

This report is produced by OCHA Cameroon in collaboration with the COVID-19 Task Force. It covers the period from 16 to 30 October 2020. The next report will be issued on 15 November 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since September, the average number of weekly positive cases has decreased from 510 in July/August to 260 by 30 October.
- As of 21 October, 21,793 COVID-19 cumulative cases have been reported by the Ministry of Health, including 20,333 recoveries and 426 deaths. Cameroon becomes the eleventh country with the highest number of confirmed cases in Africa.
- The Center region remains the epicenter of the pandemic in Cameroon with a total number of 10,607 positive cases as of 21 October 2020, followed by the Littoral region (5,136 cases).
- The COVID-19 seroprevalence surveys were launched on 15 October 2020 by the Minister of Health. The surveys will be conducted from October to December 2020.



COVID-19 mass screening team at Marche A, Bafoussam, West region of Cameroon. Credit: OCHA

21,7K

COVID-19 cases

Source:

Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.53 (From 15-21 October 2020)

WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard, Data last updated: 2020/10/29, 12:12pm CEST

571

Active cases

Source:

Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.53 (From 15-21 October 2020)

596,3K

Samples tested for COVID-19 (TDR+PCR)

Source:

Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.53 (From 15-21 October 2020)

2%

Fatality rate

Source:

Cameroon COVID-19 Situation report n.52-53 (From 15-21 October 2020)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Between 15 and 29 October, 363 new COVID-19 cases were registered in various health facilities, bringing the cumulative number of positive cases to 21,793, including 20,333 recoveries and 426 deaths. According to the Center for the Coordination of Public Health Emergency Operations, the average number of cases has decreased from 510 per week in July/August to the current average of 260 confirmed cases per week since September. Cameroon ranks now as the eleventh country in Africa with the highest number of confirmed cases after South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Algeria, Ghana, Libya, Kenya and Tunisia. Less than three weeks ago, Cameroon was the ninth most affected country regarding total number of positive cases.

The Center region remains the epicenter of the pandemic in Cameroon with a total number of 10,607 positive cases as of 21 October 2020, followed by the Littoral region (5,136 positive cases), including over 195 new cases since 30 September 2020. No new cases of contamination have been recorded among health workers and pregnant women from 1 to 14 October. Regrettably, fourteen new positive cases among health staff arose within the week from 15 to 29 October, in the Littoral, South and East regions bringing the cumulative number of positive cases among health personnel to 877, with no new death. Strategies to roll back the spread of the virus in sensitive places, such as hospitals or maternity wards shall be sustained. Contrary to the seemingly descending epidemiological curve observed in other regions, the number of positive cases is increasing in the Far-North region with 608 positive cases, including twelve deaths, as of 21 October 2020. This worrying situation calls health actors to increase vigilance and monitoring of the epidemiologic in the coming weeks.

On 15 October 2020, the Minister of Health launched the COVID-19 seroprevalence surveys. These surveys will be conducted from October to December 2020 in the ten regions of the country with the support of partner health NGOs, WHO and UNICEF. The objective of the surveys is to estimate the prevalence of the virus' antibodies in adults and children older than five years. It will also determine the risk factors by comparing exposure and assessing knowledge and attitudes related to COVID-19. These surveys will take place in public places (bus stations, markets, places of large gatherings, etc.).

INTER-AGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

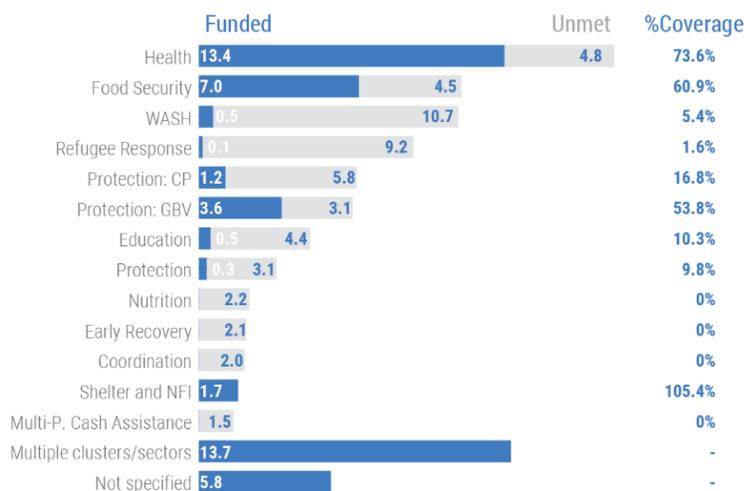
Cameroon HRP COVID 2020

US\$ 81.7 million requested

US\$ 47.9 million funded

Funding by sector

(in million US\$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

Needs

- The creation of a database of COVID-19 resources in regional delegations of public health.

