

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Population Displacement:**  
 The North-West and South-West regions' crisis has caused the displacement of an estimated 712,644 people.
- COVID-19:** In March 2021, Cameroon recorded 23,000 new positive cases.
- Sexual exploitation and abuse:** WFP toll-free line (8099) is available for complains and community feed-back.
- UNHAS:** WFP urgently requires US\$5.3 million to continue to provide air transport services in Cameroon beyond March 2021.

### FIGURES

(UNHCR MARCH 2021, IOM JUNE 2020, OCHA FEBRUARY 2021)

**410,993**

IDPs in the North-West and South-West regions

**243,651**

IDPs in the Littoral, West regions

**58,000**

IDPs In the Centre and Adamawa regions

**321,886**

IDPs in the Far North region

**446,792**

Refugees and asylum seekers

**465,757**

Returnees (previously IDPs)



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### PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO FLEE FOR FEAR OF VIOLENCE IN WESTERN REGIONS

The socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon resulted in the displacement of thousands of people across the country. As of February 2021, the crisis has caused the displacement of an estimated 712,644 people.



West region, Cameroon – an IDP trained as a seamstress by Tomorrow Children' NGO  
 Credit: OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue

As the crisis deepens, more people are leaving insecure rural and bush areas to nearby bushes or safer areas in the two regions, elsewhere in the country or to Nigeria.

The North-West and South-West crisis has also forced 301,651 people to abandon their property and belongings and seek safety in the Littoral, West, Adamawa and Centre regions. Many need assistance with shelter, access to water, hygiene and sanitation, education, and health services.

Nkourap, a small village in the West region, is hosting over 170 IDPs. Although the community has given them land to build their shelters and farm, they are living in poor conditions, with no access to drinking water and education. They also have limited access to sanitation, health, and protection.



IDP family in the West region, Cameroon - Credit: OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue

<sup>1</sup>Yaouba and his family are living in the IDP site since 2019. Before fleeing insecurity in his town and seeking refuge in the IDP site, he used to be a house builder in Ntaba village in the North-West region.

“The fighting started in Bamenda and very quickly arrived in our village,” narrated Yaouba. “Due to the armed confrontations and the subsequent retaliations on Fulani Mbororos, I had no choice but to run away to save our lives,” he added. He used to travel from place to place, looking for construction work to support his family

Caught in a spiral of fear, a large part of the population of Ntaba village fled, abandoning their activities which before the crisis were prosperous. Many properties were burnt down, leaving them no choice but to flee. When some of them arrived in Nkourap in 2019, the Rural Youth Development Council (RYDEC) organization provided food assistance to IDPs. The last food distribution took place in October 2020. Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) also built latrines and provided livelihood support. The two organizations lack funds to continue providing assistance.

In Koutaba town, also in the West region, 27 year-old Lima<sup>2</sup> and her four children found shelter in the local community. A local family secured a room where she can stay with her children.

Lima and her husband decided to flee from Batibo town in the North-West region, for fear of violence. “As we were travelling to Bafoussam in the West region, members of an armed group caught us in the bush. They took our money and kidnapped all the men in the bus,” explained Lima. “it has been one month I have no news from my husband,” she added. She then took the children to Koutaba where she heard about a community hosting IDPs. “My children miss going to school. When we decided to flee from Batibo, we were hoping for a better future for our children. Now everything is uncertain for us. All that is important is our survival.” Although education is free for IDPs in public schools, distances between Lima’s house and the public school make it challenging for the children to go to school by foot. They need transportation support. Upon her arrival in Koutaba, she received food and non-food items from Tomorrow Children, an NGO which supports IDPs in Koutaba town.

<sup>1</sup> Name was changed for protection reasons

<sup>2</sup> Name was changed for protection reasons

## COVID-19: ONE YEAR AFTER, THE NUMBER OF CASES CONTINUES TO INCREASE



Credit: UNWOMEN

In March 2021, Cameroon recorded more than 23,000 new positive cases. The Centre and Littoral regions are the most affected and the situation in schools and universities remains worrying. 186 over 190 health districts are affected by the pandemic in Cameroon.

*Cameroon recorded 56,596 cumulative cases of COVID-19, including 779 deaths since March 2020.*

One year after the beginning of the pandemic in Cameroon, the country remains among the 10 most-affected African countries with the highest number of COVID-19 positive cases and a fatality rate of 1.4 per cent. The professional and business sphere is deeply affected by the pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health, measures taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in slowing down the economic activity threatening the livelihoods and long-term well-being of millions of people.

“The United Nations will continue mobilizing the international community to make vaccines affordable and available for all, to recover better, and to put a special focus on the needs of those who have borne the burden of this crisis on so many levels — women, minorities, older persons, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, and indigenous peoples,” said the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, in a statement published on 11 March 2021 one year into the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVAX, the global vaccine equity mechanism has started delivering vaccines to countries around the world, including to those with the lowest-income countries. One million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been delivered to Cameroon through the COVAX mechanism. Health workers, people over 50 years old with comorbidities and existing conditions, and vulnerable people and teachers are priority targets. The vaccine will also be made available to special groups and the general public after priority groups would have been vaccinated. “The vaccine will be free and administered on a voluntary basis,” said the Minister of Public Health Mr. Malachie Manaouda.

United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in Cameroon continue to provide medical, logistical, and socio-economic support to the Government to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Through stronger coordination, they are mobilizing local, regional, and global partners to provide life-saving medical supplies to vulnerable communities, address misinformation on vaccine efficiency, and ensure equitable distribution of vaccines through the COVAX programme.

