



COI QUERY

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| Title | Security situation in the Northwest, Southwest and Far North regions |
| Reference period | 13 October 2023 to 9 January 2025 |
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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cameroon

Security situation in the Northwest and Southwest (Anglophone) and Far North regions

1. Overview and political situation

In September 2024, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that ‘Cameroon is confronting a multi-faceted humanitarian and protection crisis caused by conflict, inter-communal violence, and the effects of climate change’.¹ Sources reported that Cameroon continued to be affected by two major conflicts: the Lake Chad basin conflict in the Far North and the internal crisis in the Northwest and Southwest (NWSW) regions.²

The Far North region, considered a ‘geostrategic location’ at the ‘crossroads of important communication routes’ between Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, and Niger, was ‘marked’ by weaker national integration, partly due to historical border vulnerabilities exploited by non-state armed groups (NSAGs).³ According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the conflict with NSAGs has intensified existing intercommunal tensions and hidden ongoing criminal activities.⁴ The media outlet Voice of America (VOA), reported that ‘at least 36,000 people have been killed and 3 million have fled their homes since 2009, when fighting between Nigerian government troops and Boko Haram militants spread to Cameroon, Niger and Chad’.⁵ Terrorist attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State - West Africa Province (ISWAP) continued in 2023, primarily targeting the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone-et-Chari divisions.⁶ Natural resources were ‘at the root of the inter-communal rivalries in Cameroon’s Far North’.⁷ Intercommunal violence between Choa Arabs and Musgum ethnic groups over lands and water resources around the Logone River resumed in November 2023.⁸ Tensions driven by disputes over natural resources have also escalated among other communities in the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, Mayo-Danay, and Diamare divisions.⁹

In the Northwest and Southwest regions, commonly known as the Anglophone regions,¹⁰ fighting between government forces and separatist fighters has persisted since 2017, when

¹ UNHCR, Fact Sheet; UNHCR Cameroon Refugee; July 2024, 10 September 2024, [url](#), p. 1

² European Commission, Cameroon, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#); UNOCHA, Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024, 14 April 2024, [url](#), p. 9

³ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview Cameroon, April 2024, [url](#), p. 10

⁴ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview Cameroon, April 2024, [url](#), p. 10

⁵ VOA, Cameroon military frees 300 Boko Haram captives along northern border, 14 May 2024, [url](#)

⁶ USDOS, Country Report on Terrorism 2023 - Chapter 1 - Cameroon, 12 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷ ISS, Cameroon’s community violence adds to Lake Chad Basin security woes, 4 October 2021, [url](#)

⁸ International Crisis Group, Curbing Feuds over Water in Cameroon’s Far North, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

⁹ International Crisis Group, Curbing Feuds over Water in Cameroon’s Far North, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰ International Crisis Group, A Second Look at Cameroon’s Anglophone Special Status, 31 March 2023, [url](#)



separatists attempted to establish an independent state.¹¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) reported that in 2023, internal disputes among separatist leaders splintered the self-proclaimed Anglophone governments into over 50 separatist groups, weakening their political demands and ability to resist state offensives.¹² ACLED further indicated that ongoing conflict and competing territorial claims between separatist groups and the central government have turned the Anglophone regions into a fragmented system of taxation, security, and public services, managed by various uncoordinated actors, including separatists, the government, private companies, and humanitarian organisations.¹³

Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported a growing trend of restrictions on free speech in Cameroon, emerging ahead of the 2025 presidential elections.¹⁴ Similarly, following a visit to Cameroon in August 2024, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) cited ‘serious concerns over restrictions on the freedom of expression and association and the right to peaceful assembly’.¹⁵ On 9 October 2024, Cameroon’s Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, released a statement banning media discussions about President Paul Biya’s health and warned that violators would be subject to legal consequences.¹⁶ On 12 March 2024, Minister Nji stated in a press release that two opposition coalitions, the Political Alliance for Change (APC) and the Alliance for a Political Transition in Cameroon (ATP), did not fulfill the legal requirements to qualify as political parties and were therefore prohibited from engaging in any political activities within the national territory.¹⁷ Sources further reported arrests and detentions of people seen as opposing the current government.¹⁸ In the 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices, the US Department of State (USDOS) indicated that several human rights organisations ‘had limited access to political prisoners’.¹⁹ Critics of the government were frequently charged with state security offenses such as terrorism, rebellion, or secession, with many receiving sentences that exceeded the legally prescribed limits for these crimes.²⁰

¹¹ GCR2P, Cameroon – Population at risk, 1 December 2024, [url](#); ACLED, Non-State Armed Groups and Illicit Economies, September 2024, [url](#), p. 10

¹² ACLED and GI-TOC - Global Initiative against Organized Crime, Non-State Armed Groups and Illicit Economies in West Africa: Anglophone separatists, September 2024, [url](#), pp. 3, 13

¹³ ACLED and GI-TOC - Global Initiative against Organized Crime, Non-State Armed Groups and Illicit Economies in West Africa: Anglophone separatists, September 2024, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁴ HRW, Another Troubling Decision For Free Speech in Cameroon, 11 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁵ OHCHR, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk concludes official visit to Cameroon, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶ BBC News, Cameroon bans reports on President Biya’s health, 11 October 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Cameroon bans media from talking about President Biya’s health, 11 Oct 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷ Afrique – sur 7, Cameroun – Présidentielle 2025 : deux coalitions de l’opposition interdites, 13 March 2024, [url](#);

Jeune Afrique, Au Cameroun, le gouvernement met en garde deux coalitions d’opposition, 13 March 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸ AI, Cameroon: Civil society members arbitrarily detained in Garoua must be immediately released, 26 September 2024, [url](#); CIVICUS, Opposition Coalitions, Irreverent Language Against Institutions And Discussing The President’s Health Are Banned; Long List Of Arbitrary Arrests Of Activists And Journalists, 31 October 2024, [url](#); HRW, World Report 2024 - Cameroon, 11 January 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 11

²⁰ USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 11



2. Security incidents and impact on the civilian population

The European Commission indicated a 'worrying trend' in the security situation in Cameroon, with 4 339 incidents reported in the first seven months of 2024, nearly matching the total of 4 518 incidents recorded throughout 2023.²¹

Between 13 October 2023 and 6 December 2024, ACLED recorded 3 148 security incidents in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.²²

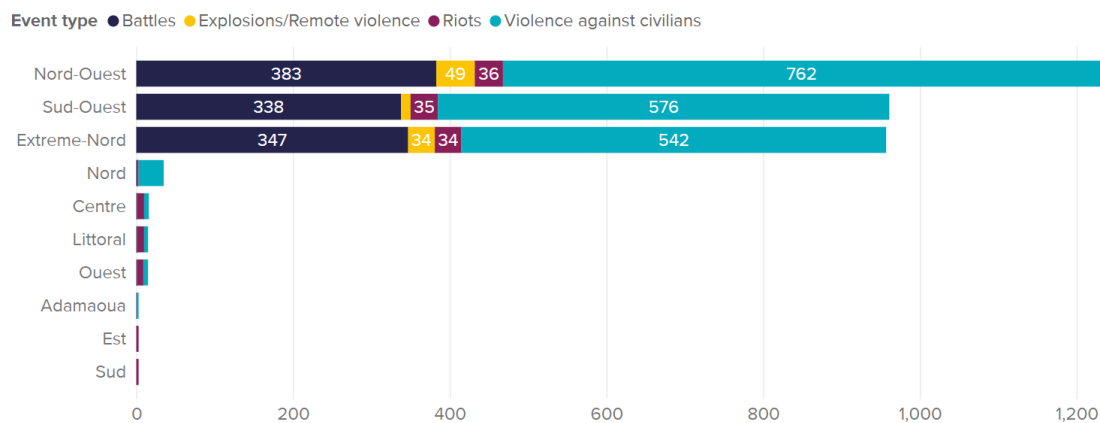


Figure 1. Evolution of security events coded as ‘battles’, ‘explosions/remote violence’, ‘riots’, and ‘violence against civilians’, between 13 October 2023 - 6 December 2024, based on ACLED data.²³

Situation in the Far North

In the Far North region, a December 2024 article by the media outlet African Intelligence reported concerns from army officers and political leaders about a rise in attacks by Jihadist groups linked to Boko Haram.²⁴ In October 2024, the Intelligence Security Analysis Operations (ISAO) reported an ‘unprecedented wave of attacks’ committed by Boko Haram.²⁵ The departments of Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone-and-Chari have been particularly affected, where ‘terrorists systematically target civilians’.²⁶ Victims included farmers, motorcycle taxi drivers, shepherds, fishermen, and students.²⁷ According to the African Center

²¹ European Commission, Cameroon, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#)

²² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 13 October 2023 – 6 December 2024.

