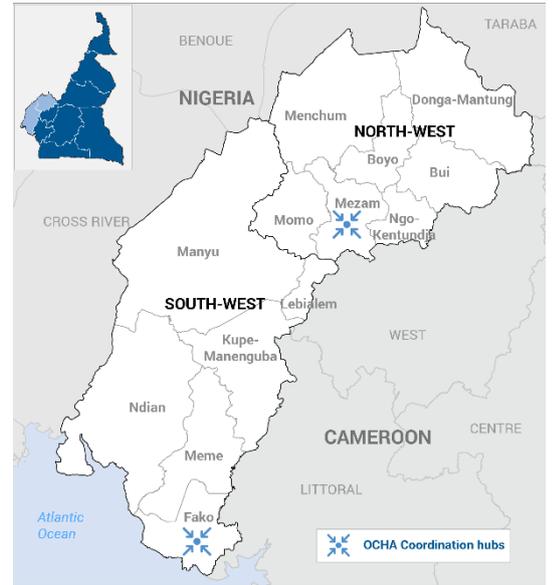


This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 1 – 31 August 2020. The next report will be issued in October 2020.

AUGUST 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Attacks on education actors have been reported in the North-West and South-West regions with a teacher killed on 10 August and a student injured on 11 August by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) for participating in the general certificate exams (GCE).
- Based on the 2019 trends, attacks on education actors might rise in the weeks before and after school reopening on 5 October. The education cluster and OCHA are advocating to ensure that learning is not used as a political tool in the crisis.
- In total 245,911 people received food security assistance in August 2020.
- The 16 mobile clinics funded by CERF since 1 July 2019 will close at the end of September 2020 due to lack of additional funding. During August 10,249 patients, 5 percent of whom live with disabilities, received life-saving primary healthcare from these services.
- 94 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the North-West and South-West regions in August 2020. 15 percent of the 110 children identified with SAM did not receive the required assistance due to low coverage of SAM treatment in the two regions.
- Protection monitors issued 80 flash alerts related to incidents including deadly attacks on civilians, burning of houses, kidnapping, arbitrary arrests and other serious protection violations against civilians in August 2020.
- 567 Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents were reported, with survivors receiving assistance, in August 2020 in the two regions.

