

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 1 November – 31 December 2019. The next report covering the month of January will be issued in February.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- School attendance improved from 4% in September to 38.49% by November.
- Health actors continue to respond to the cholera outbreak in Bakassi with the number of cases rapidly reducing after a comprehensive vaccination campaign.
- 161,271 individuals were reached with WASH activities in November and December.
- 17,900 children benefitted from Psychosocial Support Services through Child Friendly/Safe Spaces in November and December.
- 62 children diagnosed with SAM and 542 diagnosed with MAM in November

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- 250,274 people benefitted from food and livelihood assistance.
- 81,546 people received Shelter support.
- 92,271 people received NFI support.



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.

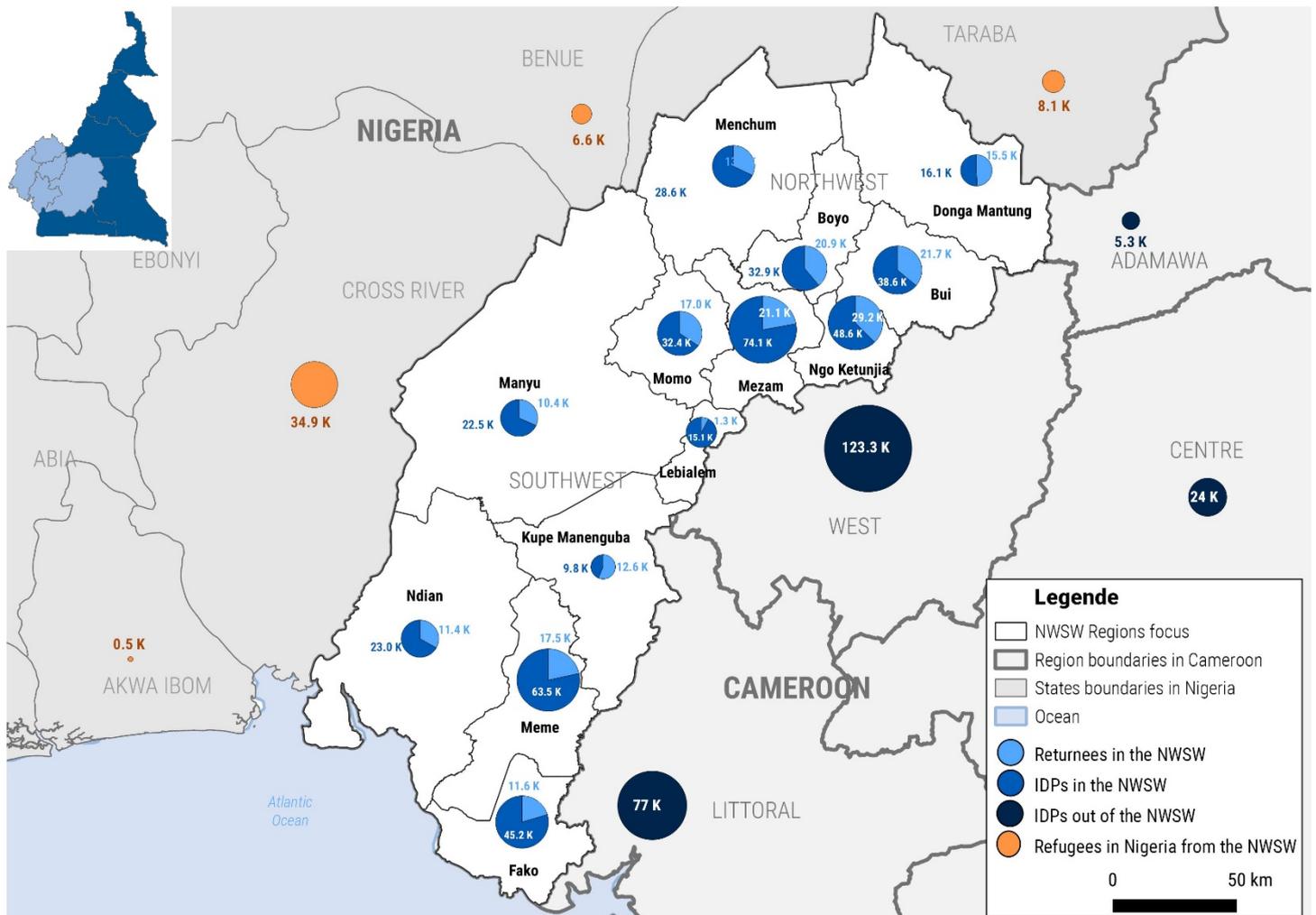
<p>1.3M affected people</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Need Overview 2019</i></p>	<p>820K targeted for assistance</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Response Plan 2019</i></p>	<p>679K internally displaced (IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in North-West and South-West Region in August 2019, OCHA</i> <i>MIRA in Mayo-Banyo (Adamaoua) in July 2019, OCHA, MINAT and partners</i> <i>MIRA in West and Littoral Regions in October 2019, OCHA, MINAT and partners</i> <i>MIRA in Mfoundi and Mefou-et-Afamba Division (Centre) in October 2019, OCHA, CHOI and MINAT</i></p>	<p>204K Returnees (former IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in North-West and South-West Region in August 2019, OCHA</i></p>	<p>52K Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources: <i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian Refugees as of December 2019, UNHCR</i></p>
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SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian

