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CAMEROON: North-West and South-West
Situation Report No. 12
As of 31 October 2019

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 1 – 31 October 2019. The next report will be issued in December.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 172,372 people benefitted from food and livelihood assistance in October.
- 3,136 children received vitamin A and 950 children were vaccinated against measles in October.
- 112,794 individuals were reached with WASH activities during the reporting period.
- 77,510 people have been reached with shelter assistance and 84,895 people have been supported with NFI assistance in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) since January.
- 91% of school-aged children are out of school.
- The total level of displacement from NWSW stands at over 700,000, including those displaced as refugees in Nigeria as well as in other regions in Cameroon.
- Both parties to the conflict continue to breach International Law, including International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, attacking civilians, schools and civilian health facilities. The health facility in Tole (SW) was destroyed by NSAGs after being used as a base by the Cameroon military.
- Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) as well as criminal groups continue to block humanitarian access with kidnapping of 10 humanitarian workers in October (all released) and demands for ransom are common.
- 1,790 protection incidents were registered in October. Burning of houses predominantly associated with Cameroon military represents 35.5% of the 1,790 protection incidents registered in October.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian

The humanitarian situation for civilians in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions of Cameroon continues to deteriorate as the armed conflict between the parties intensifies. This month, confrontations in various areas have caused new waves of displacements. In Bafut (NW), following NSAG attacks, Cameroon military retaliated between 28 to 31 October, burning several houses and leading to approximately 5,000 people displaced. Attacks on health facilities and the burning of houses also continued. On 30 October, after fighting between Cameroon military and NSAGs, the Integrated Health Facility in Tole (SW) was burnt down. Government security forces continue to be associated with attacks against civilians, burning and looting of villages, as well as extrajudicial killings.
A Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) completed in September 2019 assessed displacement in the NWSW at 465,909. This is in addition to 200,189 IDPs from the NWSW displaced in the Littoral and West regions (October 2019 Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment (MIRA), OCHA) and 44,247 refugees from the NWSW registered by UNHCR in Nigeria. The total level of displacement from the NWSW is therefore over 700,000 from a population prior to the conflict of just over 4 million people.

Humanitarian access to persons in need throughout the NWSW continues to be a challenge as humanitarian cargo has been destroyed or blocked by both parties to the conflict. Humanitarian personnel are at increasing levels of risk when providing assistance. Armed groups abducted ten workers of two UN implementing partners in Tubah subdivision (Bambui/Bambili axis). The same groups delayed many others in this same area, temporarily seizing humanitarian vehicles.

**Political**

The Major National Dialogue took place from 30 September to 4 October 2019. Amongst the recommendations of the dialogue was the granting of a special status to the NWSW regions as per article 62 of the Constitution. In line with recommendations from the dialogue, on 3 October, the President of the Republic issued a decree discontinuing legal proceedings against 333 detainees held in connection with the crisis in the NWSW. However, none of the recognized high-profile leaders were released. Pro-independenceists insist that negotiations with the Government of Cameroon must be done by an independent, impartial and credible party, in a neutral location.

On 1 October, NSAGs celebrated their Independence Day in several areas. They hoisted flags, marched and carried out other festivities in several localities.

The President, on 7 October, appointed new administrative Divisional Officers and Senior Divisional Officers (DO and SDOs) in many divisions all over Cameroon, including in the NWSW. The installation of these administrators was marked by several NSAG declarations of lockdowns in the various localities. The Government has chosen 9 February 2020 as the day for municipal elections in Cameroon. There is high risk of a rise in violence during this period as pro-separatists have publicly prohibited any elections in the NWSW.

On 31 October 2019, the President of the United States issued a decision to terminate Cameroon’s status as a beneficiary of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) stating that the reason for doing so was, “That the Government of Cameroon currently engages in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.” The same decision added, “Cameroon has failed to address concerns regarding persistent human rights violations being committed by Cameroonian security forces. These violations include extrajudicial killings, arbitrary and unlawful detention, and torture.”

