COI QUERY

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Question(s)	1. Overview 2. Security incidents and impact on the civilian population 2.1 Security incidents in the Far North region 2.2 Security incidents in Northwest region 2.3 Security incidents in Southwest region, with particular focus on Buea and Kumba cities 3. Situation of IDPs
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The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on 14 June 2021. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.

COI QUERY RESPONSE - Cameroon

Latest developments on security situation in Anglophone region between 1 January 2020 and 31 May 2021

1. Overview

According to a UN report released on 1 June 2021, violence persisted in Far North, North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, especially 'in the latter two regions, attacks by separatist armed groups against government officials, traditional leaders and school personnel increased in the run-up to the regional elections and have since continued, also featuring the use of improvised explosive devices'.[1]

In February 2020, Amnesty International (AI) recorded an increase in violence perpetrated by the Cameroonian military, causing 'dozens of killing and thousands of new displacements in several areas across the Anglophone regions' ahead of the parliamentary elections on 9 February 2020.[2] During the same period, a local media source stated that the possibility 'of holding talks to end the Anglophone crisis seems remote'.[3] Human Rights Watch reported that 'hundreds of civilians have been killed since January 2020 in the North-West and South-West regions'.[4] Furthermore, according to the same source, 'in March, the Southern Cameroons Defence Forces (SOCADEF), a separatist group, called for a ceasefire as the Covid-19 pandemic was declared. In June 2020, government officials held peace talks in the capital, Yaoundé, with the leaders of the Ambazonian Interim Government, a major separatist group, but there was no end to the violence.[5] On 29 March 2020, a ceasefire was unilaterally declared by the Anglophone separatist group called Southern Cameroons Defence Forces (SCDF), following the appeal by the UN chief Antonio Guterres for ending the conflicts across the world, during the pandemic of COVID-19.[6]

According to the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, since the beginning of 2021 the security situation in Cameroon 'has deteriorated […] due to increased fighting between government forces and armed separatist groups. Attacks on education and humanitarian convoys, the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and kidnappings have also escalated. Since January, separatists have carried out at least 27 IED attacks in 13 towns, more than in all of the previous years of the crisis combined'.[7] Freedom House characterizes the status[8] of Cameroon for 2020 as 'not free'.[9]

For background information regarding the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon and availability of state protection, please see a previous EASO COI Query Response published on 30 January 2018. For information on security and human rights situation in the Anglophone regions following the 2018 elections, see the EASO COI Query Response dated 16 December 2019.

For a map of Cameroon please see the UN map.[10]

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[1] UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General, The situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, S/2021/517, 1 June 2021, url, pp.5-6
[2] AI, Cameroon: Rise in killings in Anglophone regions ahead of parliamentary elections, 6 February 2020, url
[3] Africa Report (The), Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: No dialogue between close enemies, 25 February 2020, url
[4] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[5] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[6] BBC, Cameroon's deadly mix of war and coronavirus, 10 May 2020, url
[7] Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, Cameroon, 31 May 2021, url
[8] For Freedom's House methodology on Global Freedom Statuses please visit: url
[9] Freedom House, Cameroon, 2020, n.d., url
[10] UN, Cameroon, Map No. 4227 Rev. 3 April 2020, url

2. Security incidents and impact on the civilian population

Data on violent incidents provided below is based on EASO analysis of publicly available curated datasets from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED).[11] For the purpose of this COI Query Response, only the following types of events were included as violent incidents in the analysis of the security situation in the Anglophone region of Cameroon: battles; explosions/remote violence; violence against civilians. The ACLED data provided below refer to the timeframe between 1 January 2020 and 6 May 2021.

During the aforementioned timeframe, ACLED collected an overall number of 1 387 violent events in Cameroon, 552 of which were coded as battles, 62 as explosions/remote violence, and 773 as violence against civilians.[12]

According to an analysis conducted by Acaps and covering 2019, violence against civilians in the Far North was also due to the presence of Boko Haram in the region, bordering with Nigeria. The humanitarian and national response to Boko Haram was limited by the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.[13] On 21 February 2020, UN officials 'deplored' human rights abuses against civilians (including women and children) in the South-West and North-West regions of Cameroon.[14]

