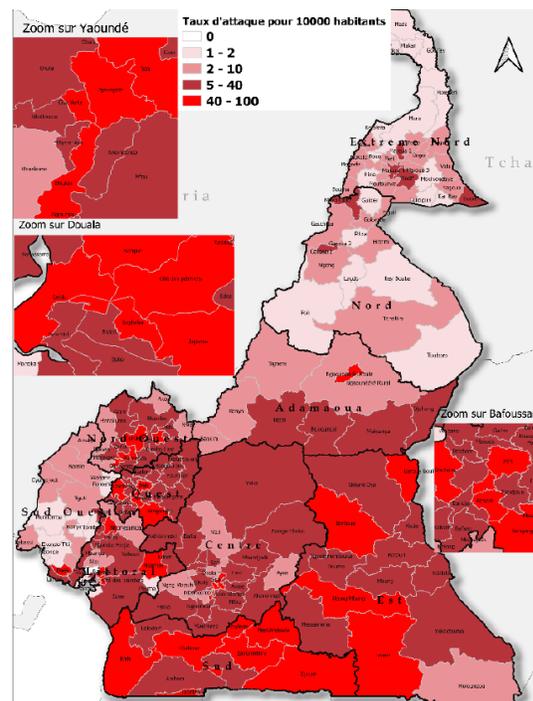


This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with the COVID-19 Task Force. It covers the period from 1 July to 31 August 2021. The next report will be issued in October 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the Minister of Public Health (MoH), the third wave of COVID-19 could occur in October 2021. He encouraged people to get vaccinated and continue to respect the barrier measures.
- The MoH alerted on the presence of the COVID-19 Delta variant in Cameroon.
- As of 25 August 2021, the MoH recorded 1,375 active cases in the country. Cameroon is the ninth African country in relation to the number of cumulative infections recorded since the beginning of the pandemic.
- As of 28 July 2021, 285,522 people have received the first dose of vaccine and 53,365 the second, which represent 38 per cent consumption of the received vaccines.
- Initial results of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey on the acceptability of the COVID-19 vaccine reveals that most of the respondents have a good knowledge of the pandemic (symptoms, people at risk, means of prevention, etc.). However, they are reluctant to take the vaccine because awareness is not primarily raised by health personnel and because of rumors and exposure to misinformation spread mainly on social networks.



Infection rate per 10,000 people  
Source: Cameroon COVID-19 n.84 (from 19 August to 26 August 2021)

**80,953**

Cumulative COVID-19 cases

**Source:**  
Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report 84 (from 17 June to 26 June 2021)

**1,872**

Active COVID-19 cases

**Source:**  
Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n. 84 (from 17 June to 26 June 2021)

**2,804**

Healthcare personnel infected

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n. 84 (from 17 June to 26 June 2021)

**1.8M**

Samples tested for COVID-19 (TDR+PCR)

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n. 84 (from 17 June to 26 June 2021)

**1.6%**

Fatality rate

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.84 (from 17 June to 26 June 2021)

**110,324**

Vaccine doses administered

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n. 84 (from 17 June to 26 June 2021)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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The number of new COVID-19 cases reported has slightly increased over the last three weeks (epidemiological weeks 31,32, and 33 of the year 2021). As of 25 August 2021, 368,478 samples had been analyzed by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) bringing the diagnosis rate to 13.6 per 1,000 inhabitants; and 541,421 samples had been tested by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) bringing the RDT diagnosis rate to 56.9 per 1,000 people.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoH) strengthened the vaccination campaign. Between 7 and 17 July, nearly 310,000 people received a dose of vaccine. 254,000 people received their first dose and 56,000 the second. Cameroonian authorities also announced that the Government will soon seize to support the treatment of people infected with COVID-19.

As of 29 July, the authorities maintained current COVID-19-related restrictions. Land and sea borders remained closed to international travel. However, freight transport via land and sea routes was likely to continue but would be subject to increased screening. Air borders also remain closed, but authorities had permitted several flights via Douala and Yaounde Nsimalen International Airports.

