



NWSW PROTECTION CLUSTER REPORT #2

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

09 November 2023

Highlights

- **On 09 November, Mamfe town is reportedly quiet and in mourning. Businesses and schools were closed in solidarity to victims of the Egbekaw attack. The Christian community organized prayers in Egbekaw, followed by a football match.**
- More than 380 people have reportedly been displaced since the attack, most of whom are women and children. **Church communities (Caritas Mamfe) have been visiting affected households in Egbekaw and reported many female -headed and some children-headed households already.**
- **Heavy military presence (State Security Forces) has been observed in Egbekaw, and some are allegedly conducting raids. Some civilians were released free of charge while others had to pay an undisclosed fee.**
- The population is traumatized and frightened and is fleeing to neighboring villages including Small Mamfe (Mile 1 and Lala neighborhoods), Besongabang (Banya neighborhoods). **Some of these villages are however also being fled after receiving threats of further attacks from suspected Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs).**
- Many of the victims whose houses were burnt down find themselves on the streets. Some are hosted by Church communities including the Diocese of Mamfe and Presbyterian church.
- Host community members who are non “Boki” were also affected by this attack.
- Hospitals (Urban Integrated Health Centre Mamfe, Regional Hospital Buea) continue to receive victims, and the death toll is still developing. **Some corpses have not yet been buried and are at the mortuary of the Mamfe District hospital.**
- **Protection Cluster partners will start a joint multi-cluster initial rapid assessment with Shelter/NFI, and Nutrition clusters on 09 November, to inform and plan subsequent response.**

Update on needs-assessment:

- Protection Cluster partners will be joining the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) exercise for Egbekaw, which starts on 09 November. The Protection Cluster team (led by Intersos) will join Shelter and Nutrition clusters in this joint exercise. The Protection Cluster team is composed of: AMEF, Caritas Kumba, Caritas Mamfe, Intersos, IRC, and RAGJ. The MIRA tool was adapted, and protection-specific questions were incorporated.

Update on response capacity:

- UNFPA’s partner LUKMEF has 200 dignity kits pre-positioned in Buea.
- 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.
- UNHCR can provide Cash-for-Protection through its partner Intersos. The Cash-for-Protection timeframe is around 3 weeks. It requires community profiling, data analysis and verification, then payment. **Intersos will start conduct the profiling for Cash-for-Protection on 09 November.**
- Intersos and AMEF can carry out MHPSS activities (individual and group) on the ground.

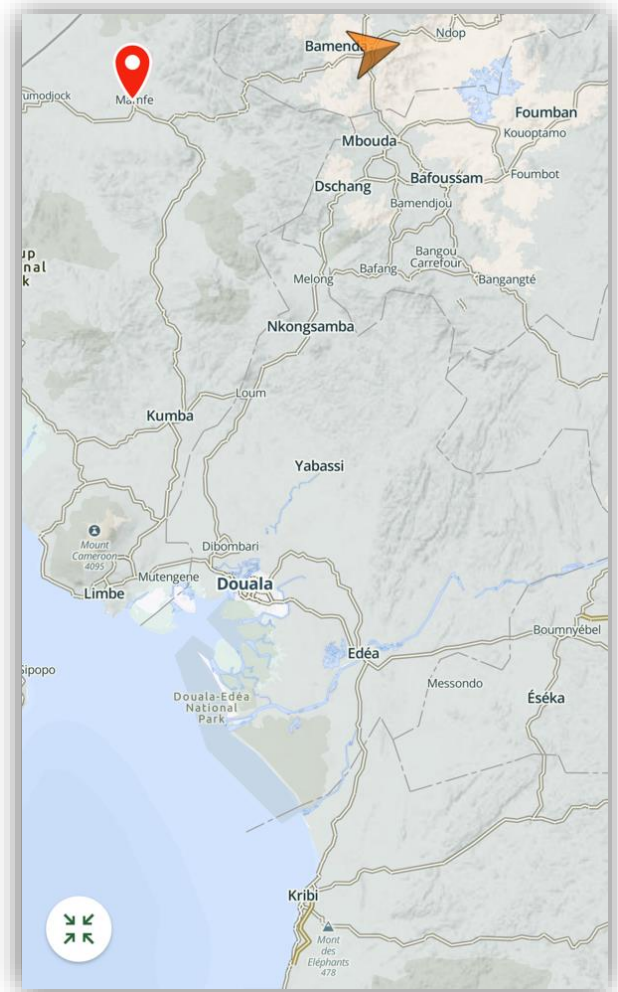
Situation overview:

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 Egbeakaw:

- Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation (AMEF)
- Caritas Kumba
- Caritas Mamfe
- 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

- **Start date of MIRA assessment: 09 November 2023**
- **Upcoming refresher webinar on PFA by the MHPSS Working Group: 13 November 2023**