**Humanitarian Operating Environment**

Security continues to deteriorate in the NWSW. Attacks on civilians, humanitarian cargo and personnel are on the rise. There was a rise in violence in several localities during installation of DOs and SDOs. There was an increase in abduction of humanitarian workers by NSAGs. NSAGs abducted several students during the reporting period.

In addition to the proliferation of NSAGs, the government allegedly has equipped community or vigilante groups to counter NSAGs in Nkambe and other areas. Furthermore, there were deadly confrontations between various NSAG factions in Ngoketunjia and Momo divisions. On 20 October, the head of a police officer was found in Bamenda, likely killed by NSAGs.

**FUNDING**

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<th>FUNDING</th>
<th>Funding by sectors (in million US$)</th>
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<td>HRP funding in the NWSW*</td>
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**Humanitarian Response**

### Education

In the NWSW regions, over 4,100 public primary schools and 744 secondary schools remain closed or non-operational. This represents 90% of public primary schools and 77% of public secondary schools. This is largely because parents are either afraid to send their children to school due to insecurity and/or because teachers are not available.

While the Education Cluster has observed a small increase of both primary and secondary school students and teachers attending school, an estimated 517,818 (91%) basic and secondary school aged children, as of the reporting month, are out of school. A total of 370,168 (71%) of them represent primary school children. The situation is worse in the North West.

The impact of the conflict on education has led to a wide-range of severe risks to children. This includes protection risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, forced recruitment by armed forces or armed groups, arbitrary arrest, early marriage and unwanted pregnancy. Many children have been separated from their families or have had to head households. Attacks against school facilities, teachers and parents who send their children to learn and children who participate in learning exercises continue. This makes both parents and children increasingly afraid.

In both regions, most teachers are now out of work. In the NW, only 1,774 (10%) out of 17,806 teachers are reporting to work. Teachers, who are still able to work, require training on crisis management, including providing psychosocial support to children, classroom management in crisis situations and crisis sensitive teaching. Schools that remain operational are under-resourced. There is a need to provide textbooks and other school materials to children. In some places, communities are supporting learning activities. However, a rise in Government action to prevent non-formal learning activities has been seen since September 2019.

### Food Security

As of October 2019, 22 partners collectively assisted 172,372 people with food and livelihood assistance in the NWSW regions. WFP, INGOs and national NGOs provided food items to 161,977 people (78,525 NW; 83,452 SW). FAO and other organizations provided agriculture and livelihoods assistance to 10,395 persons (4,518 NW; 5,877 SW). These livelihood projects include home gardening, egg production, trainings and fish farming/processing.

After a two-month gap due to security challenges the Cluster coordination meeting in Bamenda was held on 24 October 2019. Catholic Relief Services presented its project aimed at providing food assistance to about 20,000 people through the e-voucher modality in the Mezam division (NW). The Food Security Cluster has a new coordinator who will be based in Buea, covering both NW and SW regions.
The Food Security assessment (Cadre Harmonise) was conducted in October. The exercise brought together 100 participants from across the country representing the various administrative divisions. Participants were mostly Government delegates and humanitarian organizations. The assessment classifies divisions into food insecurity phases after a thorough analysis and consensus of the current situation. Although the final report of this assessment is underway, preliminary findings show a deteriorating situation of food security in the NWSW. About 8 out of 13 divisions (as compared to 6 out of 13 from the previous assessment) fall under the crisis phase of food insecurity.

In collaboration with Caritas Bamenda, Caritas Buea and ASWARUDEP, FAO organised a capacity-building workshops in Bamenda and Buea from 23 to 25 October and from 30 October to 1 November, respectively. The workshops were focused on the technical itinerary for livestock and home garden production as well as on working with persons with disabilities. It brought together 49 field agents. FAO and ASWARUDEP continue monitoring 1,000 mini poultry units for egg and meat production in the NWSW.

WFP organised two training workshops in the SW. These aimed at strengthening the capacity of partners on WFP operational standards and procedures on general food assistance including data protection, gender and protection, accountability towards affected populations (AAP), humanitarian principles, access, psycho-social first aid and wellbeing. The workshops brought together 38 participants from three divisions: Fako, Manyu and Meme.

