

ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

SHELTER/NFI NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Report

CAMEROON

DECEMBER 2018



In partnership with:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September 2017 marked an escalation of tensions in the North-West (NW) and South-West (SW) regions of Cameroon as part of the ongoing crisis between government forces and non-state armed groups. The number of security incidents in these regions has significantly increased, leading to the displacement of 437,500 people as of December 2018, both within NW and SW and to neighbouring Littoral and West regions.¹ According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 4 million people are affected by the crisis, including 1,3 million in need of assistance.² However, insecurity and a lack of information on the needs of the affected population have created significant challenges for the humanitarian response.

To address this information gap and enable a more effective humanitarian response, the Shelter and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Clusters, with support from REACH, have conducted an assessment on the needs of conflict-affected populations in NW, SW, Littoral and West regions. Based on the Shelter Cluster strategy, the assessment focused on the needs of five population groups (displaced self-settled, displaced hosted, displaced renting, non-displaced hosting, non-displaced in partially damaged accommodations). The assessment covered 18 divisions of SW, NW, Littoral and West experiencing internal displacement, and in three types of geographies (urban or semi-urban areas, villages in rural areas and non-village/bush in rural areas settings).³ In partnership with five local partners (Reachout, PEP, SUDHASER, COHESODC and Plan International), data was collected between 4 and 17 December 2018 through interviews with 157 key informants (KIs) providing information on their population group and their locality. Due to significant access, time, and resource constraints, a qualitative approach was implemented in order to be able to compare findings across the main displacement groups, geographic and administrative boundaries as defined in the current Shelter/NFI Cluster strategy.

Due to insecurity, data was collected through paper data collection forms, which limited verification of data in a near real time basis. Also due to time and access constraints, the methodology of this assessment was based on key informant interviews. Because of this, the assessment findings are more qualitative in nature and cannot be used to extrapolate beneficiaries or form population estimates. The findings however provide a qualitative framework to further analyse the situation and plan an appropriate shelter strategic response. This assessment is one important step to give the Shelter Cluster an analytical framework with which to work. As the situation continues to evolve and remains quite fluid both in terms of population movement and damage to shelter, the Shelter Cluster will have to adapt and work with the scarcity of information in order to make realistic planning scenarios.

Two additional displaced person groups were identified through this study: people that have self-settled in urban areas and in collective centres (public buildings). Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity on the situation with the type of tenure arrangement that this displaced population has: whether these IDPs are hosted or renting or if they have another form of arrangement. Shelter Cluster partners are highly encouraged to look further into these arrangements and to share findings with the Shelter Cluster. Subsequently, the Shelter Cluster Strategy should be revised in order to meet the needs of this population.

The assessment found significant shelter and non-food item (NFI) needs amongst assessed populations, regardless of displacement status or location, as reflected by the overwhelming majority of KIs (95%)

¹ OCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West, Situation Report No.2, December 2018. [Available online.](#)

² Ibid.

³ Shelter cluster SWNW Cameroon, "Shelter/NFI Cluster Strategy", November 2018. [Available online.](#)

reporting affected populations as in need of shelter assistance. This can be explained by widespread damage to shelters, with 44% of KIs reporting complete destruction of shelters, and 30% reporting partial destruction. Bedding items, cooking utensils and mosquito nets were found to be priority NFI needs for the displaced, while mosquito nets were reportedly the least available items in the market. Assessment findings indicate that the displaced generally fled within a relatively short distances from their areas of origin. This is an indication of a likelihood of the displaced to return to their homes to rebuild damaged shelters, once the security is completely re-established. As of this stage, the damage and destruction of homes continue, therefore Shelter actors should prepare for a significant shelter support response as soon as the security situation stabilizes. In addition, insecurity was found to be the main driver of displacement, reported by 90% of KIs. The main displacement movements of IDPs are consistent with the increase in violence recorded since late 2017. There is not yet any indication of stabilization in displacement movements, which continue to be dynamic and ongoing.

Significant differences were observed between population groups, settings and regions. Displaced self-settled populations were found to be overall most in need. They were most commonly found in rural, non-village settings, which lack basic infrastructure and access to basic services, such as markets. The most common shelter types they were reported to live in (makeshift shelters, agricultural infrastructure, such as cacao ovens or in the open) offer very little protection from the elements. This is likely linked to the fact that they reportedly tend to resort to less durable materials and less efficient tools to build their shelters than other population groups. They also commonly lacked basic NFIs, in particular beddings items and mosquito nets. Non-displaced living in damaged accommodations were found to face a similar situation. Reliant on their own capacity to repair damages, they commonly live in sub-standard shelters and in locations directly impacted by the conflict.

The types of issues faced by displaced communities hosted or living in rented accommodations and their hosts were found to be different, mostly linked to overcrowding and lack of financial resources to afford rent and meet basic needs. IDPs residing with host families and renting shelters reportedly experienced the worst situation in terms of overcrowding. According to 77% of KIs, displaced and host populations are sharing the same rooms and 90% indicated that displaced families renting, are usually sharing their rented accommodation with other families. Rented accommodations are generally unfurnished (according to 93% of KIs) and lack sanitation facilities. According to this assessment, some households' sizes have grown by five times since the start of the crisis.

In terms of settings, populations living in the bush/non-village settlements were found to be the most in need of immediate assistance. IDPs displaced in these conditions reportedly live in very sub-standard, inadequate and makeshift shelters. They are vulnerable to insect- and water-borne diseases, and exposed to poor weather conditions. They also require urgently basic NFIs, such as cooking utensils and clothing.

Reflective of the crisis mostly impacting NW and SW, the shelter and NFI situation in these two regions was found to be worse than that of the Littoral and West regions. Most communities defined as living in self-settled accommodation in the bush were found to be in NW and SW, with few reported instances of self-settled communities in West and Littoral especially close to the SW and NW borders. When asked about the reasons why communities needed humanitarian assistance, insecurity was identified as one of the key drivers of needs. Findings on Littoral and West indicate issues linked to the influx of IDPs to these regions, such as an increase in rent prices and a decrease in the availability of accommodations for rent.

While cash and voucher assistance have not been considered as of this stage of the response due to the current situation, according to findings from this assessment, cash assistance was the most requested type of assistance for IDPs to improve their shelter conditions, as reported by 82% of KIs. This was especially the case for displaced renting their accommodation (97%). The assessment also reveals that some markets do remain functional and that NFIs and construction items in these local markets continue to be well-stocked. KIs reported the availability of some shelter and NFI materials in the markets, with mosquito nets being the least commonly available item. Rental accommodation is a common strategy of the displaced, and indicate that the rental market is a critical market of this shelter response. The largest constraint for the displaced population is the lack of resources to pay for construction materials, tools, NFIs, and afford rental accommodation. At this time, the government has limited cash based interventions. Nevertheless, this assessment can serve as a launching point to conduct shelter cash feasibility and response analysis. This may determine which type of modalities (cash, voucher, in-kind, market-based programming) are best placed to implement Shelter Cluster activities. Such analyses should be conducted to further advocate for appropriate and effective shelter response modalities.

Overall the assessment has shown that the shelter/NFI and WASH response to the NW/SW Cameroon crisis should very much be tailored to the population group, geography and setting in which displaced and host communities are, due to the dual dynamics of population from active conflict areas to isolated non-village settings on the one hand and to safer urban centres on the other hand. Important differences exist in the different shelter situations of the displaced depending as to whether they are displaced in urban, village, or bush settings. The most severe needs are found in bush/rural self-settled settings. Overcrowding and improper sanitation occurs in host families and rented accommodations. Furthermore, this population struggles with the expenses of affording rent and of covering the expenses related with hosting the displaced.

In addition, findings from this assessment do not indicate a stabilisation of the situation in the short term. KIs' answers regarding the length of time that IDPs have spent in their current location highlight dynamic and ongoing displacements, also reflected by the fact that the majority of KIs (54%) reported being unsure of the intentions of the IDPs for the following three months. Insecurity and complete destruction of shelters – reported as the most common reasons for displacement – leave limited prospects for return, while current shelter arrangements point to an unsustainable situation. IDPs renting accommodation were found to be at risk of eviction, due to the common lack of formal renting arrangements and the reliance on unsustainable means to pay rent. For those being hosted, cohabitation between displaced and their hosts was reported to be causing difficulties (reported by 89% of the non-displaced hosting KIs) due to limited resources and availability of space. As such, the situation and the needs of affected populations should be regularly monitored, to enable an effective humanitarian response.

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KEY DEFINITIONS:

Region	Regions are the first level of administrative units in Cameroun. There are 10 regions in the country.
Division	Divisions are the second level of administrative units in Cameroon. There are 58 divisions in the country.
Subdivision	Subdivisions are the third level of administrative units in Cameroon.
Urban/semi-urban	Urban or semi urban areas refer to settlements that are broadly perceived as urbanised. They tend to be administrative unit capitals and have generally decent coverage in terms of basic infrastructure (roads, utilities, schools and health facilities)
Rural	Rural areas refer to settlements that are broadly perceived as rural based on their low density and scale of human habitats. They tend to be connected by basic infrastructure (roads) and have limited coverage in terms of basic services (primary schools or dispensaries)
Non-village	Non-village refers to any settlement that is neither urban/semi-urban or rural. They tend to be poorly connected with basic infrastructure (footpaths) and have very limited or no access to basic services
Makeshift settlement	Makeshift settlements refer to settlements that have been built with limited resources, with no or informal arrangements. They can be in different types of setting (urban/rural/non-village)
Self-settled	Self-settled refers to population that have built their own accommodation using limited tools and means

INTRODUCTION

Since late 2017, violence has escalated in the North-West (NW) and South-West (SW) regions of Cameroon as part of the ongoing NW and SW crisis opposing non-state armed groups and the government forces.⁴ As a result of increasing tensions, people started fleeing in the second half of 2017⁵. By the end of December 2018, it was estimated that over 437,000 people had been displaced within those two regions and towards neighbouring West and Littoral regions.⁶ Dozens of villages were reportedly burnt down, preventing, along with ongoing insecurity, displaced populations from returning to their location of origin.⁷

Local aid organizations have started responding to the most pressing needs of affected populations. In October 2018, the Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon activated the Shelter, WASH (water, hygiene and sanitation), Health, Education, Food Security, Logistics, Nutrition and Protection Clusters⁸. However, most parts of the two regions, especially remote areas, are challenging to access due to security restrictions, making it difficult to collect information on the needs of affected populations and organize the response.

In order to improve the evidence available on shelter, NFI and WASH needs of the affected population and inform response programming, the Shelter and WASH Clusters conducted an assessment, with support from REACH. The assessment covered five population groups (displaced self-settled, displaced hosted, displaced renting, non-displaced hosting families and non-displaced living in partially damaged shelters, in three different settings (urban/semi-urban areas, village in rural areas, and non-village/bush in rural areas). Data was collected by local partners under the coordination of REACH between 4 and 17 December 2018 in all divisions⁹ in the NW, SW as well as in affected divisions¹⁰ in the West and Littoral regions.

The main objective of this assessment is to inform the WASH, and Shelter/NFI Clusters response strategy by identifying specific needs of conflict-affected populations in NW, SW, Littoral and West regions. More specifically, it aimed at meeting the following specific objectives:

- To identify shelter, NFI and WASH priority needs and drivers of needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities, covering populations:
 - In the bush, non-village or farm locations
 - In village in rural settings
 - In urban or semi urban settings
 - Displaced self-settled; hosted; and renting
 - Non-displaced in damaged houses; and hosting IDPs.

Based on the assessment findings and reports from partners, two additional displaced population groups were identified: people that have self-settled in urban areas and in collective centres (public buildings). Reports from various news outlets¹¹ have highlighted that the Bonaberi district in the outskirts of Douala is now home to many displaced families. Key informants (KIs) highlighted that most of these urban IDPs tend to live in 'unfinished accommodations'. However, the terminology of "self-settled" used here, does not inform

⁴ OCHA. (May 2018) Emergency Response Plan - Cameroon North-West and South-West – Summary. [Available Online](#).

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ OCHA. (31 December 2018) Cameroon: North-West and South-West Crisis, Situation Report No.2. [Available Online](#).

⁷ BBC News. ["Burning Cameroon: Images you're not meant to see"](#). 25 June 2018.

⁸ *Ibid*.

⁹ Cameroon is organized in three type of administrative units: regions (level 1), divisions (level 2) and subdivisions (level 3)

¹⁰ Affected division refers here to divisions where displaced populations have been recorded, namely Moungo and Wouri in Littoral and Bamboutos, Menoua, Mifi and Noun in West.

¹¹ DeutscheWelle (2018). Cameroon's English speakers living rough to avoid bullets and machetes. [Available online](#)

on whether these IDPs are hosted or renting or not, and therefore their present situation should be further studied. A multisector assessment carried out by CRS in two towns in the North-West, found that 2% of the IDPs were living in collective centers (public buildings). Because of these findings, partners are highly encouraged, under the cluster guidance, to further investigate the situation of the IDPs self-settled in urban areas, in unfinished buildings, and in public buildings (sometimes referred to as collective shelters) to understand their scope and specific needs, and review the Cluster strategy accordingly.