According to Human Rights Watch report for 2020 'security forces responded to separatist attacks with a heavy hand, often targeting civilians and killings hundreds of people across the North-West and South-West regions'.[15] Human rights abuses, killings, tortures and kidnappings by the armed separatists have been recorded during 2020. Furthermore, 'they [the armed separatists] also prevented humanitarian workers and teachers from doing their jobs, depriving children of access to education'.[16]

For April 2020, OSAC reported that kidnappings of Cameroonian government security forces and officials, as well as lethal attacks by armed groups were taking place in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon.[17]

In April 2021, Al Jazeera reported that the situation in the Anglophone regions was getting worse with an 'increasingly heavy toll on civilians, with renewed attacks against schools and a spate of incidents involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and extrajudicial killings documented in recent months'.[18] OCHA April's situation report on North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon reported that during April 2021 more that 10 000 people were forced to flee their villages. Furthermore, the same report stated that 'three security incidents affecting aid workers and health care providers were reported in the two regions [...] and 965 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) incidents were reported in the two regions. About 90 per cent of GBV survivors are women and 11 per cent are children'.[19]

Additionally, the UN Security Council estimated that the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions 'has left around 700,000 children out of school'.[20] On 3 June 2021, the United Nations Office

[11] ACLED, About Acled, n.d., url
[12] EASO analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2020 – 31 May 2021, url
[13] Crisis In Sight, Global Risk Analysis, October 2020, url, p.14
[14] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, UN Officials call for enhanced protection of civilians facing escalating violence in Cameroon, 21 February 2020, url
[15] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[16] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[17] OSAC, Cameroon 2020 Crime & Safety Report, 28 April 2020, url
[18] Al Jazeera, Violence in Cameroon's Anglophone crisis takes high civilian toll, 1 April 2021, url
[19] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Situation Report, last updated 3 June2021, url
[20] UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General, The situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, 1 December 2020, url

for the Coordination of Human Affairs, urged the need for humanitarian support to avoid any rupture in food security, nutrition and livelihood as the funding levels are low.[21]

2.1 Security incidents in the Far North region

Between 1 January 2020 and 6 May 2021, ACLED collected 563 violent incidents in the Far North region of Cameroon, 220 of which were coded as battles, 29 as explosions/remote violence, and 314 as violence against civilians.[22]

The Local Government Administrations (LGAs) with the highest number of violent incidents collected by ACLED in the Far North region are:

- Mayo-Sava (151 battles; 13 explosions/remote violence; 200 violence against civilians)
- Logone-et-Chari (35 battles; 10 explosions/remote violence; 55 violence against civilians)
- Mayo-Tsanaga (30 battles; 6 explosions/remote violence; 49 violence against civilians)

According to a study by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, dated November 2020, there has been a rise of 90 percent in violent incidents perpetrated by militant Islamists group in the Far North Region during 2020.[23] Furthermore, the same study described the attacks in the Far North region of Cameroon as 'the sharpest strike of Boko Haram violence in the Lake Chad Basin over the past 12 months [from November 2020]'.[24] In February 2021, a media source stated that 'Cameroon's Far North region is grappling with deadly incursions from neighboring Nigeria, where an insurgency launched by Boko Haram in 2009 has killed tens of thousands of people'.[25] According to Human Rights Watch 'the Cameroonian military has deployed thousands of soldiers to the Far North region to prevent and repel attacks by Boko Haram, but residents and humanitarian workers said the soldiers' presence is far too thin to effectively protect civilians'.[26] The same report stated that during 2020 there was an increase in attacks by Boko Haram. Specifically, in April 2020, two suicide bombers 'detonated their explosives in the center of the town, killing nine men and injuring ten others and a man was shot during an incident between Boko Haram fighters and the military.[27]

Other indicative examples of the security incidents in the Far North region during the reference period include:

- Between 1st and 2nd of August 2020, an explosion by a child suicide bomber took place in a displacement camp in Nguetechewe causing the death to 17 people.[28]
- Since December 2020, Boko Haram has 'stepped up' the attacks on civilians.[29] A media source, also, indicates the rising on Boko's Haram attacks.[30]
- On 2 August 2020, an attack in Nguetchewe at the Far North region caused the death of ten