²³ EUAA analysis PowerBI based on ACLED dataset, filtered on Cameroon, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

²⁴ Africa Intelligence, Ex-Boko Haram groups put security services to test in Far North Region, 12 December 2024, [url](#)

²⁵ ISAO, Far North Cameroon cm: Terror Persists Despite Security Forces’ Response, 22 October 2024, [url](#)

²⁶ ISAO, Far North Cameroon cm: Terror Persists Despite Security Forces’ Response, 22 October 2024, [url](#)

²⁷ ISAO, Far North Cameroon cm: Terror Persists Despite Security Forces’ Response, 22 October 2024, [url](#)



for Strategic Studies,²⁸ in 2024, ‘for the first time, there were more violent events in [the Far North of Cameroon] than in Nigeria’.²⁹ The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) estimated in September 2024 that around 60 271 women and 12 958 girls were at risk of gender-based violence in this region.³⁰

Situation in the Northwest and Southwest regions

In January 2024, UNOCHA reported that populations in the Northwest and Southwest regions ‘continued to suffer from abuses, including killings, destruction of properties, kidnappings for ransom, illegal taxation, arbitrary arrests, and extortion’.³¹ The security situation remained ‘highly volatile’ throughout 2024,³² marked by increased criminal activity, incursions by NSAGs in urban centers, attacks on State Security Forces, threats to civilians, and the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by NSAGs.³³ According to ACLED, ‘conflict in the Anglophone region grew each year, with violent events rising an average of 49% per year from 2020 to 2023’.³⁴ The same source reported that separatists enforced closures and lockdowns to school activities and were responsible for 89 % of nearly 50 violent incidents targeting teachers in 2023.³⁵

In a protection monitoring update covering July to September 2024, the Global Protection Cluster noted a spike in human rights violations in July 2024, with SSFs carrying out ‘cordon and search’ operations that led to seven incidents of arbitrary arrests affecting 303 victims, while NSAGs set up more illegal checkpoints to extort money and abduct civilians for ransom.³⁶ The most common violations recorded were arbitrary arrests and detentions, physical assaults or abuse and killings.³⁷ The highest number of violations between July and September 2024 ‘were recorded in Buea (457 victims) and Muyuka (199 victims), both in Fako division in the South-West region, followed by Meme also in the SW region, and then Mezam in the North-West region’.³⁸

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted monthly protection monitoring activities in the Southwest region between January 2024 and June 2024 in eight communities in the Fako,

²⁸ Africa Center for Strategic Studies is ‘a forum for research, academic programs, and the exchange of ideas with the aim of enhancing citizen security by strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of African institutions.’ Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *Who We Are*, n.d., [url](#)

²⁹ Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *Conflicts Causing Record Level of Forced Displacement in Africa*, 4 September 2024, [url](#)

³⁰ UNFPA, *Situation Report #23 Severe flooding in Cameroon’s Far North impacts over 150,000 people*, 17 September 2024, [url](#), p.2

³¹ UNOCHA, *Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 61 (January 2024)*, 8 March 2024, [url](#)

³² GCR2P, *Cameroon – Population at risk*, 1 December 2024, [url](#)

³³ GPC, *Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024*, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 1

³⁴ ACLED and GI-TOC - *Global Initiative against Organized Crime, Non-State Armed Groups and Illicit Economies in West Africa: Anglophone separatists*, September 2024, [url](#), p. 13

³⁵ ACLED and GI-TOC - *Global Initiative against Organized Crime, Non-State Armed Groups and Illicit Economies in West Africa: Anglophone separatists*, September 2024, [url](#), p. 28

³⁶ GPC, *Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024*, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 3

³⁷ GPC, *Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024*, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 4

