

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 1 to 31 January 2021. The next report will be issued in March 2021.

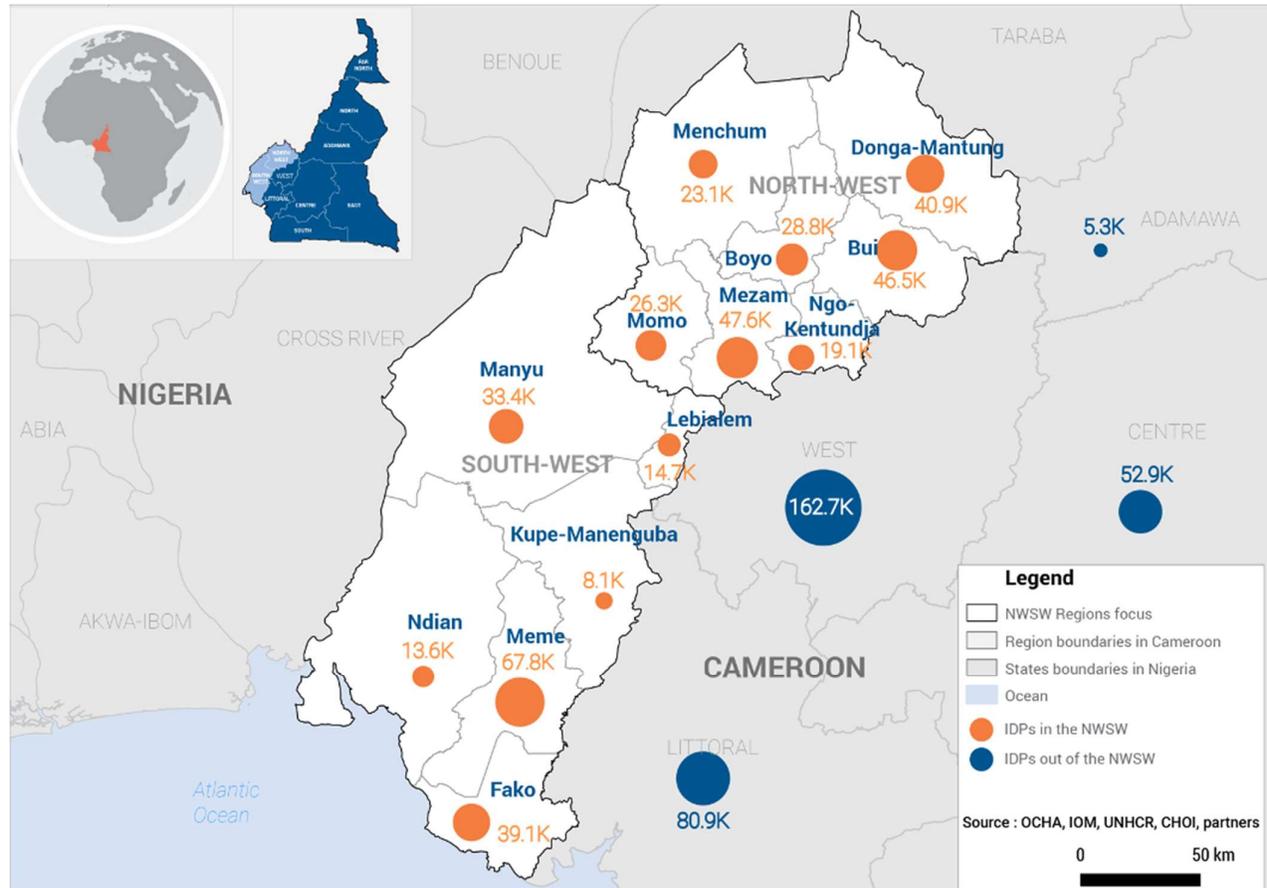
HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of people benefiting from food assistance from Food Security Cluster partners as well as agriculture and livelihood activities in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions decreased by 94 per cent in one month (from 360,467 in December to 20,311 in January), due to insecurity and lack of funding.
- 318 Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents were reported in the two regions.
- 6,314 infants and pregnant women received routine vaccines they had previously missed.
- 53 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were referred for appropriate treatment.
- School children, educational facilities and teachers continue to be targeted.



