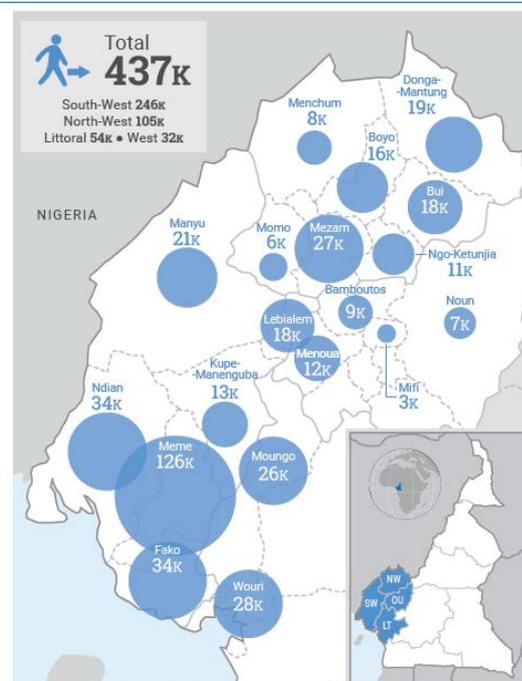




This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by Modibo Traore. It covers the period from 01 to 30 November 2018. The next report will be issued on or around 30 December.

Highlights

- 17 October: Activation of eight Clusters – Education, Food Security, Health, Logistics, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter/NFI and WASH.
- Humanitarian presence in South-West and North-West regions scaled up.
- UNHCR distributes Shelter/NFI in Konye, Meme Division, South West.
- WFP starts general food distribution to IDPs in Mounjo and Wouri division, Littoral Region.
- More than 437 000 people displaced in North-West and South-West regions.
- Regional Directors, Humanitarian Coordinator visit South-West Region.
- 78 children kidnapped on 7 November in Bamenda, North-West region, later released unharmed.



Source: OCHA
 The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
This map can be downloaded at Cameroon: North-West and South-West crisis - IDP Population Estimations (As of 9 October 2018)

4M Affected people	1.3M People in need	160 000 People targeted	437 500 Internally displaced person	500 000 Host communities in need	330 000 Other people in need
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Situation Overview

Socio-political issues in and about the anglophone region of Cameroon had been a matter of contention since independence in 1960 and 1961. Violence erupted in 2016 in the North-West (NW) and South-West (SW) regions, prompting security clampdowns. The crisis shifted into armed conflict with the proliferation of non-state armed groups (NSAG) and deployment of military forces to the regions. This situation has led to multiple civilian casualties and continues to have serious consequences on livelihoods and living conditions of the affected populations.

In late 2017, and in response to the violence and loss of life, humanitarian organizations were reporting that families were fleeing the two affected regions. Displacement was further compounded by limited access to education for children due to a ban and attacks on schools by the non-state armed groups. The crisis has worsened considerably in the past six months due to several factors including: anticipation of periods of high insecurity (the start of the school year, the 1 October anniversary and the 2018 presidential electoral; movement restriction in the two regions (curfew extended in the North-West, “No Movement” declaration by non-state actors, and increase of both official and informal checkpoints).

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

Socio political situation

The socio-political situation remains tense. The election period culminated in the inauguration and swearing in of the sitting president for a 7th term, extending a tenure to date of 36 years in power. There has been a proliferation of non-state armed groups and intensification of confrontations between NSAG and the armed forces. Punitive actions are also reported to have taken place on civilians perceived as associated with parties to the conflict.

Since 8 November 2017, the date of the first clash between NSAG and the State armed forces, confrontations between the two parties have displaced around 350,000 people (246,000 in SW and 104,000 in NW), triggering an unprecedented crisis in the two regions.

The humanitarian crisis has a growing impact in the bordering West and Littoral regions. Clashes have hit neighbouring areas, particularly in Menoua division in West region. In the run up to the elections, Littoral and the West regions saw the number of internally displaced persons (85,000 as of October 2018) rise. While some have returned, many remain displaced.

The population of NW and SW regions regularly face protection issues such as threats from armed elements, being caught in crossfire, restriction on freedom of movement due to multiple official and unofficial check points, arbitrary arrests and confiscation of personal documents, etc. Teachers, students and Government workers who do not adhere to the armed groups' education boycott have been threatened. The Government has tightened security, limiting the movement of people and goods through curfews.

An information war has been waged, particularly through social media, in which all sides have been accused of human rights violations, including killing, maiming, torture and destruction of property. Attacks on medical facilities and patients is deeply worrying. In his inaugural address, the re-elected president called on the secessionist groups to lay down their weapons, appealed for calm and communicated a robust approach that would be demanded of security forces.

