



Shelter Cluster NWSW Cameroon
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



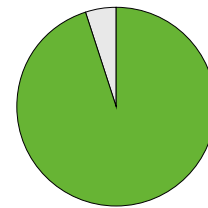
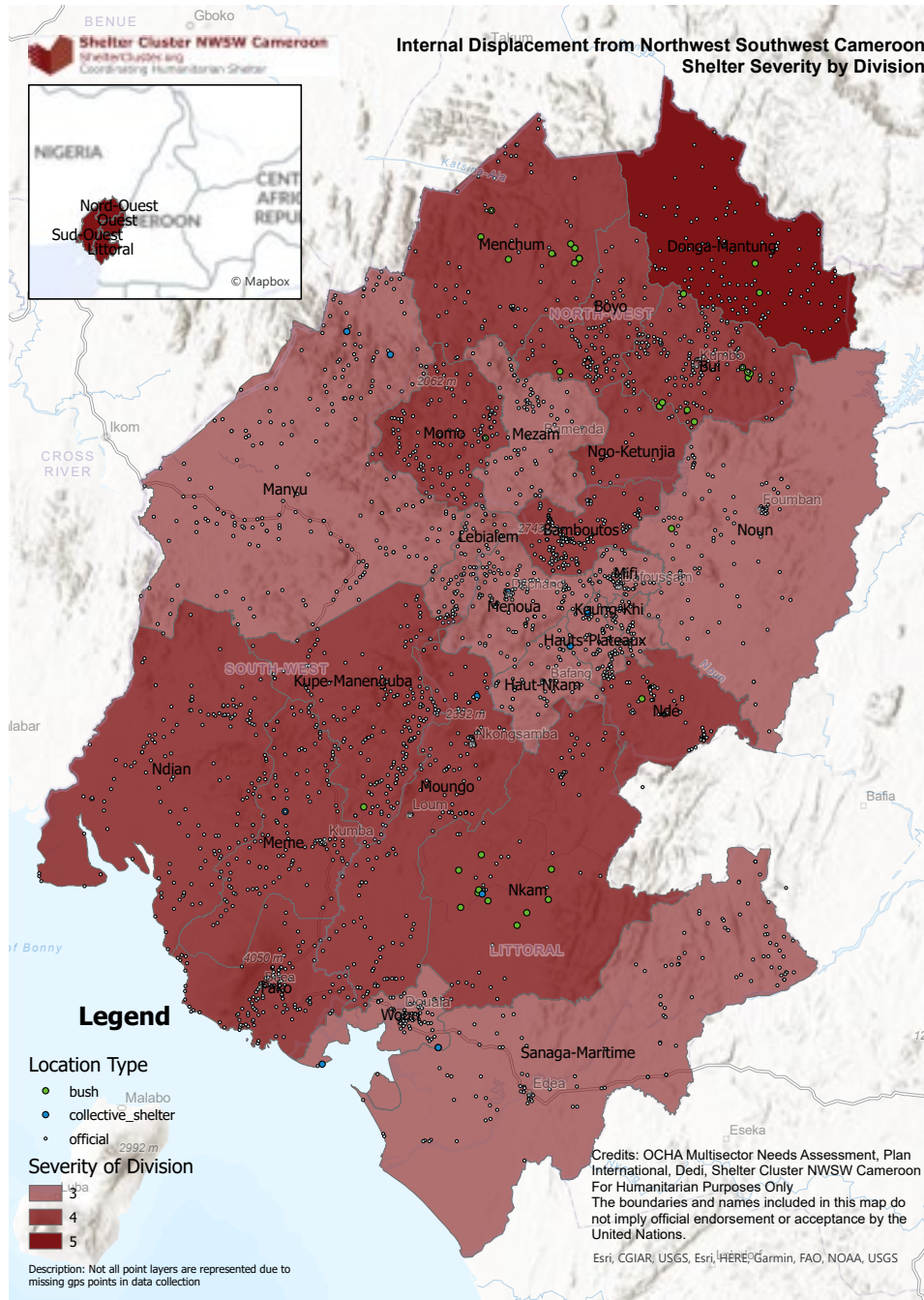
Shelter Typologies
Northwest Southwest Cameroon Crisis

Summary

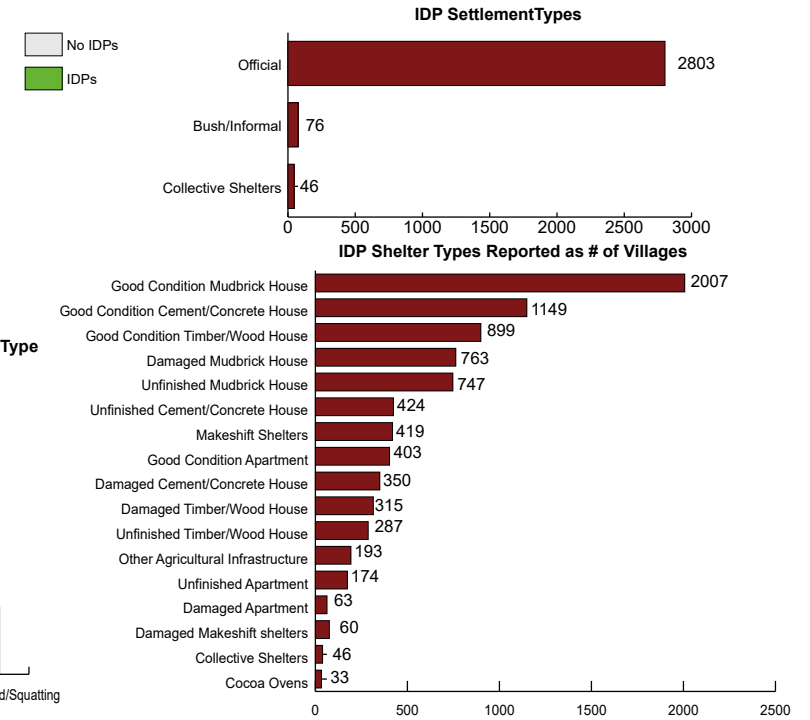
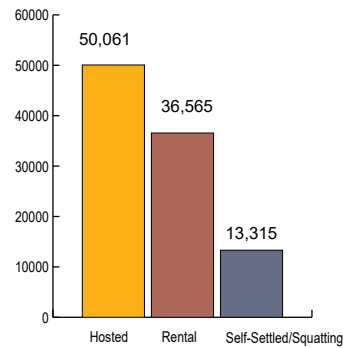
In 2022, the Shelter Cluster in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon has done a lot of work to advance the understanding of the Shelter situation and vulnerabilities of the various populations affected by the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. This document is a summary of the main shelter needs per population group and provides an overview of the different shelter and settlement typologies found throughout the four regions impacted by the internal displacement crisis. Many of the humanitarian needs are exacerbated by a lack of protection and more adequate shelter is a physical manifestation of that protection. The data and summary in this document is a result of various workshops and provides evidence on how a lack of shelter exacerbates these protection needs. The document is a compilation of the following resources:

- Shelter Cluster Household Assessment in the Northwest and Southwest Regions Plan International (funded by UNHCR) -<https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>
- Shelter Cluster Household Assessment in the West Region Dedi-(funded by UNHCR)- <https://sheltercluster.org/west-region/documents/plan-danalyse-evaluation-des-conditions-des-abris-des-personnes-deplacees-et>
- NWSW Shelter Cluster Assessing Shelter Vulnerability and Severity of Household Needs in Cameroon's Northwest and Southwest Regions: A Scorecard and Ranking System- <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/documents/assessing-shelter-vulnerability-and-severity-household-needs>
- The Northwest and Southwest Shelter Cluster Strategy- <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/documents/2022-northwest-and-southwest-cameroon-shelter-cluster-strategy>
- August 2022 OCHA Multisectoral Needs Assessment with special thanks to IOM this year for enabling the Shelter Cluster to make significant modifications to the questionnaire to collect new data on the Shelter typologies

