

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 1 to 28 February 2021. The next report will be issued in April 2021.

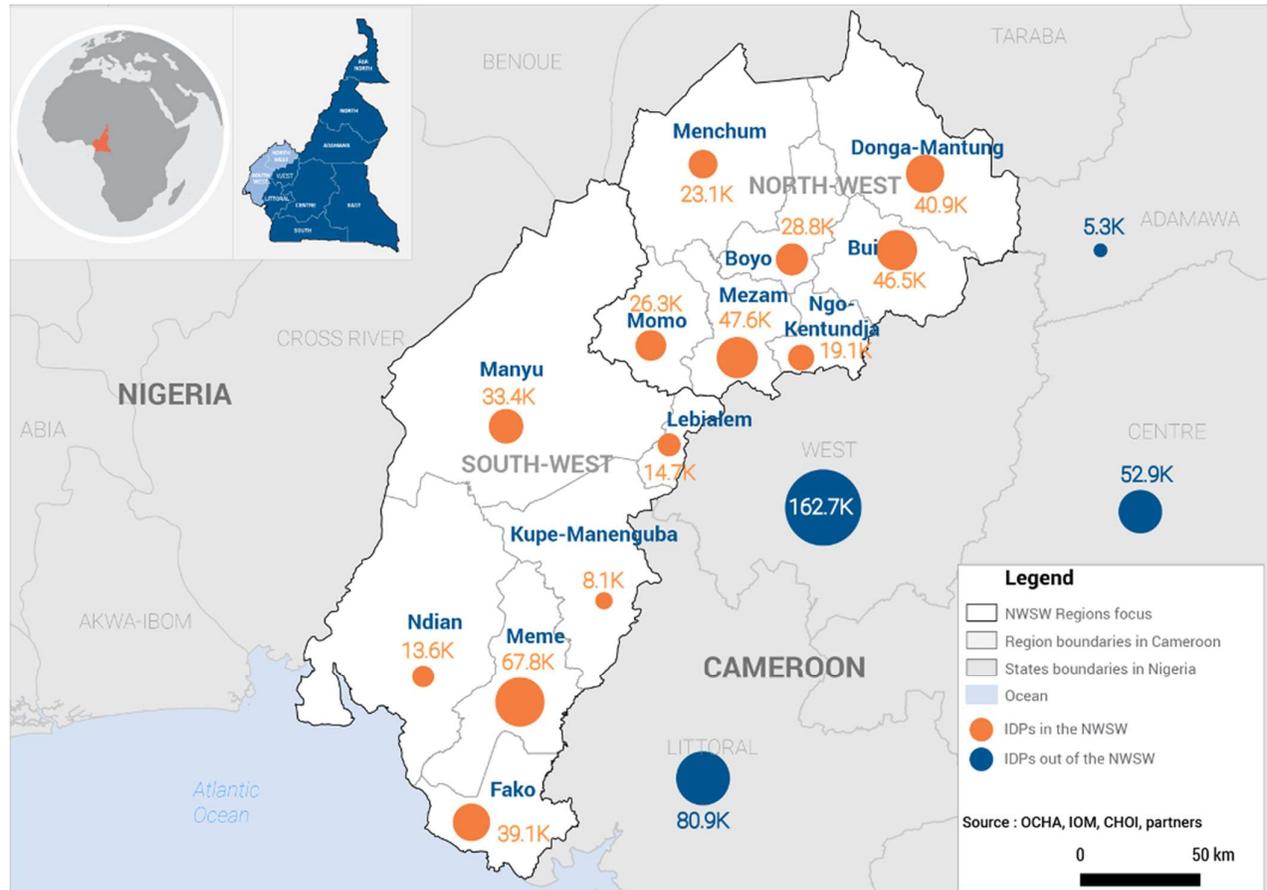
HIGHLIGHTS

- 245,300 people in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions benefited from food assistance as well as agriculture and livelihood activities.
- 377 Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents were reported in the two regions.
- 16,383 infants and pregnant women received routine vaccines they had previously missed.
- 44 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were referred for appropriate treatment.
- COVID-19 is negatively impacting education with an increase of positive cases among teachers and students.



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</p> <p>affected people</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 Revised-June 2020</i></p>	<p>1.4M</p> <p>targeted for assistance</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 Revised -June 2020</i></p>	<p>705.8K</p> <p>Internally Displaced People (IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) NWSW, OCHA - August 2020</i> <i>MSNA in West and Littoral regions, OCHA and partners – August 2020</i> <i>MIRA in Centre region, CHOI and OCHA- September 2020</i></p>	<p>360.5K</p> <p>returnees (former IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in NWSW region OCHA - August 2020</i></p>	<p>63.8K</p> <p>Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources: <i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian refugees, UNHCR – 28 February 2021</i></p>
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Map of IDPs and returnees from the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon

Source: OCHA, IOM

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in the NWSW regions remained dire in February with continued violence and targeted attacks. The population remained caught up between parties to the ongoing crisis. Cases of harassment of the local population by parties to the conflict were reported in many communities. Some people were targeted for alleged association with one side or the other, and others caught by stray bullets during crossfire.