WFP plans to introduce Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) for children, pregnant and lactating women.

Health

Persistent attacks on healthcare in the NWSW constitute a huge threat to the availability of essential health care to the populations in these regions. The recent arson attack on the Tole Integrated Health centre (see above) is just one among many. Lack of funding is greatly affecting the operations of the few organisations that are carrying out health activities in the NWSW.

In October, Health Cluster partners provided essential healthcare, sexual reproductive healthcare and health promotion activities to beneficiaries in Fako, Meme, Ndian, Kupe-Manengouba, Manyu, Mezam, Momo, Ngo-Ketunjia and Dungamertung divisions. WHO donated emergency health kits to the Mamfe District Hospital to support the provision of essential healthcare to 1,200 beneficiaries. UNFPA, through its implementing partners in Mezam, Ngoketunjia, Fako, Meme, Ndian and Manyu divisions, provided 264 kits to pregnant ladies, medically assisted seven victims of sexual assault and provided medical assistance to 61 women with pregnancy-related complications. Through UNFPA, 225 women received clean delivery kits, seven received caesarean kits and seven women benefitted from blood transfusions.

Through Reach Out and the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC), UNICEF provided basic lifesaving services in the Ekondo-Titi subdivision (SW) and the Kumbo subdivision (NW). In October, 326 children (160 boys and 166 girls) were treated for acute respiratory infections, 344 (166 girls and 178 girls) were treated for acute diarrhea and 947 persons (448 males and 499 females, including 57 adults) were treated for simple malaria. A total of 950 children (450 males and 500 females) were vaccinated against measles, and 3,136 children (927 boys and 2,209 girls) received vitamin A. Up to 142 (77 adolescent girls and 65 women) pregnant and lactating women received maternal care kits. Caregivers (3 adolescent girls and 49 women) received 52 new born kits. A total of 1,468 households received long-lasting mosquito nets.

Relief International, through the NGO LUKMEF, carried out 1,876 consultations in Tole and Muea. This was done through community health workers and mobile clinics. They also conducted 91 referrals to some health facilities and reimbursed the cost of treatment of 85 patients. The targeted health facilities of Muea and Tole had their WASH facilities improved. Relief International had to close its operations due to a lack of funding.

Action Against Hunger reached 2,489 beneficiaries in the Fako and Meme divisions through mobile clinics with a variety of services. These services include medical consultations of children under five, antenatal consultations and postnatal consultations.

Nutrition

The overall nutrition situation in the NWSW regions remains of great concern despite lower proxy Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates for the NW (4.4%) and SW (5.6%) regions (EFSA January 2019) as the underlying factors to malnutrition persist (food insecurity, poor WASH and limited access to health care). The food security situation...
continues to be a concern due to reduced production, reduced prices in rural areas, increased prices in urban areas and
decline in food consumption as a coping strategy adopted in most households. The deterioration of household livelihoods and
food access, particularly in urban centres, and the low coverage of assistance, expose internally displaced persons
(IDPs) and poor host populations in urban areas to poor living conditions and acute food insecurity Crisis (IPC 3). More so,
preliminary findings from the MSNA conducted in September 2019 indicate a worrying WASH situation with over 55% of
the assessed communities reporting that more than half of the vulnerable groups do not have enough water for their needs and
more than 40% of the assessed communities practice open defecation. The coverage of nutrition interventions in both
regions is low. Only 14% out of the total estimated Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) caseloads for 2019 (2,500) have
accessed treatment for SAM. The above elements have an impact on the evolving nutrition situation.

