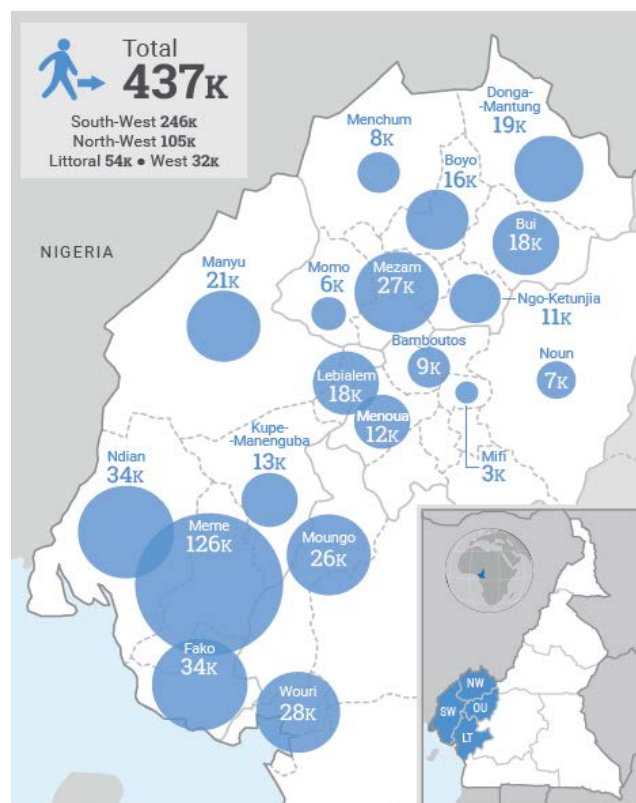


This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 1 – 31 December 2018. The next report will be issued in February.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Since late 2017, long-running tensions in Cameroon’s North-West and South-West regions have escalated. With the proliferation of armed groups and deployment of defense forces, the crisis has increasingly shifted into armed conflict.
- More than 1,200 cases of civilian protection rights violations have been registered, mainly involving physical abuse or threats, and lack of legal protection.
- The humanitarian situation of the affected population has fast deteriorated. Insecurity and violence have forced more than 400,000 people to flee their homes and continue to have serious consequences on livelihoods and living conditions.
- Around 351,000 IDPs and 372,000 people in the host community need water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- Many of the conflict-hit population are suffering severe emotional stress. About 3,700 unaccompanied or separated children need urgent assistance and psycho-social care.
- More than 40 per cent of clinics and health centres no longer provide vaccinations, less than 15 per cent of births are assisted by skilled attendants.
- An Emergency response plan has been developed in May 2018 targeting 160,000 people. Eight clusters have been activated in October. By the end of 2018, the plan was only 40% per cent funded.
- The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon is being finalised. Planning workshops were held in Buea and Bamenda to ensure appropriate reflection of the crisis in the North-West and South-West in the national level plan
- In December WFP provided food for 29,000 IDPs in Meme division in South-West region, the first large-scale distribution since the crisis erupted.



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.

**4M**

People affected

**1.3M**

People in need

**160,000**

People targeted

**437,500**

Internally displaced

**500,000**

People in need in host communities

**330,000**

Other people in need

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

#### Context

Socio-political issues in and about the anglophone region of Cameroon have been a matter of contention throughout the post-colonial period. Political protests intensified in 2016. After months of protests against perceived marginalisation, violence erupted in North-West and South-West prompting security clampdowns. With the proliferation of non-state armed groups and deployment of defence forces, the crisis has increasingly shifted into armed conflict. Since late 2017,

increased insecurity, violence and loss of life have forced thousands of families to flee their homes. Many civilians have been killed and displacement continues to have serious consequences on livelihoods and living conditions of the affected populations.

