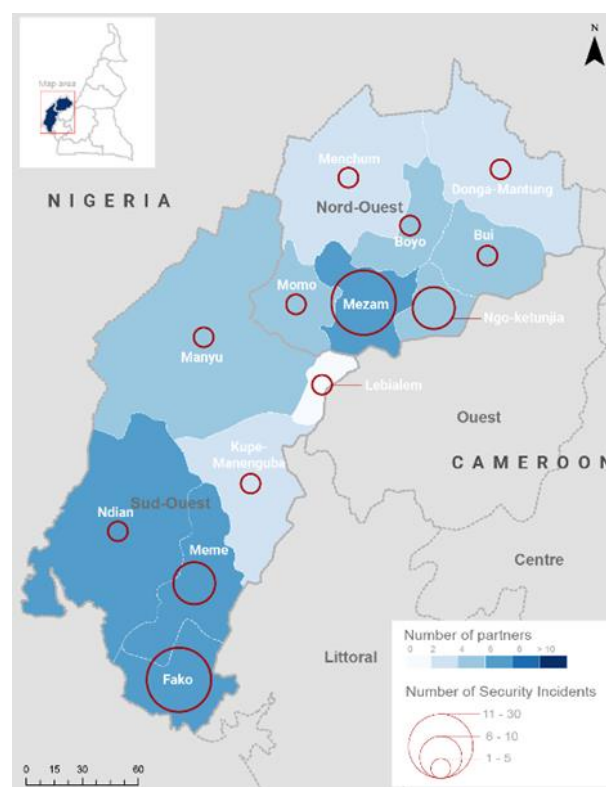


This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 1 – 30 September 2019. The next report will be issued in November.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The three-week extended lockdown in late August and early September greatly hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Since January 2019 a total of 10,575 conflict affected children (5,040 girls; 5,535 boys) have had improved access to learning through psychosocial support and access to non-formal learning. More than 950,000 conflict affected children need psychosocial support.
- 122,607 people in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions received food and livelihood assistance from WFP and FAO.
- Almost four metrics tons of food commodities were destroyed by parties to the conflict in NWSW regions.
- 549 protection incidents were registered in September. 28.6% of incidents are related to the destruction of houses.
- Less than 40% of people in need have received standard shelter kits.
- Due to lack of funding, the WASH Cluster has reached only 37% of the HRP 2019 target as of September.



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.

1.3M

People in need

820K

Targeted for assistance

530K

internally displaced

376K

Members of Host communities in need

330K

Other people in need

315K

People in extreme food insecurity

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian

The humanitarian situation in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions of Cameroon continues to deteriorate with serious protection incidents including excessive recurrent violence towards civilians by all parties to the conflict. Displacement of civilians both within NWSW and to other regions continues. Impunity for crimes and acts of violence against civilians throughout the NWSW is a hallmark of the crisis.

Humanitarian access to persons in need throughout NWSW continues to be a challenge as humanitarian supplies have been destroyed or blocked by both parties to the conflict. Humanitarian personnel continue to face increasing levels of risk when providing assistance.

Political

On 10 September 2019, the President of Cameroon announced a grand national dialogue to discuss issues relating to the crisis in the NWSW. The dialogue took place from 30 September to 4 October 2019. Chaired by the Prime Minister, the dialogue gathered political leaders, members of the diaspora, armed groups, representatives of civil society organizations, the army as well as religious and traditional authorities. Although the call for a dialogue was welcomed by the international community, separatist leaders, non-state armed groups (NSAG) and many anglophone representatives rejected it based on the perception that it was not neutral. They instead advocated for a dialogue focused exclusively on the NWSW crisis, in a neutral country, mediated by a neutral institution. From 20 to 22 September, separatist leaders, mostly in the diaspora met in Switzerland. They declared their non-participation in the national dialogue called by the Government of Cameroon and expressed their commitment to a negotiated resolution of the crisis. The Interim Government of Ambazonia (IG) wrote an open letter to the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon welcoming UN intervention in the NWSW and requesting the Humanitarian Coordination Office to continue its activities.