Hostilities were reported in Nwa subdivision in the North-West (NW) region. Between 22 and 26 February, an estimated 4,200 individuals were displaced from Tong, Sih, Bom, Nyack, Nfeh, Kwack, and Yang villages in Nwa subdivision due to attacks from Fulani vigilante groups. These attacks led to the death of at least eight people. There have also been reports of fighting between non-State armed groups (NSAGs) and the Fulani vigilante groups within these communities.

Attacks against traditional leaders resurfaced in February. On 13 February, four traditional rulers, the chiefs of Ndung Ngoh, Nchanalleh, Mbrah, and Alesheshuoh villages in the Lebiafem division in the South-West region (SW) were abducted from their homes and taken to the market square of Essoh Attah village in Lebiafem division where they were shot dead. On 14 February, the traditional ruler of Kom village in the Boybo division in the North-West region (NW) was abducted from his palace by NSAGs and taken to their camp. He was released two hours later, as the local population gathered at the NSAG camp to demand his release. Following this incident, cases of harassment and movement restrictions were reported on the road from Fundong to Njinikom, with NSAGs asking for money from passers-by.

Humanitarian actors continued to operate under numerous constraints. On 4 February, a nurse working with an international NGO was injured by gunshots as their ambulance was caught in a crossfire during a NSAG attack in Mbalangi village in the Mbonge subdivision in the SW. On 25 February, a food distribution activity was interrupted by a NSAGs attack in a locality in the Muyuka subdivision in the SW. On 27 February, a UN staff onboard a public transport bus traveling from Bamenda

to Kumba was removed from the bus alongside other passengers, assaulted and taken to the bush by unidentified gunmen suspected to be NSAG fighters. In Fundong, Boyo division in the NW, some partners have been forced to stop distribution activities due to access constraints.

The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) remains prevalent, with at least ten incidents reported of IEDs detonated or dismantled during February. Humanitarian agencies are not targeted by IEDs but remain at risk of becoming collateral damage or being at the wrong time/ wrong place.

Attacks against school staff continued in February. On 17 February, two teachers at the Government's secondary school of Abangoh quarter, in the Bamenda 2 subdivision in the NW, were allegedly abducted on campus by suspected NSAG fighters. No further information was available about their whereabouts.

Violence has resulted in multiple population displacement across the NWSW regions with over 10,741 people forced to flee their homes to seek shelter and safety in nearby bushes, villages and towns in February alone. The Donga-Mantung, Bui, Boyo and Mezam divisions in the NW, and the Lebialem and Manyu divisions in the SW, are the most affected.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

The security situation within the schools was relatively calm compared to the previous months. The increase in COVID-19 cases especially in the NW region is affecting students and teachers, with some being infected. In compliance to Government and World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, systematic screening for COVID-19 began in schools in February. So far, 2.45 per cent of teachers have been tested and 11.1 per cent among them were tested positive. 4,814 children were tested and 229 cases, representing 4.8 per cent, tested positive. Approximately 30 per cent of functional schools in the NW have recorded positive COVID-19 cases. Unfortunately, due to the lack of test kits, and insufficient prevention equipment, the testing and prevention exercise might soon be halted.

Education Cluster partners reached 41,650 students including 22,713 girls and 18,937 boys, with response interventions adapted to the COVID-19 context such as, radio education, distance learning, distribution of recreational kits, psychosocial support, and COVID-19 sensitization.

41.6K

Girls and boys reached through different education activities.

Food Security

Food Security Cluster partners provided food, agriculture and livelihood assistance to 245,300 people, equivalent to 32 per cent of the beneficiaries. Livelihood and household coping mechanisms are overly stretched, and the affected population is becoming increasingly dependent on monthly food assistance.

Many national NGOs are not operational, as funding remains a major challenge. The lack of funding continued to have a negative effect on the overall food security response, with some families in need not receiving assistance.

The Cluster recently concluded its Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) exercise with 66 per cent of the respondents feeling satisfied with the overall Cluster performance. Additionally, as part of the cluster performance review process, the Cluster plans to organize a validation workshop with partners to further discuss the responses and recommendations for an effective follow up of partners' needs.

245.3K

People reached with food/livelihood assistance

Health

The NWSW regions are experiencing a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, reported to be more severe than the first wave in June-July 2020, in terms of number of cases detected per epidemiological week and number of deaths. The case fatality rate in the NW is 4.1 per cent, almost three times the national figure. This can be partially explained by the increased testing of dead bodies in the region. From 22 to 28 February, nine over 11 deaths were recorded in health facilities and two in the community. WHO is supporting mass testing campaigns in the NWSW to increase the testing rates from below 100 in 10,000 people to 300 in 10,000 people by the end of April 2021.

