

### IN THIS ISSUE

**P.1-2** 16 Days of activism: UNiTE to end violence against women and girls

**P.2-3** More than 3.2 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity in 2023

**P.3** The end of cholera epidemic in Cameroon: towards a lasting solution

**P.3-4** Bringing hope and smile to people affected by conflict and climate crisis in the Far North region

**P.4** Interagency PSEA network training of trainers

### FIGURES

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

**3.9 million**

People in need of humanitarian assistance (Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022)

**2.6 million**

People targeted (Humanitarian Response Plan 2022)

**983,281**

Internally displaced people

**491,113**

Refugees and asylum seekers

**555,668**

Returnees (previously IDPs)

### FUNDING

(HRP 2022, FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICES –FTS)

**US\$ 376 million**

Requested

**39.8 per cent**

Funded as of 30 November 2022

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Launch of the 16 Days of activism campaign in Buea, South-West region  
Credit: OCHA/Cosmas Tohnji

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry for the promotion of women and the family (MINPROFF), the United Nations (UN) and partners in Cameroon launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign, to mark the international day for the elimination of violence against women.

In 2022, the UN marked the 16 days under the theme “UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”. The campaign takes place every year from 25 November to 10 December underscoring that violence against women remains the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide.

The 16 days campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness, advocate, and act to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in its many forms (sexual harassment, child marriage, female genital mutilation, intimate partner violence and rape, among other acts of violence). In Cameroon, the civil society, humanitarian organisations, United Nations agencies and Government organised various activities in all regions.

### More than 1 in 3 women worldwide experienced GBV during their lifetime

“Violence against women and girls happens everywhere. It prevails in homes, schools, businesses, parks, public transport, sport arenas and, increasingly, online. It escalates in the context of climate change and in times of war. “For women and girls, no place is completely safe,” said Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director. “Violence against them remains the world’s most chronic, most devastating, most overlooked violation of human rights,” she added.

More than 1 in 3 women worldwide experienced GBV during their lifetime, a figure that has remained largely unchanged over the last decade. The most recent global estimates show that, on average, more than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family.

During and after conflicts and natural disasters, pre-existing patterns of discrimination against women and girls are exacerbated, exposing them to heightened risks of violations of their human rights.

In times of crises, access to essential services such as health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, can be disrupted, with women and girls being at a greater risk of unplanned pregnancy, maternal mortality and morbidity, severe sexual and reproductive injuries and contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Internally displaced women can be disproportionately affected by the loss of livelihoods during displacement.

Girls can face additional obstacles in accessing education. These barriers are due to fear of targeted attacks and threats against them, and to the additional caregiving and household

responsibilities that girls are often obliged to assume. Women are also forced to look for alternative sources of livelihood, as family survival comes to depend heavily on them.



5

More than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their family



1/5

In 2021, nearly 1 in 5 women aged 20-24 were married before turning 18



1/3

One in three women have been subjected to violence at least once in their lifetime

**In Cameroon, 53 per cent of people in need of humanitarian assistance are female.**

Women are heavily affected by the disruption or loss of livelihoods caused by violence. Violence and displacement have aggravated GBV trends in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions.

In a context where girls and women's social and economic status is low, the hardship created by the crisis generates a heightened risk of violence within the home. In October 2022 only, GBV specialised services providers reported 219 GBV incidents (100 per cent of survivors are females) in the Far

North and 402 (96 per cent of survivors are females) in the North-West and South-West.

The majority of GBV cases reported are denial of resources or opportunities, physical assault, emotional abuse, forced marriage rape and sexual assault.

### GBV programs are minimally funded

With the support of donors, humanitarian partners are providing lifesaving GBV services to women and girls in regions affected by the humanitarian crises in Cameroon. This includes psychosocial support, case management and referral services.

However, GBV programs are minimally funded. As of 30 November 2022, the Protection Cluster/Sector including GBV, Child Protection and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) was only 20 per cent funded. There is a need to increase the funding dedicated to GBV emergency response and preparedness.

During the town hall meeting organised by the United Nations in Cameroon on 29 November, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator reiterated the need to pool resources for a coordinated and an effective response to GBV in Cameroon.

## MORE THAN 3.2 MILLION PEOPLE ARE PROJECTED TO FACE ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN 2023



Improving the food security of vulnerable population through vegetable gardens for home consumption as well as sale in the market. Bakingili, Cameroon.

Credit: FAO

Conflict, population displacement, limited access to basic social services, remain the main drivers of food insecurity. Combined with the impact of climate change and COVID-19, the global consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, in particular the disruption in wheat flour and fertilizers, have triggered an increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs in Cameroon since the beginning of 2022.

The Cadre Harmonisé analysis of October 2022 estimates that 3,234,556 persons will be food insecure (phase 3 to 5) from June to August 2023 in Cameroon. The Far North and North-West regions which are affected by violence are estimated to have the highest percentage of the population in food insecurity during the projected period.

In the Adamawa, East, and North regions, food and nutrition insecurity are mainly caused by climate shocks and market disruptions and driven by the influx of CAR refugees.