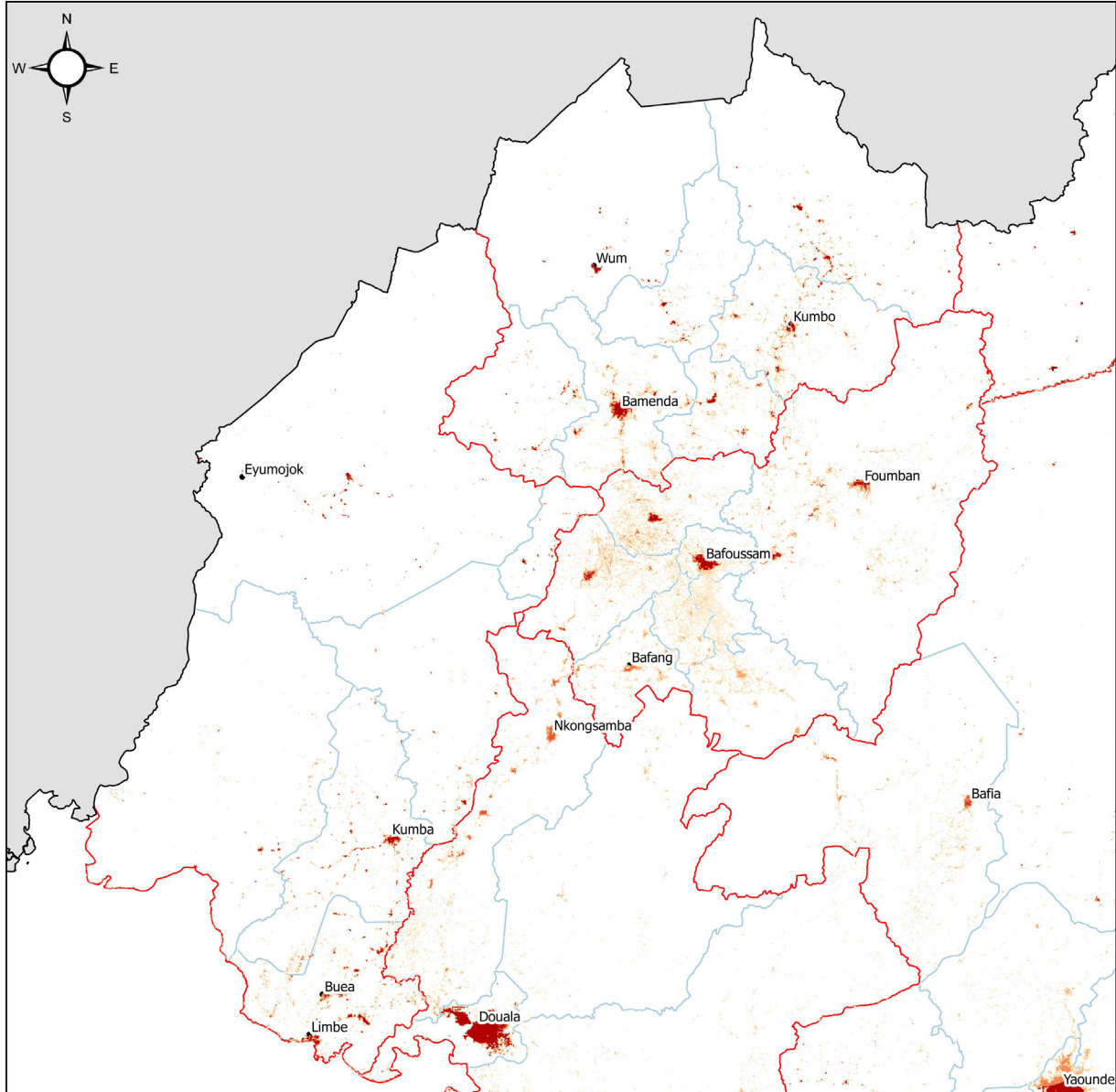
Map 1: Population distribution in NW, SW, Littoral and West



Cameroon - Anglophone Crisis - North West, South West, Littoral and West Regions

For humanitarian
Purposes Only
Production Data: 07
December 2018

Population Density Map at Sub-Division Level



Legend

- Major Cities
 - State Boundaries
 - Region Boundaries
 - Division Boundaries
- | Population by Sub-Division | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| [Lightest Orange] | 311 - 30689 |
| [Light Orange] | 30689 - 92832 |
| [Orange] | 92832 - 179603 |
| [Dark Orange] | 179603 - 680542 |
| [Red] | 680542 - 957052 |

Data Sources:
Admin Boundaries - Global Administrative Boundaries Database (GADM)
Major Cities - Natural Earth
Population Density - Joint European Research Center

Funded by:

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 46N
Projection: Transverse Mercator

In Partnership with:

Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associates, donors mentioned on this map.



METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the assessment was designed based on discussions with the Shelter and WASH clusters, and accompanied by a secondary data review (SDR) at each stage of the research cycle. In addition, operational discussions with local partners having in-depth contextual knowledge helped define the implementation process, of the primary data collection in particular.

The aim of this assessment was to inform shelter/NFI and WASH response planning to assist affected populations by identifying for the four regions (SW, NW, West and Littoral) the shelter, NFI and WASH situations and needs disaggregated by population group and setting as follow:

- Population groups:
 - Displaced self-settled;
 - Displaced hosted;
 - Displaced renting;
 - Non-displaced host families;
 - Non-displaced in damaged houses.
- Settings (see Map 2 for land use geography of the region)
 - Urban or semi-urban;
 - Village (rural);
 - Non-village / bush (rural).

Both, disaggregations by population groups and settings were based on the Shelter Cluster Strategy for the NW and SW crisis in Cameroon.¹² The Cluster Strategy priority categories were defined based on partners' first general understanding of the situation. During the assessment some population groups were found in more than one of the aforementioned categories and revealed a need for reclassification or further disaggregation. Semi-structured interviews of key informants (KIs) was selected as the most adequate methodology in order to meet the above-mentioned objective of the assessment within the timeframe, resources available and security restrictions.

The data analysis plan was designed in close collaboration with the Shelter/NFI and WASH Clusters in country and based on the contextual knowledge acquired through SDR and discussion with various stakeholders with field presence. In line with the objective of gathering population group specific data, the data analysis plan was adapted to each population group in order to create targeted questionnaires. Thus, it enabled the inclusion of group-specific questions such as on the rental market situation for displaced in rented accommodation or relationships between host and displaced families for displaced in host families and non-displaced host families. During the data collection, due to the reality of the population groups not always matching the assumed population groups prior to the assessment, it has happened that enumerators did not apply the proper KI data frame to the population being assessed. This further complicated the analysis of the assessment findings.

The assessment covered all divisions in NW and SW regions, Bamboutos, Menoua, Mifi and Noun divisions in West as well as Mounjo and Wouri divisions in Littoral as these areas host IDPs.¹³ KIs were selected by the partners based on a snowball sampling method in settlements identified prior to the implementation of the assessment. Using a participatory planning tool, data collection partners selected settlements within each division where they believed each population group for each setting would be found to the best of their knowledge.

¹² Shelter Cluster SWNW Cameroon. (November 2018) Shelter/NFI Cluster Strategy. [Available Online.](#)

¹³ OCHA. (May 2018) Emergency Response Plan - Cameroon North-West and South-West – Summary. [Available Online.](#)

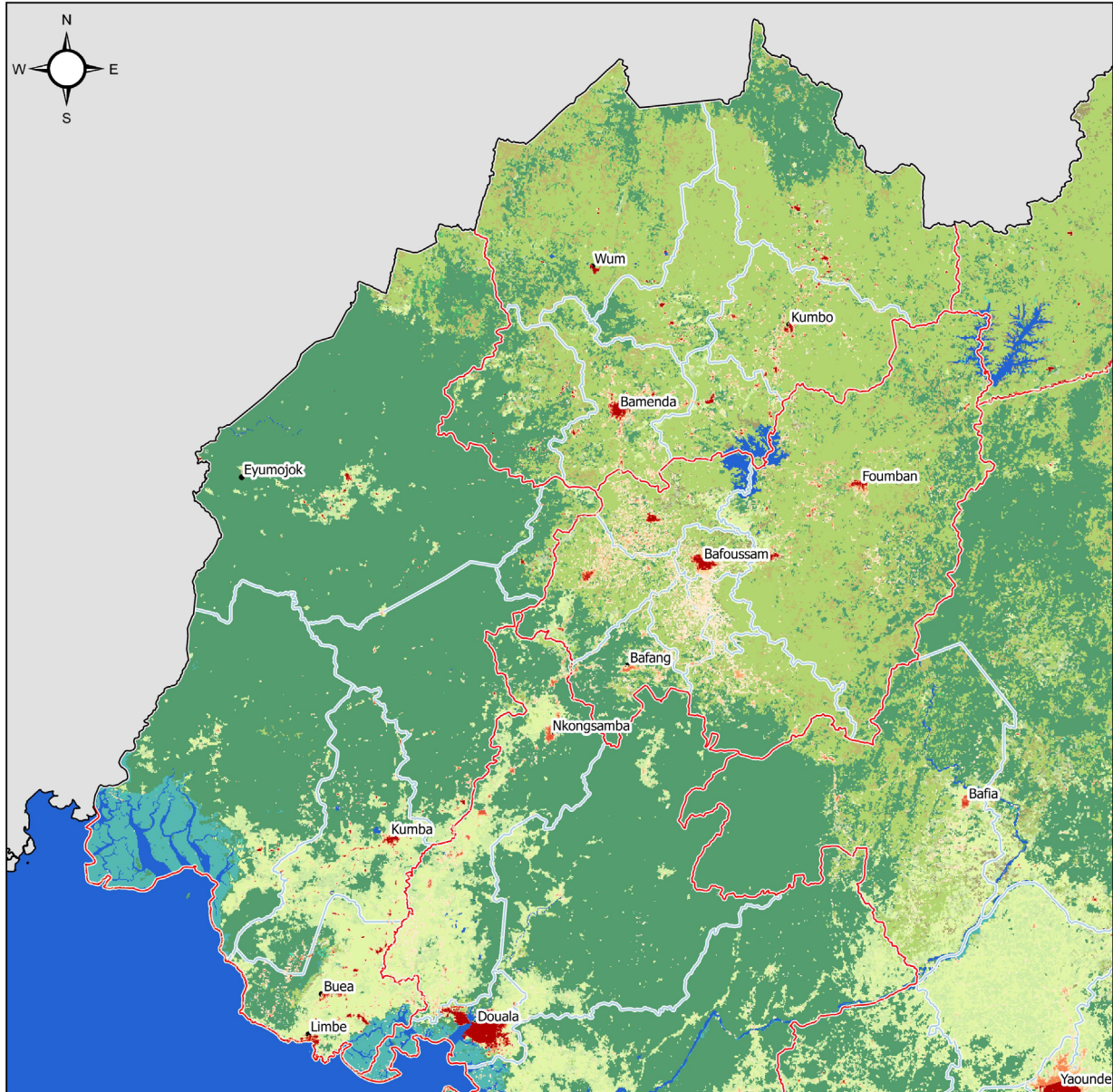
Map 2: Land cover of crisis-affected regions



Cameroon - Anglophone Crisis - North West, South West, Littoral and West Regions

Land Cover

For humanitarian
Purposes Only
Production Data: 07
December 2018



Legend

- Major Cities
- State Boundaries
- Region Boundaries
- Division Boundaries
- Landcover 2015 (ESA)
 - Cropland rainfed
 - Natural Vegetation
 - Tree Cover
 - Urban areas
 - Incidents

Data Sources:
Admin Boundaries - Global Administrative Boundaries Database (GADM)
Major Cities - Natural Earth
Population Density - Joint European Research Center

Funded by:

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 46N
Projection: Transverse Mercator

In Partnership with:

Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associates, donors mentioned on this map.



SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

Previous to the assessment a secondary data review was conducted using publically available resources from the main information platforms such as *reliefweb* and *humanitarian response*. The main assessments reviewed for the purpose of this assessment are the following:

Table 1. List of secondary data reviewed

Source
UNCT, Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment in the West and Littoral Regions. 25-29 September 2018 (Link)
IRC, Needs Assessment Report South West Cameroon. 3 October 2018 (Link)
IFRC, Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Cameroon: Population Movement. 2 October 2018 (Link)
DRC, Rapid Protection Assessment November-December 2018: South West Cameroon. (Link)
CRS, Multisectoral Assessment In The Northwest Shelter, Livelihood, Food Security And Hygiene Practices. September 2018 (Link)
Care, Cameroon NW & SW Crisis – Exploratory Mission Report. September 2018 (Link)

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

Following a first meeting with local aid organizations conducted in Buea on 1 December 2018, five local implementing partners (Reach Out, PEP, COHESODEC, SUDHASER and Plan International) were identified to collect primary data, based on their geographical presence, their availability (in time and human resources) and their willingness to engage in the process. Due to security reasons and suspicion of the population regarding the registration of exact location points by GPS coordinate, it was decided to collect primary data through paper form which would be centralized and only in a second stage of the process, transcribed in an electronic version.