As of November 2019, approximately 680,000 Cameroonians are now displaced inside the country (IDPs) due to the volatile and insecure situation in the North West and South West regions and 52,000 additional people have sought refuge in neighboring Nigeria.

Map of IDP, Returnees and Refugees from the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon



Source: OCHA, UNHCR, IOM

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More recently, the humanitarian situation in the North-West and South-West (NW/SW) regions of Cameroon remains challenging as fighting between the Cameroon military forces and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), particularly in the NW, intensifies in approach of the 2020 parliamentary and local elections.

Displacement has increased over the past eight weeks. In November confrontations between the parties caused the displacement of more than 1,000 persons in the Kupe-Manenguba and Lebialem divisions (SW) and Momo and Ngo-Ketunjia divisions (NW) and in December a further 10,000 persons were recorded as displaced in the Momo, Mezam, Boyo, Ngo-ketunjia, Donga-Mantung and Bui divisions (NW) and the bordering Bamboutos division of the West Region. The

civilian population continues to be deeply affected by the crisis being regularly caught in cross-fire in addition to restrictions on movement, numerous official and unofficial checkpoints as well as arbitrary arrest, killing and maiming commonplace. The pattern of displacement is complex to track on weekly basis, with many people moving temporarily into bush areas when violence erupts and returning thereafter.

The number of people affected and targeted by humanitarian assistance in 2020 will be adjusted in the humanitarian response plan 2020, taking into account the needs caused by the increased displacement.

Despite the deterioration of the situation, the increase in school attendance since September 2019 is positive. However, it highlights the growing divide in access to basic services for those displaced in urban areas, primarily in the SW, and those displaced in rural and hard to reach areas. The cholera outbreak in the SW, which is so far limited to areas not affected by the conflict is still of significant concern given the lack of access to healthcare for large numbers of IDPs. Once the current outbreak is over the emphasis will need to be placed on prevention of future outbreaks in the regions. There are few resources available for data collection related to malnutrition however there is growing evidence of pockets of malnutrition in hard to reach areas due to the erosion of food security coping mechanisms.

Humanitarian activities are expected to be impacted during the upcoming election period due to safety related restrictions of humanitarian movement. The humanitarian community has been also recently victim to a rise of violence targeting its own staff and operations. On 31 November, allegedly a non-State armed group (NSAG) abducted an aid worker in Watt (NW) working for a local NGO implementing projects on behalf of the UN agencies. According to witness, he was killed a few hours after his abduction. The Humanitarian Coordinator issued a statement condemning the killing. Another humanitarian worker was arrested in Ekona Yard (SW) on 24 December and his body was later found with evidence of torture.