Nutrition partners, mainly Action Against Hunger (AAH), Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS), Doctors
Without Borders (Spain and Belgium), Reach Out, WFP and UNICEF have continued to provide nutrition services in the
NWSW regions. Focus has been on providing a basic nutrition package that incorporates screening, referral, treatment of
SAM, Vitamin A supplementation, capacity development and promotion of appropriate IYCF-E practices including
monitoring of breast milk substitutes. Preliminary data from the October 2019 screening data conducted by partners in their
programme areas both in SW and NW regions, indicate that out of 5,469 children aged 6-59 months screened for acute
malnutrition, 52 (1.1%) were diagnosed with SAM and 490 (9.0%) diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The
identified SAM cases were referred. Partners sensitised 3,211 caregivers on appropriate IYCF-E practices. WFP finalized
partnership agreements on the prevention of MAM through the BSFP. The intervention will commence in November 2019.
It will target 14,000 children (6-23 months) and pregnant and lactating women in the Fako, Manyu, Meme, Donga-Mantung
and Ngo-Ketunjia divisions.

As part of the monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation in the NWSW regions, WFP conducted the second
round of Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA). The nutrition findings from this assessment will be available in
November 2019 for Cluster validation and dissemination.

The Nutrition Cluster is advocating for integrating nutrition screening in the upcoming national mass campaign of Measles
Rubella in the NWSW regions. The Nutrition Cluster coordination meeting and the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) meeting
took place this month in the NWSW. Both meetings recommended fast tracking implementation of the capacity-building
initiatives by different organisations. Participants also highlighted the inadequate response of MAM treatment/preventative
programmes and underlined the need to strengthen preventative programme for addressing undernutrition.

During the reporting period, Protection Cluster partners conducted protection monitoring in seven divisions in the
NWSW regions, recording 1,790 incidents in both regions. The destruction of houses, predominantly by the Cameroon military, represents 35.5% of cases
and remains the most common protection incident since January. Extortion (23%), violation of child rights (15.1%) and torture were other incidents monitored. Mezam remains the most
affected locality by human rights violation.

About 9,000 people benefited from various assistance related to protection. Protection actors
organised seven training sessions for 240 people (170 women) in the NW. In the SW, partners
facilitated three workshops in which 70 persons (including 30 women) participated.

Partners supported 15 persons (seven women) to re-establish civil status documents of which 10 were in the NW. Partners
also gave legal support to 41 people, with 27 in the NW (21 women). Partners provided various assistance to 317 persons
with disability or special needs (252 women). Partners reached 8,500 people (5,600 women) with protection awareness/sensitisation sessions in the Mezam, Bui and Fako divisions.

The month of October saw the effective launch of Protection Working Group “Access to Justice and Rule of Law” (WG-
AJRL) activities. The WG-AJRL actors in the NWSW met several times to adopt their Terms of Reference and action plan.

The Task Force in charge of civil status documentation held workshops on the process to support at least 800 IDPs in need of
civil status documents before the end of December in both regions. In the NW, the workshop was attended by 33
participants from local and international organizations, representing members of the Task Force in charge of civil status
documentation. The Task Force concluded the workshop by adopting a common tool for systematic data collection on
individuals in need with regard to birth registration, birth certificates and national IDs and developed an Action Plan to assist
some 400 beneficiaries until the end of December 2019 in the NW.

During the reporting period, Protection Cluster actors held monthly meetings in Bamenda and Buea, including general
meetings, SAG and Access to Justice and Rules of Law meetings. The summaries of meetings mainly highlighted protection
analyses and recommended to focus on civil status documentation support, to conduct advocacy for stopping the
destruction or burning of houses and villages, and to train all humanitarian actors on protection mainstreaming to facilitate its incorporation in the ongoing humanitarian program cycle process.

Child Protection

The situation of children and adolescents continues to deteriorate due to the protracted conflict in the NWSW. Deliberate family separation is a major risk for children. This is because families have difficulties to provide for their children in the worsening humanitarian conditions. To cope with the lack/shortage of basic life needs, some children are sent to live in the West and Littoral regions, where most of them work and provide for themselves.

Due to the continuous ban on education in most parts of the NWSW regions, parents send their children to study in the West and Littoral regions. While in the West/Littoral, some families lose contact with their children as they do not have communication tools and there are no actors to manage the cases of unaccompanied and separated children in the West and Littoral regions.

