

Despite some softening of rhetoric on education, the school system remains a key area of contention and many children are now entering their third year out of school. There are indications of recruitment by armed groups, taking advantage of the absence of this key structural support to the lives of children.

There are indications that sexual violence is underreported, affecting both adults and children with a disproportionate impact on women and girls. Health coverage also remains a key challenge as damaged and destroyed structures constrain the capacity of the few health professionals that remained with populations in greatest need.

These issues drive the displacement which brings with it not only shelter needs and loss of livelihoods, but also cuts people off from key support services such as healthcare and clean water. Medical professionals are some of the most missed as they leave rural and communities, flee to cities in the two regions, and beyond into neighboring regions leaving healthcare structures unstaffed, looted and even burnt.

Security

Abductions continued to present threat to the civilian population. On 2 April, armed group elements abducted the head coach of a PWD Bamenda football team (NW), releasing him a number of hours later. On 13 April, armed group elements from Lebialem reportedly kidnapped six children in Fongo-Tongo (West region), conditioning their release with a 10-million CFA ransom. – On 19 April, armed groups kidnapped and detained two national staff from a local NGO for 3 days in Buea (SW). On the night between 20 and 21 April, gunmen abducted the brother of the chairman of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) party in Bafut (NW). On 27 April, armed groups kidnapped the Chairman of the SDF on his way to Kumbo for the burial of one of his party members. They released him hours later after questioning.

Houses and grain stores were burned Meluf, Fuh, Orti, Mbipgo, Luh (all NW) and Ikata (SW). In the NW region, populations store maize and other food crops in traditional barns that also serve as house ceilings. Burning houses therefore entails destruction of food stocks. A statement released by the Catholic Church's National Episcopal Conference's Justice and Peace Commission on Easter Sunday reveals that more than 750 houses and structures have been burned in Kumbo (NW) since the end of 2016.

Political

The political situation remained tense. While efforts continued behind the scene to enable coalescence around modalities that might lead to resolution, no agreed initiative that might lead to overall resolution became apparent during the reporting period.

The defense team of the opposition leader Julius Sisikou Ayuk Tabe et al boycotted court sessions on 8 and 29 April citing procedural reasons. Ghost towns were also declared on these days marking a continuation of previous practice. The culture of 'lockdowns' persisted as armed groups contested the marking of significant days by the authorities. Of note was the promulgation by elements on the ground whereas previously members of the diaspora had led these calls. The Black Tar council (a coalition of armed groups that operate in Meme and Fako – SW) declared a 10-days lockdown from 4 to 13 April to protest the holding of the Limbe Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) which took place from 4 to 13 April. The lockdown was partly effective in several localities of Fako division, including Buea. NSAGs movements in the diaspora were not unanimous on the lockdown as some rejected it, some wanted it shorter and others endorsed it. Reacting to the lockdown declaration, the Mayor of Buea sealed several shops before opening them after.

By ending April, armed groups called for two other lockdowns throughout the two regions. The first which effectively took place from 29 to 1 May aimed at preventing Labour day celebration and the second to take place from 19 to 20 May aims at preventing the National day celebration in the two regions.

On 3 April, Cameroon's Senate adopted seven bills among which three focused on decentralization. On April 11 the Commission for Bilingualism and Multiculturalism organized reflections on the concept of living together and on 19 were visited by the UN Deputy Director of Political Affairs and the Consolidation of Peace who offered support to peace-positive initiatives. The DDR programme reported a number of entrants into the centre in Bamenda in the NW.

