



NWSW PROTECTION CLUSTER REPORT #1

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

07 November 2023

Highlights

- More than 380 people have reportedly been displaced, most of whom are women and children.
- The population is traumatized and frightened and is fleeing to neighboring villages including Small Mamfe (Mile 1 and Lala neighborhoods), Besongabang (Banya neighborhoods).
- 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 continue to receive victims, and the death toll is still developing.
- Some Protection Cluster partners including IRC and UNHCR’s partner Intersos have teams on the ground. Intersos shared a Flash Alert on 06/11/2023 and IRC is currently working on a situation report.
- Regarding pre-positioned capacity, although DRC is not carrying out any activities in Manyu division, they have pre-positioned Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and Non-Food Items (NFI) kits in Buea. DRC will submit a request to their donor to distribute these items to affected households of Egbekaw. UNFPA’s partner LUKMEF also has pre-positioned dignity kits in Buea, available for post needs assessment distribution. UNHCR can provide Cash-for-Protection.
- Protection Cluster partners are preparing to carry out a joint rapid protection needs assessment in the following days, in order to plan a rapid response.

Situation overview:

On Monday 06 November around 03:30 AM, suspected Non-State Armed Group 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 will be referred to facilities in Kumba (170km south of Mamfe) for care. *For reminder, the Mamfe district hospital was completely destroyed by fire during armed clashes between State Security Forces and suspected NSAGs in June 2022.*

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 neighboord) 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 Egbeakw:

- Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation (AMEF)
- 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

Tentative date for joint protection needs-assessment: 09 and 10 November 2023

Geographical location:

