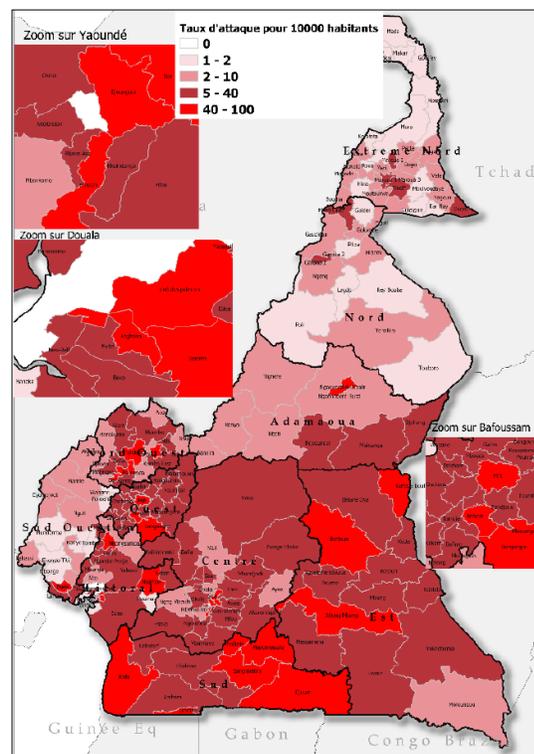


This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with the COVID-19 Task Force. It covers the period from 1 to 31 May 2021. The next report will be issued in July 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In May 2021, the Ministry of Public Health (MoH) recorded 4,788 new COVID-19 positive cases, including 158 deaths. With a case fatality rate of 1.6 per cent, Cameroon remains the 12<sup>th</sup> African country with the highest number of infections.
- The vaccination campaign continues in the health facilities selected by the Government. 63,404 people have been vaccinated, including 15,119 health personnel as of 2 June.
- The Cameroonian population is reluctant to receive COVID-19 vaccine. An internal Enlarged Programme for Immunization (EPI) survey found that 37 per cent of doctors and medical staff are not willing to receive any vaccine, questioning its reliability.
- On 28 April, the United Nations launched the COVID-19 vaccination campaign within at the UN Clinic for personnel and dependents of the UN agencies and NGOs. A total of 361 staff members and dependents received their first dose as of 28 May.
- A Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey, was conducted by UN COVID-19 Task force, from 15 April to 5 May among UN agencies and NGO staff and their dependents on COVID-19 vaccines, revealed that staff members and dependents are well informed about the vaccines.
- NRC conducted Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities in the Far North, in Logone et Chari, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga divisions, North West and South West regions, entailing awareness raising and sensitization on COVID-19 prevention.



Infection rate per 10,000 people  
**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

**79,521**

COVID-19 cases

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021) and WHO

**4,140**

Active cases

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

**2,788**

Health care personnel infected

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

**1.7M**

Samples tested for COVID-19 (TDR+PCR)

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

**1.6%**

Fatality rate

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

**63,404**

People vaccinated

**Source:** Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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For the first time since the first COVID-19 case was reported in Cameroon in March 2020, the epidemiological curve is decreasing. To date, the country has an average of 135 new infections per day. On 8 April, more than 890 positive cases, representing the highest average number of daily infections was reported. In comparison, the Ministry of Public Health (MoH) recorded only about 4,500 new positive cases in May. The curve is also falling within the United Nations System and NGOs with 10 positive cases reported in May compared to 114 in March and 80 in April.

The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) diagnostic rate is 11.4 per cent per 1,000 inhabitants (309,156 samples analyzed in May) and the Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) rate is 52.1 per cent per 1,000 population (1,409,781 samples tested).

The vaccination campaign is underway. According to an Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) report, 90 per cent of those who are going to be vaccinated in the approved centers are people from other nationalities living in Cameroon. Despite the recent extension of vaccination to people aged 18 and over, many Cameroonians hold on to conspiracy theories and remain reluctant to be vaccinated.

The issue of vaccine safety seems to have remained an ongoing stumbling block. According to experts, the Government needs to improve communication about the vaccination campaign. Social communication experts think that in order to instill confidence in people, it would be important to use opinion leaders to influence people's convictions about the vaccine. Within the humanitarian community and UN agencies, the UN COVID-19 Task force KAP survey also concluded that people providing information so far, administration and politicians, are not credible in the eyes of the UN and NGO staff, which may explain the low mobilization for vaccines.

### Gaps & constraints

Despite the communication strategy elaborated by the Ministry of Public Health and its partners on the vaccination against COVID-19, mobilization of people is limited. The multiple-dose vaccines discourage recipients and there is a general lack of follow-up and mobilization strategy for the second dose of the vaccine.

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

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### Needs:

- Need to strengthen capacity for COVID-19 surveillance in refugee camps and at the border health posts.
- Need to strengthen capacity for surveillance of Adverse Events Following immunization (AEFI) throughout the country.