Data was collected between 4 and 17 December 2018. As indicated in the map below, each local partner was assigned specific divisions. In total 157 KIs were interviewed, providing information on their locality. Most were displaced representatives (25%), host family representatives (23%) or teachers (16%). Local aid workers were also interviewed (10%) as well as religious leaders (9%). Other types of KIs included local political leaders, farmers, students, traders or traditional healers. KIs were selected by the interviewers based on snowball sampling methods to ensure decent coverage of all population groups from all subdivisions, and in the three types of environment. Local partners provided a list of settlements in which they could expect to find each target population groups reviewed by the assessment team. As not all population groups were present in all subdivisions (for example non-displaced in damaged accommodation was only reported in 1 subdivision) the total number of KIs is not representative of the number of population groups, divisions and settings. During the data cleaning process several surveys were also removed due to unclear/contradictory responses provided. While efforts were made to encourage female and IDP respondents to participate to the survey, most of the people that were willing to respond to the survey were either local community leaders, teachers and religious representatives, which were in most cases males: most KIs were male (60% against 33% of female). The remaining 7% left that information unanswered. As the assessment is not intended to

be representative of the population groups, findings are indicative and should not be used to extrapolate caseload figures or to make conclusions on the entire IDP population.

Map 3: Geographical distribution of data collection implementing partners

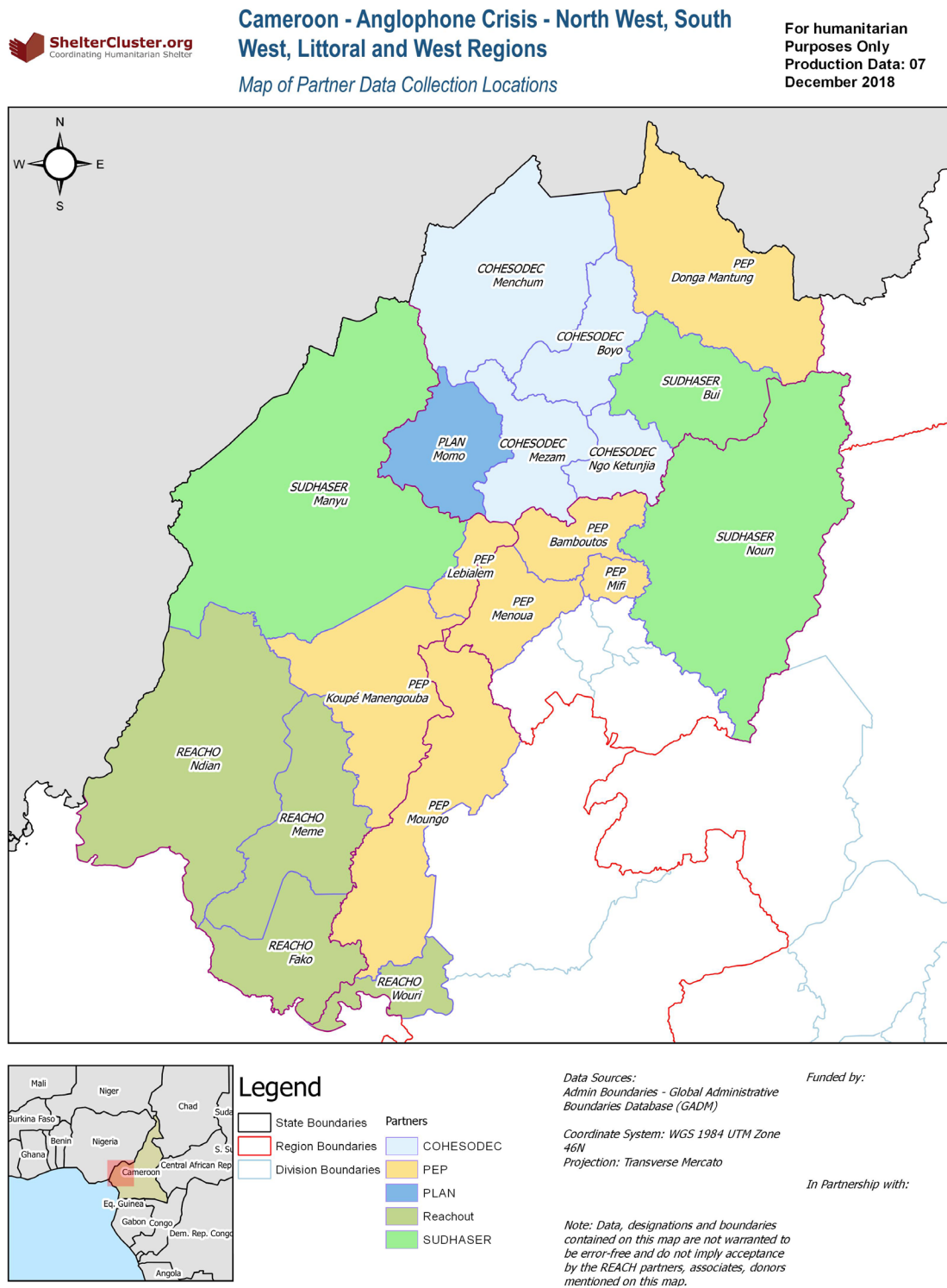


Table 2: Numbers of KIs interviewed for each population group and region

	Littoral	North West	South West	West	Total
Displaced hosted	4	15	15	9	43
Displaced renting	4	15	7	10	36
Displaced self-settled/in non-village (bush/rural)	3	8	10	1	22
Non-displaced host families	5	14	8	9	36
Non-displaced with partially damaged houses		7	6		13
Grand Total	16	59	46	29	150

DATA ANALYSIS

All physical survey forms were transcribed into a browser-based Kobo survey for processing. During the transcription process the data was cleaned to check for logical errors, duplicates in terms of population group and geography and other issues. Surveys which did not meet these validation criteria were dismissed from the analysis (3 – not included in Table 2 above).

LIMITATIONS

The main limitations from the assessment methodology that should be kept in mind when reading the report are the following:

- As a qualitative survey the data is not proportionally representative of the target populations and of assessed localities, findings and frequencies show trends but should not be used to extrapolate people in need figures;
- KIs can express personal opinions rather than statements that are representative of the situation in which the community they represent are living; as such, findings should be triangulated between KIs and secondary sources;
- The challenging transport and access conditions (blocking of main roads) meant enumerators had to travel extensively to reach target areas therefore reducing the overall number of surveys that could be conducted within the assessment timeline;
- The paper-based survey methodology developed due to security concerns related to the use of mobile data collection tools also implied that surveys could not be checked on a near real time basis.
- Some population groups were found in more than one of the defined categories which complicated the analysis of the assessment findings.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

This section of the report presents the main findings from the assessment. It includes a short crisis profile, shelter-specific findings (divided between shelter conditions and shelter needs), NFI-specific findings. WASH-related findings can be found in a separate report.¹⁴

CRISIS PROFILE

This sub-section of the report aims at highlighting a few characteristics of the crisis. After a brief contextual introduction, the focus is put on some displacement patterns (such as reasons of displacement and distance between current location and location of origin) arising from the assessment findings.

Since late 2017, tensions in Cameroon's North West (SW) and South West (NW) regions have escalated, with an increase in violence between government forces and non-state armed groups (see Table 3 below). As of late December 2018, some 500 civilians have reportedly died as a result of violence in the regions.¹⁵ According to Human Rights Watch, the civilian population in the affected regions has been facing indiscriminate killings, arbitrary arrests, destruction of houses, looting and disruption of market activities for over a year.¹⁶ This violence has generated large scale displacement, with over 437,000 people estimated to have been internally displaced since the middle of 2018.¹⁷ The regions directly affected by the crisis are the NW and SW regions while the Littoral and West regions, neighbouring NW and SW have mostly been affected by influxes of IDPs seeking refuge in secured locations.

Table 3: Percentage of incidents recorded by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), by region and year since 2016 (% of all recorded incidents in Cameroon and their prevalence in the crisis affected regions)

Region	2016	2017	2018
Littoral	1%	1%	1%
North West	2%	7%	39%
West	0%	1%	3%
South West	2%	7%	37%

During the assessment, insecurity was found to be the most common reason for displacement, reported by 90% of KIs, reflecting the high level of conflict in the regions. In addition, 44% of KIs reported complete destruction of shelters in their locality and 30% reported partial destruction of shelters. This finding is consistent with the regular reports of villages being destroyed (usually burnt down), especially along major road axes.¹⁸ It is also important to note that, although to a lesser extent, the lack of job, food, water and services in the location of origin were also regularly reported as a reason for displacement. In West and Littoral, according to an August needs assessment, the divisions hosting most IDPs are Mounjo, Wouri, Bamboutos, Menoua, Noun and Mifi¹⁹. At the subdivision level large populations of displaced families are reportedly in and around Mbonge (73,000), Kumba I (20,800), Konye (17,391) and Muyuka (16,175)²⁰. For the NW, the areas hosting IDPs are mostly around Bamenda, Ndop and Mbengwi.²¹

¹⁴ WASH Cluster, WASH Needs Assessment Report, Cameroon, December 2018. [Available online.](#)

¹⁵ R. Malley. "10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019". International Crisis Group, 28 December 2018

¹⁶ Human Rights Watch. "Cameroon: Killings, Destruction in Anglophone Regions". Washington, 19 July 2018.

¹⁷ OCHA. (31 December 2018) Cameroon: North-West and South-West Crisis, Situation Report No.2. [Available Online.](#)

¹⁸ BBC News. "Burning Cameroon: Images you're not meant to see". 25 June 2018.

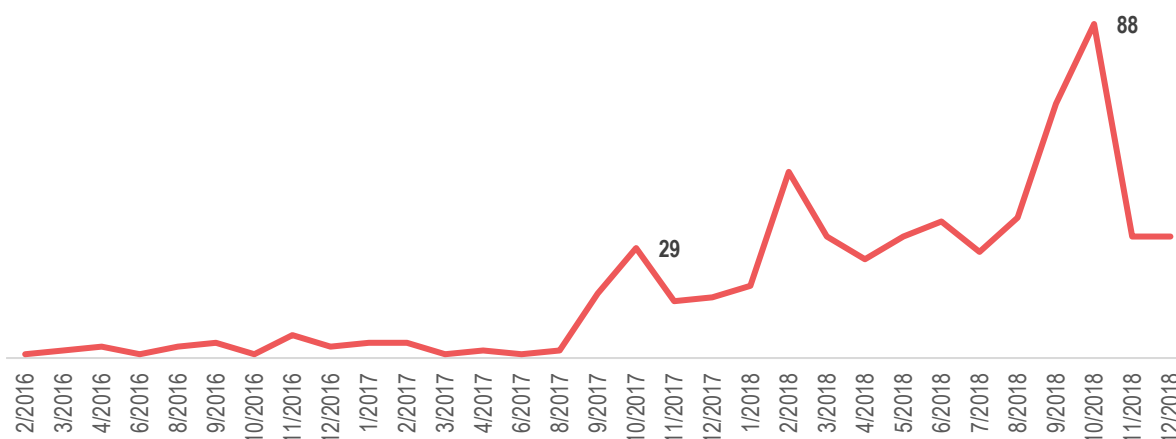
¹⁹ Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment in the West and Littoral Regions, Cameroon, 25-29 September 2018. [Available Online.](#)

²⁰ Care. (September 2018) Cameroon NW & SW Crisis: Exploratory Mission Report. [Available Online.](#)

²¹ *ibid*

When asked about the length of time that IDPs have spent in their current location, most KIs cited more than 9 months (21%), followed by 2 months (14%). This is consistent with the increase in violence recorded since late 2017.²² However, the answers of KIs to this question present a great variety pointing to dynamic and ongoing displacements, also reflected by the fact that the majority of non-displaced KIs (54%) reported being unsure of the intentions of IDPs living in their locality at the time of data collection for the following three months. The lack of consensus among KIs warrants a deeper analysis of length of displacement and intentions of IDPs at a later stage. The main reason people would leave their current location is by far insecurity, as reported by 76% of KIs, notably in NW and SW (87%). In terms of the geographic concentration of violence, using data from ACLED, most recorded incidents from February 2016 to December 2018 happened i) in isolated rural areas of the NW and SW or ii) along the major communication axes of the region as shown on map 4.

