



## HIGHLIGHTS

- According to a humanitarian community estimate, 246,000 persons are internally displaced (IDP) in the South-West region
- CERF allocates \$5.1million to respond to the emergency needs of IDPs in the North-West and South-West
- An average of 300 humanitarians are killed, detained or wounded each year. The 19 August World Humanitarian Day reminds us that humanitarians are not a target - #NotATarget

## KEY NUMBERS

Estimated # of IDP in the South-West	<b>246 K</b>
Number of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria	<b>25 K</b>
Number of cholera deaths since 14/07	<b>22</b>
Number of suspected cholera cases reported since 14/07	<b>267</b>

## FUNDING

<b>320 million</b> Funding requirements (US\$)
<b>26.5%</b> Funded by 1 September 2018

## Summary

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## Humanitarian situation update

### Evolution of needs and response in the South-West and North-West

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in the North-West and South-West regions is a cause for concern as the insecurity and violence continue to generate new displacements throughout the two regions.

The number of internally displaced persons (IDP) in the South-West is estimated to be 246,000, according to the data provided by civil society organizations in the South-West during a workshop given by OCHA and the IOM in early August. The most recent figures show that the number of displaced persons in the North-West region has increased considerably since the multi-sector assessment was conducted by the Plan in April 2018. Thousands of people have also fled to the West and Littoral regions.

The first responders in this context are the local organizations in the two regions. The presence of international NGOs, however, has increased by the opening of NRC, IRC, Intersos and Plan International offices in Buea in August. More aid must be urgently mobilised in order to augment the response and meet the humanitarian needs of displaced persons in the bushes, as well as in urban centres.

The priority sectors are shelter, non-food items, protection, food security, as well as hygiene, health, sanitation, and water. Although not prioritized by people questioned during the March 2018 multi-sector assessment, food security was thought to be a critical need as household supplies are dwindling, food prices are rising, and access to fields is becoming difficult.

### Update on security and access in the Far-North region

Since the beginning of the year, 212 incidents were reported by the UNDSS in the Far-North. There were several terrorist incidents in January and July 2018 while the number of crimes and armed conflicts was relatively low. In contrast to previous years, the rainy season did not prevent the movements of the Boko Haram (according to the number of incidents recorded in July and August). Another recent trend is the number of attacks occurring in broad daylight compared to the usual nightly modus operandi.

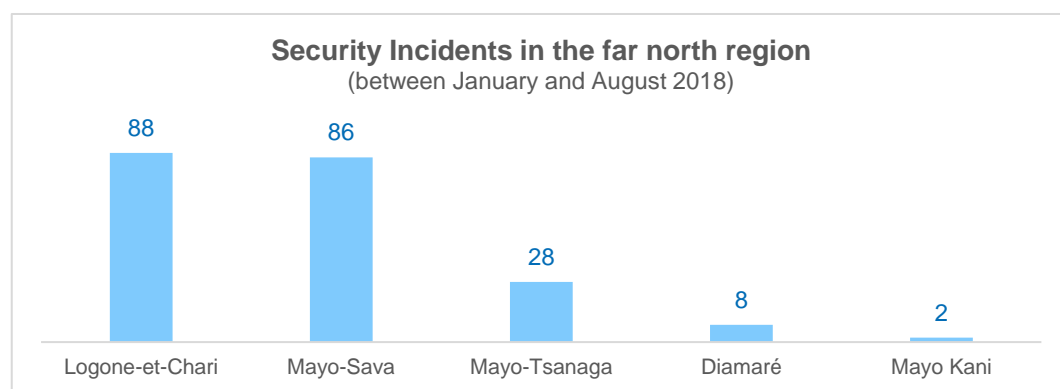
Considering humanitarian impact, Mayo-Tsanaga department has experienced increased displacements due to Boko Haram incursions in the villages surrounding the Mayo-Moskota district. For example, the RRM reported that in July 2018, after repeated incursions, 2,000 people were displaced to Nguétchéwé and Mozogo. Moreover, the insecurity continues to prevent the populations from accessing their fields which are their main sources of sustenance.

The second factor preventing humanitarian assistance is the rainy season, making some roads almost impassible. The missions to the Mora-Kolofata-Limani-Amchidé and Kousseri-Bodo-Afadé-Fotokol districts have to be re-scheduled when it rains in order not to get stuck.

In spite of these constraints, people in hard to reach locations continued to receive multi-sector aid, especially on the IDP sites in the Bodo-Afadé-Fotokol axis (Logone-et-Chari), as well as those in the Mozogo, Moskota (Mayo-Tsanaga) and Kolofata (Mayo-Sava) districts. Aid was also provided in more remote areas such as Kerawa, Amchidé (Kolofata district) and Limani (Mora district) where there is a large number of returnees.