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>3M affected people</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 Revised-June 2020</i></p>	<p>1.4M targeted for assistance</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 Revised -June 2020</i></p>	<p>705.8K Internally Displaced People (IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) NWSW, OCHA - August 2020</i> <i>MSNA in West and Littoral regions, OCHA, MINAT and partners – August 2020</i> <i>MIRA in Centre region, CHOI and OCHA- September 2020</i></p>	<p>360.5K returnees (former IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in NWSW region OCHA - August 2020</i></p>	<p>63.2K Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources: <i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian refugees, UNHCR – 31 January 2021</i></p>
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Map of IDPs, returnees and refugees from the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon

Source: OCHA, UNHCR, IOM

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in the NWSW regions remains tense with an upsurge in violence and targeted attacks linked to the African Nations Championship (CHAN 2021) that took place between 16 January and 6 February with some teams based in Buea and playing in Limbe in the South-West (SW) region. The population continues to bear the brunt of violent incidents either targeted directly or being affected by the consequences of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) or crossfire. The most serious violent incident in January took place in Mautu village in Muyuka subdivision in the SW on 10 January, where at least nine persons including children and elderly women were killed and 17 others wounded reportedly by State Security Forces. Also, on 23 January, the military reportedly shot four unarmed teenagers dead in Meta Bamenda II subdivision, Mezam division of the North-West. The four young men were allegedly smoking marijuana in a hideout and attempted to escape when they noticed police presence.

Attacks against school staff and educational premises continued. On 9 January, Non-State armed groups (NSAG) members reportedly killed the principal of the Government High School Ossing in Eyumojock subdivision in the SW. On 9 January, NSAG members attacked a Government technical college in Tinto, Manyu division in the SW and shot the principal in the leg. On 22 and 23 January, unidentified persons set ablaze some sections of a mission school in Mankon, Bamenda 2 subdivision in the North-West (NW) region.

The deteriorating security situation has resulted in multiple population displacements across the NWSW regions with over 5,387 people forced to flee their homes to seek shelter and safety in nearby bushes, villages, and towns. The divisions most affected include Fako, Manyu, Meme, Lebialem and Mezam, and Ngo-Ketundja. These movements are often temporary and

displaced persons usually return to their homes once the security situation allows, especially for those who flee to bushes and nearby villages.

Humanitarian actors continue to operate under numerous constraints. Demands for illegal payments by both state and non-state actors, numerous lockdowns announced by non-state armed groups, and the increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in public spaces frequented by humanitarians, made delivery of humanitarian assistance and programming very challenging and risky.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

Access to education remains severely affected in the two regions due to the prevailing security situation. During the CHAN 2021, NSAGs declared lockdown in Fako Division in the SW region on match days and banned inter-urban travel in an attempt to sabotage the competition. This greatly impacted access to education in Limbe and Buea. Several other lockdowns were imposed in the NW causing children to stay at home.

1,000

Children received capitation grants.

Direct attacks on education continued in both regions. School facilities, children and staff were targeted by NSAGs enforcing the ban on education. In the SW, the Principal of a Government Technical College in Tinto, Manyu division, was shot on the leg by NSAG fighters. In the NW, there have been a series of attacks against both teachers and students. A teacher of Government Secondary School at Ntamulong was allegedly shot aboard her car on her way to school and in a separate incident a student from Fundong division was caught in a crossfire incident and was shot dead. Some dormitories of a mission school in Mankon, Mezam division in NW were set on fire by unknown men. Also, five students from Government High School Elak- Oku in SW were kidnapped by NSAGs and later released.

Education partners provided services reaching 68,118 children including 37,044 girls. The services included the training of 170 master trainers and teachers on psychosocial support, the provision of capitation grants to 1,000 children, distance learning programmes, vocational training and community sensitization on COVID-19.

Food Security

The food security situation has remained fragile and the deteriorating security situation, including several lockdowns, made it difficult for the Food Security Cluster partners to deliver assistance. Over 340,000 people in need did not receive assistance due to a lack of resources and end of projects for many food security partners. Food assistance was provided to 20,311 people which was a reduction from the December 2020 figure of 360,467. The numbers of persons reached is expected to return to previous numbers in February 2021.