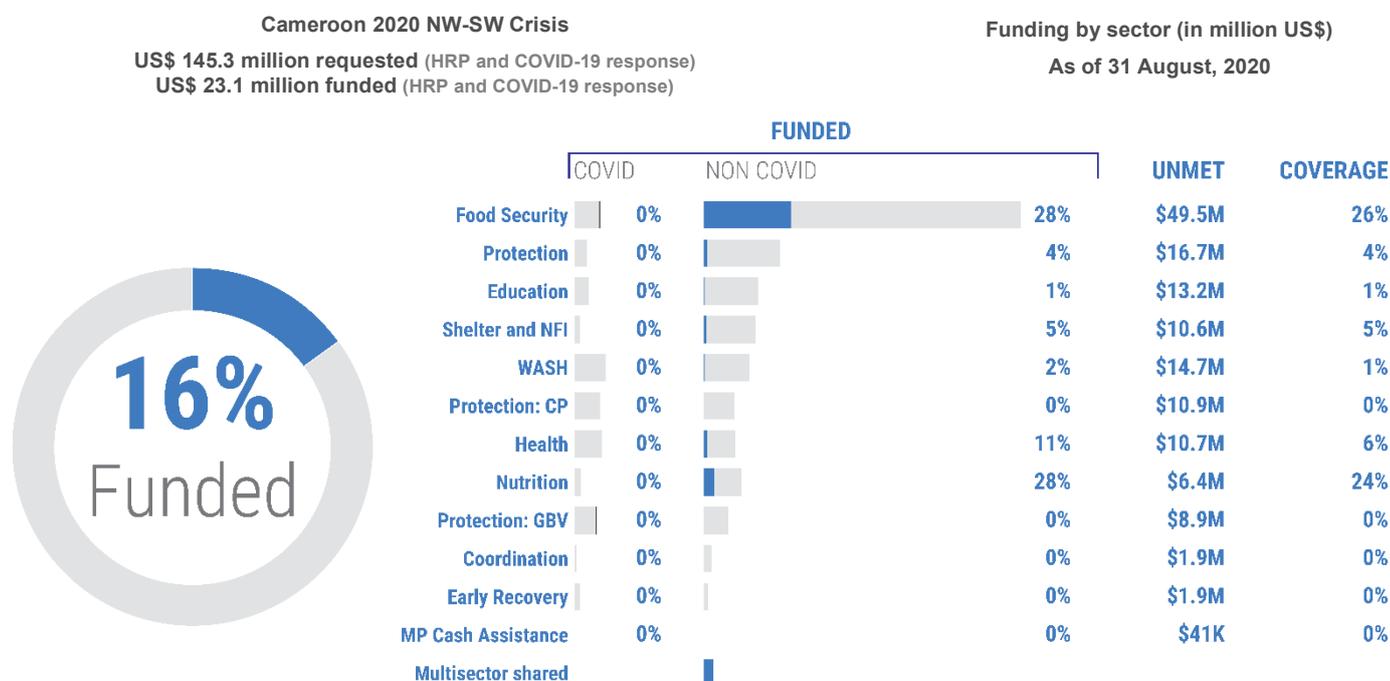


Source: OCHA
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

<p>3M affected people</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Need Overview 2020 Revised</i></p>	<p>1.4M targeted for assistance</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 Revised</i></p>	<p>679K internally displaced (IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) NWSW in August 2019, OCHA</i> <i>Multi-sector initial rapid assessment (MIRA) in Mayo-Banyo (Adamaoua) in July 2019, OCHA, MINAT and partners</i> <i>MIRA in West and Littoral Regions in October 2019, OCHA, MINAT and partners</i> <i>MIRA in Mfoundi and Mefou-et-Afamba Division (Centre) in October 2019, OCHA, CHOI and MINAT</i></p>	<p>204K Returnees (former IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in North-West and South-West Region in August 2019, OCHA</i></p>	<p>59K Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources: <i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian Refugees as of 30 June 2020, UNHCR</i></p>
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aid organization at Kurabi (Batibo subdivision, Momo division). The Humanitarian Coordinator *ad interim* issued an [statement on 8 August condemning the killing of the aid worker](#). This incident happened barely a month after the killing of a community health worker in the South-West. The Humanitarian Coordinator called all armed actors to refrain from any attacks or obstruction of aid workers and humanitarian agencies on whose assistance so many lives depend. OCHA has continued to advocate for humanitarian access.

FUNDING



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 national reopening of schools, including in the NWSW, is scheduled for 5 October 2020. Schools have been closed since 18 March to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. In preparation of schools reopening, education cluster partners were able to support learning of 32,222 conflict and COVID-19 affected children (15,545 boys and 16,677 girls) in the NWSW through distance learning, provision of psychosocial support and provision of water and sanitation in schools and learning centres. This also includes access to education for 3,894 children (1,716 boys and 2,178 girls) affected by the dual emergencies of conflict and COVID-19 through e-learning and radio programme in both regions.

32K

Conflict and COVID-19
affected learners assisted

Education authorities continued preparing children who were sitting for general certificate examinations (GCE) amidst increased risks and threats from NSAGs to students and teachers. These attacks are expected to rise in the weeks before and after school reopening, based on previous trends. The education cluster, with the support of OCHA, is scaling up efforts in advance of the start of the school year to depoliticize education and ensure that all sides in the crisis refrain from using learning as a political tool in the crisis. Cluster partners are also exploring safer learning modalities that reduce the exposure of children and teachers to the risk of attacks.

Food Security

The food security situation in the NWSW remains precarious. The cluster is prioritizing resource mobilization and a modality shift from in-kind to cash programming where possible. As of August 2020, 29 partners collectively assisted 245,911 people in the NWSW regions. This figure represents an 8 percent decrease compared to the 269,179 people assisted in July. The decrease is mainly due to the end of projects of two key partners. Around 90 percent of the total beneficiaries received food assistance either through in-kind or cash/voucher modalities. 66 percent of beneficiaries were in the NW. A total of 5 partners reported having implemented COVID-19 support activities.

