

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 1 – 30 September 2020. The next report will be issued in October 2020.

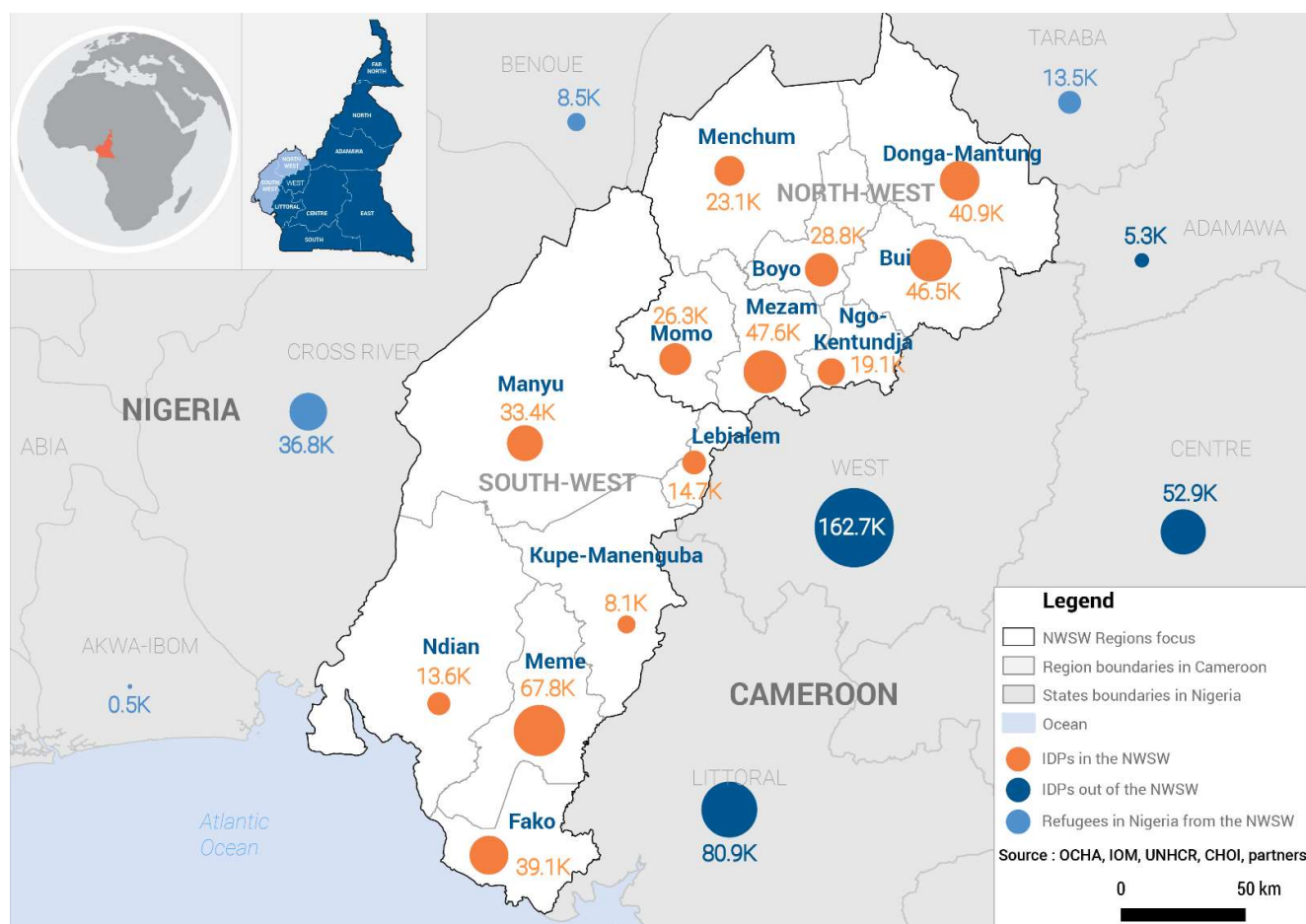
SEPTEMBER 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In September 2020 there were reports of attacks on education facilities and personnel, including the kidnapping of students, the burning of schools and the military use of non-operational schools.
- Human rights organizations reported 11 civilians killed by state security forces in Buea and Bamenda in September 2020.
- A total of 221,500 individuals were provided with lifesaving food assistance during the reporting period.
- 32,202 persons received monthly cash transfers in September 2020.
- 676 Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents were reported in the two regions.
- Health cluster partners provided essential health care services to 8,694 people.
- The Nutrition and Health clusters reported a decrease in activities in September caused by lockdowns and ghost towns.
- Child Protection reported a decrease of 30 percent in certain child protection response activities due to a lack of funding.



