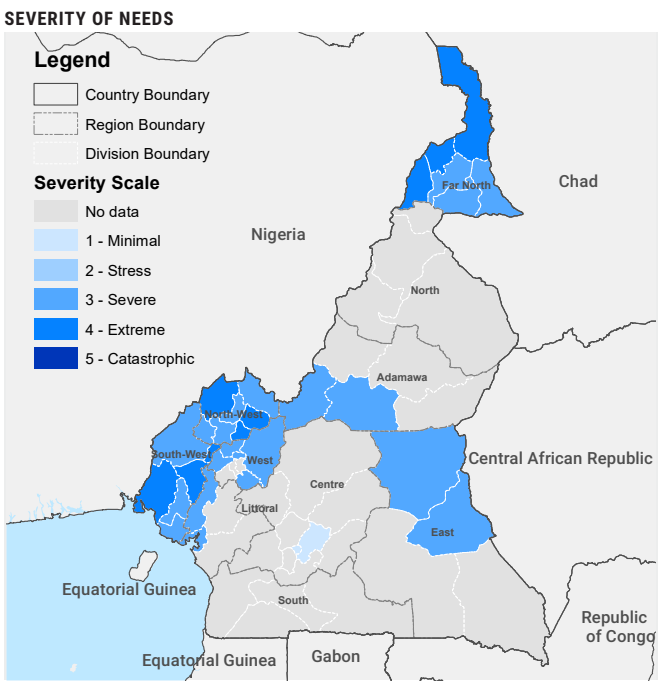
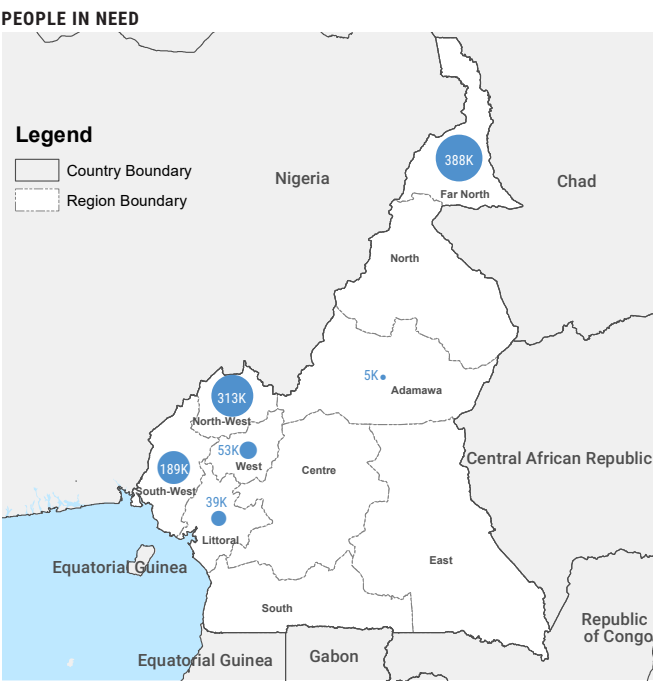
Photo: OCHA/Liz Loh-Taylor



3.5.2

Gender-Based Violence

PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
987k	96%	47%	47%	6%



Overview

The Cameroonian society is patriarchal and characterized by institutional gender inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion, which uphold and compound GBV. The ongoing humanitarian crisis affecting the North-West, South-West and Far North regions is exacerbating the situation of women and girls, threatening their safety while also limiting their access to basic services, opportunities, and resources and compromising their resilience capacity and empowerment.

Gender-Based Violence remains one of the main humanitarian concerns in Cameroon. According to the findings of “Voices from Cameroon”,¹⁴⁹ 100 per cent of respondents reported cases of domestic violence, 98 per cent the denial of resources and 95

per cent psychological violence in their communities. In addition, 90 per cent confirmed limited access to services for both women and girls.

An estimated 987,000 people are in need of GBV prevention services and response across the North-West, South-West and the Far North regions.¹⁵⁰ GBV affects mostly women and girls subjected to increased intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence, denial of resources, emotional violence and forced marriage.

Even if women are the most exposed group, among them there are some categories that are particularly vulnerable, including women living with disabilities, adolescent girls, and widows. Tailored GBV preventive services and responses are required for the protection of at-risk groups, with a focus on individual special

needs. In conflict-affected areas, sexual violence against boys and men has also been reported.

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

Insecurity in the Lake Chad basin region continues to expose women and girls to critical GBV risks. Forced marriage, sexual violence, and other gender-based violence are among the main protection risks reported by key informants in the Far North, followed by lack of privacy at home and limited access to resources.

The Far North regions remain very conservative with harmful patriarchal social and cultural norms which continue to discriminate against women and girls. The socio-cultural context, coupled with the insecurity, is increasing women and girls' vulnerability in the region and exposes them to violence and harmful practices as well as to daily discrimination, including when accessing services.

From January to November 2022, 1,854 survivors reported GBV cases in the Far North. Around 82 per cent of these incidents referred to IPV, and 10 per cent to sexual violence.¹⁵¹

The food insecurity that is affecting the Far North affects women and girls disproportionately and exacerbates their exposure to GBV.¹⁵² In the first half of 2022, 79 per cent of GBV incidents reported by the actors were perpetrated by intimate partners, representing an increase of 17 per cent compared to 2021.¹⁵³

During the last quarter of 2022, the critical and sensitive protection and GBV environment in the Far North region was further affected by the impact of heavy rains. Flooding caused new displacements and exacerbated the vulnerability of the local population, already strongly affected by ongoing insecurity.

As a consequence of the floods, around 25 per cent of women and girls interviewed cited denial of resources, lack of opportunities and limited access to services as main concerns, followed by sexual assault (18 per cent) and rape (17 per cent).¹⁵⁴ This data shows the high level of vulnerability to which women and girls are exposed during emergencies. Meanwhile, critical needs in terms of livelihood support, are often ignored

or not addressed. Limited access to WASH facilities and the location of water points and communal toilets, which are often located in the periphery of settlements, represent an additional GBV concern, increasing the exposure of women and girls to the risks of being attacked. Other gender-based violence against women and girls includes the exposure to risks as they attend to normal domestic chores, accentuated by long distances they are forced to cover in search of water and firewood. Many cases of aggravated sexual assaults have been reported near WASH facilities, some of these areas are not always well lit, aggravating the risk of gender-based violence. Young girls and boys are particularly vulnerable.

North-West and South-West crisis

Gender-based violence continues to be one of the major protection issues in the North-West and South-West regions. From January to October 2022, 8,668 cases of GBV were reported. Among these, 31 per cent relate to emotional abuse, 22 per cent to denial of resources/opportunities, 21 per cent to physical assault, 11 per cent to sexual assault, 9 per cent to rape and 7 per cent to forced marriages. About 90 per cent of the survivors are females, 19 per cent are children, and 6.5 per cent are persons living with disabilities. In 2022, GBV risks identified in the North-West and South-West highlighted that GBV is very deeply entrenched in unequal distribution of power and remain rampant, affecting disproportionately women and girls. These GBV risks have impacted adversely on the affected people by causing them injuries, early and unwanted pregnancies, mental health and psychosocial issues. The girls remain particularly at risk of negative coping mechanisms and customary harmful practices where girls are forced to marry perpetrators of sexual violence. This is a flagrant breach of the rights of survivors who are denied the opportunity to pursue legal recourse for criminal offences perpetrated against them.

The North-West and South-West regions continue to face restricted access to life-saving services due to constant lockdowns and roadblocks that prohibit service delivery, breakdown of social systems including communication, closure of schools and hospitals in some communities, increased unemployment, loss



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

Parenting session at IRC's safe healing and leaning space in Mora, Mayo Sava division.
Photo: IRC

of properties due to burning and destruction, lack of civil documents.

Some of the worst physical impacts of gender-based and sexual violence on the affected people include injuries, mutilation, trauma, unwanted pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases. GBV actors also report social and psycho-social impacts such as isolation, rejection, suicidal thoughts, stigmatization, shame, mental disorder, and stress. While women and girls try to cope positively by receiving support from churches and other supporting associations and engaging in income-generating activities, negative coping mechanisms remain devastating, including substance abuse and survival sex.

The GBV/IMS shows that 11 per cent of survivors are men and boys in the two regions. These acts are usually committed by other men, be it armed men who use sexual violence as a way of "emasculating" male civilians or by other civilian men exploiting them and taking advantage of the vulnerability displacement has created.¹⁵⁵ However, they do not benefit from tailored response and face greater constraints to access adequate services, face high stigmatization and psychosocial consequences are often undermined.¹⁵⁶

Littoral and West

GBV in the West and Littoral regions is very much linked to the housing situation and to the lack of livelihood and economical means among the displaced

population, especially in the Wouri and Mounjo divisions (Littoral). In areas with a high concentration of IDPs, especially in Douala, most landlords have increased rents in the past three years. Consequently, most IDPs stay in overcrowded homes or find hosting arrangements that turn into (sexual) exploitation schemes or forced labor. In such housing conditions, lack of privacy exposes women and girls to sexual violence including assault, rapes, and incest. Recent protection assessments show an increase in the number of abuse and violence cases against women and girls, and especially against women living with disabilities, due to their specific vulnerability. Most cases occur within the same community and are often hidden due to the fear of stigma and to protect the identity of the perpetrator. Stigmatization by host community members add further stress and trauma on victims. When abuse is perpetrated by a member of the host community, for fear of repercussions, victims prefer to remain silent. Due to limited access to resources and livelihood, some women and girls succumb to survival sex. This has led to high rates of pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmittable diseases among IDP women and girls. They have little information about family planning and are scared to go to the hospital due to stigma, language barriers, or lack of identity documents. Financial constraints also prevent them from seeking medical attention.

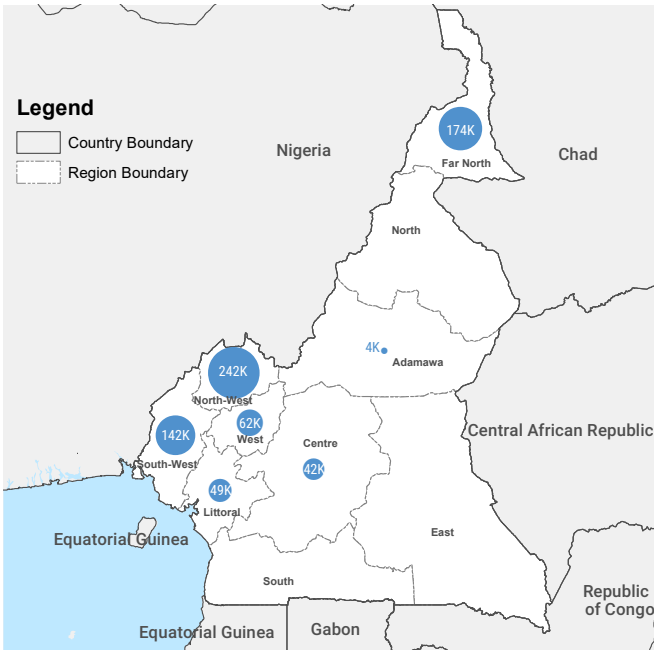


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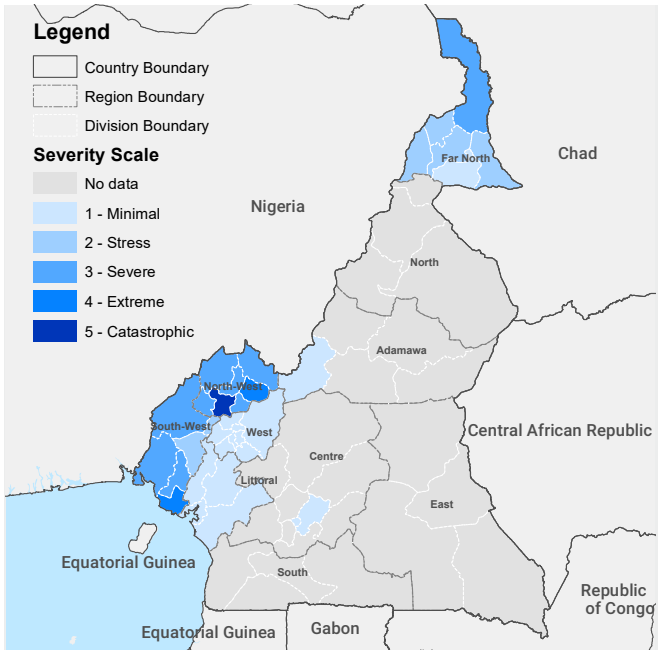
Housing, Land and Property

PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
715k	50%	59%	33%	7%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Lake Chad Basin crisis (Far North)

In addition to the violence perpetrated by armed groups, internal displacement and loss of property were also caused by natural disasters and seasonal floods. Over 30,800 houses and at least 48,000 hectares of fields were destroyed by flooding due to heavy rainfall and overflow of the Logone River, with Mayo-Danay and Logone et Chari being the most affected divisions.

At the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022, intercommunal conflicts in the district of Logone Birni caused the displacement of over 40,000 people, both across the border with Chad and internally, leading to a further increase of housing needs.