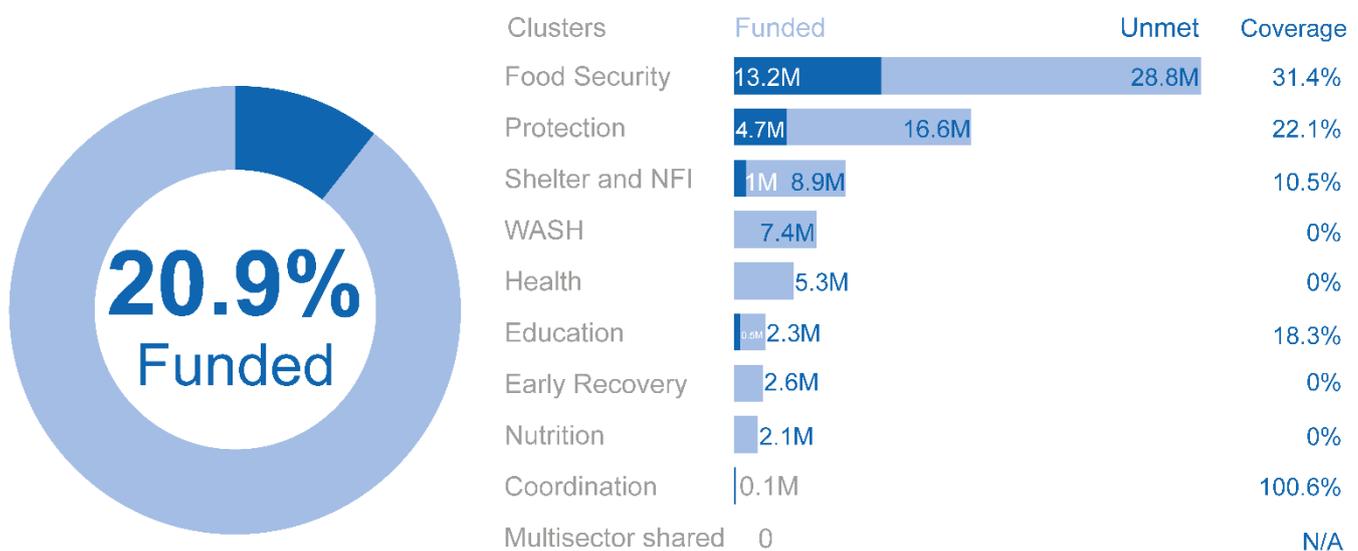
A conference was held in Berlin for opposition aligned members of the diaspora which offered indications of more positive messaging on key areas of humanitarian concern.

There was international pressure on parties to the conflict and corresponding press coverage as high-level engagements took place. The Swiss government offered its services to the Government of Cameroon to help seek resolutions. The US government representation expressed concerns about the Anglophone crisis and it was considered by the UK Parliament and a research briefing was produced on April 17. On 18 April, the EU parliament issued a resolution on Cameroon. The resolution expressed concern over human rights violations by security forces and Armed groups in Cameroon; called on the government, the AU and the Economic Community of Central African States to take steps to ensure dialogue in the NWSW crisis, in the absence of which the UNSC should discuss the matter; and called on the government to ensure a genuine political democracy. In reaction, the both the Senate of Cameroon and the Minister of Communications issued press statements objecting to elements of the EU resolution, saying that demands of lawyers and teachers were addressed and declaring its availability to host a delegation of European MPs and that issues should be addressed internally.

FUNDING

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Funding by sector (in million US\$)



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HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Food Security

During the month of April, cluster members including WFP have reached 29,560 IDPs and vulnerable host local communities in Meme, Manyu and Fako Divisions. WFP and partners expanded its humanitarian access to rural settlements and have provided general food assistance in a form of a fortified in-kind food basket containing (Cereals, pulses, oil, salt and super cereal), the baskets are covering the necessary nutritional calorie intake of 2,100Kcal per person per day for 30 days. For the Northwest Region, FSC Partners reported to have distributed food assistance to 1,186 individuals in Bamenda, Mezam Division.

29k

IDPs and vulnerable host local communities in Meme, Manyu and Fako Divisions

Under emergency livelihoods activities, one of FAO's project's whose objective is to improve the food security of IDPs and their host communities through the production of broiler chickens and eggs in the North West and South West regions, has continued to progress with its activities during the month of April. In collaboration with a local NGO serving as its field-level implementing partner, FAO distributed and provided 10,000 broilers from 05-06 April to 125 beneficiary households in Mezam Division of the North West and 10,000 broilers to 125 beneficiary households in Fako, Meme and Manyu divisions of the South West from 17-20 April.

FAO and partner field agents carried out follow-up visits to the 1,000 beneficiary households for egg production and meat production throughout the month of April in Mezam, Meme, Fako, and Manyu divisions. FAO's second livelihoods project "Emergency assistance to improve food and nutrition security of IDPs in South West Region of Cameroon" is in progress. FAO has already dispatched building materials for the construction of mini poultries such as aluminium-corrugated sheets, cements, drinkers, wire mesh, feeders and veterinary drugs to Buea (SW). It plans the targeting of beneficiaries during the first week of May with Caritas Buea Diocese as implementing partner.

Via the expression of interest and due diligence process, new partnerships are being identified in both regions to provide General Food Assistance to 250,000 affected and food insecure IDPs and local communities.