Response:

- On 8 October, OCHA launched a "5W COVID-19 Cameroon survey" to map out COVID-19 actors in Cameroon. The objective of the survey is to collect information from UN agencies, national and international NGOs on "who does what, where, when and with what resources" in COVID-19 through an online questionnaire.
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies supported the distribution of WASH kits on 15 October to nearly 500 rural women in Lolo and Mbilé (East region).

Gaps and constraints:

- Mistrust due to misinformation and rumors represents a hindrance to the administration of the COVID-19 seroprevalence national surveys which require massive and essentially voluntary participation.
- Some COVID-19 laboratories among the fifteen in the country do not channel the results of the samples they analyze daily.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)**Needs**

- Propose strategic communication activities to tackle misinformation and rumors about a COVID-19 vaccine being administered to children and girls without parents' prior consent.

Response:

- The Cameroon Red Cross inaugurated the national psychological assistance service of the Cameroon Red Cross on 13 October 2020, in partnership with the Ministry of Health. The 1511 call center is a free national line available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day and operational across the country in different languages. It is dedicated to the psychological assistance of people who experienced some COVID-19 related trauma.
- The Minister of Health and RCCE partners held a coordination meeting of the national task force on communication and social mobilization for health on 16 October to discuss concrete actions to address misinformation about vaccination campaigns being associated with a potential COVID-19 vaccine administered on children and girls without parents' prior consent. These vaccination campaigns included the second round of Local Immunization Days-LIDs from 9 to 11 October to respond to circulating poliovirus, type 2 and the introduction of the human papillomavirus (HPV) cervical cancer vaccine in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) on 12 October 2020.
- RCCE actors sustained awareness campaigns targeting teachers, students, and parents for a back-to-school season without COVID-19 through all the community radio stations in the East region. From 14 to 21 October 2020, key messages reached 7,568 people.
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft (GIZ) funded ten community radio stations in the West region to translate and broadcast awareness messages and spots in both official languages and in the seven main locally spoken languages for a two-month period.

Gaps and constraints:

- The need to scale up data channel among RCCE partners to achieve nation-wide updated figures of sensitization activities.

POINTS OF ENTRY (POE); OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

At country-level, 1,545 people out of 6,826 passengers from sea, air and land transport means were screened with rapid diagnostic tests at POE by health sector partners between 14 to 21 October 2020, with zero positive cases.

Comparison of latest screening figures of migration flow at sea, land and air points of entry.

Time period	Total number of Passengers	Number of passengers tested	Positive cases
From 14 to 21 October	6,826	1,545	0
From 8 to 14 October	6,832	4,814	0

The number of screenings at entry points tends to decrease compared to the number of disembarked passengers. This might result from the PCR negative test requested by the Civil Aviation Authority, to be presented before any flight to Cameroon. Prime example is the screening at the Nsimalen airport (Center region) from 8 to 14 October 2020. Among 1,362 disembarked passengers, only thirteen were screened and none of them tested positive. The other travelers had valid and updated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) negative tests certificates and therefore were not tested.

Response:

- A meeting between Cameroon and Central African Republic border's authorities will be organized by IOM to officially launch the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the COVID-19 context in accordance with the International Health Regulations in the East region. These SOPs regarding protocols for the screening of COVID-19 cases were designed to apply to all points of entry (POE) in Cameroon, not only those in the East region.
- The Ministry of Health started the training of forty eight entry point staff on SOPs for the screening of COVID-19 cases at POE in Mbalmayo (Center region).

SOCIO ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

Needs:

- Financial support to the Government to boost post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

Response:

- On 21 October 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the disbursement of eighty seven billion Francs CFA to support Cameroon in mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19. These funds are intended to assist Cameroon in containing the spread of COVID-19, boosting health services and social protection, and providing temporary support to affected businesses and households.
- The IFAD President and the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development of Cameroon met virtually on 25 September 2020 to sign the financing agreement for the second phase of the Commodity Value Chain Development Support Project (PADFA II) worth USD 59.9 million. The agreement was announced on 18 October 2020. It will address the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small-scale producers. It targets 111 farmers' cooperatives to boost their production and productivity, develop improved seeds programme and facilitate their access to rural finance and markets where they can sell their products.

Gaps and constraints:

- Transparent management of financial support to the Government to recover from the COVID-19 economic hardship might be required.

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For more information, please visit <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/cameroon/covid-19>