Figure 1. Number of monthly security incidents recorded by ACLED in NW/SW



²² <https://www.acleddata.com/>

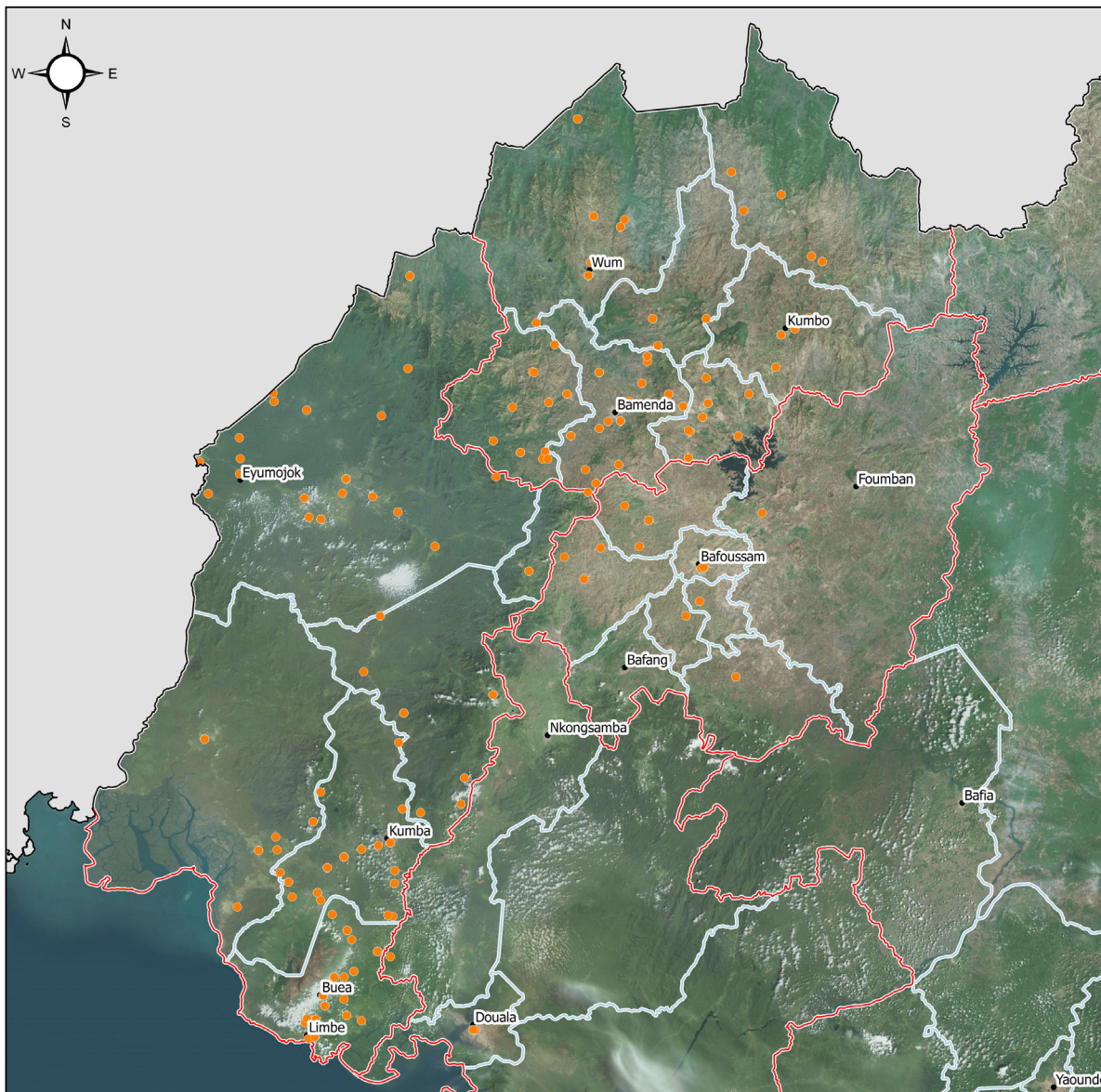
Map 4. Location of security incidents recorded by ACLED (January to November 2018)



Cameroon - Anglophone Crisis - North West, South West, Littoral and West Regions

Conflict Incidents (recorded by ACLED)

For humanitarian
Purposes Only
Production Date: 07
December 2018



Legend

- Major Cities
- State Boundaries
- Division Boundaries
- Incidents
- Region Boundaries

Data Sources:
Admin Boundaries - Global Administrative Boundaries Database (GADM)
Major Cities - Natural Earth
Conflict Incidences - The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)
Satellite Imagery - BING Maps

Funded by:

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 46N

In Partnership with:

Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associates, donors mentioned on this map.



POPULATION ANALYSIS

The participatory planning exercise also produced a list of divisions where partners believed they would find each population group. Table 4 shows that partners did not find people living in damaged accommodation in any of the Littoral and West divisions. During data collection, self-settled IDPs were identified in bush settings, as well as in urban divisions like Moungo and Meme, in line with observations from CRS.²³ Although self-settled IDPs are considered as one single population group for this assessment, whether they live in urban or in bush settings,²⁴ their needs are quite substantially different and they should be considered as two distinct populations of concern in the shelter/NFI response strategy. Further analysis will have to be conducted in order to determine their sheltering strategies. The heatmap below does not show actual population distribution but rather the areas in which certain groups were more likely to be present than others.

A main finding from the assessment is that there was some overlap between the target population groups. For example, the self-settled in urban areas could also be classified as hosted or renting depending on their actual type of arrangement to occupy the space. An improved typology of housing arrangements and population profiling would improve the overall understanding of shelter needs and response modalities to address them.

Table 4. Numbers of KIs interviewed by Population Group at Division Level

Region	Division	Displaced hosted	Displaced renting	Displaced self-settled	Non-Displaced hosting	Non-Displaced in damaged houses	Likelihood of finding population
W	Moungo	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	
W	Wouri	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	
NW	Boyo	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	
NW	Bui	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	
NW	Donga Matung	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	
NW	Menchum	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	
NW	Mezam	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	
NW	Momo	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	
NW	Ngo Ketunja	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	
SW	Fako	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	
SW	Koupé Manengouba	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	
SW	Lebialem	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	
SW	Manyu	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	
SW	Meme	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	
SW	Ndian	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	
W	Bamboutos	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	
W	Menoua	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	
W	Mifi	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	
W	Noun	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	

²³ CRS. (September 2018) Multisectoral Assessment in the Northwest Shelter, Livelihood, Food Security And Hygiene Practices. [Available Online.](#)

²⁴ This is due both to a lack of an adequate predefined category and a too small number of KIs interviewed on the needs of these two population groups (self-settled IDPs in the bush and self-settled IDPs in urban areas) for findings to be disaggregated in the report.

SHELTER

This sub-section outlines assessment findings related to the location of displaced population groups (based on the type of living arrangement), shelter types, shelter conditions and shelter needs.

Location of displaced population groups

The assessment looked at three displaced population groups based on the type of living arrangement: i) Displaced self-settled; ii) Displaced hosted and iii) Displaced renting an accommodation.

Based on documentation from OCHA²⁵, the Shelter Cluster Strategy assumed a certain breakdown among population groups (Figure 2), which did not exactly correspond with the profiles of KIs identified and interviewed (see Figure 4 and Figure 3). However, it is important to note that the percentages coming from KIs are not representative and can only highlight discrepancies with what was roughly estimated by the cluster partners. Further investigation is needed in order to accurately

Figure 2 Presence of displaced population group by region (OCHA as of August 2018)



Figure 4 : Displaced KIs' profiles, by setting

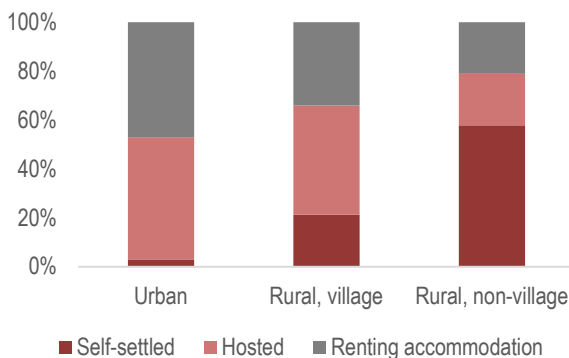
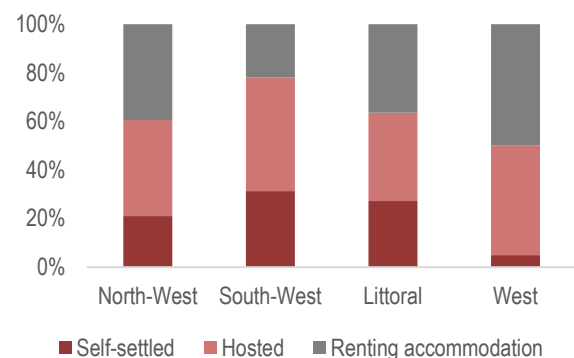


Figure 3 : Displaced KIs' profiles, per region



review the Cluster Strategy.

Based on OCHA figures, it was not expected that displaced self-settled communities would be found in West and Littoral. Furthermore, it was expected that only few displaced people renting accommodation in SW/NW would be found, as a significant majority of IDPs in those two regions were expected to be hosted. OCHA data also showed that a majority of displaced located in those two regions were self-settled (about two thirds) and the remaining in host families (about one quarter) (see Figure 2).

A review of secondary data shows that a small percentage of IDPs are living in public buildings (sometimes referred to as collective centres) or in substandard buildings (such as unfinished, abandoned or damaged buildings), some also seem to temporarily sleep in parks.^{26,27} According to KIs in large urban centres, some IDPs are settling in unfinished buildings and arrange very basic partitioning within these structures. These were reported in some of the areas of Douala, Bamenda, Kumba, Kumbo, Wum, Santchou, Koutaba and

²⁵ OCHA. (9 October 2018) Cameroon - North-West and South-West crisis. IDP Population Estimations. [Available Online.](#)

²⁶ Care. (September 2018) Cameroon NW & SW Crisis: Exploratory Mission Report. [Available Online.](#)

²⁷ CRS. (September 2018) Multisectoral Assessment In The Northwest Shelter, Livelihood, Food Security And Hygiene Practices. [Available Online.](#)

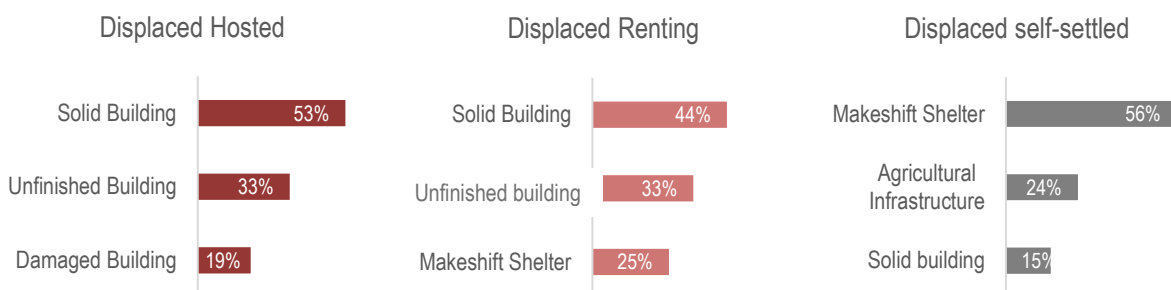
Ndu. Assessment findings show that there were self-settled displaced populations in West and Littoral (4 out of 48 interviews conducted in those regions were relative to that population group). Displaced groups in rented accommodation also seem more present than initially expected throughout all four regions and especially in NW (Figure 3). Almost no displaced in rented accommodation were expected to be found in that region but the assessment found them in all divisions in both urban and village settings. Based on the household survey conducted by CRS in Bamenda, an estimated 39% of their IDP respondents were living in independent accommodation (rented or owned).²⁸ In addition, the type of population groups found varies per setting. Thus, self-settled displaced were more present in rural, non-village setting. It is interesting to note that displaced hosted seem to be more present in rural, village setting than in urban setting (see Figure 4). These findings indicate that the Shelter Cluster will have to take into consideration a broader range of shelter typologies (both at region and settlement level) in future revisions of the Shelter Cluster Strategy,

Shelter types

Shelter typology

To understand the type of shelter in which the affected population live, KIs were asked a multiple-choice question on the most common types of shelter used by their community. Most KIs (46%) reported that the population most commonly live in “solid buildings” (non-damaged buildings).²⁹ Unfinished buildings³⁰, makeshift shelters and damaged buildings followed. The other shelter types, public buildings, open ground and agricultural infrastructures were selected by between 9% and 7% of KIs. The other options that were reported by KIs include carabot houses (out of wood), bamboo houses or mud houses which fall under the agricultural infrastructure category. Despite a lack of visual support illustrating the overall shelter conditions, the assessment was able to collect a few pictures of some of the main shelter types, which can be found in Annex 1, in order to better visualise what these specific shelters look like in the West Cameroonian regions. There are, however, significant disparities between the different settings. “Solid buildings”, as well as unfinished buildings (although to a lesser extent), are most commonly used by populations in urban settings. On the contrary, makeshift shelters, open ground and agricultural infrastructure (such as cocoa ovens) were found to be most common in rural non-village settings.

Figure 5: Most common type of shelter arrangement of IDPs according to KIs, per population group



When looking at answers of shelter types for displaced renting accommodation, the assessments highlights that, although solid building and unfinished buildings appear to be the most common types of shelter rented, the renting of “makeshift shelter” is not uncommon (see Figure 6). It suggests that displaced populations may

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Refers to a construction in good conditions, from the community point of view (not technical) no matter the construction system.

