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### FIGURES

(HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW 2022, UNHCR, IOM, OCHA)

**3.9 million**

People in need of humanitarian assistance

**2.6 million**

People targeted (Humanitarian Response Plan 2022)

**975,786**

Internally displaced people

**481,463**

Refugees and asylum seekers

**548,206**

Returnees (previously IDPs)

### FUNDING

(HRP 2022, FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICES –FTS)

**US\$ 376 million**

Requested

**32 per cent**

Funded as of 29 September 2022

### 'EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK' IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The West and Central Africa region has seen a sharp increase in the number of schools closed due to insecurity during the past year.



A school closed in the North-West since 2017  
Credit: OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue

In September 2022, the Regional Education in Emergencies Working group for West and Central Africa issued an advocacy note on education in the region.

By the end of the 2021-2022 school year, over 12,400 schools were closed in eight countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger and Nigeria)<sup>1</sup>. Over 57 million children, adolescents and youth were not in school, which represents almost one in four out-of-school children in the world.

Several reasons led to the closure of these schools, including direct attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAGs), displacement of population to safer areas including teachers, parents and children and fear of parents to send their children to school.

For forcibly displaced children, access to education is even more difficult. In the 2021-2022 school year, just over half of primary school-age refugee children in the West and Central Africa were enrolled in school, while barely 20 per cent had access to secondary education and less than 2 per cent to higher education<sup>2</sup>.

Crises in Cameroon are hindering education, with 3,285 schools closed as of June 2022.

Attacks on students, school personnel and infrastructures in the North-West and South-West have a devastating impact on access to learning and weakens the society's overall development. In addition to the deaths, injuries and the psychological damages caused by the attacks, abductions, and threats, they also result in a decline in student attendance and education quality. There is also increased exposure to serious forms of violence and other



**3,285 schools closed**  
as of June 2022, in Cameroon

<sup>1</sup> According to the National Education Clusters in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. DRC figures relate specifically to direct attacks on schools.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR RBWCA (August 2022), Refugee Education Statistics.

risks including child marriage, early pregnancy, forced displacement, child labour and the risk of being recruited by NSAGs. Providing a better future for the youth of the West and Central Africa region is a priority. Despite the situation and increased awareness of the problems, the Education Sector is still severely underfunded. In 2021, only 22 per cent of the Education Sector was funded in the region.

The Regional Education in Emergencies Working group for West and Central Africa is calling on all governments, all parties to conflict and the international community to take concerted action to stop attacks and threats against schools, students, and school personnel in West and Central Africa, and to step-up accountable, sustainable support for quality learning for every child in the region.

## FLOODS AFFECT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE FAR NORTH REGION



Mayo-Danay division, Far North region

Credit: IOM

Access to hard-to-reach areas has been severely hampered by the floods, impacting the timely delivery of nutrition, food, health and protection services.

Continued rainfalls and rising water levels could cause the remaining dikes along the Logone river and lake Maga to break, resulting in flooding in several localities. On the other side of the border, torrential rainfall has triggered unprecedented flooding in Chad.

This situation is exacerbating the hardship conditions of people already facing acute food insecurity, limited access to basic social services and insecurity.

Despite the spontaneous response of local authorities and of the Cameroonian Red Cross, needs remain high, and the funds limited. Under the coordination of OCHA, humanitarian actors in the region are further helping to assess the situation and organizing the support to the ongoing response made by local authorities.

## CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION IN THE FAR NORTH REGION

Civil-military coordination (CMCOORD) is an essential dialogue and interaction between humanitarian actors and military actors in humanitarian emergencies. Its objective is to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid duplication, and minimise incompatibilities.

In the Far North region, humanitarian actors are engaged in responding to the needs of vulnerable people, including IDPs, refugees and host communities. The CMCOORD platform facilitated by OCHA brings together representatives of humanitarian actors, the Governorate and the State security forces (SSF).

From 9 to 12 August 2022, OCHA in collaboration with Protection Sector and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector, organized training sessions for SSF from the military region N°4, covering the Far North and part of the North region. The training was targeting low and mid-level soldiers on the front line. Previous sessions were organised for officers. Nearly 130 SSF elements, including 6 women, were trained in Kaélé in the North region, Tourou, Mayo-Oulo and Mozogo in the Far

North. The thematic areas covered humanitarian principles and CMCOORD, GBV and protection of civilians in a context of population displacement. Other sessions on the same thematic are planned in the Logone et Chari division in October.

The humanitarian response in the Far North region takes place in a complex emergency context combining population displacements due to insecurity, the presence of Nigerian refugees, as well as vulnerabilities linked to food insecurity, malnutrition, and natural disasters such as floods. As of 31 August 2022, the region hosts 377,877 internally displaced persons, 130,690 returnees and 131,115 Nigerian refugees.