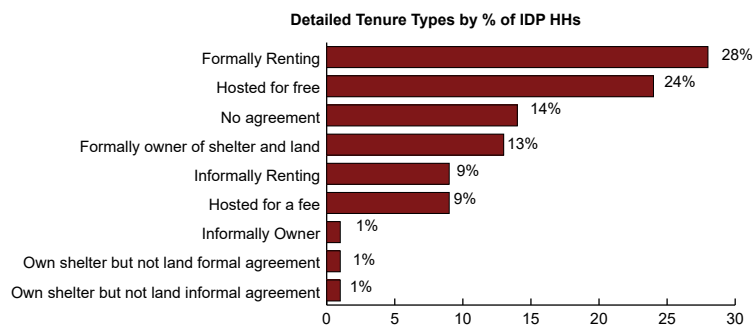
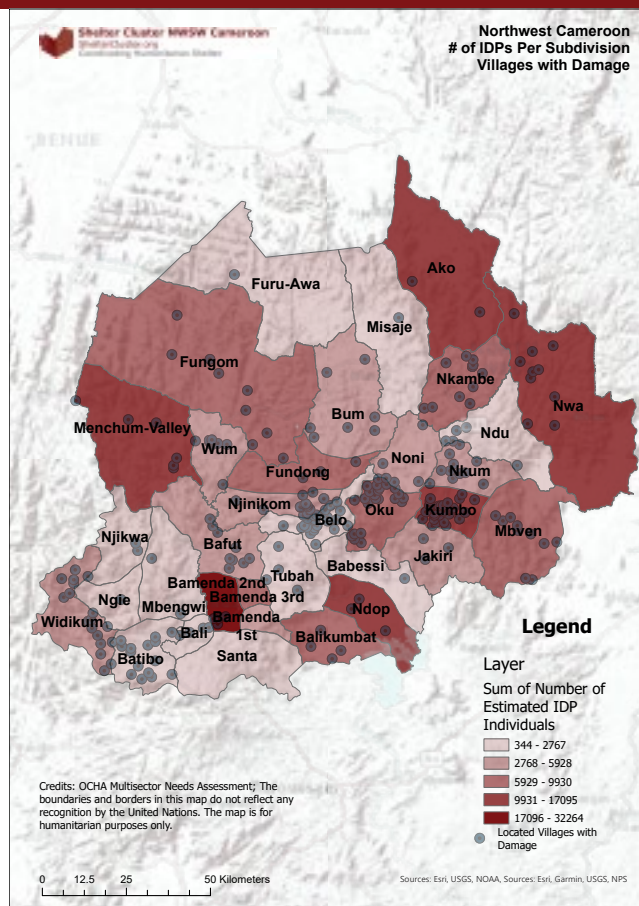
562,087 Internally Displaced Persons in the Northwest, Southwest, Littoral, and West Regions of Cameroon



of IDP Households Per Tenure Type



Internally Displaced Persons Shelter Conditions in the Northwest Region




14% of IDP
HHs in the
NW reported
the risk of
eviction

Majority IDP Shelter Types



768 Villages in Good Condition Mudbrick Houses
212 Villages in Good Condition Cement/Concrete Houses
49 Villages in Good Condition Timber/Wood Homes



231,281 IDPs



364 Villages in Damaged Mudbrick Houses
96 Villages in Damaged Cement/Concrete Houses
16 Villages in Damaged Timber/Wood Houses



225,516 IDPs
in need of
Shelter



329 Villages in Unfinished Mudbrick Houses
144 Villages in Unfinished Cement/Concrete Houses
17 Villages in Unfinished Timber/Wood Houses

NFI

121,165 IDPs
in need of
NFI



124 Villages in Good Condition Apartments
78 Villages in Unfinished Apartments
26 Villages in Damaged Apartments
6 Villages in Collective Shelters

% of HHs Shelter Severity:

- 12% Extremely Inadequate
- 48% Severely Inadequate
- 37% Moderately Inadequate
- 4% Minorly Inadequate



217 Villages in Makeshift Shelters
40 Villages in Damaged Makeshift Shelters
4 Villages in Cocoa Ovens



50 % of IDP households have 3 or more people per room



25 % of IDP household members have difficulties to walk or climb downstairs



49% don't have access to a washing facility



16% of Household members sleep on the floor
1% sleep outside

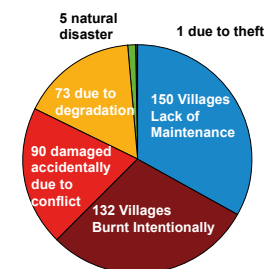


72% of IDPs have a latrine outside the shelter
10% don't and use the open air

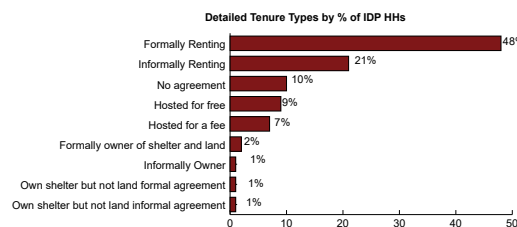
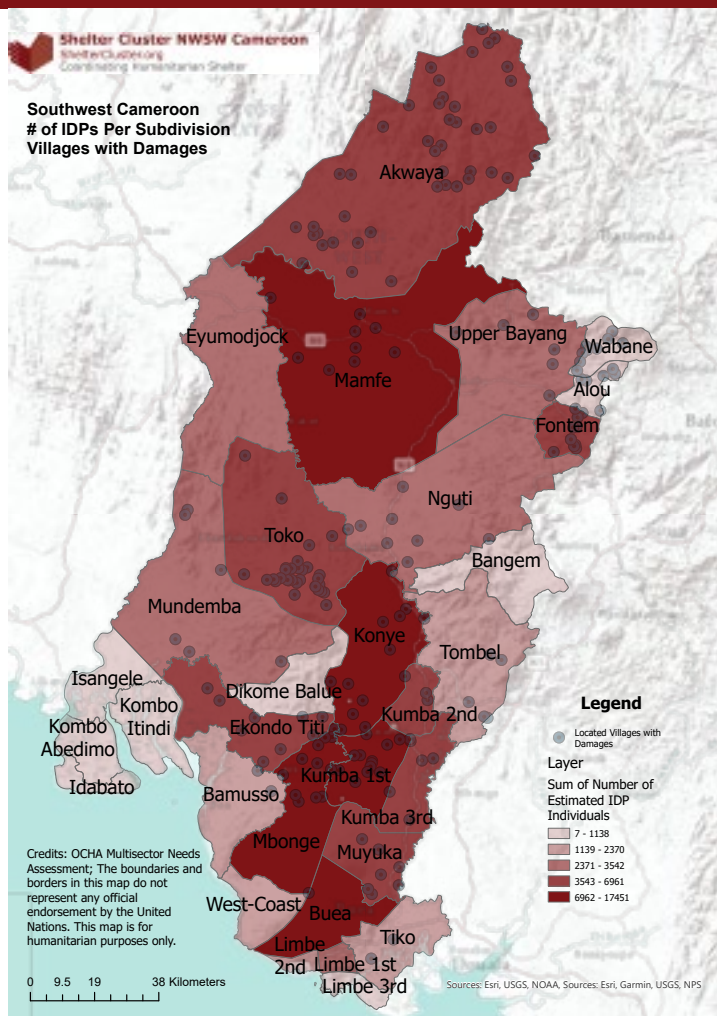


89% of IDPs who report damage in their shelter lack money for repairs

Cause of Damage to Shelters
of Villages



Internally Displaced Persons Shelter Conditions in the Southwest Region



36 % of IDP HHs in the SW reported the risk of eviction

Majority IDP Shelter Types



563 Villages in Good Condition Timber/Wood Homes
424 Villages in Good Condition Mudbrick Houses
402 Villages in Good Condition Cement/Concrete Houses



137,461 IDPs



141 Villages in Damaged Timber/Wood Houses
112 Villages in Damaged Mudbrick Houses
66 Villages in Damaged Cement/Concrete Houses



132,915 IDPs in need of Shelter



141 Villages in Unfinished Timber/Wood Houses
115 Villages in Unfinished Cement/Concrete Houses
108 Villages in Unfinished Mudbrick Houses



85 Villages in Good Condition Apartments
38 Villages in Unfinished Apartments
11 Villages in Collective Shelters
9 Villages in Damaged Apartments



143 Villages in Makeshift Shelters
59 Villages in Other Agricultural Infrastructure
25 Villages in Cocoa Ovens
20 Villages in Damaged Makeshift Shelters

NFI

62,063 IDPs in need of NFI

% of HHs Shelter Severity:

- 19% Extremely Inadequate
- 49% Severely Inadequate
- 30% Moderately Inadequate
- 2% Minorly Inadequate



67% of IDP households have 3 or more people per room



17 % of IDP household members have difficulties to walk or climb downstairs



72% don't have access to a washing facility



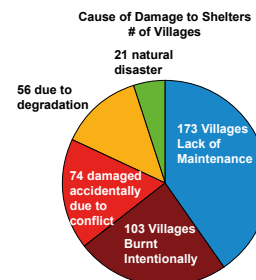
39% of Household members sleep on the floor
4% sleep outside



