

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Humanitarian Response Plan for 2021:** US\$362 million are required to assist 3 million people in Cameroon
- **COVID-19:** 28,000 people vaccinated in Cameroon as of 31 April 2021.
- **Sahel region:** 29 million people need humanitarian assistance in Burkina Faso, Northern Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Northeastern Nigeria.
- **Food security:** In 2021, 2.7 million people are food and nutrition insecure in Cameroon.

### FIGURES

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

**4.4 million**

People in need of humanitarian assistance

**3 million**

People targeted by the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan

**1 million**

Internally displaced people

**446,911**

Refugees and asylum seekers

**465,757**

Returnees (previously IDPs)



Pour un Cameroun sans Covid-19, faisons-nous vacciner

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### LAUNCH OF THE 2021 HNO/HRP FOR CAMEROON

On 7 April 2021, the Minister of Territorial Administration, Mr. Paul Atanga Nji, and the Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon, Mr. Matthias Z. Naab, launched the Cameroon Humanitarian Needs overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021.

The 2021 HNO focuses on the growing humanitarian needs of displaced people across the country because of violence in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions, and in Nigeria and Central African Republic bordering Cameroon.



In 2021, 4.4 million people need humanitarian assistance in Cameroon due to insecurity, diminished coping capacities, and lack of access to basic services. To respond to the most urgent needs, the 2021 HRP targets 3 million people in acute need of assistance, including internally displaced people, returnees, and refugees in regions with high severity of need, at a cost of US\$362 million.

This will be achieved through the following strategic objectives (SOs): SO1 to reduce mortality and morbidity of targeted beneficiaries; SO2 to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience of targeted beneficiaries; SO3 to reduce protection needs of targeted affected people.

Since 2015, humanitarian organizations have been jointly working with the Government to scale up the response in Cameroon. “The Government of Cameroon is grateful to the humanitarian community for its support in responding to the needs of those vulnerable,” said Mr. Atanga Nji.

Violence in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions, as well as insecurity in the Central African Republic and Nigeria have led to the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees in the East, Adamawa, North, and Far North regions. Moreover, the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and prevention measures on public and private revenues have substantially increased the population’s vulnerabilities.

“With over 320,000 internally displaced persons in the Far North region, as a result of the conflict, Cameroon is the second most affected country by the Lake Chad crisis after Nigeria. Providing humanitarian assistance, sustainable support for vulnerable women, children and men and identifying durable solutions for those displaced, remains a top priority for the humanitarian community. It helps people retain their dignity and build their resilience,” said Mr. Naab.

In 2020, the humanitarian response in Cameroon continued to be underfunded with only 50 per cent of the Humanitarian Response Plan funding. If the chronic underfunding of the humanitarian response in Cameroon is not addressed, millions of people will continue to be left without vital humanitarian assistance and protection, further deepening their vulnerabilities.

## COVID-19: LAUNCH OF VACCINATION IN CAMEROON



On 12 April 2021, the Minister of Public Health, Mr. Manaouda Malachie, and the regional delegate of Public Health for the Centre region received their first doses of COVID-19 vaccine, marking the launch of the vaccination campaign in Cameroon. On 23 April, other members of the Cameroonian Government and representatives of international organizations and United Nations agencies were also vaccinated during an official public event. The event aimed at encouraging the population to undertake vaccination.

In March and April 2021, Cameroon received 200,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine and 391,200 of AstraZeneca vaccine through the COVAX Global Access Facility. “Negotiations are underway to obtain additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine in order to achieve high coverage,” said Mr. Manaouda.

COVID-19 vaccination has started in the ten regions of the country with priority targets: health workers, people over 50 years old with comorbidities and existing

conditions, teachers and vulnerable people, amongst them, Nigerian and Central African Republic refugees.