In one week in October, a total of 4,905 households comprised of 14,483 individuals, including 12,618 spontaneous returnees from Chad were reported to have returned to the villages of Maham, Gambarou and Darsala. Difficult living conditions in settlements, including insecurity, lack of access to farming land, and flooding, were the main driver of return from Chad.

The above-described situation disproportionately affects women as they are unable to enjoy their housing, land, and property (HLP) rights due to discriminatory customary norms and practices that favor men and gives them more rights over HLP. In 2021, NRC identified 1,287 HLP cases in 20 villages, 97 per cent of which involved women. This situation has worsened in 2022 in the Far North and may further deteriorate in 2023, if sufficient funding is

not mobilized to provide adequate assistance in a comprehensive and timely manner. The lack of response would increase the vulnerability and exposure of women to the risks of exploitation and abuse as well as their denial of/access to basic services. Due to the conflict, the situation of women's rights in the Far North remains deplorable, as shown by the various assessments conducted in 2022.

Displacement-affected populations in the Far North region mostly suffer from inadequate housing. In addition, lack of access to farming land, forced eviction, and secondary occupation triggered by the absence of documentation are key HLP threats.

People's houses and other properties have been destroyed by armed groups. This has mostly affected those living close to the border with Northeast Nigeria, due to the presence of NSAGs there. Another challenge to HLP rights in the region is the eviction of 7,500 individuals living proximate to military camps which necessitates the digging of trenches to prevent incursion by armed groups. This action affected the rights of the individuals to access housing and lands for farming. Most households that have been displaced due to armed conflict and natural disasters do not have access to adequate housing including access to natural resources.

North-West and South-West crisis

The security context in the North-West and South-West regions remains volatile, marked by violence which continues to trigger displacement of people from their homes, creating more needs with regards to housing, land, and property. In March 2022, the number of IDPs in the NWSW was estimated at 592,600, while 77,487 refugees were fleeing from Nigeria. Some of the Cameroonian refugees have returned from Nigeria due to intercommunal clashes in the middle belt. Many of these returnees have received little or no humanitarian assistance at all due to the scarcity of funding, operational coverage, and access constraints.

The majority of IDPs across the North-West and South-West live in inadequate housing. Many are facing the risk of forced eviction due to insecure tenure. Moreover, land is scarce and IDPs have difficult

access to it. Even when they manage to secure parcels of land, which they rent for agricultural purposes, displaced persons face persistent rights abuse from the host population as their lands are being encroached or sometimes taken away from them even before cultivation.

IDPs who moved to the West and Littoral regions are reporting several difficulties in accessing safe and decent housing. The number of IDPs in the Littoral regions is estimated at 79,954 individuals and in the West region at 114,111.¹⁵⁷ A multisectoral needs assessment conducted by NRC and partners¹⁵⁸ in the North-West, South-West, Littoral, and West, shows the lack of access to arable land for displaced persons, which further increases livelihood needs. While 64 per cent of respondents have indicated agriculture as their main economic activity, only 57 per cent of them had access to arable land in the four regions assessed. During focus group discussions, IDPs reported being victims of discriminations when it came to land, with some of them declaring that land was taken away from them by hosting communities' members when it was ready for cultivation. Over 63 per cent of IDPs, 36 per cent of returnees, and 27 per cent of host community members declared having some access to rented land, despite insecurity and permanent risks of eviction since most tenancy contracts are concluded informally.

Generally, people affected by displacement continue to face daily violations of their HLP rights from both parties in the conflict. Destruction of houses, land-grabbing, deprivation of inheritance (mostly affecting women and girls) and forced displacement leave many families without access to decent housing and farmland.

Land grabbing is common and perpetrated by armed groups, but also by some unscrupulous landlords who charge exorbitant prices for rent or sale of properties. Returnees struggle to recover their lands and houses upon return from secondary occupants, which constitutes a major concern, mainly due to the lack of documents to secure tenure and to the weakened dispute resolution mechanism.

Recurrent tensions between IDPs and host populations, and between local farmers and pastoralists, over

natural resources and access to essential services disrupts the enjoyment of HLP rights for many persons in need of assistance.

Littoral and West

The HLP issues identified in these regions mostly affect IDPs who are unable to secure adequate housing and to access arable land, due to high rents. Besides, there are frequent disputes between IDPs and landlords over unpaid house rents, and these often lead to forced eviction of displaced persons from the

houses they occupy. Displaced persons also face discrimination from host populations when trying to access housing as it is perceived that IDPs cannot pay rents. Moreover, land is scarce and displaced persons do not have access to arable land to practice agriculture to meet their food needs. Hence, displaced persons are deprived of the HLP rights.



LITTORAL REGION, CAMEROON

An IDP family from the NWSW crisis.

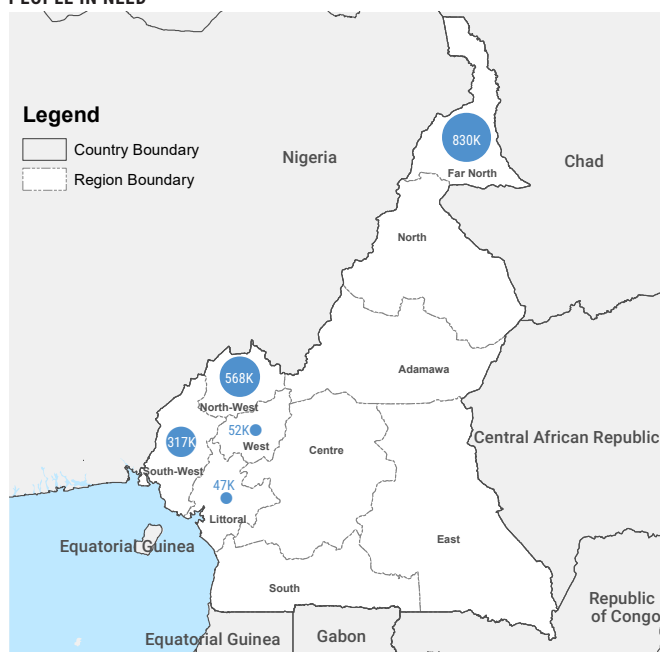
Photo: OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue

3.6 Shelter and Non-food items

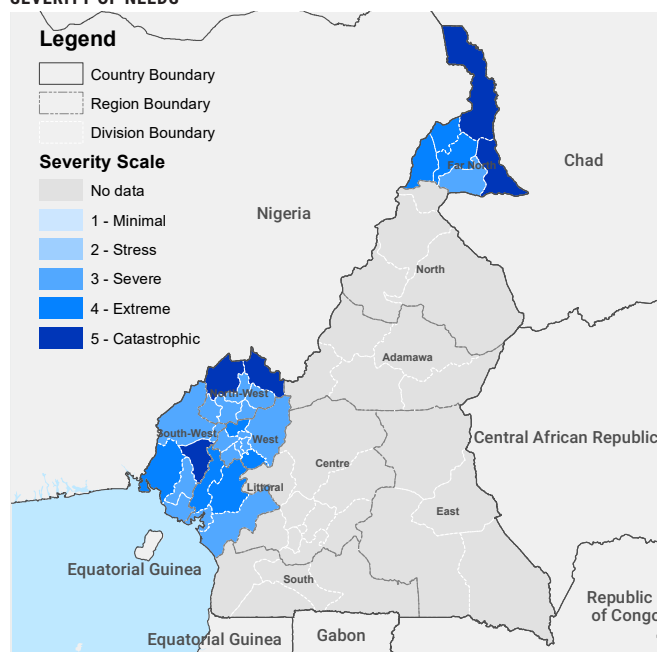


PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
1.8M	50%	59%	34%	7%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Overview

*"Increasingly viewed as a commodity, housing is most importantly a human right."*¹⁵⁹

In Cameroon, 1.8 million people need adequate shelter and household items. About 830,000 of them are in the Far North region where a surge in inter-communal violence in mid-2021 and continuous attacks at the Nigerian border contributed to an increase in displacement. Shelter needs have been further exacerbated by severe flooding in September 2022, with an exceptional destruction of infrastructures.¹⁶⁰

The majority of people affected by the crisis are hosted by other families or are living in makeshift shelters at informal sites with no access to basic services.

Within the North-West and South-West regions, 885,000 people need shelter and household items as violations of human rights continue, including the intentional burning of homes and the existence of overcrowded shelters with host families and people living in inadequate makeshift shelters in the bush. In the neighboring regions of the Littoral and West, almost 100,000 IDPs need better shelter, as most are either struggling to afford the cost of rent or are living in inadequate shelters with host families who have limited resources.

The Shelter Sector has identified three population groups with shelter needs which differ according to their status of displacement: 823,000 IDPs, 544,500 returnees who have come back to their house of origin prior to displacement, and 446,500 non-displaced

persons. For the first time since the start of the humanitarian response, the non-displaced population group in Cameroon includes not only the host community, but also the vulnerable populations left behind in damaged shelters such as persons living with disabilities, older people, persons without financial means to move, and those without documentation who may have no other choice but to stay in shelters that have been intentionally burnt or damaged during the course of conflict or natural hazards.

Using the Multisector Needs Assessment (MSNA) as a data source, shelter severities were analysed at the settlement level according to the type of settlement, the condition of settlements, the type of tenure arrangements of IDPs, the types of IDPs and returnee shelters, the conditions of the shelters, and, if damaged, the cause of damage.

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

The escalation of inter-communal conflicts in the Logone Birni at the end of 2021 and continuous attacks by non-State armed groups in 2022 led to new displacements of population, return of Cameroonian population from Chad and therefore additional needs in the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga and Logone et Chari divisions. The effects of natural disasters had a catastrophic impact on the families of IDPs in informal sites, often located in risky areas, not suitable to host populations. The lack of access to suitable land considerably increased the vulnerability of displaced populations.

Compared to 2021, the number of IDPs increased by 6 per cent in 2022, while the number of returnees decreased by 3 per cent. Moreover, it was observed that while displacements due to floods are pendular and shorter in time, those due to physical attacks are much more protracted.¹⁶¹ Therefore, the need of shelter and non-food items varies accordingly. The deterioration of the living conditions of displaced people, who most often are forced to suddenly leave their homes, abandoning their goods, properties and livelihoods, which are then stolen or destroyed, causes insufficient or lack of access to employment and to basic social services such as health services, education, civil documentation, water supply, and

energy. The loss of shelter and household items influences the physical and mental well-being of people with greater consequences on children, older people, pregnant/lactating women, and people living with disabilities.

Host communities are under heavy pressure to welcome and provide hospitality to displaced people. Promiscuity increases within homes and the economic burden of this care substantially affects host populations. This promiscuity increases protection incidents such as domestic tensions, physical/psychological distress, risk of disease and GBV.

In the Far North, shelter is considered as the second priority after food.

The results of the MSNA surveys indicate that the majority of IDPs (56 per cent) still live with host families, 33 per cent in spontaneous sites, 11 per cent in rented houses and 1 per cent in collective centers. In addition, 33 per cent of IDPs live in informal sites (more than 70 sites have been counted in the region), which are mainly concentrated in Makary and Mora and some among them have been living in a situation of displacement for more than eight years.

The Logone et Chari and Mayo-Sava divisions, as well as the Logone Birni district have the highest concentration of returnees. Among the returnee population, 85 per cent live in houses, 9 per cent in apartments and 6 per cent in makeshift shelters.

According to key informants interviewed during the MSNA in August 2022, the main issues affecting the shelter adequacy in the Far North are that the majority of IDPs live in less than 3.5 m² per individual, in unsafe and undignified shelter typology such as makeshift shelters, straw houses, collective centers or without even a shelter.

Over 20 per cent of the displaced households live in a damaged or destroyed shelter in Kousseri, Logone Birni, Makari, Kai-Kai, Kolofata, Mayo Moskota. While the percentage increases among those who return home, 43 per cent live in a damaged or destroyed shelter in Logone Birni, Kai-Kai, Maga, Kolofata, Mora, Mayo Moskota.

During the first six months of 2022, an important increase in rents and in the price of household items has been reported with a consequent challenge in accessing them. The average price of rents varies from one division to another. Diamare appears as the division where the price of rent is the highest, with 15,531 FCFA, and the Mayo-Kani the one where the price of rent is the lowest, with 3,000 FCFA.

The access to HLP continues to be reported as problematic especially for women. If not addressed in an equal/sustained manner, access to HLP could cause the deterioration of social cohesion, the misperception of social justice, criminality, violence, stigmatization, isolation, discrimination, eviction, and an increase in poverty rates. The majority of those who occupy houses without property titles, rental contracts or written permissions, live in traditional brick (48 per cent) or straw (25 per cent) houses that are incomplete or damaged. Securing access to HLP is essential before delivering any type of shelter assistance to these people to not exacerbate their situation further. In the Far North, the most used type of shelter is the traditional one made of mud bricks and straw or corrugated iron roofs.

Among those who are with a host family, the majority live in traditional mud brick shelters in good condition (57 per cent). However, in this case the recurring problem is the lack of space and privacy, which over time this condition affects the dignity of the individual.

