



## NWSW PROTECTION CLUSTER REPORT #4

Forced displacement following attack on Egbekaw village (Mamfe Central Subdivision/Manyu Division/Southwest Region)  
16 November 2023

### Highlights

- On 16 November, a UN and Inter-Cluster joint mission arrived in Mamfe. **UNHCR, UNFPA, IOM, and WFP** are part of this mission organized by **OCHA**. This two-day mission plans to meet victims of the Egbekaw attack, and key stakeholders (local authorities and partners). The mission will also start distribution of emergency-relief items to affected households.

### Protection analysis

The following Protection Risks were identified by the Protection Cluster team through the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) exercise of 10-11 November 2023:

#### 1. Physical Safety and Security:

Members of the Egbekaw community fear continued armed violence by the suspected perpetrators of the 06 November attack, who have reportedly threatened to strike again. As a result, fear-induced displacements from Egbekaw to neighboring areas within Mamfe are continuous. Some host communities are now reluctant to receive more IDPs from Akwaya, considering they were direct targets of this attack. Landlords are said to be refusing to rent their houses to IDPs from Akwaya out of fear, which is also creating inter-community tensions between local communities of Mamfe and Akwaya natives. The impact of this attack on the physical safety and security of persons has in turn weakened **social cohesion** between communities within the town of Mamfe.

#### 2. Shelter and Housing:

Most families lost their properties and are left homeless, while some non-affected households have left Egbekaw and relocated for their personal safety. Homelessness has quickly increased since this incident and large numbers of people find themselves living in inadequate shelters. Most families whose housing and property were destroyed are living in collective shelters provided by the community where they are exposed to health and hygiene related risks due to overcrowding. They are also unable to afford new housings and other basic items (Food and Non-Food).

#### 3. Psychological and Emotional Well-being

This incident has had a serious psychological impact on affected communities. Most victims have experienced enormous loss and grief, from which they developed trauma and anxiety. Majority of assessed individuals reported to be facing difficulties sleeping with recurrent nightmares of the incident. A great number -if not all- are in need of mental health support and psychosocial services. Children who have lost their parents or are heads of households are at heightened risk of developing depression and anxiety.

#### 4. Civil Documentation:

Most affected persons either lost their civil documentation to the fire as their houses were burnt down or during displacement. This is likely to hamper the access of IDPs to basic services including freedom of movement and health.

## 5. GBV Risks

Key informants reported incidents of rape among victims and possible occurrence of further Gender-Based Violence as displaced persons are forced to sleep in collective shelters and homes of persons they barely know.

## 6. Child protection

Children from the affected communities witnessed severe violence firsthand, saw severely injured and burned bodies as well as dead corpses. Some children lost their parents and/or caregivers. While they deal with new displacement challenges, their education (school attendance) has been disrupted.

### ***Needs-assessment background***

- On 10 November, the Protection Cluster led the joint multi-cluster needs assessment exercise in Egbekaw and Lala Quarter neighborhood. The Protection Cluster team was led by its co-lead **CARITAS** and **Intersos**, and included **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**, **Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation (AMEF)**, **Research and Advocacy for Gender Justice (RAGJ)** and **Foundation for Inclusive Education (FIED)**.
- Other clusters part of the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) exercise included the **UNHCR**-led Shelter cluster with its partners **Intersos**, **International Office for Migration (IOM)** & **Caritas Kumba**, and the **WFP**-led Nutrition cluster with its partner **CARITAS Mamfe**.
- A contextualized Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool as well as the P21 Protection Household Questionnaire were administered (using Kobo toolbox and paper forms) by mixed teams during Focus Group discussions, and Key Informant interviews at the Egbekaw community hall and at the Lala Quarter Head's residence.
- Due to security concerns, household interviews were not conducted door-to-door. They were instead conducted at the assessment sites (Egbekaw community hall and Lala Quarter Head residence), using the P21 Protection Household Questionnaire.
- The MIRA team was comprised of 26 humanitarian staff in total, who split in 5 mixed multi-cluster teams to conduct 14 Focus Group Discussions (13 in Egbekaw and 01 in Lala Quarter).
- A total number of 230 affected persons (183 female and 47 male) were assessed.

### **Update on protection response capacity:**

- Cash-assistance
  - **UNHCR** will provide Cash-for-Protection through its partner **Intersos**. The Cash-for-Protection timeframe is around 2/3 weeks and requires community profiling, data analysis and verification, then payment. **Intersos** started profiling for Cash-for-Protection on 14 November.
- Distribution of dignity-kits
  - **UNFPA** is coordinating with **Caritas Mamfe** and **AMEF** to distribute 200 dignity kits to women and girls who were affected by the Egbekaw attack. The kits are pre-positioned in Buea with **UNFPA's** partner **LUKMEF**.
  - **UNICEF** is coordinating with **Caritas Kumba** and the **Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS)** in the Southwest and Northwest regions to distribute around 120 dignity kits pre-positioned in Buea, and 350 prepositioned in Bamenda.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
  - **Intersos** and **AMEF** will carry out MHPSS activities (individual and group) on the ground.
  - **IRC** will also be providing MHPSS to survivors of the attack. IRC deployed an MHPSS Officer to Mamfe on 14 November and plans a joint response with other partners based on the MIRA results.

