

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 1 to 31 August 2021. The next report will be issued in October 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 40,000 people were denied food assistance due to insecurity and roadblocks in the North-West and the South-West regions.
- Four attacks on health facilities were reported including abductions of staff, obstruction of health services, and seizure of assets.
- Doctors Without Borders (MSF) organization downsized its team in the North-West after the government had suspended its activities in December 2020.
- Measles' outbreak reported in Nwa health district in the North-West. Limited resources, geographical and security challenges hinder adequate response to the outbreak.
- Three children lost their lives and two others were injured in crossfire in three separate incidents in the North-West and South-West.
- 28 per cent of survivors of Gender-Based Violence are children.



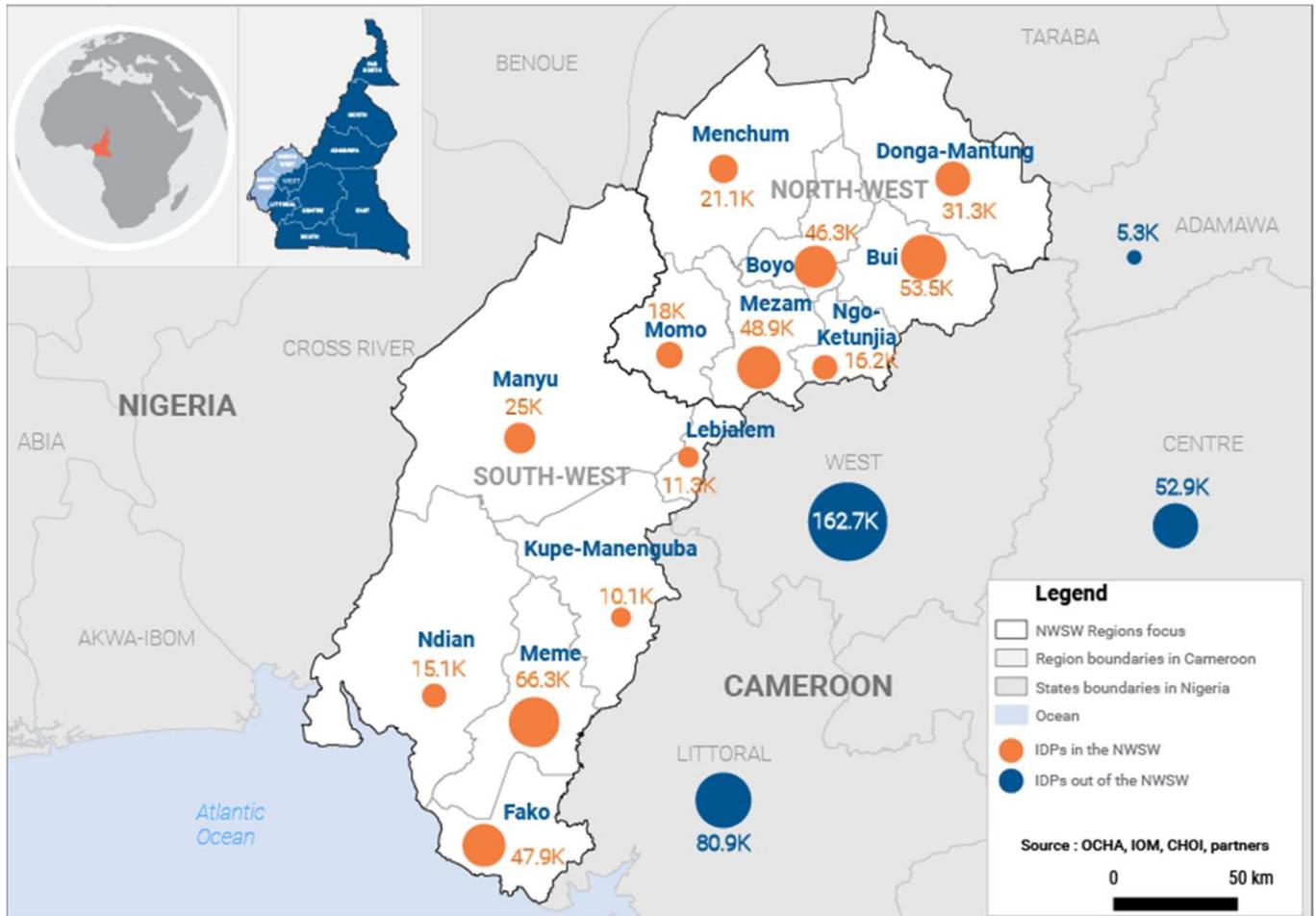
this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