<p>3M affected people</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 Revised</i></p>	<p>1.4M targeted for assistance</p> <p>Sources: <i>Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 Revised</i></p>	<p>705.8K internally displaced (IDPs) within or displaced from NWSW</p> <p>Sources: <i>Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) NWSW in August 2020, OCHA</i> <i>Multi-sector initial rapid assessment (MIRA) in West and Littoral Regions in August 2020, OCHA, MINAT and partners</i> <i>MIRA in Centre region in September 2020, OCHA,CHOI and MINAT</i></p>	<p>360.5K Returnees (former IDP)</p> <p>Sources: <i>MSNA in NWSW Region in August 2020, OCHA</i></p>	<p>60.9K Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria</p> <p>Sources: <i>Nigeria: Registration of Cameroonian Refugees as of 30 September 2020, UNHCR</i></p>
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Map of IDP, returnees and refugees from the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in the North-West and South-West (NWSW) regions of Cameroon remains dire in September 2020 with continuous attacks against civilians and their properties. There were several reports by human rights organizations of summary execution of civilians in both regions by both non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and government security forces. It was reported that at least 11 unarmed civilians were killed by government security forces between 21 and 22 September in the two regions. On 24 September, members of the Cameroon Bar Association addressed a complaint to the Attorney General of the NW Region condemning atrocities by NSAGs and government security forces in events related to the “Bamenda Clean” security operation. The Bar Association called for rule of law to be ensured and protection for the civilian population.

Separatists issued conflicting statements about the 5 October 2020 reopening of schools. Whereas some groups stated that there has been no change in their position about schools in the restive regions, statements issued by other groups endorsed the reopening of school with certain preconditions.

The month also witnessed an increase in the search of vehicles of humanitarian organizations, including the UN, at government security forces checkpoints. OCHA continues to play a leading role with all parties in the crisis in the advocacy for safe humanitarian access.

