



## COI QUERY

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Cameroon</b>
<b>Title</b>	<a href="#"><u>Security situation in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions</u></a>
<b>Reference period</b>	January 2023 to 30 September 2023
<b>Topics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#"><u>Overview</u></a></li> <li>2. <a href="#"><u>Security incidents and impact on the civilian population</u></a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 <a href="#"><u>Security incidents in the Far North region</u></a></li> <li>2.2 <a href="#"><u>Security incidents in Northwest region</u></a></li> <li>2.3 <a href="#"><u>Security incidents in Southwest region</u></a></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <a href="#"><u>Situation of IDPs</u></a></li> <li>4. <a href="#"><u>Humanitarian Situation</u></a></li> </ol>
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## COI QUERY RESPONSE – CAMEROON

### Security situation in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions

#### 1. Overview

In 2023, sources reported two main security crises in Cameroon: The Lake Chad basin conflict in the Far North and the internal crisis in the Northwest and Southwest (NWSW) regions.<sup>1</sup> According to a report by the UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), published in May 2023, consequences of violence, climate change, and disease outbreaks have affected one out of six people living in Cameroon.<sup>2</sup>

In the Far North region of Cameroon, violence caused by Boko Haram and its splinter groups (Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'adati wal-Jihad [JAS]) and the Islamic State - West Africa (ISWAP), together with an increase in natural disasters related to climate change, 'have increased pressure on resources and basic services, especially in already poor and underserved areas, and significantly eroded the protective environment of the population'.<sup>3</sup>

In the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon, also widely referred to as the Anglophone region,<sup>4</sup> the conflict between separatists from the English-speaking minority and the government has killed over 6 000 civilians since 2016, according to the annual Human Rights Watch report covering 2022.<sup>5</sup> According to the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA), the armed conflict in the NWSW regions escalated in January 2023 due to the failure of the Cameroon government and separatist groups to reach an agreement on the proposed peace negotiations<sup>6</sup> led by the Canadian government.<sup>7</sup> The Cameroonian Government denied having entrusted Canada as a mediator with separatists in its western regions<sup>8</sup> and 'intensified crackdowns against armed separatists and their networks, resulting in heavy loss of life and property destruction'.<sup>9</sup> As of 3 October 2023, the parties have not agreed to settle negotiations and reach a peaceful and political resolution of the conflict.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Six things to know about the humanitarian crisis, 16 June 2023, [url](#); European Commission, Cameroon Factsheet, Latest update 23 January 2023, [url](#)

<sup>2</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan at a Glance, 11 May 2023, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>3</sup> WFP, Protection and AAP Analysis, Far North Region of Cameroon, 28 September 2023, [url](#), p. 6;

<sup>4</sup> International Crisis Group, A Second Look at Cameroon's Anglophone Special Status, 31 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> HRW, World Report 2023 - Cameroon, 12 January 2023, [url](#)

<sup>6</sup> ICG, Canada Initiative Offers Opportunity for Cameroon Peace Process, 9 February 2023, [url](#)

<sup>7</sup> CHRDA, The Human Rights Situation Report of The North West and South West Regions of Cameroon Between January 2023-March 2023 (First Quarter Report), 26 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>8</sup> VOA, Cameroon Denies Canada's Mediation With Separatists, 24 January 2023, [url](#)

<sup>9</sup> CHRDA, The Human Rights Situation Report of The North West and South West Regions of Cameroon Between January 2023-March 2023 (First Quarter Report), 26 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> Institute for Security Studies, The country is no closer to settling the destabilising seven-year Anglophone crisis that has claimed thousands of lives, 3 October 2023, [url](#)

## 2. Security incidents and impact on the civilian population

In the regional overview on Africa, published on 6 May 2023, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) indicated that in the Far North and the Northwest and Southwest regions, ‘explosions and remote violence events have increased to the highest level since November 2021’.<sup>11</sup> In the midterm summary report on the human rights situation in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions, the CHRDA indicated that, in the first six months of 2023, there were ‘significant human rights violations and abuses committed by state defense and security forces, non-state armed groups and the authorities. These violations include arbitrary killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, delayed litigation, harsh conditions in detention centers, abduction and physical abuse, arson and gender-based violence, ransom taking, restriction on the right to free movement.’<sup>12</sup>