Humanitarian actors continue to advocate, with both parties to the conflict, for children to access civil status documentation as one of their basic human rights.

In response to widespread psychological distress caused by this protracted crisis, child protection actors managed to reach more than 2,000 children with psychosocial support services in their Child Friendly/Safe/Mobile Spaces. UNICEF’s implementing partners reached more than 8,899 boys and girls with psychosocial support services at their Psychosocial Support Units and with individual Psychological First Aid (PFA).

During the reporting period, child protection actors also reached at least 12,500 persons with community sensitization activities on child rights. To respond to other children's needs, actors followed up more than 350 cases of vulnerable children. Up to 144 of them are unaccompanied or separated children. UNICEF also followed up 42 through its implementing partners.

GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR)

In October, UNFPA and partners provided GBV services to 1,025 persons in the NWSW. UNFPA worked with LUKMEF and COMINSUD in the two regions to ensure access to holistic GBV survivor-centered care. This included awareness on GBV thematic, PFA, GBV case management and safe referrals. So far, UNFPA partners have distributed 1,941 dignity kits to survivors of violence in the NWSW. UNFPA partner organisations also distributed condoms to 4,014 persons (3,744 men and 270 women) in the SW region in order to help beneficiaries to prevent STIs/HIV and reduce the likelihood of unwanted pregnancies.

UNFPA reviewed a GBV sensitisation manual developed by its partner in Buea. While supporting community volunteers, GBV actors distributed 6,000 stickers, 3,000 posters and 3,500 referral pathway information leaflets. UNFPA technically assisted its NW-based partner, COMINSUD, through the conduct of two GBV working sessions aimed at enhancing the institutional capacity of the partner.

A GBV AoR meeting was held in Buea on 23 October 2019. During the meeting, UNFPA built capacity on filling the 5Ws template. UNFPA partners conducted three orientation workshops on GBV/SRH lifesaving interventions for 40 community mobilisers, 20 community health workers and 35 radio and social media actors in Bamenda. UNFPA partners organized four training sessions in Buea, Kumba, Bamenda and Douala for peer educators. The trainings were on youth sensitization, free HIV testing, the free distribution and use of condoms among sexually active youths, youth counselling and medical support for the management of STIs/HIV.

From 31 October to 1 November 2019, UNFPA partners facilitated a training workshop for 20 community mobilizers (6 male and 14 females) on GBV/SRH awareness raising techniques and data collection in Buea. On 28 October 2019, UNFPA partners organised a training of internally displaced and host vulnerable women and girls on soap making to empower and make them self-reliant and less vulnerable.
Shelter and NFI

Most IDPs living in urban areas have raised not having resources to start livelihood activities as a major concern. IDPs in rural areas also frequently highlight the lack of food, medicines, potable water and NFiS such as mosquito nets, mattresses, warm clothing, blankets, cooking utensils etc. as a main need. In urban areas like Kumba (SW), interviews with IDPs reveal their need for financial assistance to pay rents. Some of them have been evicted from their houses because of the inability to pay rent, causing secondary displacement. IDPs settled in the bushes face more challenges accessing basic services, especially in hotspots of the crisis.

Based on needs which IDPs have expressed, Shelter/NFI Cluster members have agreed on the necessity to implement Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) in certain locations.

DRC has distributed close to 2,000 shelter/NFI kits in Yoke and Owe (SW). It is in the process of distributing more than 3,000 combined shelter and NFI kits. It also distributed 500 shelter kits in Pokam, 500 in Kombone Mission, 200 in Dibuncha and Batoke; 200 in Mutengene and 125 in Miselele. Registration for future distribution of NFI and shelter is currently ongoing in Malende. NRC has distributed more than 6,900 hybrid shelter and NFI kits in Fundong (NW), Jinikom (NW), Belo (NW) and Pow camp (SW). UNHCR and its partner Plan International distributed 330 shelter kits in Kosalla and 370 in Kake in the Meme division (SW). A further 300 shelter and 500 NFI kits are expected to be distributed in Teke and other areas in the Meme division (SW).

