

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 1 to 31 March 2021. The next report will be issued in May 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

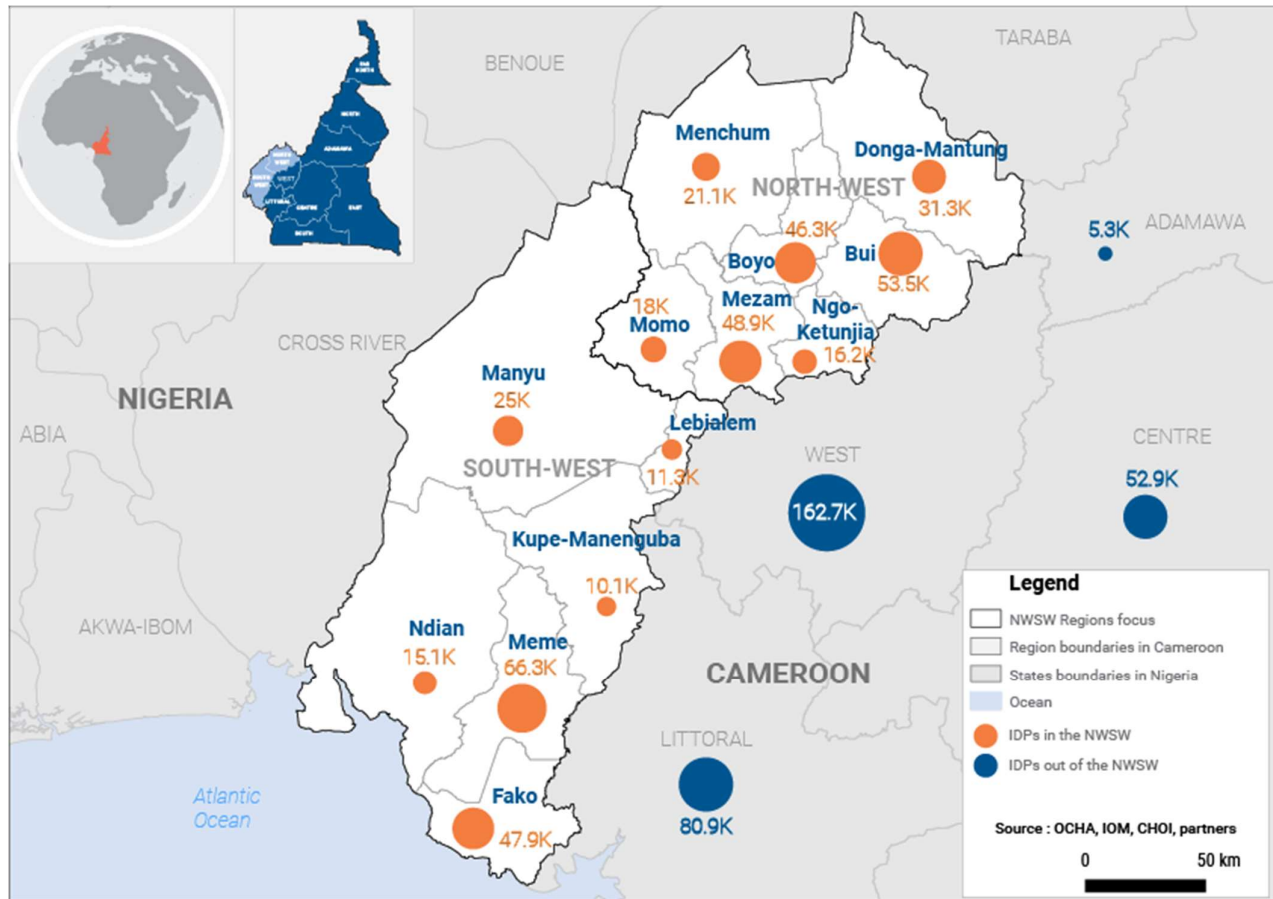
- In March 2021, over 1,427 people were forced to flee their homes seeking shelter and safety in nearby bushes, villages, and towns because of violence in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions.
- 369 Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents were reported in the two regions.
- According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis of March 2021, 1.15 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure in the two regions.
- 336,417 people benefited from food assistance as well as agriculture and livelihood activities, the highest monthly number of beneficiaries reached since the beginning of the crisis.
- 149,564 individuals were vaccinated against cholera.
- 2,111 infants and pregnant women received routine vaccines they had previously missed.
- 42 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were referred for appropriate treatment.
- 105 unaccompanied and separated children were identified and placed in alternative care arrangements pending family tracing and reunification.