### Situation in the Far North

In the Far North region, the number of attacks by non-State armed groups have increased since March 2023, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes.<sup>13</sup> UNOCHA and World Food Programme (WFP) reported that the most affected areas are Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Logone et Chari.<sup>14</sup> According to media reports, Boko Haram militants attacked villages, burning houses, killing civilians, and using improvised explosive devices (IEDs).<sup>15</sup> Local NGOs reported that in 2023 one of the security threats weighing on the Far North region of Cameroon is the return to the use of IEDs by the different factions of Boko Haram.<sup>16</sup> Between 18 March 2023 and 24 April 2023, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) recorded at least six IED-related security incidents, ‘ranging from attempted and successful explosions to infiltrations of suspected suicide bombers into communities.’<sup>17</sup>

### Situation in the Northwest and Southwest (Anglophone) regions

In the Northwest and Southwest regions, Amnesty International (AI) documented crimes and human rights violations committed by both members of the security forces and armed separatists from 2020 to 2023.<sup>18</sup> According to AI, ‘the Cameroonian defence and security forces have been responsible for numerous human rights violations, including unlawful

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<sup>11</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview Africa – May 2023, 7 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>12</sup> CHRDA, Midterm Summary Report in the Human Rights Situation in the Conflict -Affected Regions of Cameroon, 22 September 2023, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>13</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Humanitarian Bulletin, March 2023, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>14</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Humanitarian Bulletin, March 2023, [url](#), p. 1; WFP, Protection and AAP Analysis, Far North Region of Cameroon, 28 September 2023, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>15</sup> HumAngle, Boko Haram Steps Up Attacks In Cameroon’s Far North, 26 May 2023, [url](#); ADF, Pressured in Nigeria’s Borno State, Boko Haram Renews IED Attacks in Cameroon, 8 August 2023

<sup>16</sup> ARDHU, ASPDE, Rapport sur l’aperçu de la situation sécuritaire et des droits de l’homme dans la région de l’Extrême-nord du Cameroun au mois de juin 2023, June 2023, [url](#), p. 17

<sup>17</sup> ISS, Addressing the terror group’s use of improvised explosive devices must include more intelligence and awareness raising., 27 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> AI, Cameroon: With or against us: People of the North-West region of Cameroon caught between the army, armed separatists and militias, 4 July 2023, [url](#), p. 6

killings, rapes, tortures, destructions, and arbitrary detentions.”<sup>19</sup> Armed separatists in the NWSW regions have also committed severe crimes against the population, such as murder, abduction, torture, and destruction of homes. They targeted individuals suspected of collaborating with security forces or non-compliance with their imposed orders, including teachers, students, civil servants, government officials, traditional leaders, and ruling party members. Some were targeted due to social status or visible wealth.<sup>20</sup>

According to the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, in 2023, conflict dynamics changed as separatists used civilians to increase their revenue sources through kidnapping and extortion.<sup>21</sup> The Observatory of Illicit Economies in West Africa<sup>22</sup> explained that separatists, previously engaged in road ambushes and cattle rustling, have shifted their criminal activities towards kidnappings for ransom.<sup>23</sup>

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted monthly protection monitoring activities in Southwest Cameroon between January 2023 and March 2023 and reported that the protection environment ‘remained tensed with continued violence and targeted attacks, several ghost towns, lockdowns, roadblocks, and schools still not functional, especially government primary and secondary schools.’<sup>24</sup> The DRC indicated that during the first three months of 2023, ‘26 incidents involving 136 victims were recorded in the month of January, 30 in February (210 victims), and 19 were recorded in the month March (66 victims)’.<sup>25</sup> Incidents of violence peaked in February during National Youth Day and Mount Cameroon Race of Hope celebrations.<sup>26</sup> The same source explained that between January and March 2023, killings were the most recorded incidents committed by None State Armed Groups (NSAG) and were on the rise compared to previous months of 2022. The Meme Local Government Administration (LGA)<sup>27</sup> was the most affected area. Some of the incidents recorded were arbitrary arrests, physical assault or abuse, abduction, kidnapping or enforced disappearance, torture or inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment.<sup>28</sup> In September 2023, armed separatists imposed several lockdowns in the Northwest and Southwest regions ‘to ensure schools