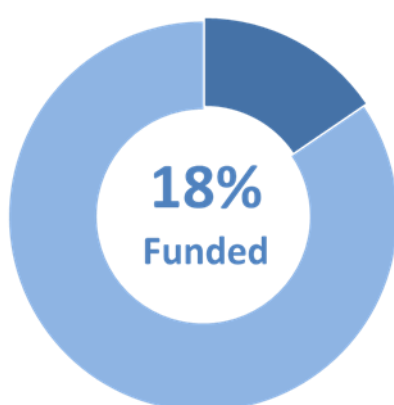
The call for a national dialogue came after the social and economic life of the affected regions had been further crippled by a three-week lockdown called by NSAGs, observed until 13 September.

Security

Security continues to deteriorate in the NWSW. Attacks on civilians, humanitarian supplies and personnel are on the rise. On 2 September, gunmen shot at an ambulance of the Archdiocese of Bamenda at Akum, Mezam division and there was another incident on 28 September when NSAGs burnt a truck carrying WFP aid supplies in Bambili, Mezam division. Three female students from the Catholic school at Ngongham were reportedly kidnapped by suspected NSAGs while they were heading to school. Government security forces continue to be associated with attacks against civilians and burning and looting of villages.

FUNDING

HRP funding in the NWSW*



Funding by sector (in million US\$)

	Funded	Unmet	Coverage
Food Security	6.69	35.3M	19%
Protection	4.70	16.6M	28%
Shelter and NFI	1.43	8.6M	17%
WASH	0.20	7.2M	3%
Health	0.00	5.3M	0%
Education	0.51	2.3M	22%
Nutrition	0.0	2.1M	0%
Early Recovery	0.86	1.7M	51%
Coordination	0.10	0.0M	101%
Multisector shared	0.00	0.0M	n/a

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

In **North West and South** over 4,100 public primary schools and 744 secondary schools remain closed or non-operational, representing 90 per cent of public primary schools and 77 percent of public secondary schools and in North West and South West regions – either because of the unavailability of teachers, or out of parents' fear of sending children to school in an insecure environment. In the South West region, the Education Cluster observes higher attendance rates by students and teachers. Despite a slight increase (from 31,000 children to 52,200) in primary and secondary school attendance compared to the last school year. The situation in the North West is deplorable an estimated 517,818 (91%) basic and secondary school aged children are out of school.

460

children had access to non-formal education

The impact of the education crisis has led to a wide-range of severe protection risks including sexual exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, forced recruitment by armed forces or armed groups, arbitrary arrest, early marriage and pregnancy. Many children have been separated from their families or have had to head households because of their parents/caregivers being killed during the conflict. Attacks against school facilities, teachers and parents who send their children to learn and children who participate in learning exercises continue.

Most teachers are now out of work and the majority are not paid. Teachers, who are still able to work, require training on crisis management, including psychosocial support to children, classroom management in crisis situations and crisis sensitive teaching. Schools that remain operational are significantly under-resourced, and there is a need to provide textbooks and other scholastic materials to children. In some places communities are supporting learning activities. However, a rise in local Government action to prevent non-formal learning activities, taking place, has left children throughout NWSW without any learning opportunities due to fear of reprisals from either the NSAGs or Government.

Since January 2019, with the support of education partners, a total of 570 conflict affected children (296 girls; 274 boys) attended education with 19 teachers trained in psychosocial support and school-based risk mitigation. Additionally, 460 conflict affected children (241 girls; 219 boys) had increased access to non-formal education by attending basic language and math classes in the Kumbo sub-division in the NW.

Food Security

In September, 17 partners collectively assisted 122,607 people in the NWSW regions out of which 111,252 received food items (37,430 in NW and 73,822 in SW) from WFP, INGOs and local NGOs. FAO and other organizations provided agriculture and livelihoods assistance to 11,355 persons (4,773 in NW and 6,582 in SW) including activities like home gardening, egg production, trainings, fish farming and processing. UNDP through local NGOs is funding income generating activities where money is disbursed to vulnerable people to start small businesses and to promote their self-reliance.

123K

people reached through food and livelihood assistance

FAO in collaboration with ASWA-RUDEP, a local NGO continues the monitoring of 1,000 mini poultry units in the NWSW regions where approximately 7,235 eggs are harvested daily by 500 households. This project continues to provide families with a means of livelihood while reducing their dependence on assistance and adoption of negative coping strategies.