³⁰ Unfinished buildings refer to solid structures which have not been fully completed (missing windows or interior arrangements).

be paying to stay in inadequate shelters. KIs reported cases of IDPs renting basic unfurnished shelters and of living in poorly constructed shelters with very little additional space. The use of the terminology “makeshift shelter” for IDPs renting in urban setting was most probably used by KIs to refer to dilapidated, abandoned or badly constructed buildings (which were not included in the questionnaire) rather than de facto “makeshift shelters” which are likely mainly found in the bush or eventually in villages. Indeed, this was more frequently highlighted in rural areas indicating that makeshift habitat is a somewhat common shelter solution in less built areas. It would nevertheless be advised to further inquire into the issue of renting makeshift shelter in rural areas as it might refer to renting land on which the IDPs can or have built a makeshift shelter. According to KIs, displaced hosted are most commonly staying in solid buildings, followed by unfinished buildings and damaged accommodation (Figure 5), and occasionally in abandoned or makeshift shelter next to the host family’s house. Here again some confusion might have occurred when referring to being hosted in unfinished buildings or even damaged buildings. People “hosted” in unfinished buildings and damaged buildings are likely living by themselves or other IDPs but have been hosted by the community, which let them settle in these buildings. In the review of the Cluster Strategy, this population group should be referred to as self-settled in substandard buildings (see recommendations at the end).

Figure 6: % of IDPs renting makeshift habitat by type of setting

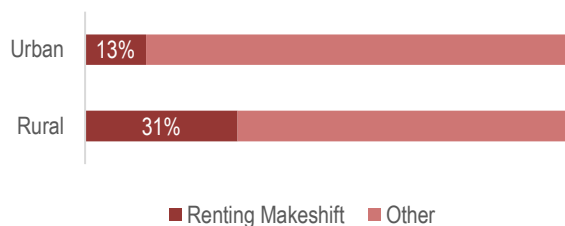
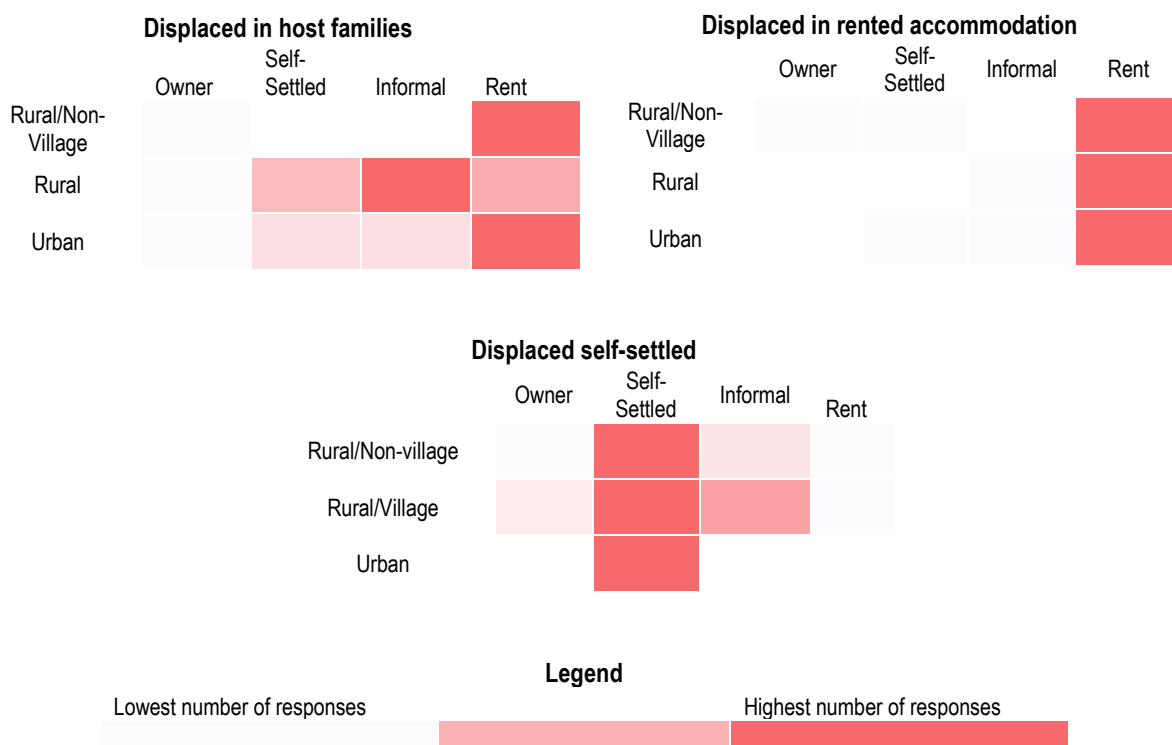


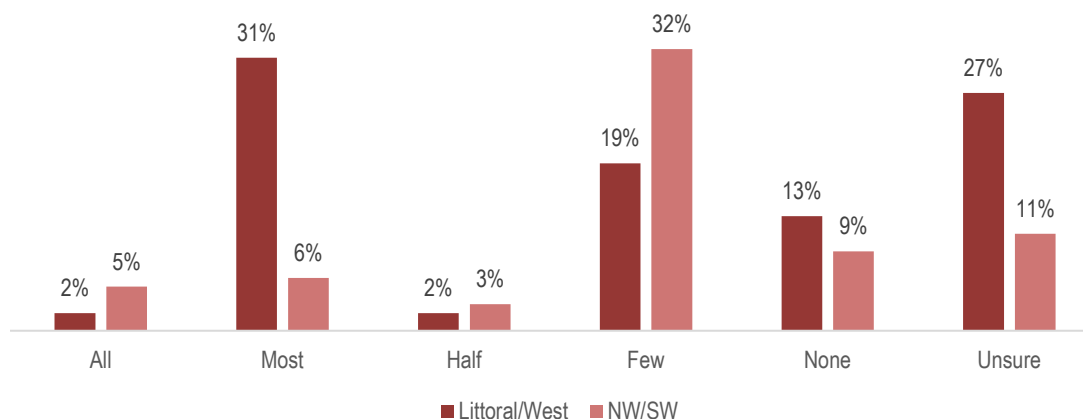
Figure 7: Most common type of accommodation arrangements of each population group based on KIs responses



Availability of outdoor space

In addition to information about the type of shelter in which affected households are living, the assessment included questions about the availability of outdoor space and to which extent that space was sufficient to add any extension to increase the capacity of the existing shelter. Overall, there seems to be more locations without enough outdoor space than locations with sufficient space to add extensions. More than half (53%) of KIs indicated that few or no families in their community had enough outdoor space, more than double the proportion of those who indicated that most or all families had enough outdoor space in their community (25%). The issue of space was also covered in the Exploratory Mission Report from CARE, which highlighted that space was a critical need.³¹ The majority of displaced living in urban areas stayed with relatives, which significantly increased the occupancy levels of shelters. Some FGD respondents reported that the number of people living in their current shelter had multiplied by four, with both women and men having to share sleeping areas. These situations are indicative of overcrowding caused by displacement and may require interventions looking at improving available shelter and settlement space.

Figure 8: % of KIs reporting the proportion of IDPs that have space to add shelter extensions in their community by region

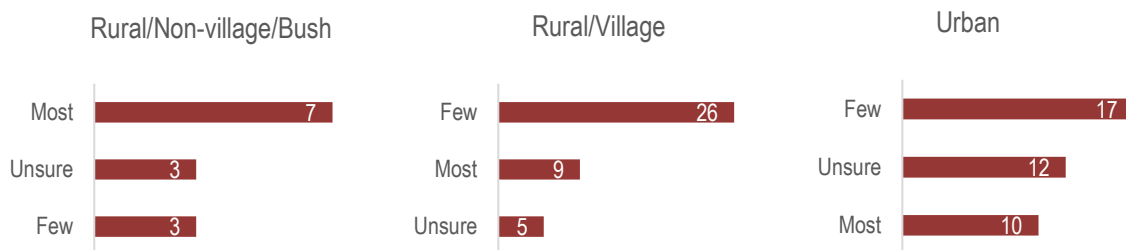


There are, however, significant disparities between the regions of Littoral and West, and those of NW and SW (see Figure 8). In Littoral and West, 33% of KIs indicated that all or most families have available outdoor space against 11% in NW and SW. On the contrary, 41% of KIs in NW and SW indicated that few or no families had enough outdoor space against 32% in Littoral and West.

A disaggregation by setting was also conducted on this topic. In rural non-village settings, 50% of KIs indicated that all or most of families have enough outdoor space available to add an extension to their accommodation, compared to 17% of KIs in village settings and 26% in urban settings. The fact that there seems to be more outdoor space available in rural non-village settings than in village and urban settings is not surprising.

³¹Care. (September 2018) Cameroon NW & SW Crisis: Exploratory Mission Report. [Available Online.](#)

Figure 9: # of KIs reporting proportions of community members with space to add shelter extensions, by setting



Construction modalities

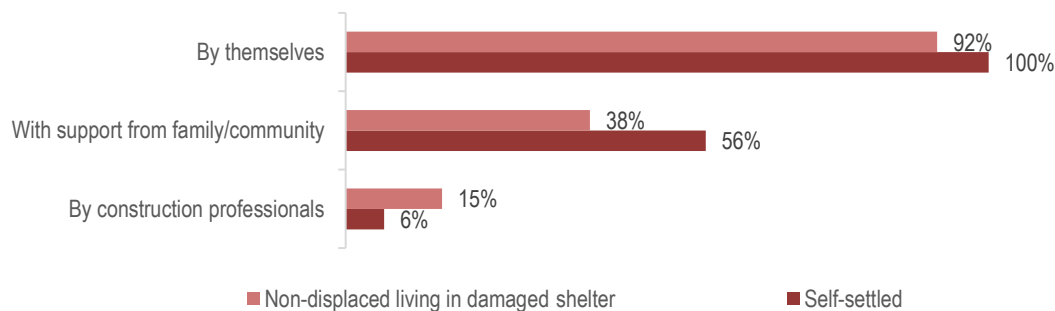
This section focuses on the construction materials and the construction tools used by affected populations as well as whether they built their shelter themselves, with the help of the community or if they had contracted construction professionals to do it. When looking at the construction modalities, the assessment focused on two population groups, displaced self-settled and non-displaced living in damaged houses, because it was assumed that these two groups are most likely to need assistance with construction materials and tools. Important differences were found between those two population groups regarding both the construction materials and the construction tools used.

KIs for displaced self-settled mentioned most commonly the use of sticks, branches, and to a slightly lesser extent rusted zinc sheets, grass, wood, bamboos and plastics, and finally mats, rafters and muds. KIs for non-displaced in damaged houses most commonly mentioned the use of wood, cement, bricks or blocks and rusted zinc sheets, and to a lesser extent mud, tarpaulins, sand and thatches. From those findings, it appears that displaced self-settled populations have to resort to less durable materials than the non-displaced living in their damaged accommodation.

The distinction between those two population groups is also clear with regards to the construction tools used. Self-settled reportedly use most often ropes, cutlasses or machetes, stones and nails. The use of tools such as handsaws, knives, buckets and hammers were also reported although to a lesser extent. When it comes to non-displaced in damaged houses, the use of hammers and nails were reportedly the most common although cutlasses or machetes, spade, spirit level, digger and wheel-barrow were also mentioned.

As indicated in the Figure 10, for self-settled and non-displaced living in damaged shelter populations, most KIs reported that households built their accommodation themselves or, to a lesser extent, with support from the community. This would indicate that providing materials and tools to such communities would help them improve their shelter conditions without the need to rely on external support for construction.

Figure 10: KIs' perceptions of the most common ways shelters are built in the community comparing self-settled and non-displaced communities³²



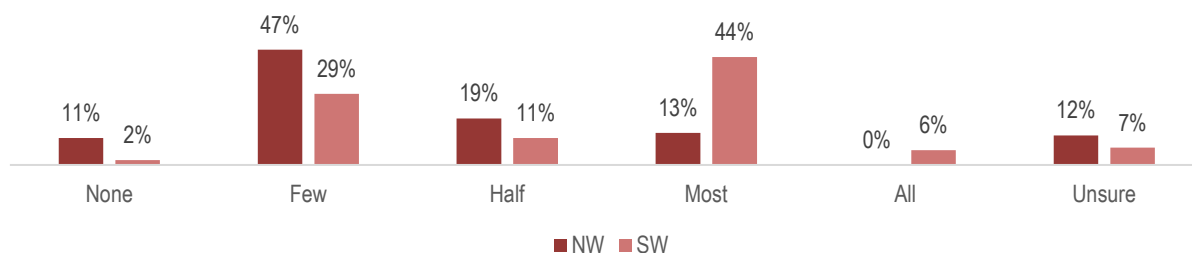
Shelter conditions

Shelter damages

Destruction of shelters, including the burning of entire villages, has been regularly reported in both NW and SW regions. The assessment asked KIs to estimate the percentage of houses that had been completely destroyed in the location of origin as well as the percentage of houses that had been partially damaged. As seen in the Figure 11 below, the damages seem extensive. Almost a third (32%) of KIs indicated that all or most of the houses in the location of origin have been completely destroyed, while only 6% of KIs reported that no houses were completely destroyed. This is consistent with observations from the CARE Exploratory Mission Report which found that most IDPs had their shelter burnt down.³³

Answers from KIs on shelter damages in the location of origin indicate that destruction was more significant in the SW than in the NW (Figure 11). Half of the KIs who reported the SW as the most common region of origin for IDPs indicated that all or most houses were completely destroyed in the location of origin, compared to 13% for the NW, likely due to the composition of the accommodation. Most houses in the SW are made out of carabot or bamboo which are highly flammable materials, while most houses in the NW have masonry walls made of mud or bricks. At the division level, Mounjo, Manyu, Menoua, Meme and Koupé Manengouba were reportedly particularly affected. In terms of parts of the shelters that were damaged or destroyed, the roofs were most commonly reported as completely damaged while the floor slab were most commonly partially damaged.