On behalf of the Minister of Public Health, Mr. Manaouda Malachie, the Secretary general of the MoH, Pr. Louis Richard Njock presided over the first edition of the Immunization Champion Awards 2021, organized by the MoH. In his statement, he recalled that the Immunization Champion Award was an opportunity for the Ministry of Public Health to recognize the contribution of individuals or legal entities to the improvement of health services in Cameroon through their work in the field of immunization. The award honors those who go above and beyond the call of duty to promote or support immunization.

On 8 July, Mr. Malachie Manaouda officially authorized the marketing of four improved traditional medicines (TAMs) to fight against COVID-19 on the local market, for three years. These are Adsak COVID/Elixir COVID, produced by the Archbishop of Douala, Samuel Kleda, Corocur powder by Euloge Yagnigni, Palubek's by Christine Bekono and Soudicov Plus by Imam Modibo.

On 21 July, the Cameroonian health authorities received 303,05 doses of Johnson& Johnson vaccine from the US and on 8 August, the government received 158,400 doses from the African Union / African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) as the first consignment supplied in collaboration with the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP).

On 14 August, the Pasteur Centre of Cameroun (CPC) announced that the COVID-19 Delta variant was present in Cameroon since May 2021, in the cities of Douala and Yaounde. Despite the relatively low number of sequenced samples, health authorities acknowledged they are having difficulty controlling the circulation of the Delta variant, which is more transmissible than the other variants, in the national territory.

### Gaps & constraints

- The COVID-19 vaccination rate in country is very low, 0.3 per cent of the targeted people are fully vaccinated.
- Lack of involvement of health personnel in COVID-19 vaccination sensitization campaign.
- The sensitization campaign on COVID-19 vaccination is not adapted to the profiles of the hesitant population and to their geographical location.

## CASE MANAGEMENT, INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

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### Needs:

- Preparedness measures to reduce the risk of a third wave.
- Need to reach out to the refugees who moved after receiving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in July and should already receive the second dose.
- Shortage of the two types of vaccines.

### Response:

- In August, the Center for the Coordination of Public Health Emergency Operations (CCOUSP) operational research unit conducted a COVID-19 related survey in all regions including 6,500 participants. The survey aimed to determine the level of people's immunity to COVID-19, estimate retrospective mortality due to the pandemic and measure vaccine hesitancy and its determinants.

- UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), reported 226 cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the refugee community, including 196 contracted in 2021. Between April and August 2021, 9,039 refugees, representing four per cent of the adult refugee population, received the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Screening activities at health facilities as of 25 August 2021

Region	Number of people tested	Number of positive cases	positivity rate (%)
Adamawa	4,376	80	1.83%
Centre	31,511	1,031	3.27%
East	2,263	90	3.98%
Far North	248	42	16.94%
Littoral	6,515	393	6.03%
North	1,501	91	6.06%
North-West	-	-	
West	1,355	65	4.80%
South	549	32	5.83%
South-West	1,104	34	3.08%
Total	49,422	1,858	3.76%

Source: Cameroon COVID-19 n.91 (from 19 August to 26 August 2021)

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Low vaccination coverage although the demand is rising after several awareness campaigns.
- Mobility of the population (new arrivals, displacement...).
- Lack of availability of vaccine doses in health centers far from health districts.
- Astra Zeneca and Sinopharm vaccines are out of stock.
- Lack of communication/awareness on preventive measures at the community level.
- Low monitoring and surveillance system for the pandemic.
- Challenges in maintaining the achievements and basic requirements: trained health care providers, appropriate health infrastructure, available hand washing points, medical equipment, etc.

### RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

#### Needs:

- Need to strengthen communication around COVID-19 vaccination.

## Response:

From 19 to 25 August, as part of the Africa CDC Master Card "Saving Lives and Livelihoods" project, the MoH and its partners, including UNICEF and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, implemented the following communication activities:

- Finalization of the communication material on COVID-19 vaccination, including audiovisual spots and microprogrammes, print materials, etc.
- Organization of a workshop to develop modules for the training of call center operators 1510.
- Administration of a survey on COVID-19 seroprevalence in the ten regions in August 2021.
- Development of an operational communication plan for the COVID-19 seroprevalence survey.

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