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<sup>19</sup> AI, Cameroon: With or against us: People of the North-West region of Cameroon caught between the army, armed separatists and militias, 4 July 2023, [url](#), p. 35

<sup>20</sup> AI, Cameroon: With or against us: People of the North-West region of Cameroon caught between the army, armed separatists and militias, 4 July 2023, [url](#), p. 24

<sup>21</sup> GCR2P, Cameroon – Population at risk, 31 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>22</sup> The Observatory of Illicit Economies in West Africa is a research institute studying the connections between transnational organized crime, illicit markets, and political instability/conflict across West Africa and the Sahel.

<sup>23</sup> Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Risk Bulletin: Observatory of Illicit Economies in West Africa, 9 August 2023, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>24</sup> DRC, Cameroon: Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report; Southwest Cameroon; January - March 2023, 7 July 2023, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>25</sup> DRC, Cameroon: Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report; Southwest Cameroon; January - March 2023, 7 July 2023, [url](#), p. 8; The source does not define the term “victims” in the report.

<sup>26</sup> DRC, Cameroon: Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report; Southwest Cameroon; January - March 2023, 7 July 2023, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>27</sup> Local Government Administration (LGA) stands for an administrative unit in Cameroon

<sup>28</sup> DRC, Cameroon: Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report; Southwest Cameroon; January - March 2023, 7 July 2023, [url](#), pp. 12, 13

remain shut for a fourth academic year in a row.<sup>29</sup> According to the International Crisis Group, lockdowns were used by separatists as a ‘show of force and protest at unresolved conflict’.<sup>30</sup>

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 Far North, and in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon: battles; explosions/remote violence; violence against civilians. The ACLED data provided below refer to the timeframe between 1 January 2023 and 1 September 2023.<sup>31</sup> Data from September 2023 was not available at the time of publishing of this query response.

During this timeframe, ACLED collected an overall number of 501 violent events in Cameroon, 185 of which were coded as battles, 16 as explosions/remote violence, and 300 as violence against civilians.<sup>32</sup>

## **2.1. Security incidents in the Far North Region**

Between 1 January 2023 and 1 September 2023, ACLED collected 307 violent incidents in the Far North region of Cameroon, 134 of which were coded as battles, 7 as explosions/remote violence, and 166 as violence against civilians.<sup>33</sup>

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

- Mayo-Sava (80 battles; 4 explosions/remote violence; 72 violence against civilians)
- Mayo-Tsanaga (41 battles; 2 explosions/remote violence; 50 violence against civilians).<sup>34</sup>

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

- On 3 February 2023, Boko Haram militants attacked Metchikar, a village close to the Nigerian border in the Mayo-Tsanaga LGA, killing four women and one man. The armed group also burnt a house and stole food and livestock.<sup>35</sup>
- On 18 March 2023, an explosion in Moskota, Mayo-Tsanaga LGA, killed two children and injured four others. Sources reported that Boko Haram members placed the

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<sup>29</sup> BBC News, Cameroon's conflict keeps schools shut, 3 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>30</sup> International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflict Worldwide – Cameroon: September 2023, September 2023, [url](#);

<sup>31</sup> Data on violent incidents provided is based on EUAA analysis of publicly available curated datasets from ACLED; ACLED, About Acled, n.d., [url](#);

<sup>32</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>34</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>35</sup> CNA, Far North:4 killed following Boko Haram attacks, 4 February 2023, [url](#)

explosive. On the same day, members of the same group killed a young shepherd in the Mahoula area, Mayo Sava LGA.<sup>36</sup>