Among those who rent, the majority chooses traditional houses made of brick (55 per cent) or concrete (17 per cent) and in good condition, but for the rest (28 per cent) only traditional houses in straw or apartments that are incomplete or damaged are available.

The non-displaced people who are not hosting IDPs in the Far North region are all victims of attacks accompanied by arson or different types of damages. Most of them live in officially recognized not damaged villages, while the most vulnerable (12 per cent) ones live in partially destroyed villages, with high levels of shelter inadequacy and no possibilities to move elsewhere to seek better accommodation, mainly due to disabilities or old age.

So far, this population group has not benefited from any type of humanitarian assistance, so it is considered as extremely vulnerable. The basic need of shelter and household items must be fulfilled appropriately and timely by the inclusion of all community members in the design of solutions and, when possible, by the integration of their available resources and skills through market-based interventions. If this does not happen, humanitarian aid dependence, a diminishment of human capital, demotivation, and additional psychological distress will arise.

The set-up of appropriate mechanisms through which affected populations can measure the adequacy of interventions, address concerns, complaints, and apply corrective action is crucial to the humanitarian shelter/non-food items needs overview.

North-West and South-West crisis

The destruction of property, including the intentional burning of homes, has contributed to the shelter needs and to the adoption of coping mechanism such as the seeking of shelter in safer locations. According to the August 2022 MSNA, the majority of IDPs (57 per cent) are living with host families, while 27 per cent are renting out their accommodation. The majority of IDPs have settled in officially recognized settlements (93 per cent), but 24,500 IDPs are hiding in bush or informal settlements, including in inadequate makeshift shelters or agricultural infrastructures. Moreover, 59 villages in the South-West reported IDPs using agricultural infrastructure as shelter, while 29 villages in the North-West and South-West reported that IDPs use cocoa ovens for shelter. There are 22 collective shelters in the North-West and South-West regions. These buildings consist in schools, churches, mosques, and public buildings usually not designed for use as shelters.¹⁶²

As the crisis has grown more protracted, the number of returnees to the region has slowly increased. Upon their return, 8,200 returnee households found their homes damaged due to conflict, either accidentally or intentionally. Returnees often lack the financial and material resources necessary to conduct repairs and, while waiting for their homes to be repaired, they are forced to stay with host families, in overcrowded conditions. The Shelter Cluster has identified that



FAR NORTH REGION, CAMEROON

A child in an IDP site due to floods in Kousseri.

Photo: OCHA/Liz Loh-Taylor

find materials for shelters, these IDPs also settle in agricultural infrastructures or cocoa ovens to have a simple roof over their heads. In host families, overcrowding and lack of privacy increase the risk of gender-based violence. Furthermore, some family members are forced to sleep outside or on the floor at night, exposing themselves to the risk of malaria and other diseases. According to data collected by the Shelter Cluster,¹⁶³ the majority (60 per cent) of those affected by extreme inadequacies are IDPs. These IDP households also rely on makeshift shelters

the needs of non-displaced people include hosts who have inadequate shelter due to overcrowding and who lack resources and NFIs due to their use by multiple members within the same household, as well as those who are staying in shelters damaged by the conflict. Due to limited mobility, older people and persons living with disabilities are often left behind when villages are attacked. The Shelter Cluster estimates that 112,000 people are still living in homes that were burnt intentionally since the start of the crisis. In addition, 37 per cent of non-displaced household members have difficulties to walk or take the stairs in the North-West region, while 24 per cent of non-displaced household members have difficulties to walk or take the stairs in the South-West region. About 12 per cent of the members of these households are found to be older people. In further evidence to this, as of October 2022, Cluster partners have documented 648 houses in Mezam, Momo, Boyo, Bui, and Menchum divisions of the North-West region.

The Shelter Cluster has identified Donga Mantung and Menchum in the North-West and Kupé-Manengumba in the South-West as the divisions with the most extreme shelter inadequacies (severity level 5), including makeshift shelters in bush settlements, where many are seeking protection from the threat of hostilities and conscription by armed groups. Not being able to

and collective shelters and in extreme cases have no shelter. Furthermore, 59 per cent of IDP, returnee, and non-displaced households found to have extreme inadequacies have been damaged with the majority of them in the North-West. In terms of common tenure types for those in extreme inadequacies, 34 per cent of these households are renting with a formal agreement. Over 47 per cent of these households pay over 40 per cent of their income to rent their current shelter. About 18 per cent of the households found to have extreme inadequacies are hosted for free by a host family. In addition, 22 per cent of the extremely inadequate households are facing a risk of eviction. These families also lack essential household items and must rely on alternative sources of energy, with 100 per cent of extremely inadequate households using wood for their source of cooking fuel, while at night lighting sources are coming from flashlights (23 per cent), candles (23 per cent), solar lamps (17 per cent), and bush lamps (11 per cent). Additionally, 49 per cent of these households report rarely having lighting at night, 30 per cent report never having lighting at night, and 21 per cent report having occasionally light at night.

Around 43 per cent of households were found to have severe inadequacies (severity level 4); 39 per cent of internally displaced, 33 per cent are non-displaced, and 27 per cent are returnees. In urban areas of the Mezam

and Fako divisions, affordability and poor shelter conditions threaten good access to housing. According to recent data collected by Shelter Cluster partners,¹⁶⁴ 80 per cent of the households surveyed in Bamenda, Buea, Limbe, and West Coast were paying 30 per cent or more of their income on rent.

In the North-West region, it was found that 50 per cent of IDP households have three or more people per room while in the South-West region this is true for 67 per cent of households. About 33 per cent of the returnee households are having three or more people per room in the North-West, while 25 per cent of returnee households have three or more people per room in the South-West. Lack of essential household items is also a critical driver of shelter inadequacy. In addition to overcrowding, Shelter Cluster partners have found that larger families are sometimes forced to share mosquito nets and mattresses and, often there are not enough sleeping places. There are 16 per cent of IDP household members that sleep on the floor in the North-West, while 39 per cent of household members sleep on the floor in the South-West. This lack of NFIs, such as mattresses and mosquito nets, is not limited to IDPs, but concerns also returnees. Over 8 per cent of returnee household members sleep on the floor in the North-West and 17 per cent of returnee household members sleep on the floor in the South-West. About 2 per cent of the households reported that they are forced to sleep outside at night. In addition to the need of better sleeping conditions and of mitigating the risks of GBV through the distribution of shelter, mattresses and blankets, other NFI needs include access to cooking utensils and fuel, better lighting to improve the sense of safety, and tools for carrying water and improving shelters.¹⁶⁵

Littoral and West

In the Littoral and West regions, 99,000 IDPs need shelters/NFI support. The Bamboutos, Ndé, Nkam, and Mounjo divisions were found to be in severity phase 4 of severe inadequacies while the remaining ones are classed in severity phase 3. The majority of IDPs in these regions (over 18,000 households) are renting their accommodation, while around 12,000 households are staying with host families. In extreme cases, IDPs don't have the permission of the landlord

to stay in their shelters (1,400 households) and over 720 households live in makeshift shelters. There are 24 collective shelters in the Littoral and West regions.

Over 52,000 IDPs need a shelter in the West region. According to data collected by the Shelter Cluster, 53 per cent of IDP households have three or more people per room due to overcrowding in both host and rental type accommodation arrangements. Around 29 per cent of IDP households in the West region are informally renting their accommodation. Out of the 28 per cent of IDP household members which report sleeping on the floor, 10 per cent report sleeping outside due to overcrowding and lack of adequate sleeping materials. Over 70 per cent of IDPs say that financial support would help them improve their current shelters. According to data from the MSNA, key informants also revealed that poor shelter conditions were exacerbating protection risks. While 42 per cent of key informants in the West region reported that IDP women and girls don't have enough privacy at home, 20 per cent of key informants reported that IDP women and girls don't feel secured at home. Over 31,000 IDPs need NFIs in the West region.

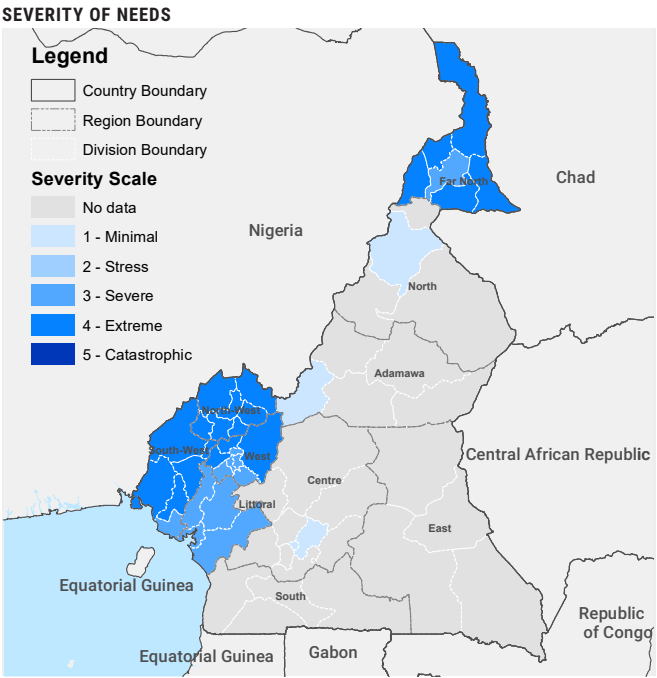
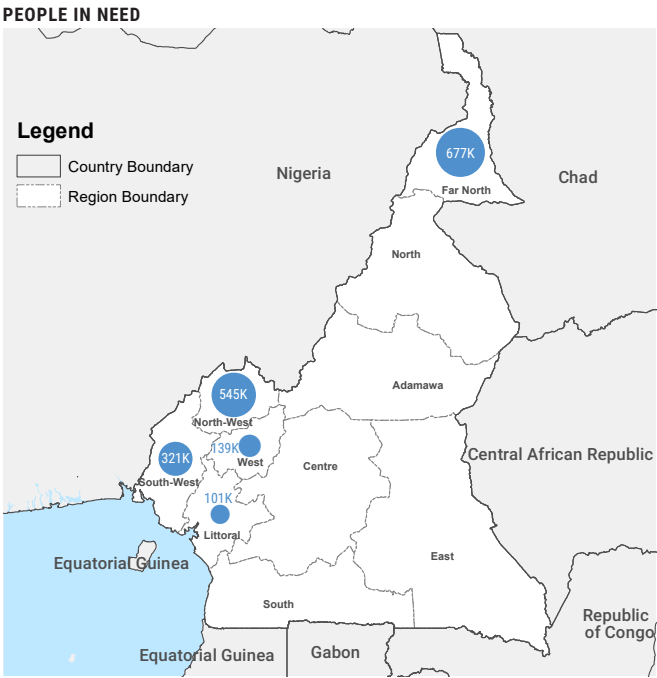
In the Littoral region, there are almost 47,000 people in need of shelter assistance and 28,000 IDPs in need of NFIs. In 226 villages it was reported that IDPs are living in timber and wood shelters in good condition, while in 111 villages it was reported that IDPs are staying in unfinished wood houses, and in 132 villages it was reported that IDPs are in damaged wood houses. In 185 villages it was reported that IDPs are in concrete/cement houses. Apartments, makeshift shelter, agricultural infrastructures, and cocoa ovens were also reported as shelter types. Key informants in 47 per cent of the assessed villages reported that IDP women and girls don't have enough privacy at home, and 19 per cent of the key informants reported that IDP women and girls don't feel secure at home.¹⁶⁶

3.7

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
1.8M	50%	56%	37%	7%



Overview

Cameroon remains a lower-middle-income country with insufficient basic social services such as health, education, water, and sanitation. This situation is exacerbated by internal and cross-border displacement of population, floods, and poverty. Due to the armed conflict and inter-community violence in the Far North region, and insecurity resulting from the socio-political crisis in the South-West and North-West regions, population has been displaced from their localities to new areas with or without access to water and sanitation facilities. In the Far North and North regions, low investment in securing the landscape of the Logone and Benoue rivers, as well as the inadequacy of human settlement standards and the poverty of population caused floods during the rainy season in some areas.

Needs

Based on multisectoral needs assessments carried out in the Far North, the North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions in 2022, coupled with the monitoring of access to water, hygiene and sanitation services, it is estimated that 1.9 million people (51 per cent female and 49 per cent male) in Cameroon will need humanitarian assistance in water, sanitation and hygiene. This includes 611,000 IDPs and 380,000 returnees.

Lake Chad basin crisis (Far North)

In the Far North region, about 677,000 people need humanitarian WASH assistance. This situation is a result of low investment in the water and sanitation sector and insufficient control over the development of

human settlements. At the regional level, access to safe drinking water is estimated at 40 per cent with differences among the five divisions, as shown in the figure 2., and 13 per cent of the population practice open defecation. In four out of five divisions less than 40 per cent of the population has access to an improved water point. The need for safe drinking water is the third priority need for affected population (IDP and host population) in the Far North region.

