

HIGHLIGHTS

- Far North intercommunity clashes:** In December, following a dispute between two members from the Arab Choa and Musgum communities, conflict broke out across the Logone et Chari and Diamaré divisions, resulting in at least 63,000 displaced persons.
- South-West cholera outbreak:** Cases are on the rise since the outbreak late October.
- Africa cup of nations COVID-19 and security concerns:** The Government of Cameroon says it is taking the necessary sanitary and security preventive measures.

FIGURES

(OCHA AUGUST 2021, UNHCR NOVEMBER 2021, IOM JULY 2021)

4.4 million

People in need of humanitarian assistance

3 million

People targeted by the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan

1 million

Internally displaced people

467,485

Refugees and asylum seekers

518,853

Returnees (previously IDPs)

FUNDING

(HRP 2021, FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICES –FTS)

US\$ 362 million

requested

50.5 per cent

funded as of 31 December 2021



Displaced children in Maroua district
Credit: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeu

In this issue

- P.1 [Renewal of intercommunity conflicts in the Far North region](#)
- P.2 [Cholera outbreak update in the South-West region](#)
- P.3 [Humanitarian access challenges in Ndi division, South-West region](#)
- P.3 [Africa cup of nations \(AFCON\) faces challenges amid COVID-19 and insecurity in the North-West and South-West regions](#)

RENEWAL OF INTERCOMMUNITY CONFLICTS IN THE FAR NORTH REGION

On 5 December 2021, a new intercommunity conflict broke out in the Logone Birni district, 38 km South-West of Kousséri town, in the Far North region. Local sources reported that clashes originated from a dispute around water access between two people from different local communities in Ouloumsa village. On 8 December, the conflict intensified, and clashes spread across the Logone and Chari and Mayo-Danay divisions. It caused the death of at least 44 people, but local sources suggest that this number could be higher. The conflict also led to the injury of over 100 people, the destruction and burning of houses and businesses, and resulted in significant population displacements across the region.

According to local sources, the situation relatively subsided in affected regions and is contained by State security forces. However, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and humanitarian partners on the ground reported isolated incidents in the Logone et Chari division. Affected populations remain wary of the situation and worried for their security, while returns remain limited.



Displaced populations in Bogo district.
Credit: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeu



NFI kits distribution to IDPs on the Domayo site in Maroua 1^{er} district.
Credit: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeau

At the end of December, the RRM estimated that 1,819 people (237 households) returned to their village of origin in the Logone Birni district, despite the destruction of their home. They are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. 80 per cent of those returnees came from Chad.

The multisectoral needs assessments continue to cover villages that the RRM had not initially covered in the Logone et Chari, Diamaré, and Mayo-Sava divisions. Pendular movements and the lack of official identity documents remain a significant challenge impeding IDPs registration.

In Diamaré, local authorities provided displaced populations with the Domayo site in Maroua 1^{er} district and three other sites in Bogo division (Ardjaniré, Ouro Djoukoulé et Kourdaya). In the rest of the division, in Maroua 2^{ème}, 3^{ème} and Petté districts, in Logone et Chari, and in Mayo-Sava IDPs are found both in spontaneous settlements, while others are hosted by local communities.

OCHA is coordinating the response with humanitarian agencies providing food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, and non-food items (NFIs) assistance to IDPs mainly in Diamaré and Logone and Chari. Needs of food, health, protection, WASH, shelter, NFI and education remain critical across the region.



Displaced populations in Bogo district.
Credit: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeau

CHOLERA OUTBREAK UPDATE IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION

Since the cholera outbreak in October 2021, the regional delegation of public health for the South-West reported 517 cases of cholera and 19 deaths in Ekondo Titi, Bakassi, Mbonge, and Limbé health districts, in addition to 100 cases in the Centre, Littoral and South regions as of 31 December 2021.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoH), the Centre for the Coordination of Public Health Emergency Operations (CCOUSP), and health partners are coordinating the response to manage the outbreak and striving to avoid further contamination, especially during the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) which will take place from 9 January to 6 February 2022. On 29 December, CCOUSP medical staff conducted further investigation of suspected cases on 29 December. The WASH sector planned an assessment in the South-West health districts affected by the outbreak on 4 and 5 January 2022.

Vaccination campaigns in response to the outbreak are coordinated to administer 204,766 emergency first doses in the most active divisions in the South-West. In addition, 1,107,400 doses are requested to cover the needs in the South-West, as well as for the Littoral and the South regions. Also, health staff in the Centre and South regions will take part in a capacity

building workshop on good practices for the management of rapid tests. Additionally, the MoH shared key messages around hygiene and food and water safety to contain the outbreak.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS CHALLENGES IN NDIAN DIVISION, SOUTH-WEST REGION

Humanitarian access is challenging across most of the North-West and South-West regions. Access obstacles include insecurity, bureaucratic and administrative impediments, and poor or inadequate physical infrastructure. Ndian division, in the South-West, is among the most remote and hard-to-access divisions. The division, bordering Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea, is the second-largest in the South-West, however, it does not include any paved roads. The coastal area, including the Bakassi peninsula, is only accessible by boat. The division is also currently affected by a cholera outbreak. Access by road is possible to other parts of Ndian division, including Mundemba and Ekondo Titi, where roads are often in a poor state, heavily affected by rains especially during the rainy season, and insecure due to non-State armed groups (NSAGs) presence in the region.

On 27 December, the Imam of Bamusso Central Mosque was reportedly kidnapped by sea pirates on his way from Limbe to Ekondo-Titi, alongside four other persons who have reportedly been killed. The Imam remains in captivity for ransom. This incident and the presence of pirates on this route exacerbate security risks and impede humanitarian partners' access to people in critical need of assistance. As for maritime transport, it is generally more costly than overland access. Also, some agencies do not have the required internal clearances to use it.

Acts of piracy are increasingly affecting the Gulf of Guinea and are currently accounting for the majority of kidnappings of seafarers around the world. Although most attacks target ships involved in oil and gas transportation, the Imam kidnapping incident could further deteriorate humanitarian access.

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS (AFCON) FACES CHALLENGES AMID COVID-19 AND INSECURITY IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS



Credit: Ministry of Health

On 20 December, the MoH launched a country-wide vaccination campaign, specifically targeting cities hosting games in preparation for the AFCON, by ensuring that the population has free access to vaccines and testing. The MoH made 2 million vaccines doses and 2.5 million PCR and rapid tests available.

Regarding the security context in the North-West and South-West regions, several NSAG leaders and members have publicly threatened to disrupt AFCON if State security forces do not withdraw from these two regions. However, on 20 December, the President of the CAF confirmed that the event will take place as planned. The Government of Cameroon says it will take concerted efforts to ensure the security of the tournament.

After months of delays, the 33rd biennial AFCON will take place in Cameroon between 9 January and 6 February 2022. There are concerns over the rising number of COVID-19 cases and the Omicron variant spread since late 2021. The security situation in Limbe, in the South-West region, where some matches will be played is also concerning.

As of 29 December, only 660,451 people were completely vaccinated against COVID-19, of Cameroon's population of 27 million. In total, 109,666 cases and 1,853 deaths were recorded. To avoid further spreading of the disease, the Government of Cameroon and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) made the full vaccination and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests mandatory to access stadiums.

For further information, please contact:

David Cibonga, Head of Office *a.i.*, OCHA Cameroon, cibonga@un.org

Ariane Maixandau, Public Information Officer, OCHA Cameroon, ariane.maixandau@un.org

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/cameroon www.reliefweb.int

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