In addition, WFP organized a 3-day partner induction training in Bamenda which brought together 52 participants among which were community mobilizers and distribution team leaders. Themes covered included WFP food distribution management, protection and gender mainstreaming, PSEA, WFP reporting mechanisms and warehouse management. The common vulnerability targeting criteria and modalities have also been consolidated for WFP operations based on results of the last EFSA, mVAM findings and recommendations formulated by the recent WFP access and protection mission conducted in the south west region.

Food Security Cluster engaged with representatives of umbrella bodies of associations of persons with disabilities in both NW and SW to identify together ways in which humanitarian actors can address the structural barriers persons with disabilities face to access needed food security and livelihoods assistance.

Due to the lock down in April, WFP did not reach its target 80,000 and 45,000 beneficiaries in the South West and North West Regions respectively.

Health

Attacks on health care, sporadic confrontations between the opposing forces and prolonged periods of lockdown greatly affected the availability and utilization of the operational health structures in the NW and SW in the month of April.

The health cluster coordination meeting which took place on 25 April 2019 in the SW region had 17 organizations present including UN agencies, INGOS and local organizations. Reporting attacks on health care and the effective use of the health Cluster information for better coordination of the response in the SW were among the key issues discussed.

During the month of April, WHO assured access to timely and equitable package of essential healthcare to 3,683 persons through implementing partners in the NW and SW regions.

The trauma surgeon which WHO had deployed in the SW performed 51 surgical procedures in the month of April. WHO distributed trauma and IEHK kits to 2 hospitals and the WHO implementing partner in Kumba.

On 14 April the clinical psychologist which WHO had deployed to the NW trained 100 persons on psychological trauma, addiction and child protection. The Clinical psychologist acted as a facilitator during a capacity building seminar for 80 guidance counsellors organized in the NW region on 17 April on trauma stress and manifestation of traumatic stress in adolescents. A total of 58 persons affected by the crisis benefitted from the services of the clinical psychologists deployed in the NW and SW regions.

The 85 CHWS WHO had trained on community-based surveillance in the SW region have been producing surveillance reports for the past four weeks. This has increased the number of health districts producing surveillance reports in the SW from 4/18 to 16/18.

In response to the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected populations of the northwest and southwest of Cameroon, UNFPA and partners provided at the beginning of April 2019, 691 boxes of assorted Emergency Reproductive Health (ERH) kits. The medical supplies and equipment are sent to selected facilities, comprising of primary and secondary structures. They are to meet various lifesaving reproductive health needs of an estimated 630,000 persons

During this period, UNFPA and its partners continued to provide life-saving GBV and SRH support to people in need. UNFPA through their partner handed 5 mama kits and 5 dignity kits to a community mobiliser for distribution to vulnerable

89%

of surveillance reports produced in the SW

3,7k

people had access to timely and equitable package of essential healthcare in the NW and SW regions

women in the southwest Region. Community Health workers and Nurses from hard to reach areas also benefited from 10 mama kits and 10 dignity kits for distribution to women and girls of reproductive age in need.

UNICEF's health interventions continue in both regions in collaboration with UN agencies, INGOs, CBOs, Health cluster with focus on hard to reach areas, urban and peri-urban areas in NW/SW regions.

For urban and peri-urban areas, UNICEF is in the process of finalizing PCA with a partner that will be in the core of this intervention that involves strengthening of routine immunization, measles campaign as well as communication related to vaccination including support to health facilities.

In addition, by the end of April UNICEF distributed 31,400 LLINs to conflict affected households. This is per the recommended harmonization of kits done by Shelter, WASH and NFI in consultation with Health Cluster last year. UNICEF also participated in the debriefing workshop on NIDs for SW region held in Buea where 18 health districts in the regions attended. This was under the auspices of SW Health Regional Delegation.

Nutrition

The findings from emergency food security assessment (EFSA) that WFP and partners conducted showed a proxy GAM of 4.4% and 5.6% for the NW and SW respectively. However, access constraints hindered the survey and there is possibility of higher nutritional vulnerability in hard-to-reach areas. Compounded with the aggravating factors including food insecurity, very limited access to health services and poor water and sanitation, the nutrition situation is expected to deteriorate if immediate nutrition response is not provided. Furthermore, survey results from WFP-led mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) suggest that the proportion of children who receive the minimum acceptable diet is as low as 18.2% and 6.9% in the NW and SW regions respectively. This implies that majority of the children do not have access to nutritious food, thus are not meeting their nutrient need and consequently compounding growth. With these findings, there is urgent need to scale up the response in line with the cluster priorities and the cluster is developing new estimates on the burden.