According to the multisectoral need assessment (MSNA), conducted in August 2022, about 34 per cent of the population still collects drinking water directly from stream and rivers. Also, for 35 per cent of the assessed villages, an insufficient number of improved water points and the non-permanent functionality of existing water points remain the main challenges. For 5 per cent of assessed localities, access to improved water points remains a challenge for people with disabilities. In addition, in 31 per cent of the assessed villages, the distance to water points is too long and 1 per cent of them report gender-based violence as one of the main difficulties faced. Concerning water quality, 66 per cent of the assessed localities have reported an issue. The fact that women seldomly participate in community-level decisions and are little represented in WASH committees doesn't allow to address their specific water and hygiene-related needs, which is an issue the sector will continue to address in 2023.

Concerning sanitation, even if 81 per cent report using latrines, 58 per cent of the same population practice open defecation simultaneously. This is due to insufficiency in sanitation facilities (68 per cent), lack of privacy and poor security of sanitation facilities (34 per cent) and gender-based violence (4 per cent).

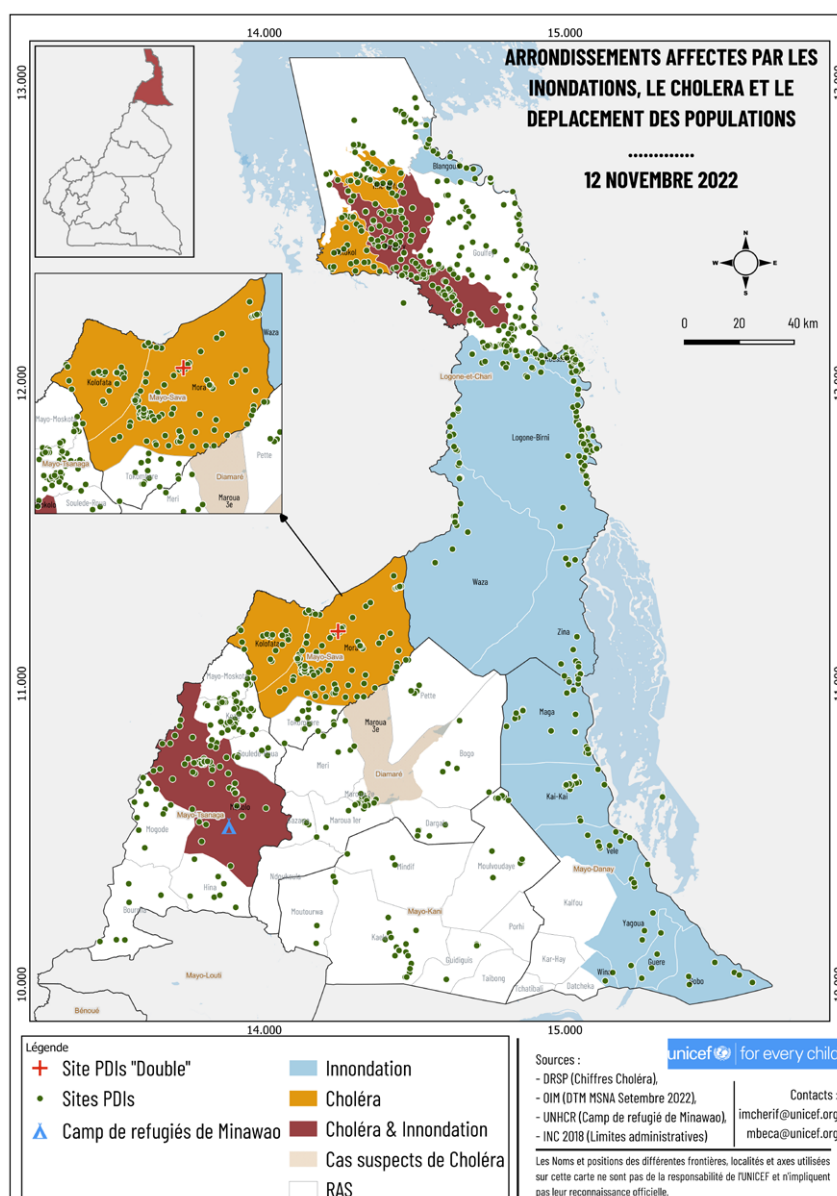


FIGURE 1: MAPPING OF FLOODS AND CHOLERA AFFECTED AREAS AND DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATION IN FAR NORTH

Therefore, there is an urgent need not only to increase access to sanitation facilities but also to improve the quality of sanitation services offered to the affected population in the Far North region.

North-West and South-West crisis

The displacement of population due to insecurity, the insufficient investment of the Cameroonian Government in basic social services and the insufficient response provided by humanitarian actors in the North-West and South-West regions continue to exacerbate the water and sanitation needs of the affected population, including in the neighboring

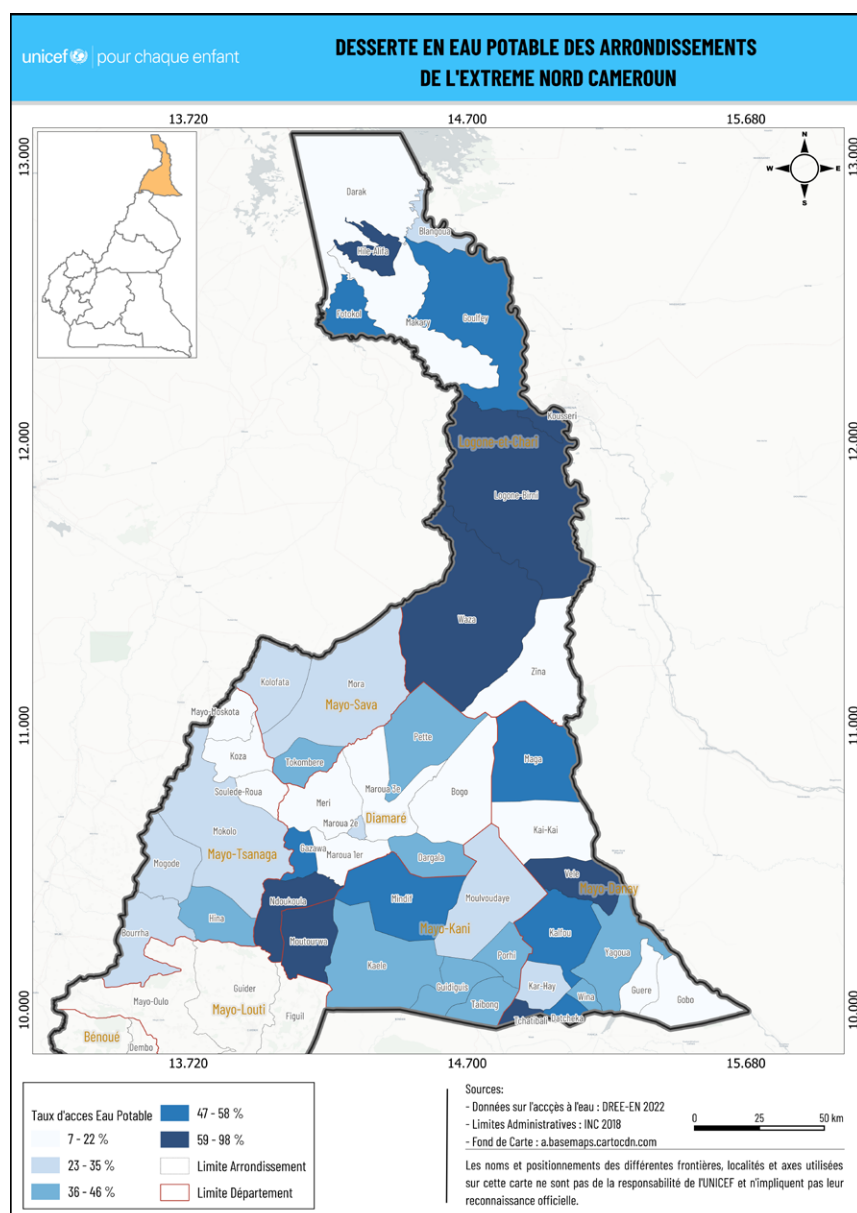


FIGURE 2: ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER PER MUNICIPALITY IN FAR NORTH REGION

regions (Littoral and West regions). The August 2022 MSNA reveals that 55 per cent of the assessed villages collect water from an unimproved water point. In some divisions of the North-West (Menchum and Ngo-Ketunjia) and South-West (Ndian and Manyu), at least 75 per cent of assessed localities collect water from an unimproved water point. The three main challenges relative to water are the insufficient number of improved water points, the long distance covered to and from water points (due to the insufficient number of safe drinking water points) and the lack of containers to collect and store water.

In relation to sanitation, although open defecation is low (2.4 per cent of assessed villages), the use of pit latrines without slab is predominant (78.8 per cent) among assessed villages. This represents a high risk of contamination of surface and groundwater used by the population in the concerned localities.

Littoral and West

The Littoral and West regions remain the regions hosting most of the displaced population from the South-West and North-West regions. The main needs are related to access to improved water points (35 per cent of assessed villages hosting IDPs still do not have access) and basic sanitation services. In addition, 52 per cent defecate in open holes and 45 per cent also use open holes without slabs. Thus, the difficulties reported by the affected population are unhygienic latrines (because of crowding of users) and the insufficient number of latrines.

Thus, a total of 1.08 million of people in four regions (Littoral, North-West, South-West and West) affected by the North-West and South-West crisis are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Trends

At national level, there is an increase in the number of people in need of WASH assistance as compared to 2022. This can be explained by a degradation of the humanitarian situation mainly in the Far North region due to the inter-community conflict (December 2021), the intensity of floods and the low response provided in 2022 by humanitarian actors. For the four regions affected by the North-West and South-West crisis, a little decrease in the number of people in need of WASH assistance is noted. This may be due to the displacement of affected population to safer locations.

Impacts

Key concerns identified by the WASH Sector are poor hygienic conditions in the living environment of affected population, cholera outbreaks, increased number of IDPs and gender-based violence. For the last 40 years, 2022 is registered as the second most affected year by cholera with more than 13,000 cases and 284 deaths of cholera reported. The cholera pandemic has affected 8 out of 10 regions, including the Minawao refugee camp and IDP sites in the Far North region. As a result of the lack of access to basic services (water and sanitation, education,

health, food), some IDPs moved to new sites/ settlements looking for humanitarian assistance or social services. Furthermore, as reported by affected populations during the MSNA, lack of adequate water and sanitation services contributed to increase GBV risks. All these concerns need to be addressed by the Government with the support of humanitarian actors.



LITTORAL REGION, CAMEROON

Distribution of WASH kits in Douala.

Photo: UNICEF/Dejongh

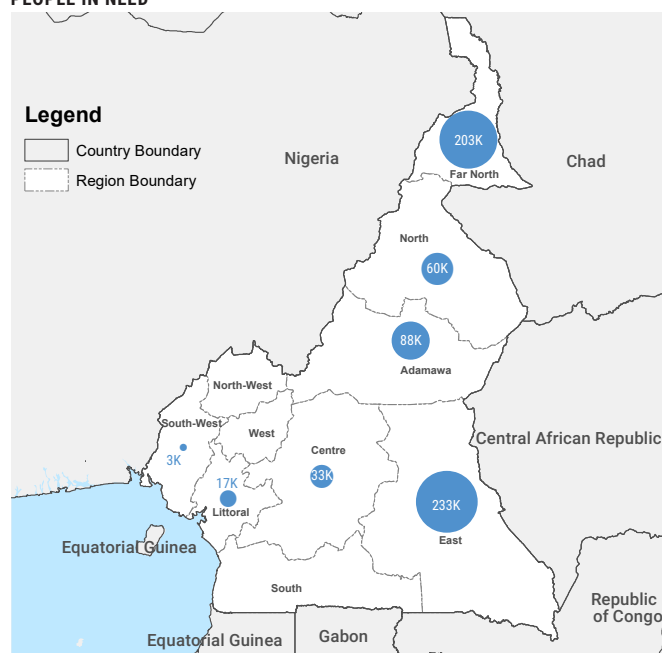


3.8

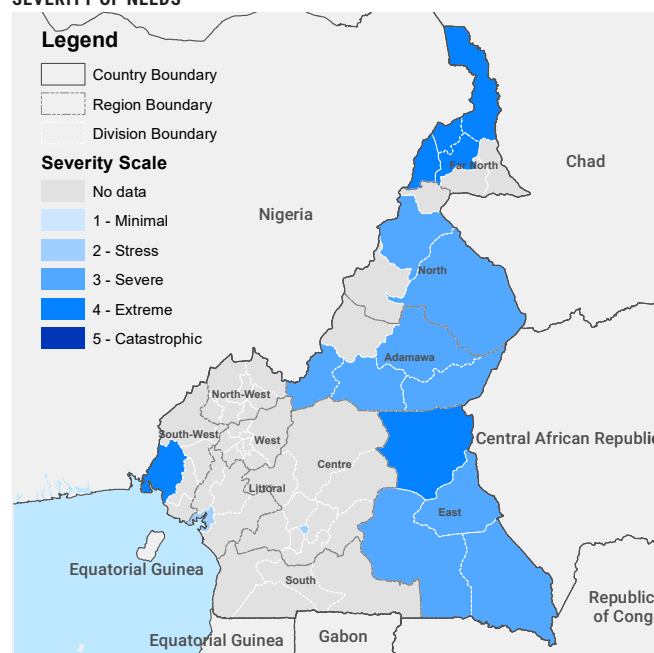
Needs overview for refugees and asylum seekers

PEOPLE IN NEED	GIRLS/WOMEN	CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)	ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)	OLDER PEOPLE (>60 YEARS)
639k	52%	54%	42%	4%

PEOPLE IN NEED



SEVERITY OF NEEDS



Overview

According to UNHCR, as of 31 October 2022, Cameroon hosted 502,819 refugees and asylum-seekers. Over 73 per cent are from the Central Africa Republic, 26 per cent are from Nigeria and 1 per cent are from other nationalities. Around 52 per cent of the refugees in Cameroon are women and 55 per cent are children. Refugees and asylum seekers are living closely with host communities in the Adamawa, North, East, Far North, Littoral and Centre regions.