[21] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Situation Report, last updated 3 June 2021, url
[22] EASO analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2020 – 31 May 2021, url
[23] Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Boko Haram Violence Against Civilians Spiking in Northern Cameroon, 13 November 2020, url
[24] Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Boko Haram Violence Against Civilians Spiking in Northern Cameroon, 13 November 2020, url
[25] France24, Jihadist attack kills 13 in northern Cameroon, 8 January 2021, url
[26] HRW, Cameroon: Boko Haram Attacks Escalate in Far North, 5 April 2021, url
[27] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[28] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[29] HRW, Cameroon: Boko Haram Attacks Escalate in Far North, 5 April 2021, url
[30] AA, Alarm over rising Boko Haram terror in Cameroon, 6 April 2021, url

children, while five were injured.[31] On the same day, UNHCR reported an attack on a hosting camp of 800 IDPs, near Nguetchwe village, causing the death of 18 people and injuring 11.[32]

- On 14 August 2020, after an attack at a camp of IDPs at the village of Goldavi, seven people were killed and 14 wounded.[33]
- On 7 January 2021, twelve people were killed in a suicide attack on Mozogo by a suspected Boko Haram militant.[34]
- On 8 January 2021, thirteen civilians were killed after a woman suicide bomber blew herself at a village in Northern Cameroon.[35]
- On 12 of February 2021, after an attack at a IDPs camp in Fotokol, nine people were killed by suspected Boko Haram militants.[36]
- Around 28 March 2021, an attack by Boko Haram killed three civilians and one soldier, in a village in the Far North region of Cameroon.[37]
- On 5 April 2021, two soldiers were killed in Zigague by a suspected Boko Haram attack.[38]
- On 6 April 2021, during an attack by a suspected Boko Haram suicide-bomber, seven people were killed in Amchide village.[39]

In April 2021, the Governor of Cameroon's Far North region claimed that Boko Haram fighters are 'still lurking near the border [with Nigeria].[40]

2.2 Security incidents in Northwest region

Between 1 January 2020 and 6 May 2021, ACLED collected 490 violent incidents in the Northwest region of Cameroon, 213 of which were coded as battles, 20 as explosions/remote violence, and 257 as violence against civilians.[41]

The Local Government Administrations (LGAs) with the highest number of violent incidents collected by ACLED in the Northwest region are:

- Mezam (94 battles; 15 explosions/remote violence; 107 violence against civilians)
- Ngo-Ketunjia (42 battles; 37 violence against civilians)
- Bui (29 battles; 2 explosions/remote violence; 36 violence against civilians)
- Momo (24 battles; 27 violence against civilians)

Some indicative examples of the security incidents in the North-West region during the reference period include:

- Between 17 and 20 January 2020, 50 homes were destroyed and many civilians were killed

[31] UNICEF, UNICEF condemns attack in Cameroon's Far North that reportedly killed 10 children, 4 August 2020, url
[32] UNHCR, UNHCR outraged by attack on camp hosting displaced people in Cameroon, at least 18 people killed, 4 August 2020, url
[33] UNHCR, Hunger and fear stalk survivors of attack in north Cameroon, 7 September 2020, url
[34] Garda World, Cameroon: Militants kill 12 people in Far North region of Cameroon, Jan.7, 8 January 2021, url
[35] France24, Jihadist attack kills 13 in northern Cameroon, 8 January 2021, url
[36] Garda World, Cameroon: Suspected Boko Haram attack near Fotokol (Far North) February 12, 14 February 2021, url
[37] Xinhuanet, 3 civilians, one soldier killed in Boko Haram attack in Cameroon, 28 March 2021, url
[38] Garda World, Cameroon: Suspected Boko Haram attack kills two soldiers in Zigague (Far North region) April 5, 7 April 2021, url
[39] Garda World, Cameroon: Suspected Boko Haram attack kills seven in Amchide (Far North region) 6 April, 6 April 2021, url
[40] VOA, Cameroon Military Says It Pushed Boko Haram Fighters into Nigeria, 29 April 2021, url
[41] EASO analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2020 – 31 May 2021, url

in Bali after a military operation by the security forces.[42]