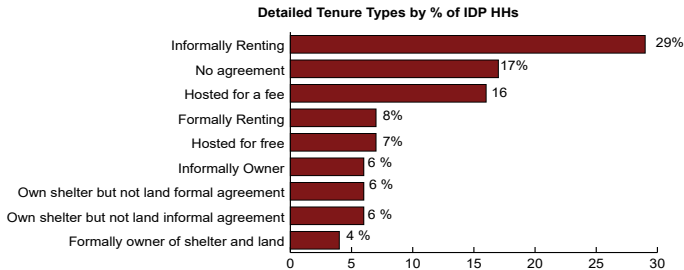
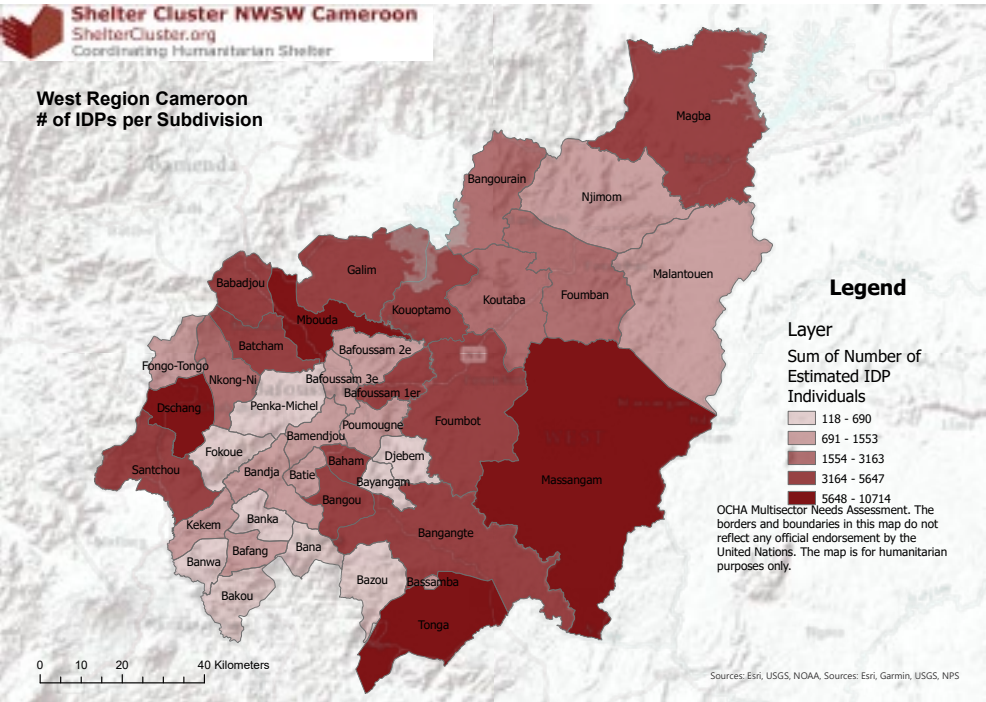
54% of IDPs have a latrine outside the shelter
41% don't and use the open air



68% of IDPs who report damage in their shelter lack money for repairs
7% need support but have no one to support them



Internally Displaced Persons Shelter Conditions in the West Region



Majority IDP Shelter Types



656 Villages in Good Condition Mudbrick Houses
350 Villages in Good Condition Cement/Concrete Houses
61 Villages in Good Condition Timber/Wood Homes



114,111 IDPs



246 Villages in Damaged Mudbrick Houses
102 Villages in Damaged Cement/Concrete Houses
26 Villages in Damaged Timber/Wood Houses



52,055 IDPs in need of Shelter



263 Villages in Unfinished Mudbrick Houses
115 Villages in Unfinished Cement/Concrete Houses
18 Villages in Unfinished Timber/Wood Houses



31,233 IDPs in need of NFI



134 Villages in Good Condition Apartments
41 Villages in Unfinished Apartments
18 Villages in Damaged Apartments
12 Villages in Collective Shelters



26 Villages in Makeshift Shelters
16 Villages in Other Agricultural Infrastructure
10 Villages in Damaged Makeshift Shelters



53% of IDP households have 3 or more people per room



28 % of Household members sleep on the floor
10 % sleep outside



49% don't have access to a washing facility



78 % of IDPs have a latrine outside the shelter
2 % don't and use the open air

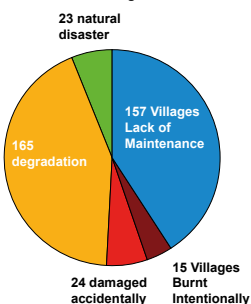


71 % of IDPs say that money would help them improve their current shelters



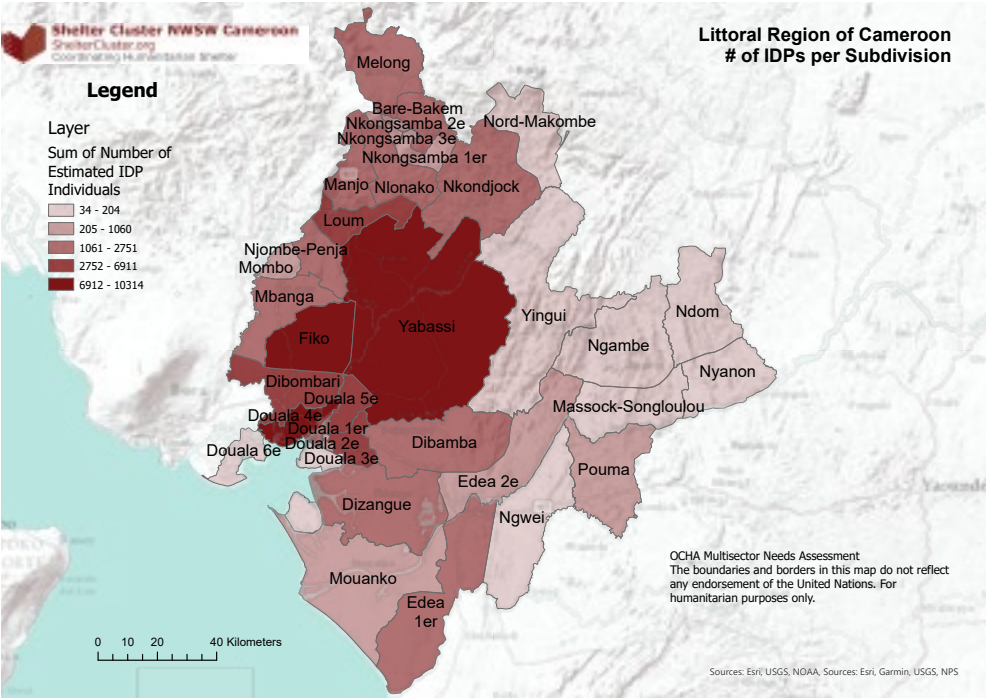
42 % of Key informants reported that IDP women and girls don't have enough privacy at home

Cause of Damage to Shelters
of Villages



20 % of Key informants reported that IDP women and girls don't feel that their home is secured

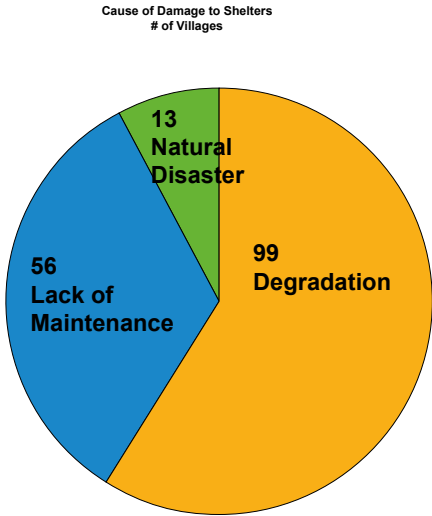
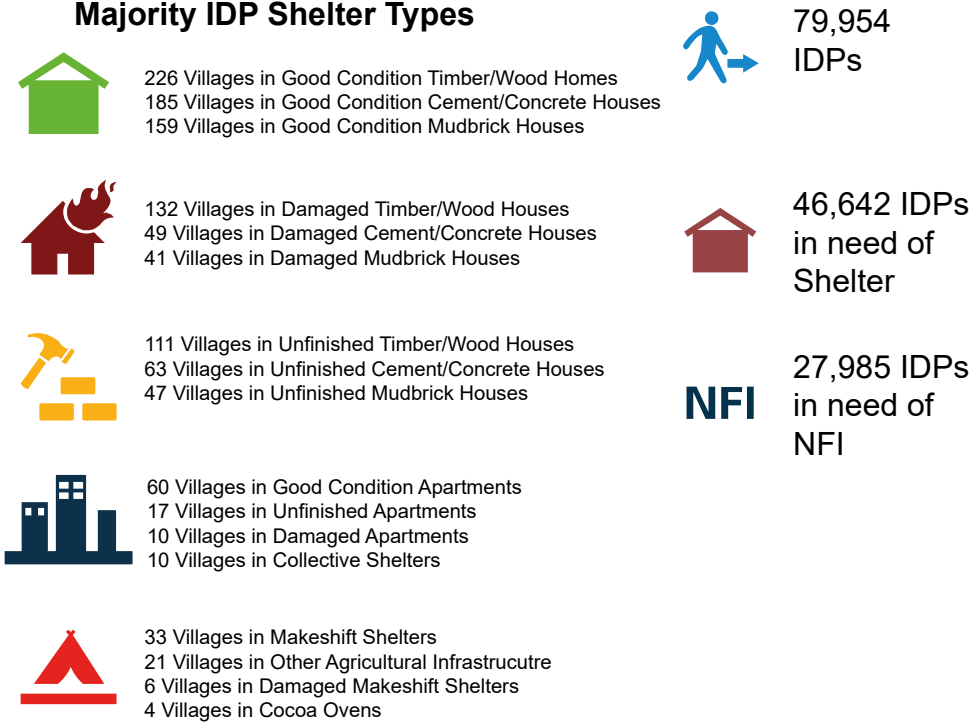
Internally Displaced Persons Shelter Conditions in the Littoral Region