Nutrition response is ongoing by a few partners at a very small scale mainly on micronutrient supplementation and identification of case management of children with acute malnutrition. Measures are being put in place to ensure that partners report their progress, achievement and challenges regularly.

The first nutrition cluster coordination meeting for the NW held on 18 April with 14 participants. Participants identified orientation of nutrition programming in emergencies as a major training need and it is scheduled for 29 May 2019. The Strategic Advisory Group is finalising the cluster specific response plan and a validation workshop by partners is scheduled for 15 and 30 May 2019 in the SW and NW regions respectively. The purpose of the mission is to assess the nutritional needs of the affected population and explore feasible response options for preventing a further deterioration of the nutrition situation. Consultations with different actors is ongoing to identify potential entry points and appropriate response packages.

4.4k

global acute malnutrition
in the North-West (EFSA
2019)

5.6k

global acute malnutrition
in the South-West (EFSA
2019)

Protection

Protection monitoring in the NW and SW Regions revealed that over 946 persons were victims of serious human rights violations. Out of the 946 cases reported, 20 are SGBV cases, while 33 are child protection and related issues. Child protection has been of serious concern especially in Lebialem Division: 25 separated children cases were reported in Barenka Alou by monitoring actors. IDP movements are towards the West region.

946

cases of protection
incidents identified during
the period of reporting

159

cases of protection
incidents documented
during the period of
reporting

UNHCR partners conducted 21 protection monitoring missions in the North West and South West Regions. Out of the 946 reported protection incidents, 159 are documented. The 25 separated children reported in Barenka Alou, are with host families in Dschang, West Region. Their parents are in the bushes hiding for security and safety. 15 cases of arbitrary arrest/unlawful detention were registered with the army as the alleged perpetrator. Victims were counselled and encouraged

to always be in possession of identification documents. Social workers provided psychosocial support to victims of torture and inhuman treatments. A health actor received 4 cases of Injuries and mutilation in Kumba, Meme Division.

At least 5,268 IDPs live in rural areas, often in temporary settlements in areas such as Kake, Teke, Konye and the challenges with respect to NFI are enormous. Recommendations for make shift shelters and emergency NFIs like cooking pots, blankets, hygienic kits have been made. Psychosocial support was provided to victims whose houses were burnt down in both regions. Sensitization activities were carried out in some communities. Topics for sensitization cut through SGBV, Human Rights and Protection issues, with special focus on the current crisis. One sensitization and FGD was carried out in the shelter and camps.

On 16 April UNHCR held the South West Region bi-weekly Protection Cluster meeting. Two presentations on protection monitoring were conducted by partners. On 24 April 2019 in Buea, the National Civil Status Registration Centre (BUNEC) paid a working visit to UNHCR. BUNEC is a government institution in charge of civil status registration. It supplies (among other things) civil status registers to the municipal councils for the registration of births, deaths and marriages. The visit inter-alia was intended to discuss BUNEC's mandate, as well as their collaboration with UNHCR.

Child Protection AoR

Children continue to be some of those worst affected by the ongoing conflict in the South-West/North-West regions. During the reporting period, partners reached around 8,000 individuals in their sensitization programs: raising awareness on child protection risks and building the local communities' capacities to respond. Due to the 10-day lockdown, only two new Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) were identified, although partners were able to follow up on 180 cases registered in the previous period. None of these were reunified with their families. To expand their reach, partners have established new Child Friendly/safe Spaces to provide services to more children in need of psychosocial support (PSS). Around 2,900 children were provided with PSS services during the reporting period.

33

cases of protection incidents identified during the period of reporting

GBV Sub-Cluster

UNFPA supported a 2-day workshop jointly with a local partner on Gender Based Violence/Psychosocial First Aid/Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse for 35 community workers in Buea from 23 – 24 April. UNFPA organized a training on case management in Douala from 2 to 4 April for 35 participants. GBV had its second AoR meeting on 16 April in Buea and did a PSEA presentation in the Food Security Cluster meeting on 18 April. UNFPA carried out technical orientation on safe spaces with partner organization on 17 April.

20

cases of protection incidents identified during the period of reporting

Shelter

Initially Planned shelter and NFI distribution ended in March. Post-distribution monitoring started in April and is ongoing. UNHCR plans to distribute 1,000 shelter kits in the Northwest region in the upcoming months.

UNHCR identified more than 5,100 persons in need of NFIs and about 5,100 persons in need of shelter.