The political situation in the two regions remains tense and the *Ghost Town* movement declared for Mondays continues to be observed. The All-Anglophone conference planned for 21-22 November was postponed due to a lack of governorate level authorization for the event. While the movement of extradited secessionists from unofficial detention location to prison took place indicates a softening of the government approach.

Security situation

The security situation continues to be volatile across the NW and SW. In the SW, in Buea and Kumba, there were a worrying number of kidnappings and other attacks on schools reported indicating an upscaling of the enforcement of the 'no schools' policy. Unconfirmed reports indicate that they are associated with the movement of an armed group to the area. Security force operations continued against secessionist groups, including on the Kumba-Mbonge axis in vicinity of Kumba.

In the NW, violence confrontations took place between armed secessionists and security forces including ambushes against security forces and attacks on bases indicating an upscaling in military capacity. Incidents were particularly notable in Bali and Jakiri. Kidnappings also took place. In Bamenda in the NW, the 6pm – 6am curfew remains was changed to 9pm to 9am. Given level of incidents this would seem to indicate a political softening rather than an indication of improvements in the security environment.

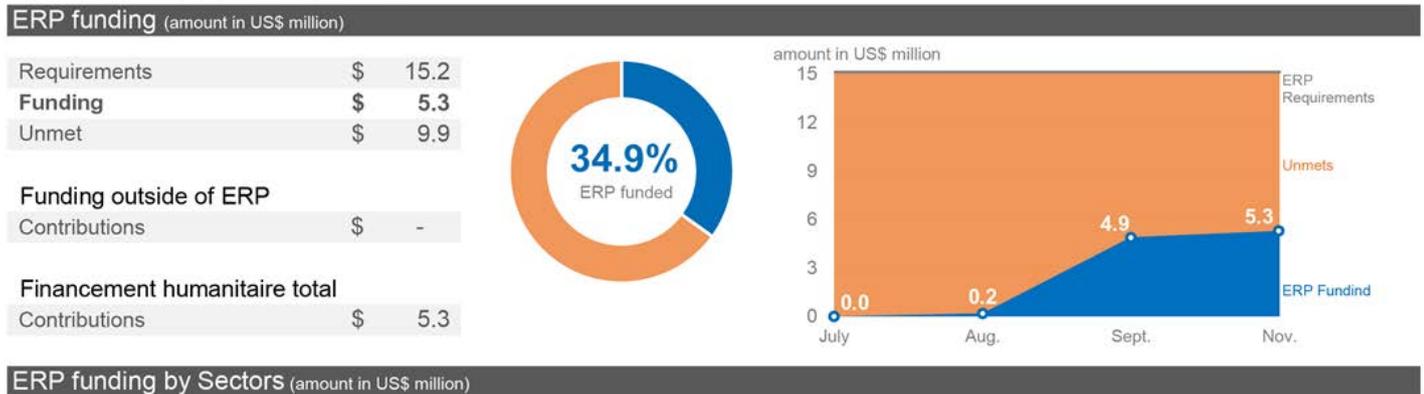
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Funding

As of 5 November, donors had provided 35 per cent of the US\$15.2 million required as per the emergency response plan, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This amount constitutes the \$5.1 million CERF allocation under the rapid response window. Additional contributions were received by other donors but not yet reported on FTS.

Figure 1 - ERP funding as of November 5, 2018

NOTA : The level of funding by Appeal (North-West and South-West Crisis) is very underestimated because a large majority of funding reported on FTS is incomplete and does not indicate the intended projects or the Appeal concerned.



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

Humanitarian Need and Response

Majority of the IDPs are women and children. Vulnerability is increasing, and the humanitarian response provided so far does not meet the identified needs. Assessments carried out by different stakeholders have identified needs across all sectors with the most acute being in Protection, Food security and Shelter.

The humanitarian community has developed an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The government has also initiated a humanitarian plan. Only preliminary results are available. Deployment of humanitarian actors continues in the field.

Food Security

In North-West, partners identified that food has increasingly become a priority in the past few months. Market prices are also reported to have increased due to the impact of the conflict on farming.

In South-West, WFP completed the induction training for their partner Reach Out. The first distribution has been postponed by the administration, no further date for the distribution has been shared. However, WFP is already present in the field.

WFP began general food distributions to IDPs in the Moungo and Wouri divisions in the Littoral Region. The distribution targets only 50,000 beneficiaries, with 27,600 in Littoral region. The pipeline indicates 1,093 tons of food, enough just for 40 days.

To date, 17,520 beneficiaries have received more than 300 tons of food. The daily ration is composed of 350 g of rice, 100 g of pulses, 50 g of Supercereal, 35 g of vegetable oil and 5 g of salt, thus 545 g of food items representing the equivalent 2,112 Kcal/days.



