

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gender-based violence:** In October, organizations who implement Gender Based Violence (GBV) interventions reported over 1,250 GBV cases to relevant service providers in the North-West and South-West regions. 88 per cent of the GBV survivors are female.
- **Attacks on education in the South-West region:** The Humanitarian Coordinator condemned the killing of students in Ekondo Titi.
- **In Cameroon, over 700,000 children are out of school:** The Director of Education Cannot Wait fund Yasmine Sherif calls for an end to attacks on schools.

### 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)

**362 million**

requested in US dollar

**45 per cent**

funded as of 30 November 2021



Credit: OCHA

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### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On 25 November 2021, the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family and the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator launched the 16-day campaign of activism against gender-based violence in Yaoundé.



Gender Walk in Buea, South-West region  
| Credit: UNFPA/ Agha Fru

The global theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was **"Orange the world: End violence against women now!"** Orange symbolizes a brighter future, free of violence.

"Around the world, conflict, climate-related natural disasters, food insecurity, and human rights violations are exacerbating violence against women. More than 70 per cent of women have experienced gender-based violence in some crisis settings. And in countries, both rich and poor,



Awareness activities on GBV with persons living with disabilities in Buea, South-West region | Credit: UNFPA/ Agha Fru

In October, GBV partners reported over 1,250 GBV cases to relevant service providers in the North-West and South-West regions. 88 per cent of these GBV survivors are female. Reported incidents include emotional abuse, denial of resources or opportunities, physical assault, sexual abuse, forced marriage and rape. 56 per cent of survivors are host community members, 36 per cent are internally displaced persons (IDPs), and 8 per cent are returnees.

gender prejudice has fueled acts of violence toward women and girls,” stated the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Sima Bahous.

From 25 November to 10 December 2021, under the leadership of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, civil society organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and UN agencies organized activities across the country calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Crisis and natural disasters often displace women and girls, making them more vulnerable to exploitation and GBV. Sexual abuse cases in internally displaced persons’ sites and refugee camps often go unreported but are estimated to be hundreds. Humanitarian actors provide support to women and girls, with counselling, sexual and reproductive health services, education, and economic empowerment.

*In Buea town in the South-West region, humanitarian actors, under the leadership of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized joint activities including a gender walk to raise public awareness on the theme, a round table discussion on the fight against GBV, and awareness raising activities with people living with disabilities.*

## THE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR IN CAMEROON CONDEMNED ATTACKS ON EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION

On 24 November, attacks targeted a school in the South-West region, leading to the killing of four students and a teacher.



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

On 24 November, unidentified gunmen attacked a Government Bilingual High School in Ekondo Titi, South-West region. Four students aged between 12 and 17 and a teacher were killed, and an unconfirmed number of students and teachers were injured.

“Attacks on schools, teachers, and children are a serious violation of international human rights law and of the right to education. The perpetrators of such heinous acts and those supporting them must be held accountable. I urge all parties to respect and promote the right to education,” said Mr. Naab.

Non-State armed groups opposition to Government administered education and subsequent attacks on education continue to mark the crisis in the North-West and South-West. As a result, over 700,000 students remain out of school. Five years into the crisis, attacks against education continue. Non-State armed groups violence against education facilities and personnel, as well as kidnapping of children and teachers for ransom are occurring on a regular basis.

## EDUCATION MUST COME FIRST IN CAMEROON: YASMINE SHERIF CALLS FOR AN END TO ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS

*Op ed published by Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait.<sup>1</sup>*



Education Cannot Wait Mission to Cameroon: Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait, and Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, meet students at the Souza Gare school in the Littoral region, Cameroon. The school hosts displaced children who have fled the violence in the North-West and South-West regions. | Credit: ECW/Daniel Beloumou

The future of humanity hangs in the balance. Acute threats of conflict, COVID-19, climate change, poverty, displacement, hunger and other factors are pushing millions more people – with children the most vulnerable and hardest hit – to the edge in humanitarian crises around the world.

We can save humanity from these vast interconnected crises, including at the humanitarian-development nexus where humanitarian assistance delivery and long-term development assistance provision overlap. The answer is education.

On a recent mission to Cameroon with the Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland, I saw firsthand the impact these combined destructive forces are having on children living on the frontlines of one of Africa's forgotten crises.