5k

new persons identified in need of shelter and NFI

The third shelter cluster meeting in the North-West region took place in Bamenda on Thursday 18 April 2019 with 23 people in attendance.

A two days training for shelter cluster partners on Humanitarian Reform, Cluster Operations, Communication and Self-awareness was organized in Bamenda from 19 to 20 April 2019.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

A total number of 12 (NW- 2, SW 10) WASH activities were completed and there are 17 ongoing activities (NW-9, SW-8).

WASH partners reached 1,944 people in NW and 1,442 people in SW with hygiene promotion activities. People reached with sanitation related activities numbered 102 in the NW. Water quality activities (ongoing bucket chlorination) at water points, reached 100 IDPs in the NW. Water supply activities (Spring protection/rehabilitation/maintenance) reached 612 people in the NW and 1,362 people in the SW.

Two local NGOs, distributed NFIs in the NW and SW, reaching 50 and 2,450 people respectively. Out of 50 people reached in the NW, 20 were IDP children with disabilities; each child received a bucket, soap and toilet tissues. In total, more than 8,000 people were reached with WASH activities in the NW and SW regions.

The Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group (HPTWG), the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and the WASH Cluster - SW hub held meetings on April 25th. Similar meetings scheduled for 11 April in the NW region, did not take place because of the 10 -day lockdown. The next NW and SW WASH Cluster, SAG and HPTWG meetings will be held in Bamenda and Buea on the 29 May and 6 June respectively.

8k

people reached with WASH activities in the NW and SW regions

3k

people reached with hygiene promotion activities

Access

OCHA is coordinating with partners to improve access to populations in need for humanitarian actors. Bilateral support was provided to interested actors to ensure maximum transfer of operational understanding. Networking with clerics was particularly crucial in this regard.

Adopting a unified approach by all actors is critical to achieving acceptance and credibility of principled humanitarian operations and enable navigation in a humanitarian 'corridor' between the conflicting parties towards the civilian population in need.

GAPS AND CONSTRAINTS

Overall the implementation of the response in both regions by the humanitarian community is slow as capacities are limited, as multiple lock downs and ghost towns affect planning. For example, due to the lock down in April, WFP did not reach its target 80,000 and 45,000 beneficiaries in the South West and North West Regions respectively.

- Limited funding is slowing the humanitarian intervention as human resources, logistics and supply chain management demand constant attention as short term contracts dominate the operational approach.
- The response levels in the NW continue to be significantly lower than that in the SW even though needs are confirmed to be higher necessitating a reprioritization of resources.
- Local partners have demonstrated key successes in distributing in rural areas, including to those living in temporary settlements in remote locations – often inaccessible by 4-wheel vehicles. However, access remains challenging for sustained community-based programming. Too few international organisations have sufficiently robust risk management approaches to ensure field presence.
- Administrative procedures require definition. While there is ongoing advocacy to reach a full understanding of humanitarian action amongst relevant interlocutors that adheres to international standards and humanitarian principles, conclusions are yet to be reached
- Confiscations and impounding of humanitarian supplies have occurred with discernment difficult in terms of understanding the reasons accompanied by limited clarity in terms of understanding the reasons why.
- There is no Logistics Cluster Coordinator and as such, there is a lack of reliable information on physical access constraints, transport capacity and upcoming cargo pipelines, a gap which could hinder the efficiency of the response. This is a particular limitation on access in the NW where roads and bridges are damaged to deny mobility to fighting forces.
- The volatile and unpredictable security situation hampers access to all locations of displaced persons and affected communities, particularly those hiding in remote areas and in the bush.

- While progress is being made on the development of acceptable approaches to voucher, cash and mobile money distribution, further work is required to enable scaled-up implementation.
- Partners continue to report displaced populations in need of emergency assistance. Partners have all indicated large funding gaps, limiting operations in the first half year of 2019.
- Clusters, through various consultations, have highlighted capacity-building needs for staff of local NGOs however additional capacity is required to further mobilise this key human resource.
- Poor telephone network and limited electricity supply in some areas have hindered humanitarians in terms getting real time information about security threats and related incidents.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Coordination activities continue to work towards a principled approach to scaling up delivery of urgently needed assistance. Humanitarian Coordination Forums were held in both regions. Seven of the eight activated clusters, and the Areas of Responsibility (AoR) for Child Protection and Gender Based Violence were functional during the month. Advocacy efforts continued to request dedicated capacity for the activated logistics cluster.

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For more information, please visit <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/cameroon/north-west-and-south-west-crisis>