³⁸ GPC, *Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024*, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 4



Kupe Muanenguba, and Meme divisions.³⁹ According to sources consulted by the DRC, between January and March 2024, the primary human rights violations reported by the local population included arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions, torture and inhuman treatment, theft, economic abductions and trafficking, and gender-based violence (GBV).⁴⁰ DRC recorded 55 protection incidents and 428 victims between April and June 2024.⁴¹ Violations reported by the local population included arbitrary arrests, killing, assault and battery, torture/inhuman treatment and gender-based violence, committed by SSF and NSAGs.⁴²

2.1. Security incidents in the Far North region

Between 13 October 2023 and 6 December 2024, ACLED reported 957 violent incidents in the Far North region of Cameroon, 347 of which were coded as battles, 34 as explosions/remote violence, 34 as riots and 542 as violence against civilians.⁴³ During the same reference period, 1001 fatalities were reported, including 393 fatalities resulting from events coded as violence against civilians.⁴⁴

The divisions with the highest number of violent incidents collected by ACLED in the Far North region were:

- Mayo-Sava (178 battles; 12 explosions/remote violence; 255 violence against civilians)
- Mayo-Tsanaga (105 battles; 10 explosions/remote violence; 118 violence against civilians).⁴⁵

Indicative examples of the security incidents in the Southwest region during the reference period include:

- On 18 November 2023, militants from the Boko Haram [JAS faction] clashed with either ISWAP or another Boko Haram faction in Darak-Île de Tumbun-Ali, near Darak in Logone-et-Chari, Extreme-Nord. The conflict resulted in at least 40 fatalities, and several boats were destroyed during the confrontation.⁴⁶
- In January 2024, increased violence in Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone et Chari divisions by non-state armed groups led to the displacement of populations, 22 civilian deaths, 12 injuries, over 20 abductions, and widespread destruction of homes and property.⁴⁷

³⁹ DRC, 2024 Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report in Southwest Cameroon - Q1, 13 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5; DRC, 2024 Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report in Southwest Cameroon - Q2, 13 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5

⁴⁰ DRC, 2024 Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report in Southwest Cameroon - Q1, 13 December 2024, [url](#), p. 13

⁴¹ DRC, 2024 Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report in Southwest Cameroon - Q2, 13 December 2024, [url](#), p. 10

⁴² DRC, 2024 Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report in Southwest Cameroon - Q2, 13 December 2024, [url](#), p. 11

⁴³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Far North Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁴⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Far North Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁴⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Far North Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁴⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Far North Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁴⁷ UNOCHA, Cameroon: Situation Report, 21 March 2024, [url](#), p. 4



- On 8 October 2024, ISWAP or Boko Haram militants engaged in a reprisal clash with military forces near Kerawa, (Kolofata, Mayo-Sava) following an ambush by the military. The confrontation resulted in the deaths of 13 militants.⁴⁸
- On 12 November 2024, suspected Boko Haram militants attacked the village of Ldamang, killing at least ten civilians and injuring several others.⁴⁹ SSF responded killing at least four Boko Haram militants.⁵⁰

2.2. Security incidents in Northwest region

Between 13 October 2023 and 6 December 2024, ACLED reported 1230 violent incidents in the Northwest region of Cameroon, of which 383 were coded as battles, 49 as explosions/remote violence, 36 as riots and 762 as violence against civilians.⁵¹ During the same reference period, 636 fatalities were reported, including 209 fatalities resulting from events coded as violence against civilians.⁵²

The divisions with the highest number of violent incidents collected by ACLED in the Northwest region were:

- Mezam (117 battles; 25 explosions/remote violence; 284 violence against civilians)
- Bui (141 battles; 10 explosions/remote violence; 118 violence against civilians).⁵³

Indicative examples of the security incidents in the Southwest region during the reference period include:

- On 11 February 2024, an IED explosion during the National Youth Day celebrations in Nkambe, killed one person and injured 120 others, predominantly women and children.⁵⁴
- On 20 March 2024, a non-state armed group attacked government schools in Weh and Esu, Menchum division, Northwest Cameroon, disrupting exams by burning papers, opening fire, and abducting the vice principal and five teachers.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Far North Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁴⁹ Xinhua, At least 10 killed in Boko Haram attack in Cameroon, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁰ Crisis 24, Suspected Boko Haram militants kill up to ten people in Ldamang, Mayo-Tsanaga Department, Far North Region, on Nov. 12., 12 November 2024, [url](#)