Delivering humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable and affected population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in both NWSW regions remained a challenge in the reporting period, with NSAG attacks, military raids and damage of WFP supplies being recorded in both regions. In the NW over 2,837 metric tons (MT) of commodities comprising rice, vegetable oil, pulses and salt were burnt in Bambili, Mezam division by NSAGs while in the SW 1.13 MT were destroyed during a military raid in Munyenge, Fako division. While WFP considers these acts as gross violations of international humanitarian law, it continues to focus on improving access and acceptance of its operations in compliance with humanitarian principles.

Monthly coordination meetings continue to be held regularly in the SW, while it has been more challenging in the NW due to security concerns. The Cluster has drafted terms of reference for a Cluster NGO co-chair to enhance cluster coordination in both regions.

In line with a likely scale up of activities, FAO conducted a workshop for its implementing partners (Caritas Buea, Caritas Bamenda and ASWA-RUDEP) on targeting. The workshop provided 65 participant-enumerators with techniques and skills in conducting surveys and ensuring quality data collection. Also, WFP organized a capacity building workshop that brought together 60 participants from Green World Consulting in Douala for training on data collection for the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA). The second round of the EFSA by Green World Consulting will be conducted in October.

Health

Outbreak of potentially epidemiologic diseases remains a major public health concern in the NWSW. The health districts where epidemiological surveillance has been strengthened by the presence of operational partners of the Health Cluster has brought to light numerous suspected and confirmed cases of diseases. A case of Monkeypox was recorded in Ekondo-Titi health district in the same area where a measles outbreak was reported in August. Only 40% of health districts have an operational presence of health services and as such an extension of operations to cover more affected health districts with essential health care and sexual reproductive health services remains a top priority. This remains a big challenge due to the limited funding for operational partners in the field.

760

children vaccinated
against measles

Despite the extended period of lockdown imposed during the month of September, Health Cluster partners were able to provide essential healthcare, sexual reproductive healthcare and health promotion activities to beneficiaries in Fako, Meme, Ndian, Kupe-Manengouba, Manyu divisions in the SW, and Mezam, Momo, Ngo-Ketunjia, and Dunga-Mantung divisions in the NW.

UNICEF through implementing partners Reach Out in Ekondo-Titi and CBC in Kumbo were able to reach 271 children (143 males and 128 females) with treatment for acute respiratory tract infection (ARI), 166 for diarrhea and 864 persons with treatment of simple malaria. 760 children (390 males and 370 females) were vaccinated against measles and 761 children received vitamin A. A total of 14 babies were provided with new born kits.

UNFPA through its implementing partners was able to provide 676 pregnant women with clean delivery kits, medically assisted 17 survivors of rape, managed 130 pregnancy related complications and assisted 334 deliveries. A total of 103 caesarean section kits were used and 32 women benefitted from blood transfusions following assisted deliveries. A total of 9,730 condoms were distributed and 365 women benefitted from contraceptive methods.

Action Against Hunger (AAH) conducted a total of 1,046 consultations for children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women through mobile clinics in Liongo, Bakingili, Debundscha and Ekona communities in Fako division (SW) while in Meme division (SW), mobile clinics were used in Ntam and Boloweme communities.

Relief International through an implementing partner Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation (LUKMEF) were able to reach a total of 1,347 people in Muea and Tole in the Fako division (SW). Beneficiaries in hard to reach areas were assisted through mobile clinics, community health workers and trained community nurses with essential health services. Difficult cases were referred to health centers where the cost of treatment was covered by Relief International.

Attacks on healthcare continued to affect the availability of health services in the NWSW regions. At least two attacks were reported resulting in the arrests of healthcare providers by Government security forces. The protection of healthcare providers is of utmost importance for continued and improved availability to quality health services.

