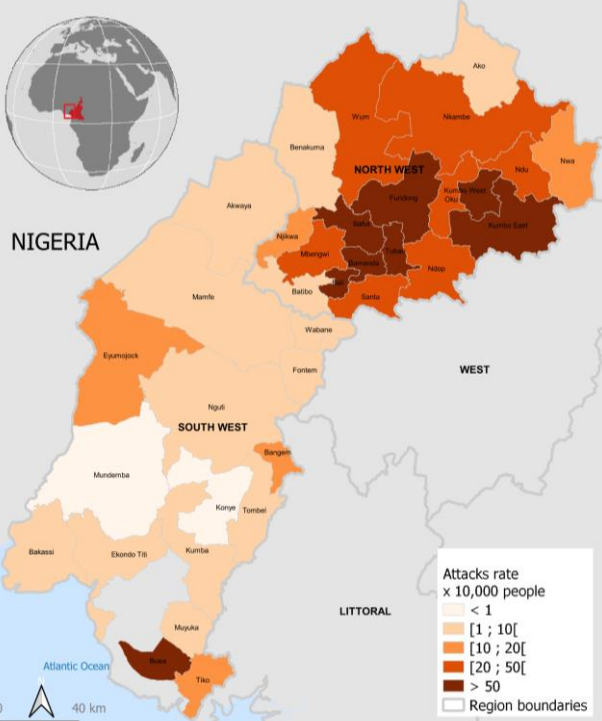


The COVID-19 pandemic is an additional burden to the health system of the North-West region and the South-West region. Cameroon is going through a third wave of infections which appears to be more infectious and deadly.

### KEY FIGURES

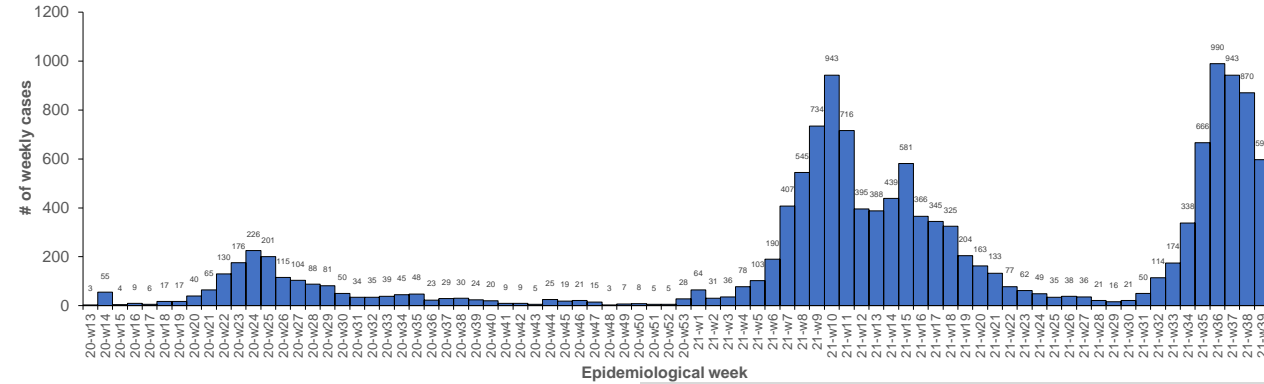
	Positive cases	Deaths (CFR)	Healthcare infected	Pregnant women	Sample tested (RDT+PCR)
<b>CAMEROON</b>	<b>92,303</b>	<b>1,459(1.6%)</b>	<b>3176</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1,831,434</b>
<b>NORTH-WEST</b>	<b>10114</b>	<b>407(4%)</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>106,271</b>
<b>SOUTH-WEST</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>85(2.3%)</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>80,606</b>