## PARTNERS REACHED 1.1 MILLION PEOPLE WITH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



NFI distribution in Mada, Far North region  
Credit: Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)

Since 2014, the Lake Chad crisis, characterized by armed violence, has spread across the Far North region of Cameroon, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. This is compounded by climatic shocks, such as rain scarcity or abundant rainfall resulting in floods. In the North-West and South-West regions, populations have been forced to move inside the country and to Nigeria because of the crisis and insecurity.

More than 2 million people are on the move in Cameroon either as internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees or returnees.

Despite the challenging context in which humanitarian partners operate, the United Nations and partners have been assisting vulnerable communities in the regions affected by the crisis. From January to June 2022, humanitarian partners reached 1.1 million people in the country with at least one form of assistance in education, food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, water sanitation and hygiene services. However, the lack of financial resources and

access constraints including movements limitations are hindering implementation of a certain number of activities. This is compounded by increasing prices, especially of food commodities as a result of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, which directly affect the most vulnerable people.

## BRINGING VACCINES TO CHILDREN OF OSHIE: A CHALLENGING WORK



Bertha Tabi, IMC midwife, on her way to the Njikwa district hospital for the storage of vaccine, and Bertha vaccinating a baby in Oshie IHC. Credit: IMC



Oshie is a mountainous village located in Momo division, in the North-West region. The village host about 29,000 inhabitants<sup>3</sup> with limited access to basic social services.

In August 2021, the International Medical Corps (IMC) began providing primary health and nutrition services in the Oshie integrated health center (IHC). Prior to IMC's support, the IHC was not fully operational due to insecurity and lack of financial

<sup>3</sup> Multisectoral assessment (MSNA), February 2022

ressources. People living in the area were forced to travel to Njikwa district hospital, 8 km away, with no road infrastructure, to get routine vaccinations for children. The support has enabled the hospital to provide health care to people in need,.

“Once we began supporting the Oshie IHC in August 2021 through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) – USAID funding, the situation changed for newborns and children in the area,” said Bader Al Nammur, Field Site Coordinator, North-West Cameroon. Bertha Tabi, a dedicated IMC midwife now schedules one vaccination day every month for each age group and contacts all the mothers on her list, asking them to bring their children to the IHC for routine vaccination. “Immunization means protection. Vaccination is the safest and most reliable technique to protect children from contagious diseases,”, Bertha said.

However, Oshie IHC faces challenges. The clinic has no electricity, jeopardizing the safe storage of vaccines. The only facility in the area with proper cold storage is the Njikwa district hospital, located 8 km away from Oshie. Thus, Bertha has to hire a motorbike, take the ice box with her to the hospital, pick up the vaccines and travel back to the IHC, where the mothers and children wait for her return, to ensure the vaccines can be administered. The full round trip can take up to four hours. Although the situation is difficult, more than 2,300 children and babies in Oshie and the surrounding area have received vital routine immunizations since the project began, which will have a positive impact on their future health outcomes and the community at large.

The North-West region continue to be marked by violence and insecurity. Some health infrastructures and personnel have been directly targeted by attacks, and displaced population have difficult access to health services because of long distance, insecurity, and poor road infrastructures. The health situation in insecure areas is characterized by a significant reduction of services provided by qualified health personnel, difficult access to essential health care and low vaccination coverage of the affected populations. The context contributes to the resurgence of epidemics such as measles, cholera and monkey pox. Nearly 300 health facilities were no longer functional (damage, destruction or lack of health personnel) in the North-West and South-West regions as of December 2021.

## ZERO NEW CONFIRMED CHOLERA CASES IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION FOR TWO MONTHS



Tiko cholera response centre, South-West region

Credit: OCHA/Ariane Maixandeu

cases) and Littoral (4,712 cases) regions have reported the majority of cases.

The South-West region, which has been the most cholera-affected region since the outbreak of the epidemic in October 2021, has recorded no cholera cases for two consecutive months. This is the result of the efforts of the Ministry of public health, with the support of humanitarian partners. Funded by the the central emergency response fund (CERF), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) are supporting the health and WASH interventions to reduce cholera-related mortality, and curb the spread of the current epidemic.

Between 29 August and 8 September 2022, 295 new suspected cases of cholera including 6 deaths have been reported from three active regions: Littoral (262 cases, 6 deaths); Centre (27 cases); West (2 cases)<sup>4</sup>. As of 8 September 2022, 11,627 suspected cases and 238 deaths have been reported from eight regions and 49 districts of which 25 remain active. South-West (6,013

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<sup>4</sup> Weekly Bulletin on Outbreaks and other Emergencies: Week 39: 19 - 25 September 2022