Figure 11: KIs' perception of the proportion of houses completely destroyed in the location of origin by region



³² KIs could select multiple answers.

³³ Care. (September 2018) Cameroon NW & SW Crisis: Exploratory Mission Report. [Available Online](#).

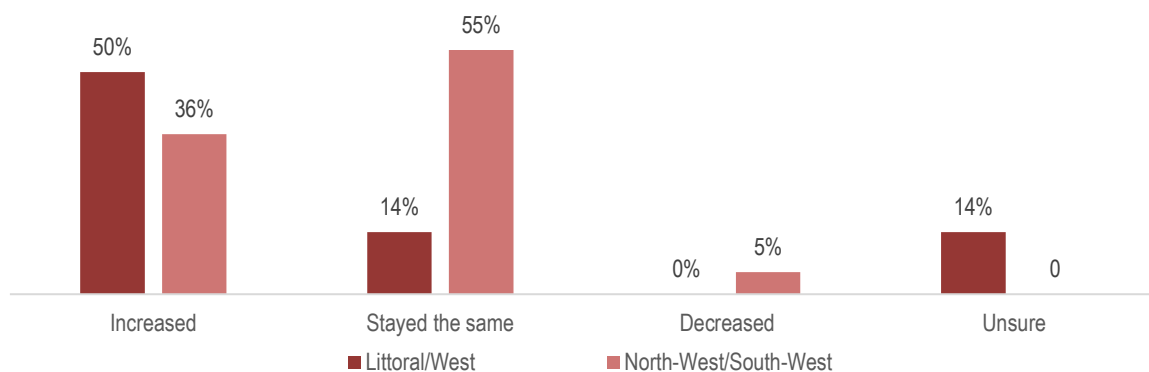
Additional comments extracted from open discussions with KIs were collected to help understand the type of damages. It was often indicated that the houses had been completely burnt down, which is consistent with regular reports of destruction of villages by the use of fire. Several comments also mentioned that bullets had damaged the shelters' walls.

Renting conditions

This section presents specific findings regarding renting conditions such as the perception in evolution of rent prices in the previous six months, characteristics of rented accommodations (number of rooms, whether it is furnished or not and whether it is shared or not), rental arrangements (payment timeframe, payment modality and whether there is a formal arrangement or not). In total, 36 KIs were interviewed on displaced populations renting accommodation.

According to most renting KIs, the overall perception was that rent prices in their area have either increased (according to 47%) or stayed the same (44%) in the six months prior to data collection. When looking at regional differences, an increase in rent prices was more commonly reported in Littoral and West than in NW and SW, indicating the possibility that the influx of IDPs to these two regions had a causal impact on rental prices. Further assessments will be required to determine the crisis impact on rent in these regions. Similarly, the number of rental accommodations available was found to have most commonly decreased (reported by 34% of KIs) or stayed the same (28%) in the six months prior to data collection. A more detailed understanding of rent price dynamics could provide a better understanding of potential rental market support mechanisms.

Figure 12. KIs' perception of the evolution of rent prices in their locality in the six months prior to data collection, by region



According to the perceptions of KIs, accommodations rented by IDPs had on average 1.9 rooms per household. Almost half (47%) of KIs reported that IDPs most commonly rented a single room for their household and just over one quarter (27%) reported two rooms (Figure 13). In addition, 90% of KIs indicated that displaced families renting are usually sharing the rented accommodation with other families; rented accommodations are generally unfurnished (according to 93% of KIs) and without access to sanitation facilities (67%). These findings indicate that IDPs renting their accommodations are likely staying in overcrowded and sub-standard shelters.

With regards to payment modalities, all KIs indicated that the rent is due monthly, with the rent usually paid in cash (as reported by 76% of the 25 KIs who answered this question – see Figure 14). A majority of KIs (57%) reported that there usually was no formal renting arrangement, which puts IDPs renting their shelter particularly at risk of eviction. Further analysis will have to be undertaken to determine rental prices and availability of adequate shelters. Only after this analysis, could rental assistance be considered by shelter actors while taking into consideration the current concerns related with cash transfers in the crisis-affected regions.

Figure 14: Number of rooms (per household) most commonly rented by IDPs living in rented accommodation

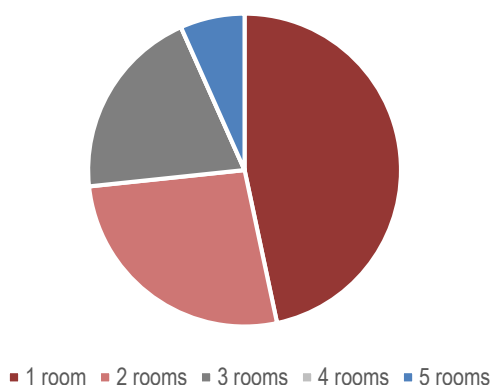
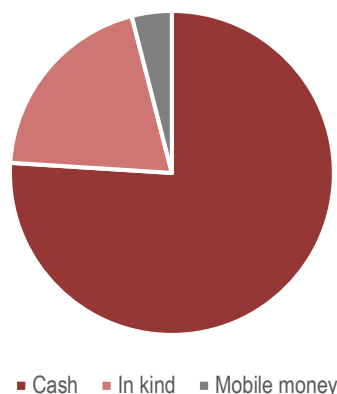
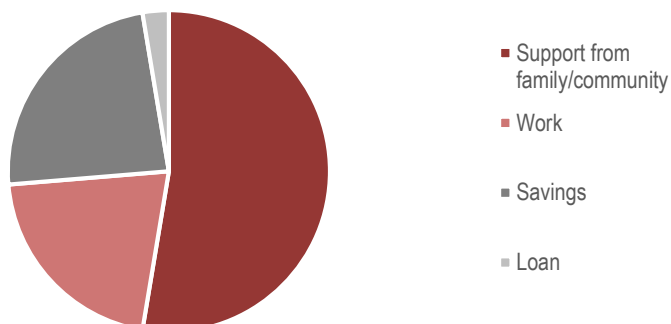


Figure 13: Usual payment modality used for rent



This risk of eviction is reinforced by the finding that only over a fifth of KIs (21%) reported work as the most common means for IDPs to afford rent (Figure 15). The aforementioned CARE assessment corroborated this finding by highlighting that most IDPs lack funds to rent their own place.³⁴ Nearly a third (31%) of the 32 KIs who answered this question reported knowing families who were evicted from their rented accommodation in the months prior to data collection. All of them indicated that it was because they could no longer afford the rent, while two added that other people interested in renting the accommodation offered more money to the leaser than the IDPs were able to afford, resulting in the IDPs being forced out of their accommodation.

Figure 15: Means most commonly used by displaced to pay rent, by proportion of KIs



³⁴ Care. (September 2018) Cameroon NW & SW Crisis: Exploratory Mission Report. [Available Online](#).

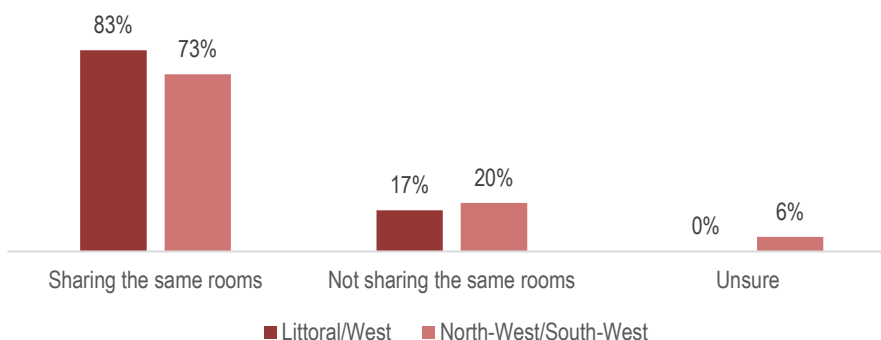
Hosting conditions

This section describes the hosting conditions focusing on links between displaced and host families, on whether they share the same rooms, and whether the cohabitation between displaced and host is causing difficulties. A total of 79 KIIs were interviewed comprised of hosted IDPs (43) and non-displaced hosting IDPs (36).

The most common link between displaced and hosts is family (reported by 75% of KIIs) and friends (55%). Additional comments made by KIIs on that topic indicated that community or religious leaders sometimes play the role of hosts, as well as church members. A few KIIs mentioned that there was sometimes no specific link between displaced and hosts due to the fact that displaced were just looking to stay “anywhere they can find security” and that hosts were “just helping when they were desperate”.

To the question of whether displaced and host are sharing the same rooms, the assessment found that sharing rooms is common, as reported by 77% of KIIs, also pointing to likely overcrowded shelters. As shown in Figure 16, no major differences were found between regions on that matter.

Figure 16: Proportion of KIIs reporting that displaced hosted and non-displaced hosting are most commonly sharing rooms



The cohabitation between displaced and their hosts is reportedly causing difficulties in most cases, as reported by 89% of KIIs (see Figure 17). Both lack of resources and lack of space seem to be key drivers of these difficulties, with the lack of resources mentioned slightly more often by KIIs reporting difficulties (Figure 18). Additionally, KIIs mentioned several other drivers of difficulties, especially the lack of food. Misunderstandings caused by different backgrounds or lifestyles, and spread of diseases due to close proximity were also cited. Challenges related to overcrowding was also found in the CARE exploratory report, with the example of a household which size had increased from 4 persons to 22 because of hosting IDPs.

Figure 18: Difficulties of cohabitation between displaced and hosts, as perceived by KIIs

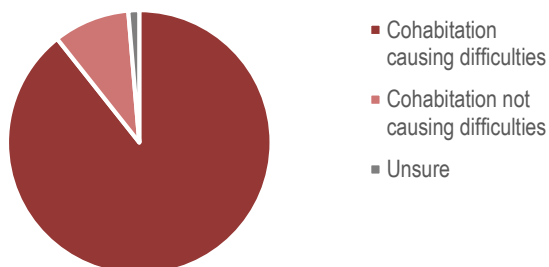
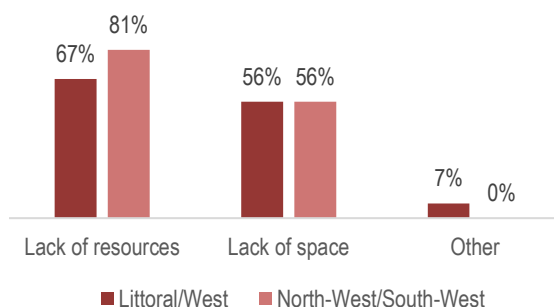


Figure 17: Main reasons for difficulties between displaced and hosts, by % of KIIs reporting difficulties

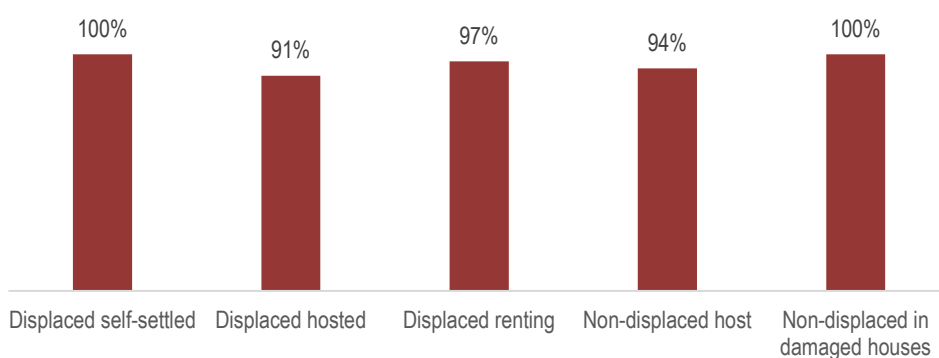


Shelter needs

Drivers of shelter needs

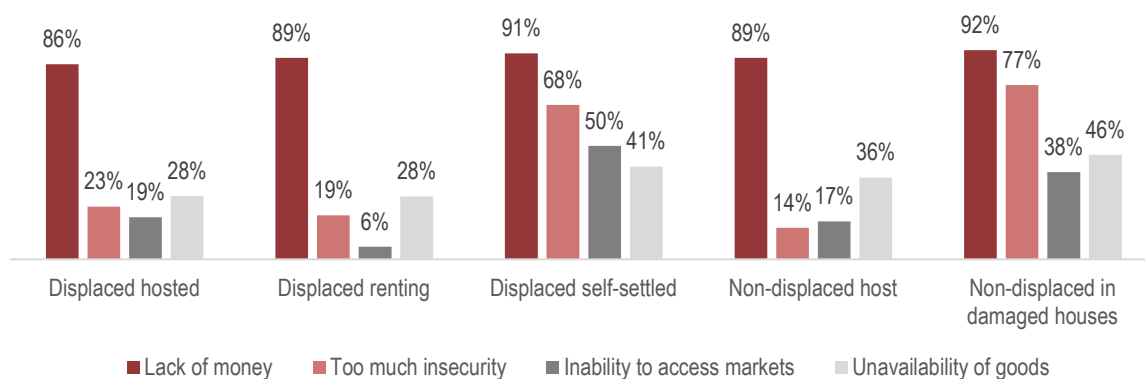
Consistent with the overall poor shelter conditions found in the assessment, 95% of KIs indicated that the assessed population groups need shelter assistance. That proportion reaches 100% of displaced in rural, non-village settings. Findings also indicate slight differences between population groups (Figure 19), with all KIs for displaced self-settled and non-displaced in damaged houses indicating needs for shelter assistance compared to slightly lower proportions of KIs for other population groups, particularly hosted IDPs (91%).