Vulnerability has been further compounded by limited access to education for children due to a ban and attacks on schools by the armed groups. The crisis further worsened from mid-2018 due to increased hostilities ahead of the presidential election. Movements are restricted in the two regions due to a curfew in the North-West, a “No Movement” declaration by non-state actors and the increase of both official and informal checkpoints.

### **Security**

Insecurity in the affected regions remains high, with continuing armed attacks and confrontations between the military and armed groups. In early December, troops clashed with armed elements in Momo, Ndonga, Bui and Ngoketunjia divisions in North-West resulting in fatalities and destroyed vehicles. In the South West, incidents of shooting were reported in Muyuka and Ekona, linked to increased presence of armed groups.

The hostilities also claimed civilian lives, with commercial vehicle drivers killed in armed raids and civilian casualties in subsequent military operations. On 6 December, a former aid worker with an international NGO died of gunshot wounds sustained in crossfire. Abductions continue to be a concern, a prominent lawyer and Catholic priests were kidnapped and later released in Munyenge and Bamenda towns.

The use of IEDs has been reported in the two regions. Two explosive devices were detected and detonated, but a third destroyed a vehicle belonging to the security forces as it was being defused.

Several violent incidents against authorities were reported in the second half of December. The home of the Government’s appointee for a proposed DDR initiative, Francis Fai Yengo, was burned down. On 31 December, the convoy of the North-West region governor was ambushed as it made its way from a church near Bamenda town.

During the last week of December, the village of the incoming prime minister was attacked and burnt in the South-West region. The event occurred few days before its appointment.

### **Political**

Little political progress has been made to resolve the conflict. The ‘Anglophone General Conference’ set to discuss the crisis on 21 November was postponed with no new date announced. The conference organizers appealed to the Government to negotiate with the separatist groups to disarm, but no such talks have been held.

A stay-home protest continues to be observed every Monday in the main towns of the two regions. Violence and political activities ticked up during the 2 November start of the trial of Sisiku Julius Ayuk Tabe, a separatist leader arrested in January 2018 in Nigeria and deported to Cameroon, and nine others. The case was adjourned to February.

A presidential decree was issued for a DDR process for North-West, South-West and North regions, and Yengo named to spearhead it. Critics say the DDR commission can do little to help resolve the crisis. On 13 December, the president halted the prosecution of 289 detained separatists from the two anglophone regions.

On 13 December, the United States, Sweden and the UK communicated their disquiet at the ongoing conflict following the presentation of the 15th report of the UN Secretary General on the situation in Central Africa before the Security Council, the US calling for an immediate end to violence without preconditions.

### **Humanitarian**

The violence has uprooted 437,500 people from their homes and forced over 32,000 to seek refuge to neighbouring Nigeria. Humanitarian organizations are striving to step up presence in the conflict-hit regions since launching a response plan in May 2018 targeting 160,000 people. However, armed fighting and insecurity is a prominent impediment to provide assistance as well as a barrier for those in need to reach areas where they can receive aid.

The majority of the displaced are women and children. Food, shelter and civilian protection are the principal humanitarian needs, although across all sectors needs are high. Many of the conflict-affected people are growing more vulnerable as

the violence persists and humanitarian assistance remains inadequate. The humanitarian community is finalising the 2019 response plan to shore up assistance.

WFP, UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR have declared a Level 2 emergency owing to the worsening humanitarian situation in the two regions.

The humanitarian community has developed an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) earlier this year; in parallel the government had also initiated a humanitarian plan. Deployment of humanitarian actors continues in the field.

## FUNDING

As of 7 January, 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.

### Cameroon : ERP 2018 - North-West and South-West

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.