- On 16 April 2023, armed groups attacked simultaneously a military post, the villages of Krawa Mafa and Zelevet, in Mayo Sanaga LGA. During the attacks over 500 houses were burned, one soldier was killed, two civilians were kidnapped, and many others were injured.<sup>37</sup>
- On 3 August 2023, Boko Haram fighters killed 12 civilians and kidnapped another 20 in Dakar, a fishing island in the Logone-et-Chari LGA.<sup>38</sup> International Crisis Group stated that between 15 and 29 August 2023, Jihadist insurgents 'carried out nearly two dozen other attacks, killing at least three civilians in Mayo-Tsanaga and Mayo-Sava LGAs'.<sup>39</sup>
- On 11 August 2023, Boko Haram militants killed a farmer in the village of Malloumri. On the same day, Boko Haram militants attacked health workers between Amchide and Mora towns.<sup>40</sup>

## 2.2. Security incidents in the Northwest region

Between 1 January 2023 and 1 September 2023, ACLED collected 95 violent incidents in the Northwest region of Cameroon, 24 of which were coded as battles, 4 as explosions/remote violence, and 67 as violence against civilians.<sup>41</sup>

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

- Mezam (11 battles; 3 explosions/remote violence; 41 violence against civilians)
- Donga-Mantung (2 battles; 9 violence against civilians)<sup>42</sup>

Some indicative examples of the security incidents in the Northwest region during the reference period include:

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<sup>36</sup> CHRDA, Midterm Summary Report in the Human Rights Situation in the Conflict -Affected Regions of Cameroon, 22 September 2023, [url](#), p. 26; Crisis 24, Cameroon: Explosion in Mozogo, Far North Region, March 16; multiple casualties reported, 18 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>37</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Situation Report, 7 June 2023, [url](#), p. 3; Mimi Mefo, Cameroon: At least one dead, hundreds of houses set ablaze in fresh Boko Haram attack, 18 April 2023, [url](#); Camair Plus, Cameroon: Boko Haram Attack in Krawa Mafa and Zelevet, 19 April 2023, [url](#)

<sup>38</sup> International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflict Worldwide – Cameroon: August 2023, August 2023, [url](#); VoA, Cameroon Says Military Deployed After New Militant Attack Kills at Least a Dozen, 3 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>39</sup> International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflict Worldwide – Cameroon: August 2023, August 2023, [url](#);

<sup>40</sup> Humanity Purpose, [Twitter], posted on: 13 August 2023, [url](#);

<sup>41</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>42</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)



- On 20 February 2023, a young woman was killed in Bali-Nyonga, Bamenda LGA. Separatists allegedly killed her because they believed that she was an informer.<sup>43</sup>
- On 29 March 2023, Cameroonian soldiers destroyed homes and shops in Kombo's Ta Mbveh market. During the attack, a civilian was killed and at least five others were injured. Sources indicated that the military carried out this attack in response to an attack by armed separatists in the same area earlier that day.<sup>44</sup>
- On 11 May 2023, armed separatists kidnapped and tortured 6 teachers in Nkum, Bui LGA.<sup>45</sup> While five of them were set free, the sixth hostage was severely beaten and held captive alongside his wife until 24 May 2023, when they were released after paying ransom.<sup>46</sup>
- According to the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, in June 2023, at least 26 people died, and more than 1 000 were displaced because of clashes between the military and armed separatist groups in the Mezan LGA.<sup>47</sup>
- On 16 July 2023, around 14 people were killed in Bamenda during the clashes between the military and armed separatist groups.<sup>48</sup> Regarding the incident on 16 July 2023, a man dressed in a military uniform shot and killed ten people and injured two others at a busy intersection.<sup>49</sup> The German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) indicated that, 'eyewitnesses reported that the gunmen accused the victims of collaborating with the Cameroonian government or of not complying with the separatists orders'.<sup>50</sup>
- On 23 August 2023, military forces shot and killed an IDP in Kumbo and burnt his bike, according to the Cameroon News Agency. The source did not specify the reason behind this attack.<sup>51</sup>
- On 2 September 2023, armed separatists killed two teachers in Belo town, Boyo LGA.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Mimi Mefo, Anglophone Crisis: Separatist fighters allegedly behead 18-year-old in Bali for "betrayal", 21 February 2023, [url](#); HumAngle, Cameroon: Teenage Mother Beheaded, Others Feared Killed In Bloody 48 hours, 22 February 2023, [url](#)