⁵¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Northwest Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024

⁵² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Northwest Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁵³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Northwest Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁵⁴ CNA, Nkambe: One dies, dozen injured in youth day IED explosion, 11 February 2024, [url](#); UNOCHA, Cameroon: Situation Report - Highlights, 21 March 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁵ UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 63 (March 2024), 6 May 2024, [url](#)



- On 24 November 2024, government forces killed two separatist fighters, including a commander, during a raid in Bamenda.⁵⁶
- On 23 December 2024, security forces fatally shot an unidentified commercial motorcyclist and detained two civilians in Bamenda.⁵⁷

2.3. Security incidents in Southwest region

Between 13 October 2023 and 6 December 2024, ACLED collected 961 violent incidents in the Southwest region of Cameroon, of which 338 were coded as battles, 12 as explosions/remote violence, 35 as riots and 576 as violence against civilians.⁵⁸ During the same reference period, 930 fatalities were reported, including 300 resulting from events coded as violence against civilians.⁵⁹

The divisions with the highest number of violent incidents collected by ACLED in the Northwest region were:

- Meme (131 battles; 2 explosions/remote violence; 266 violence against civilians)
- Fako (91 battles; 6 explosions/remote violence; 123 violence against civilians).⁶⁰

Indicative examples of the security incidents in the Southwest region during the reference period include:

- In November 2023, separatists killed at least 20 people, injured 10, and burned 15 houses during a dawn raid on Egbekaw, Mamfe.⁶¹
- Between 16 and 26 February 2024, around 3 000 people were displaced from their homes in Upper Bayang, Manyu division, due to violence and clashes between SSF and NSAGs.⁶²
- On 17 February 2024, military forces clashed with separatists in Ayukaba (Mamfe, Manyu) during a military operation. At least 4 separatists and 1 civilian were killed. The village is seen as a separatist stronghold in the area.⁶³

⁵⁶ Cameroononline.org, Separatist commander killed in Cameroon's restive Anglophone region, 25 November 2024, [url](#); Xinhua, Separatist commander killed in Cameroon's restive Anglophone region, 25 November 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁷ Mimi Mefo, Bike rider fatally shot, two others taken away by military in Bamenda, 23 December 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Southwest Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁵⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Southwest Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁶⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, Southwest Region, 13 October 2023 to 6 December 2024.

⁶¹ Al Jazeera, Separatist gunmen kill at least 20 in Cameroon, 6 November 2023, [url](#); France24, At least 20 killed in attack by Cameroon's anglophone separatists, 6 November 2023, [url](#)

⁶² UNOCHA, Cameroon: Situation Report, 21 March 2024, [url](#), p. 7

⁶³ Mimi Mefo, Military operations in upper Bayang claims lives of separatists fighters and civilians, 19 February 2024, [url](#)



- On 1 May 2024, separatists abducted 28 individuals, including eight children, from the Catholic Church in Bai Panya, Meme Division.⁶⁴ The group claimed the victims were attempting to obtain birth certificates in preparation for the 2025 Cameroonian presidential election and issued threats to execute them.⁶⁵

3. Situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

As of 30 November 2024, UNHCR reported that Cameroon was home to 1 036 775 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs),⁶⁶ including 454 000 in the Far North region and 583 113 in Northwest and Southwest regions.⁶⁷

Situation in the Far North

The International Crisis Group reported that, as of February 2023, over 80 % of the 700 000 people displaced in the Far North region were forced to flee due to attacks by Boko Haram and its splinter groups.⁶⁸ A study by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) published in December 2024 described the situation of displaced people in the Far North region.⁶⁹ NRC surveyed 282 households, including 257 women and 25 men, across Mayo-Tsanaga, Logone-et-Chari, and Mayo-Sava divisions.⁷⁰ 80 % of the participants were IDPs, and among those surveyed, 52 % lacked access to housing, land, or property, with women making up 98 % of this group.⁷¹