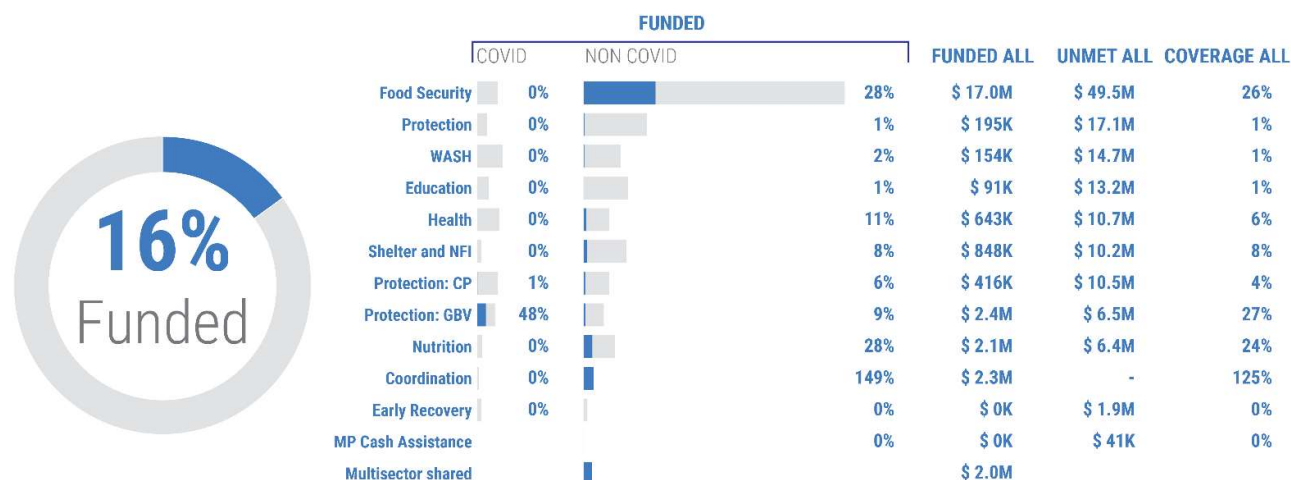
FUNDING

Cameroon 2020 NW-SW Crisis

US\$ 166.2 million requested (HRP & COVID-19)
US\$ 26.8 million funded (HRP & COVID-19)

Funding by sector (in million US\$)

As of 25 September 2020



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

In September 2020 there were reports of attacks on education facilities and personnel, including the kidnapping of students, the burning of schools and the military use of non-operational schools. This was likely linked to the general school reopening planned for 5 October. From January to September 2020, ten attacks on education were reported, including the killing of a teacher and injuring of primary and secondary school pupil/students. The majority (9 out of 10) of incidents took place in the NW region. The number of incidents reported in 2020 is less than in 2019 however this is likely due to schools being closed because of COVID-19 and therefore not being targeted. NSAGs reportedly kidnapped four primary school children in Keyon at Elak-Oku (Bui division) in the NW. All four of them were rescued the same day. However, during the rescue a father of one of the children was shot and injured. The alleged burning of a non-operational primary school building being used by military at Nchum (Mezam division) in NW region was reported. Another similar incident of military use and damage of non-operational school buildings was reported in Bafut (Mezam division) in the NW.

4.1K

Conflict and COVID-19
affected learners assisted

Education cluster partners supported 4,165 children (1,636 boys and 2,529 girls) in continuing access to learning activities amidst ongoing conflict and COVID-19 through distance learning modalities and provision of psychosocial support. This includes 1,050 new children (482 boys and 568 girls) accessing education through distance learning modalities of e-learning and radio education in both regions as well as 2,097 children (914 boys and 1,183 girls) receiving psychosocial support to continue their learning.

Food Security

In September, 221,500 individuals in the NWSW regions were provided with lifesaving food assistance by WFP achieving 88.6 percent of its monthly target. WFP scaled up its operations through CBT (Cash Based Transfer) to assist 35,878 persons economically impacted by COVID-19 in the NWSW regions. A total of 32,202 persons received monthly cash transfers of 5,000 Francs CFA.

32.2K

People received
monthly cash assistance

Health

Cholera continued to spread across the health districts of the SW region. The Buea health district was the fifth health district to report a cholera outbreak in the SW region since the outbreak started in the Bakassi health district in November 2019. A total of ten cases with one death were reported in two health areas (Muea and Buea road) in Buea health district giving a case fatality rate of 10 percent. Response activities coordinated by the health district and health cluster rapidly stopped the outbreak from spreading to other health areas.

8.6K

Benefitted from essential health care services

COVID-19 continued to spread across the NWSW regions. The number of affected health districts increased by two, with 30 health districts out of 37 reporting cases by September. A general drop in the positivity rate of tests conducted and hospitalization rate due to COVID-19 has been observed in both regions. Sustained efforts have led to a marked increase in the number of people who accept to get tested for COVID-19 in these regions. However, a relaxation in the implementation of preventive measures such as the use of face mask in public spaces and physical distancing is still noted in both regions.

Health cluster partners were able to provide life-saving essential health services in Fako, Meme, Ndian, Kupe-Muanenguba, Manyu, Mezam, Boyo, Ngoketunjia, Bui, and Momo divisions. WHO through its implementing partners (REACH OUT, CARITAS and DEMTOU humanitarian) and UNICEF through its partners (CARITAS and Cameroon Baptist Health Services) provided essential health care services to 8,694 people during September, compared to 10,249 in August 2020. The number of children receiving routine vaccines decreased from 13,668 in August 2020 to 8,095 in September. Both decreases were caused by the numerous lockdowns and ghost towns in September.