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>2.2M</p> <p>affected people</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021</i></p>	<p>1.6M</p> <p>targeted for assistance</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Response Plan 2021</i></p>	<p>712.8K</p> <p>Internally Displaced People (IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) NWSW, OCHA - February 2021</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>333.9K</p> <p>returnees (former IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in NWSW Region OCHA - February 2021</i></p>	<p>66K</p> <p>Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources: <i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian refugees, UNHCR - 31 March 2021</i></p>
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Map of IDPs from the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon



Source: OCHA, IOM

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions remained concerning in March, with continued hostilities, targeted attacks, destruction of property, and increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The population continues to be caught in the middle of the crisis, subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment and kidnappings. Some people were targeted for alleged association with one side or the other, others were caught by stray bullets during crossfire.

Hostilities were reported in the Boyo division in the North-West (NW) region. On 5 March, armed men launched an attack on Fulani herdsmen as their cattle allegedly destroyed crops in the cultivated land in the lower Menchum valley in Boyo division in the NW. This attack led to the death of at least ten Fulani herdsmen while a 17-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet. On 7 March, armed men attacked the Fulani's community, reportedly as a reprisal for burning a woman alive in her house in Beneng village in the same division. Six members of the Fulani community were allegedly killed during this confrontation.

On 7 March, a video circulated on social media showing armed persons distributing World Food Programme (WFP) rice bags, reportedly seized earlier from a distribution site in Munyenge village in Muyuka subdivision.

On 26 March, armed men attacked a United Nations convoy in Ikata village, 41 km from Buea, in the South-West region of Cameroon. The convoy, which included two vehicles with seven staff members, was conducting a monitoring mission to Munyenge village in the South-West region. The mission was immediately aborted and the team returned safely to Buea but the two vehicles were severely damaged. This attack on a UN convoy was the first of its kind in the North-West and South-West regions. The Humanitarian Coordinator for Cameroon and UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Matthias Z. Naab,

strongly condemned the attack and the UN suspended food distributions and humanitarian missions in the area until further notice.

At least nine incidents of detonated or dismantled IEDs were reported. Humanitarian organizations were not directly targeted by IEDs but remained at risk of becoming collateral damage.

Attacks against school staff, students, and personnel were reported in the South-West region. On 5 March, unidentified gunmen abducted a student from a Government high school in Batoke village, Limbe 2 subdivision. The student was found tied to a tree in the afternoon of the same day. On 6 March, armed men intruded a full gospel secondary school in mile 4 Nkwen in Bamenda 3 subdivision and abducted two teachers and a student. The student was released few hours later while the two teachers remained in captivity. On 10 March, a 62 year-old man was physically assaulted by armed individuals in Meli village in Fundong Sub-Division after they discovered a school uniform in his bag.

Violence has resulted in multiple population displacements across the NWSW regions with over 1,427 people forced to flee their homes seeking shelter and safety in nearby bushes, villages, and towns in March alone. The Donga-Mantung, Boyo and Mezam divisions in the NW, and Manyu division in the SW, were the most affected.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

The Education Cluster recorded less security challenges compared to the previous months of this school year 2020/2021. Education activities slowed down in March as children went on Easter holidays. They resumed school on 12 April 2021 for the third term.

Education Cluster partners reached 27,823 students including 11,019 girls and 16,804 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.

27.8K

Girls and boys reached through education activities

Food Security

19 Food Security Cluster partners collectively provided food, agriculture and livelihood assistance to 336,417 people, a 28 per cent increase compared to February 2021. 13 per cent of those beneficiaries received support through cash/voucher modalities. However, according to the March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé analysis, the overall food security needs have increased by 20 per cent compared to October 2020. 1.15 million people are now estimated to be severely food insecure in the NWSW regions. Meanwhile, more than 500,000 people in need of food security assistance are not being targeted due to funding constraints. Furthermore, as assets continue to be lost due to the crisis, many are left to succumb to negative coping strategies.