<p>2.2M</p> <p>Affected people¹</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p><i>Humanitarian Needs Overview - 2021</i></p>	<p>1.6M</p> <p>Targeted for assistance¹</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p><i>Humanitarian Response Plan - 2021</i></p>	<p>712.8K</p> <p>Internally Displaced People (IDP)</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p><i>Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) NWSW, OCHA - February 2021</i></p> <p><i>MSNA in West and Littoral regions, OCHA and partners - August 2020</i></p> <p><i>MIRA in Centre region, CHOI and OCHA - September 2020</i></p>	<p>333.9K</p> <p>Returnees (former IDP)²</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p><i>MSNA in NWSW region, OCHA - February 2021</i></p>	<p>67.5K</p> <p>Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p><i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian refugees, UNHCR - 31 August 2021</i></p>
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¹ Figures include North-West, South-West, Littoral, West, Adamawa and Centre regions (rounded up to the first decimal place).

² Figure includes North-West and South-West regions.

Map of IDPs from the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon



Source: OCHA, IOM

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in the North-West and South-West regions (NWSW) remains concerning. Hostilities, armed clashes, increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), in addition to inter-communal clashes between farmers and grazers in Menchum division in the North-West are continuous. The population remains caught in the crossfire, and exposed to violence leading to the displacement of thousands of people. For several weeks, roadblocks have been obstructing humanitarian access, preventing the delivery of aid to affected people. About 8,500 persons were reportedly displaced in August and about 530 persons returned to their areas of origin as they could not cope with the poor living conditions in hosting towns. Most of the reported displacements are pendular. Displaced persons have been returning to their areas of origin within a couple of days seeing the security situation improve.

Increasing security incidents and blockages of major roads in the North-West caused delays, or prevented the delivery of life-saving assistance. This also limited the mobility of aid workers and deprived some vulnerable communities of assistance. 40,000 people did not receive food rations in the two regions where 1.1 million people are severely food insecure in the Cadre Harmonise report, published in March 2021.

Four attacks on health facilities were reported, including the abduction of health personnel for ransom, the removal of patients from ambulances, the seizure of healthcare assets, etc. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) was forced to downsize its teams in the North-West eight months after the government suspended its activities in the region. This led to poor or no access to healthcare for thousands of people who depended on the free healthcare and ambulance services that MSF provided. OCHA continues to engage with regional authorities to enhance the humanitarian health response.

Increased security incidents put children at risk of being caught in crossfires, exacerbating their fears and anxieties, separation from family, abuse and other forms of exploitation. According to the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster (GBV), out of 1,205 GBV cases reported in August, 28 per cent of the survivors are children.

FUNDING

Cameroon 2021 NW-SW Crisis

US\$ 153.2 million requested
US\$ 19.2 million funded



Funding by sector (in million US\$)

As of 31 August 2021

Sector	Funded	Unmet	Coverage
Food Security	3.0 M	57.7 M	5.3%
Protection	4.7 M	32.5 M	14.5%
Multiclusters	5.9 M	14.4 M	40.8%
WASH	11.9 M		0%
Education	0.2 M	10.8 M	1.8%
Nutrition	6.8 M		0%
Health	1.6 M	6.8 M	24%
Shelter and NFI	4.6 M		25.6%
Refugee Response	2.9 M		0%
Coordination	2.8 M		91%
Early Recovery	2.1 M		2.4%

These figures reflect the contributions reported by humanitarian partners on the OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>). All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform FTS of any cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

The Education Cluster with the support of the Global Education Cluster organized a three-day workshop to review the Cluster strategy in the NWSW. The strategy aims to ensure a coordinated, predictable, principled, evidence-based, transparent, and accountable response. It provides strategic guidance for partners engaged in education in emergencies (EiE) interventions and is aligned with the three strategic objectives and 11 education objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021, as well as the National Development Strategy (NDS 2020-2030). During the workshop, children were consulted through participatory activities on the needs, responses, and protection situation.

UNICEF and Green Partners Association (GPA) distributed 120 additional solar radios to complete the 641 radios distributed in July to families with out-of-school children affected by the crisis in Mezam, Boyo, Ngo-Ketunjia, Bui, and Momo divisions in the North-West. Listening groups have been set up and lessons disseminated to all identified children. More children are encouraged to join the listening groups, and the results are significant. 232 additional children joined the 1,280 previously identified and regularly attended lessons. Additional radios will be distributed to reach current unreached areas and to give out-of-school children another chance to access distant learning activities.