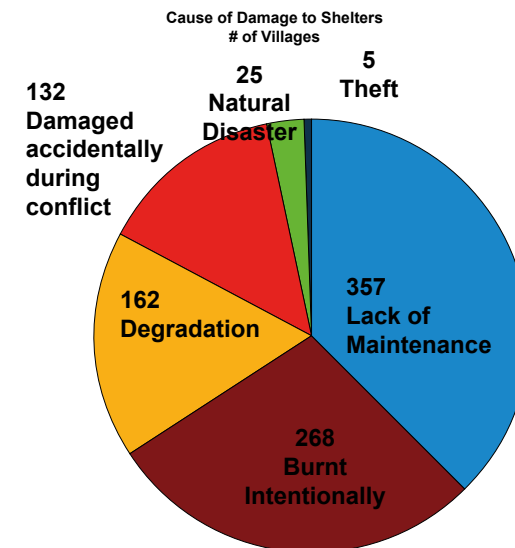
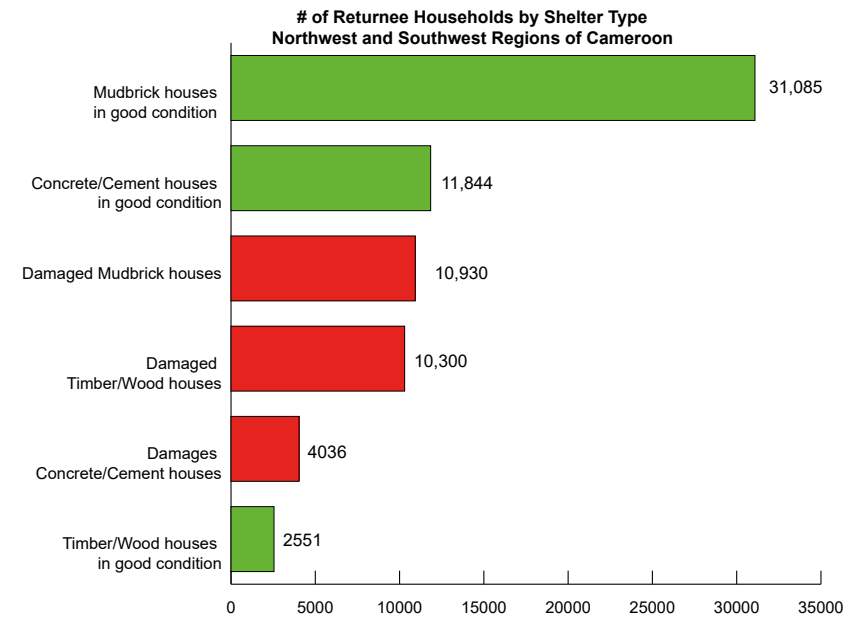
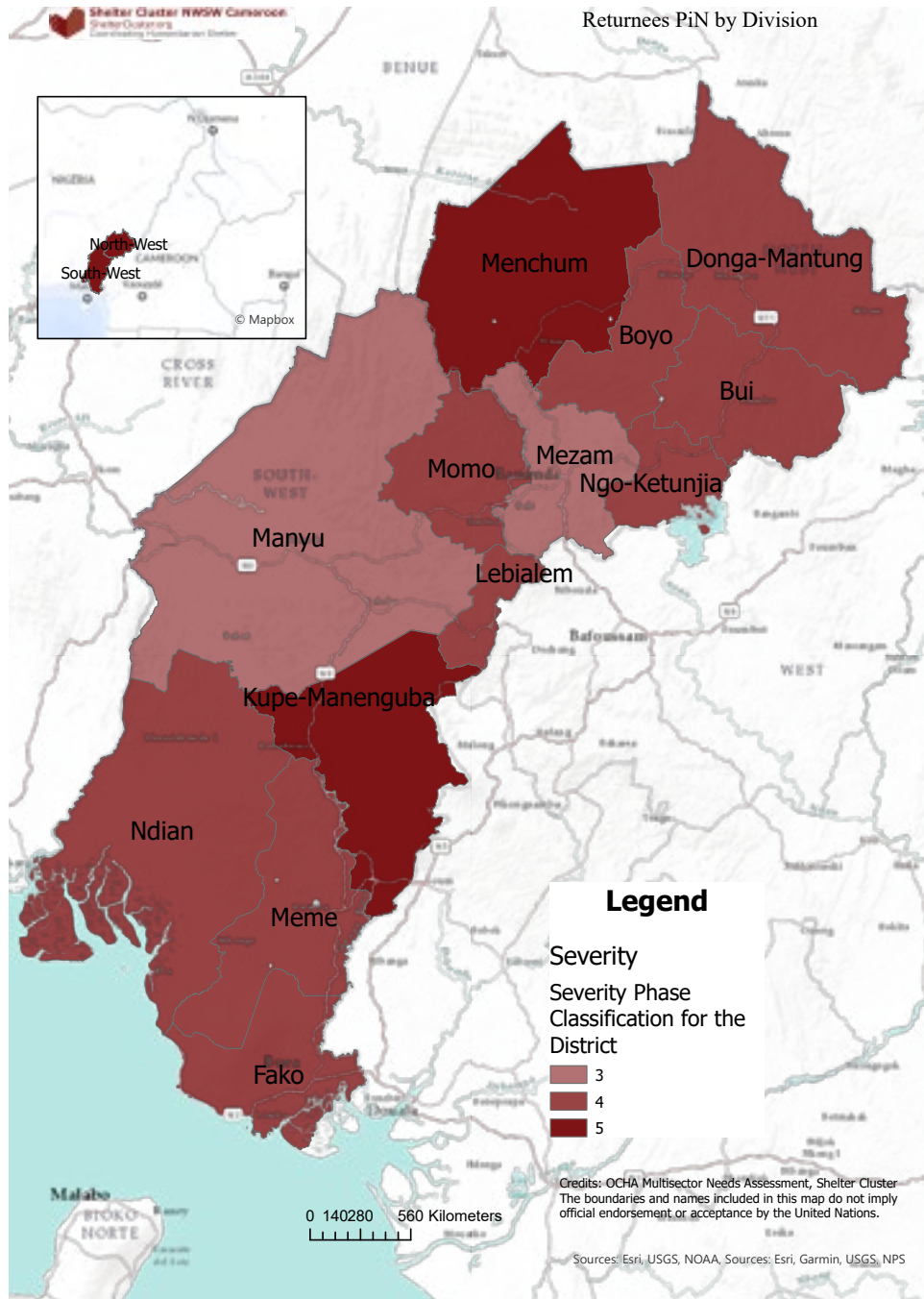
47% of Key informants reported that IDP women and girls don't have enough privacy at home

19% of Key informants reported that IDP women and girls don't feel that there home is secure

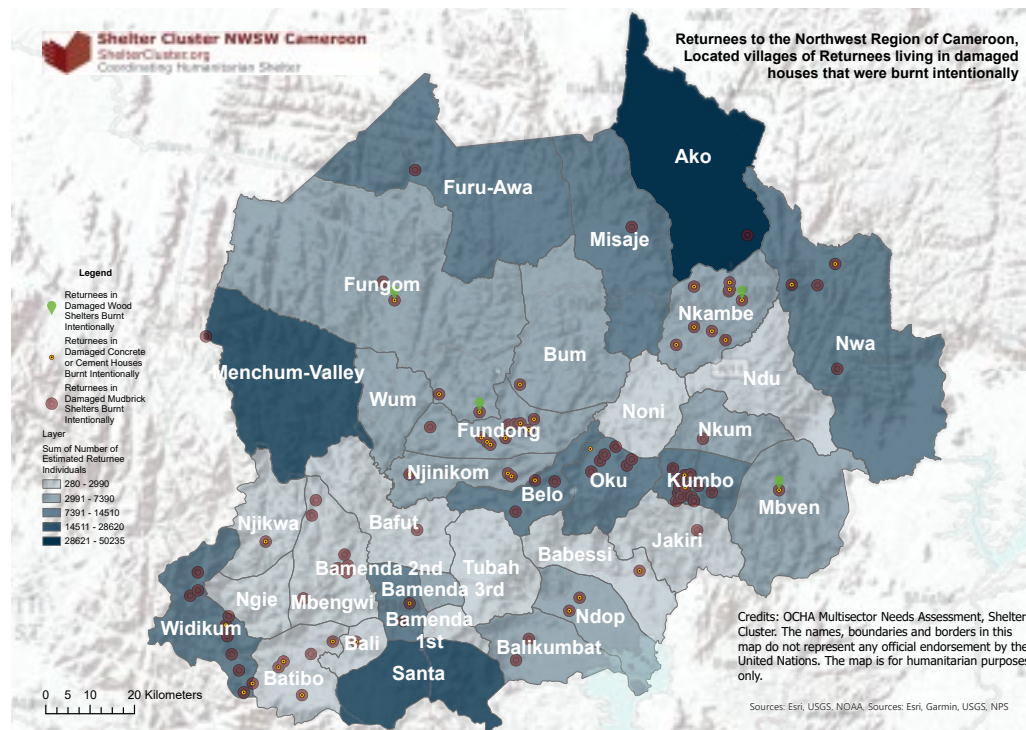
Majority IDP Shelter Types



419,734 Returnees to the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon



Returnees Shelter Conditions in the Northwest Region



Returnee Shelter Types



27,176 Households in Good Condition Mudbrick Houses
4967 Households in Good Condition Cement/Concrete Houses
333 Households in Good Condition Timber/Wood Homes