- **Action Against Hunger (AAH)** Buea will start MHPSS activities for victims of the attack at the Buea Regional Hospital on 17 November, for a one-month period. Support will be provided to survivors and their caregivers using the Emotional Stabilization protocol, targeting children above 5 and adults.
- **Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC)** Mamfe is currently providing MHPSS to affected persons through their chaplains. They highlighted the fact that affected persons are now fleeing from the neighborhoods and communities where they were initially hosted, making response planning very challenging.

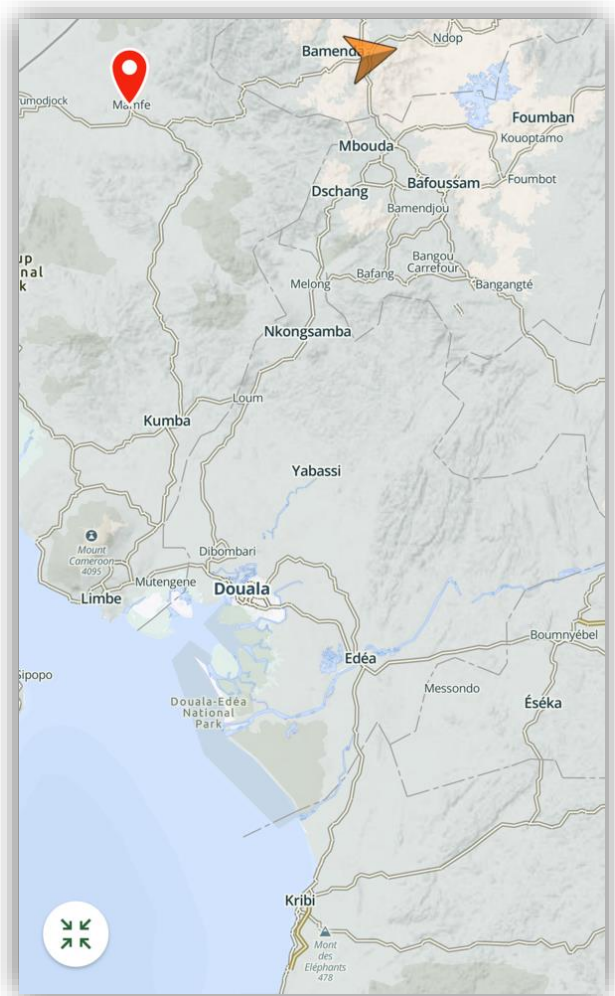
### Situation background:

On Monday 06 November around 03:30 AM, suspected NSAG members attacked members of the “Boki” community living in Egbekaw village. Over 15 houses were burnt during the attack, leaving around 20 people injured and at least 50 deaths. While some of the severely injured have been admitted to the nearby public health facility *Urban Integrated Health Centre Mamfe* for intensive care, others are being transferred to health facilities in Kumba (170km south of Mamfe) and to the Regional Hospital in Buea. Intersos has started supporting the Regional Hospital in Buea with Psychological First Aid (PFA) for 8 patients and their relatives.

***For reminder, the Mamfe district hospital was completely destroyed by fire during armed clashes between State Security Forces and suspected NSAGs in June 2022. As a result of this, casualties are either treated at the Urban Integrated Health Centre in Mamfe or referred to Kumba and Buea health facilities.***

The “Boki” community is one that spreads across the Cameroonian border with Nigeria. This community is said to have fled Akwaya (another neighboring town along the Cameroon-Nigeria border, North of Egbekaw ) some years ago due to the armed conflict, to settle in Egbekaw. Currently, some reports suggest that suspected NSAGS allegedly blamed “Boki” community members of having informed State Security Forces which led to the killing of one of their commanders. Other accounts claim that members of the “Boki” community had recently hired mercenaries from Nigeria to defend them against NSAGs threats in Egbekaw, which resulted in the killing of a separatist fighter on Sunday 05 November. The NSAGs therefore retaliated by attacking the “Boki” community the next day.

The aftermath of this attack is a serious concern for local communities, authorities and humanitarians. While more than 380 people have been displaced so far, distressed inhabitants of Egbekaw are still on the move as a result of this armed attack. According to some reports, “Boki” community members living in other neighboring villages (Small Mamfe, Teachers Quartre neighborhood) have received threats from NSAGs and are also fleeing their homes. Various Church communities have been hosting some of the displaced persons.



### Protection Cluster partners with staff presence and response capacity in Mamfe and Egbekaw:

- Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation (AMEF)
- Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Mamfe
- Caritas Kumba
- Caritas Mamfe
- Foundation for Inclusive Education (FIED)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Intersos
- Research and Advocacy for Gender Justice (RAGJ)
- Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Services (SUDAHSER)

### Recommended rapid Protection response and services:

- Protection-specific needs assessment
- Dignity & Post-rape kits distribution
- Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) & MHPSS consultations
- Medical assistance to GBV survivors
- Case management for GBV survivors and children, including IDTR for separated children

- **On-going:** UN joint mission to Mamfe from 16-18 November 2023. Participating agencies: IOM, OCHA, UNHCR, WFP.
- **Upcoming:** Results/Data Analysis of MIRA assessment and its dissemination by 17 November 2023.

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