

Key Figures



0.034M

Beneficiaries reached at 28 Feb



0.95M

People in Need



0.57M

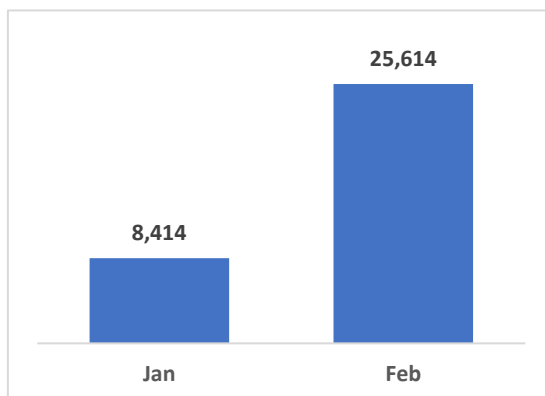
Target population



42

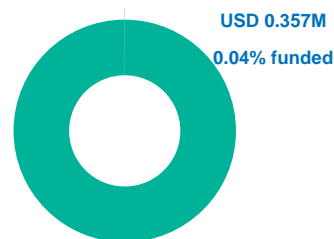
Partners

Monthly Beneficiaries trend



Funding Status

2025 Requirement: **USD 10M**



USD 9.6M
99.96% funding gap

Response Overview

Between January and February 2025, the Protection Cluster and its AoRs reached **34,028 individuals** 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.**

- **24,496 children and caregivers** accessed mental health or psychosocial support
- **11,735 individuals** were sensitized on birth registration
- **2,510 individuals** were reached during GBV sensitization activities at the community level
- **770 individuals** were sensitized on HLP rights and responsibilities
- **683 displaced or crisis-affected persons** were sensitized on peace building, social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between IDPs, returnees and host communities
- **501 GBV survivors** received holistic support
- **413 crises - affected people** received legal assistance on the protection of their rights
- **119 individuals** received legal assistance to resolve case-specific HLP rights

Key Highlights

On 24 January, USAID sent a notice to all USAID Contracting and Agreement Officers and Implementation Partners instructing all Contracting and Agreement Officers to issue “stop work” orders to all USAID contractors and recipients. This freezing of funds and subsequent cancelation of USAID-funded projects, in addition to the prevailing low funding for protection activities, has severely impacted humanitarian organizations, negatively affecting their ability to continue to provide protection services in the NWSW regions and leading to dire consequences for the affected populations in both regions.

There has been a reduction or suspension of critical services, including Protection, CP and GBV case management, MHPSS, maintaining functioning safe spaces for women and girls and referrals to medical and legal assistance, leading to gaps in the provision of protection services, and leaving survivors without access to vital support.

Activities such as community-based protection, community outreach and awareness campaigns, and capacity-building workshops, which are crucial for GBV prevention, have all been cut. Protection monitoring, GBV safety audits and risk assessments, which inform effective interventions, advocacy and decision-making, have been compromised, and cash assistance, a vital tool for empowering survivors and enabling them to access essential services, has also been directly impacted by funding cuts.

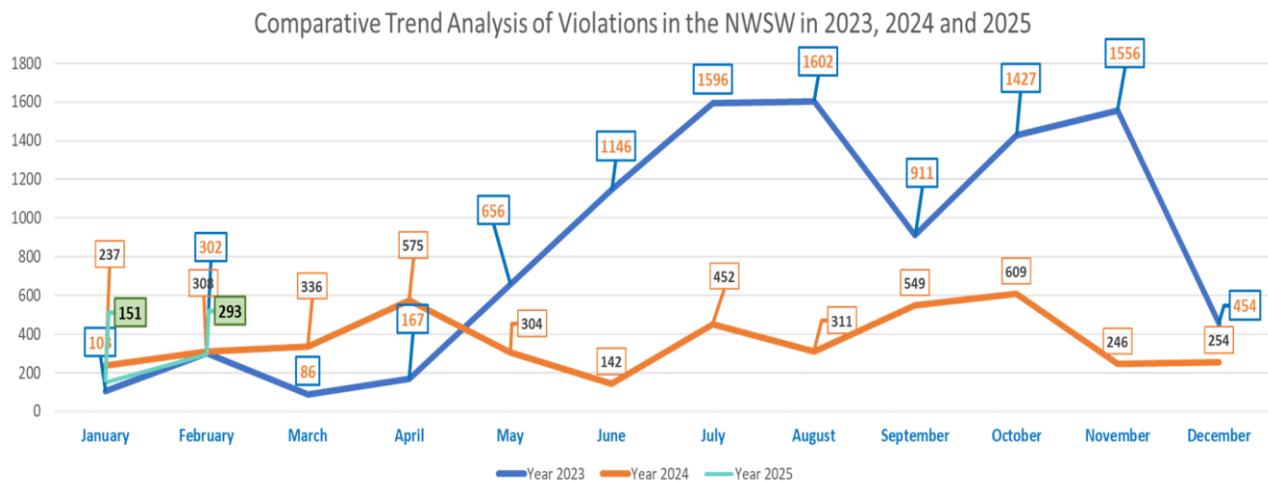
The suspension and reduction of protection monitoring activities by key protection actors will significantly hinder the protection cluster NWSW's ability to monitor human rights violations in the NWSW regions and provide services including legal assistance, to victims of these violations. This greatly undermines the work of the protection cluster and its AoRs, placing vulnerable populations including women and children, at increased risk.