10,107 Households in Damaged Mudbrick Houses
2803 Households in Damaged Cement/Concrete Houses
156 Households in Damaged Timber/Wood Houses



1% of Returnee households live in apartments



256,616
Returnees



264,213 Returnees
in Need of Shelter

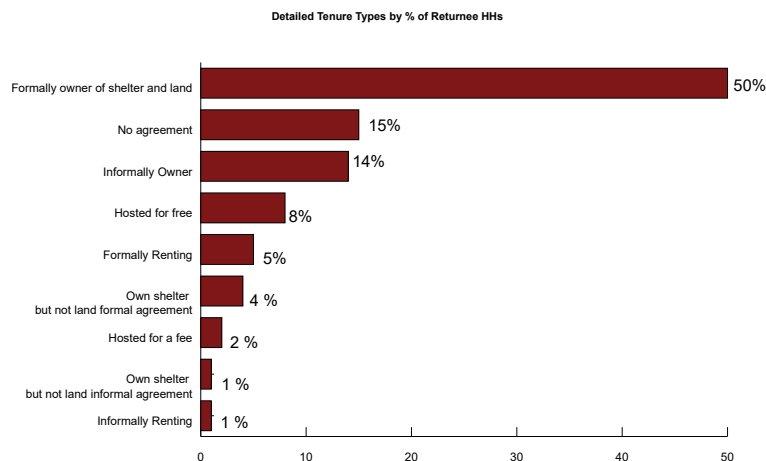


145,213 Returnees
in need of NFI



% of Returnee HHs by
Shelter Conditions:

- 3% Extremely Inadequate
- 25% Severe Inadequate
- 57% Moderately Inadequate
- 16% Minorly Inadequate



33 % of Returnee households have 3
or more people per room



34 % of Returnee household
members have difficulties to walk or
climb downstairs



56% don't have access to a washing
facility



8% of Household members sleep on
the floor
1% sleep outside

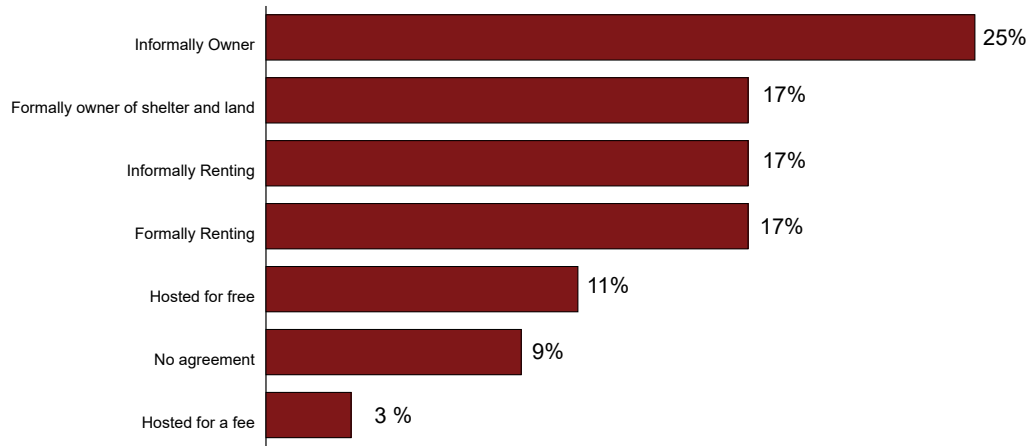
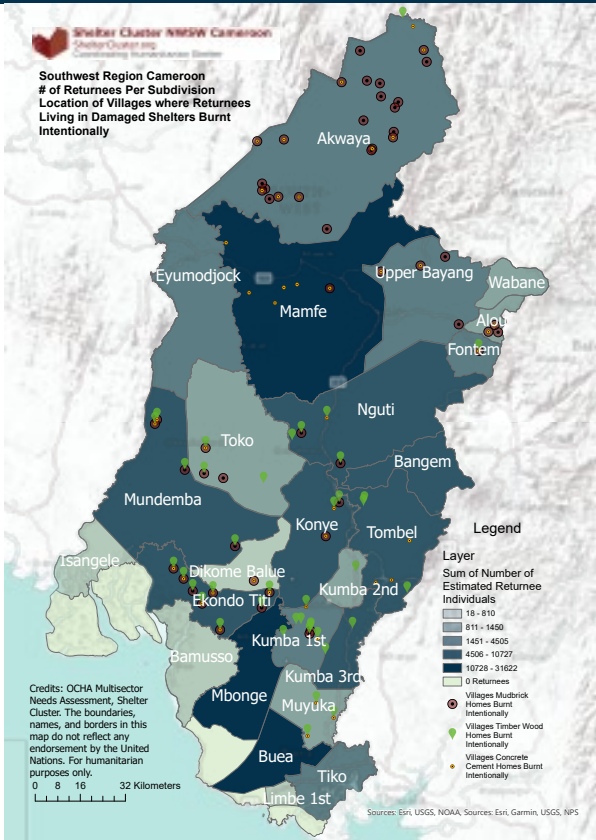


62% of Returnees have a latrine
outside the shelter
19% don't and use the open air



78% of Returnees who report
damage in their shelter lack money
for repairs

Returnees Shelter Conditions in the Southwest Region



Returnee Shelter Types



9967 Households in Good Condition Timber/Wood Homes
6877 Households in Good Condition Cement/Concrete Houses
3909 Households in Good Condition Mudbrick Houses



2395 Households in Damaged Timber/Wood Houses
1233 Households in Damaged Cement/Concrete Houses
823 Households in Damaged Mudbrick Houses



4% of Returnee households live in apartments



154,118
Returnees



150,758 Returnees
in Need of Shelter



95,309 Returnees
in Need of NFI



25 % of Returnee households have 3 or more people per room



26 % of Returnee household members have difficulties to walk or climb downstairs



82% don't have access to a washing facility



- % of Returnee HHs by Shelter Conditions:
- 12% Extremely Inadequate
 - 51% Severe Inadequate
 - 34% Moderately Inadequate
 - 3% Minorly Inadequate



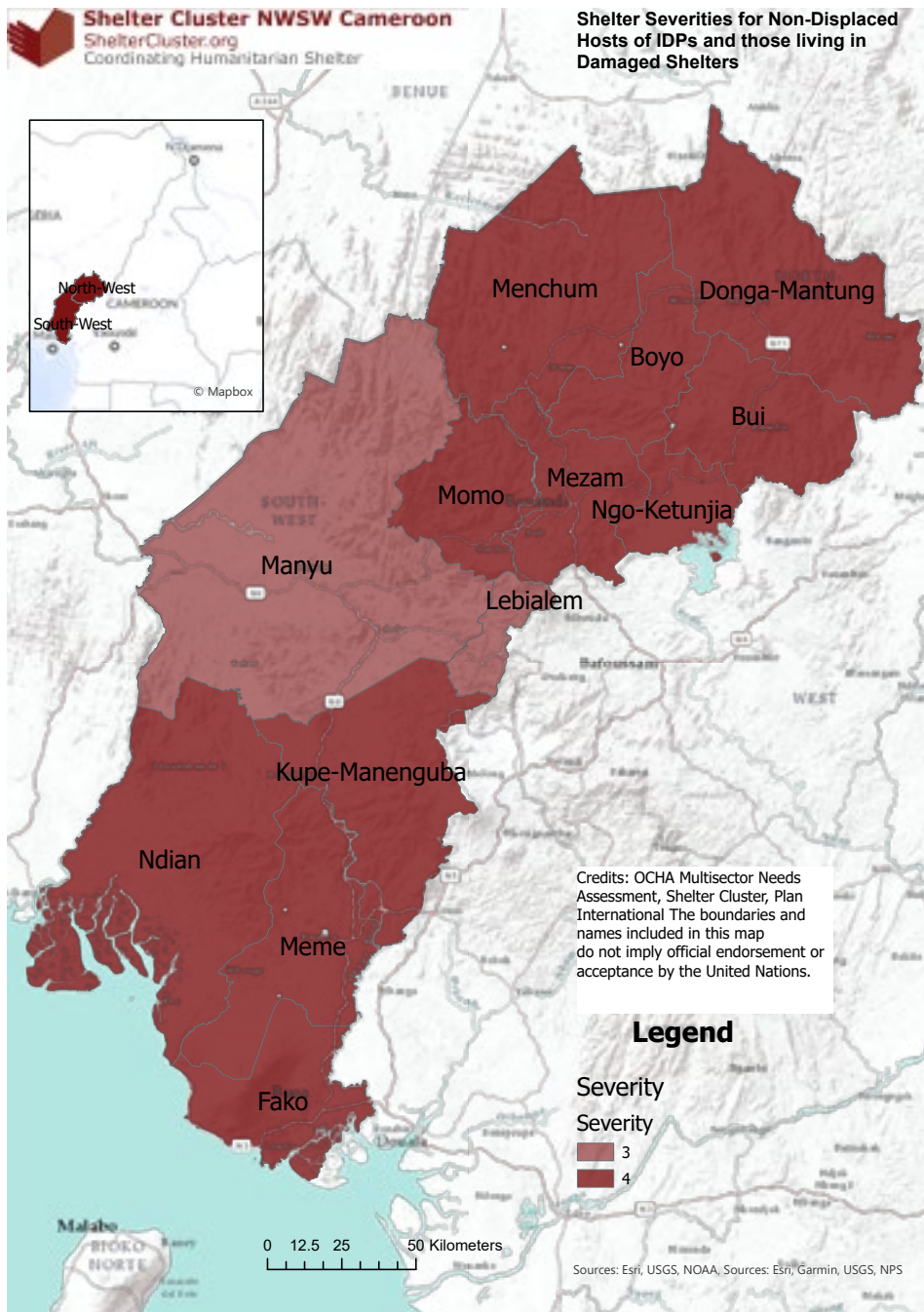
17% of Household members sleep on the floor
2% sleep outside