#### ERP funding (amount in US\$ million)

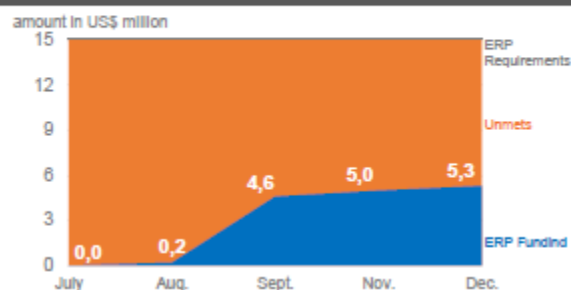
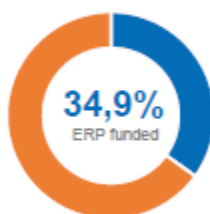
Requirements	\$	15,2
Funding	\$	5,3
Unmet	\$	9,9

#### Funding outside of ERP

Contributions	\$	-
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#### Financement humanitaire total

Contributions	\$	5,3
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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](mailto:fts@un.org)

The Displacement Tracking Matrix will report in early January providing detailed information on IDP locations and updated numbers.

A qualitative survey on WASH and Shelter needs was expanded to include considerations relevant to other clusters and implemented in North-West and South West as well as areas of Littoral and West regions where IDPs have fled to.

## GENERAL COORDINATION

The Ministry of Territorial Affairs is setting up the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Centre decreed by the prime minister on 21 November. North-West and South-West governors have initiated regional coordination centres based in Buea and Bamenda. Government officials discussed with humanitarian actors the priorities and modalities of coordinated field operation. The humanitarian community has agreed on a joint approach to ensure upholding of humanitarian principles while delivering urgently needed assistance.

A Common Operating Dataset has been finalised and an inter-cluster capacity mapping developed and shared with partners. An Access Working Group was formalized following on from previous discussions, and partners expressed the wish for more coordination support in this area led by OCHA.

The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon is being finalised. Planning workshops were held in Buea and Bamenda to ensure appropriate reflection of the crisis and humanitarian operations to be implemented in 2019 in the national level plan. The workshops discussed cluster approaches and cross-cutting issues such as access and security, partnership, communications and advocacy, cash and vouchers, as well as gender mainstreaming.

Seven clusters have been activated and six cluster coordinators have already been deployed to Buea from where they will cover both North-West and South-West regions.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### Food Security

The cluster held its first meetings in Buea on 6 December and in Bamenda on 13 December. Areas of operation, volume and type of food assistance were identified and mapped. The Cluster coordinator is expected to arrive in January 2019.

Training for Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) is planned to take place during the first week in January 2019 in Buea for more than 60 persons on topics related to food security, nutrition and market analysis.

Data collection is planned for the first half of January and a total of 800 households (400 IDP and 400 hosts/locals), 200 children aged 6-59 months and 13 markets are planned to be surveyed in NW and SW. The data analysis will immediately follow the data collection and the preliminary results are expected by the end of January 2019. Mobile VAM is in progress supported by RBD in the South West region since the beginning of December. Data collection for food security component in the West and Littoral regions is completed but continues in the North West and South West regions. In total, 1,234 households (out of 1600) have already been surveyed

Food distributions started in Meme division of South-West region for a planned 50,000 beneficiaries. WFP has provided 29,000 IDPs with food near Kumba, and another 21,000 IDPs in Meme division are to receive food assistance. It is the first large-scale food distribution in the South-West region since the crisis erupted. WFP response previously focused on accessible IDPs in the bordering West and Littoral regions, where over 21,500 IDPs have benefited from food distributions.

### Health

The first Health cluster meeting took place in both regions in December with participation of 17 organizations in each region, most of them small to medium size local organizations including faith-based health providers. The key issues on needs and response for the HRP 2019 plan were discussed as well as ways of working between MoH and the health cluster.

More than 40 per cent of 257 health facilities in South-West and 348 health facilities in North-West no longer provide vaccination services and less than 15 per cent of births are assisted by skilled attendants.

Disease surveillance has come to a standstill in most health districts in both regions.