336.4K

People reached with food/livelihood assistance

In line with the Cluster's strategy to improve the capacity of its local partners, two staff members from local NGOs, the Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) and the Environmental Protection and Development Association (EPDA), representing NW and SW respectively, attended the Cadre Harmonisé workshop. Over 10 members of the Cluster have been selected to participate in the upcoming protection mainstreaming trainings in Buea and Bamenda organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Rescue Committee (IRC). The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) trained 14 zonal field staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) between 31 March and 2 April in Buea in the SW on targeting criteria.

WFP and FAO are conducting re-targeting exercises, which are at different stages of completion. This is to ensure a fair integration of the most vulnerable of the affected population into the different humanitarian assistance programmes.

Health

The Health Sector in the NWSW regions is heavily affected by the ongoing crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. The regions have recorded their highest number of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths since the beginning of the pandemic: the SW recorded 710 positive cases while the NW recorded 1,959 in March alone. The case fatality rate in the NW increased from 4.1 per cent to 5.8 per cent and the case fatality rate in the SW remained 1.94 per cent. The mass testing campaign supported by World Health Organisation (WHO) in both regions made testing rates increase from below 100/10,000 people

in January to 267/10,000 people in the SW and to 434/10,000 in the NW in March. The positivity rate of tests was 5.8 per cent in the NW and 4 per cent in the SW.

WHO supported the second round of the cholera vaccination campaign in the SW. 149,564 people were vaccinated against cholera in the Limbe and Tiko health districts in the SW. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported the Regional Delegation of Public Health in the NW to carry out the third and last round three-days catch-up vaccination for children and pregnant women in four health districts in Bamenda, Kumbo West, Nkambe, and Wum, respectively. 1,624 children from 0 -11 months and 487 pregnant women received missed vaccines. 1,000 children from 6 – 59 months received the Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccines and 343 pregnant women were provided with intermittent preventive treatment for malaria prevention.

149.5K

People vaccinated against cholera.

Nutrition

Nutrition Cluster partners screened 18,864 children under five years old, including 9,020 boys and 9,884 girls, for acute malnutrition. 42 children, equivalent to 0.2 per cent of the screened children, were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and were referred for appropriate treatment. 168 children, equivalent to 0.9 per cent, were identified with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). They received nutrition counselling and are assisted through the blanket distribution programme by WFP.

18.8K

Children under five screened for acute malnutrition

Nutrition partners started a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in food insecure areas. 10,610 children including 4,991 boys and 5,619 girls aged between six and 23 months and 6,819 pregnant and lactating women were supported as part of the preventive programme for undernutrition. The number of beneficiaries reached is low compared to those reached in February due to increased insecurity which resulted in the suspension of nutrition activities in the Muyuka sub-division in the SW.

The Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) underscored a need to strengthen advocacy, early warning mechanisms and partners' understanding of the Cluster's role. During the Nutrition Cluster meeting held on 25 March, partners agreed on three key points: to better collaborate with health facilities offering services for the management of wasting [also known as low weight-for-height], to strengthen the referral system for severe wasting cases, and to strengthen the management of supplies. Finally, an updated mapping of health facilities offering services for the management of wasting was shared to partners to facilitate referrals.

Protection

The protection environment in the NWSW remained very concerning due to ongoing insecurity with attacks on education, indiscriminate arrests, increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), kidnappings and threats against the population as well as frequent clashes between Government security forces and armed groups which led to displacements.

1.5K

Persons reached during different protection activities

Protection partners reported 620 protection incidents including 178 incidents of threats to life, liberty and security of persons, 139 incidents of destruction of habitats, 77 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including rape and emotional violence, 28 incidents of killings, four incidents of kidnapping and 194 other protection incidents. 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 the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Protection Cluster partners reached 1,538 persons with various protection responses. 119 persons benefitted from psychosocial support services, 113 individuals received non-food items (NFIs), 186 children and adults received support to enable them to acquire civil status documents, and 620 individuals were provided with legal assistance with 544 regaining access to their property.

246,000 persons were reached during protection monitoring activities in the two regions, including in detention centers. 77 vulnerable persons encountered during protection monitoring activities were referred to other humanitarian sectors for assistance.