The break-down of the affected population is as below:

- **CAR refugees:** Cameroon has experienced large inflows of CAR refugees since 2004, making it the largest recipient of new arrivals since 2016. The arrival of refugees is driven by very high levels of food insecurity and continued violence in CAR. The total number of CAR refugees in Cameroon, as of 31 October 2022, was 353,362 (65 per cent of the total of refugees in Cameroon). Over 334,500 of them (95 per cent) are living in sites and villages in the East, Adamawa, and North regions. These three regions hosting refugees are characterized by infrastructural weaknesses with little investment in basic socio-economic infrastructure. The presence of refugees constitutes a strong pressure on the limited resources available and a risk of weakening peaceful coexistence between refugees and the local population.
- **Nigerian refugees:** The number of Nigerian refugees, which was 118,996 in October 2021, reached 138,107 in October 2022. This represents

an increase of 16 per cent. Out of the 136,210 Nigerian refugees in the Far North, 75,748 (55 per cent) live in Minawao Camp.

- Some 12,500 Nigerian refugees were reported in the North-West (2,500 individuals) and South-West regions (10,000) as of April 2022. As of December 2022, the new arrivals are not officially registered by the authorities. They are located mainly in the Akwaya subdivision (Manyu division, South-West region) and Ako subdivision (Donga Mantung division, North-West region).
- Urban refugees: Most urban refugees arrived in 2014 and live in Douala, Yaounde and Langui. Urban refugees arrive from 29 countries, with the highest numbers arriving from the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Rwanda, and Mali, respectively. Around 46 per cent of urban refugees and asylum seekers are women and 54 per cent are men. The number of urban refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas (Yaounde and Douala), which stood at 36,962 in November 2020, dropped to 26,257 in 2021 following the verification exercise conducted in these two locations from December 2020 to April 2021.

The participatory needs assessment conducted by UNHCR and partners with refugees and asylum seekers of different age, gender and diversities revealed needs related to their physical and mental well-being, their living conditions, their coping mechanisms, and their prospects for sustainable and durable solutions.

Analysis of Humanitarian Needs

1. Central African and Nigerian refugees

The main needs per sector can be presented as followed:

Protection

Registration: Biometric verification started in 2021 with urban refugees, and it was extended in 2022 to reach Central African refugee settlements in the East, Adamawa and North regions as well as Nigerian refugees in the Minawao camp and in host villages

in the Far North region. It is expected to cover 60 per cent of the targeted population by the end of 2022 and the remaining 40 per cent of the population should be verified in 2023.

There is the need to rapidly complete the verification exercise and strengthen continuous registration of new arrivals to get accurate data to support humanitarian interventions.

For the Nigerians living in the South-West and North-West regions, registration should be carried out in support of the authorities to verify the reported number as well as to better understand their profile and the support needed. Inter-Agency refugees' response should also be developed so to be able to support the most vulnerable.

Documentation: Due to a lack of recognition of the UNHCR issued identification cards, refugees have reported facing harassment by law enforcement agents when they look for livelihood opportunities. Refugees in the Far North, who are without documents or who have expired documents, are often perceived as affiliated with NSAGs. This undermines their chances to find self-reliance opportunities and access to basic and financial services to meet their needs. To strengthen refugees' protection and inclusion, the Cameroonian Government, with the financial support of the World Bank, started the issuance of refugee cards. There are more than 200,000 adult refugees in need, but the Government had issued only about 4,100 refugee cards as of November 2022. Financial resources are required to cover the remaining 98 per cent of adult refugees in need. In addition, there is a need to strengthen civil documentation issuance such as birth certificate for all newborns in rural areas.

GBV: GBV remains a critical protection concern for Central African and Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. The stigma associated with GBV fuels a culture of silence and denial. The pervasive belief that GBV is inevitable contributes to a culture of acceptance, violence, and exploitation of women and girls. Protection assessments show the prevalence of different forms of GBV including rape, sexual violence, early/forced marriage, denial of resources, opportunities and services, and emotional and

psychological violence as a result of social roles associated with forced displacement. The needs of GBV survivors are several and include access to specialized services and sustainable solutions, physical protection (safe houses), medical and psychological support, and access to livelihood opportunities.

Child Protection: Assessments by UNHCR and partners show the prevalence of child labor among refugee children. Data also shows that children work in hazardous conditions with dangerous machinery, long working hours, and unhealthy living conditions. Around 31 per cent of refugee children are at risk of not attending school due to poor socio-economic conditions forcing their parents to engage them in work and other forms of negative coping mechanisms, such as begging and early marriage.

Persons with specific needs: Over 69,000 refugees from CAR and over 25,000 Nigerian refugees are at heightened risk due to their vulnerabilities, including

persons living with disabilities for whom no suitable solution can be found in the remote areas where they live due to the limited capacity of State structures. Other persons with specific needs include older persons with no family support and networks and single female headed households.

Education

Primary and secondary education is run by the Cameroonian education authorities. Classrooms are overcrowded and there is a need for additional equipment. Due to the extreme poverty of parents, most households cannot afford the cost of school material for their children.

In addition, several students who completed their primary education are obliged to pursue their secondary education elsewhere. For lack of financial means, very few refugee students can enroll in secondary education. While the enrolment rate of refugee children in primary school is 54 per cent, the enrolment rate in secondary school is 4 to 5 per cent,



EST REGION, CAMEROON

CAR Refugee Housseini Sali waits outside a tent in Gado before a voluntary repatriation convoy due to escort him home to the Central African Republic.
Photo: UNHCR/Helen Ngoh

exacerbating and fueling negative coping mechanisms experienced by children, such as early marriage and child labor.

Early Recovery

Despite being the richest region in terms of natural resources, particularly with its dense forests, access to social services remains limited in the eastern part of the country. Economic activities are limited to subsistence agriculture, forestry, and mining. Access to land, as well as access to social services and economic activities, remains challenging.

The Far North region is located in the Sahel belt and is therefore subject to the consequences of climate change and desertification. Access to land and social services is limited in the region. Economic activities are reduced to subsistence agriculture, forestry, and trade. As a result of the effects of climate change and ongoing insecurity, conflicts between farmers and pastoralists who migrate to the region negatively impact the already fragile peaceful coexistence in the Far North.

Health

Public healthcare services in the East, Adamawa and North regions offer poor services with most of them lacking adequate medical equipment and staff. Furthermore, they are generally inaccessible due to medical-related costs. The situation for refugees is even more complex and puts them at heightened risk. Life in the sites and in other settlements increases the risks of epidemic diseases such as monkeypox, hemorrhagic fever (Ebola), meningitis, cholera and COVID-19. Reinforcement of epidemiologic surveillance along the CAR-Cameroonian border is assessed as a need for early detection of suspicious cases, as well as for the provision of an adequate and timely response.

Shocks due to the post-pandemic stagflation continue to worsen with the war in Ukraine, having an immediate impact on the health of refugees and host communities. Food prices have skyrocketed, worsening malnutrition with stunting rates of 49.8 per cent for the Central African refugees living in sites compared to 34.6 per cent for the local population.¹⁶⁷

The under 5 mortality rate has also worsened from 13 per cent in 2020 to 42 per cent in 2022.

There are two health posts in the Minawao refugee camp that provide medical services to both refugees and Cameroonians living in the camp's vicinity. For those living far from the camp, medical services are provided by the public healthcare services, which have limited capacity, with most of them lacking adequate equipment, medicine, supply, and staff, in addition to being difficult to access as the population is unable to afford the costs due to their very low income.

The recent cholera outbreak shows limitations of the camp capacity to handle shocks from continued rising numbers of refugees fleeing violence in neighboring Nigeria.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The three regions affected by the CAR crisis are characterized by low levels of drinking water, and poor sanitation services, which are under the minimum international standards. Due to this, a significant number of refugees and host communities fetch water from streams and other unsafe water sources.

The Far North region reports poor access to drinking water. The minimum standards regarding access to drinking water, the provision of sanitation and waste management services are not met in some areas of the Minawao camp. The situation in the communities is even worse due to the lack or dysfunctionality of WASH infrastructures. For this reason, most of the refugees and their hosts use unsafe water sources.

In the eastern regions and in the Far North, the insufficient access to drinking water particularly affects women, girls and boys who must walk long distances to fetch water, exposing them to protection risks.

Food security

The reduction in food assistance has not only put the nutritional wellbeing of refugees at stake, but it has also amplified protection risks (low school attendance, resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, survival sex, etc.) and increased vulnerabilities since livelihood support measures are insufficient due to a lack of substantial financial resources.

Shelter/NFI

Around 64 per cent of CAR refugees in seven sites live in transitional shelters (made of local material) and 34 per cent in poor emergency shelters made of wood poles and plastic sheeting. The prevalence of transitional shelters and poor/damaged emergency shelters does not safeguard the refugees' right to adequate housing. In addition, the fragility of the ecosystem (tropical zone threatened by the advancing desert in the eastern regions and semi-desertic environment in the Far North), restricted access to wood and the low level of economic activities in those areas limit the refugees' ability to access construction materials (wood, straw, raffia, lianas).

2. Refugees and asylum seekers in urban settings

Refugees and asylum seekers to whom there is a need to provide protection and assistance reside mainly in Yaounde, Douala and surrounding areas.

Protection

- Contrary to the CAR and Nigerian refugees who are recognized on a prima facie basis in the eastern part of Cameroon and in the Far North region respectively, refugees in urban settings must undergo an individual refugee status determination process. There are many asylum seekers who still need to go through this procedure to receive a decision regarding their claim to be recognized as refugees.
- Despite the protocol agreement signed between UNHCR and the Ministry of External Relations on the transfer of the refugee status determination procedure and other activities from UNHCR to the Government, the capacity of the State to treat asylum claims remains weak. The two eligibility commissions are not fully functional to adjudicate cases. For this reason, some asylum seekers have been waiting for years before getting a final decision. Furthermore, asylum seekers in general face difficulties in moving freely given that asylum certificates issued by UNHCR are not recognized by authorities and as such undermine their access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.
- Some refugees reported having experienced harassment from law enforcement agents as

well as limited access to social and financial services, citing lack of recognition of their UNHCR refugee identification cards by the authorities. As far as documentation is concerned, the General Delegation for National Security, which is entrusted with the responsibility to issue identification documents in Cameroon, has indicated that the cost for issuing biometric identity cards to all eligible refugees stands at approximately USD 3,000,000.

- As far as children's protection is concerned, there are approximately 630 children at risk of whom 330 are separated from their parents. There are also few cases of child-spouses, 14 children in need of specialized education and more than 200 children at risk of not attending school. All these children need psychosocial, material, and other forms of support, that are tailored to their vulnerabilities.
- More than 1,000 refugee women and girls have been identified as being at risk in Yaounde, Douala and the surrounding areas. These risks range from protection incidents and risks experienced by single women and female headed households, and other GBV related incidents. Whilst psychosocial support and legal assistance are available, there is a need to strengthen the response in terms of material support to enable survivors to overcome their vulnerable economic situation.
- There are other protection vulnerabilities among the urban refugee population that need a suitable response, particularly for refugees living with disabilities (more than 300 individuals), older refugees and single parents.
- Concerning durable solutions for urban refugees and asylum seekers, some of them expressed the desire to return to their respective countries of origin.

Health

The support provided so far in this sector has been prioritized only for children below five, older people, pregnant and lactating women, and chronically ill persons. However, access to health should be provided to all urban refugees should resources allow. The renewal of the Protocol Agreement between the

Ministry of Public Health and UNHCR by January 2023 must facilitate the inclusion of urban refugees in its scheme, enabling them to benefit from healthcare as nationals.

Education

Education is the second most prioritized sector by refugees. Given that refugees are enrolled in hundreds of schools in the two main urban centers of Cameroon, information on education is difficult to collect.

Refugee children attend public schools and families

who can afford the cost enroll their children in private schools. However, part of the refugee population is economically vulnerable and for them support for education is needed. Over 7,200 refugee children of primary and secondary school age need support to attend school and evolve in their education.