Situation in the Northwest and Southwest regions

In the Situation Report covering December 2023, UNOCHA reported over 96 815 IDPs in the NWSW due to violence, with many experiencing pendular displacement as they returned home during calm periods but fled again during renewed violence.⁷²

In the Situation Report covering January 2024, UNOCHA reported that armed clashes between SSF and NSAGs caused further displacements in the NWSW regions, including 200 people fleeing Wum subdivision (Menchum division, Northwest) and approximately 300 leaving their villages in Muyuka subdivision (Fako division, Southwest).⁷³

⁶⁴ Mimi Mefo, Whereabouts of 28, including women and children, unknown after abduction, 13 May 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁵ Mimi Mefo, Whereabouts of 28, including women and children, unknown after abduction, 13 May 2024, [url](#); CNA, Bai Panya: Separatists disrupt birth certificate registration, threaten to burn church, 12 May 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁶ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, UNHCR Cameroon MCO: Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Movement (November 2024), 30 November 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁷ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Cameroon – Forcibly Displaced Persons, 30 November 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁸ International Crisis Group, Curbing Feuds over Water in Cameroon's Far North, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹ NRC, Cameroon: Displaced women struggle to access land in Far North region, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰ NRC, Cameroon: Displaced women struggle to access land in Far North region, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷¹ NRC, Cameroon: Displaced women struggle to access land in Far North region, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

⁷² UNOCHA, CAMEROON: North-West and South-West Situation Report No. 60, December 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁷³ UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 61 (January 2024), 8 March 2024, [url](#)



In the Situation Report covering February 2024, UNOCHA estimated that 5 768 people were displaced in NWSW regions due to escalating violence.⁷⁴ ‘This includes over 4,318 people displaced from 15 villages (11 in Upper Bayang subdivision in the South-West and four from Widikum subdivision in the North-West)’.⁷⁵ The same source highlighted the urgent needs of IDPs for food, non-food items, and shelter.⁷⁶

UNOCHA further reported that the one-month movement suspension along the Bamenda–Mamfe–Ekok highway, enforced by NSAGs from 4 March to 4 April 2024, severely impacted displaced populations, ‘as no humanitarian exemptions were granted, including those recently relocated from Widikum in the Northwest and Upper Bayang in the Southwest’.⁷⁷

In the Situation Report covering September 2024, UNOCHA reported that around 5 567 people were displaced within NWSW regions, particularly in Mezam (Northwest) and Manyu (Southwest) divisions.⁷⁸ Similarly to the precedent reports, many of these displacements were temporary, with civilians fleeing to safer areas during periods of violence and returning home once the situation stabilised.⁷⁹

According to the Global Protection Cluster, between July and September 2024, displacements were reported in various areas of the Southwest region, including Muyuka and Buea in Fako division, Mbonge in Meme, Akwaya and Mamfe in Manyu, and Ekondo-Titi in Ndian.⁸⁰ In the Northwest region, civilians fled the Donga-Mantung, Bui and Menchum divisions, to escape the conflict and retaliatory attacks by NSAGs.⁸¹

4. Humanitarian situation

In 2024, around 3.4 million people in Cameroon were in need of humanitarian assistance.⁸² Violence in the Far North and Northwest and Southwest regions, climate shocks, the influx of refugees from neighboring countries, poverty, inadequate social services and disease outbreaks contributed to the humanitarian crisis.⁸³ According to UNOCHA, ‘Insecurity in the Far North, South-West, and North-West regions also continues to exacerbate already limited access to health services’.⁸⁴ In its 2023 report on the world's most neglected displacement crises, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) highlighted Cameroon, noting that the ongoing crisis has significantly worsened its socioeconomic conditions, impacting all sectors of the

⁷⁴ UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 62, February 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁵ UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 62, February 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁶ UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 62, February 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁷ UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 63 (March 2024), 6 May 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁸ UNOCHA, Cameroon : North-West and South-West situation report No.69 - September 2024, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁹ UNOCHA, Cameroon : North-West and South-West situation report No.69 - September 2024, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁰ GPC, Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁸¹ GPC, Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 2

⁸² Sweden, SIDA, Humanitarian Crisis Analysis, 21 March 2024, [url](#), p. 1; UNOCHA, Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024, 14 April 2024, [url](#), p. 28