### Response:

In order to accelerate the detection of serious and unknown adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines, the MoH has set up a Green line to allow for immediate and priority reporting of these adverse reactions. For further information, please call 1510 or go to [covid19.minsante.cm](https://covid19.minsante.cm)

The Ministry of Public Health prepared the final application for the new Global Fund financing request, within the framework of the national response to COVID-19 during a workshop in Douala, from 8 to 11 June 2021.

MoH and UNHCR organized a training workshop for health facilities on management of mass influx of refugees in the context of COVID-19. The training took place from 31 May to 3 June 2021, in Garoua Boulai, East Region with the participation of health personnel from the East, Adamawa, North and Far-North regions. In May 2021, NRC trained some 69 hygiene promoters in 25 communities, including 40 males and 29 females and distributed 60 handwashing stations to schools in 10 communities of the North-West and South-West regions.

To cope with the reluctance of the population to be vaccinated, the Ministry of Public Health has:

- Elaborated and disseminated tools allowing people who volunteered for vaccination to be registered and to have reliable information on the subject.
- Set-up a platform for exchange and information on social networks, animated in real time by the Enlarged Immunization Programme team.

## Screening activities in schools and universities

Regions	Teachers			Students		
	Numbers tested	Positives	% Positivity rate	Numbers tested	Positives	% Positivity rate
Adamaoua	1,950	53	2.7	14,910	194	1.3
Centre	982	7	0.7	13,920	387	2.8
East	1,362	33	2.4	10,189	340	3.3
Far -North	1,764	34	1.9	7,320	67	0.9
Littoral	5,270	51	1.0	5,868	564	9.6
North	1,668	22	1.3	3,562	104	2.9
North West	3,015	26	0.9	4,450	298	6.7
West	3,841	243	6.3	15,645	507	3.2
South	5,703	67	1.2	13,259	321	2.4
South-West	1,723	18	1.0	4,827	130	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,278</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>93,950</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>3.1</b>

Source: Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.77 (from 27 May to 2 June 2021)

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- No strategy developed for school vacations supporting the decrease in COVID-19 cases
- Poor compliance with barrier measures in schools.

**RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)****Needs:**

- Need of financial resources for the implementation of the 2021 RCCE COVID-19 Response Plan.

**Response:**

- Considering the reluctance to take the second dose of the vaccine with 85 per cent refusal rate recorded at the Center for the Coordination of Public Health Emergency Operations (CCOUSP), the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Group (RCCE), in collaboration with the CCOUSP, organized a meeting to develop strategies to mobilize people who have taken the first dose of vaccine to take the second.
- MoH and the Association Camerounaise pour le Dialogue Interreligieux (ACADIR), in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, launched the Central Africa Hub COVID-19, calling “Christians and Muslims to fight together against Coronavirus” through sensitizations and community engagement.
- MoH and the Conseil des Imams et Dignitaires Musulmans du Cameroun (CIDIMUC), in partnership with UNICEF, engaged Imams and Muslim Dignitaries for the vaccination of their community through the launch of the Imams vaccination campaign in the Centre region.

- Ministry of Communication and Ministry of Public Health, in partnership with UNICEF, organized a media awareness campaign on COVID-19 in Kalak FM Radio and Magic FM.
- MoH in partnership with UNICEF, WHO, CDC, IFRC followed-up on the implementation of the COVID-19 socio-anthropological survey in five regions: Centre, West, Littoral, North-West and South-West.
- MoH and the Cameroon Association of Bloggers (ABC), with the support of UNICEF, launched a digital communication strategy with emphasis on the analysis and treatment of feedback collected through social media.
- UNESCO trained 120 journalists from 10 regions on handling COVID-19 information and techniques to contain rumors.
- UN-Habitat organized focus group discussions on COVID-19 with vulnerable groups (Elderly, women, the chronically ill and people living with a disability) and trained volunteers to support COVID-19 outreach activities in Bafoussam, Douala and Yaounde precarious quarters.
- NRC implemented awareness raising sessions on hygiene and COVID-19 prevention targeting 27,367 people. The organization also carried out house to house sensitization activities on prevention reaching 8,000 households with 17,692 males and 18,162 females in 25 communities in the North-West and South-West regions. They also distributed COVID-19 prevention kits to 7,150 households, reaching 21,813 males and 22,484 females in 25 other communities in the same regions.

#### **Gaps & Constraints:**

- There is a need for funding for COVID-19 vaccination communication activities.

### **OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS**

#### **Needs:**

- Need for a clear strategy to deal with the expiration in August of the AstraZeneca vaccines received by the Government of Cameroon under the COVAX initiative.

#### **Response:**

At the logistics group meeting held on 26 May WFP debriefed about the medical logistics training workshops organized in March 2021. The purpose of these workshops was to strengthen the capacities of the MoH staff on medical logistics, especially the new specificities and constraints induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The main recommendation was to reinforce collaboration with the Direction of Civil Protection in order to strengthen preparation measures for public health emergencies.

#### **Gaps & Constraints:**

- Health personnel are not equipped to deal with health emergencies that arise in the country.

**For further information, please contact:**

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For more information, please visit <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/cameroon/covid-19>