Follow up missions also allowed aid programs to reach areas that were previously isolated, where there are large concentrations of displaced populations (IDP and outside camps refugees), such as in Kossa area (Mora district), and where access to basic social services is practically non-existent for 20,000 people.

Humanitarian access should improve after the rainy season ends, likely in October. In the meantime, however, travelling is expected to be limited during the elections in October.



*UNDSS data - from January to August 2018*

### Update on the cholera epidemic

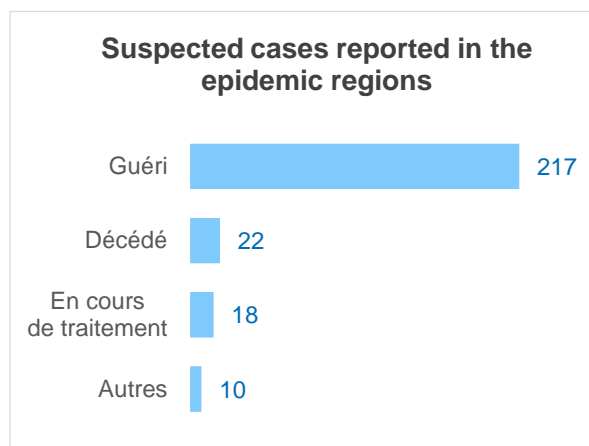
Cholera is an acute intestinal infection caused by contaminated food and water which can lead to severe dehydration and death, if not treated immediately. Poor hygiene, aggravated by limited access to potable water and sanitation facilities, especially latrines, increases its transmission. Squalid urban areas and sites for displaced persons help spread of the cholera organism, where promiscuity is rampant and there is no guarantee of potable water or sanitation.

A cholera epidemic was declared by the *Ministre de la Santé Publique* in Cameroon on 14 July 2018 after several cases were confirmed in the Central and North regions. According to the [11 September 2018 MINSANTE Report](#), there is now an epidemic in the Littoral region. Countrywide, 267 suspected cases have been recorded since mid-July, including 22 deaths, or a mortality rate of 8.2%. Seven new cases have been recorded since 7 September in the northern region. Far-North, Littoral, West, South and South West regions have recorded suspected cases and are considered as high risk.

WHO, UNICEF and other partners from the Water Sanitation and Hygiene sector (WASH) sector are responding to these increasing risks, along with the health authorities to address the epidemic. The response includes investigating all notifiable cases, actively seeking out cases and their treatment, promoting behavior changes, WASH interventions and stakeholder coordination.

At the end of August, 750 community workers were trained in how to mobilise communities in the North region, with support from UNICEF. Kits and supplies were distributed by

various humanitarian actors such as MSF, IMC and UNICEF to health districts that are experiencing an epidemic and to those at risk.



*MINSANTE data, 11 September 2018*

## ZOOM : Cameroon mobilised for the Berlin Conference on the Lake Chad Bassin

One year after the Oslo Conference, a second [Conférence de haut niveau sur la région du lac Tchad](#) was held on 3 and 4 September 2018 in Berlin, Germany. For the last 9 years, the crisis in the Lake Chad Bassin area has affected 17 million people in the far north of Cameroon, north-east Nigeria, west Chad and south-east Niger.

Cameroon has been participating actively in discussions and advocacy actions, being the second most affected country, with 2.1 million people in need in the Far North region.

*419,000 persons are displaced in the Far North*

*2.1 million persons are in need of assistance in the region*

### A peace and stability mobilising event

The Conference, which assembled representatives from 27 countries, 24 regional and international organisations, and numerous NGOs was organized jointly by the governments of Germany, Nigeria, and Norway, as well as the United Nations. Cameroon was officially represented by the *Ministre Délégué en Charge de la Coopération avec le Commonwealth*, the governor of the Far-North region, the Humanitarian Coordinator, as well as two civil society representatives.

The main objectives were to:

- examine the challenges and opportunities around the following three key issues: the humanitarian response and protection of civilians; crisis prevention and stabilisation; resilience and sustainable development;
- mobilise political and financial supports to meet the needs of more than 10 million people affected by the crisis and to increase their resilience.

According to a [final press release from the conference organizers](#), the conference ended with an announcement of \$2.17 billion of funding and \$467 million for prime rate loans. [The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, welcomed these promises for funding and loans](#) for humanitarian operations in the four countries affected. He emphasized how essential they are in addressing the violence, hunger, displacements and the fear experienced on a daily basis by millions of people in spite of improved access to communities in the past year.