245K

People received food and livelihood assistance

The COVID-19 situation has had a huge impact on the logistics and supply chain involved in distributing in-kind support. Hence, several food security partners have been exploring the possibility of shifting to cash. The cash working group has engaged with the local government in the regions to ensure that partners shifting to cash do not face any bureaucratic challenges. The government has emphasized the need for transparency and sharing of reports to ensure that cash is delivered to the targeted households and not diverted. The food security cluster continues to hold its regular online coordination meetings and technical working groups on food assistance and agriculture/livelihoods to specifically discuss issues around harmonization of relief packages.

Health

All health districts in the NWSW regions have started testing for COVID-19. 28 out of the 37 health districts in the NWSW have confirmed at least one case of COVID-19. Mass screening campaigns are ongoing in the health districts for early detection, isolation, and treatment of cases to break the chain of transmission. A relaxation in the implementation of preventive measures such as the use of face masks and social distancing has been observed in public spaces. Mass sensitization campaigns are ongoing in both regions to raise awareness and counter the widespread misinformation about COVID-19 in the regions. WHO organized a workshop from 4 to 7 August on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in the management of COVID-19 in the NW region. The 19 health districts of the NW and medical personnel from key health facilities took part in the workshop in Bamenda.

10.2K

Consulted through mobile clinic teams

Health cluster partners, despite the unpredictable and volatile atmosphere in August, were able to provide life-saving essential health services in Fako, Meme, Ndian, Kupe-Manenguba, Manyu, Mezam, Boyo, Ngoketunjia, Bui, and Momo divisions in NWSW. Mobile clinics operated by Reach Out and CARITAS, partners of WHO, have been the main source of primary health care in most of the affected communities in 10 divisions where they have been operating since 1 July 2019. The 16 mobile clinic teams will conclude operations in these communities at the end of September 2020 due to the exhaustion of CERF funds despite the continuing needs.

In August, these clinics were able to consult 10,249 patients. Over 5 percent of the patients consulted were people living with disabilities. Mobile clinics placed 48 patients on anti-retroviral treatment and sensitized 35,863 persons on epidemic-prone diseases, sexually transmitted infections and non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension. The clinical psychologists deployed by WHO and mobile clinics provided psychosocial support to 104 persons. The trauma surgeons deployed by WHO and the mobile clinic teams performed 162 surgical procedures.

UNICEF through its implementing partners CARITAS and CBCHS continued the provision of life-saving services to IDPs and conflict-affected populations living in hard to reach 7 divisions of the NWSW despite security and COVID-19 challenges. A total of 13,668 children aged between 6-59 months were vaccinated with routine vaccines. 985 children were treated for simple malaria and acute respiratory tract infections. Some 2,419 households received mosquito nets and 998 pregnant women received tetanus and diphtheria vaccines, out of which 812 received iron supplementation, and 144 received intermittent preventive treatment for malaria prevention. A total of 170 healthcare facility staff and community health workers were trained on infection prevention and control (IPC), 172 handwashing equipment stations were installed in the community and immunization centers and 121 people (leaders of the women group, religious, opinion, etc.) were engaged on COVID-19 through risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) actions.

Nutrition

In August, 26,521 children under 5 years of age were screened for acute malnutrition with 110 (0.4 percent) identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 323 (1.2 percent) children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

94 children with SAM (85 percent) were supported with treatment, however 15 percent were not able to receive treatment as coverage and availability of SAM treatment is still low compared to the number of cases identified. The existing referral system still needs to be strengthened.

Under the preventive programme for malnutrition in food insecure areas, 11,230 children between 6-23 months and 6,931 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were reached under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) implemented by WFP partners in the NWSW. Implementation was carried out by SHUMAS, Reach Out, SUDAHASER, INTERSOS, Action Against Hunger (AAH), CBCHS, COMINSUD, and CARITAS with resource support from UNICEF and WFP. In addition to the partner's efforts, the two regional Delegations of public health organized activities in non-covered health facilities which is a new approach supported by UNICEF and WFP, as this increases the sustainability of the interventions.

COVID-19 preventive measures (including programmatic adaptations) were undertaken by partners to mitigate the spread of the disease. 10,841 persons were reached with information, education and communication (IEC) materials with COVID-19 messages specific on infant and young child feeding. COVID-19 modules (specific on nutrition) were integrated in the SAM management training conducted in Bamenda between 26 and 28 August. Insecurity continues to be a hinderance in the delivery of nutrition services across the regions.