Nutrition

EFSA conducted by WFP in January 2019 revealed proxy Global Acute Malnutrition rates of 4.4% and 5.6% for the NW and SW regions respectively. The food insecurity situation in the two regions will continue to have a negative impact on nutrition amongst the population, especially in children aged 6-59 months. Despite early harvests of maize and groundnuts in the NWSW as reported by FEWSNET, the food security among IDPs and poor host households in rural areas will remain at stress levels (IPC Phase 2). Furthermore, recurrent roadblocks are hindering trade between rural and urban areas where displaced households are most concentrated, and this has contributed to IDPs and poor households in urban areas remaining in crisis (IPC Phase 3). The lean season will extend into May, beyond the normal February to April 2020 period. This has a direct impact on nutrition and the food security situation and is a key factor on the nutritional status of children aged 6-59 months. The Nutrition Cluster is closely monitoring the situation through monthly analysis of routine screening and admission into therapeutic feeding programs for the management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

32

children diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

AAH, Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, Doctors Without Borders, Reach Out, LUKMEF and UNICEF continued to provide nutrition services in the NWSW regions. The response focused mainly on screening, referral, treatment of SAM, Vitamin A supplementation (VAS), capacity development and promotion of appropriate IYCF-E practices including monitoring of breast milk substitutes (BMS). A total of 1,773 children aged 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition of which 32 (1.8%) were diagnosed with SAM and were referred for treatment. 14,689 children and 5,996 caregivers were reached with VAS and IYCF-E messaging respectively. The numbers reached by VAS and IYCF-E is higher compared to the previous months due to the mini campaign against the measles epidemic in three health areas of Limbe health district. Prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) through the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program is expected to commence in November 2019 and WFP is finalizing discussion with a cooperating partner to implement the program. The program is expected to reach 16,251 children (6-23 months) and will be implemented for three months in Fako, Manyu, and Meme divisions in the SW and Bui, Mezam, and Ngo-Ketunjia divisions in the NW.

The second round of EFSA being conducted in October 2019 will also capture nutrition indicators including MUAC, oedema and IYCF. A capacity building development plan for health workers and partners on key thematic areas on nutrition for NWSW will be finalized and shared with the SAG in October 2019 for endorsement.

The lockdown in the first two weeks of September affected humanitarian response as movement restrictions were imposed by the NSAGs. This greatly affected the implementation of nutrition activities including commencement of the EFSA assessment. Lack of adequate services for prevention and management of MAM is still a concern. Also, the capacity of existing nutrition partners to support inpatient case management of children with SAM and accurate reporting is still weak.

Protection

During the reporting period, Intersos and DRC conducted protection monitoring in seven divisions in the NWSW. A total of 549 incidents were recorded in both regions, which is a decrease of 33% compared to August 2019 (820 incidents). The decrease in recorded incidents is due to lockdown and the difficulty of collecting information on the ground through focal points and key informants.

Meanwhile, as during previous lockdowns, clashes and incidents increased. This month the areas most affected by the clashes were Alou, Lewoh, Azi, M'muock-Mbi, Menji and Fatabong in Lebiale, and Owe, Ekona and Muyuka in Fako divisions in the SW and Kumbo, Bafut and Bali in the NW. Among them, house destruction represents 28.6% of cases and remains the most common protection incident since January. Threats to physical integrity represent 16.2% of cases, and child protection incidents represent 12%.

Population movements intensified during the months of August and September, mainly due to the three-week lockdown. The main cause of population displacement was the fear of attacks by NSAGs and the military, while in the Meme division the second cause of displacement was the lack of access to basic services. These movements were made in three phases:

4K

people displaced from NW to West region

6K

people displaced from SW to Littoral region

- Prior to the lockdown, an estimated number of 4,000 people left Bamenda towards the francophone neighboring region of the West. In the SW approximately 6,000 people fled to the Littoral region and into the bushes after intense confrontations between military and NSAGs in Ekona and Muyuka in the Fako division and Alou, Lewoh, Azi and Fatabongem in the Lebialem division.
- During the lockdown, within the announced breaks to allow the population to get supplies, about 4,800 people left both regions for border towns in francophone regions in search of safety and schools for their children.
- After the September lockdown populations gradually re-entered the regions as activities and movements resumed.

In terms of responses, at least 8,500 persons benefited from various assistance related to protection. 13 training sessions were organized in support of 479 persons (335 women) in the NW, while in the SW, protection partners facilitated about 26 workshops in support of 1,221 persons including 903 women. 331 persons, including 158 women, benefited from civil status registration and identity documentation support (261 in NW). 451 persons, including 252 women, in need of legal assistance received support (447 in NW). 320 survivors of GBV identified have benefited from at least one appropriate service. 30 victims of human rights violations received individual assistance on a cash basis.