66% of Returnees have a latrine outside the shelter
25% don't and use the open air



77% of Returnees who report damage in their shelter lack money for repairs



Northwest Non-Displaced (Host and Vulnerable Living in Damaged Shelters)



77,944

Non-Displaced

Affected Population in Need of Shelter

53,002

NFI

Non-Displaced

Affected Population in Need of NFI

92% of HHs live in Mudbrick Homes

6% of HHs live in Concrete Homes



39% of HHs live in Damaged Mudbrick Homes

6% of HHs live in Damaged Concrete Homes



10% of HHs live in Apartments

6% of HHs live in Damaged Apartments



% of ND HHs by
Shelter Conditions:

- 2% Extremely Inadequate
- 19% Severely Inadequate
- 55% Moderately Inadequate
- 23% Minorly Inadequate

Southwest Non-Displaced (Host and Vulnerable Living in Damaged Shelters)



33,865

Non-Displaced

Affected Population in Need of Shelter

17,948

NFI

Non-Displaced

Affected Population in Need of NFI

40% of HHs live in Mudbrick Homes

33% of HHs live in Concrete Homes

24% of HHs live in Timber Homes

17% live in damaged Timber Homes

15% live in damaged Mudbrick Homes

12% live in damaged Concrete Homes

8% of HHs live in Apartments

4% of HHs live in Damaged Apartments

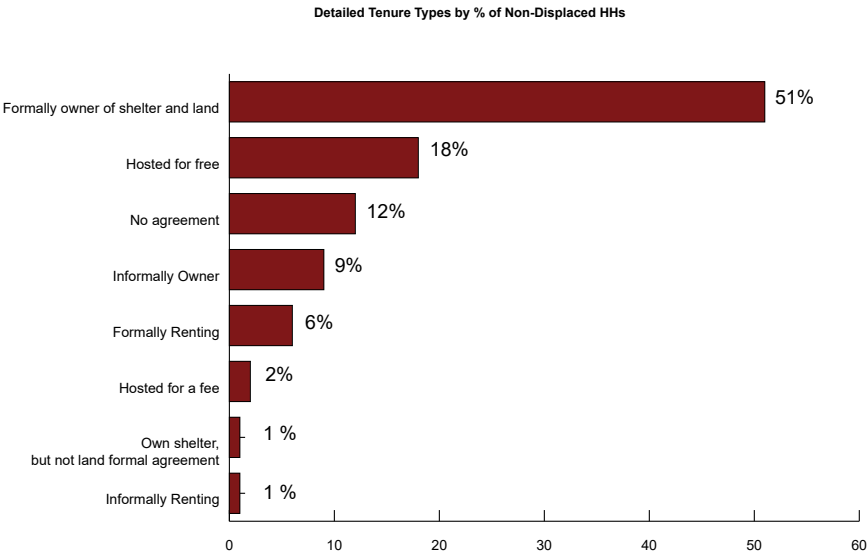
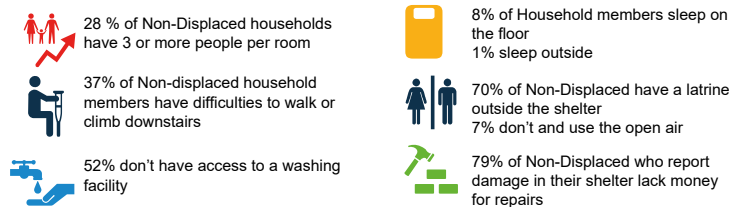


% of ND HHs by
Shelter Conditions:

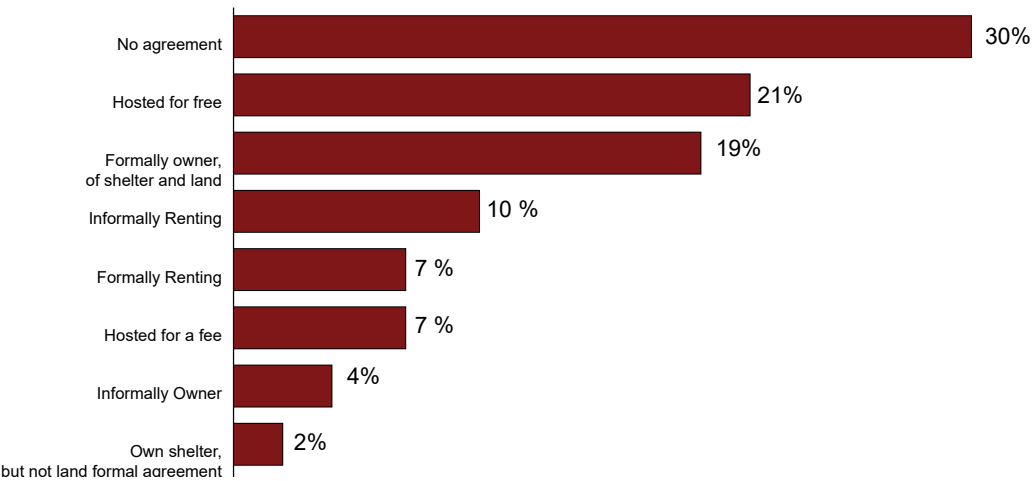
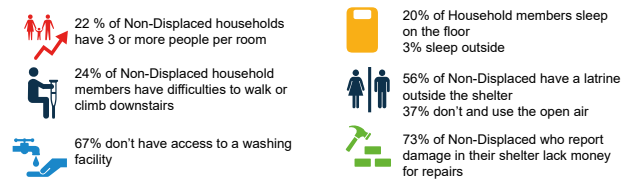
- 4% Extremely Inadequate
- 53% Severely Inadequate
- 37% Moderately Inadequate
- 7% Minorly Inadequate
- 1% Adequate