The training of additional 80 health workers on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and BSFP, including programme adaptations related to COVID-19, will continue in September 2020. Also, a training for caregivers and community members on the use and provision of mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes to caregivers will be initiated.

26.5KChildren under 5
screened for acute
malnutrition**6.9K**PLW received nutritional
assistance

Protection

The protection environment in the NWSW continued to deteriorate in August due to increasing insecurity with attacks on humanitarian workers, frequent clashes between NSAGs and government security forces as well as destruction of properties, killing and threats against the civilian population. In addition, the poor road network after heavy rains is making humanitarian access more difficult as the rainy season gets to its peak. 80 flash alerts (60 in the NW and 20 in the SW) and other significant incidents were reported in August, including homicides on civilians leaving community members in high protection risks and daily fear.

184.6KReached through
protection activities

In August 2020, 579 protection incidents were recorded through the UNHCR and INTERSOS protection monitoring project in the NWSW regions. It should be noted that the incident reports collected each month refer to incidents which have happened at any time since the crisis began and are not indicative of any protection trends.

Protection Responses

184,627 individuals benefited from various protection responses in August, including protection monitoring conducted by DRC, INTERSOS and IRC. UNHCR and its partner Libra Law Office (LLO) assisted several cases with legal protection needs including support to obtain identity and civil status documentation, legal counselling and sensitization on the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders. Among those assisted with protection services 79 percent were women and girls, while 30 percent were children and 26 percent were 60-year-old and above. During the reporting period, 198 persons benefited from legal assistance (detention, civil status documents, legal GBV response), 161 women and girls with specific needs were supported by activities aiming to restore and sustain their dignity, including with cash assistances. 44 survivors benefited from psychosocial support while various advocacy actions were undertaken in the field.

Gender	Children	Adults	Elders	Total	Gender %
Male	22,333	33,577	27,836	83,746	45%
Female	33,583	45,905	21,393	100,881	55%
Age group %	30.3	43	26.7	184,627	100%

About 40 humanitarian workers were trained on human rights/protection thematic areas and mainstreaming of protection while 2,327 persons were reached through sensitization and awareness raising on numerous themes including legal issues, social cohesion, GBV key concepts, protection and humanitarian principles, COVID-19 prevention and protective measures.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility

Despite the worsening security situation Child Protection (CP) Area of Responsibility (AoR) members, including UNICEF and their implementing partners, reached more than 29,000 children and caregivers with different child protection services in both affected regions.

Child Protection AoR members continue to provide psychosocial services (PSS) to children and caregivers affected by the conflict and COVID-19, through different forms of child friendly and other safe spaces. During the reporting period, Child Protection actors were able to reach more than 9,200 children and caregivers via PSS. This number is consistent with the number of children and caregivers reached during July as some CP AoR members are implementing new approaches i.e. remote psychosocial support, to reach children and caregivers in need of PSS in hard to reach communities.

In response to COVID-19, Child Protection actors have sensitized more than 10,000 children and caregivers on the ways COVID-19 spreads and the related child protection risks and concerns. In addition, activities were undertaken to raise the community awareness on GBV and child protection issues and to build their capacity to respond accordingly.

29K

Children and caregivers received child protection services

GBV Area of Responsibility

The level of Gender Based Violence (GBV) incident reporting has remained stable with 567 cases reported in August compared to July 2020 (573 cases). However, as repeated armed confrontations in August caused new displacements, there is a high likelihood that more GBV cases were perpetrated than reported, as access to affected communities has been limited. Sexual violence represents 38 percent of the reported cases while survivors' access to multi-sectoral response services remains a challenge. Survivors of GBV incidents are mostly women (78 percent). 4 percent of them are women with disabilities, and 25 percent are children. Survivors received various services including psychosocial support (40 percent), health (34 percent), livelihood services (25 percent) and legal assistance (16 percent). There is a critical need to scale up lifesaving GBV services and advocate for access to affected communities in hard to reach areas.