EST REGION, CAMEROON

Voluntary Repatriation East Cameroon CAR refugees.

Photo: UNHCR

Part 4

Annexes

NORTH-WEST REGION, CAMEROON

Food assistance to vulnerable household via electronic voucher.

Photo: CRS/Louis Blaise Djilo



4.1

Data Sources

The data used to define people in need originate from different databases, surveys and needs assessments. The methodology used for the collection of these data is reliable and uncontested by the humanitarian community in Cameroon, overseen by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

The data sources used for the HNO and HRP are as follows:

- Data projected from the 2005 census as carried out by the National Institute of Statistics in 2011.
- The number of refugees is provided by the UNHCR ProGres database.
- The number of IDPs and returnees was collected by IOM in DTM round 24 in the Far North; through the MSNAs carried out under the lead of OCHA in the North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions in August 2022; and through the MSNA carried out by CHOI, in coordination with OCHA, in Yaounde in September 2021. The number of IDPs in the Adamawa region is based on the MIRA carried out under the lead of OCHA in collaboration with the Ministry of Territorial Administration (Department of Civil Protection) in August 2019.
- Some 4,298 key informants were consulted during the MSNA in the Far North in August 2022, to express the needs of the displaced and host population. IOM's stability index aims to obtain data on the reasons for conditions for displacement and to collect information from the affected population. In 2021, IOM carried out the stability index in March, collecting information from key informants in 884 villages, and in November at household level, collecting information from 3,370 households (26,700 individuals) in 630 locations. In 2022, IOM carried out the stability index in February, collecting information from key informants in 1,147 villages in the Far North region.
- Regarding the North-West and South-West MSNAs, 1,698 locations were assessed in February 2022 through interviews with 8,939 key informants. In August 2022, 1,849 locations were assessed through interviews with 9,025 key informants, to give an updated overview of the displacement situation as well as the priority sectoral needs of affected populations. In August 2022, 1,411 locations were assessed through interviews with 5,076 key informants during the Littoral and West MSNAs.
- Host population figures are calculated using a method previously adopted by UNHCR to estimate populations hosting refugees. This methodology was extended to all displaced groups of population. Please see chapter 4.2 for information about the methodology.
- Data on people in food insecurity are based on the analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé from October 2022, the Food Security Monitoring Systems and the national survey on food and nutrition security, validated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon. For the calculation of the people in need of food assistance, the projected phase of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis was used (June to August 2023).
- Data on people in need of health and nutrition assistance are extracted from the Health Information Management System managed and maintained by the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon.
- Additional data on nutrition were collected through the following surveys: SMART, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), and Demographic and

Health Surveys (DHS). The last SMART survey was conducted in February 2021, the latest MICS was conducted in 2014, and the latest DHS was conducted in 2018.

- Data on people in need of protection are collected through protection monitoring tools managed by UNHCR and its partners.
- Data on people in need of protection from GBV are collected and gathered by the Ministry of Public Health and the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) database maintained by UNFPA.
- Data used to assess the need for shelter and household items were collected through household-level assessments carried out in the North-West, South-West, Littoral, West and

Far North regions in January 2022, as well as the 2022 MSNAs.

- Data used to define the number of people in need of WASH assistance were collected through the MSNAs conducted in 2022, as well as through the sectoral assessment conducted by the WASH Sector actors led by UNICEF.
- It should be noted that the average frequency of updating these sectoral data is six months. It is therefore possible to update the overview of humanitarian needs in Cameroon every six months.

4.2 Methodology

Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework and PIN calculation

In line with global guidance, this HNO follows the analysis stages of the Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), describing the context, shocks, impact, humanitarian conditions and their severity and a forecast of needs. As in previous years and in line with the JIAF guidance, the number of People in Need (PIN) of Cameroon for 2023 is based on a set of sectoral indicators and their severity. Data sources included multisectoral and sectoral assessments, as outlined above in chapter 4.1 on data sources.

The national Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG), in consultation with the Inter-Sector and Inter-Cluster groups at regional levels, supported by the Information Management Working Group (IMWG), defined and agreed on the scope of the analysis (population groups, geographic areas) and assigned needs indicators for PIN estimation by severity. The ISWG chose the indicators for the intersectoral PIN and severity on the basis of the indicators selected in 2020. In 2022, the ISWG jointly reviewed the JIAF severity scale and the sectoral severity maps and requested certain sectors to adjust the severity indicators and thresholds.

Each sector calculated its PIN based on the sectoral indicators for the different population groups (IDPs, returnees, refugees, host community, others) and at divisional level, taking into account the severity 3 to 5. The intersectoral PIN was calculated by selecting the highest value between all sectors for each population group and for each division.

The ISWG had discussed options for a PIN projection in the past, and had agreed that, with the exception of the Food Security Sector, the sectors lacked the capacity to estimate a current as well as projected PIN. Meanwhile, the HCT requested the Food Security Sector in 2022 to change its methodology and base

its PIN calculation on the Cadre Harmonisé data projected for 2023.

The HCT was briefed on a regular basis and endorsed the scope and methodology of the analysis and provided guidance with regards to sectoral methodologies on PIN and severity calculation.

Projection of Population

The last national census in Cameroon was conducted by the Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies (BUCREP) in 2005. In order to be as relevant as possible, the 2023 population of Cameroon is based on a projection by region made in 2011 by the National Institute of Statistics (INS).

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) then developed a methodology to estimate the population at the divisional level based on its structure in 2005.

Host communities

The calculation considers the proportion of displaced persons (refugees and/or IDPs) present in a district or division in relation to its population. The proportions applied to estimate the host community for each district or division are as follow:

Proportion of displaced population compare to the local population	Ratio applied
<1%	1%
between 1% and 3%	3%
between 3% and 5%	5%
between 5% and 10%	10%
between 10% and 20%	15%
>20%	20%

The JIAF Severity Scale

SEVERITY PHASE	KEY REFERENCE OUTCOME	POTENTIAL RESPONSE OBJECTIVES
1 None/Minimal	<p>Living Standards are acceptable (taking into account the context): possibility of having some signs of deterioration and/or inadequate social basic services, possible needs for strengthening the legal framework.</p> <p>Ability to afford/meet all essential basic needs without adopting unsustainable Coping Mechanisms (such as erosion/depletion of assets).</p> <p>No or minimal/low risk of impact on Physical and Mental Wellbeing.</p>	<p>Building Resilience</p> <p>Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction</p>
2 Stress	<p>Living Standards under stress, leading to adoption of coping strategies (that reduce ability to protect or invest in livelihoods).</p> <p>Inability to afford/meet some basic needs without adopting stressed, unsustainable and/or short-term reversible Coping Mechanisms.</p> <p>Minimal impact on Physical and Mental Wellbeing (stressed Physical and Mental Wellbeing) overall.</p> <p>Possibility of having some localized/targeted incidents of violence (including human rights violations).</p>	<p>Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>Protecting Livelihoods</p>
3 Severe	<p>Degrading Living Standards (from usual/typical), leading to adoption of negative Coping Mechanisms with threat of irreversible harm (such as accelerated erosion/depletion of assets). Reduced access/availability of social/basic goods and services</p> <p>Inability to meet some basic needs without adopting crisis/emergency - short/medium term irreversible - Coping Mechanisms.</p> <p>Degrading Physical and Mental Wellbeing. Physical and mental harm resulting in a loss of dignity.</p>	<p>Protecting Livelihoods</p> <p>Preventing & Mitigating Risk of extreme deterioration of Humanitarian conditions</p>
4 Extreme	<p>Collapse of Living Standards, with survival based on humanitarian assistance and/or long term irreversible extreme coping strategies.</p> <p>Extreme loss/liquidation of livelihood assets that will lead to large gaps/needs in the short term.</p> <p>Widespread grave violations of human rights. Presence of irreversible harm and heightened mortality</p>	<p>Saving Lives and Livelihoods</p>
5 Catastrophic	<p>Total collapse of Living Standards</p> <p>Near/Full exhaustion of coping options.</p> <p>Last resort Coping Mechanisms/exhausted.</p> <p>Widespread mortality (CDR, U5DR) and/or irreversible harm.</p> <p>Widespread physical and mental irreversible harm leading to excess mortality.</p> <p>Widespread grave violations of human rights.</p>	<p>Reverting/Preventing Widespread death and/or Total collapse of livelihoods</p>

Severity calculation

A list of indicators is drawn up for each sector. Data for these indicators should be available (or calculated) at district/divisional level and should apply to a specific population group. A threshold value is defined for each of the five severity levels. The severity level is

calculated according to the value of the indicator for each population group per district based on the 25 per cent rule:

- The population of interest of one indicator is split within the 5 severity levels.

AREA	POP. GROUP	INDICATORS	INDICATOR CLASS	MAGNITUDE BASED SEVERITY	PIN CALCULATION	PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN EACH SEVERITY PHASE				
						1	2	3	4	5
District A	IDPs	Water sources	Degree	-	-	16%	21%	27%	25%	11%
District A	Residents	Sanitation facilities	Degree	-	-	22%	24%	37%	11%	6%
District B	Returnees	IPC	Degree	-	-	32%	38%	20%	7%	3%
District B	IDPs	Distance to health facilities		1	15,000					

- Starting from the severity level 5, check the current value and compare with 25%. If the current value is higher, stop the calculation here and set up the severity level at 5.
- If the current value is lower than 25% add it to the next severity level which is the level 4. If the sum gives more than 25%, stop the calculation and set the severity level at 4. Otherwise continue to the next level.
- Continue to add severity level 5 + severity level 4 + severity level 3 ... until 25% is reached or until the severity level 1.

AREA	POP. GROUP	INDICATOR	SEVERITY CLASSES					INDICATOR SEVERITY CLASSIFICATION	
			MAGNITUDE	1	2	3	4		5
District A	IDPs	Water sources		16%	21%	27%	25%	11%	4
							← 27% + 24% = 45%, ie >25% threshold		
District A	IDPs	Sanitation facilities		22%	24%	37%	11%	6%	3
						←			
District A	IDPs	IPC		32%	38%	20%	7%	3%	3
							←		
District A	IDPs	Distance to health facilities	1						1

Expert judgment is also used to complement the indicator data or to set the severity level in locations where no indicator data is available.

Finally, to calculate the intersectoral severity level for one geographical division, all severity levels from the different sectoral indicators are aggregated, applying the following rules:

- Selection of the indicators for the calculation; in few cases, the severity values are replicated for different group of population. For exemple, the severity data for the population group of returnees

are a duplication of the severity data from IDPs (indicators apply to both groups).

- Sorting severity values from all the indicators in descending order.
- Half of the indicators (50 per cent) are considered to calculate the average of the severity values.
- The final score is compared with the severity of the critical indicator (Cadre Harmonisé). The final score must be equal or higher than the severity of the critical indicator.

AREA	POP. GROUP	TOTAL POP.	LIVING STANDARDS INDICATORS				CALCULATED SEVERITY PHASE	CRITICAL INDICATOR SEVERITY	JIAF SEVERITY PHASE
			WATER SOURCES	SANITATION FACILITIES	IPC	DISTANCE TO HEALTH FAC.			
District A	IDPs	10,000	3	4	5	4	4	5	5
District A	Residents	50,000	4	3	2	2	3	2	3
District B	Returnees	30,000	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

Indicators and severity levels

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5
Education (source: Education sector)					
Percentage of out of school children aged 3-17 years in the community not accessing quality formal or non-formal education	<5%	5 - 25%	25 - 35%	35% - 50%	> 50%
Proportion of non-functional school					
Food security (source: Cadre harmonisé, Nov 2022)					
Cadre harmonisé, projected situation	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
Health					
Number of cases and deaths for selected diseases relevant to the local context (Malaria, Cholera, Monkeypox, COVID-19 and others outbreak prone diseases)					
Number of GBV cases managed by health sector' actors	>90%	1%-90%	<1%		
Percentage of targeted population that can access primary healthcare within one hour's walk from dwellings					
Percentage of elements of primary healthcare available in functioning health facilities					
Percentage of births attended by skilled personnel (doctors, nurses, certified midwives)	>90%	1%-90%	<1%		
Percentage of high pregnancy referred					
Nutrition (source: SMART surveys, HH survey)					
Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) based on weight for height Z-score (WHZ)<-2 and/or bilateral oedema among children 0-59 months	<5%	5-9.9%	10-14.9%	15-29.9%	≥30%
Prevalence of stunting based on height-for-age Z-score (HAZ)<-2 among children 0-59 months	<10%	10-19.9%	20-29.9%	≥30%	no criteria
Protection (source: UNDSS / ACLED / Media Monitoring)					
Number of security incidents against civilians (percentage among all incidents in the country)	0	0.01	2-5%	6-10%	>10%
Civilian population killed or injured by violence or conflict	0 - 5%	6- 10%	11-24%	25-49%	> 50%
Percentage of IDP HHs without valid civil documentation and/or unable to obtain them					

Protection: Child Protection (Child protection database)