## Key messages from civil society, from Cameroon and elsewhere

The Berlin Conference was much more than an opportunity to obtain funding. Donors, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and civil society groups held consultations in all four affected countries prior to the conference in order to [formulate key messages and recommendations for each of the three topics discussed by the various panels](#).

[A common declaration](#) was prepared by 46 international NGOs which included those operating in the Far-North such as ACF, CRS, NRC, DRC, IRC, Care, IEDA Relief, Première Urgence International and Plan International. The document lists 10 major recommendations intended for the Governments of the Lake Chad Basin. In particular, the NGOs ask that sustained political attention be given to the crisis and that communities receive increased support to enable them to become their own agents of change. They affirm that the downward vulnerability curve cannot be reversed without increased development activities, in conjunction with emergency aid.

Cameroon Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the local ALDEPA NGO held a civil society consultation in Maroua on 6 August. The meeting was an opportunity for some twenty local organisations to consolidate key common messages on the three conference themes.

For example, on the topic of humanitarian assistance and civilian protection, representatives from the Far North recommended that priority be given to:

- improve intervention packages for affected populations and to rebuild/upgrade basic social infrastructures;
- increase humanitarian aid to areas that have recently ceased fighting and have become accessible;
- support those involved in producing official documents;
- strengthen civilo-military coordination.

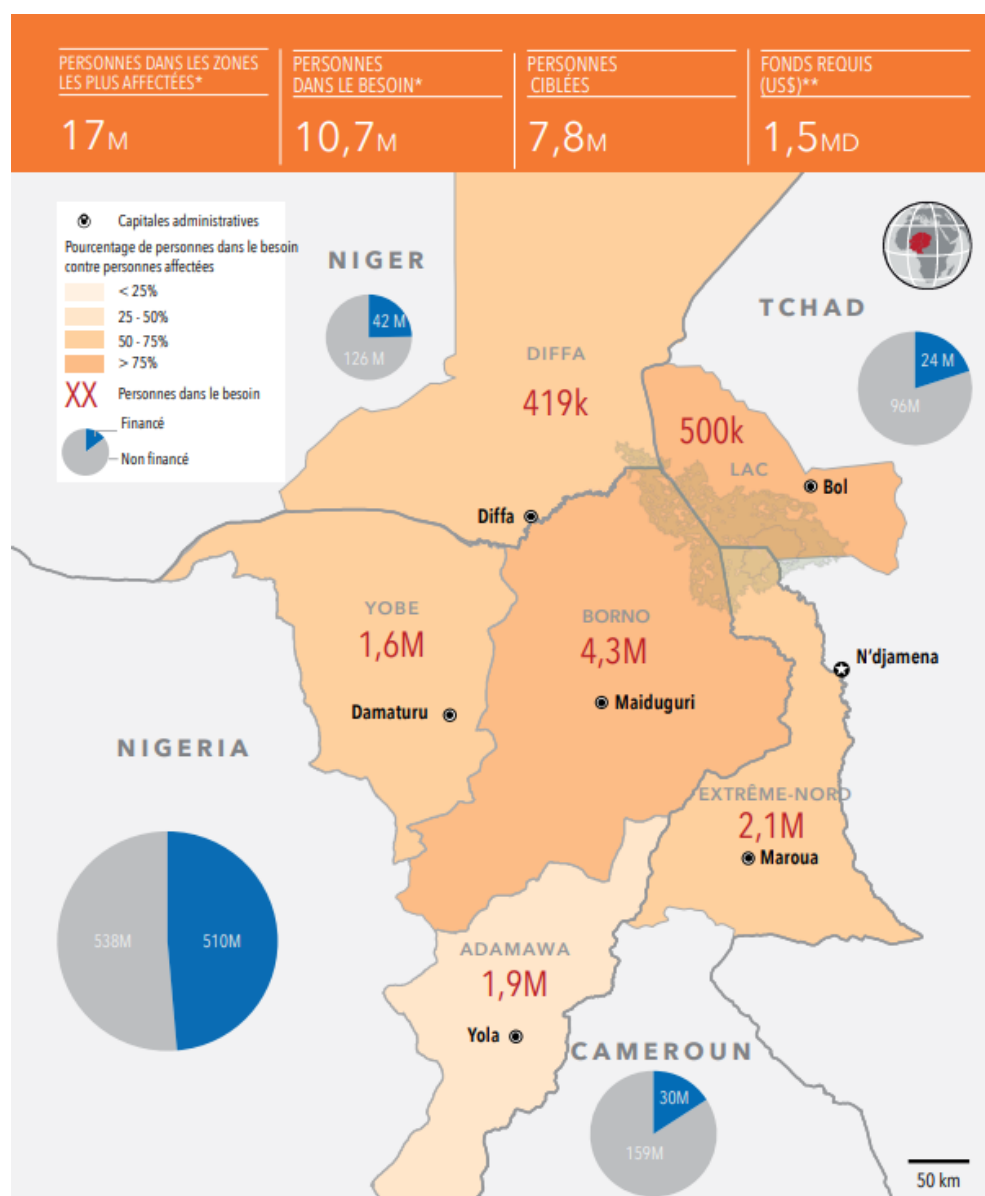
## Additional support needed for the humanitarian challenges in the Far-North

