

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 1 – 31 January 2020. The next report will be issued in March.

JANUARY 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- An increase in violence, likely related to the February 2020 elections, led to significant displacement of civilians.
- Due to a lack of funding only 493 and 258 people respectively received Shelter and NFI support in the South-West (SW) in January 2020 and none in the North-West (NW).
- Food security assistance in January dropped by 61% with just 96,678 persons benefitting due to the lack of funds.
- 110,971 people received WASH assistance in January.
- Fighting between Mbororo (Fulani) tribes' people, reportedly coming from Nigeria, and communities in NWSW is becoming a new dynamic in the crisis with house burning, civilian casualties and displacement of civilians growing.
- 7,921 children benefitted from Psychosocial Support Services through Child Friendly/Psychosocial support units in January.
- The cholera outbreak in the South-West remains a serious concern as new, but mostly isolated, cases are identified.



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.

2.3M

affected people

Sources:

Humanitarian Need Overview 2020

1.4K

targeted for assistance

Sources:

Humanitarian Response Plan 2020

679K

internally displaced (IDP)

Sources:

MSNA in North-West and South-West Region in August 2019, OCHA

MIRA in Mayo-Banyo (Adamaoua) in July 2019, OCHA, MINAT and partners

MIRA in West and Littoral Regions in October 2019, OCHA, MINAT and partners

MIRA in Mfoundi and Mefou-et-Afamba Division (Centre) in October 2019, OCHA, CHOI and MINAT

204K

Returnees (former IDP)

Sources:

MSNA in North-West and South-West Region in August 2019, OCHA

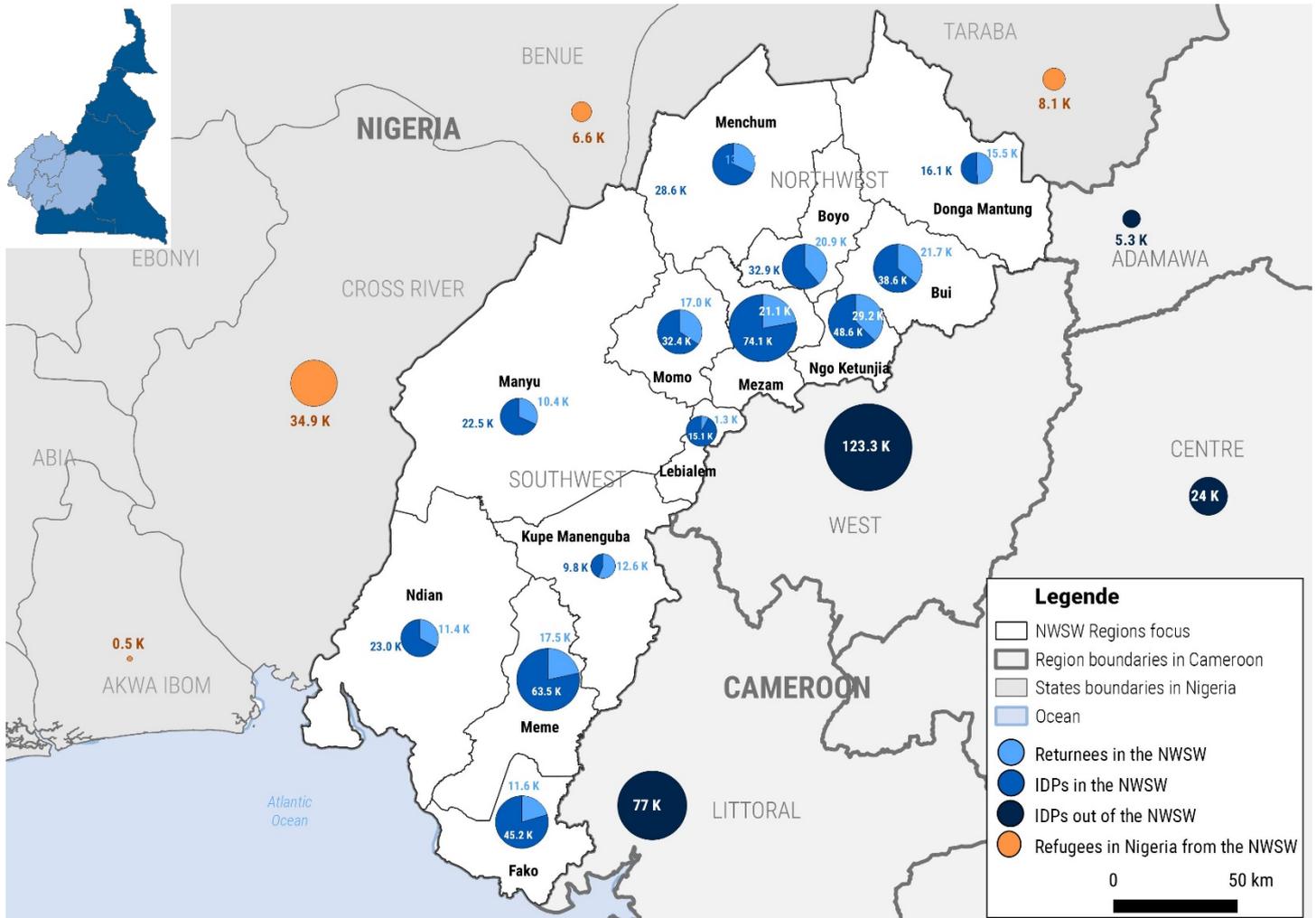
52K

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

Sources:

Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian Refugees as of December 2019, UNHCR

Map of IDP, Returnees and Refugees from the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon



Source: OCHA, UNHCR, IOM

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian

The humanitarian situation in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions of Cameroon continues to deteriorate as violence, likely related to the February 2020 elections, rises. At the same time funding for the humanitarian response for 2020 has been slow to materialize hampering humanitarian effectiveness.

In January 2020, displacement of civilians rose significantly due to an increase in violence throughout the NWSW. Due to the insecurity and fears related to election-related violence many humanitarian NGOs and partners reduced or suspended activities before the end of the month. Capacity of the UN to track displacement trends remains a challenge.

The increase in school attendance since September 2019 is positive. Schools resumed for the second term of the academic year this month. The number of students is 31% higher than in September 2019 when the academic year started. However, most functional official schools are in urban areas.

The cholera outbreak in the SW continues to be a challenge with cases continuing to be identified including in the neighboring Littoral region. UN CERF funding has been allocated for the cholera response to WHO and UNICEF for, respectively, health and WASH activities.

Violence against civilians continues to be recorded in significant numbers with burning of houses and villages a hallmark of the crisis. Violence between the Fulani (Mbororo), local communities and NSAGs continued in the NWSW and particularly in Boyo, Menchum and Donga-Mantung divisions. It is reported that many of the Mbororo fighters are coming from Nigeria bringing an international dimension to the crisis. As elections approach, NSAGs threatened and abducted many politicians

involved in the elections. Most of those abducted were of the opposition SDF party in the NW with many pushed to leave the NWSW.

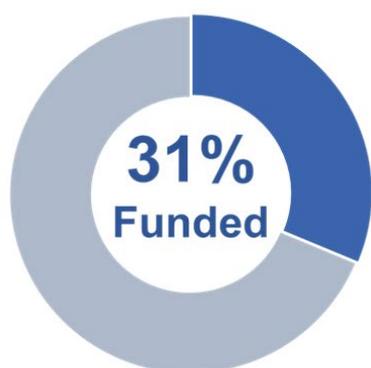
Humanitarian actors are increasingly targeted by both government forces and NSAGs with suspicions high from all actors that humanitarians are working against their interests. On 30 January, NSAGs abducted seven (four in Bamenda and three in Bambili) workers from two humanitarian NGOs partnering with the UN. The NSAGs tortured three of them and released them hours after. There are increasing reports of military conducting operations close to humanitarian distribution sites putting beneficiaries at risk and tarnishing the perception of humanitarian actors. The number of humanitarian actors at risk of abuse from the different parties to the crisis is increasing.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