The Protection cluster led by UNHCR involves 17 actors to date; composed of UN agencies and local NGOs operating in South-West and North-West regions and who meet every two weeks in Buea.

In response to the protection concerns identified, the Protection cluster members have reported reaching 1,365 households, representing 2,126 people in need of protection services in NW/SW regions. While completing data entry to quantify the figures and response, this figure remains an initial one. Beneficiaries have benefited from management identification and referral of protection cases, child-friendly spaces, distribution of dignity kits, and facilitation of access to civil status.



The Shelter and NFI general outlook for SW and NW regions is worrying, with a high percentage of the displaced population self-settled in the bush in rural areas and suffering from strong shelter needs. In urban areas, some IDPs are living in overcrowded and cramped conditions with host families or renting. The average rental agreements were not very formal before the crisis, and as a consequence, some displaced population are currently under a high risk of eviction. Some of the displaced populations informed their houses has been partially and severely damaged, many of them completely burnt.

The Shelter/NFI Cluster SW Cameroon was established in Buea in October and has 33 partners, most of them local NGOs working in SW regions. The Shelter/NFI Cluster (SC) Strategy has been designed and approved by the SC partners and the Strategic Advisory Group has been set up. The composition of the NFI kits has been harmonized within a Technical Working Group and approved by the rest of the members of the cluster. The shelter and NFI interventions done and planned by the partners are currently being mapped, which added to the Shelter and WASH Needs Assessment already planned will offer us a better understanding of the coverage and the gaps.

The key constraints highlighted by the Shelter Cluster partners are the access to the affected population, the limited information we are working with and the fluidity and unpredictability of the situation, which makes difficult to foresee the crisis evolution, therefore to imagine future scenarios and plan for mid-term interventions.

Another important constraint is the reluctance towards the approval of cash-based interventions. Considering the capacity of partners, that the markets are functioning and the demonstrated resilient abilities of the affected population, CBI seems could be a suitable modality for a big part of the response.

UNHCR distributed shelter materials in Konye, Meme division, to 300 Families (2,100 individuals) NRC reached 312 Families identified for NFI kit distributions in Mbonge Subdivision.



The WASH Cluster was established in Buea in November. The NW/SW regions are underdeveloped relative to national averages of WASH coverage before the crisis. The effect of the crisis on WASH have been significant.

In terms of water and sanitation access, assessments to date indicate a substantial reduction in access due to a breakdown of operations and Maintenance structures and supplies; physical damages to WASH infrastructures in conflict areas; movements of IDPs to urban / peri-urban areas, placing greater strain on existing WASH infrastructure, and financial strains on IDP households; and movements of IDPs into rural 'bush' areas with little or no WASH infrastructures. Therefore, the risk of WASH-related diseases has substantially increased, while access to health services has substantially decreased: assessments to date indicate limited hygiene awareness and sanitation access amongst affected populations, coupled with a large proportion of the affected population using unprotected water sources, and the closure of multiple health centers. These risks are likely to increase during the upcoming dry season, given the expectation that multiple surface water and spring sources will dry out.

The WASH response to date, has focused primarily on the distribution of essential water and hygiene NFIs amongst affected populations – limited distributions have occurred or are planned, primarily across the eastern areas of the NW/SW Regions when the opportunity allows.



Logistics

- Lack of consolidated information on available warehouses/storage locations, transport companies and physical access constraints impact the ability of the humanitarian community to take well-informed decisions in operational planning.
- Lack of coordination and reliable information slows down the response and is likely to create duplication of efforts and inflation of prices for service provision.

The Logistics Cluster is working to assess the needs of organizations to adjust its support. As per the initial assessment conducted by the Logistics Cluster, the following two activities are offered to humanitarian partners operating in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon:

- Provision of logistics coordination services to humanitarian actors. The service includes coordination meetings, sharing of logistics expertise and inter-cluster liaison.
- Provision information management support for the humanitarian community. Information Management products to be developed include logistics maps, access constraints maps, situation updates, logistics capacity assessments and meeting minutes.

A joint mission with OCHA, UNDSS and WFP was conducted on 24 November from Buea to Kumba to assess physical constraints in the road and warehousing capacity in Kumba. The Logistics Cluster has set up a webpage dedicated to the response where maps, operational updates and meeting minutes are being published: <https://logcluster.org/ops/cmr18a>



Access

OCHA is coordinating with partners in NW and SW to enable organizations better to access populations in need.