During the plenary, panel, and other sessions, the Cameroon Humanitarian Coordinator and other Cameroon representatives took the opportunity to bring up the urgent need for funding the humanitarian response in the Far North. [With only 26% of its Response Plan funded\(?\) in early September, and only 16% for the Far North region](#), the country is the least funded of the four countries in the region.

The figures of the revised [LCB response needs and priorities](#) are alarming. At the end of August, 419,000 displaced persons were admitted to the Far North region, including Nigerians who had taken refuge in Cameroon, and internally displaced Cameroonians (internally displaced persons and returnees).

Between December 2017 and April 2018, the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga and Logone-et-Chari departments recorded a 20% increase in the number of displaced persons returning home. A total of more than [83,000 people returned to their country of origin](#). Life is difficult for them because of the ongoing violence, and the lack of basic services like access to water, hospitals and schools. In August, 93 schools were still closed due to conflicts in the Far North, leaving 45,000 children, half of whom are girls, without schooling or forced to attend schools outside of their communities.

Assisting returnees and finding permanent solutions for all communities affected by the displacement will continue to be priorities for humanitarians and the development of Cameroon.



## Access to housing, land and property, and forced displacements in the Far-North

Access to housing, land, and property (HLP) is a right recognized by many international human rights and humanitarian laws and instruments. The respect for HLP rights guarantees access to adequate housing and natural resources, land, the privacy of a home, the possibility of subsistence, as well as access to essential services, without the fear of expulsion or discrimination.

The right to HLP is particularly affected during forced displacements, conflicts and violence in the Far North of Cameroon. Loss of housing and other property are the major results of the violence perpetrated by armed groups, particularly in the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone-et-Chari departments. In this context, HLP issues are related to other protection problems, which include the loss of documentation and inaccessibility to land and natural resources like water.

A Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) study, funded by DG ECHO, was conducted from December 2017 to March 2018 to observe and analyse the many difficulties that internally displaced persons, returnees and refugees have in accessing LTP.

### Types of disputes and risks of conflict associated with displacements

The results of the study indicated that there are several types of disputes and risks of conflicts associated with the HLP and displacements.

Firstly, there are the disputes about contracts, field usage, housing and other natural resources.

- Non-payment for housing and fields by the internally displaced/ Inflated rental costs due to increased demand in the displacement zones;
- Confiscation/unequal distribution of crops that benefit the owners of arable land;

Then, there are conflicts related specifically to the return of displaced persons to their place of origin.

- Secondary occupations;
- Non-existent and destroyed homes, and lack of arable land;
- Conflicts of inheritance and ousting of women;

Lastly, institutional conflicts

- Poor administrative procedures;
- Double sales/double locations of houses and fields (inflation and speculation).

*Respect for HLP rights guarantees access to adequate housing, natural resources, land, the privacy of a home, the possibility of subsistence as well as access to essential services, without fear of expulsion or discrimination*

### General HLP challenges in the Far North

The study also highlighted the main HLP challenges that exist in Cameroon and which are exacerbated by the state of emergency and forced displacements in the Far-North. For one thing, women and men are rarely accorded the same rights. This difference in treatment is often thought to be due to religious laws and customs. Moreover, families have only limited access to legal statutory frameworks, thereby contributing to discriminatory practices.



*Shelters at the Zamai site, OCHA, April 2018*

The national legal framework has several limitations and is often unfamiliar by the populations. Therefore, the current system is often less protective, the old formal system is constantly being reformed. Moreover, the procedures are often long, costly and relatively unknown by rural communities.

### Response, coordination and durable solutions framework

In coordination with other actors, NRC has developed approaches to protect HLP rights through mobile legal clinics deployed in Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga and Logone-et-Chari. Their services include:

- technical support, coaching and legal assistance for people affected by displacements ;
- coordination and advocacy for an integrated action on the part of state and non-state actors to better protect HLP rights;
- increasing the capacities and institutional support for the delivery of services and the protection of HLP rights.