As of 24 April, a cumulative number of 70,607 COVID-19 positive cases were reported in Cameroon, including 1,064 deaths. There is a significant increase in the number of cases since January 2021. However, the population is reluctant to receive COVID-19 vaccine and only 28,000 people were vaccinated as of 31 April 2021. The Center region reported the biggest number of people vaccinated, 9,222 people, followed by the North region with 6,274.

Awareness-raising on the respect of barrier measures continues to be strengthened and the reinforcement of preventive measures in public places, points of entry, and hospitals.

## NEEDS ACROSS THE SAHEL REGION ARE AT UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS

Humanitarian Needs and  
Requirements Overview  
2021

Sahel  
Crisis



On 27 April 2021, the United Nations and partners warned that the humanitarian situation in the Sahel region is deteriorating, and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection has reached 29 million.

This is a new record figure for the six countries: Burkina Faso, Northern Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger and Northeastern Nigeria. Five million more people than 2020.

“As the Sahel crisis protracts in time, an entire generation of children is at risk. With security incidents continuing to spike, the impact on children is devastating. The number of violent attacks increased eight-fold in the Central Sahel and tripled in the Lake Chad basin” highlighted Marie-Poirrier, Regional Director of UNICEF. In the Cameroon, 3.2

million children need assistance and protection. UNICEF is requiring US\$83.1 million to provide life-saving measles vaccination, safe water, sanitation, protection, and education for 869,000 children affected by crises in Cameroon in 2021.

### 5.3 million people are uprooted and need protection

The number of people forcibly displaced has never been higher. From Central Sahel to the Lake Chad basin, 5.3 million people are uprooted and in need of protection. Host populations, many of whom were already living in poverty, have seen their vulnerabilities exacerbated. “Our response to what is an unprecedented humanitarian and protection crisis, triggering the displacement of millions of persons, must also include host communities who generously share the little resources they have. We must ensure that these communities continue to coexist peacefully, at a time when the pandemic has had a devastating impact on livelihoods, particularly those living from hand to mouth,” said Xavier Creach, UNHCR Sahel Coordinator and Deputy Director for West and Central Africa.

Women and children are among the most vulnerable. “Gender based violence is on the rise. Local communities are expressing their concern about seeing women and girls suffer. They are being abducted, raped and married by force. This is unacceptable and immediate actions are required,” warned Fatoumata Haidara, Regional Director for the Sahel at Plan International. In the Far North region of Cameroon, promiscuity created by forced displacement and inadequate shelter conditions, stigma attached to internally displaced people within host communities, family separation and weakening of the community networks are all aggravating factors created by the ongoing conflict to add to pre-existing cultural and traditional norms that support stereotypes against women and girls.

In addition, food security is under threat because of conflicts and natural disasters. “Soaring food prices are also pushing a basic meal beyond the reach of millions of poor families who were already struggling to get by,” said Chris Nikoi, Regional Director of United Nations World Food Programme in West Africa. We need immediate assistance to help those most in need as well as long-term solutions to the root causes of hunger and malnutrition in the Sahel,” he added.

### Insufficient funding

This unprecedented situation requires immediate action, but one of the main challenges to providing effective aid remains the lack of funding.

“It is urgent to prioritize humanitarian action. Behind the numbers and data, there are stories of human suffering. Without sufficient resources, the crisis will further escalate, eroding communities’ resilience and putting millions more children, women and men at risk. At the end of April, only nine per cent of the required US\$3.7 billion had been received. This is not enough,” reminded Julie Belanger, Regional Director at OCHA.



## ATTACK ON A UNITED NATIONS CONVOY IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION OF CAMEROON



Credit: OCHA

On 26 March 2021, a United Nations convoy, composed of two vehicles with seven staff members, conducting a monitoring mission to Munyenge village in the South-West region was attacked by a non-State armed group in Ikata village. The attack did not lead to any loss of life nor injuries among the mission participants, but the two vehicles were seriously damaged.

The Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon, Mr. Matthias Z. Naab, strongly condemned this attack which was the first of this kind on a UN convoy since the beginning of the North-West and South-West crisis. However, several humanitarian workers have been threatened, abducted, injured, and killed to date in the two regions.