Percentage of children and caregiver in need of mental health or psychosocial support	0-14%	15-29%	30-54%	55-79%	80%+
Percentage of girls/boys not regularly attending school	<20%	20%-30%	30%-40%	40%-50%	>50%

Protection: GBV (source: Protection sector)

Percentage of girls / boys / women/PWDs at risk of GBV (sexual violence and forced marriage / reproduction)

Availability of core GBV services (GBV Case management, Individual psychosocial support (PSS), Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), Medical services for IPV/other physical violence, Mental Health)

Number of unaccompanied and separated children identified	0-10	>10 - 30	>30 - 60	>60 - 100	> 100
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Protection: HLP (source: HLP database)

Percentage of HHs with housing / shelter damaged or destroyed due to violence, conflict or natural hazards

Percentage of HH reporting incidents of threats of eviction

Refugee Response (source: UNHCR)

Percentage of population with access to basic services within walking distance	All basic services are available within a 30 min walking distance (one way)	All basic services are available within a one hour walking distance (one way)	All basic services are available within a 1h30 walking distance (one way)	All basic services are available within a 2 hours walking distance (one way)	No basic services are available within a 2 hours walking distance (one way)
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Shelter (source: Shelter sector assessment, MSNA)

Percentage of population living in adequate shelter	Adequate	Minor Inadequacies	Moderate Inadequacies	Severe Inadequacies	Extreme Inadequacies
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WASH (source: MSNA, DREE)

Percentage of HHs having access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing or other domestic use	Enough water for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene and other domestic purposes OR more than 50 l/d/p	Enough water for drinking AND cooking AND personal hygiene, drinking AND EITHER BUT NOT for other domestic purposes OR hygiene OR 9 or more 15 or more but less than 50 l/d/p	Enough water for drinking AND cooking AND personal hygiene OR 9 or more but less than 15 l/d/p	Enough water for drinking BUT NOT for cooking AND personal hygiene OR 3 or more but less than 9 l/d/p	Not enough water for drinking OR Less than 3 l/d/p
Percentage of HHs having sufficient access to a functional and improved sanitation facility	Access to improved sanitation facilities, not shared with other households	Access to improved sanitation facilities, shared with less than 20 people	Access to improved sanitation facilities, shared with more than 20 people	Access to unimproved facilities OR access to improved facilities shared with more than 50 people	Disposal of human faeces in open spaces or with solid waste

Regional workshops

HNO/HRP workshops with Sector/Cluster coordinators, key humanitarian partners from local and international NGOs, including representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, and representatives of the line ministries from Government took place at sub-national levels and included discussions on the central needs and response priorities in the Far North, North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions. Key findings of these discussions were shared at national level, and further in-depth discussion, especially with

regards to response priorities, were held at the national ISWG and the HCT.

Integrating peoples' expression of their needs: AAP in the HNO

Different data sources and data collection methodologies were applied to allow for an effective consideration of the needs and views of people affected by crises. Data tools aimed to capture people's own expression of their priority needs, to make a clear differentiation of needs by different

subgroups, and to share with the affected population how their own priorities were considered in the needs analysis. These sources include multisectoral assessments, sectoral assessments, satisfaction surveys during post distribution monitoring, and reports from the interagency and agency's feedback and complaint mechanisms.

In accordance with its action plan, the AAP Working Group reviewed the MSNA questionnaire to integrate AAP related questions while also supporting AAP relevant questions in sectoral assessments.

Various sectoral assessments, including from the Food Security and Shelter/NFI sectors, allowed affected persons to inform about their needs and to express preference with regards to the type of assistance. For example, the Shelter/NFI Cluster/Sector carried out household level assessments in the North-West, South-West, West, Littoral, and Far North in January 2022.¹⁶⁸ These assessments allowed the affected persons to define their shelter needs and inform about their preferred modality of assistance. This assessment also included the persons with disabilities and

information was, for example, collected on the types of disabilities.

The Food Security Sector conducted two types of assessments at household level in the ten regions in 2023. The Data in Emergencies (DIEM) survey¹⁶⁹ consulted between 200 and 222 households in each region, for a final sample of 1,436 households of which 17 per cent were headed by women. The Food Security Monitoring system (FSMS-Survey)¹⁷⁰ consulted 7,861 households in February 2022, out of which 25 per cent were headed by women.

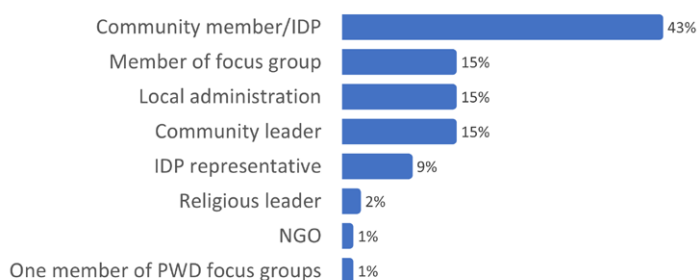
The MSNAs meanwhile continued to be carried out at Key Informant level. Some 4,298 key informants were consulted during the MSNA in the Far North in August 2022, to express the key needs of displaced and host population. For the North-West and South-West MSNAs, 1,698 locations were assessed in February 2022 through interviews with 8,939 key informants. In August 2022, 1,849 locations were assessed through interviews with 9,025 key informants, to give an updated overview of the displacement situation as well as the priority sectoral needs of affected populations. Key informants included 3,537 women and 5,478

PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY OF KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEWED DURING THE AUGUST 2022 MSNAs:

Far North



Littoral and West



North-West and South-West



men. In August 2022, 1,411 locations were assessed through interviews with 5,076 key informants during the Littoral and West MSNA.

Efforts were made to ensure affected populations are consulted. The majority of the key informants interviewed during the MSNAs were IDPs or members of the community followed by community leaders in the North-West, South-West, Littoral and West regions. In the Far North most key informants were community leaders followed by IDP representatives. Key informants also included religious leaders, members of the local administration and of NGOs, and persons with disabilities. Around 60 to 70 per cent, depending on the region, of the key informants are male.

The MSNAs included questions on priority needs, assistance received, information provided on how to access assistance, on which sources of information are trusted and on the availability of complaint and feedback mechanisms.

However, MSNA questionnaires, carried out at key informant level, do not permit to capture information at household level and therefore do not provide information specific to the different population sub-groups.

Meanwhile, UNCHR's assessments allow to capture the needs of the different groups of affected populations through its Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming tool.

The feedback and complaint mechanisms allow to provide feedback to the affected populations and feedback is provided to the affected population through the sources they consider most reliable. In the Far North, feedback is mostly provided through community meetings, in the North-West and South-West through religious and community leaders and in the Littoral and West through local leaders.¹⁷¹

An example on how the affected population is implicated in the humanitarian programme cycle, including in the stage of assessing the needs, is WFP's profiling and targeting for food assistance. Affected populations determine themselves through targeting committees who is in need of assistance. Community members are briefed on the number of households

profiled and the targeting committee is implicated in the reporting of the process and its output.

Overlapping or intersecting social identities, such as age, disability, sexual orientation, health status, economic class, nationality, ethnicity, and faith, shape the extent to which people are vulnerable to, affected by, and able to respond to and recover from emergencies. While efforts were made to increase data on persons with disabilities and disaggregated by age and gender, little information is available at this stage on how gender, age and diversity combine to create different experiences and capacities to deal with crises.

Furthermore, there is a continuous lack of capacities to analyse data and turn it into relevant information among key humanitarian stakeholders.

4.3

Information Gaps and Limitations

The last general population census is more than 15 years old. With dynamics and population movements in the country, the projected data might not reflect the reality in several districts.

Data on host community are based on an estimation, as outlined in detail under chapter 4.2, as the DTM and MSNAs are only capturing information on people on the move and not on the host community members with the exception of the Far North MSNA which also captures the priority needs of the host community..

To assess the humanitarian needs of the population of Cameroon, data were gathered through multisectoral and sectoral assessments, as listed under point 4.1. However, differences in the way data are collected geographically presents a challenge. For example, the health and nutrition sectors collect data by health districts rather than by divisions. To harmonize, the data for these two sectors were provided at the regional level and then projected at the divisional level.

Several sectors experienced difficulties collecting primary data due to access constraints and accessing secondary data due to the lack of a complete assessment registry. To address this, the HCT reconfirmed in 2022 its resolve to further build the capacity of local actors to conduct evaluations according to humanitarian standards. Furthermore, while data and evaluation reports were shared among humanitarian actors in 2022, systematic exchange will be further strengthened in 2023.

The SMART survey update was not ready during the HNO 2023 elaboration process. Nutrition data are based on the SMART 2021 with projections based on complementary data collected in 2022. There is a lack of data on IDPs in the North-West and South-West regions.

Severity and PIN data on refugees are not detailed for each sector/pillar. All data are combined into one

category of "Multi sector Refugee" which does not permit to comprehend and visualize the vulnerabilities of refugees per sector.

Since October 2021, the WASH, Nutrition, Health, GBV, Child Protection, and Protection Clusters and AoRs in the North-West and South-West were supported by four IM officers from iMMAP. An iMMAP support unit with three IM officers, hosted by OCHA Yaounde, was established to support the entire humanitarian community in Cameroon. Support by iMMAP provided to the sectors and clusters was crucial in developing certain IM products, such as the support of the development of an assessment registry for the Protection Sector. Due to a lack of funding, the iMMAP support was discontinued in June 2022, leaving an important gap for certain sectors and partners. UNFPA was able to mobilize funding to retain the IM officer for the GBV AoR, who continues to be based in the South-West but is supporting the AoR at national level.

In 2020, the MSNA questionnaires were reviewed to ensure that the distinct assistance and protection needs of women, girls, men, and boys, are considered. In 2021, the review of the MSNAs focused on integrating the needs of persons with disabilities. In 2022, the review focused on integrating AAP related questions.

4.4

Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations	GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
ACF	Action against Hunger	GBV	Gender-Based Violence
AoR	Area of Responsibility	GBV-IMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
BUCREP	Central Bureau for Censuses and Population Studies	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CAR	Central African Republic	GenCap	Gender Standby Capacity Project
CARE	Care International	HCC	Humanitarian Coordination Centre
CBM	Christian Blind Mission	HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
CDC	Cameroon Development Corporation	HH	Household
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability	HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CH	Cadre Harmonisé	HLP	Housing, Land and Property
CHOI	Cameroon Humanitarian Organizations Initiative	HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape	HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 19	IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
CSDS-V	Community Services Data Set	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys	IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
DIEMS	Data in Emergency Monitoring Survey	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	IFRI	French Institute of International Relations
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	IM	Information Management
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessments	iMMAP	Information Management and Mine Action Program
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care	IMS	Information Management System
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War	IMWG	Information Management Working Group
ETT	Emergency Tracking Tool	INFORM	Index For Risk Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	IOM	International Organization for Migration
FCFA	Franc from Financial cooperation in Africa	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network	IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
FS	Food Security	IRC	International Rescue Committee
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring System	ISWG	Inter-Sector Working Group
FTS	Financial Tracking Services		

JIAF	Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework	UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity	UN	United Nations
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
MINESEC	Ministry of Secondary Education	UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
MINPROFF	Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MIRA	Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package	UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Services
MSNA	Multisectoral Needs Assessment	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
mVAM	mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
NFI	Non-Food Items	USD	US Dollars
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council	WFP	World Food Programme
NSAG	Non-State Armed Group	WHO	World Health Organization
NW	North-West	WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
NWSW	North-West South-West		
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights		
PIN	People In Need		
PRESNAP	Project to Strengthen the National Surveillance and Early Warning System		
PSS	Psychosocial support		
PUI	Première Urgence Internationale		
PWD	Person with Disabilities		
RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism		
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition		
SENS	Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey		
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence		
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions		
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health		
SSF	State Security Forces		
SW	South-West		