16.3K

Children and pregnant women benefitted from routine vaccines previously missed

The Health Cluster coordination meeting took place in Bamenda in February. During this meeting, partners agreed on the need to update the public health situational analysis (PHSA) and the Health Resources and Available Services Monitoring System (HeRAMS) in the two regions.

The Cluster has a limited and decreasing number of operational partners because of limited funding. However, available partners continued to deliver timely and life-saving services to affected communities. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) supported the Regional Delegation of Public Health (RDPH) of the SW to carry out the third and last round of three-days catch-up vaccination for children and pregnant women in the region. A total of 15,307 infants and 1,076 pregnant women who had missed vaccine doses were vaccinated. UNICEF also supported the RDPH SW to train 45 staff from 18 health facilities on infection prevention and control (IPC) in the context of COVID-19. WHO provided 264 phones and communication credit in the NWSW to support the regional and district rapid response teams (RRT) trained in December 2020 to effectively respond to COVID-19.

The rapid assessments carried out during joint field missions in February highlighted healthcare as a pressing need in all visited communities. Access to timely and equitable healthcare remains a major challenge to affected populations in the NWSW.

Nutrition

Nutrition partners screened 19,713 children under five, including 9,263 boys and 10,450 girls for acute malnutrition. 44 children, equivalent to 0.2 per cent, were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and were therefore referred for appropriate treatment. 257 children, equivalent to 1.3 per cent, were identified with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Different approaches are being applied to ensure stronger linkages between screening and referrals for SAM treatment. 17,388 caregivers were sensitized on infant and young child feeding practices integrating COVID-19 specific messages.

19.7K

Children under five screened for acute malnutrition

Nutrition partners started a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in food insecure areas. 11,387 children aged between six and 23 months and 7,381 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were supported under the preventive programme for undernutrition. The number of beneficiaries reached is high compared to those reached in January, as additional partners implemented a package of activities including screening, referrals and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) during February. Additional nutrition commodities for the management of SAM were prepositioned with the Delegations of Public Health in Buea for the SW and Bamenda for the NW.

Lockdowns resulted in temporally halting partners' operations especially distribution and follow-up activities with children.

Protection

Several protection cases and internal displacements due to armed confrontations were reported. Some of the confrontations include intra-communal tensions between Mbororo livestock farmers and crop farmers in Nwa subdivision, in Donga Mantung division in the NW. Also, armed confrontations between the Government and the NSAGs were reported in Mbalangi, in Small Ekombe (Maliba quarter) and in Bekora villages in the Meme division in the SW. The Berenge village in the Ndian division in the SW was burnt down by unidentified persons. Protection partners reported 397 protection incidents this month including 134 incidents of threat to life, liberty and security of persons, 58 incidents of destruction of habitats, 52 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including rape and emotional violence and 24 incidents of murder. It is therefore important to continue engaging with State and non-State actors on the respect of human rights, the commitment to humanitarian principles, and the need to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance.

3.7K

Persons reached during different Protection activities

3,726 persons benefited from various protection responses, including 2,070 women and 643 children. Partners provided psychosocial support services to 340 persons, including 110 children. They also provided awareness raising sessions on IDP rights and responsibilities and GBV assistance to 2,076 persons. 323 vulnerable persons received legal and cash assistance, and 60 community members, humanitarian actors, and State agents received training on protection challenges and ways to address them.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR)

The situation of children and adolescents in the NWSW regions remains dire. Cases of child rights violations continued to be reported by Child Protection (CP) actors in the field, mainly sexual violence, and attacks on schools.

Several incidents of alleged child trafficking were reported by Child Protection actors, such as the case of 26 children who were allegedly trafficked by two adult traffickers from Ekondo-Titi in Ndian division in the SW to Limbe in Fako division in the SW. They were intercepted by Government agents and taken to the Limbe Gendarmerie. CP AoR and its members followed up on the case and coordinated with relevant authorities to find a solution in the best interest of affected children. Reports from the field indicate that the main driver for child trafficking is the worsening humanitarian situation in the NWSW regions.

CP AoR partners reached more than 17,100 children and caregivers with different activities and interventions. More than 8,000 children and caregivers were reached with psychosocial support services and positive parenting skills in child-friendly and other safe spaces.

As for child protection case management services, CP AoR members reached 400 children throughout the SW and NW regions. 26 children, including 15 girls and 11 boys, were reunited with their families and/or placed in alternative care arrangements. More than 5,200 individuals were sensitized on child protection and GBV issues, as well as COVID-19 and its preventive measures.