The general insecurity, especially attacks on civilians, aid workers, and essential social service providers, increases the population's vulnerabilities and undermines humanitarian actors' capacity to provide timely life-saving humanitarian assistance.

On behalf of the humanitarian community, the Humanitarian Coordinator called on all parties to the crisis to abide by their obligations under the International Human Rights Law and to refrain from any attacks against humanitarian organizations, educational, and health care facilities and their personnel and assets. The United Nations called for perpetrators of these attacks to be held accountable.

## INTERNATIONAL EQUAL ACCESS ADVOCATES FOR THE DE-STIGMATIZATION OF KANURI COMMUNITY



On 22 April 2021, Equal Access International (EAI), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of the Voices for Peace (V4P) project, organized an event entitled "Kanuri but not Boko Haram" in Yaounde. The organization highlighted, through the documentary "Kanuri but not Boko Haram", the socio-economic and political negative consequences of the stigmatization of Kanuri people and their labeling as Boko Haram supporters in Cameroon.

The V4P project is implemented in Cameroon since 2019 at the community level and across the Far North region of Cameroon, to reduce stigmatization of Kanuri. With the project slated to end in December 2021, the event to seek buy-in and recognition from key international actors on the importance of addressing the

stigmatization of Kanuri. Tackling this challenge strengthens social cohesion and builds the community's resilience to violent extremism.

Kanuri communities live in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. Thousands are internally displaced or refugees, living in poor conditions and are victims of violence, because they are associated to non-State armed groups. They have limited access to basic services.

“Reducing the stigmatization of Kanuri people is not a question of benefiting a single group but a necessity to serve the advancement of all parts of larger society,” said Vernelle Trim FitzPatrick, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires *a.i.* “In this light, the U.S. Government invites and encourages organizations to closely consider how to integrate the de-stigmatization of Kanuri in their strategies and daily actions,” she added.

## SECURITY CRISIS AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC ARE DRIVING HUNGER IN CAMEROON



Credit: OCHA/Michelle Cattini

Over 2.7 million people are food and nutrition insecure in 2021, according to the results of the Cardre Harmonisé analysis published on 15 April 2021.

COVID-19 is negatively impacting food security in Cameroon. The situation was already severely affected by the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West regions, the violent conflict in the Lac Chad basin affecting the northern regions, and the influx of Central African Republic refugees in the East region.

Although the overall food situation in the country is not alarming, 14 out of 58 divisions are in the food and nutrition insecurity crisis, mainly in the North-West and South-West regions. The presence of thousands of internally displaced people, disruption of cross-border trade, pressure on food resources and deterioration of livelihoods affect the food security situation in these regions. In crisis regions, people have abandoned or even lost their assets due to

the displacement to safe areas. If nothing is done to prevent the deterioration of the situation in the lean season between June and August 2021 and if insecurity persists, preventing people from accessing their farmland, the population of the Far North region will also be in food insecurity crisis.

During the presentation workshop, the Government and partners committed to take appropriate actions to improve and strengthen their technical and financial support to vulnerable populations, with a priority to those in affected areas.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provided technical support to the Government of Cameroon by monitoring the food security state in order to anticipate its deterioration and provide a framework for remedial measures. In 2021, FAO requires US\$10.9 million to assist populations affected by violence, natural disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP for its part, requires US\$72.72 million to assist population in need with food and cash transfers, coupled with enhanced malnutrition prevention in targeted areas from February to July 2021.

### For further information, please contact:

**Julie Belanger**, Head of Office *a.i.*, OCHA Cameroon, [belangerj@un.org](mailto:belangerj@un.org)

**Bibiane Mouangue**, Public information Officer, OCHA Cameroon, [bibiane.mouangue@un.org](mailto:bibiane.mouangue@un.org)

For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org/cameroon](http://www.unocha.org/cameroon) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

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