To cover the priority health needs, services that need to be stepped up include:

- Mobile clinics with vaccination services and ANC and referral system (standard SoP and package of services).
- Increase the number of community health workers to scale up coverage and access to healthcare (standard package of services, selection, training and remuneration).
- Train and equip community health workers to carry out surveillance where MoH systems collapsed.
- Presence of experienced health partners is limited in both regions as little funding is available, and insecurity is impeding access.
- Updated information needed on functionality of health structures where IDP are settled to focus response to the areas most in need.

### Nutrition

The nutrition situation of displaced persons and host communities affected by the conflict is of concern. While no recent assessment has been carried out, primarily due to difficulties in accessing the affected populations, it is estimated that more than 111,000 girls and boys under the age of 5 years and 24,000 pregnant and lactating women are vulnerable. Population displacement will complicate access to adequate and appropriate foods including suboptimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Limited access to health services including water hygiene and sanitation will increase acute malnutrition.

UNICEF and WFP have committed to support the emergency nutrition response in South-West and North-West regions. UNICEF aims to conduct a rapid nutrition assessment (RNA), provide therapeutic nutrition supplies for SAM management, and capacity building on CMAM and IYCF-E. WFP intends to implement a Blanket Supplementary Feeding

Programme and support treatment of Moderate acute malnutrition including provision of supplies. This support will be provided through local partnership. Some partners have commenced nutrition screening and referrals.

The Nutrition cluster coordinator for North-West and South-West respond has been recruited and reported. The coordinator has held bilateral meetings with four key partners (UNICEF, WFP, ACF and IMC) in Yaoundé on the nutrition situation in the two regions. A follow up nutrition cluster meeting was set for 3 January 2019. Rapid nutrition assessment has been planned by UNICEF and WFP. WFP will integrate the nutrition screening (MUAC screening) in the rapid emergency food security assessment (EFSA) in the second week of January 2019. UNICEF is currently looking for local partners with nutrition capacity to help conduct RNA assessment.

## Protection

So far, 1,245 protection rights violations (physical and legal) have been recorded, pertaining to physical and legal protection domains.

Protection cluster members are completing data entry and needs assessment of displacement sites to provide, where accessible, an updated analysis on protection monitoring and trends affecting the displaced population and host communities.

The cluster coordinator is working with Child Protection and GBV AoRs to present the referral mechanisms for specific protection cases and protection services available.

For the coverage of displacement areas, the initial outcome of the 5W protection mapping of actors revealed actors are operating in five of South-Western region's six divisions - Fako, Meme, Manyu, Ndian and Lebialem.

Vulnerable population, such as children, are the first victims of the widespread violence and worsening of the living conditions. Their families and their protective environments have been disrupted, exposing them to risks of violations. They include unaccompanied and separated children, children victims of sexual exploitation or GBV violations, child labour and children directly involved with armed groups. Many also lack documentation, impeding access to services such as health or education and risk arbitrary detentions. Many children suffer from emotional stress requiring psycho-social support. About 3,700 unaccompanied or separated children need help.

Urgent assistance is needed to reissue documentation to displaced persons. Providing SGBV awareness, case management, psychosocial support, capacity building and training is also critical. Urgent assessments of the conditions of around 350,000 displaced people living in other communities in South-West and North-West is needed.

The Cluster visited Limbe locality in December to meet with the local actors and understand the effects of displacement as the area hosts a huge number of IDPs in communities.

The Cluster has included more than 37 organizations and is widely sharing protection guidance materials and media clippings with all protection and humanitarian actors. The Cluster coordinator is consulting with the two Area of Responsibilities Child Protection and GBV on the referral mechanism for specific protection cases and protection services available.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility initiated the coordination mechanism in December, including the launch of actors mapping. Three meetings were held in Buea and Bamenda in December drawing 50 organizations. Main discussion points were the humanitarian architecture and the child protection needs. Though several child protection organizations are present on the field, no clarity on achievements exist so far.

## Shelter

According to the Shelter Cluster partners, the destruction of houses continues, forcing people flee their villages. Markets, however, remain functional in most of areas.