Two awareness/sensitization sessions on protection focusing on SGBV were conducted in Upper Custain in Tiko, Fako division and Kumba, Meme division, both SW, where 174 persons were reached.

Child Protection

Due to the lockdown all Child Protection (CP) Area of Responsibility (AoR) actors were forced to suspend or to scale back operations during this period. This is reflected in the limited number of children reached with child protection services. With continued focus on psychosocial support to conflict-affected children and case management for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), CP AoR actors reached 1,412 children who benefited from psychosocial support and 10 UASC who benefited from case management services during the month of September.

1412

children benefited from psychosocial support

The CP AoR Coordination meeting took place in Bamenda on 18 September 2019 as planned. At the meeting, it was agreed that a one-day workshop to develop the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the NW region will be organized with the participation of all CP AoR members in the NW region. After the SRP is in place, a CP AoR Strategic Work Plan for the NW region will be developed.

A Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for the NW region will be established once the bona fide members of the CP AoR in that region have been identified. The SAG will have strategic, technical, advocacy and coordination roles. Also, coaching on the 5Ws will be an integral part of all future CP AoR coordination meetings.

GBV Sub-Cluster

The current situation in the NWSW regions which is characterized by increased insecurity has been hampering humanitarian action. 20 members of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster from the crisis-affected NWSW as well as GBV stakeholders from the Littoral region met in Douala to jointly identify humanitarian needs and response plan for 2020 within the context of the new HPC approach. After two days of brainstorming, the participants were able to identify not just the immediate, chronic and structural causes but also to capture the emerging risks to better define acute versus longer term needs, as well as their severity.

60K

Medical and equipment supplies for over 60k dispatched to health facilities

During the reporting period, UNFPA provided dignity kits and emergency support to internally displaced persons in the SW through community workers deployed by UNFPA's implementing partner LUKMEF. Medical and equipment supplies to meet various lifesaving reproductive health needs of an estimated 63,000 persons in the NWSW regions were sent to selected facilities, comprising of primary and secondary health structures.

Shelter

In urban settlements, such as Kumba town, interviews with IDPs reveal their need for financial assistance to pay house rents. Some of them have been evicted from their homes because of inability to pay rent, which causes secondary displacement. Also, IDPs frequently indicate the lack of non-food items (NFIs) such as mosquito nets, mattresses, warm clothing, blankets, and cooking utensils. IDPs settled in the bushes face more challenges accessing basic services.

142K

people reached with shelter and NFI assistance

In September, no distribution activities were carried out due to the lockdown. Since January, 65,969 people have been reached with shelter assistance with more than half of them receiving light shelter kits (tarpaulin and rope, without tools), while less than 40% have received standard shelter kits. 75,991 people have been supported with NFI assistance in both the NWSW regions since January. Shelter/NFI response in the NW is significantly smaller compared to the SW due to the lack of funding. Shelter and NFI needs for the NW have increased significantly as a result of continuous burning of houses and property. UNHCR plans to distribute an additional 3,000 shelter kits in the SW and 4,000 in the NW by December 2019. Also, 3,000 NFIs will be distributed in the NW and 2,000 in the SW by the end of the year.

From 19 to 20 September 2019, the Shelter Cluster organized a capacity building workshop in Bamenda in which over 32 organizations were represented. The theme of the workshop was on the link between shelter activities, protection mainstreaming, housing land and property rights and negotiating humanitarian access. The Shelter Cluster was represented at the Global Shelter Cluster annual meeting in Geneva where achievements and challenges of the Cluster in Cameroon were discussed.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) humanitarian needs for September remain similar to previous months.

A total of 48 WASH activities were implemented in the NWSW reaching 39,343 individuals. During the reporting period activities were carried out on hygiene promotion (11,111), water supply (18,776), WASH NFI (2,077) and sanitation (7,379). In the NW 11,328 individuals were reached while 28,015 people were reached through WASH activities in the SW. WASH Cluster meetings and SAGs have been held in both Buea and Bamenda, and a Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Group was held as well.

39K

people reached by WASH activities

The key constraints are limited access to the affected population, notably in remote and hard to reach areas due to road blocks, insufficient funds to respond to WASH needs, difficulties documenting the current situation due to lack of community acceptance and lockdowns. Due to lack of funding, the WASH Cluster has reached only 37% of the HRP 2019 target as of September.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int.