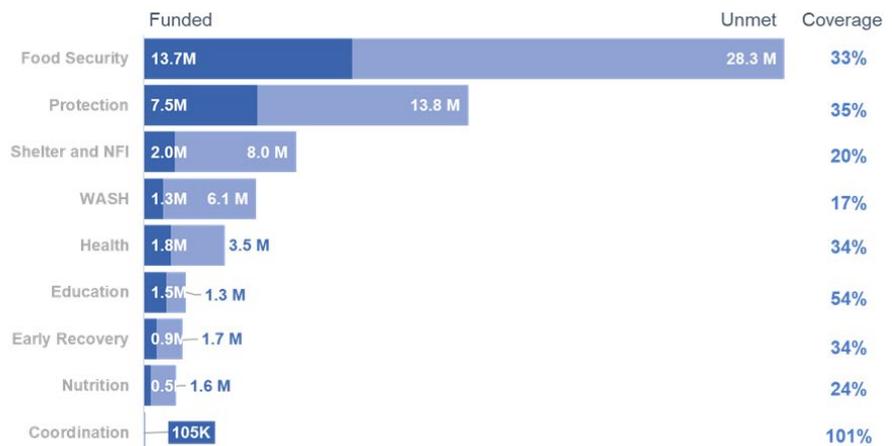
In this context, humanitarian actors are redoubling their efforts to promote humanitarian principles and ensure full transparency in all of their activities. These principles are central to establishing and maintaining access to affected populations and promoting their protection. The four guiding principles are Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality and Independence.

FUNDING

Cameroon 2019 NW-SW Crisis
US\$ 93.5 million requested



Funding by sector (in million US\$)
As of 31 December 2019



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 COORDINATION

The implementation of the international humanitarian assistance plan in the NWSW regions is carried out within the framework of periodic consultations between representatives of the authorities and national/international humanitarian

organizations under the auspices of OCHA. OCHA had regular coordination meetings throughout November and December in NWSW with the Humanitarian Coordination Centre (HCC) and the Offices of the Governor. Likewise, OCHA plays a major role in the access strategy for humanitarian organisations ensuring full transparency in humanitarian programming. OCHA led Access Working Group meetings in Buea and Bamenda in November and December. In November and December OCHA led access missions in the NW to Nkambe, Kumbo, Ndop, Bamessi, Bambui and Bambili and in the SW access missions were conducted regularly to Mamfe and Kumba

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

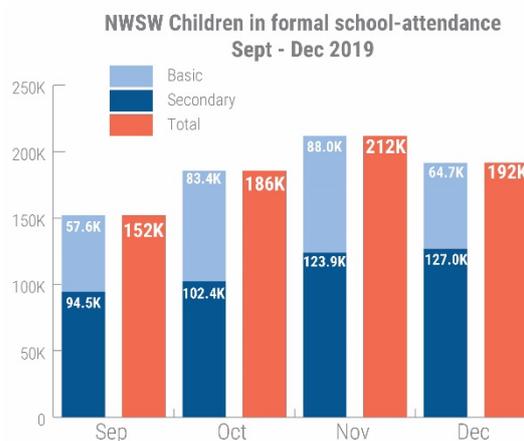
Education

The first term of the 2019-2020 academic year in Cameroon ended in December. During this term, access to formal education increased in the NWSW compared to the past two academic years.

School attendance increased from 152,034 in September to 211,909 in November. In December, school attendance slightly decreased to 191,670.

The general increase is attributable to reopening of public schools in urban areas of the NWSW and increased safety for children and teachers to access public schools in those areas. By December 2019, 17 % of schools were functional and 29% of teachers reported to work.

Children in rural and NSAG-dominated areas face difficulties accessing quality education. Regional and divisional authorities have banned community-run learning centers. This prevents many people from accessing education.



38.5%

school attendance improved from September (4%) to November 2019

17%

of school were functional from September to December 2019

29%

of teacher reported at work from September to December 2019

In December, Education Cluster partners distributed teaching and learning materials. They also gave tests through radio programmes and trained teachers.

Food Security

As violence rises, the food security situation remains uncertain. An increase in displacement will increase the need for urgent food assistance.

Food security and livelihood partners reached 88% of the Cluster 2019 HRP target. As of December 2019, 27 partners collectively assisted 250,274 people in 2019. More information and response figures on food security assistance provided in December can be found [online](#).

The crisis remains underfunded, leaving most communities unreached with food and livelihood assistance. Only 8% of the 2019 beneficiaries (20,589 people) received agriculture and livelihood support. The other 92% (229,685 beneficiaries) received food assistance through in-kind, cash and voucher modalities.