Non-Displaced Vulnerabilities Shelter Conditions

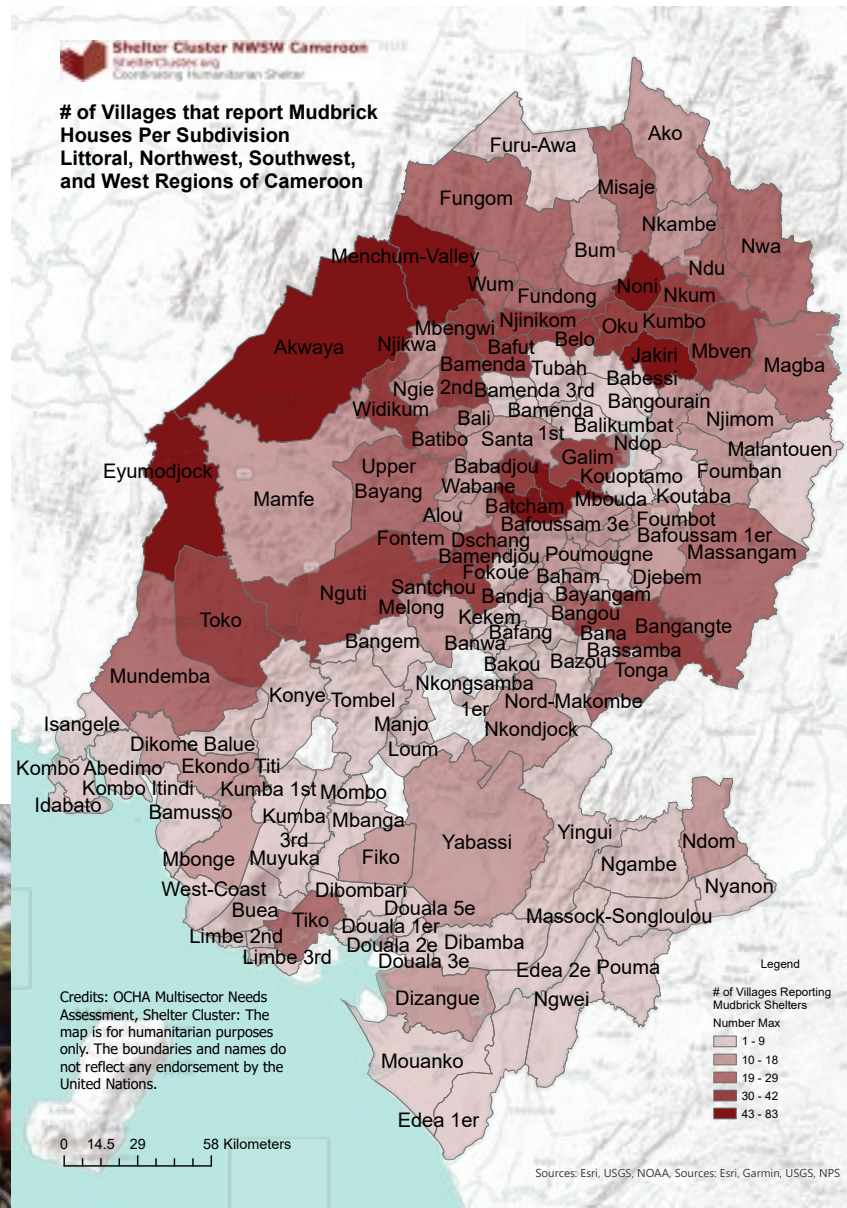
Northwest Non-Displaced



Southwest Non-Displaced



Mudbrick Houses



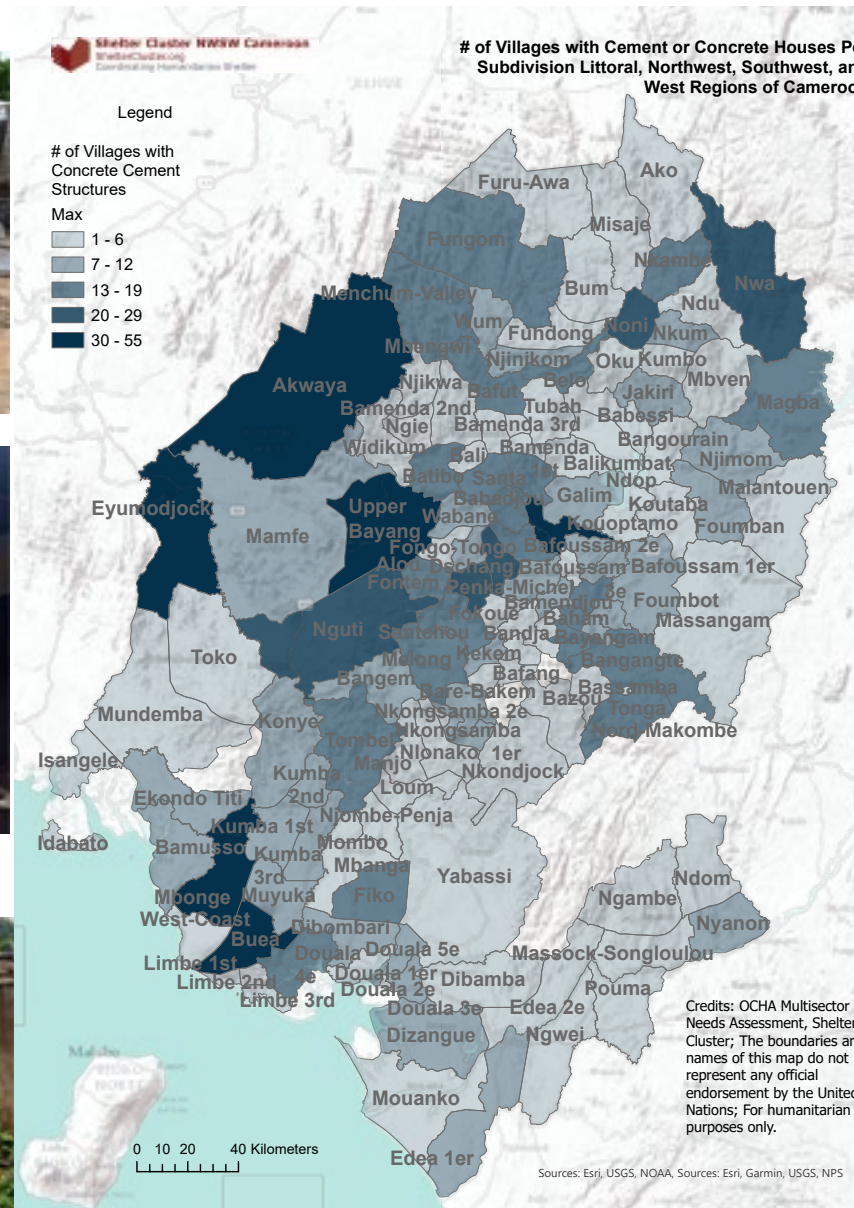
Mudbrick Homes represent the most common shelter types throughout the 4 regions impacted by the Northwest and Southwest crisis. While these types of shelter are most common in the Northwest and West region, the northern portion of the Southwest has quite a number of communities that also have mudbrick shelters. 53% of all household types in the Northwest and Southwest region reported having structures made of mudbrick. While most often mudbrick shelters have roofs made of zinc or corrugated iron sheeting, thatch roofs are also common.

Mudbrick houses are semi-permanent in nature and often face damages caused by intentional burning in the Northwest and Southwest but are at times also vulnerable to the strong wind and rains. Given the cultural acceptability of this form of building, even wealthy households use it in construction but complement and reinforce additional stories with cement to strengthen the vulnerability of the mudbricks during the rainy season and to reinforce the house's load-bearing weight.

Timber/Wood Frame Shelters

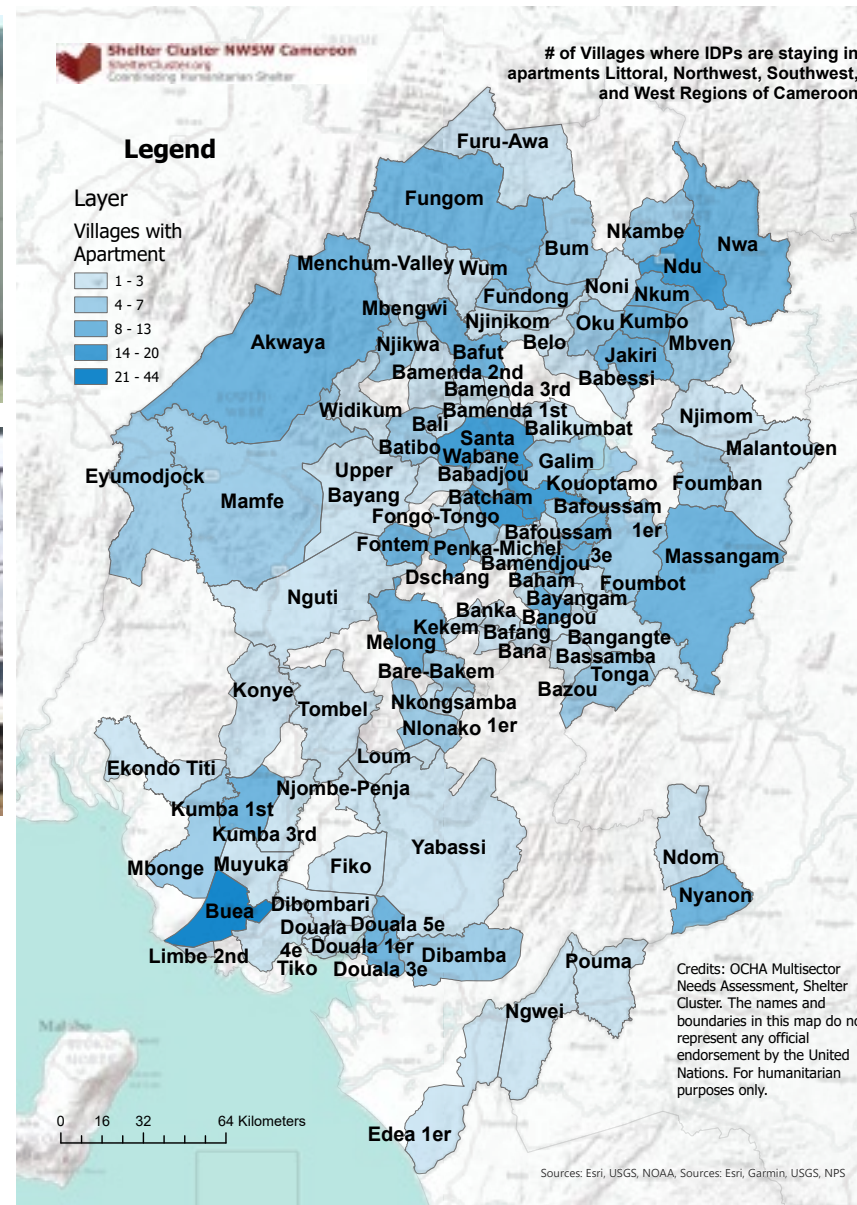


Timber/Wood Structure Houses are also fairly common shelter types in the four regions, primarily in the Southwest and Littoral regions. Timber structures are used as social housing structures by companies that provide shelter free of charge to their employees. The Cameroonian Development Cooperation for example uses these types of homes to house their workers. Many of the wooden homes along the road from Bafoussam to Douala also originated as part of company cooperatives. Because of the crisis in the Southwest, CDC homes and camps have been abandoned, and internally displaced persons have taken shelter in these abandoned structures. For those staying in CDC camps, additional concerns about safe access to latrines exist as men and women may use the same toilet block outside of the shelter. UNHCR and Plan International in 2021, in trying to provide better housing to extremely vulnerable protection cases also used wooden structures to house 16 households. Most wooden structures have CGI or zinc roofs.