The mobile clinics operated by the implementing partners of WHO have been the main source of health care in most hard to reach areas in the ten divisions where they have been operating in the past six months. With the exhaustion of the CERF funds in September, a good proportion of these communities will have little or no access to health care in the coming months despite the continuing health needs in these regions.

Nutrition

A total of 37,632 children (16,552 in the NW and 21,080 in the SW) were screened for acute malnutrition in September 2020. 96 children (0.3 percent) were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,006 (3.0 percent) with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Children identified with SAM were referred for appropriate lifesaving treatment. As in previous months, the NW region continued to register higher cases of SAM compared to the SW region. Cumulatively, 730 SAM cases have been identified in 2020 (457 in the NW and 273 in the SW).

37.6K

Children under 5 screened for acute malnutrition

5.7K

PLW received nutritional assistance

COVID-19 prevention measures (including programmatic adaptations) were undertaken by partners to mitigate the spread of the disease. 28,093 persons (9,496 males and 18,597 females) were sensitized on key messages on infant and young child feeding practices integrating COVID-19 specific messages. COVID-19 modules (specific on nutrition) were integrated in the SAM management and training on Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP) conducted in Mutengene (Fako Division) with 40 health workers participating. Additionally, 2,378 caregivers were trained to detect and refer children suffering from SAM to treatment services. Community health workers were provided with sanitizers and necessary protective equipment necessary for their activities. Discussions with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) 2021 process started and the SAG will be the technical group leading the process in the cluster engaging all cluster partners. Despite the scaling up of nutrition response in the NWSW regions, movement restriction/lockdown imposed during the month slowed down the implementation of planned nutrition activities, leading to the low coverage.

Protection

During September, the general security situation in the NWSW regions remained volatile and was marked by armed confrontations, military raids, restrictions on movement (lockdowns) and mass arrests which caused displacement of civilian populations. Several lockdown periods were observed which grounded humanitarian activities and several serious attacks

against civilians were reported. It had been anticipated that there would be an increase in the number of security incidents with the upcoming self-declared Ambazonia Independence Day on 1 October.

All 13 divisions in the NWSW regions were covered by protection monitoring activities carried out by UNHCR, INTERSOS, IRC and DRC. During September, 737 incident reports were collected by protection actors relating to protection incidents that have taken place since the beginning of the crisis. 20 protection assessments were carried out in the Meme, Manyu, Fako, Mezam, Momo divisions by protection actors. IDPs in these communities specified that insecurity, fear of attacks, arbitrary detention as well as SGBV were their main protection concerns.

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Divisions were covered with protection monitoring activities

Awareness raising messages during the month focused on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), available protection services and the prevention of COVID-19. Sensitization messages reached 2,420 persons (228 boys, 478 girls, 747 men and 967 women). 90 community members (52 men and 38 women) were trained on protection work in their respective areas by INTERSOS. A total of 1,875 persons including 374 girls, 398 boys, 835 women and 268 men were reached during awareness activities by IRC on SGBV.

38 calls were received by the UNHCR hotline management centre and 58 percent of the calls reported protection incidents, with 14 percent being SGBV related issues. The hotline also serves as a feedback mechanism on UNHCR services provided to the communities.

IRC established 27 civil status documents for 17 boys, three girls, five men and two women in Fako, Meme and Ndian divisions in the SW. 113 IDPs in need of documentation in the 13 divisions were recorded and referred to the legal partner Libra Law Firm for assistance. 49 vulnerable IDPs, including 4 boys, 9 girls, 20 men and 16 women, received blankets, clothes, shoes, soap and face masks in the same division. IRC supported 192 SGBV survivors with psychological assistance and also made four referrals for legal assistance. 64 SGBV survivors received health services and 62 received support in 72 hours from IRC. A total of 195 vulnerable women were assisted with protection assistance by INTERSOS during the month. 18 SGBV case files were opened and are under management; 39 women received psychosocial support; 44 women were referred for medical care and received cash assistance and livelihood assistance; 75 women and girls of reproductive age received dignity kits; and 18 lactating mothers were assisted with mama kits by INTERSOS.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR)

According to the most recent MSNA (Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment) conducted in the NWSW regions in August 2020, there are more than 16,000 separated children and 5,800 unaccompanied children, who were separated from their families due to the intensifying security situation and the COVID-19 pandemic during the last few months. AoR partners reached 869 children and caregivers with case management support services and alternative care arrangements, with 26 children reunified with their families.