Plan International held working sessions and meetings with the management of the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) on the possibility of constructing temporary shelters for IDPs within CDC accommodation areas. It was agreed that a holistic approach would be adopted to include shelter, WASH and NFI components to assist the IDPs in the temporary shelters.

On 5 October, the Shelter Cluster meeting took place in Buea. Participants agreed to hold a meeting aimed at understanding the locations and the types of assistance given to the different communities within the SW. This would prevent duplications. Participants agreed to set up a common approach to solve the issues raised by the CDC management on the provision of Shelter, NFIs, and WASH in the envisaged accommodation area. The 5Ws map for shelter and NFI would be shared with all partners.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Partners implemented 52 WASH activities in the NWSW reaching 112,794 individuals. Partners reached 81,471 people with hygiene promotion and 6,100 people with sanitation. They distributed WASH NFI kits to 17,173 people and supplied water to 8,050 people.

Partners reached more people in the SW than in the NW. In the SW, IRC/REO, RI/LUKMEF, AFRINET, DECOMS, IRC/AMEF, NRC/AMEF, NRC, UNICEF/CARITAS and UNICEF/REO reached 78,415 people through WASH activities. Activities covered Fako, Meme, Manyu, Ndian, and Kupe-Manenguba divisions. In the NW, CREDA, GRC, NRC, GHNI/Greenry, UNICEF/CARITAS and UNICEF/CBCHS reached 34,379 individuals. These partners implemented the WASH activities in Boyo, Bui, Mezam and Ngo-Ketunjia divisions.

According to results of the MSNA conducted in September 2019, open defecation is prevalent in the NWSW. More resources are therefore needed for sensitization and hygiene promotion. There is no water point database in the NWSW. This affects planning and implementation of WASH strategy.

WASH Cluster coordination and SAG meetings were held in Buea on 10 October. The WASH Cluster conducted a Strategic Operational Framework (SOF) validation workshop in Douala on 24 October. The next SAG and Cluster meetings will be held in Buea on 7 and 21 November and in Bamenda on 28 November 2019.

Access Monitoring

Access challenges were particularly severe during the month of October. Child Friendly Spaces were closed by the Government in the Kumbo subdivision due to perceptions that they had been corrupted and were supporting parties to the conflict. The humanitarian community mobilized to explain the misunderstanding and continued in their advocacy efforts to ensure that child protection activities can continue. In the NW region concerns were particularly high in the Tubah subdivision of Mezam, where on the key ring road leaving Bamenda, multiple humanitarian staff members were kidnapped for ransom and vehicles were stolen. Concerns were also raised regarding the arrest of humanitarians by security forces, which in at least one case involved an overnight detention. In the SW region concerns were raised around security force
operations entering areas where humanitarian operations were also taking place. A number of cases of extortion by armed groups were also reported, both on organization premises and on main roads during humanitarian movements.

**Coordination**

Humanitarian actors organised a workshop to build the faith-based and humanitarian organizations’ interoperative capacities with a particular focus on enabling access into areas where clerics have presence and can support humanitarian interventions. Access Working Groups continue to support information sharing amongst partners and inform the prioritization of the OCHA access capacity. Two meetings were held in the SW and one is planned for early November in the NW. Online trainings on access made available by international actors were shared with meeting participants.

Access missions were implemented in coordination with UNDSS and UN agencies to expand the UN footprint and better enable the United Nations to directly support their programs in the field. In the SW missions were implemented to the following locations:

- Konye, capital of Konye subdivision in Kupe-Manengube.
- Mamfe, the capital of Manyu Division and to the nearby airport in Besongabang.
- Eyumojok, capital of Eyumojok subdivision, Manyu, and Ekok the principle border crossing with Nigeria also in Eyumojok subdivision.

In the NW, a mission was implemented to Santa on the border with the West division on the main road connecting Bamenda and Baffousam.

The access and presence mapping were updated and infographics were produced. Efforts continued to establish an effective access monitoring system that would involve humanitarians reporting access incidents through an agreed tool for the purposes of analysis and advocacy.

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