Protection Monitoring

In January and February, the security situation in the NWSW regions remained tense and volatile, marked by armed clashes between NSAGs and SSFs, acts of terrorism and criminality in both regions.

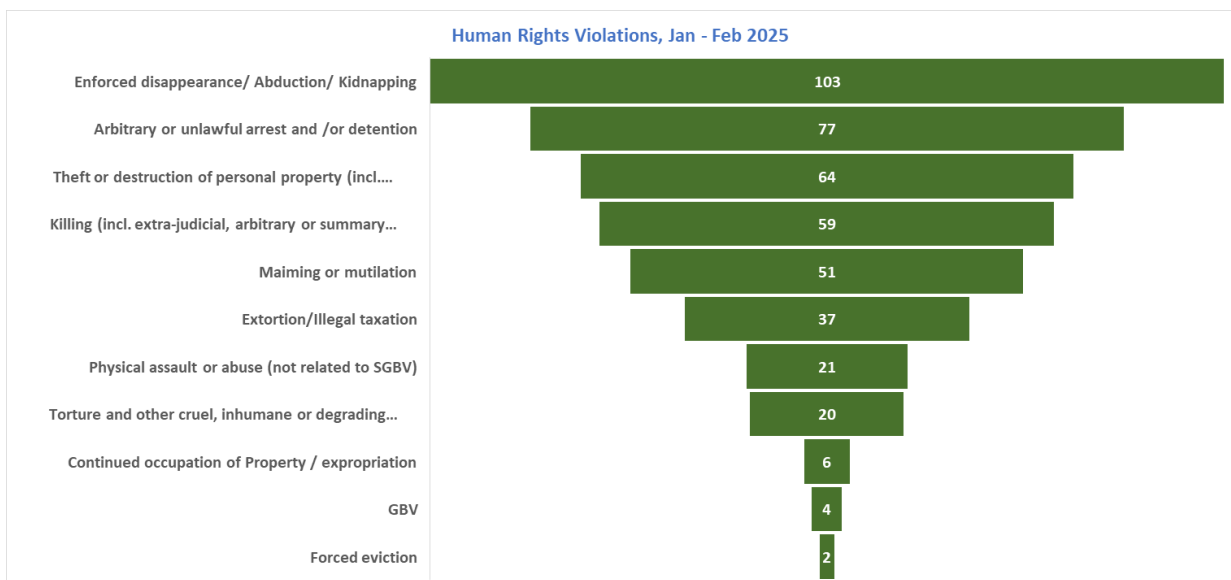
Increased SSF activity in rural areas led to an influx of NSAGs to urban locations in Mezam and Fako, leading to an increase in the use of IEDs by NSAGS, in heavily populated areas.

The prolonged historic conflict between farmers and herders along the Cameroon-Nigeria border over grazing land continued in 2025. Following repeated threats against border communities, on 03 January, Fulani herdsmen from Nigeria attacked a military base in Akwaya (SWR) displacing about 560HHs and killing over 10 people, including SSFs.



444 human rights violations were recorded in January and February in the northwest and southwest regions, with 293 violations occurring in February alone.

Abductions for ransom (103 victims) and illegal taxation continue to rise, triggered in part by the splitting of NSAGs into smaller, less organized groups caused by the killing of the “commanders” of larger NSAGs by SSF.



Key Challenge

The on-going global cut in humanitarian funding has negatively impacted protection programming in the NWSW regions, limiting protection actors' ability to identify, monitor, prevent and mitigate protection risks and incidents in the NWSW regions.

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