20.3K

People reached with food/livelihood assistance.

93 per cent of the 20,311 beneficiaries received food assistance and seven per cent received agriculture and/or livelihoods related support. Livelihood and household coping mechanisms are overly stretched and the affected population is becoming more and more dependent. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), through its egg-production project, has continued to monitor and provide technical support to beneficiaries for a total income of 13.3 million CFA francs (USD 24,412) in January.

To better inform response and decision makers, Food Security partners will conduct the next Cadre Harmonisé food security assessment on the first week of March. This will give updated information on the overall food security situation in Cameroon.

Health

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the NWSW regions. 34 of the 37 health districts of the two regions have reported at least one confirmed case.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Public Health enhanced the Epidemiological surveillance and response capacities by training rapid response teams in all 37 health districts. A confirmed case of yellow fever was reported in Konye district in the SW. This comes barely a month after another confirmed case was reported in the Buea health district. Local responses have been initiated while awaiting a more comprehensive response at regional and national levels.

Health Cluster partners continued to deliver timely and life-saving services to communities in the NWSW despite funding and security challenges. The two surgeons deployed by WHO in the two regions consulted 196 patients and carried out 90 surgical procedures including surgeries for gunshot injuries. Four WHO deployed clinical psychologists consulted 72 patients and conducted three group therapy sessions for 30 participants. UNICEF supported the Regional Delegation of Public Health for the NW to carry out the second round of three-day catch-up vaccinations for children and pregnant women in four health districts and outreach vaccination in six health districts. A total of 5,147 children and 1,167 women who had previously missed vaccine doses were vaccinated. UNICEF also supported the Regional Delegation of Public Health for the SW in training 34 professionals from diverse backgrounds on community-directed interventions.

6.3K

Children and pregnant women benefitted from routine vaccines previously missed.

According to the Health Cluster, on 18 January, an incident took place at the Baptist hospital in Mutengene in Tiko subdivision in the SW where military persons attacked a patient being treated for gunshot injuries.

Access to health care is challenging for communities where health care facilities are still non-operational. Only a few Health Cluster partners currently operate mobile clinics and community health care services due to limited resources.

Nutrition

Funding for nutrition response remain a major challenge. However, 2,682 children, including 1,315 boys and 1,367 girls, were screened for acute malnutrition in January. 53 children, equivalent to 0.1 per cent had severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and were referred for appropriate treatment. 93 children, equivalent to 3.1 per cent of screened children, were identified with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

2.6K

Children under five screened for acute malnutrition.

OCHA is working with the Nutrition Cluster partners to strengthen the referral pathway for SAM, and to ensure that life-saving nutrition support is extended to all children identified with SAM.

Nutrition partners reached 2,829 caregivers, including 1,801 women and 1,028 men, with key messages on infant and young child feeding practices, integrating COVID-19 specific messages.

Protection

The protection environment in the NWSW remained volatile. Regular confrontations between State Security Forces and NSAGs, restrictions of movement and lockdowns, an increase in the use of IEDs by NSAGs, targeted attacks and killings, threats against people as well as raids and indiscriminate arrests continue to hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

568

Persons assisted to obtain national identification cards and civil status documents

Protection partners carried out assessments and focus group discussions (FGDs) in Njinikom, Wombong, Kikfuini, Ngwah, Aduk, Fungeh, Djichami, Abuh, Baicham, Mbingo 2, Mission Quarter, Mentang, and Tinifiombi villages in Boyo division in the NW. They recorded 47 flash alerts. In January, protection partners collected 564 incident reports including reports of physical assault and threats, the destruction of habitat, threat to life and personal security of persons, murder, SGBV cases, cases of eviction, and cases of arbitrary arrest and detention. All SGBV cases were referred to relevant GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) partners.