Additionally, Protection Cluster partners organized 10 capacity building sessions for 156 humanitarian actors and community members: 70 persons were trained on protection mainstreaming and the centrality of protection, while 86 others gained knowledge on House, Land, and Propriety (HLP) related topics. 8,481 persons were also sensitized on the prevention of discrimination, civil status documentation, rights and responsibilities of IDPs, and COVID-19 preventive measures.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR)

Due to the increased insecurity and intensified clashes between Government security forces and armed groups, the situation of children and adolescents remains very concerning. Physical violence and sexual abuse against minors continued to be reported by Child Protection (CP) actors.

CP AoR partners reached more than 17,000 children and caregivers with different activities and interventions. More than 4,100 children and caregivers were reached with psychosocial support services and positive parenting skills in child-friendly and other safe spaces. More than 7,500 people were reached with awareness raising sessions on CP, GBV and the COVID-19 pandemic.

As for CP case management services, CP AoR members reached 510 children throughout the SW and NW regions. 105 unaccompanied/ separated children were identified and placed in alternative care while the process of family tracing and reunification takes place. More than 223 children were provided with birth certificates and/or other civil status documentation.

105

Unaccompanied and separated children identified and placed in an alternative care arrangement

Gender- Based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR)

369 GBV cases were reported to relevant service providers in March. 100 per cent of the 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 the implementation of their activities and are not a representation of all GBV incidents that took place in the two regions. Reported figures cannot therefore be used to generate or track GBV prevalence data.

Survivors of GBV incidents are mostly women, representing 91 per cent of the cases, with two per cent being people with disabilities. 24 per cent of survivors are children. 34 per cent of survivors received psychosocial support, 43 per cent received health related support, and 10 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 20,828 people with prevention and response interventions, including GBV awareness raising and information on available services, dignity kits and sanitary pads distribution, women and girls safe space activities, psychosocial support and psychological first aid, youth and adolescent support programmes, vocational training for 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.

GBV AoR members attended a two-day workshop on protection mainstreaming organized by the Protection Cluster in Buea for the SW and Bamenda for the NW on 11 and 12 March.

20.8K

People reached with GBV prevention and response interventions

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)

Shelter/NFI Cluster partners reached 14,624 individuals with shelter and NFI kits, including 3,157 in the NW and 11,467 in the SW.

In the NW region, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) through its partners, Community Initiative for Sustainable Development (COMINSUD) and Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC), distributed 575 packs comprising emergency shelter items, household and kitchen items, and hygiene items in Bali in the Mezam division, and Oku and Noni in the Bui division, reaching 3,242 individuals. Community Health and Social Development for Cameroon (COHESODEC) distributed 212 emergency shelter kits in Bambui, Big Babanki, Small Babanki and Sabga villages in Tubah subdivision, reaching 1,272 individuals. Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) organization continued to provide 41 students with accommodation subsidies.

In the SW region, Plan International distributed 70 emergency shelter kits in Wotutu village in the Buea sub-division. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed 2,035 emergency shelter kits in the Tiko and Mbonge sub-divisions. NRC through partners Authentic Memorial Foundation (AMEF) and Food and Rural Development Foundation (FORUDEF) distributed 1,000 packs comprising temporary shelter kits, household, and kitchen items in Matoh town and Matoh Butu in the Konye sub-division, and Asum and Eshobi in the Manyu division, reaching 7,878 individuals.

14.6K

People reached through shelter/NFI kits

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH partners carried out various activities including COVID-19 prevention interventions for 62,148 individuals in the NWSW regions. Additionally, they trained health workers, hygiene promoters, volunteers, and water user committees on the surveillance of water points and the maintenance of the potable water system.

62.1K

People reached through
WASH services

WASH Cluster partners and strategic advisory group (SAG) agencies developed the Preliminary Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) report, which underlined as main gaps the lack of sufficient funds and lack of capacity building for non-governmental organisations reporting.

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

Hygiene promotion	Water supply	Dignity Kits	WASH kits	Construction/rehabilitation of latrines	Sensitization on COVID-19
6,358	1,398	3,052	29,268	5,071	16,978

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 regions. This included missions to Batibo and Nwa subdivisions in the NW region, and to Kumba, Mamfe, Eyumojock and Nguti in the SW region.

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