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Unaccompanied and separated children were either reunited with their families or placed in an alternative care arrangement

Gender- Based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR)

377 GBV cases were reported to relevant service providers. 100 per cent of survivors received assistance in accordance with the *Do No Harm* principle through secured and coordinated referrals. The number of reported cases represents those collected by GBV partners during activity implementation and are not a representation of all GBV incidents that took place in the two regions. The reported figures cannot therefore be used to generate or track GBV prevalence data.

Survivors of GBV incidents are mostly women, representing 92 per cent of the cases, with one per cent people with disabilities. 12 per cent of survivors are children. 45 per cent of survivors received psychosocial support, 40 per cent received health related support, and 13 per cent received livelihood services. There is a critical need to scale up lifesaving GBV services and advocate for access to affected communities in hard-to-reach areas.

GBV partners reached 15,933 people with prevention and response interventions, including GBV awareness raising and information on available services, dignity kits distribution, women and girls safe space activities, psychosocial support and psychological first aid, youth and adolescent support programmes, vocational training or women, capacity building for community members and frontline workers on GBV concepts, engagement of men and boys to raise awareness on GBV, and GBV risk mitigation.

During a three-days long training on the structuring and governance of Cameroonian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), organized by the Cameroon humanitarian organization initiative (CHOI), GBV AoR partners facilitated a module on GBV core concepts. Also, at a training on multisectoral needs assessment (MSNA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) distributed 300 copies of the GBV referral pathway to participants in Buea and Bamenda.

15.9K

People reached with GBV interventions

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)

Shelter/NFI Cluster partners reached 8,388 individuals with shelter and NFI kits, including 4,951 in the NW and 3,437 in the SW.

In the NW region, Plan International distributed 229 emergency shelter kits in Tiben village in Batibo subdivision. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) distributed 500 packs comprising emergency shelter items, household and kitchen items, and hygiene items in Tingoh, Mbakong, and lower Bafut Villages in Bafut subdivision, reaching 3,315 individuals. They also distributed 500 packs containing shelter kits, household items and kitchen items in Kembong, Egbekaw, Njeke, and Besongabang villages in the Mamfe central and Eyumojock subdivisions in the SW. Strategic Humanitarian Services' (SHUMAS) NGO provided 41 students with accommodation subsidies.

8.3K

People reached through shelter/NFI kits

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH partners provided various services and COVID-19 prevention interventions to 50,238 individuals in the NWSW regions. Additionally, WASH partners trained health workers, hygiene promoters, volunteers, and water user committees on the establishment of garbage disposal pits.

Some of the key activities that were carried out and the number of people reached in February are as follows:

Hygiene promotion	Water supply	Dignity Kits	WASH kits	Toilet Sanitation kits	Sensitization on COVID-19
14,140	3,398	200	8,502	543	9,871

February recorded delays in project implementation in the SW due to lockdowns related to the African Nations Championship (CHAN 2021) that took place between 16 January and 6 February with some teams based in Buea and playing in Limbe in the South-West (SW) region. However, activities regained steam immediately after the end of the tournament. The security situation remained tense with displacements recorded in both regions. WASH services were identified as a major need during assessments in communities with these new displacements. Unfortunately, resources were not sufficient to respond to these emergencies. Most of the donor-funded projects already have specific target groups. Hence, mobilizing resources quickly for newly displaced population becomes increasingly difficult.

50.2K

People reached through WASH services

The number of partners sharing 5Ws reports increased from four in January to 14 in February. This improvement can be attributed to a session on 5Ws reporting, facilitated by a monitoring and evaluation specialist from UNICEF.

The Cluster and its strategic advisory group (SAG) meetings were held on 19 and 26 February in the NW and SW regions respectively. The SAG advised the Cluster Coordinator to carry out partners capacity assessments and verify their profile as part of the process to develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan.



Humanitarian coordination

OCHA continued to ensure the coordination of the response in the NWSW regions and continued to advocate for humanitarian access and for effective and principled humanitarian action through regular meetings with relevant stakeholders.

OCHA provided support to secure access for three humanitarian monitoring and assessment missions of United Nations agencies in the NWSW. This included missions to Bafut and Wum subdivision in the NW, and to Kumba and Mamfe in the SW.

OCHA briefed members of several humanitarian clusters on the compact to end demands for illegal payments from humanitarian organizations. This compact aims at ending the demands for financial or in-kind payments for access and to humanitarian organizations and encourages humanitarian partners to report such requests for illegal payments to OCHA, to support advocacy with those who are trying to impose this practice. From 3 to 5 February, the Cameroon humanitarian organization initiative (CHOI), a platform of national NGOs, organized a training to support the governance of CSOs. The training was sponsored by the Canadian Government. It aims at building the capacities of 15 local CSOs in the NWSW regions on humanitarian principles, gender, protection, disability mainstreaming, as well as accounting, human resource management, fraud, and corruption.

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