Figure 19: Proportion of KIs reporting needs for shelter assistance, by population group



The deterioration of the security situation in NW and SW Cameroon exacerbated the situation of already vulnerable and low-income residents. Therefore, the main reason why affected populations were unable to meet their basic immediate shelter assistance was by far the lack of money (reported by 94% of KIs reporting shelter needs). Unavailability of goods was indicated by 36% of KIs, insecurity by 34% while 23% of KIs selected the inability to access market as one of the main reasons preventing the affected population to meet shelter needs.³⁵ Findings per population groups, regions and settings are mostly similar, with the exception of insecurity and inability to access markets, which were more commonly reported for displaced self-settled and non-displaced living in damaged shelters (Figure 20), in NW and SW – reflective of conflict in these regions – (Figure 21) and in rural settings (Figure 22). The fact that over half of KIs reporting shelter needs in the West (54%) indicated unavailability of goods as one of the main reasons for shelter needs requires further research on availability of key shelter goods on markets.

Figure 20: Main reasons for inability to meet basic shelter need, by population group (% of KIs reporting needs for shelter assistance)



³⁵ KIs could select multiple answers.

Figure 21: Main reasons for inability to meet basic shelter needs, by region (% of KIs reporting needs for shelter assistance)

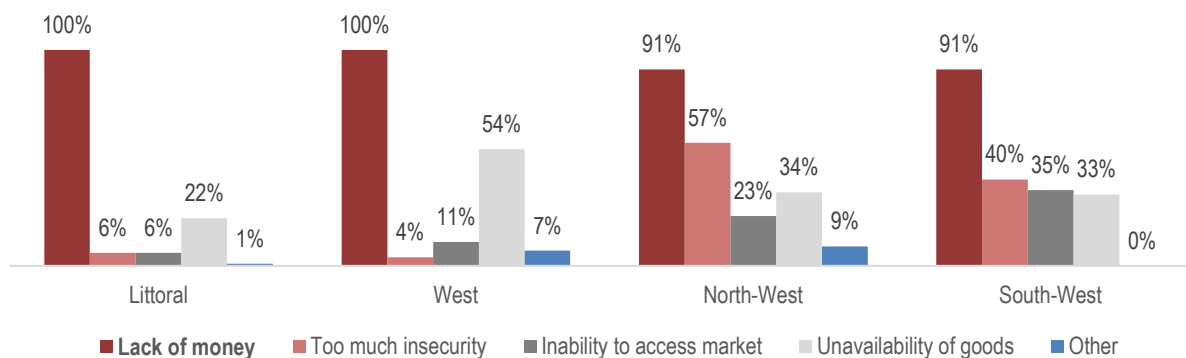
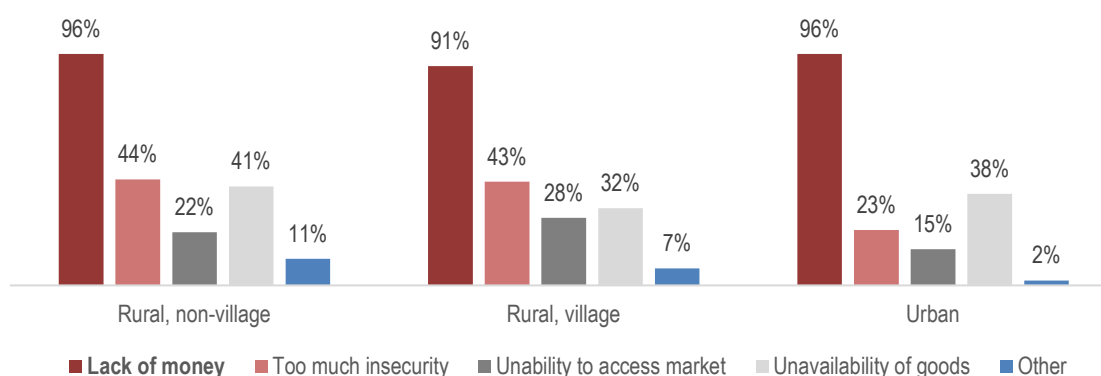


Figure 22: Main reasons for inability to meet basic shelter needs, by setting (% of KIs reporting needs in shelter assistance)



In the above graphs, the reasons 'lack of money' refers to inability to purchase basic shelter items.

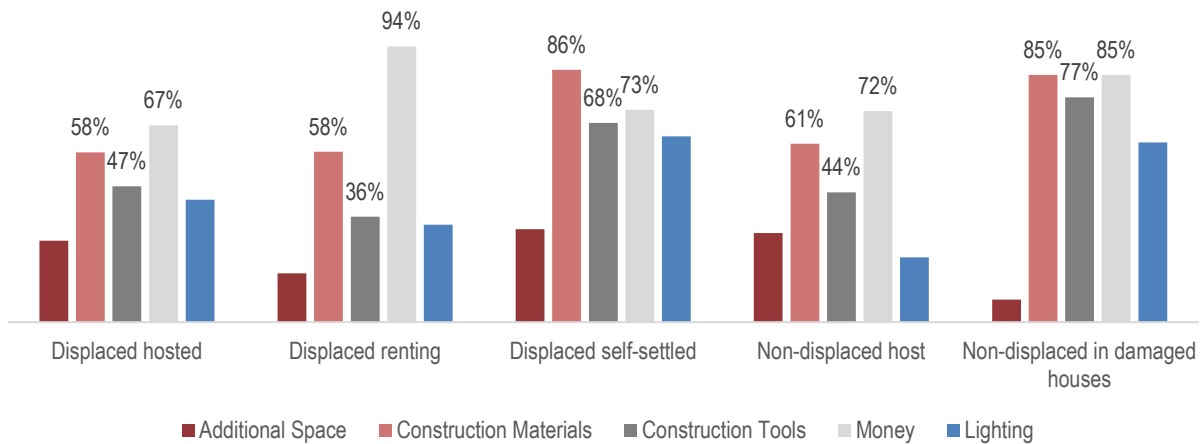
Shelter assistance priorities

KIs were then asked what would be most useful to IDPs in their area in order to improve their shelter conditions. A total of 150 KIs answered this question. The most common answer overall was money, indicated by 82% KIs, in line with findings on the main reasons for the needs in shelter assistance. It was followed by construction materials (70% of KIs), construction tools (52%), lightning (43%) and additional spaces (27%).³⁶

Some differences were found between population groups (Figure 23). Although money was reported by a majority of KIs for all population groups, it was particularly reported for displaced renting their accommodation (94% of KIs), which is likely linked to their need to pay for rent. Construction materials would be the most useful type of shelter assistance for displaced self-settled and non-displaced households in damaged houses according to KIs (86% and 85%, respectively), which reflects their need to construct or repair their shelters. Additional space is overall less prioritised than other needs for all population groups, except for non-displaced hosts for whom lighting was usually considered less useful by KIs.

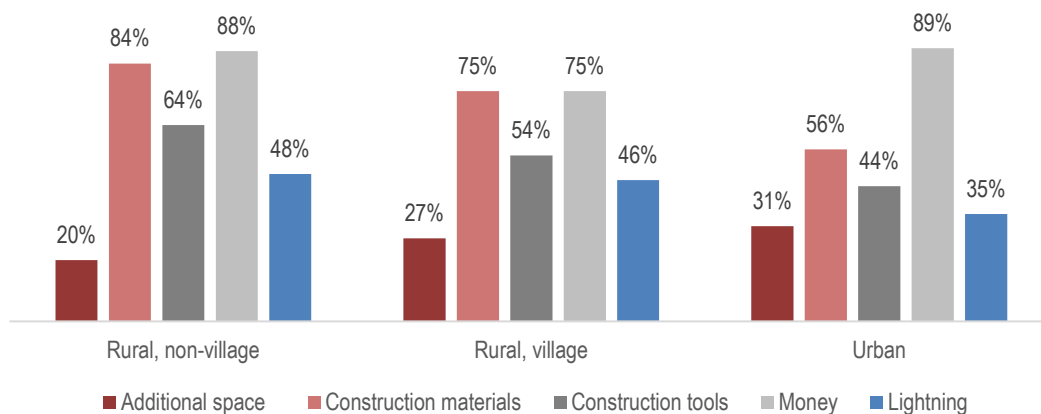
³⁶ KIs could select multiple answers.

Figure 23: Shelter assistance priorities according to KIs, by population group



When comparing between settings, a higher proportion of KIs reported additional space as a priority in urban settings (31%) compared to rural settings (Figure 24). On the contrary, constructing tools and lighting were considered useful by higher proportions of KIs in rural, non-village settings.

Figure 24: Shelter assistance priorities according to KIs, by setting

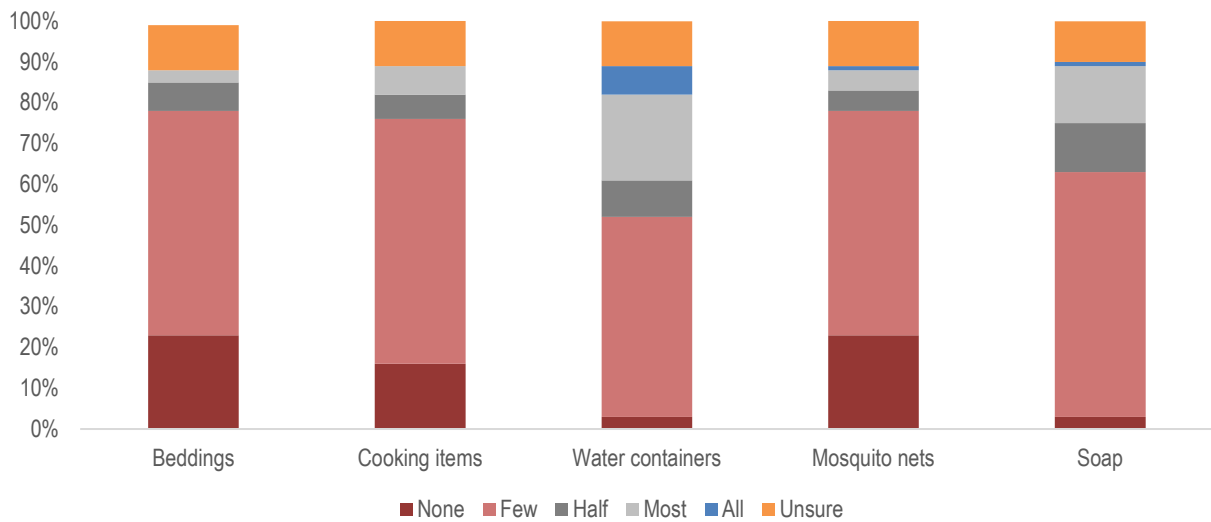


NON-FOOD ITEMS

Possession of non-food items

Based on estimations from KIs, few affected family members have enough NFIs overall. As shown in Figure 25, this finding is consistent for all types of NFIs covered in this assessment, namely bedding, cooking items, water containers, mosquito nets and soap. Mosquito nets and bedding seem to be particularly lacking, with 78% of KIs reporting that no or few family members have enough of those. On the contrary, possession of water containers was found to be more common, with 28% of KIs indicating that all of most family members had some.

Figure 25: Proportion of affected family members in possession of specific NFIs, as estimated by KIs

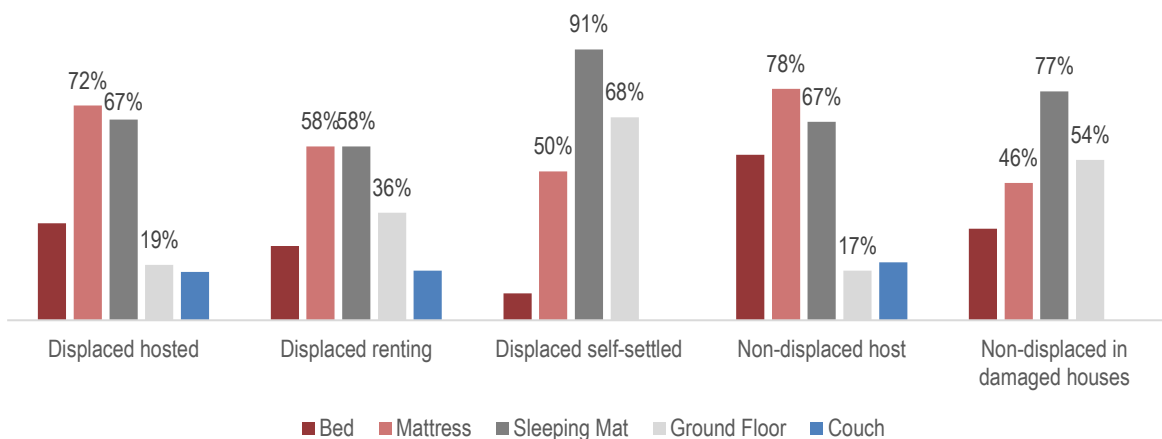


Sleeping arrangements

The affected population tend to use most commonly sleeping mats and/or mattresses as sleeping arrangements, as reported by 73% and 67% of KIs, respectively. This is followed by sleeping directly on the ground floor (36%) and on beds (33%).³⁷

In line with the findings on shelter needs, higher proportions of KIs reported that self-settled IDPs and non-displaced living in damaged shelters sleep on sleeping mats (91% and 85%, respectively) and/or on the ground floor (68% and 60%, respectively). On the other hand, the use of bed and/or mattress was most commonly reported for non-displaced hosting (by 59% and 82% of KIs, respectively) and hosted IDPs (34% and 76% of KIs, respectively).