- In SW, OCHA set up an access working group to develop approaches to influence access. Using an Access Monitoring Tool to develop situational analysis it will support information sharing and capacity building and advocate relevant actors. The first meeting for a comparable mechanism for the NW was held.
- In NW, a scoping meeting was held to create an access working group. Partners shared challenges and discussed how best they could work together to share relevant information, expertise and operational approaches that would build their capacity to access affected populations.
- OCHA, in collaboration with UNDSS, led access and security assessment missions to 1) Tiko, Limbe and Idenau in Fako Division 2) Kumba in Meme Division 3) Bonadikombo and Tole in Fako division 4) Santa in Mezam division to improve capacity to support humanitarian operations.
- IOM has set up and deployed a survey for monitoring the IDPs situation in NW and SW. The exercise will begin in the coming days. A DTM coordinator will join the humanitarian team in Buea.

Gaps and Constraints

The ERP developed in May targeted 160,000 people, i.e. 100 per cent of IDPs identified. Today, there are 1,266 962 people in need, including 437,513 IDPs.

The current operations target 13 per cent of the PIN identified as part of the preparation of the HNO, this means 87 per cent gap.

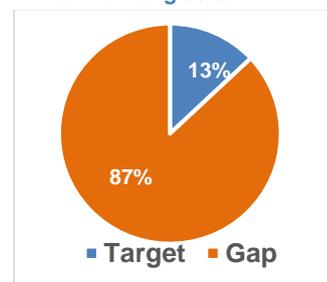
Similarly, for funding only about 35 per cent of the ERP budget is funded so far.

Few international humanitarian agencies are present in North-West and South-West. Other than the low funding, humanitarian's actors are also facing security constraints.

The security situation is challenging as hostilities continue and both state and non-state actors exert control, including through violence, over affected populations.

Perceived access constraints present a major obstacle to the response. Access while challenging, is feasible as local partners continue to demonstrate. Most international partners have so far date limited their activities to Buea and Bamenda. While ongoing hostilities present a major obstacle around Bamenda,

Graph 1 : People targeted by the ERP among actual PIN



international actors have been operational throughout Fako and in the South of Manyu divisions. Those with sufficiently robust risk management approaches have succeeded in accessing beyond these limits and movements have been possible in areas with the assent of both state and non-state actors. The situation remains tense, however, local partners continue to move throughout the NW and SW region but are often victim to acts of extortion committed by armed actors.

General Coordination

Humanitarian Coordination Forums have been established in Bamenda and Buea that meet on a bi-weekly. Seven clusters have been activated and six of the eight cluster coordinators of have been deployed to Buea in South-West from where they will cover both North and South-West regions.

The South-West region was the first to receive a presence of UN agencies and as such much of the UN and cluster coordination to date has taken place there. It will be important moving forward to ensure that parity of coordination support is implemented for the two regions. OCHA has committed to being present in Bamenda for two weeks every month, and support is being provided to Cluster Coordinators to ensure coverage of both regions. UNHCR, the first agency to set up a presence in North-West, conducted a scoping mission in November.

Two UN coordination meetings were held to discuss issues of mutual concern including how best to engaged with State actors. It was agreed that the UN agencies would meet every two weeks to share information and ensure consistent approaches, messages and engagement with local government. Of importance is a consistent understanding of the situation in South-West, humanitarian principles and engagement with the Government.

Two inter-cluster cluster coordination meetings for the SW was held. These discussed how best to contribute to the development of the Humanitarian Response Plan, terms of reference of the meeting and how best to issue joint communications and advocacy.

The coordinated visit of the regional directors to Buea on 14 November, aimed to draw wider attention to the crisis. The team discussed with the actors in the field and noted the extent of the needs and the various constraints. One of the resolutions, at the end of the visit, is to make the NW/SW crisis a Level 2 emergency. Discussions are underway between UN agencies to jointly implement this measure.

On the 12 November, the Prime Minister created a coordination structure call "CENTER" placed under the MINAT in Yaoundé with two branches organizing the functioning of a Center for the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance in North-West and South-West regions under the leadership of the Governors. Following that decision, the Governor of South-West region called a for a meeting with humanitarian actors and other stakeholders on 28 November. In his address to participants, the Governor insisted on the need to have well coordinate operations between the Government and humanitarian organizations.

Background on the crisis

The political entity of Kamerun was created by the protectorate signed in July 1884 between the German Government and the traditional chiefs Douala. After the first World War, Cameroon was placed under Franco-British protectorate. Southern Cameroon under British tutelage, corresponding today to the North-West and South-West regions, gained independence on 1 October 1961. Following the Fouban Agreements negotiated in July 1961, the federal State of Cameroon was born in October 1961. In May 1972, the process of unification led to the creation of the United Republic of Cameroon. The process ended in 1984 and the State became the Republic of Cameroon.

Between October and November 2016, administrative disputes turned into political demands in North-West and South-West regions. The resulting socio-political crisis has consequences for the civilian population due to the closure of schools, *ghost town* movement, the decline of economic activities, and armed violence resulting in numerous displacements of people (refugees in Nigeria and people internally displaced).

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