Food Security Cluster/Sector partners remain committed to saving lives through the coordination of the food security response in major emergencies. In September 2022, partners reached 131,000 people with food, agriculture, and livelihood assistance in the North-West and South-West regions and 158,000 people in the Far North region.



## THE END OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN CAMEROON: TOWARDS A LASTING SOLUTION



In the Littoral region, community health workers with UNICEF support were tirelessly supporting the cholera response  
| Credit: UNICEF/Salomon Beguel

prevent cholera recurrence and (iii) an effective mechanism of coordination for technical support, advocacy, resource mobilisation, and partnership at local and global levels.

The humanitarian partners together with other stakeholders are mobilized to contribute to the achievement of the goal aimed at eliminating cholera by 2030.

Since October 2021, Cameroon has faced one of the longest running cholera epidemics. Eight out of ten regions were affected. The Ministry of public health reported more than 13,000 cumulative cases and over 270 deaths as of October 2022.

As of mid-November, the number of cases has significantly declined, thanks to the support of humanitarian partners and their donors. The interventions included surveillance, improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene, social mobilisation, disease treatment and vaccination.

Cameroon is part of the 47 countries operationalizing the “Ending cholera global roadmap to 2030”. This global strategy for cholera control at the country level provides a concrete path toward a world in which cholera is no longer a threat to public health. The strategy consists of multi-sectoral interventions, supported by an effective coordination mechanism: (i) early detection and quick response to contain outbreaks, (ii) targeted multi-sectoral approach to

## BRINGING HOPE AND SMILE TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CRISIS IN THE FAR NORTH REGION



Stephanie from OCHA meeting with displaced people in Kalakafra in the Logone et Chari | Credit: OCHA/Déborah Ntonmi

since January 2020. She is coordinating the humanitarian response in the region with partners and in collaboration with the Government. She provides support to international and national humanitarian organisations through analysis and monitoring of the humanitarian situation and response in the Far North. “What I love most about my work is seeing the hope and smiles on the faces of persons receiving humanitarian assistance,” she said.

The humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad basin continues to affect local populations disproportionately. The near-decade-long conflict has displaced millions of people in Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon, destroyed livelihoods and led to the suffering of civilians across the Far North Cameroon. Insecurity remains prevalent, with frequent attacks and human rights violation. Humanitarian access is often hindered by insecurity and administrative constraints.

OCHA opened its sub-office in Maroua in 2015 and an antenna in Kousséri in 2016, coordinating the humanitarian response to expand the reach of humanitarian action, improve prioritization and reduce duplication, ensuring that assistance and protection reach the people who need it most.

Since 2014, lifesaving and protection assistance have provided hope and relief to millions of persons, in a concerted effort with humanitarian actors and the Government.

Stephanie works with OCHA in the Maroua sub-office



Stephanie with the prefect during an assessment meeting in the Logone Birni district, following the intercommunity conflict  
| Credit: OCHA/Débora Ntonmi

In addition to insecurity as the result of conflict in the Lake Chad basin, the Far North region is also affected by floods. In 2022, more than 3130,000 people were affected in the Mayo-Danay, Logone et Chari and Mayo-Tsanaga divisions. This includes more than 110,000 people forced to relocate to displacement sites put in place by the local authorities. During the needs assessment mission organised by OCHA in November 2022 in displacement sites, Stephanie saw the suffering and sorrow in the eyes of hundreds of internally displaced persons and Chadian nationals in the Logone et Chari division. "They had lost everything except their lives," she remembers. However, Stephanie remained confident as she believes that "coordination and synergies are the keys to saving lives in severe conditions".

Needs, nonetheless, remain high. Food insecurity and malnutrition are on the rise, severely hindered by the continuous insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities, climate change impacts and socio-economic deficit. Sustained humanitarian efforts

need to be paired with supporting recovery and scaling up development efforts.

OCHA activities contribute to principled and effective humanitarian response through coordination, advocacy, policy, information management and humanitarian financing tools and services.

## INTERAGENCY PSEA NETWORK TRAINING OF TRAINERS



Participants at the PSEA focal point training in Yaounde  
| Credit: OCHA

The involvement of humanitarian workers in acts of sexual exploitation and abuse is a grave violation of our responsibility to do no harm and to protect people affected by crises. In March 2017, the Secretary-General outlined a comprehensive four-pronged strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse across the United Nations system. The elements of the strategy are to: (a) prioritize the rights and dignity of victims; (b) end impunity through strengthened reporting and investigations, including clarifying limitations on the United Nations to achieve criminal accountability; (c) engage with civil society and external partners; and (d) improve strategic communication for education and transparency.

In Cameroon, humanitarian actors are firmly committed to the global fight to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse.

From 24 to 28 October 2022, the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Taskforce organised a training of trainers on PSEA in Yaounde. As part of the interagency PSEA action plan, the training aimed to equip PSEA focal points to effectively support PSEA capacity building activities in their regions. The training hosted 30 participants including staff from national and international NGOs and the UN. Focal points trained are expected to organise trainings and discussion groups in areas where humanitarian response activities are implemented.

### For further information, please contact:

**Karen Perrin**, Head of Office, OCHA Cameroon, [perrink@un.org](mailto:perrink@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)

Follow us on Twitter @OCHACameroon