13.3K

Children and caregivers received child protection services

In September 3,513 children and caregivers were reached with Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) which is a 30 percent reduction from August due to lack of funding. Child Protection actors reiterate the importance and urgency of more funds to expand their reach and provide a better-quality PSS intervention. Child Protection actors managed to reach 13,325 children and caregivers during the reporting period with protection and COVID-19 related sensitisation activities.

GBV Area of Responsibility

The number of reported Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases is still increasing with 676 cases reported in September compared to 567 cases the previous month. Sexual violence represents 39 percent of reported cases while survivors' access to multi sector response remains a challenge. 64 percent of survivors of GBV incidents are women while 10 percent of survivors have disabilities, and 33 percent are children. Survivors received various services including psychosocial support (48 percent), health (40 percent), livelihood services (32 percent) and legal assistance (4 percent). There is a critical need to scale up lifesaving GBV services and advocate for access to affected communities in hard to reach areas.

52.9K

People reached with GBV interventions

A total of 52,978 people were reached by GBV prevention and response interventions in September including: GBV and COVID-19 awareness raising and information on available services (44,254); women and girl safe space activities (1,805),

psychosocial support and psychological first aid (PFA) (2,233); men and boys engagement activities (777); youth and adolescent program (68); life skill development for women (268); and capacity building for community members, frontline workers on GBV concepts (665). In addition, 1,596 women and 764 girls were supported with dignity kits by IRC in the SW. A further 597 dignity kits were distributed by other partners including WASH.

Shelter/Non Food Items (NFI)

In the SW, NRC distributed 200 NFI kits in the Limbe III subdivision (Fako division) reaching 939 individuals (454 females, 485 males). UNHCR through its partner Plan International assisted 4,557 households in Meme and Fako divisions, mostly reaching families in dire need of assistance in hard to reach localities such as Kwakwa, Nakeh, Bole, Ngongoh, Mabonji. 1,595 households received core relief items while 2,088 were assisted with emergency shelter. 874 households were assisted with shelter material as their houses had been partly damaged as a result of the crisis. 48 households were also reached with light shelter kits in the locality of Ejupindi (Konye subdivision) as IOM and partner SHUMAS carried out distributions in the area.

44.5K

People reached through shelter/NFI services

In the NW, UNHCR and partners assisted some 716 households with shelter and core relief items in Mezam division. 360 households received core relief items and 356 were assisted with shelter kits. 12 households were assisted with shelter kits in Jakiri (Bui division) in a distribution exercise carried out by IOM.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Despite numerous lockdowns impacting on delivery during September, 28,800 individuals received WASH services including COVID-19 prevention interventions implemented by seven WASH partners in the NWSW regions. WASH partner EPDA constructed 42 emergency latrines to be used by at least 8,300 people in Idabato, Kombo Itindi and Limbe 3 subdivisions of Ndian and Fako divisions in the SW. 39 Community Health Workers and Hygiene Promoters/Volunteers were trained in Fako, Meme, Mezam and Momo divisions while 36 water user committee trainings were conducted in Buea, Fako division.

28.8K

People reached through WASH services

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

Hygiene Promotion	Water supply	WASH Kits	Sanitation	Sensitization on COVID-19
7,000	500	1,500	8,300	9,200

Humanitarian coordination

OCHA continued to advocate in September for effective and principled humanitarian action through regular meetings of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF), Access Working Group and Information Management Working Group. OCHA chaired Area Rapid Response Model (ARRM) activation meetings and assessment missions for Nguti in the SW region and Belo in the NW region.