<sup>44</sup> AI, Cameroon: With or against us: People of the North-West region of Cameroon caught between the army, armed separatists and militias, 4 July 2023, [url](#), p. 36; Mimi Mefo, Military raze shops in Kumbo after deadly Separatist attack, 29 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>45</sup> Insecurity Insight, Cameroon: Six teachers abducted in Bui, Northwest Province, 11 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>46</sup> Mimi Mefo, Cameroon: Teacher and wife kidnapped by Separatists released after paying ransom, 25 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> GCR2P, Cameroon – Population at risk, 31 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>48</sup> HumAngle, More Than 14 Persons Killed Over The Weekend In Cameroon, 17 July 2023, [url](#)

<sup>49</sup> Reuters, Gunmen kill 10 in restive northwest Cameroon, 17 July 2023, [url](#);

<sup>50</sup> Germany, BAMF, Briefing Notes Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration, 24 July 2023, [url](#), pp. 1, 2

<sup>51</sup> Cameroon News Agency, Kumbo: Gov't forces kill bike rider, 24 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>52</sup> International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflict Worldwide – Cameroon: September 2023, September 2023, [url](#);

### 2.3. Security incidents in the Southwest region

Between 1 January 2023 and 1 September 2023, ACLED collected 49 violent incidents in the Southwest region of Cameroon, 19 of which were coded as battles, 4 as explosions/remote violence, and 26 as violence against civilians.<sup>53</sup>

The LGAs with highest number of violent incidents collected by ACLED in the Southwest region were:

- Fako (4 battles; 2 explosions/remote violence; 10 violence against civilians)
- Manyu (7 battles; 6 violence against civilians).<sup>54</sup>

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

- On 4 January 2023, three people were killed and ten were injured during a separatist raid in Bache, a village in the Akwaya subLGA.<sup>55</sup>
- On 10 February 2023, unidentified gunmen attacked banana plantation workers in Tiko, causing at least 5 deaths<sup>56</sup> and 44 injuries.<sup>57</sup> According to the DRC, armed groups assaulted the workers 'for failing to respect the imposed lockdown against the mountain race'.<sup>58</sup>
- On 25 February 2023, 19 people, including nine athletes, were injured in an explosion during a sports event in Buea town.<sup>59</sup>
- On 1 May 2023, six people were killed and several injured during a military raid in Mamu village.<sup>60</sup>
- On 7 September 2023, armed militants stopped cars, shot at passengers, and set vehicles on fire in the village of Muea, killing three people.<sup>61</sup>

## 3. Situation of IDPs

According to a UNOCHA report published in June 2023, the security situation in the Northwest and Southwest regions, a growing concern over natural resources, and flooding in the Far North 'are severely affecting food security, leading to population displacements and

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<sup>53</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>54</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Cameroon, 1 January 2023 – 1 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>55</sup> Mimi Mefo, Separatist fighters invade Akwaya village, kill, bury three, injure ten, 7 January 2023, [url](#);

<sup>56</sup> Reuters, Five killed in gun attack on Cameroon farm workers, 11 February 2023, [url](#);

<sup>57</sup> Mimi Mefo, CDC confirms gunmen killed five workers, injured 44 in Tiko Friday, 11 February 2023, [url](#)

<sup>58</sup> DRC, Cameroon: Protection Monitoring Quarterly Report; Southwest Cameroon; January - March 2023, 7 July 2023, [url](#), p. 14

<sup>59</sup> VOA, 19 People Injured in Blast at Cameroon Sports Event, 25 February 2023, [url](#)

<sup>60</sup> Mimi Mefo, Anglophone Crisis: Military raid leaves six dead, several injured in Mamu, 2 May 2023, [url](#); BNN Breaking, Military Raid in Camerron's Mamu Village Leaves Six Dead, 2 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>61</sup> Reuters, Cameroon militants set cars on fire, shoot passengers in village attack, 8 September 2023, [url](#)

the deterioration of the economy.<sup>62</sup> The UN estimated that as of 31 August 2023, there were 638 421 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Northwest and Southwest regions and 427 833 IDPs in the Far North region.<sup>63</sup>