131 persons received psychosocial support, 1,708 persons received legal and cash assistance, 68 persons were sensitized on the rights and responsibilities of IDPs, while 31 community members, humanitarian actors and State authorities received protection training. Protection partners conducted monitoring activities for more than 7,477 persons and assisted 568 IDPs to obtain national identity cards and civil status documents.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR)

Grave violations against children's rights continued unabated with attacks on schools and abduction of school children being common, especially in Mezam and Bui Divisions of the NW and Manyu Division of SW region. Additionally, several incidents of arson targeting schools were recorded. Thirteen Child Protection (CP) partners reported interventions in the NWSW regions. The NW accounted for 58 per cent of activities while the SW accounted for 42 per cent. Mezam division in the NW and Fako division in the SW were targeted for most of the interventions. In total, 32,692 beneficiaries were reached amongst whom were 8,645 boys, 11,278 girls and 12,769 adults. Awareness raising on prevention and response to GBV

issues (16,313 beneficiaries), provision of psychosocial support services to children and caregivers (7,055 beneficiaries), and awareness raising on prevention and response to Child Protection issues (3,047 beneficiaries) accounted for most of the interventions. Sensitization on COVID-19 preventive measures has been mainstreamed in all Child Protection Areas of Responsibilities (CP AoR) interventions.

There is a need for more partners to provide Mental Health & Psychosocial Support services to children and caregivers. Monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children needs to be enhanced through better coordination and verification processes and civil documentation for adolescents, especially boys, who are at risk of arbitrary arrest, needs to be addressed.

19.9K

Children reached through child protection interventions.

Gender- Based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR)

318 GBV cases were reported to relevant service providers with one hundred per cent of survivors receiving assistance through secured, coordinated referrals and in accordance with the do no harm principles. The number of reported cases represents those collected by GBV partners during the implementation of their activities and does not represent all GBV cases in the two regions which are likely to be much higher. The reported figures cannot therefore be used to generate or track GBV prevalence data.

19.6K

People reached with GBV interventions.

Sexual violence represents 40 per cent of reported GBV cases. Survivors of GBV incidents are mostly women, representing 87 per cent, with six per cent persons with disabilities. 43 per cent of survivors are children. In terms of services provided, 41 per cent of survivors received psychosocial support, 26 per cent received health related support, and five per cent received livelihood services. There is a critical need to scale up lifesaving GBV services and advocate for access to affected communities in hard-to-reach areas.

GBV partners also reached 19,625 people with prevention and response interventions, including GBV awareness raising and information on available services, dignity kits distribution, women and girls safe space activities, psychosocial support and psychological first aid, youth and adolescent support programmes, life skill development for women, capacity building for community members and frontline workers on GBV concepts, engagement of men and boys to raise awareness on GBV, and GBV risk mitigation.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)

In the NW region, UNHCR and partners carried out a distribution of core relief items to 353 households in Bamenda town in the NW, reaching 2,469 individuals. In the SW, DRC distributed core relief items to 291 households in Miselele village in Fako division, reaching 1,746 individuals.

The Cluster is working on establishing modalities for cash-based interventions (CBI). This will facilitate access to financial assistance to shelter and NFI for the affected population.

4.2K

People reached through shelter/NFI services.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Four WASH partners provided various WASH services and COVID-19 prevention interventions to 38,526 individuals including 201 people with disabilities (PWD) in the NWSW regions.

Additionally, WASH partners carried out activities of training on the use of dignity kits, training of three water user committees, construction of tank bases and tap stands, and the distribution of aqua tablets for household water treatment.

38.5K

People reached through WASH services.

Some of the key activities that were carried out and the number of people reached are as follows:

Hygiene promotion	Water supply	Dignity Kits	WASH kits	Sanitation	Sensitization on COVID-19
10,529	2,973	0	10,753	765	8,256

The Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) survey for the WASH Cluster was closed on 28 January. The Global WASH Cluster shared the preliminary report as the final output of the Cluster Coordination Performance Mechanism (CCPM) online phase and the final report to be used in the validation workshop. The response rate was 71 per cent. The validation workshop is scheduled for the third week of February and an action plan will be developed.

Humanitarian coordination

OCHA continued to ensure the coordination of the response in the NWSW regions and to advocate for humanitarian access and effective and principled humanitarian action through regular meetings with relevant stakeholders.

OCHA provided support to secure access for five humanitarian missions of UN agencies in the NWSW. This included humanitarian access missions to Wum, Ndop and Batibo in NW and Tombel, Bangem and Kumba in SW. OCHA also facilitated an ECHO mission to the West and Littoral regions hosting large numbers of IDPs from the NWSW regions.

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