



Needs Assessment Report South West Cameroon

October 3rd, 2018

Sectors: Health, WASH, and Food Security

Data collection: September 2-7 2018, in Meme and Fako.

Contacts:

Richard Data, Emergency Response Team Environmental Health Coordinator/Team Leader-IRC, Richard.Data@rescue.org,
Hannah Gibbin, Cameroon Country Director-IRC, Hannah.Gibbin@rescue.org
Atim Evenye Taniform, Operations Manager-AMEF, amefcecilioan@yahoo.com
Marc Serna Rius, Humanitarian Aid Coordinator-Reach Out, marc@reachoutcameroon.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to internal displacement, primarily in the South West region of Cameroon, the [International Rescue Committee](#) collaborated with two organizations, [Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation \(AMEF\)](#) and [Reach Out](#) to conduct a multisector needs assessment from September 2-7, 2018. The IRC prioritized the assessment in the administrative divisions of Meme and Fako, in the South West region, based on the number of displaced people, access restrictions, and the low presence of active humanitarian actors at the time of the assessment. Due to the insecurity along the roads and some villages, only some parts of Meme and Fako divisions were accessible. The key findings from this assessment include:

In a ranking exercise with 22 focus groups, the top priorities are
f



The six water management committees noted the following concerns: lack of water reliability (n=4); lack of water storage containers (n=3); and each noted overcrowding, long queuing time and lack of water collection containers.

Conflicts/tensions/access problems at water points were reported by four committees. Five committees noted that the water issues have not worsened since the start of the crisis. This comment aligns with all nine community leaders who noted that water issues were already a concern before the crisis, including a sufficient amount of water for the community and the wait time to receive water. However, with the influx of IDPs in Meme and Fako, four water committees observed increased tensions between the host community and the displaced population at water sources - over availability and access, citing arguments and fights at water sources. The water committees stated that the communities need bigger tanks, more standing taps, and water tanks to be repaired to alleviate long queues for water. Two committees reported queues of more than 30 min.

All six community leaders interviewed in Meme reported unreliable access to water for days to months. A water source is considered unreliable if it cannot produce water for more than 24 hours.

Water quantity

All nine community leaders reported that people pay for water. The current cost of water from the government (Camwater) ranges from CFA 300-365/cubic meter hence an equivalent of CFA 6-7.3/20 liters. However, if purchasing water from private water taps, the cost is CFA 100-200 (or \$0.35 USD) for 20L. The average household size is seven people, and the SPHERE minimum standard for water is 15L/person/day. With an average of 105L/HH/day, for Camwater payment per household would be CFA 31.5-38.33/day (up to \$0.69/day) and for water from private taps, it is CFA 525-1050/day (up to \$1.88).

Water quality

The IRC did not conduct water quality tests in this assessment. In Meme, all community leaders indicated that the water available is not safe to drink (n=6), but in Fako, the three leaders interviewed stated the water was potable.

State of water collection and storage containers

Based on the containers found at each of the nine water points, on average 26% of the water collection containers were dirty, 19% broken and 33% were not covered or had lids. These findings indicate chances of water contamination during collection, transportation and storage when affecting water safety at the entire safe water chain.

Water source management

During the assessment, six water committees were interviewed, and only four were functional. In Fako and Meme Divisions, the committees stopped working after the local government council took over the management of the water sources.

Access to environmental sanitation

Of the nine community leaders interviewed, six leaders indicated that access to latrines/toilets in their communities is inadequate. Open defecation was observed in six of the nine villages assessed, indicating the lack of adequate and appropriate latrines in the communities. Seven villages used household latrines and two use communal latrines. The communal latrines were observed not be lit in the night, lack doors and

locks, are not segregated by sex, do not have functional hand washing facilities, the area around them is dirty, they don't have menstrual hygiene disposal containers and 57.9% of stalls were observed to be dirty. In Meme, all community leaders felt that the cleanliness and access to latrines or toilets as inadequate, but in Fako, all leaders stated it was adequate.

In terms of toilets and latrines, five of six water committees stated that they have access to toilets or latrines. Four noted that certain groups, including the displaced, those who live far from government toilets, some adults, and children do not have access to toilets. One committee stated that there are safety concerns for women and girls not having sex-specific toilets and one noted not having sanitary napkins.

All nine locations visited didn't have menstrual hygiene management infrastructure for disposal. Of the 17 FGDs that asked women about access to

Hygiene promotion

Eight villages do not have household items that enable good hygiene behavior (e.g. soap, new water containers, beddings etc.) based on observations. In seven villages, hand washing facilities did not have water filled in containers and soap. Five community leaders reported that people do not have soap and other cleaning materials for the homes.

FOOD SECURITY AND MARKET BASED APPROACHES

Vendor and market assessment

The assessment included KIIs with 24 vendors (13 male and 11 female), including 12 vendors in Fako and 12 in Meme. The vendors interviewed sell food items or boxed food, vegetables and fruit, and some household goods, such as soaps and cleaning supplies.

Out of 24 vendors, 20 stated that the majority of their customers in the past month were from the host community. As to why IDPs were not the majority, this could be due to the diminishing buying power of IDPs since they have exhausted their savings. Most vendors (n=19) stated that they have seen a decrease in the average number of daily customers since 2018. 8 vendors