### **Situation in the Far North**

In the Far North, the number of IDPs increased by 11 % between August 2022 and February 2023 due to floods and the conflict between the military and non-state armed groups. The conflict remained the main reason for displacement, accounting for 87 % of the internal displacement since 2014, according to UNOCHA.<sup>64</sup> The same source added that, in March 2023, multiple fire incidents struck IDP and refugee sites in the Far North region, causing deaths and shelter destruction. The causes are unknown, but factors like shelter materials and heat during the dry season aggravated the situation.<sup>65</sup>

### **Situation in the Northwest and Southwest (Anglophone) regions**

As of July 2023, 3 655 persons were displaced in the in the NWSW regions due to violence, 'with Meme, Manyu and Fako divisions in the SW and Mezam and Bui divisions in the NW recording the highest number of displacements.'<sup>66</sup> Violence forced around 15 000 people to temporarily flee their homes between January and March 2023, seeking shelter and safety in nearby bushes, villages, and towns.<sup>67</sup>

## **4. Humanitarian situation**

The UN estimates that in 2023, 4.7 million Cameroonians are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase of around 20 % compared to 2022.<sup>68</sup> Violence in the Far North and NWSW regions, the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries, poverty, inadequate social services, disease outbreaks, and flooding contributed to the humanitarian crisis.<sup>69</sup>

In October 2023, UNOCHA reported on the 'severe acute malnutrition and high rates of stunting' in conflict areas, including the Far North and the NWSW regions.<sup>70</sup> The preliminary results of the Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonised framework for identifying risk areas and populations experiencing food and nutritional insecurity)<sup>71</sup> reported that in the Far North and

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<sup>62</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Six things to know about the humanitarian crisis, 16 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>63</sup> UNHCR, Operational Data Portal – Refugee situations, Cameroon, last updated 31 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>64</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon - Humanitarian Dashboard (January to June 2023), 8 September 2023, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>65</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon - Humanitarian Dashboard (January to June 2023), 8 September 2023, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>66</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 56 (July 2023), [url](#), p.2

<sup>67</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon - Humanitarian Dashboard (January to June 2023), 8 September 2023, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>68</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Six things to know about the humanitarian crisis, 16 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>69</sup> UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children – Cameroon, July 2023, [url](#), p. 1; UNOCHA, Cameroon: Six things to know about the humanitarian crisis, 16 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>70</sup> UNOCHA, Cameroon: Situation Report, Last updated 2 October 2023, [url](#)

<sup>71</sup> Cadre Harmonisé, Cadre Harmonisé, n.d., [url](#)

the NWSW regions, 3 million people were severely food insecure in the period from January to May 2023.<sup>72</sup>

UNICEF indicated in the humanitarian situation report that between January and June 2023, 'lack of access to clean water, sanitation and health services is the leading cause of cholera and other diseases in Cameroon', especially in the Far North, Southwest, Northwest, and Littoral regions.<sup>73</sup>

### **Situation in the Far North**

In the Far North, UNICEF reported on a lack of resources and basic social services, mentioning that 31 % of localities assessed in the 2023 protection risk analysis report 'have never had a health centre and have no health centre accessible in proximity.'<sup>74</sup>

### **Situation in the Northwest and Southwest (Anglophone) regions**

In June 2023, the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) reported that Cameroon has been experiencing an increase in cholera cases since March 2023, citing the NWSW regions among the most affected areas. The response was limited due to vaccine shortages, strikes of health workers, and difficulties to access healthcare facilities because of road closures, insecurity, and lockdowns caused by the violence.<sup>75</sup> For instance, in May 2023, there were three attacks in the NWSW regions on facilities and healthcare workers.<sup>76</sup> Between April and July 2023, approximately 18 % of healthcare establishments in the NWSW regions have ceased their operations and the remaining operational centres are struggling to function.<sup>77</sup>

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) noted that in 2023, attacks on health facilities and humanitarian workers in the NWSW regions have prevented humanitarian assistance from reaching the affected areas and forced various international humanitarian organizations to suspend their operations.<sup>78</sup>

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