⁸³ Sweden, SIDA, Humanitarian Crisis Analysis, 21 March 2024, [url](#), pp. 1, 2; UNOCHA, Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024, 14 April 2024, [url](#), p. 28

⁸⁴ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview Cameroon, April 2024, [url](#), p. 21



economy and exacerbating food insecurity.⁸⁵ According to the NRC, in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions at least 2.5 million people faced severe food shortages.⁸⁶

Situation in the Far North region

In the Far North region, insecurity and attacks by NSAGs restricted the movement of goods, people, and humanitarian workers, especially in border areas and near Lake Chad.⁸⁷ Poor road conditions during the rainy season and bureaucratic obstacles, such as *ad-hoc* written authorisations from local authorities, further challenged the implementation of humanitarian activities.⁸⁸ The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS)⁸⁹ reported in October 2024 that there was ‘devastating flooding in the Far North region of Cameroon’.⁹⁰ Similarly, the EU Commission reported that ‘2024 saw the highest historical levels of floods’ in the Far North, impacting around 450 000 individuals in the Mayo-Danay and Logone and Chari divisions.⁹¹ According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as of 11 November 2024, ‘448,164 people (64,122 households) were affected [by the floods], 84,000 people newly since 19 September’.⁹² The same source indicated that over 98 % of those affected by the floods were in Logone et Chari and Mayo-Danay divisions, with widespread damage to homes, schools, health centres, livestock, and agricultural land.⁹³ UNFPA reported in September 2024 that due to flooding, ‘the risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera, pose additional threats’.⁹⁴

Situation in the Northwest and Southwest regions

In December 2023, UNOCHA reported that in the Northwest and Southwest regions inadequate funding of humanitarian aid continued ‘to deprive hundreds of thousands of people of life saving humanitarian assistance and services’.⁹⁵ In 2024, sources indicated that the most pressing needs in these regions included protection, food security, access to education and drinking water.⁹⁶ In particular, according to the European Commission, the crisis severely impacted education, with armed group attacks and threats rendering 41 % of schools non-functional and impacting nearly 488 656 children.⁹⁷ UNOCHA also reported in April 2024

⁸⁵ NRC, The world’s most neglected displacement crises 2023, 3 June 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁶ NRC, The world’s most neglected displacement crises 2023, 3 June 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview Cameroon, April 2024, [url](#), pp. 25, 26

⁸⁸ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview Cameroon, April 2024, [url](#), pp. 25, 26

⁸⁹ The CEMS offers accurate, timely geo-spatial information from satellite remote sensing and other data sources to support the management of natural disasters, emergencies, and humanitarian crises. Copernicus, Emergency, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁰ Copernicus, Devastating flooding in the Far North region of Cameroon, 30 October 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹ European Commission, Cameroon, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹² UNICEF, UNICEF Cameroon Floods Flash Update No. 6 (Far North) - 29 November 2024, 29 November 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁹³ UNICEF, UNICEF Cameroon Floods Flash Update No. 6 (Far North) - 29 November 2024, 29 November 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁹⁴ UNFPA, Situation Report #23 Severe flooding in Cameroon’s Far North impacts over 150,000 people, 17 September 2024, [url](#), p.2

⁹⁵ UNOCHA, CAMEROON: North-West and South-West Situation Report No. 60, December 2023, [url](#), p.1

⁹⁶ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan Cameroon, April 2024, [url](#), p. 7; European Commission, Cameroon, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁷ European Commission, Cameroon, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#)



that over 210 healthcare facilities have ceased operations in the two regions due to destruction or the abandonment of healthcare personnel.⁹⁸ The Global Protection Cluster further highlighted in the mentioned report covering July to September 2024 that ‘humanitarian access was severely hampered by security incidents, lockdowns, and roadblocks’.⁹⁹ The same source also cited that the destruction of infrastructure in rural areas obliged civilians to move to urban areas, overwhelming humanitarian services, driving up food prices and rent, and increasing strain on available housing.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ UNOCHA, Cameroon: Crisis causes health-care challenges, 1 April 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹ GPC, Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁰⁰ GPC, Protection Monitoring Update; July - September 2024, 30 October 2024, [url](#), p. 1



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