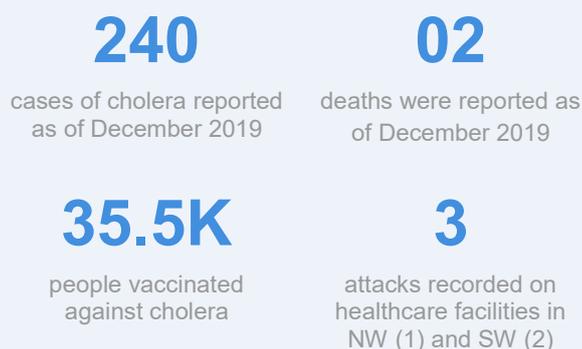
250K

people assisted with food security and livelihood activities in NWSW in 2019

Health

Attacks on health facilities and workers continued in late 2019. In December, health actors recorded three attacks on healthcare facilities in Ekondo-Titi (SW), Idenau (SW) and BuaBua (NW). These attacks has led to many health institutions closing or limiting operations. Limited number of health facilities and personnel has contributed to unsafe abortions, poor antenatal care and lack of medical care for survivors of rape. In December, through partners, UNFPA provided clean delivery kits to 929 pregnant women and treated 39 women for miscarriages and abortion-related complications. They provided clinical services to 11 rape survivors.

The cholera crisis in the Bakassi Health District reached its peak in early December with 24 cases per day. Up to 240 cases (and two deaths) were reported in December. As of 30 December, a total of 380 cases and 16 deaths were reported. Partners set up oral rehydration points, a robust surveillance system/contact tracing, a referral system and vaccinated 35,502 persons against cholera. These have reduced the number of cases of cholera. To enhance the response, in November, WHO set up a temporary Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in Bakassi in advance of Doctors Without Borders establishing a bigger capacity CTC for case management and referrals.



Nutrition

The drivers of malnutrition (food insecurity, sub-optimal childcare and feeding practices, morbidity, lack of safe water, poor sanitary conditions and repeated internal displacement) deteriorated in 2019 and are expected to worsen in 2020. Food insecurity and household livelihoods have worsened due to reduced food production, reduced prices in rural areas, increased prices in urban areas (30 to 50 percent higher) and decline in food consumption as a coping strategy in most households. IDPs and the urban poor are exposed to acute food insecurity crisis (IPC 3) due to loss of income and low humanitarian assistance. The number and coverage of Nutrition Cluster partners is too low to offer comprehensive data. However, as an example of the worsening situation, BERUDA, a local NGO, conducted a MIRA assessment in Wum (NW) with the results showing an increase in malnutrition cases.



Partners conducted a screening in their programme areas in the NWSW in November. Preliminary data from this exercise shows that out of 6,462 children aged 6-59 months screened for acute malnutrition, 62 (1.0%) were diagnosed with SAM and 542 (8.0%) were diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). This is higher than the previous figure which stood at 62 and 490 for SAM and MAM respectively. The relatively low number of identification of cases with acute malnutrition is due to the very low coverage of nutrition partners in NW (2) and SW (4). So far, approximately 17% (415) out of the 2,500 estimated SAM caseloads for 2019 have accessed treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

Protection

The security situation in the NWSW is deteriorating. The threats surrounding the upcoming municipal and legislative elections in Cameroon make protection monitoring more challenging. The killing of a humanitarian aid worker in Donga-Mantung (NW) highlights the precarious situation to which field monitors are exposed. The UNHCR/INTERSOS protection monitoring only covers seven out of the 13 administrative divisions of the NWSW due to a lack of funding.



In 2019, UNHCR and INTERSOS recorded 8,967 protection incidents. Women were more affected with 63.4% of the incidents against 36.6% for men. Main protection problems were homicide, torture, inhumane treatment, destruction of

houses, SGBV, impeding on the right to own property, documentation and incidents falling under the right to physical integrity.

Child Protection

Child protection actors reported an increase in the number of adolescent boys leaving armed groups. They also documented several cases of arbitrary arrests and detention targeting adolescent boys suspected of having links with NSAGs. There are limited resources to support them. Due to limited capacity, partners only carry out limited life-saving services.

17.9K

children benefitted from psychosocial support

3

times increased of the number of UASC cases between November and December 2019

60%

of UASC cases followed up in December 2019 are girls

Family separation is a major child protection concern in the NWSW. Partners identified at least eight Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) in November. The number of cases of UASC that partners followed-up in December (544 cases, 60% of them girls), was almost three times more than cases they followed up in November (190 cases).