In March 2021, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the financial support of the Islamic Development Bank donated 25 ambulances to the Ministry of Public Health. This delivery is part of a US\$27.44 million agreement between the three parties, which aims to provide an immediate response to COVID-19 through the provision of vital medical and non-medical assistance and further strengthen the health system in Cameroon.

## HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ARE ENGAGED IN PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE



Credit: PSEA Taskforce CHAD

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) is the abuse or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes or the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature by United Nations or Humanitarian organization' personnel, their implementing partners or other aid workers, against the people they serve.

SEA by humanitarian workers can occur in any humanitarian or development context and is a particular risk in emergency contexts characterized by violence, mass displacement, restricted access, and dismantled family and societal structures. The SEA is unconscionable, intolerable and often criminal.

Since 2019, responding to the risks presented by the humanitarian crises in Cameroon, and the massive deployment of humanitarian workers to respond to the crises, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) have been committed to strengthening the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The HCT and UNCT created the Cameroon PSEA Network involving humanitarian and development actors, in national and regional levels in Cameroon.

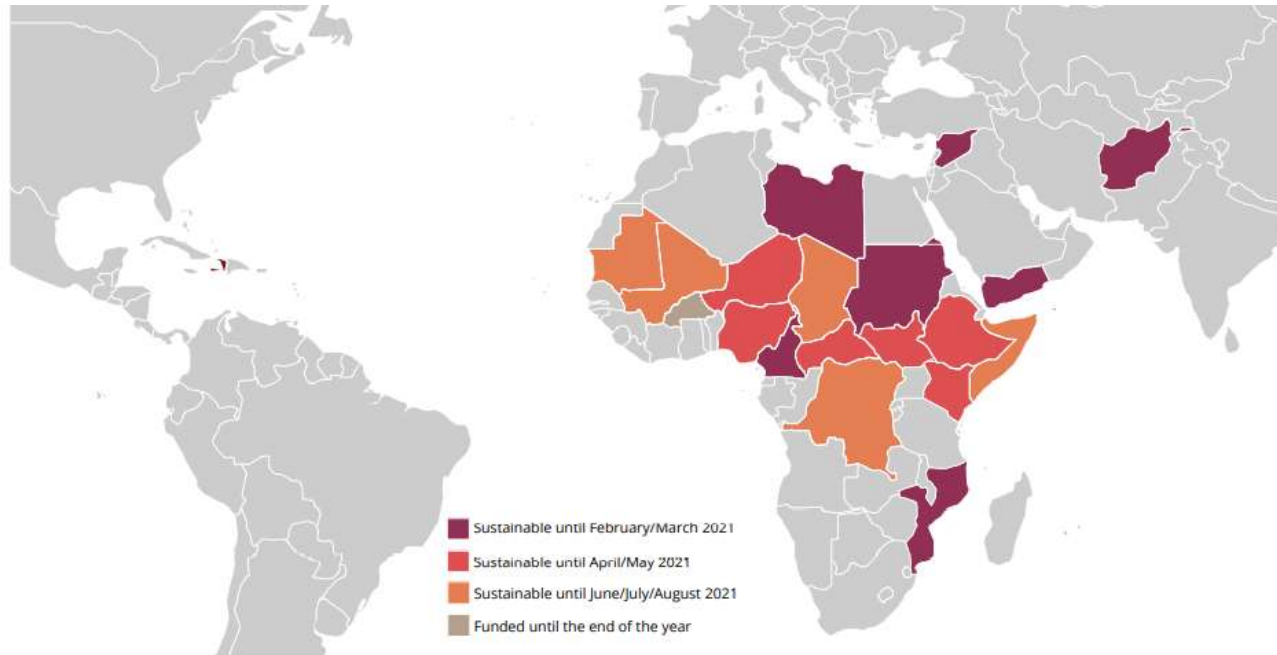
The Cameroon PSEA Network established a joint community-based complaint mechanism to receive SEA complaints. They drafted the standard operation procedures (SOP) of Community Based Complaints Mechanisms (CBCM) and conducted a training of trainers on CBCM in 2020. World Food programme (WFP) also extended their toll-free line (8099) used as a complaint and feedback mechanism in their areas of intervention to all United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations for SEA complaint mechanism.

In 2021, humanitarian and development partners remain committed to operationalize CBCM as well as accountability to affected populations in humanitarian-decision making and PSEA at a collective level as well as at the level of individual organizations.

### WFP FLASH APPEAL FOR THE UN HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE (UNHAS)

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is a critical lifeline transporting humanitarian workers and lifesaving cargo to some of the most challenging and hard-to-reach locations in the world.

In Cameroon, vast distances, insecurity, poor road connections and lack of reliable air commercial options are hampering access to implementation sites of humanitarian and development operations. This makes UNHAS a crucial service for the humanitarian community in the country. The deployment of UNHAS also enables the rapid and safe movement and relocation in situations that are fragile and prone to sudden deterioration. The UN humanitarian Air Service urgently requires US\$5.3 million to continue to provide air transport services in Cameroon beyond March 2021.



Source : <https://www.wfp.org/>

UNHAS currently serves four destinations on a regular basis; three internal including Bamenda, Maroua, and Yaounde and one international which is N'Djamena.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decrease of users. Since March 2020 organizations reduced their interventions in the field, in order to limit the spread of the virus in the country and specifically among vulnerable population. It led to the reduction of the flight frequency.

In 2020, UNHAS global operations continued to safely and reliably transport humanitarian and development workers to remote and challenging locations despite the extreme challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. They operated more than a hundred aircraft and supported the global response to COVID-19 by quickly implementing preventive measures enabling it to continue flying, securing government authorizations, providing medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) service to all UN and international NGOs personnel and their eligible dependents, no matter where they are located, transporting samples and medical cargo.

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