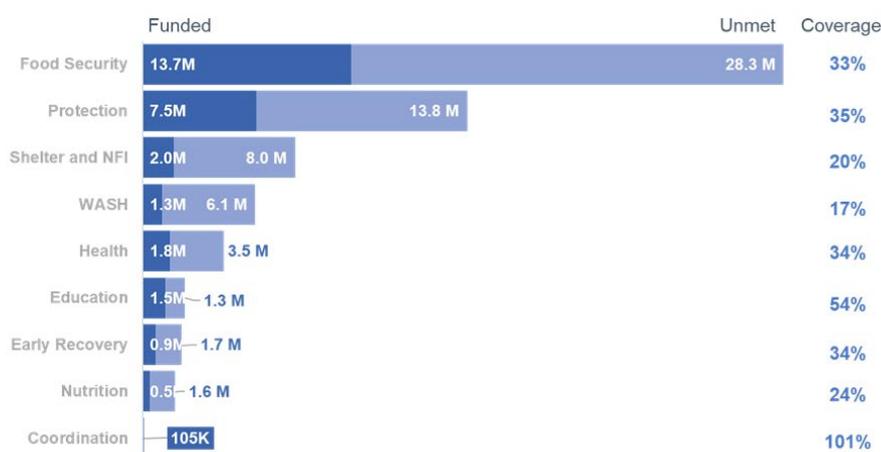
In January NGO Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF) meetings were held in Buea and Kumba in SW. In February it is planned to hold the first monthly HCF in Mamfe (SW) and in March to expand to Kumbo in NW. The first Inter-Cluster Coordination Meeting was held in Bamenda in January with the intention that ICC meetings will rotate on a bi-weekly basis between Buea and Bamenda. OCHA led field missions to Bafut and Bali Sub-Divisions of Mezam in NW and Kumba in the SW. Access Working Group meetings were held in both NW and SW.

FUNDING

Cameroon 2019 NW-SW Crisis
US\$ 93.5 million requested



Funding by sector (in million US\$)
As of 31 December 2019



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

The second term of the 2019/2020 academic year began on 6 January. 19% of basic and secondary public schools (1,010 basic schools and 168 secondary schools) are functional in the NWSW. This shows progress (31%) as compared to the beginning of the academic year in September 2019 (from 807 schools in September 2019 to 1,178 schools in January 2020).

19%

basic and secondary public schools functional

39%

school attendance by basic and secondary public-school students

32%

of teacher reported at work

According to the Ministries of Education, 39% basic and secondary public-school students are in school. This is 221,058 out of the 563,453 expected, as estimated by the government, school aged children. This is a 31% increase compared to the academic year in September 2019 (152,034). The Education Cluster however estimates the expected total of students at 1.3 million when comparing with the pre-conflict period.

This month, 32% of basic and secondary public-school teachers (9,135 out of expected 28,220) reported to work in the NWSW. This includes 5,928 out of expected 16,001 public basic school teachers and 3,207 out of 12,219 expected public secondary school teachers. This is a 19% increase compared to September 2019 (7,362 teachers).

Compared to urban areas, school attendance, teachers' presence at school and the number of functional schools are low in rural areas. They are also high in administrative quarters compared to areas where there is presence of NSAGs.

Partners distributed learning materials to 10,820 children (5,499 girls and 5,321 boys) and mentored the facilitators of community learning centres in Bui, Donga Mantung, Fako, Mezam and Momo.

Food Security

By January 2020, most 2019 projects had come to the end of their cycle. This left organizations with little or no funding. This reduced assistance by 61% as compared to December 2019. However, 22 partners assisted 96,678 people in January 2020. This is a drop compared to the 250,274 people reached in December 2019. Up to 80% of the beneficiaries are in the NW. 19% of the beneficiaries received agriculture and livelihoods related support.

97K

people assisted with food security and livelihood activities in NWSW

Health

The cholera outbreak in the Bakassi Health District has been contained. For the past six weeks, no new case has been reported. However, there were rumors of suspected cases of cholera and cholera-related community deaths in the Ekondo-Titi Health District (SW). The risk of future outbreaks remains high in these regions as the vaccination coverage for routine immunization remains critically low in most of the health districts.

8.7K

people reached with health-related services

7.8K

people sensitized on various diseases

Attacks on health care remain high. Partners reported one attack in BuaBua (NW). Health Cluster partners reached 8,704 people with health-related services. They also sensitized 7,812 people on various diseases.

Nutrition

Preliminary findings from the October 2019 emergency food security assessment (EFSA) show some deterioration of the nutrition situation. The proxy prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is 7.4 % in SW and 5.1% in NW. The nutrition results from the EFSA conducted by WFP in January 2019 revealed a proxy GAM rate of 4.4% and 5.6% for the NW and SW regions respectively.

20

Children diagnosed SAM

81

Children diagnosed MAM

Nutrition partners with the support of UNICEF screened 4,655 children under 5 years for acute malnutrition. Out of the 4,655 children screened, 81 children (1%) had Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 20 children (0.4%) had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Despite these results looking relatively low they are only based on programmes implemented via partners in accessible areas. The cluster needs to conduct a SMART survey to confirm accurately the nutrition throughout the NWSW.