UNESCO and nine partners facilitated learning access to 15,084 students including 8,709 girls, and 6,375 boys, through community learning spaces using materials from UNESCO. This included 2,487 new learners and 12,597 recurrent learners, including 50 with disabilities.

Food Security

27 partners collectively assisted 284,535 persons representing 30 per cent of the people in need of food assistance with emergency food, agriculture, and livelihoods assistance. About 93 per cent of beneficiaries received food items and eight per cent received assistance through cash and voucher modalities.

Unfortunately, over 40,000 people did not receive food assistance due to insecurity and major access roads blockages such as the road leading to Batibo and Bafut in the North-West, depriving vulnerable communities of assistance.

16.5K

Children reached with non-formal education programmes

284.5K

People reached with food/agriculture/livelihood assistance

As part of the World Food Programme (WFP)'s effort to review its strategy in the NWSW, targeting and beneficiary list validation exercises have been completed. Also, the usage of unconditional cash for food assistance is being considered in Mezam, Momo, Ngo-Ketunjia, and Bui divisions in the North-West. WFP is also examining the possibility of rotation-based assistance to 400,000 vulnerable people profiled during the targeting exercise to ensure an extensive reach of vulnerable people.

The Food Security Cluster remains committed to strengthening partners' capacity. In this regard, WFP funded a two-day training on GBV mainstreaming in food security programming on 18-19 August with technical support from the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR).

FAO continues to evaluate the effectiveness of the Farmer Field School project (FFS), in compliance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and to provide technical support to 24 vegetable production groups benefiting from the project.

Health

Health authorities reported an increase in COVID-19 infections and related deaths. Tests positivity rate in the NW shows an increase from 6.7 per cent in July, to 11.7 per cent in August. In the SW, an increase from three per cent in July to 3.2 per cent in August was recorded. A total of 9,847 persons received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 2,742 received the second one in the SW, which represents 1.1 per cent, and 0.3 per cent of the target population respectively. In the NW, a total of 22,347 persons received the first dose, and 4,963 received the second one, which represents 2.5 per cent and 0.6 per cent of the target population respectively. The vaccination campaign is ongoing despite numerous challenges, including vaccines refusal and threats against vaccination teams.

1.35K

People received curative consultations

A measles outbreak was reported in the Nwa health district in the NW. Health Cluster partners have been supporting the health district to carry out a reactive campaign. Limited resources, geographical and security challenges have limited the response to the outbreak so far.

Health partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to affected communities. Action Against Hunger (ACF) provided 1,352 curative consultations in Meme and SW, including 47 ante-natal consultations, and 13 post-natal consultations with three referrals. 502 persons benefited from psychoeducation and individual or group psychological sessions.

Non-State armed groups conducted four attacks on health facilities, including the abduction of health personnel for ransom, seizure of assets, removal of patients from ambulances in Fako and Manyu divisions in the SW.

Nutrition

Nutrition Cluster partners screened 19,679 children including 11,952 girls, for acute malnutrition. 35 children were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and referred for appropriate management, and 271 children were identified with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Cumulatively, from January to August, 387 children including 207 girls have been identified with SAM and referred for treatment which represents only 5.0 per cent of 8,000 estimated SAM cases targeted for 2021.

19.6K

Children under five screened for acute malnutrition

24,053 caregivers including 16,411 women received key messages on optimal infant and young child feeding practices integrating COVID-19 specific messages mainly at distribution sites. 9,479 children including 4,875 girls aged six to 23 months and 6,496 food insecure pregnant and lactating women received specialized nutritious food (SNF) through blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP).

Protection

Protection partners identified significant protection needs during an assessment in Menchum division in the NW, where inter-communal tensions between livestock farmers and crop farmers have been reported. The assessment also revealed the need for child support and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS). The lack of schooling has resulted in increased teenage pregnancies, child labour and rape cases perpetrated by parties to the conflict. Criminality and delinquency amongst out-of-school youths have increased. Limited health service providers available in hard-to-reach areas, which record higher incidents of sexual and GBV (SGBV), left many survivors without adequate assistance. In addition, many displaced persons do not have their civil documents, which limits their access to essential services.

6.2K

Persons reached with protection monitoring activities

Partners reported 597 protection incidents in the NWSW regions. They reached 6,179 persons through protection monitoring activities including 2,964 most vulnerable persons who needed targeted protection assistance. 40 individuals

received training on housing and land property rights (HLP), while 572 persons received legal support on access to or regaining their properties. Sensitization on HLP reached 1,908 individuals.