In August, the GBV AoR members were able to reach 37,969 people with GBV prevention and response interventions including: GBV and COVID-19 awareness raising and information on available services (12,088); dignity kits distribution (8,401); women and girl safe space activities (7,185); psychosocial support and psychological first aid (PFA) (4,057); men and boys engagement activities (2,409); youth and adolescent program (1,059); life skill development for women (994); capacity building for community members and frontline workers on GBV concepts (682). To support timely access of GBV survivors to multi-sector services, 15 organizations from the WASH cluster and 35 DTM focal points received an orientation and 95 copies of the GBV referral pathways. Enhancing GBV case management skills of frontline workers is key to the healing process of survivors of GBV as well as their recovery and empowerment.

Service providers need to be trained on GBV case management to be able to support survivors in the process of identifying and addressing their holistic needs. However, during a recent rapid assessment on the COVID-19 impact on GBV risks and response in the NWSW regions, 60 percent to 82 percent of respondents (service providers) stated they did not receive any training or orientation on psychosocial support and GBV case management. To address this need, the GBV AoR under UNFPA leadership trained 60 frontline GBV actors on GBV case management in the two regions. Recognizing the importance of these training sessions, GBV actors in the regions also expressed the need for more coaching and funding support to be able to address the holistic needs of GBV survivors including health, mental health and psychosocial support, safe shelter and socioeconomic empowerment and access to justice. It is important to note that these services are not always free for all the survivors in the conflict affected NWSW regions, discouraging most of the victims and their families from seeking support exacerbating the consequences of GBV on survivors and their families, and jeopardizing their resilience.

37.9K

People reached with GBV interventions

Shelter/NFI

In the two regions 18,979 individuals (11,242 in the NW and 7,736 in the SW) from 1,805 households benefited from shelter cluster support in August 2020. In the SW, UNHCR and its partner Plan International assisted 536 households in Buea and Tiko (Fako division). These overcrowded households visibly needed more assistance in NFIs and Plan International will add to the number of NFI kits provided. IOM assisted 85 households in Kumba (SW) with shelter kits while 184 were assisted in the NW. NRC distributed 200 NFI kits in the Tubah subdivision of Mezam division (NW), reaching up to 1,280 individuals. Elsewhere, 800 households

18.9K

People reached through shelter services

benefited from assistance in core relief items as Plan International carried out distributions in some highly affected communities in Bali (NW). Also, in the NW close to 8,613 persons were reached with core relief items (NFI) in villages such as Gungong, Mbufung, Jam Jam, Mbeluh/Medum, Mbadmande, Kopin, Bali Centre, Njenka all in Bali subdivision (Mezam).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In August 408,230 individuals received various WASH services including COVID-19 prevention activities implemented by seven WASH partners (H4BF, Plan International, NRC, SUDAHSER, CHAMEG, and EPDA and COMINSUD supported by UNICEF) in the NWSW. The total number of individuals reached in August was 72.55 percent of the number of people reached in July 2020. Lockdowns, harvest season and heavy rains affected effective implementation of some of the WASH activities like hygiene promotion and sensitization on COVID-19.

408.2K

People reached through
WASH services

During the reporting period, key activities that were carried out and number of people reached are as follows:

Hygiene Promotion	Water supply	WASH kit	Dignity Kits	Sanitation	Sensitization on COVID-19
65,392	2,500	985	250	700	337,803

In terms of COVID-19 prevention, 200 handwashing stations were installed in strategic public areas like markets and bus stations in seven locations of Bamenda. More than 10,000 individuals are expected to benefit from the installed handwashing stations. The harvest season has caused the community to reduce attendance at hygiene promotion and sensitization sessions. To address this constraint, sensitization sessions are carried out very early in the morning.

The first physical WASH cluster meetings since the outbreak of COVID-19 was held in the SW and NW regions on 20 and 27 August, respectively.

Humanitarian coordination

OCHA continued to provide leadership in the response in the NWSW through the organization of regular meetings of the Inter-Cluster, Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF), Access Working Group and Information Management Working Group. World Humanitarian Day was celebrated on 19 August. OCHA organized events in Bamenda (NW) and Kumba and Mamfe (SW). A social media campaign also conducted by OCHA for the celebration gave tribute to humanitarian workers nominated by their peers and organizations.

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