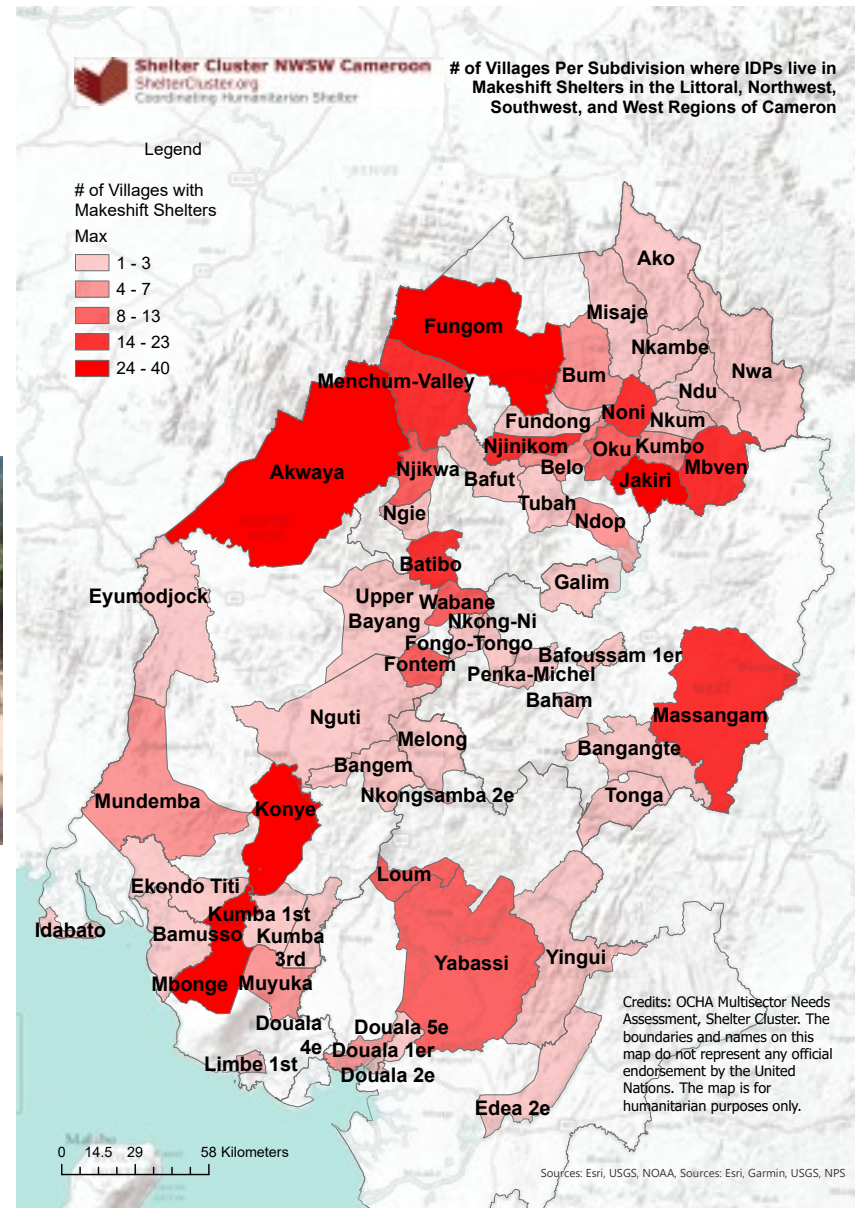
More classical houses use cement or concrete in the structure particularly in more urban areas of the Southwest, Littoral, Northwest, and West. With the economic crisis posed on international trade with Russian's aggression in Ukraine, cement prices have dramatically increased in the country. Concrete is also a common construction material, but is complicated in a number of communities in the Northwest and Southwest due to a lack of available gravel and cement in a number of the villages. As of August 2022, only 24% of assessed villages in the Northwest and Southwest regions had cement on the market. Concrete and cement houses sometimes add rock structures as a decorative element or as part of the structure. Such houses commonly have CGI sheets as the roofing material.

Apartments



Individual units either in a multi-story building or in a single story building, apartments are a shelter for internally displaced persons primarily in urban areas and centers. Affordability and adequacy of such shelters are a challenge for returnees and IDPs who may struggle to find livelihood opportunities and continue to pay landlords. It has been reported that some displaced families share one apartment leading to overcrowding (GBV risks) and causing hygienic risks due to many people using one toilet or bath. These exacerbated conditions further lead to the risk of eviction for these IDPs. IDPs have also been known to stay in unfinished apartment buildings in order to ensure they have a roof over their head while searching for employment and eventually improved shelter conditions.

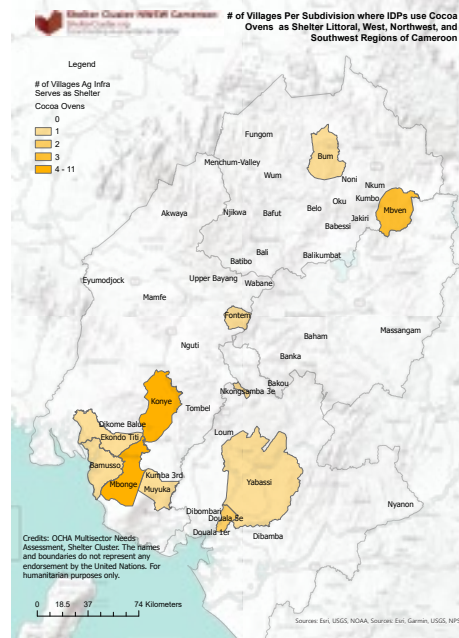
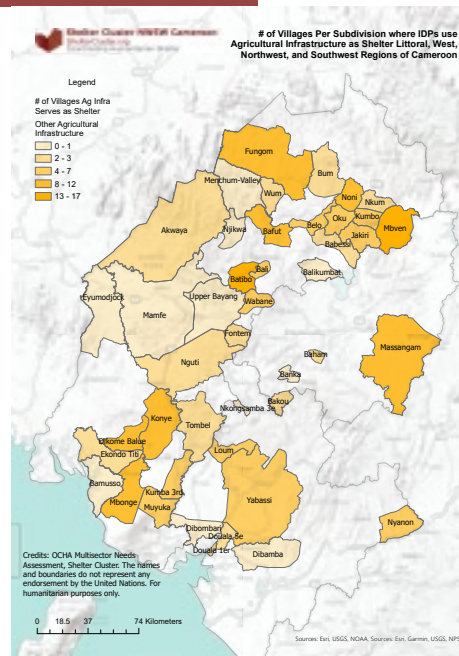
Makeshift Shelters



Makeshift shelters are typically found in informal settlements set up in the bush. Made from bush sticks, plastic, tarpaulin, thatch, bamboo, or wood - makeshift shelters can also be constructed with an emergency shelter kit with some support provided by the agency. The Shelter Cluster understands a makeshift shelter to be any structure that is not able to achieve habitability as the walls and roofs are primitive and will not succeed a duration of 6 months without maintenance. There are 68 bush settlements throughout the Northwest and Southwest regions with the majority found in Menchum Division in the Northwest followed by Meme in the Southwest. The Littoral and West regions also report to have 12 bush settlements with the majority in the Littoral region.



Cocoa Ovens and other Agricultural Infrastructure



Two specific types of makeshift shelters are agricultural infrastructure and cocoa ovens. Many of the communities affected by crisis and the communities to where internally displaced persons fled rely on farming or pastoralism as their principle livelihood. While not being able to afford shelter or find space with a host family, internally displaced persons have stayed and slept in agricultural infrastructure not designed for living. Such infrastructure ranges from shades made from thatch to barns and even cocoa ovens.

In several villages, it has also been reported that internally displaced people use cocoa ovens as a shelter. Typically part of the farm, where farmers dry cocoa. A shade made of CGI or wooden planks is at the top while IDPs place plastic, thatch, or other materials over the oven to use it as a sleeping and storage space.

Collective Shelters

There are only 46 Collective Shelters throughout the 4 regions: 22 Collective Shelters in the Northwest and Southwest and 24 Collective Shelters in the Littoral and West. In these regions, churches, schools, community halls, government buildings have also served as shelter for extremely vulnerable internally displaced people. Public buildings such as these are also used during some pendular displacements when new conflict incidents occur or in fear that a new attack will occur. Many of these shelters lack adequate shelter conditions and other key basic services. While the Shelter Cluster advocates with the Education Cluster that schools are not an adequate shelter, IDPs forced to resort to these shelters do so because many schools have been forced to stop operating due to the crisis. In addition to NFIs, privacy, and space, these Shelters also need access to basic services.