Needs assessment is ongoing. The displaced who rented houses have run into difficulties paying rents. Coping mechanisms include sharing accommodation with families unable to pay rent, causing overcrowding and straining sanitary facilities and other services.



Shelter response is significantly delayed compared to NFI. The humanitarian organizations already responding are distributing light shelter kits (tarpaulins and rope, without tools). Partners are seeking ways to gain better access to the affected communities to continue the assistance.

North-West shelter and NFI assistance significantly lags South-West's. A Shelter & WASH joint needs assessment by REACH is ongoing in the two regions as well as in Littoral and West regions. The results are expected by the start of 2019.

The Shelter/NFI Cluster in South-West and North-West established a hub in Buea in October and in Bamenda in December.

The key constraints are limited access to the affected population, limited information and the fluid and unpredictable situation which complicates forward planning.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Around 351,000 IDPs and a 372,000 people in host or affected communities need WASH assistance.

Displaced people settled in their farms lack safe water access. Household water treatment is not common, and typically many people lack the means and knowledge to ensure safe environmental health practices. Displaced populations in villages and urban areas also have poor access to safe water due to water supply system damage and poor maintenance. Available water and sanitation infrastructure is thus stretched. This in turn can increase financial strains on affected households in urban areas and increase the use of unprotected water sources. Consequently, most displaced populations and their hosts are also facing an increased risk of WASH-related diseases.

WASH responses to date have primarily been through the distribution of items to enable safe health and hygiene practices among the affected populations. Some water supply service repairs are being undertaken or planned. While access constraints in a fluid security situation is a key constrain. There is local capacity to support distribution and more technical assistance.

## Logistics

The Cluster held its first coordination meetings in the South-West and North-West regions in December in Buea and Bamenda. Forty-five organizations participated. The meeting served as a forum to introduce the activities of the cluster and the type of support that can be provided to humanitarians responding to the crisis.

With input from local organizations, the Cluster continues to consolidate information on available transporters, available storage facilities and physical access constraints.

As the security situation remains volatile, transporting humanitarian cargo remains complicated, with limited and unpredictable access to certain locations.

Of the storage facilities assessed by the Logistics Cluster, few have sufficient capacity for humanitarian operations.

## Access

OCHA is coordinating with partners in North-West and South-West to enable better to access populations in need.

- In South-West, 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 with relevant actors.
- In North-West, a scoping meeting was held to create an access working group similar to the already established one in Buea. 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 Kumba.

## 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.

Only about 35 per cent of the ERP budget is funded so far.

- Access is difficult for humanitarian actors to reach the most vulnerable, or for the affected population to reach the needed services.
- Administrative measures imposed in both regions are yet to be lifted. There is sustained advocacy to reach a full understanding of humanitarian action that adheres to international standards and humanitarian principles.
- There is lack of reliable information on physical access constraints, transport capacity and upcoming cargo pipelines, a gap which could hinder the efficiency of the response. The volatile and unpredictable security situation hampers access to all locations of displaced persons and affected communities, particularly those hiding in remote areas and in the bush. Another important constraint is the reluctance to approve cash-based assistance. Considering the capacity of partners, functioning markets the affected population's resilience, CBI seems a suitable modality for a big proportion of the response. Advocacy with the authorities should be held to at least accept the use of vouchers.
- Little is known of the nutrition situation in the two regions since neither standard SMART survey nor a rapid nutrition assessment has been carried out. This is due to difficult access to the conflict-affected people – both IDPs and host population. The capacity of the national NGOs on nutrition related programming (Management of acute malnutrition, IYCF-E, nutrition surveillance including SMART survey methodology) is too weak to respond since the current nutrition crisis is a new phenomenon in the region. Some partners have not yet accessed funding to support the response in the regions and they are currently in discussion with donors.

Graph 1 : People targeted by the ERP among actual PIN

