



## NWSW LOCKDOWN 04-18 SEPTEMBER 2023

### PROTECTION CLUSTER PREPARATIONS

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#### KEY MESSAGES:

- **Protection actors will maintain their commitment to supporting vulnerable populations while prioritizing the safety and well-being of staff and service users.**
- **Service delivery will be drastically reduced but measures will be taken to minimize the impact of the lockdown situation on protection response in Northwest and Southwest regions.**
- **Some critical and lifesaving protection services will be impacted as previously analyzed by the Protection Cluster ([NWSW Impact of Lockdown Situation on Protection Response, September 2022](#)).**
- **Resources must be allocated to effectively manage and adapt response accordingly (including in the Humanitarian Program Cycle) as some lockdowns are regular in the NSW and specific to given dates within the Cameroonian calendar of National Public Holidays and events.**

#### Pre-lockdown preparation:

- Communication with stakeholders on the lockdown-related service provision modality changes. This is a key step in ensuring community members, especially those at risk have access to information on how they can keep accessing services during the lockdown period. This is also in line with our commitment to *take account of, give account to and be held account by* the affected population we assist.
- Prioritize completion of activities before the start of the lockdown. This includes conducting needs assessments, selecting beneficiaries, and initiating the process of birth certificate issuance in collaboration and school enrollment for identified individuals with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) and other government counterparts.
- Community and religious leaders, as well as Child Protection monitors and GBV case workers who are already trained will provide Psychosocial Support (PSS) counseling.
- Care plans for separated or unaccompanied children will be adapted to the lockdown context to ensure that food and non-food items are positioned within reach of foster parents or caregivers.

#### Communication and coordination:

- Establish clear communication channels with community leaders to stay informed about the situation on ground during the lockdown. Regular updates and information sharing will be essential to ensure effective coordination and response.

- Use phone contacts collected to communicate with administrative, judiciary, municipal and local authorities. Where possible (e.g., in Buea and Limbe where some movement is permitted although risky) go in-person to discuss and/or negotiate with authorities to hold work sessions during non-lockdown days. This is according to the risk and priority levels assessed.

#### **Remote work and planning:**

- Staff members will work remotely during the lockdown period. This approach will allow actors to continue coordinating with relevant stakeholders, preparing necessary documentation, and obtaining materials required for the smooth running of activities.
- Attend online coordination meetings, communicate via phone and mails on relevant issues.
- Prepare documents online, take meetings by phone and administer documents on days that have no lockdown requirements. Negotiate timely and effective procedures and production of documents. In Buea and Limbe (Southwest), where the lockdown restrictions are less severe, some partners (discretely) negotiate transportation at a special cost and ensure that their teams are attended to in administrative offices.
- Virtual platforms and online tools will be used to facilitate remote work and planning, including remote-check-ins with alternative care/foster structures hosting separated/unaccompanied children.
- Service delivery and remote mentoring will be provided through SMS, WhatsApp, and phone calls. This includes GBV services delivered by Safe Space case managers and health workers, and legal support to GBV survivors.
- Protection activities including Protection Monitoring, GBV, Child Protection and HLP case management will be carried out remotely through Community-based Protection Committees (CBPCs), Protection Focal Points (PFPs), Community Focal Points.
- Protection-related awareness raising sessions will be conducted through door-to-door sessions by Community Focal Points.
- PSS, counselling and medical support for women and girls with living with disability will be provided in their homes when possible or on Saturdays.

#### **Local Resource Persons and Community Engagement:**

- Local resource persons, including community mobilizers and extension officers, who are already based in the communities, will play a crucial role during the lockdown. They possess contextual knowledge and established community relationships, enabling them to monitor the situation and disseminate information through various online platforms. Movement out of communities will be restricted to ensure their safety.