The Child Protection response remains underfunded in the NWSW regions. Communities continue to develop negative mechanisms to cope with the worsening humanitarian conditions. Partners reported that some communities are forcing their adolescent girls to abort as a solution to unwanted pregnancies from NSAGs and/or unknown fathers.

In November, partners reached more than 11,000 children with Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) through Child Friendly/Safe Spaces. This is 1,000 more compared to October. However, this number dropped by 37% in December with partners only reaching 6900 children with PSS in child friendly/safe spaces and Psychosocial Support Units (PSSUs) due to rising insecurity and movement related to the Christmas period.

Clashes between government security forces and NSAGs impeded on child protection work as partners had difficulties accessing vulnerable children in several areas.

GBV Area of Responsibility

Women and girls continue to be vulnerable and exposed to gender based violence. GBV partners commemorated the 16 days of activism in Buea and Bamenda reaching more than 30,000 people in different locations with sensitization activities.

In November, the GBV AoR partners in NWSW documented 109 GBV cases. Out of the 109, seven were rape cases, six were survival sex, 56 were physical assault and 40 were documented as denial of resources. The number of recorded rape cases increased in December. Partners provided Psychosocial First Aid to 2,458 people in November. They provided case management services to survivors.

There is an increase in women-headed households due to men increasingly abandoning their families. Partners sensitised 30,124 persons on GBV through radio channels, educative dialogue sessions for women and girls, school interactive sessions and in churches. Partners also distributed dignity kits to women and girls in the NWSW. Partners offered life skills trainings to vulnerable women including survivors of Gender-based violence.

UN Women launched a Safe Space in Bamenda (NW) for temporal security of GBV survivors. This will serve as an entry point to case management.

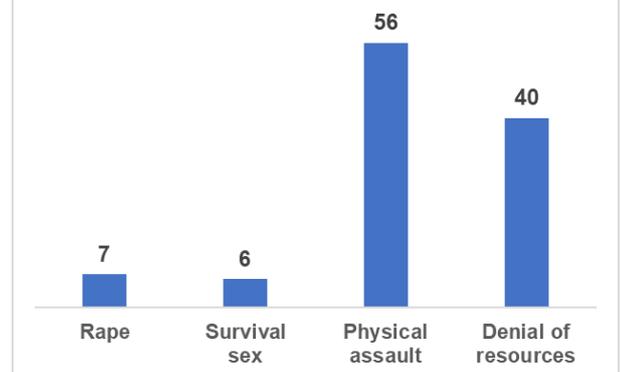
2.6K

dignity kits distributed to women and girls in November

109

GBV cases documented in November 2019

GBV cases in November 2019



Shelter

Parties to the conflict continue to burn houses in the NWSW, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. This increases shelter and NFI needs. In urban settlements like Kumba (SW) there are reports of landlords evicting IDP tenants who cannot pay monthly rents. This is leading to multiple displacement in search of shelter.

The Shelter Cluster members have agreed on the need to implement cash-based interventions (CBI) in the NWSW. However, for now partners distribute in kind. In December, partners provided shelter to 1,932 people and NFIs to 3,845 people. In total, partners have provided shelter to 81,546 people and NFIs to 92,271 people in 2019.

81.5K

People respectively received Shelter support in 2019

92.2K

People respectively received NFI support in 2019

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The WASH situation in the NWSW continues to deteriorate. In some areas where Municipal Councils used to manage potable water taps, communities now depend on streams. The dry season makes the situation worse as communities which depended on rain water now seek unprotected sources.

In Bakassi where there is a cholera outbreak, open defecation and lack of potable water are the main WASH challenges. Reach Out Cameroon conducted an assessment which indicates that 99% of the community members in the area practice open defecation. The only sources of water are rain (during the rainy season) and an open unprotected pond (during the dry season).

161K

people reached with WASH in November and December

99%

of the community members in the area practice open defecation in Bakassi, Ndian Division (SW) where there is cholera outbreak

WASH activities increased in November and dropped in December due to projects ending with a lack of funds. In November, WASH actors implemented 57 WASH activities in the NWSW, reaching 106,105 individuals. This is less than in October (112,794 people).

For further information, please contact:

James Nunan, Head of Office, nunan@un.org, Tel: +237691511590
For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int