

CAMEROON

UNHCR Buea IDP Response Operational Update: North West and South West Regions

18 February – 22 February 2019

Key Figures

IDPs Population estimates*:

246,119 in South West

104,801 in North West

86,434 in Littoral and West regions

Protection response capacity:

30 Protection monitors covering both regions

09 social workers

Shelter response capacity:

4,000 shelter kits (20,000 people)

Shelter Kits distributed:
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NFI kits distributed:
6,017

NFI response capacity:
6,000 kits (30,000 people)

Major IDP hosting locations*: Buea, Tiko, Mbonge, Manyu, Limbe, Muyuka, Kumba1&2, Tombe, Ekondo-Titi, Konye

* Source OCHA

UNHCR Response

Shelter/ NFI Support

In the South West and North West Regions, the security situation remains volatile, fluid and unpredictable. After the 10 days lock down, ghost towns were again observed on 18, 20 & 22 of February 2019. UNHCR's partner INTERSOS, redeployed staff to the field in (Kumba and Mamfe areas) and continued distribution of shelter kits. Initial feedback from some recipients, wasn't so positive prompting a meeting between INTERSOS and UNHCR Buea to review the strategy. According to the scheduled timetable, shelter kits distribution will take place in Banga Bakundu areas on 28 February 2019 and distributions will continue in other areas as planned, and measures will be taken not to force the shelter materials to the POC and compromise the whole process. Meanwhile AIRD has already been informed not to transfer more timber from the warehouses in Douala, until the stock of more than 4,000 shelter kits and wooden beams already in INTERSOS' warehouse in Kumba are distributed to 12,900 IDPs in Meme and 7,100 in Manyu Division, as planned in the weeks ahead.

Protection Delivery

INTEROSOS will from 28 February 2019 begin the distribution of shelter kits to IDPs in the Meme and Manyu Divisions of the SW region. Targeted beneficiaries will include female headed households including homes with pregnant or lactating women. Families with at least one elderly person or persons living with disabilities including chronically or seriously ill people, will also be prioritised. Large families with more than five children under 18 years of age, child-headed households and unaccompanied and separated children, will also receive shelter kits.

Recipients will also include IDP families living in spontaneous settlements or with host families in poor and makeshift shelter conditions. Families living in community or private structures with no solid walls or in unfinished buildings as well as IDPs with limited or no income to meet their shelter needs will also receive assistance.

The recent court ruling in the matter against the Separatist Leaders, did not meet their expectations and those of the Defence Counsel. Thus it is most likely that ghost towns and insecurity will continue or escalate. INTERSOS' protection monitors in the field recorded 47 cases involving human rights violations and abuses in the South West and 7 cases in the Northwest. This brings to 1,947 the total number of protection incidents documented since mid-November.

Destruction of property, the violation of the right to life and physical integrity as well as SGBV remain the most common infringements and abuses reported by IDPs.

Coordination

Protection Cluster:

The Protection Cluster Meeting took place on 19 February 2019 at UNHCR Hall. During the discussions, the Coordinator announced that a one-day workshop will be organised to finalise the draft Strategic Response Plan. OCHA informed the gathering about the existence of an NGO with official functions to record and facilitate the acquisition of identification papers of POCs from the administration. The said NGO is accredited and entitled to administer requests for restitution or replacements of lost ID cards. Close collaboration with this NGO to resolve issues of ID documents is envisaged.

On GBV, Capacity mapping is currently ongoing for the SW & NW to develop SOPs, referral pathways to reach other health aspects, as well as to see the GBV actors, what they are doing, where they are and how they can be fitted into the referral pathways for both the SW/NW. A Task Force is also underway to help identify what is contained in the dignity kits so that it can be harmonised. GBV kits can now be found in the regional hospitals. The training for Sexual Reproductive Health in emergencies comes up in the days ahead for 30 participants

UNHCR implementing partner INTERSOS did a presentation on *Protection Analysis, Monitoring and Trends*, in the NW and SW regions, while a UNICEF staff member on mission to Buea presented on *Accountability of the Affected Population (AAP)*. UNHCR Buea informed participants about the organization of the participatory assessments for IDPs and other persons of concern based on the AGDM approach to take place in the town of Limbe, South West region from 26 to 28 February 2019.

Shelter/ NFI Cluster:

The Shelter Cluster (SC) “Vulnerability Criteria” working group held a meeting on 21 February at UNHCR Buea office and discussed the “*Household Vulnerability Score card and Prioritization Criteria*” for shelter kits distribution. The meeting was co-chaired by Doris Maria Knoechel from OCHA and Sylvanus from Mbonweh and had as main objective to finalize the draft score card and put in common scores of each aspect.

On 21 February, a meeting took place between the Programme Manager of INTERSOS in charge of distribution, and the Shelter Officer and Head of Office for UNHCR Buea. In collaboration with the local partner AMEF, all documents necessary for the collection of beneficiaries' data, the follow-up of distributions and vulnerable cases have been developed and improved. Progress on the shelter / NFI response in the NW and SW regions can be significantly delayed by insecurity and escalation of violence.

Partnerships:

UNHCR protection and assistance-related activities, in the context of the ongoing IDP response, are undertaken in partnership with INTEROS, Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation (AMEF), and African Initiative for Relief Development (AIRD), in close collaboration and coordination with all relevant partners.

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