Figure 26: Typical sleeping arrangement by population group (% of KIs)



Cooking arrangements

Looking at the cooking arrangements of the affected population, the assessment focused on the cooking items, the cooking solution and the type of stoves used for preparing food. Of the KIs who answered these

³⁷ KIs could select multiple answers.

questions³⁸, the overwhelming majority (90%) mentioned pots, which is by far the most commonly used cooking item. It is followed by spoons (25%), pans and plates (respectively cited by 16% and 15% of KIs). Bowls were also mentioned several times (by 12% of respondents), as well as cutlery, buckets and knives, although to a smaller extent (mentioned by between 6% and 4% of KIs).

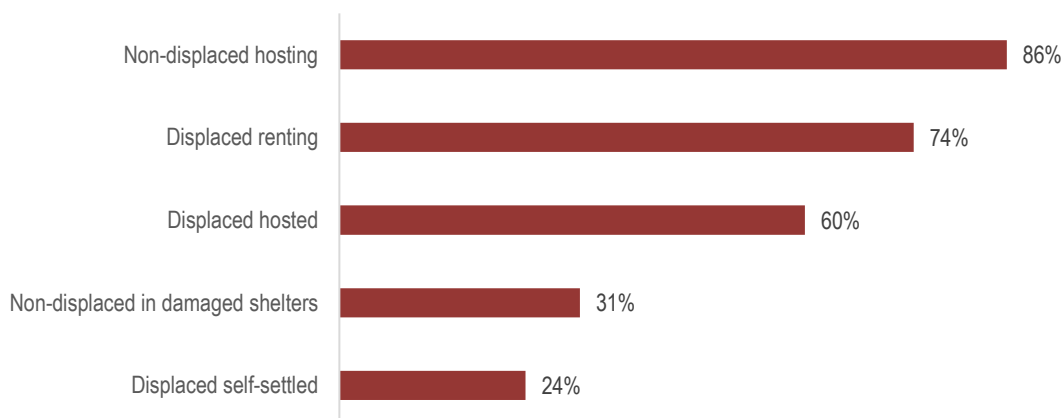
Wood was the most commonly reported cooking solution, by 87% of KIs. It is followed by gas which was cited by 18% of KIs. Charcoal, eco-gas and fuel were also mentioned by low proportions of KIs.

The question on the most common type of stoves used by the affected population was only answered by less than half of KIs. Of those, the highest proportion reported kerosene stoves (41%), followed by three stones fireplace (24%). In addition, 14% of KIs indicated the use of gas cooker, 7% sawdust stoves and 6% oven.

Markets

A majority of KIs (62%) reported that people living in their locality had access to a functional market. However, this overall finding hides great variations between both population groups (Figure 27) and regions. Lower proportions of KIs reported displaced self-settled and non-displaced living in damaged shelters had access to a functional market (respectively 24% and 35%), likely linked to their presence in more precarious localities. Similarly, access to a functional market was much less common in the NW and SW (reported by 51% of KIs), than in Littoral and West regions (87%), reflecting the location of conflict.

Figure 27: Proportion of KIs reporting people in their localities have access to a functional market

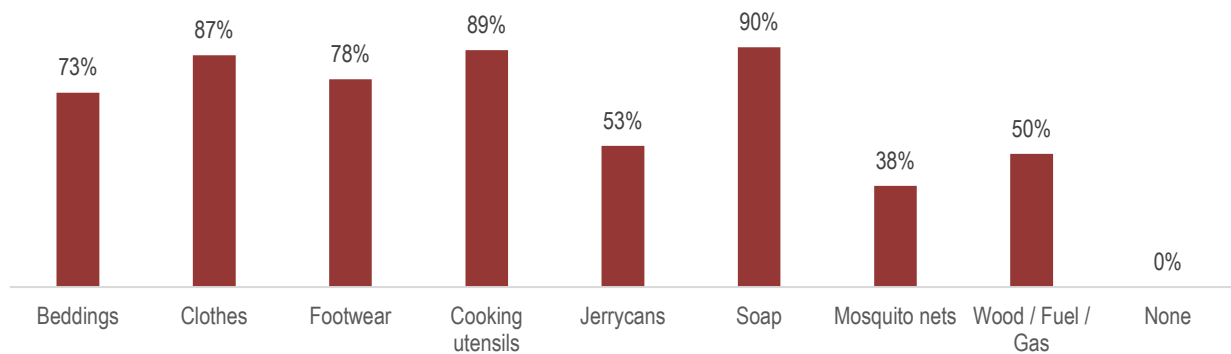


All of the 62% of KIs reporting access to a functional market indicated that at least one of the following items was available: bedding, clothes, footwear, cooking utensils, jerrycans, soap, mosquito nets, wood/fuel/gas. Soap was the item most commonly reported as available (90%) while mosquito nets was the least commonly available (34%), in line with the findings on possession of key NFIs highlighted in Figure 25 above and indicating that low possession of mosquito nets may be linked to low availability on markets.

Furthermore, KIs reporting on displaced populations being hosted were also asked whether they could usually borrow items from their hosts. Of the 34 KIs who answered this question, only 47% answered yes. However more detailed market assessments would be required to get a clearer understanding of access to markets, availability of basic items and price dynamics.

³⁸ Around 12% of KIs misunderstood this question and reported most common types of foods instead of cooking items; their answers have been left out.

Figure 28: Proportion of KIs reporting the following items are available on the market (of those reporting access to a functional market)



NFI assistance priorities

KIs were asked which NFIs would be the most useful to support affected populations. While findings vary, bedding items, cooking utensils and mosquito nets were both found to be in the top three most useful NFIs across all assessed population groups. Higher proportions of KIs reported NFI needs for displaced self-settled overall, likely reflective of their higher vulnerability. It should be noted that clothes and wood are two items that are not currently included in the shelter Cluster's minimum NFI kit.³⁹

Table 5. Most useful NFIs to support affected populations according to KIs

	Displaced hosted	Displaced renting	Displaced self-settled	Non-displaced host	Non-displaced in damaged houses
Beddings	81%	78%	82%	83%	77%
Clothes	58%	64%	82%	56%	69%
Footwear	44%	47%	77%	44%	38%
Cooking Items	70%	86%	86%	81%	77%
Jerrycans	51%	61%	82%	44%	54%
Soap	58%	67%	82%	67%	54%
Mosquito Nets	72%	64%	73%	72%	62%
Wood	35%	31%	32%	58%	31%

³⁹ <https://www.sheltercluster.org/cameroon/documents/swnw-cameroon-minimum-nfi-kit>

CONCLUSION

Overall the assessment results have shown that the needs of conflict affected populations significantly vary between population groups, regions and setting types. The shelter and NFI needs depend very much on these factors. These differences are critical to understand in order to plan the Shelter and NFI Cluster response.

The first population of concern are self-settled displaced communities, especially those that have found refuge in isolated non-village (bush) settings. These communities are difficult to reach due to limited communication routes and therefore hard to locate. Assessment results show that the overall shelter conditions in these communities are poor: i) they live in very sub-standard, inadequate and makeshift shelters ii) they have poor access to water and sanitation and iii) they are highly exposed to health risks due to the presence of malaria in these densely forested regions.⁴⁰ The areas of origin of these communities have been significantly destroyed, leaving limited short to medium term perspectives of return. Availability of NFIs was overall insufficient with most KIs reporting that only a few people have access to key items including bedding, cooking utensils, mosquito nets and jerry cans. Only a minority of KIs (24%) from these self-settled communities reported availability of functional markets near their locality. The top three shelter priorities for these communities were identified as construction materials, money and construction tools and for NFIs, cooking utensils, beddings, clothes, jerrycans, soap and mosquito nets were the most cited useful items.

Non-displaced communities living in damaged accommodations were also found to have significant shelter and NFI needs. The main factor for their inability to meet basic shelter and NFI needs was reportedly a lack of money, as well as overall insecurity, with comparable proportions of KIs reporting insecurity as a driver of humanitarian need than in the non-village (bush) setting. The fact that rural community representatives were nearly twice as more likely to report insecurity as a driver of shelter and NFI needs highlights the concentration of violence which seems to affect disproportionately communities outside urban or semi-urban areas. As the displaced in non-village setting, only a minority (34%) reported having access to a functional market. Their top shelter priorities in order of importance were construction materials, money and construction tools and for NFIs, cooking utensils, beddings and clothes were the most cited useful items.

Other target groups including displaced communities renting accommodation or being hosted and their non-displaced hosts required a somewhat different type of assistance. The majority of KIs from these groups live in “solid buildings” (60% or more) or unfinished buildings with a quarter of respondents renting makeshift accommodation. The main barriers for them in meeting their basic needs were by a large majority issues related to the lack of money to pay for rent and basic necessities, and, to a much lesser extent as the other groups, issues related to insecurity. Communities renting accommodation faced difficulties in terms of paying rent and were heavily reliant on friends and family to cover these expenses. Hosted IDPs and their host faced issues in terms of lack of space and tensions due to limited resources for covering basic needs. As opposed to the two first groups, the majority of them reportedly have access to functional markets. Their top priorities in order of importance were money, construction materials and tools, and for NFIs beddings, cooking utensils and mosquito nets.

Finally, two additional displaced person groups were identified through this study: people that have self-settled in urban areas and in collective centres (public buildings). There is a lack of clarity on the situation with the type of tenure arrangement that these displaced populations have: whether these IDPs are hosted

⁴⁰ WASH Cluster, WASH Needs Assessment Report, Cameroon, December 2018. [Available online.](#)

or renting or if they have another form of arrangement. Shelter Cluster partners are highly encouraged to look further into these arrangements and to share findings with the Shelter Cluster. Subsequently, the Shelter Cluster Strategy should be revised in order to meet the needs of this population.

While the assessment covered some basic questions with regards to market functionality, further assessments should be conducted to understand availability, affordability and access to markets in the conflict-affected areas before planning cash-based interventions. This may determine which type of modalities (cash, voucher, in-kind, market-based programming) are best placed to implement Shelter Cluster activities. Such analyses should be conducted to further advocate for appropriate and effective shelter response modalities.

In conclusion, the assessment confirms the main assumption from the shelter and NFI cluster strategy and confirms the importance of adjusting shelter and NFI programmes to the target population groups and settings. The dual population movement from conflict areas to isolated non-village settings on one hand and safer urban centres on the other will require tailored response strategies. The purpose of this assessment was to investigate the difference in shelter and NFI needs for the main conflict affected populations in NW, SW, West and Littoral regions. The findings provide a qualitative framework to further analyse the situation and plan an appropriate Shelter Strategic response. This assessment is one important step to give the Shelter Cluster an analytical framework with which to work. To continue informing the humanitarian response, more comprehensive population-based surveys are recommended to provide representative estimates of shelter/NFI needs, as well as market assessments to better understand access to shelter and NFIs and the feasibility of cash-based interventions.

ANNEXES: PICTURES OF SHELTER TYPES

ANNEXE 1: PICTURES OF ACCOMMODATION IN THE BUSH



Mamfe, Manyu Division, South West Region, Cameroon, 2019. Photographer: Daniel Arong, Poor and Needy Philanthropic Association (PAN).



Cocoa oven in the Bush in the South West Region, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.



Accommodation in the Bush in the South West Region, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.

ANNEXE 2: PICTURES OF SHELTERS OF HOST FAMILIES



House of a host family, Limbe, CDC camps, South West Region, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.



Houses of host families, Limbe, CDC camps, South West Region, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.



Bedroom of a host family's house, Limbe, CDC camp, South West Region, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.

ANNEXE 3: PICTURES OF UNFINISHED BUILDINGS



Unfinished buildings, Lime area, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.



A bed in an unfinished building, Lime area, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.

ANNEXE 4: PICTURE OF A SUB-STANDARD SHELTER (SALVAGED HOUSE)



Inside a salvage house, Cameroon, 2018. Cameroon's Shelter Cluster Team.

ANNEXE 5: PICTURE OF A BURNT HOUSE



ANNEXE 6: BURNT WINDOWS OF A COMMUNAL BUILDING