Today in Cameroon, over 700,000 children are out of school. If this alone were not bad enough, we are also witnessing truly horrific attacks on schools, kidnappings, sexual assault, recruitment into armed groups and other grave violations against children.

### End Attacks on Schools

Children are not targets. Teachers are not targets. Schools are not targets. These senseless attacks on basic human rights – and on our collective humanity – must stop immediately. Respect for human rights and adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law must be reinforced.

Nations around the world need to sign on to the Safe Schools Declaration and commit to its principles that ensure every girl, every boy and every teacher has the right to go to school without fear of violence or attacks.

Education is the most solid foundation upon which we will build a more peaceful, more prosperous society, not just in Cameroon and neighboring countries, but across the world.

Think about the economic case for investment. Every dollar spent on girls' education has the potential to generate a general return of US\$ 2.80, according to a recent analysis from our partners Plan International. This could boost GDP in developing countries by 10% over the next ten years. This means less poverty, less hunger and less violence.

### Girls First

Across all of Education Cannot Wait's investments, we are putting girls first. In all, girls account for approximately 60% of beneficiaries for our multi-year investments.

For girls in Cameroon, this means a chance to attend school for the first time. It means a chance to become a doctor instead of a child bride. It means protection from rape and assault.

### Our Humanitarian Call to Action in Cameroon

We can no longer turn a blind eye when innocent little girls have their fingers chopped off simply because they want to learn to read. We are better than this. This is our human case for investment in education.

In Cameroon, Education Cannot Wait will be contributing US\$ 25 million toward a new multi-year educational response that will launch next year. We need an additional US\$ 50 million in immediate support to fully fund the response, which will provide a quarter of a million children with the safety and opportunity of quality learning environments.

That's a quarter of a million children that can learn to read and learn to write. A quarter of a million children that can become

<sup>1</sup> <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2021/12/07/education-must-come-first-in-cameroon-yasmine-sherif-calls-for-an-end-to-attacks-on-schools/>

leaders and doctors and teachers and poets. A quarter of a million children that can put down their weapons and come together to build a more peaceful, more prosperous society.

### Our Global Movement

Armed conflicts, forced displacements, and climate-induced disasters have pushed more than 128 million children out of school, which is further exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These children have an inherent human right to 12 years of safe, quality education.

Education Cannot Wait, along with key partners such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, are calling on world leaders to urgently mobilize US\$ 1 billion in immediate relief. We call on the private sector and the world's billionaires to also get involved, contribute and help make an immeasurable difference in the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.

With these expanded resources, we will reach millions of children with the power, hope and opportunity of an education. The lives of crisis-affected children worldwide, including those in Cameroon, depend on it. Our humanity depends on it.

## GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2022: 274 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE NEED EMERGENCY AID AND PROTECTION IN 2022

On 2 December, the UN Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) hosted a global launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2022 in Geneva, with multiple sequential launches in Berlin, Brussels, London, Stockholm, and Washington, D.C.



Credit: OCHA

274 million people worldwide will need emergency aid and protection in 2022, a 17 per cent increase compared to last year's GHO.

The West and Central Africa region faces some of the world's most complex challenges. Acute and prolonged crises are exacerbating, and needs are growing. Millions of people are being driven to the edge of survival due to a confluence of factors, including conflict and violence, extreme poverty, weak governance, chronically high food insecurity and malnutrition, and the impact of climate change.

In conflict-affected regions, civilians are facing a dramatic protection crisis in an increasingly volatile context. The most vulnerable people are experiencing multiple devastating consequences, driving persistent and fast-escalating needs. More than 1 in 10 people living in West and Central Africa will require assistance and protection in 2022.

"The climate crisis is hitting the world's most vulnerable people first and worst. Protracted conflicts grind on, and instability has worsened in several parts of the world," said the UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths. In the Sahel and Lake Chad basin, water scarcity forced livestock herders to seek pasture, creating tensions between farmers, herders, and fishers.

More than one per cent of the world's population is displaced. Extreme poverty is rising. In most crises, women and girls take the biggest toll, as gender inequalities and protection risks are heightened. Famine remains a terrifying prospect for 45 million people in 43 countries.

The events served to amplify the voices of affected people, raise awareness of the increasing global humanitarian needs with the public, and encourage partners to contribute generously to humanitarian operations.

Published by OCHA, the GHO is the world's most comprehensive and evidence-based overview of the current state and future trends in humanitarian action.

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