As part of the Protection sector, NRC also initiated the creation of a HLP coordination mechanism for the Far-North (working group). In fact, improving access to HLP rights requires the concerted and coordinated efforts of many actors (humanitarian, development

partners, central government, local traditional and administrative authorities, etc.) and different types of actions (advocacy work, awareness raising and training, legislative reform, etc.). The creation of a working group should also facilitate the coordination with other sectors concerned with HLP rights such as Shelter/Non-Food Items and Food Security

The restoration of security, access to land, adequate housing and essential social services in communities affected by displacement in the Far-North, and the resulting contributions to the development of [permanent durable solutions](#) can only be achieved with intersectorial and multi-partner efforts.

## Did you know?

### A targeting methodology based on vulnerability

In the current context of decreasing resources for humanitarian aid, and the increase in the number of people needing emergency assistance, it is essential that humanitarian organisations identify precisely the level of vulnerability of families in order to prioritize the most needy.

Henceforth, the methodology for targeting **beneficiaries will no longer be based solely on a person's status (i.e. being a refugee), but on an analysis of a person's vulnerabilities, specific needs and capacities.** As it is now, some people who were displaced for an extended time and then integrated into a community can fulfill their basic needs, while host families cannot. Thus, targeting aid recipients on the sole basis of their status does not guarantee assistance equity nor impartiality, a situation that can create tension between those who receive aid and those who do not.

Aware of these problems and the lack of resources allotted to the response for Central African refugees in Cameroon, the **UNHCR and the WFP have developed a joint targeting strategy** for food assistance and multi-use monetary transfers in the East, North and Adamaoua regions. Their prioritizing will now be based on a vulnerability index known as the Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) which takes into account food insecurity and poverty indicators.

In order to establish the index, the two agencies and donors validated all the selection criteria which have the strongest statistical correlation with the vulnerability index (based mainly on the make-up of the family and the age of family members). These criteria permitted the prioritizing of families on the food and non-food (cash transfers) distribution lists.

Thus, according to the REVA vulnerability indicator, 87.4% of the Central African refugee population in Cameroon is considered to be very vulnerable. After assessing the available supplies, the **two agencies decided to reduce the distribution of food rations to 70% in order to reach more vulnerable refugees.** The new lists allowed 91,000 vulnerable refugees (38% of persons in need) to receive food aid, and 9,000 refugees to receive multi-use monetary transfers. A contingency stock will be used to assist 9,000 more refugees who are in the process of being identified with the help of communities. In addition, the new refugees will receive *de facto* humanitarian assistance during 12 months because of their specific vulnerabilities.

## In brief

*"I call on all world leaders during this World Humanitarian Day to do all they can to protect people who are trapped and caught in conflicts."*

**António Guterres,  
United Nations  
Secretary General**

### Cameroon celebrates World Humanitarian Day

Celebrated every year, on 19 August, [World Humanitarian Day](#) is an opportunity to express our solidarity with people affected by humanitarian crises, and to recognize those who come to their aid, often putting their own lives in danger.

As in 2017, the campaign theme was [#NotATarget](#) to reiterate that civilians trapped in conflicts must not be targets of the parties in conflict, and to demand that world leaders do everything possible to protect them, as well as the medical and humanitarian personnel who come to their aid.

On this occasion, the Cameroon humanitarian community carried out a massive campaign on social networks, and shared the hash-tag [#NotATarget](#) on a variety of platforms. Two [videos](#) were produced to explain [humanitarian principles](#) and to remind viewers of the importance of establishing and maintaining access to people in need.

Lastly, United Nations Volunteers serving in the humanitarian context gathered on the refugee site in Gado (East region) to raise awareness among some one-hundred community leaders on volunteering for peace and development.



*A Cameroonian Red Cross worker on World Humanitarian Day, PVNU, August 2018*

### CERF allocates \$5.1 million for the emergency humanitarian response in the North-West and South-West regions

On 31 August 2018, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, approved a \$5.1 million US funding envelope under the rapid response window of the [Central Emergency Response Fund](#) (CERF). Under the section of the [Emergency Response Plan](#) of the humanitarian community which appeared in May 2018, this allocation is for financing emergency humanitarian interventions for internally displaced persons in the North-West and South-West regions for the next 4 months.

The five priority areas that benefited from the allocation are Protection, Food Security, Health, Water/Hygiene and Sanitation, as well as Shelter and Non-food Items. They were selected through a consultative process involving the Country Humanitarian Team and according to two main criteria: the degree of the assessed needs; and the capacity of the humanitarian partners to conduct the interventions rapidly and safely for the humanitarians and recipients concerned.

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