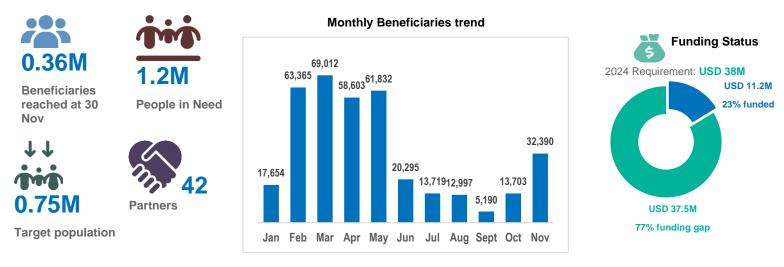


**October - November 2024** 

# **Key Figures**



## **Response Overview**

\_\_\_\_\_

Between October and November 2024, the Protection Cluster and its AoRs reached **46,093 persons** in the North-West and South-West regions with protection services ranging from **legal protection**, **MHPSS**, and **child protection**, to **holistic support to GBV survivors**, and **sensitization of communities on HLP related issues**.

- 8,338 individuals were reached during GBV awareness raising and sensitization activities at the community level.
- 7,660 individuals were sensitized on HLP rights and responsibilities.
- 3, 970 crisis-affected children received birth certificates.
- 1, 323 conflict affected persons received assistance with civil / identity documentation.
- 1,262 GBV survivors received legal assistance.

## **Key Highlights**

In October and November, the protection environment in the NWSW regions remained unfavorable for the enjoyment of human rights. Incidents of Killings, enforced disappearances, extortion and abduction for ransom were reported, although arbitrary arrests and detentions remained the highest recorded violations. A significant increase in protection incidents was reported in October (609 incidents as opposed to 549 incidents in September).

Men and boys continue to be disproportionately affected by these rights violations. Interviews with key informants reveal that men are specifically targeted by NSAGs for kidnappings and extortions as they tend to own cocoa farms and other businesses, and so are thought to be able to pay the high charges.

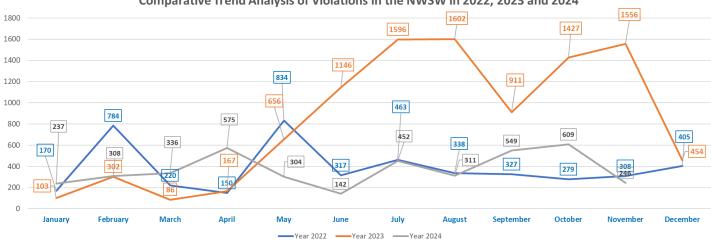
Large numbers of civilians continue to be arbitrarily arrested and detained during "search and cordon" operations carried out by State Security Forces, and some of them are reported to suffer from torture and other physical and mental abuse during detention.

## **Child Protection**

In October and November, children continued to be exposed to protection risks due to the volatile security situation and weakening of traditional protection mechanisms. In October, 6 children were victims of protection incidents, including murder. These incidents, which occurred in the divisions of Mezam, Donga Mantung and Fako, represent a decrease in incidents affecting children, compared to previous monthly trends.

Access limitations continue to hinder CP actors' ability to reach conflict-affected children in all 13 divisions of the NWSW regions. There is need for more robust alternative care systems and support services for UASCs, additional resources are needed to ensure that children can continue their education despite the conflict, and there is need for enhanced interventions to protect children from GBV and provide appropriate support to survivors.

#### **Protection Monitoring**







854 human rights violations were recorded in October and November in the northwest and southwest regions, with 609 violations occurring in October alone.

Incidents of Arbitrary arrests and detentions (342 victims) continue to be reported across both regions, and as the festive season approaches, there has been an increase in abductions for ransom (169 victims). Menchum and Manyu Divisions in particular, which border Nigeria and serve as major trade routes between Cameroon and Nigeria, have experienced a significant surge in kidnappings for ransom.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Low funding for protection activities continues to limit the ability of protection actors to respond to protection needs including for individuals who have suffered human rights violations.
- Access restrictions both regions continue to negatively impact operational presence protection actors are only able to respond in 11 out of the 13 divisions of the NWSW Regions

This update is published by the Protection Cluster NWSW and its AoRs. Kindly direct enquiries to: cmrbmpc@unhcr.org