- On 14 February 2020, 21 civilians were 'massacred by the Cameroonian soldiers and armed Ethnic Fulani men' in Ngarbuh village (identified as separatist area), including 13 children and one pregnant woman. During the attack, houses were burned, residents were beaded and pillaged of different properties were reported.[43]
- On the 30 of June 2020, the security forces damaged a health facility in the region and arrested seven health workers under the accusation of collaboration with the separatists in the South-West.[44]
- On 17 May 2020, a teacher at the University of Bameda was killed by the separatists.[45]
- Amnesty International reported the death of a young man and the injury of his father, on 15 January 2020, near Bamenda, by armed separatists.[46]
- According to the report of the Secretary-General of the UN Council, on '1st September 2020, a police officer was killed by suspected armed separatists' and on '2 September, security forces and separatists exchanged fire in the centre of Bamenda'.[47]
- For 2021, 'twelve documented attacks occurred in Bamenda' where 'at least 10 government security personnel have been killed and four civilians wounded' according to Al Jazeera.[48]
- On 27 February 2021, a doctor was kidnapped by the armed separatists under the accusation of 'not contributing to the struggle'. The doctor released after paying for ransom.[49]
- On 3 March 2021, gunfires have been reported at the area of Mbengwi in Bamenda.[50]
- OCHA recorded eight incidents related to IEDs (improvise explosive devises) in the North-West region for April 2021.[51]
- On 25 May 2021, five soldiers were killed in Bui Division by the militant group 'General No Pity'. Following the attack, the local authorities prohibited the use of unauthorized motorbikes to the Bui Division.[52]

2.3 Security incidents in Southwest region, with particular focus on Buea and Kumba cities

Between 1 January 2020 and 31 May 2021, ACLED collected 290 violent incidents in the Southwest region of Cameroon, 107 of which were coded as battles, 8 as explosions/remote violence, and 175 as violence against civilians.[53]

The Local Government Administrations (LGAs) with highest number of violent incidents collected by

[42] HRW, Cameroon: Civilians Massacred in Separatist Area, 25 February 2020, url
[43] HRW, Cameroon: Civilians Massacred in Separatist Area, 25 February 2020, url
[44] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[45] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[46] AI, Cameroon: Rise in killings in Anglophone regions ahead of parliamentary elections, 6 February 2020, url
[47] UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General, The situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, 1 December 2020, url
[48] Al Jazeera, Violence in Cameroon's Anglophone crisis takes high civilian toll, 1 April 2021, url
[49] HRW, Armed Separatists' Abuse Rife in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions, 12 March 2021, url
[50] Garda World, Cameroon: Gunfire reported in Bamenda the morning of March 3, 3 March 2021, url
[51] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Situation Report, last updated 3 June2021, url
[52] Garda World, Cameroon: Heightened security measures likely in Bui Division, Northwest Region, following attack on security forces, May 25, 26 May 2021, url
[53] EASO analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2020 – 31 May 2021, url

ACLED in the Southwest region are:

- Fako (44 battles; 7 explosions/remote violence; 62 violence against civilians)
- Ndian (22 battles; 1 explosions/remote violence; 49 violence against civilians)
- Meme (14 battles; 22 violence against civilians)
- Koupe-Manengouba (12 battles; 23 violence against civilians)
- Manyu (11 battles; 17 violence against civilians)

Some indicative examples of the security incidents in the South-West region during the reference period include:

- Around 14 January 2020, more than 50 houses were burned by the army in Babubock and Bangem in the South-West region. The same incident took place on the 23 January 2020 at the village of Ndoh.[54]
- According to Human Rights Watch, on 6 July 2020, a health staff working with Doctors Without Borders was killed by the separatists as they accused him of working with the military; on August 2020 a woman was killed in Muyuka by the separatists under the accusation of collaborating with the government. Her death was filmed and shared on social media.[55]
- OCHA reported that on 6 July 2020, seven health workers were arrested by the security forces and on 31 July 2020, four people killed and 50 abducted during clashes between separatists' groups for the control of Lebialem.[56]
- On 13 February 2021, three tribal chiefs were killed in Essoh Attah village by separatists' soldiers as they refused to 'hand over the profits from the cocoa sales and for promoting education'.[57]
- On 26 March 2021, an attack against a United Nations convoy in Ikata took place by a non-state armed group.[58]

Within the time constrain for answering this COI Query response and among all the available sources consulted, the following information could be found specifically regarding security incidents in Buea and Kumba cities:

Buea

Buea (also spelled Bouea)[59] is the capital of the Southwest region of Cameroon.[60] An article by France 24 dated 2019 indicated that the city was 'stalked by violence for 18 months, after English-speaking separatists declared an independent state and took up arms against the French-speaking authorities'.[61] A media source dated 25 June 2020 reported that Buea was 'getting back to normal' as the city was 'gradually losing the ghost town feel it has taken on every Monday for almost four years now'. According to the same source:

> 'Ordered at the outset of the crisis by Anglophone separatists**,** the ghost town days have been carefully obeyed, literally cutting off the entire social and economic life of the North West and South West regions from the rest of the country. During these periods, no

[54] AI, Rise in killings in Anglophone regions ahead of parliamentary elections, 6 February 2020, url
[55] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[56] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Situation Report, last updated 3 June2021, url
[57] HRW, Armed Separatists' Abuse Rife in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions, 12 March 2021, url
[58] UN OCHA, Cameroon: Statement of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Cameroon on the attack on UN convoy, 3 April 2021, url
[59] Britannica, Buea, Cameroon, n.d., url
[60] Africa Report (The), Anglophone Cameroon: Buea near normal, while Bamenda a ghost town, 25 June 2020, url
[61] France 24, Fear reigns in heart of separatist Cameroon region, 7 March 2019, url

activities or travel were permitted and residents were ordered to stay at home by armed groups who threatened to retaliate against any persons venturing to disobey the rules'.[62]

Some indicatives examples of security incidents in Buea city during the reference period are the following:

- On 30 January 2020, a 19 year-old female student was kidnapped in Buea by the separatists, who chopped her finger off. The student was released three days later after the payment of the ransom.[63]
- On 28 May 2020, four unarmed men were killed by the military in the neighbourhood of Upper Bonduma, in Buea.[64]

Kumba

On 24 October 2020, seven children were killed and thirteen injured during an attack to a school in Kumba.[65] For the same incident, Amnesty International reported that the number of victims was eight. The attack took place in the classroom.[66] No further information could be found specifically on the security situation in Kumba city with the reference period.

3. Situation of IDPs

According to data published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of June 2020 there were 321 886 IDPs tracked by DTM in Cameroon.[67] A report published by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) highlighted that during 2020 an additional 123 000 civilians were uprooted from their homes resulting to a nearly double increase of the number of new displacements.[68]

A brief analysis of figures on displacement in Cameroon by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) reported a total number of 1 003 000 IDPs as of 31 December 2020, displaced by reasons of violence and armed conflict in the Far North region as well as by violence in the English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions. This number includes IDPs who fled the Anglophone regions due to the ongoing violence and are now hosted in the regions of Centre, Adamoua, Littoral and West. In the same analysis it is reported that 30 000 IDPs fled their homes due to disasters, and specifically because of the seasonal rains and floods that occurred between June and September 2020, while the Far North was the most affected region. in the Littoral and Southwest regions there were also reported displacements linked with floods.[69] IDMC also states that even though historically the displacement associated with conflict in Cameroon has taken place in the Far North, during 2020 seven in ten IDPs in Cameroon were forced to flee because of violence in the English-speaking regions.[70]

According to OCHA 712 180 IDPs were within or displaced in the North-West and South-West regions as of March 2021. Violence in the aforementioned regions resulted in multiple population displacements and over 1 427 people were forced to flee their homes only in March 2021, seeking shelter and safety in nearby bushes, villages and towns.[71] More than 10 000 people, mainly in

[62] Africa Report (The), Anglophone Cameroon: Buea near normal, while Bamenda a ghost town, 25 June 2020, url
[63] HRW, Targeted for Going to School in Cameroon, 12 March 2020, url
[64] CHRDA, Human Rights Violations Committed by the Military Between May and August 2020 in the North-West (NWR) and South-West (SWR) Regions of Cameroon, 31 August 2020, url
[65] HRW, Cameroon, Events of 2020, 13 January 2021, url
[66] AI, Cameroon: Killing of eight schoolchildren in a new low in devastating Anglophone crisis, 26 October 2020, url
[67] IOM DTM, Cameroon, n.d., url
[68] NRC, Report on displacement in selected countries (covering 2020), 27 May 2021, url, p.5
[69] IDMC, Cameroon: Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence, Figures Analysis 2020, May 2021, url
[70] IDMC, Out of sight: Cameroon' s downward spiral of violence and displacement, 22 March 2021, url
[71] UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No.29 (as of March 2021), 26 April 2021, url

Menchum division in the North-West region, were forced to flee their villages in April 2021 and IDPs reached the number of 712 800.[72] For the same reference period , a UNHCR map depicting the locations of UNHCR persons of concern mentions that as of April 2021 there were 1 032 942 internally displaced persons, the majority of whom seem to be situated in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions.[73]

