

Mamfe

Mamfe Central is home to about 34,234 residents, while the subdivision could host up to 290,000 individuals.¹ According to the OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment, there are 6,180 IDPs who are taking Shelter in Mamfe. 53% of IDPs arrived to Mamfe Central between 2017-2020, when the crisis first started. The majority of IDPs are displaced from neighbouring Akwaya Subdivision or also from Mamfe Subdivision itself.² Due to continued attacks on civilians and armed clashes³, internal displacement was also recorded as recently as March to August 2022 but in a lesser amount⁴. There are a number of vulnerable categories amongst the internally displaced in Mamfe including single female headed households, single male headed households, elderly headed households, child headed households, and separated and unaccompanied children.

Shelter types in Mamfe include primarily mudbrick or concrete homes or concrete apartment buildings. 654 IDP households are renting their accommodation, 346 are hosted by host families, and 30 are staying in their own shelters or staying without permission in their shelters. The average cost of rent is said to be around 1500 XAF per month, primarily of one-room apartments⁵, while according to a household survey, the rent can range anywhere from 1000 XAF per month to 35,000 XAF per month for an annual cost per month of around 13,000 XAF.⁶

There are currently 7200 returnees estimated to be staying in Mamfe Central. The majority were displaced to other areas of the Southwest or Littoral region, but some also fled to Nigeria to escape the crisis. Many have returned due to the better access to livelihoods that they have in their area of origin. 500 of these returnee households are living in good condition mudbrick houses, another 500 households are living in good condition concrete houses, while 200 are living in good condition timber houses. The Shelter Cluster ranked Mamfe as having Shelter Severity Level 2 for the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022. While shelter conditions may be better off within Mamfe Central, outside in Mamfe Subdivision the Shelter situation through a household survey was found to be in Severity 4 having severe inadequacies.

Mamfe city is found in a region that is mostly dense tropical forest, while Mamfe Central is mostly constructed and built-up area. The main soil types in Mamfe are sandy soil, topsoil, and red clay. Mamfe Central is also surrounded by many farmlands. Due to the surrounding tropical forests, Mame Subdivision has reported the extraction of many of its timber resources but has struggled to keep a record on the exact quantity of resources that were extracted. Its natural resources have created a number of employment opportunities for residents of Mamfe Central including timber production and transportation, and the selling of wild game and bush meat. The Mamfe Municipality has reported the existence of mineral reserves including crude oil, salt and bauxite. Small quarries exist, and illegal extraction of these minerals has been reported. There are no nature reserves in Mamfe.⁷

Mamfe's potable water is mostly transferred through pipes or through community water schemes. Mamfe municipality reported lack of access to potable water in all communities in Mamfe before the crisis due to lack of equal distribution of the water pipe network, and non-functional community water schemes, mainly due to the lack of the population's purchasing capacity to pay the water

¹ Landsat Population Dataset 2021 Oakridge Laboratory

² OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment

³ ACLED

⁴ OCHA MSNA

⁵ OCHA MSNA

⁶ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

⁷ https://www.pndp.org/documents/15_CDP_Mamfe1.pdf

bills.⁸ According to the OCHA MSNA, the main source of drinking water for the affected population is water from tap stands which is treated by most households and found 15 minutes from the area where they are living. The population has mentioned that challenges to drinking water arise from non-functional tap stands and having too few water points from where to collect water.⁹ In terms of sanitation, 80% of the crisis affected population has latrines outside in communal and shared facilities,¹⁰ with the majority of these being pit latrines. The OCHA MSNA reports that there is no presence of open defecation in Mamfe Central.¹¹ Mamfe has reported to struggle with waste management. Several waste management practices have been reported including landfill waste management, burning of waste, and composting. Piles of trash are found around urban areas of Mamfe, and when the piles become large, residents burn the trash without disposing of the waste. The accumulation of waste is causing many environmental hazards to the town including pollution of rivers and streams and the exposure of its residences to health hazards.¹²

ENEO Cameroon is the main provider of electricity to Cameroon.¹³ Nevertheless, the small sample size of households in a household assessment done in December 2021 reported that they never have lighting at night. When looking at the Subdivision level of Mamfe, 54% of households reported that they never have electricity. Main sources of lighting were flashlights, candles, bush and solar lamps, and the electrical grid. The majority of cooking spots are outside of the home in shared spaces, with wood being the main cooking source also accompanied by a few minor cases of charcoal and gas.¹⁴

Mamfe town is said to have 5 functional healthcare facilities, which include a public hospital, a private hospital, and health centres. These locations are found less than 15 minutes from where IDPs are living and the majority of IDPs have access to healthcare.¹⁵

Main livelihood activities include farming and agriculture, petty trading, and daily casual labour.¹⁶ Food is produced through purchasing in the local market and also through one's own production of food. Coping mechanisms including reducing one's own consumption to feed children, spending one's saving, borrowing on credit, and relying on cheaper food. Markets are available throughout market, with the central complaint being that the items are too expensive.¹⁷ Mamfe is easily accessible through road access. Humanitarian access to Mamfe is available with Shelter Cluster partner Caritas with the support of UNHCR delivering Shelter and NFI assistance to 439 households in November 2022.¹⁸ LUKMEF is also providing humanitarian assistance in the area of health and WASH in Mamfe Central.¹⁹

⁸ https://www.pndp.org/documents/15_CDP_Mamfe1.pdf

⁹ OCHA Multisector Needs Assessment

¹⁰ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

¹¹ OCHA MSNA

¹² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342892632_Indiscriminate_Waste_Disposal_and_Health_Hazards_in_Mamfe_Cameroon

¹³ https://www.pndp.org/documents/15_CDP_Mamfe1.pdf

¹⁴ <https://sheltercluster.org/north-west-south-west/pages/shelter-cluster-household-assessment-northwest-and-southwest-regions>

¹⁵ OCHA MSNA

¹⁶ OCHA MSNA and Plan International Shelter Cluster Assessment

¹⁷ OCHA MSNA

¹⁸ Shelter Cluster 5W

¹⁹ OCHA MSNA