### HIGHLIGHTS

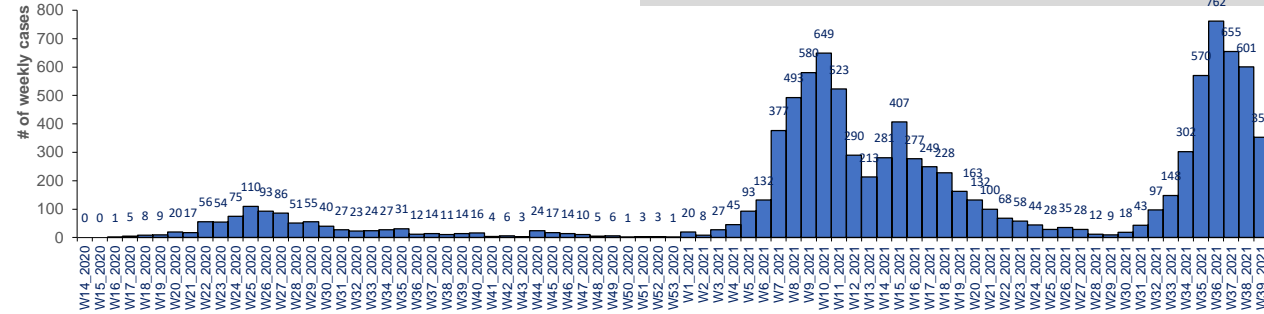


- The North-West and South-West regions are in the midst of a 3rd wave that has infected more people and caused more deaths than the first 2 waves combined.
- In the South-West region, 44 deaths were recorded, in the month of September alone, which is about the same number of deaths recorded since the beginning of the Pandemic (with the first two waves combined).
- The NWR has consistently had one of the highest case fatality rate in the country since the beginning of the pandemic: 4.1%.
- Limbe in the South-West region has one of the highest attack rate in the Country. A reorganization and expansion of treatment centers is planned in Limbe to face the alarming surge of cases.
- A mini screening and vaccination campaign is planned in the most affected districts in South-West (Buea, Limbe, Tiko, Kumba).
- WHO officially handed over the extended Intensive Care Unit in Limbe Regional Hospital to Regional Delegate and Director of Hospital.
- EWARS report for North-West and South-West regions was finalized and shared.

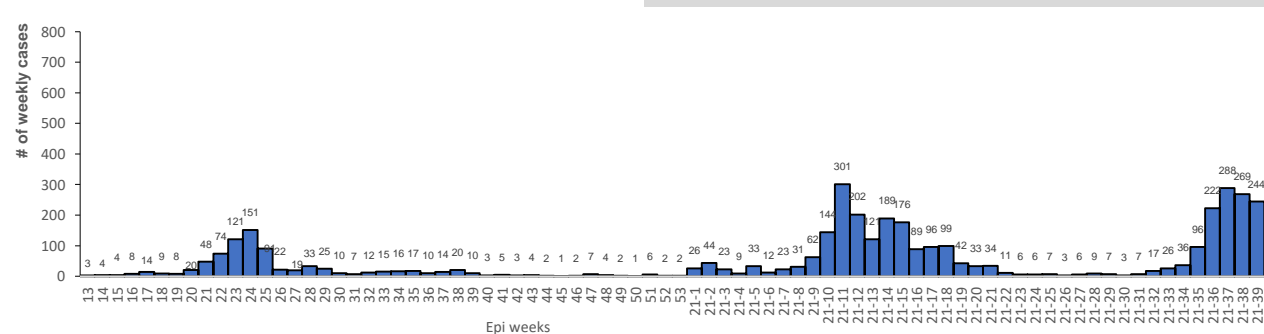
### NORTH-WEST SOUTH-WEST JOIN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CURVE



### SITUATION IN THE NORTH-WEST



### SITUATION IN THE SOUTH-WEST





## COORDINATION

- Weekly Coordination meetings between regional delegates and the Minister of Public Health.
- Weekly Incident Management System meetings between its members and key partners in the South-West.
- In the South-West region, an updated action plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave is currently being implemented, and a draft of the capacity surge plan for the health districts and treatment centres has been drafted and shared with the central level.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

- A reorganisation and equipment of treatment centre where the Limbe Regional Hospital will serve only for management severe cases, and where Bota district hospital and Limbe CMA will be dedicated for moderate cases is planned to face increasing incidence rate.
- 44 deaths out of 917 (RDT+PCR) infections were recorded in the South-West region, giving a Case Fatality Rate of 4.8% for the month of September. This is the highest Case Fatality ever recorded in the region which tripled from 1.6% in August.
- Staff of treatment centres in Buea were briefed on new case management guidelines.
- The Intensive Care Unit in Limbe Regional Hospital was officially handed over by WHO to the Regional Delegate and the Director of the hospital on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- In the North-west region, 2941 positive cases were reported and 81 deaths were equally recorded. At this period, the Case Fatality Rate stands at 4%.
- There are 1,227 active cases (53 moderate, 12 severe, 12 on oxygen therapy, and 1148 on home care) by the epi-week 39. During the same period, 2170 recoveries were registered.
- Partial reception of the COVID-19 isolation unit of the Bamenda regional hospital in the North-West region.

## INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- In the North-West Region a total of , 97 health facilities, 25 homes and 6 public places were disinfected, one health facility evaluated with the Infection Prevention and Control scorecard and compliant to the norms.

- Following back to school, WASH, Education, and Health clusters are to plan distribution of WASH kits coupled with vaccination campaigns in some schools. List of schools is awaited

## SURVEILLANCE

- Increased testing in all districts in South-West Region to face the third wave
- Training of Community Health Workers on contact tracing was organized by CDC in Buea.
- A total of 601 calls were received at the calls centres, 33 calls validated and invested. 4231 contacts listed and followed and 1310 became positive cases in the North-West Region.
- Testing has been scaled-up in the various districts.

## VACCINATION

- In the South-West region, a total of 11,359 persons have received vaccine dose 1, target coverage=1.2%; and 4228 persons have completed vaccination, target coverage:0.4% (Including 1dose from Johnson and Johnson vaccine).
- In the North-West region, 29009 (3%) candidates have received dose 1 and 11639 (1.2%) persons are completely vaccinated with dose 2 and Johnson and Johnson single dose.
- In the North-West region, a total of 48 mild and 4 severe adverse events following immunization have been registered and successfully managed.

## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Ongoing sensitization on vaccination against COVID-19 using strategies like door to door, churches and other public places, social and radio platforms.
- Continuation on sensitization on the use of barrier measures in the North-West and South-West and the creation of triage areas in health facilities.
- Other sectors (Education, Communication, Transport) and civil society organizations have been involved in the sensitization campaign to fight the misinformation surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines and their safety.
- Workshop to update the national and regional communication plan in favor of COVID-19 vaccination from 21 – 25/09/2021 in Douala.

### LABORATORY

- Drastic increase of positivity rate (increased by 5 times) In the SW, in September a total of 5944 RDT tests were conducted with 875 positives (monthly positivity rate=15%), and 804 PCR tests were conducted, with 42 positive (positivity rate=5.2%).
- In the North-West region, a total of 8402 tests were conducted (8306 RDT and 96 PCR). A total of 2588 tests came out positive(2565 RDT and 23 PCR) giving an overall positivity rate of 31% (RDT positivity rate =31% and PCR=24%).

### CHALLENGES

- Challenges in management of line lists at various levels.
- Two weeks lock down in the North West region and South West region has limited planned activities notably screening and vaccination campaign.
- Need to increase capacity of Limbe treatment centers and train all districts staff on new case management guidelines.
- Misinformation and vaccine hesitancy among the general population and health personnel.
- Stock out of covid-19 vaccines (Astra Zeneca), medications (Anticoagulant, vitamins C, D, paracetamol) and personal protective equipment's.
- Attacks on healthcare in some health districts makes the implementation of response activities impossible.
- Weak implementation of IPC measures in hospitals and increasing infections among healthcare workers, as well as in schools following resumption.

### NEXT STEPS

- Screening and vaccination campaign in most affected health districts in the South-West region.
- WASH and vaccination campaigns in schools in the South-West region.
- Distribution of ICU material to Limbe and Buea Regional Hospitals.
- Supervision mission to the region by the central level to strengthen the region in managing the resurgence of COVID-19 cases expected.
- Maximize the use of the newly constructed isolation unit of the BRH for covid-19 care.

### PARTNERS ACTIVITIES

- **WHO**
  - Handing over of extended Intensive Care Unit in Limbe Regional Hospital. Ongoing construction work in Buea Regional Hospital
  - Handing over of material including 25 oxygen concentrators, two patient monitors to the regional delegation of public health in the North-West to strengthen the care of COVID-19 patients under the framework of the PEF project.
- **MSF**
  - Donation of medication and supplies for inpatient and outpatient COVID-19 cases to the Buea Regional Hospital and Kumba district hospital.
  - MSF has supported the isolation center of Kumba district hospital with medical equipment and personnel.

### PICTURES



Picture 1: Renovated ICU of Limbe Regional Hospital in use



Picture 2: Renovated ICU of Bamenda Regional Hospital