Humanitarian situation

During 2020, IDPs were victims of attacks according to Amnesty International,[74] while humanitarian access to them remained very limited according to USDOS. The measures of the government to promote the safe, voluntary return, resettlement, or local integration of IDPs in the Far North, Northwest, and Southwest Regions aimed to put in place disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration centres. USODOS also noted that many of the returnees left the government's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) centres as they were inadequately resourced. Relief actors with minimal support from the government provided basic social services to IDPs and assistance to returnees. According to USDOS, the government did not facilitate humanitarian actors' efforts to deliver aid to persons in need in the Northwest and Southwest Regions. However, some efforts were made, to provide urgently needed in-kind assistance based on the government' s Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan to IDPs in the Northwest and Southwest Regions affected by the crisis. This assistance was provided only to persons in accessible areas, especially in regional capital cities and without an assessment of their needs.[75]

According to a March 2021 UNOCHA bulletin, many of the 301 651 people from North-West and South-West regions who were forced to abandon their property and seek safety in the Littoral, West, Adamawa and Centre regions, were in need of shelter, access to water, hygiene and sanitation, education, and health services.[76]

In March 2021, IDMC director Alexandra Bilak explained that "many IDPs look for a safe haven in Cameroon's largest cities. But there they face a new set of challenges in accessing services and employment and often end up displaced again as a result of disasters".[77] On the other hand host population's vulnerabilities exacerbated, as many of them were already living in poverty. [78]

The large-scale displacement caused by the ongoing violence in the English-speaking parts of Cameroon had an impact on children and their right to education, as around 700 000 children were out of school due to insecurity.[79] According to an OCHA humanitarian bulletin women and children are one of the most vulnerable groups among IDPs. The Regional Director for the Sahel at Plan International, Fatoumata Haidara, warned: 'Gender based violence is on the rise. Local communities are expressing their concern about seeing women and girls suffer. They are being abducted, raped and married by force'." In the Far North region of Cameroon, forced displacement and inadequate shelter conditions created a situation of 'promiscuity' and stigma attached to IDPs within host communities. These factors together with family separation and weakening of the community networks, aggravated the pre-existing cultural and traditional norms that enforce stereotypes against women and girls.[80] Women and girls have to face a new reality as their husbands have been killed or exiled and they struggle to make ends meet, while they face violence and often lack access to essential services such as education and healthcare.The same source stated that 700 000 children in the North-West and South-West regions need educational support. Over 80 per cent of schools

[72] UNOCHA, Cameroon Situation Report, last updated 3 June 2021, url
[73] UNCHR, Map on the distribution of refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and returnees, April 2021, url
[74] AI, Cameroon 2020, 7 April 2021, url
[75] USDOS, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon, 30 March 2021, url
[76] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue No. 18, March 2021, March 2021, url
[77] IDMC, Out of sight: Cameroon' s downward spiral of violence and displacement, 22 March 2021, url
[78] UNOCHA, Cameroon, Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue No. 19, April 2021, April 2021, url
[79] NRC, Report on displacement in selected countries (covering 2020), 27 May 2021, url, p.5
[80] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue No. 19, April 2021, April 2021, url

are closed in the North-West and South-West regions. [81]

OCHA states that according to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis of March 2021, 1.15 million people in the Northwest and Southwest region are estimated to suffer from severe food insecurity.[82] Conflicts and natural disasters caused a serious threat in terms of food security. While over than 2.7 million people during 2021 are food and nutrition insecure, COVID-19, the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West regions and the violent conflict in the Lac Chad basin affecting the northern regions are negatively impacting food security situation in Cameroon. Food and nutrition insecurity crisis is mainly present in the North-West and South-West regions, which are affected by the presence of thousands of internally displaced people, disruption of cross-border trade, pressure on food resources and deterioration of livelihoods.[83] The same source in a previous bulletin reported that while 2.2 million people need humanitarian assistance, as socio-political crisis in the two regions has reached its fifth year. WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to over 912 000 crisis-affected and vulnerable people in Cameroon in 2020.[84]

[81] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue No. 17, February 2021, February 2021, url
[82] UN OCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No.29 (as of March 2021), 26 April 2021, url
[83] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue No. 19, April 2021, April 2021, url
[84] UN OCHA, Cameroon, Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue No. 17, February 2021, February 2021, url

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