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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)

936,767

Internally displaced people

488,112

Refugees and asylum seekers

518,853

Returnees (previously IDPs)

FUNDING

(HRP 2022, FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICES –FTS)

US\$ 376 million

Requested

13.5 per cent

Funded as of 31 May 2022

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT: THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL' REPORT

On 10 May 2022, the UN Secretary-General issued the annual report on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

In 2021, the United Nations recorded at least 11,075 civilian deaths across 12 armed conflicts. Armed conflict continued to be characterized by high levels of civilian death, injury and psychological trauma, sexual violence, torture, family separation and disappearance. Conflict damaged and eroded critical infrastructure, disrupting vital water, sanitation, electricity and health services, and fuelling deprivation, hunger and displacement.



An internally displaced family due to the Lake Chad basin conflict
Credit OCHA/ Bibiane Mouangue

According to the report, armed conflict in several countries intersected with intercommunal violence, violent protests, organized crime or other forms of violence, raising concerns about human rights violations and abuses, compounding suffering, and obscuring distinctions between armed conflict and other situations of violence. The climate crisis also exacerbated conflict-related vulnerabilities such as food insecurity, fuelling violence and escalating humanitarian crises.

Civilian casualties from mines, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war were also reported. In 2021, the United Nations recorded 9,797 such related civilians' casualties.

The report also highlighted specific vulnerabilities. In the conflicts in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Yemen and elsewhere, the number of children killed, injured or subjected to sexual violence remained very high, with devastating effects on mental health and development of survivors. Children in those countries faced elevated risks of abduction, recruitment, and use in hostilities.

Throughout the reporting period, educators were killed, injured, kidnapped, and assaulted across at least 13 countries and territories affected by conflict. The highest recorded number of killed educators were in Afghanistan and the highest number kidnapped

educators were in Nigeria and Yemen. In several countries including Cameroon, attacks on and the military use of schools deprived children of learning and other services received through schools and made them more vulnerable to other dangers.

Throughout 2021, medical workers, facilities, equipment and transports came under attack, and parties interfered with medical care. According to data in 17 countries and territories affected by conflict, 219 healthcare workers were killed in 2021, 233 were injured, 120 were kidnapped, and 68 were assaulted.

Attacks on humanitarian workers and assets are cause for grave concern. Over 143 security incidents against humanitarian workers were recorded in 14 countries and territories affected by conflict (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territory). Incidents included shootings, aerial bombardment and shelling, bodily and sexual assault, kidnapping, and explosions of landmines and improvised explosive devices, principally during ambushes, combat and crossfire, raids, and individual attacks. These incidents resulted in the death of 93 humanitarian workers.

The report reminded that protecting civilians depends on full compliance with international humanitarian law by all parties. “I urge States and non-States armed groups, as appropriate, to adopt and share policies and practices to strengthen the protection of civilians, and to develop national policy frameworks that build upon those policies and practices,” stated Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General.

The most effective way to protect civilians is to prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts and settle them peacefully. Parties to conflict, all States, the United Nations and civil society play distinct and complementary roles in ensuring the protection of civilians, concluded the report.

RETURN OF DISPLACED PEOPLE TO LOGONE ET CHARIS OBSERVED AS NEEDS REMAIN HIGH



Robert a resident of Missiska village in Logone Birni district assesses the damage after the village was attacked and burned
Credit UNHCR/Xavier Bourgeois

More than 12,600 people who fled during the intercommunity conflict in the Logone et Chari division, Far North region, which broke out in December 2021, have now returned to their localities.

As the security situation has calmed down, the population who were living in difficult conditions in their places of refuge have preferred to return to their localities. In addition, emerging tensions between internally displaced persons and host communities were also becoming a concern in some places.

However, their situation remains precarious in the localities of return. In Logone Birni, Zimado and Guirvidig, many shelters, food stores, essential household items and other belongings were taken, destroyed, or burnt during the conflict and have not been rehabilitated/supplied since.

This conflict exacerbated community needs, including access to clean water, which was already challenging.

The limited access to clean water exposes people, particularly children, to disease. Over 15 per cent of children under 5, among the 343 assessed in the seven localities of returnees, had diarrhea between 1 and 20 May 2022 and only 15 per cent among them were treated. Access to water including hygiene and sanitation should be urgently addressed, as cholera remains also a risk.

According to the Rapid Response Mechanism, shelters, latrines and boreholes, as well as non-food items and food assistance are the most urgent needs of the returnee's population. There is also an urgent need for medical and nutritional assistance, as well as for protection services including civil documentation.

The intercommunity crisis in the Logone et Chari led to the internal displacement of 47,500 people in December 2021.

THE 'CADRE HARMONISE' INDICATES 2.4 MILLION PEOPLE IN CAMEROON PROJECTED TO BE IN ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

The latest 'Cadre harmonisé' analysis was released on 16 May 2022 during an official ceremony presided by Mr. Gabriel Mbairrobe the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. It stresses that 2.4 million people in Cameroon are projected to face acute food insecurity between June and August 2022. The Far North region will be the most affected region with almost 1 million people projected to face acute food insecurity.



Far North region
Credit OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue

Low agricultural yields in 2021 have particularly affected the Far North, North-West, South-West and South regions. Poor harvests are related to the displacement of populations caused by insecurity and conflict, climatic shocks with a long period of drought and inadequate rainfall distribution, attacks by pachyderms and granivorous birds, and bush fires.

The livestock production was affected by an avian influenza, which caused a 15 per cent decline in broiler production, and other epizootics and red diseases in pigs. Access to food has also been impacted by the overall increase in prices between March and May 2022. This increase in cost can be explained by, among other things, the disruption of supplies in international producer countries, linked to COVID-19 epidemic, the shipping high cost, climatic disruptions and the various conflicts and crises in the Far North, North-West and South-West of the country. In addition, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine could also aggravate the trend of price increases in the country.

As the food insecurity leads to less nutritious diets and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms, the nutritional situation is also of concern. In April only, about 3,000 children under age 5 with acute malnutrition were admitted to health facilities in the Far North region. More than 300 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,769 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were identified by humanitarian partners during screening activities. The report projects that this situation will persist in the coming months particularly in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions affected by violence and constant mobility of the population.

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC NOT YET TACKLED DESPITE SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS



Tiko cholera response centre, South-West region
Credit OCHA/Ariane Maixandeanu

As of 29 May 2022, there were 8,241 cholera cases, with 154 associated deaths, since October 2021. More than the half are reported in the South-West region, where violence and remoteness disrupt and hamper access to humanitarian aid and basic services for affected people.

The epidemic is affecting 39 health districts in seven out of ten regions, including the South-West, Littoral, South, Centre, North, Far North and West. In the North region, 5 to 9 years old children are the most affected.

Insecurity, lack of access to health facilities, limited access to drinking water and sanitation for communities are some challenges humanitarian partners are facing for the response. In April 2022, US\$ 1.7 million were allocated by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the urgent response to the cholera outbreak in Cameroon. The funds will enable the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization

(WHO), together with partners, to provide emergency assistance in case management, water, hygiene and sanitation, to communities affected in the South-West and Littoral regions.

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