



**MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION**

# **EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS**

## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY  
H.E. ISSA TCHIROMA BAKARY  
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION**

*Yaoundé, July 05, 2018*

**Distinguished Journalists, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you are all aware, on June 20, 2018, the **Prime Minister, Head of Government** personally launched the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan decided by the **Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA**, in favour of the civilian population of the North-West and South- West Regions, victims of violence and other abuses perpetrated by terrorist gangs claiming to belong to secessionist movements in these two Regions.

I have therefore invited you to this press conference to recall the objectives of this important decision and to provide details on the areas of intervention and the conditions of implementation of this assistance plan.

I have the honour and the pleasure to be accompanied by **His Excellency the Minister of Territorial Administration**, who has been appointed by the **Head of State** to chair the Ad Hoc Committee tasked with coordinating the humanitarian response to the situation in the North West and South West regions.

**Excellency Mr Minister**, I wish you a warm welcome to the Ministry of Communication, on this occasion.

**Distinguished Journalists, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before getting into the crux of the matter, I would like to recall that actions had already been taken as part of national solidarity and the activities carried out by the territorially competent administrative authorities.

With regard to national solidarity, many displaced populations have been hosted by family members settled in more stable cities such as Yaoundé, Douala, Bamenda, Buea, Limbe or Bafoussam.

Other displaced populations have also benefited from the administrative measures in terms of reception, resettlement, feeding and distribution of essential items.

In the area of education, integration initiatives for students initially based in crisis areas continued and were escalated in the Littoral, West and Centre Regions throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

The Defense and Security Forces have also carried out civil-military actions for the benefit of the affected populations, such as the construction of drinking water points, the administration of basic health care, the supply of school equipment and the distribution of essential items among others.

It is worth noting that the emergency humanitarian assistance plan decided by the **Head of State**, of a higher dimension and scale, is a concrete translation of Government's resolve to provide adequate solutions to the actual needs of the people affected by the violence and other abuses perpetrated by the terrorist gangs.

As a matter of fact, the strategic objectives of this plan are the following: to restore a living environment conducive to the development of the communities concerned, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to populations in distress, to ensure the socio-economic reintegration of individuals and communities who are victims of violence and forced to move, to rehabilitate infrastructures

destroyed as a result of such violence, and in general to promote social cohesion and living together.

This emergency humanitarian assistance plan targets both displaced and refugee populations, with the understanding that under humanitarian law, displaced populations are those who, faced with a particular crisis situation, are obliged to abandon their usual places of residence but to settle elsewhere within the national territory; whereas the refugee populations are those who, faced with the same crisis situations, also quit their original places of residence to rather settle outside the national territory.

The emergency humanitarian assistance plan covers a number of areas, including housing, agriculture, livestock, food, education, health, civil status and, in general terms, administrative documents.

In the area of health, the destroyed, abandoned or closed health facilities will be rehabilitated, and awareness raising campaigns on hygiene and sanitation measures to be observed by the populations will be conducted, in order to reduce the risks of diseases or epidemics.

With regard to education, the deserted schools or those that have been burned by the terrorist bands will be rehabilitated and secured in view of a smooth start of the 2018-2019 academic year.

As far as housing is concerned, a dual action will be implemented for the establishment of emergency shelters for internally displaced populations and the reconstruction of dwellings burned and ransacked by terrorists.

As to agro-pastoral assistance, significant support will be provided to the populations such as the provision of agricultural inputs and the restocking of herds that were looted by terrorists during their raids and other hostages.

To ensure the protection of vulnerable groups, awareness campaigns against gender-based violence, early and forced marriages, early pregnancies, the enrolment of youths in armed groups and their training in crime and the trivialization of death and drug consumption will be carried out.

Psycho-social assistance will also be systematically provided to victims.

As part of this plan, some Senior officials will pay assistance and comfort visits to populations who found refuge in Nigeria.

The budget of the implementation of the emergency humanitarian assistance plan decided by the **Head of State** is estimated at CFAF 12 716 500 000 (twelve billion seven hundred and sixteen million five hundred thousand).

All these activities will be preceded by field trips to the populations directly concerned and community leaders, to enable them to understand both the content and the merits of this assistance program and take ownership of it.

The implementation of activities under the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan will be carried out through a mixed team of national institutional stakeholders, civil society organizations and bilateral and multilateral partners.

We should already be happy with the favorable response of the populations and national social groups to this initiative of the **President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA**, who demonstrates, if that were still necessary, how his heart goes out to his compatriots who are enduring torments and sufferings because of the extremism and obscurantism of some misguided people, though marginal.

The **Head of State** is thus giving a strong indication of his determination to bring the situation back to normal, to ensure the well-being of his fellow citizens and to promote the ideals of solidarity, peace and social cohesion that are the cardinal values of our nation.

On behalf of the Government, I would also like to acknowledge the enthusiasm shown by our bilateral and multilateral partners through their multifaceted support for the effective implementation of this emergency humanitarian assistance plan in the North West and South Regions.

To you, **Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished Journalists**, I urge you to accompany this vast movement in the sense of a civic commitment and solidarity with our compatriots, whoever and wherever they may be, when it comes to protecting and upholding the fundamental values of the Nation.

Thank you for your kind attention.