Partners sensitized 2,170 persons on key messages on infant and young child feeding practices.

Protection

Protection incidents remained high this month. Based on key informant reports, the burning of houses and arbitrary arrest were common place. There were 35 flash alerts (24 from the NW and 11 from the SW) relating to immediate humanitarian consequences such as displacement. Sources also indicate that parties to the conflict burnt more than 20 persons in January. NSAGs also burnt buildings belonging to the office in charge of organizing elections, Elections Cameroon (ELECAM).

132

protection incidents reported

INTERSOS and DRC conducted protection monitoring in seven divisions of the NWSW. They recorded 132 incidents, 13 of which occurred during January. In December 2019, 453 incident reports were collected. The reduction was due to increased insecurity related to the elections and the challenge in safely conducting protection interviews. Out of the 132 incidents, 69.2% were in the SW and 30.8% were in the NW. This reflects the locations which are easier to reach rather than reflecting any trends of where the majority of protection incidents occur.

Cluster members are paying more attention to persons with disabilities. During a sensitization campaign, the Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD) provided assistive devices (wheel chairs, white canes) to 12 IDPs with disabilities. Partners identified about 500 persons with disabilities in need of civil status documentation. Partners also carried out trainings on psychosocial support.

Child Protection

Rising insecurity related to the electoral period limited Child Protection partners' ability to reach vulnerable children in January. Child Protection actors only supported 8,642 children in January 2020.

7.9K

children benefitted from psychosocial support

Child Protection actors provided Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) to 7,921 children in Child Friendly Spaces and Psychosocial Support Units. Partners also provided case management services to 130 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Partners placed 81 of the 130 UASC in temporary or long-term alternative care arrangements. They reunified 25 children with their families. Partners supported 591 other vulnerable children with case management services.

Partners continued to reinforce Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms. They trained community focal points in hard-to-reach areas on how to deliver community-based psychosocial support services. They also carried out community sensitization on child rights and Gender-Based Violence.

However, due to insecurity and displacement, partners lost contact with trained community focal points as they saw community structures disrupted. This affected programmes in places such as Ekona Yard (SW).

GBV Area of Responsibility

During the period under review, a total of 2,709 people were reached with GBV interventions including: GBV lifesaving awareness messages, dignity kits, psychosocial First Aid, case management services, health care, and life skills trainings (*76% of the people reached are women and girls and 14% are men and boys*). The majority (85%) of the people reached are IDPs and 15% are host community members. A total of 1,064 people received psychosocial support and 21 women and girls benefitted from skills building training. In addition, the GBV Sub Cluster members carried out GBV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) assessments of the needs in the North-West and South-West. There is a need to improve the availability and cost of GBV services for the crisis affected populations.

2.7K

people reached with GBV interventions

It is important to note that the number of people reached in January is 1% of the estimated 380,000 IDP women and girls in need of GBV services. This gap is due to many factors including a lack of funding, the security situation and low capacity and reach of service providers. If funding issues are not addressed, women and girls will continue to suffer from the consequences of GBV, including sexual violence, as result of the unavailability of life saving GBV services including health care and clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, safe spaces, shelter and livelihood activities as well as dignity kits.

There is need to develop and support the implementation of an inter-agency GBV capacity building plan to reinforce GBV actors' capacities to carry our GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response activities in line with GBV minimum standards,

guiding principles and guidelines. A community-based approach to GBV prevention and response should be initiated and reinforced to address the access constraints.

Shelter

Shelter and NFI needs are on the rise as houses continue to be burnt. Partners reported that some shelter and NFIs they had distributed in some communities were burnt or destroyed during raids and attacks. Many partners suspended their activities due to threats and rising tension as municipal and legislative elections drew closer.

However, some partners succeeded to distribute in the SW region. Partners distributed emergency shelter kits to 493 persons and NFI to 258 people, all in the SW. Distributions are planned for the NW after the elections and National Youth day celebration.

493

people respectively
received Shelter support

258

people respectively
received NFI support

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In January, seven partners reached 110,971 individuals with WASH activities in the NWSW. This represents 16.16% incremental increase as compared to December (95,452 individuals). Although the WASH Cluster has 52 members, more than 40 members are not implementing WASH activities because they lack financial resources.

111K

people reached with
WASH activities

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