4.5

End notes

- 1 The Cadre Harmonisé analysis of October 2022 estimates that 3,234,556 persons will be food insecure (phase 3 to 5) from June to August 2023.
- 2 Fourth Household Survey, National Institute of Statistics, Cameroon, 2014.
- 3 UNSDCF Cameroon 2022 – 2026, page 17.
- 4 Joint Nexus analyses of Logone Birni, Nexus Taskforce, July 2022: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/analyse_conjointe_Logone_Birni_nexus_hdp.pdf
- 5 Labour Market Survey in North-West, South-West regions of Cameroon for the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus, IOM, April 2022, page 10.
- 6 Labour Market Survey in North-West, South-West regions of Cameroon for the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus, IOM, April 2022, page 29; 32.
- 7 The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon, World Bank Group, 2021, p.19.
- 8 UNDSS statistics for 2021 and 2022.
- 9 IFRI, Boko Haram dans la région de l'Extrême-Nord du Cameroun : L'arbre qui cache la forêt, Juin 2022 et UNDP, Crime and Terror Nexus, 2022, p. 14.
- 10 IFRI, Boko Haram dans la région de l'Extrême-Nord du Cameroun : L'arbre qui cache la forêt, Juin 2022 et UNDP, Crime and Terror Nexus, 2022.
- 11 IFRI, Boko Haram dans la région de l'Extrême-Nord du Cameroun : L'arbre qui cache la forêt, Juin 2022.
- 12 Cameroon gender profile, MINPROFF and UN WOMEN, November 2020.
- 13 mVAM Bulletin, WFP, September 2020.
- 14 UNSDCF Cameroon 2022 – 2026, page 14.
- 15 Dwindling rains in Northern Cameroon spark conflict and displacement, Press release, UNHCR, 10 November 2021: <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/dwindling-rains-northern-cameroon-spark-conflict-and-displacement>
- 16 Office of the Resident Coordinator, Intercommunal dynamics in the Far North region, May 2022.
- 17 Preliminary analysis of the conflicts in Logone Birni, UNESCO, June 2022.
- 18 Joint Nexus analyses of Logone Birni, Nexus Taskforce, July 2022.
- 19 Preliminary analysis of the conflicts in Logone Birni, UNESCO, June 2022.
- 20 Intercommunal dynamics in the Far North region, Office of the Resident Coordinator, May 2022.
- 21 Dwindling rains in Northern Cameroon spark conflict and displacement, Press release, UNHCR, 10 November 2021.
- 22 Security Incidents reported from January to October 2022, UNDSS Cameroon.
- 23 Security Incidents reported from January to October 2021 and from January to October 2022, UNDSS Cameroon.
- 24 UNDSS incident statistics 2020 to 2022.
- 25 UNSDCF Cameroon 2022 – 2026, page 14.
- 26 As of 5 December 2022, Information Note on Flooding, Nr. 4, OCHA.
- 27 In total, 2,074,269 people are displaced within Cameroon as of October 2022. This includes 353,362 CAR and 138,107 Nigerian refugees, 2,503 refugees of other nationalities and 8,847 asylum seekers (UNHCR, October 2022), 1,013,564 IDPs in the Adamawa, Centre, Far North, Littoral, North-West, South-West and West regions (Adamawa, MIRA, OCHA, July 2019; Centre, CHOI, OCHA, MSNA, September 2021; NWSW, MSNA, OCHA, August 2022; Littoral and West, MSNA, OCHA, August 2022; Far North, DTM, IOM, August 2022), 557,886 returnees in the Far North, the North-West and South-West regions (Far North, DTM, IOM, August 2022; NWSW, MSNA, OCHA, August 2022).
- 28 There were 2,026,811 IDPs, returnees and refugees reported by IOM, OCHA and UNHCR as of 30 October 2022, in comparison with 2,007,854 IDPs, returnees, and refugees reported as of 30 October 2021. 1,961,036 IDPs, returnees and refugees were reported as of 30 October 2020.
- 29 657,273 people are displaced in the Far North as of October 2022: 385,372 IDPs, 138,152 returnees and 133,749 Nigerian refugees. In October 2021, 580,477 people were displaced in the Far North: 357,631 IDPs, 135,257 returnees and 114,632 Nigerian refugees. The increase of over 19,000 Nigerian refugees is to a large part due to a verification exercise.
- 30 DTM, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 31 DTM, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 32 A Return Intention Survey was conducted in November 2021 which included 3,369 households of 26,693 people, in the six divisions of the Far North region. Retours et Solutions durables, Extrême Nord du Cameroun, DTM, IOM, November, 2021.

- 33 Around 21 per cent of displaced people visit their location of origin several times a week, 10 per cent once a week and 7 per cent once a month. Return Intention Survey, IOM, November, 2021.
- 34 Stability Index, IOM, November 2021.
- 35 231,281 IDPs are reported in the North-West and 137,461 in the South-West (MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2022). 114,111 IDPs from the North-West and South-West are reported in the West region and 79,954 are reported in the Littoral region (MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, August 2022). 60,084 IDPs were reported in Yaounde (MSNA, Centre, CHOI, OCHA, September 2021) and 5,301 were reported in the Adamawa region (MIRA, Adamawa, OCHA, July 2019). 85,967 Cameroonians from the NWSW fled to Nigeria (UNHCR, June 2022).
- 36 50 per cent of the NW IDPs and 56 per cent of the SW IDPs left in 2020 or before, respectively. 62 per cent of the IDPs in the Littoral and West regions were displaced in 2020 or before.
- 37 Pendular displacement was observed in 61 per cent of assessed villages of the North-West and in 44 per cent of localities in the South-West in 2021. MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2021.
- 38 315,747 CAR refugees were reported by UNHCR in the East, Adamawa and North region as of October 2021.
- 39 "Ghost town" days are general strikes imposed by NSAGs. During ghost town days, shops and business are closed and movement is prohibited in the North-West and South-West regions. Ghost towns are imposed every Monday but are also called for in anticipation or reaction to certain events, such as elections.
- 40 Labour Market Survey in North-West, South-West regions of Cameroon for the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus, IOM, April 2022, pages 23 - 25; 52 - 56.
- 41 Stability Index, IOM, February 2022.
- 42 Stability Index, IOM, February 2022.
- 43 Stability Index, IOM, February 2022.
- 44 MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2022; MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, August 2022.
- 45 Stability index, IOM, February 2022.
- 46 MSNA, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 47 Cameroon gender profile, MINPROFF and UN WOMEN, November 2020.
- 48 MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, September 2020; MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, August 2022.
- 49 MSNA Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 50 Stability Index, IOM, February 2022.
- 51 More information on specific access constraints and actions taken to address them can be found in the chapter "Planning Assumptions, Operational Capacity and Access" of the 2023 Cameroon HRP.
- 52 See chapter 1.4 on the impact on men and boys for more details.
- 53 Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin, WFP, September 2022.
- 54 3,633,085 people are estimated to be in food insecurity phases 3 to 5 from October to December 2022 according to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis from October 2022. 3,257,936 people are projected to be food insecure from June to August 2023.
- 55 2,430,110 people were estimated to be in food insecurity phase 3 to 5 from October to December 2021, according to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis of October 2021. 2,383,869 people were projected to be food insecure from June to August 2022.
- 56 Food Security Monitoring System, WFP, 2022.
- 57 WFP Cameroon Country Brief, August 2022.
- 58 FEWS NET, CAMEROON Food Security Outlook, October 2022 to May 2023.
- 59 Food Security Brief, Central African Refugees in Adamawa, East and North regions, WFP Cameroon, July 2021.
- 60 SMART-SENS assessment, Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon, UNICEF, UNHCR, February – March 2021.
- 61 Joint Assessment Mission for Nigerian Refugees in Far North region in Cameroon 2022, WFP, UNHCR, September 2022.
- 62 Labour Market Survey in North-West, South-West regions of Cameroon for the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus, IOM, April 2022, pages 23 - 25; 52 - 56.
- 63 MSNA, Far North, IOM, August 2022; MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2022; MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, August 2022.
- 64 mVAM Bulletin, WFP, September 2020 (data of June-July 2020).
- 65 Discussions during the HNO/HRP 2023 workshops in Douala, Littoral, and Bafoussam, West regions, with around 30 partners from national NGOs and local Government, October 2022.
- 66 MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, August 2022.
- 67 Labour Market Survey in North-West, South-West regions of Cameroon for the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus, IOM, April 2022, pages 56-57.
- 68 Displaced populations report discrimination or stigma as the main protection problem in 12 per cent of villages assessed, after forced marriage (14 per cent) and GBV (13 per cent). MSNA, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 69 DTM, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 70 MSNA, Far North, IOM, August 2022. MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2022.
- 71 MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2022.
- 72 Disability Inclusion Assessment of Humanitarian Organizations in the Northwest region of Cameroon, Christian Blind Mission, Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, March 2022.
- 73 MSNA, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 74 MSNA, Far North, IOM, July 2021.

- 75 Situational analysis report, MINPROFF, revised in 2020.
- 76 In 2021, the United Nations verified 174 grave violations against 129 children in the Far North (94), North-West (45) and South-West (35) regions. A total of 75 children (48 boys, 25 girls, 2 sex unknown) were killed (44) and maimed (31). Casualties occurred in the Far North (49), South-West (14) and North-West (12) regions and resulted mainly from gunshots (55) and improvised explosive devices or explosive remnants of war (16). The abduction of 55 children (14 boys, 33 girls, 8 sex unknown) was verified in the Far North, the North-West and the South-West. Of the 55 who were abducted, 12 children were rescued or released, 7 remain in captivity, 3 were arrested by the Cameroon Armed Forces, while the status of 33 is unknown. Three boys, some as young as 10, were recruited and used by NSAGs as spies and to run errands in the Far North region. Children and Armed Conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, A/76/871-S/2022/493, 23 June 2022.
- 77 MSNA, Far North, IOM, July 2021.
- 78 There are 368,741 IDPs and 419,734 returnees in the North-West and South-West regions. MSNA, OCHA, August 2022.
- 79 MSNA, NWSW, OCHA, August 2022.
- 80 MSNA, Littoral and West, OCHA, August 2022.
- 81 Stability Index, IOM, February 2022.
- 82 MSNA, Far North, IOM, August 2022.
- 83 Statistics of Nigerian Refugees, UNHCR, November 2022.
- 84 Joint Assessment Mission for Nigerian Refugees in Far North region in Cameroon, WFP, UNHCR, September 2022.
- 85 CAR refugee statistics, UNHCR, November 2022.
- 86 Cameroon gender profile, MINPROFF and UN WOMEN, November 2020.
- 87 Data on gender equality in Cameroon, Delphine Brun (GenCap), October 2019.
- 88 Cameroon gender profile, MINPROFF and UN WOMEN, November 2020.
- 89 According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) of the North-West and South-West regions, published by WFP in January 2019, 38 per cent of households in the North-West and 31 per cent in the South-West are headed by females.
- 90 A failure to address the vulnerability of men and boys, article written by Senior inter-agency gender advisor (GenCap), Delphine Brun, published by NRC in March 2021: <https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/2016/2021/a-failure-to-address-the-vulnerability-of-men-and-boys/>
- 91 As per the Demographic and Health Survey (CSDS-V), 2018, page 50, 39 per cent of women and 42 per cent of men aged 15-49 experienced physical violence since the age of 15. More than four out of 10 women (44 per cent) and one third of men (33 per cent) aged 15-49 in union or in a broken union have experienced domestic violence including emotional, physical and/or sexual violence. CARE and Plan International found that overall, 56.4 per cent of women in union experienced at least one of these forms of violence in the North-West and South-West regions. CARE & Plan International, Rapid Gender Analysis, South-West and North-West Cameroon, May 2019.
- 92 Cameroon gender profile, MINPROFF and UN WOMEN, November 2020.
- 93 GBV/IMS, Far North, UNFPA, January to November 2022.
- 94 GBV/IMS, NWSW, UNFPA, January to October 2022.
- 95 A more generous embrace: Why addressing the needs of adolescent boys and men is essential to an effective humanitarian response in Cameroon's North-West and South-West, Delphine Brun, GenCap Senior Gender Adviser Cameroon, published by NorCap, GenCap and WILPF in July 2022: https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/_reports/a-more-generous-embrace/a-more-generous-embrace.pdf
- 96 INTERSOS, DRC & IRC, Protection Monitoring Reports for June 2021, as cited in an analysis by the Senior inter-agency gender advisor, Delphine Brun, December 2021.
- 97 A failure to address the vulnerability of men and boys, article written by Senior inter-agency gender advisor (GenCap), Delphine Brun, published by NRC in March 2021: <https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/2016/2021/a-failure-to-address-the-vulnerability-of-men-and-boys/>
- 98 Analysis by the Senior inter-agency gender advisor, Delphine Brun, December 2021.
- 99 The estimations of the people in need in 2022 were made before the inter-community violence escalated in December 2021. Furthermore, the impact of this conflict became apparent in the first quarter of 2022, after the finalization of the HNO 2022.
- 100 In 2022, 1,245,994 persons were estimated to be in need of assistance in the Far North. In 2023, 1,553,839 persons are estimated to need assistance.
- 101 In 2022, 2,034,256 people were estimated to be in need of assistance because of the North-West and South-West crisis. In 2023, 1,685,952 people are estimated to be in need because of this crisis.
- 102 In 2021, the Food Security Sector used the "current" phase (October to December) to calculate the number of people in need in the North-West and South-West in 2022. Over 1.1 million people were food insecure in these two regions from October to December 2021. In 2022, the Food Security Sector used the projected phase (June to August 2023) for the number of people in food insecurity in 2023. Over 918,400 people are projected to be food insecure from June to August 2023; there is a decrease of almost 240,000 people between the two numbers.
- 103 Cameroon was ranked 20 for the years 2021 and 2022 by the INFORM Risk Index, and had 6.1 point on a scale of 10 in 2021.
- 104 INFORM Risk: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Results-and-data/moduleId/1782/id/453/controller/Admin/action/Results>

- 105 INFORM Risk Sahel: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Subnational-Risk/Sahel/moduleId/1798/id/383/controller/Admin/action/Results>
- 106 Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin, WFP Cameroon, October 2022.
- 107 Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin, WFP Cameroon, October 2022.
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**HUMANITARIAN
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ISSUED MARCH 2023