Several subdivisions are not covered by protection monitoring activities due to a lack of funds. Frequent confrontations between parties to the conflict prevent humanitarians from assisting affected populations in hard-to-reach areas and armed men are threatening humanitarian actors in Manyu division in the SW.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR)

Children are increasingly caught in fires between the parties to the conflict in the NWSW, raising children protection concerns. In August, in three separate incidents, three children died in crossfires, and another two were injured in the same incidents. The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) continues to be a concern too. While eight IED incidents were reported in July, mainly in the NW, 14 were reported in August with a majority in the SW. Even though no casualties among children were reported, advocacy on Mine Risk Education, with a special focus on IEDs, is critical.

69.2K

Children and caregivers reached through child protection interventions

Child Protection actors continued to provide child protection services to affected communities, reaching 69,208 children and caregivers including 34,484 females with different child protection interventions. Awareness-raising on CP and GBV risks as well as on COVID-19 preventive measures, and the importance of birth registration reached 33,300 beneficiaries including 8,744 girls and 7,255 women. This represents 48 per cent of beneficiaries reached during this reporting period. 11,031 children, including 5,803 girls as well as 859 caregivers, including 487 women, received mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS). Partners also reached 1,420 vulnerable children with case management services.

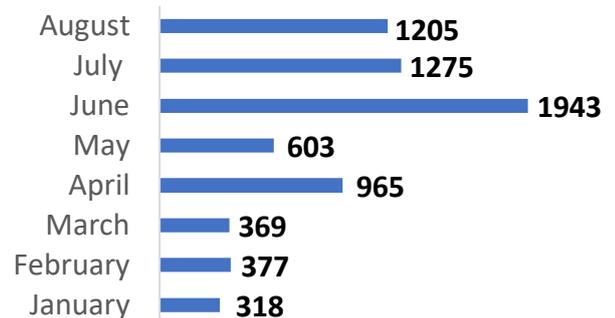
Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR)

Reported GBV cases remained very high. Partners referred 1,205 cases to GBV specialized service providers. 90 per cent of survivors were women and 28 per cent children. Denial of resources, physical assault, emotional abuse, and sexual violence are the most reported cases. GBV survivors received psychosocial support, health and livelihood services. There is a critical need to scale up lifesaving GBV services and advocate for access to affected communities in hard-to-reach areas.

GBV partners reached 27,448 persons including 18,719 in the NW and 8,738 in the SW through GBV interventions including psychosocial support, risk mitigation, capacity building of community members, GBV awareness-raising, women empowerment, MHPSS and livelihood activities for women and girls, survivors of sexual exploitation.

Inadequate funds and security challenges continuously hinder GBV partners' ability to meet vulnerable people's basic needs in hard-to-reach areas.

GBV Incidents per month



Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS), Finders Group Initiative (FGI), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Plan International assisted 17,059 individuals in the NWSW with emergency shelter kits, core relief items including COVID-19 prevention kits, and rental accommodation.

Inadequate funds to respond to needs, and NSAG attacks remain a major concern, causing new displacements and limiting partners' access to communities.

17K

Households reached through shelter/NFI interventions

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH partners reached 178,343 individuals through different interventions including COVID-19 prevention activities. Nevertheless, increased access to WASH services especially in Ngo-Ketunjia and Kupe-Muanenguba divisions in the South-West is critical, where WASH services are largely inadequate.

178K

People reached through WASH services

WASH partners reached 109,925 people, through water supply, distribution of WASH and dignity kits and latrine construction and maintenance. Partners also reached 24,539 persons through sensitization on access to humanitarian assistance activities.

Increased insecurity in some parts of the NWSW caused delays in the delivery of WASH supplies and affected house-to-house sensitization activities.



Humanitarian coordination

OCHA continued the coordination of the humanitarian response through advocacy for humanitarian access and for effective and principled humanitarian action through regular meetings with relevant stakeholders. The inter-cluster coordination meeting, civil-military coordination meetings, humanitarian coordination forum, meetings with donors and bilateral consultations with parties to the crisis are used to negotiate access, raise awareness about the humanitarian situation and advocate with NSAG to protect aid workers, civilians, health care providers and facilities, education facilities, staff and students. OCHA led the commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day in the NWSW under the theme “Humanitarians Are Not A Target” to raise awareness on the humanitarian situation and the challenges faced by humanitarians in the field.

The funding situation in the NWSW remains a major concern and OCHA continues to raise awareness on the situation and fundraising.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int | www.humanitarianresponse.info