



WHO WE ARE



Caritas Bamenda is a faith-based humanitarian organization of the Archdiocese of Bamenda operating in the North West region of Cameroon. Guided by the social teaching of the church, our mission is to promote human dignity, social justice, and integral development among vulnerable populations affected by crisis and disaster. We envision a society where individuals have their rights respected, live in peace, and have access to essential services. With a strong humanitarian response mandate, we provide emergency relief, assistance, and support to internally displaced persons, refugees, host communities, women, children, the elderly, and other marginalized groups. Our response encompasses essential supplies, protection activities, peacebuilding efforts, and sustainable livelihood interventions.

By our faith-based nature and established community structures, we actively engage with and gain trust from the community, ensuring interventions are community-driven and culturally sensitive. By involving local staff, volunteers, and the community in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of programs, we ensure that interventions are community-driven and empower individuals to take ownership of their own development. This approach contributes to building resilience within the communities and results in long-term positive impacts. As the armed conflict situation in the North West and

South West Regions of Cameroon changes and new challenges arise, we remain adaptable and responsive to emerging challenges. Our operations are flexible, allowing us to partner with other actors to effectively address the changing needs on the ground. Our presence in remote areas ensures aid reaches even the most marginalized communities. By providing life-saving assistance, restoring dignity, and promoting peace and reconciliation in affected communities, we play a crucial role in alleviating suffering and fostering positive change.



OUR SCOPE

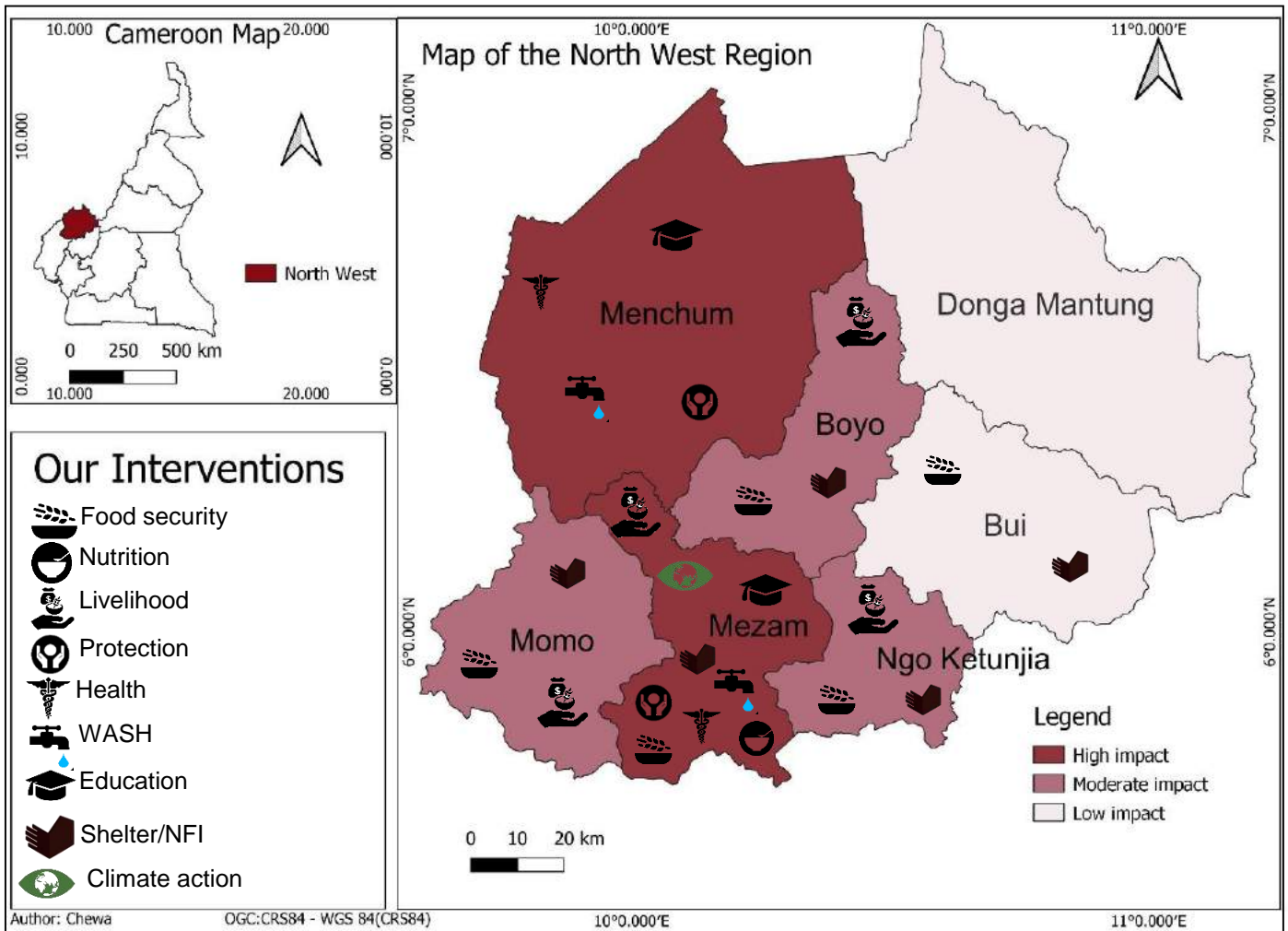


Figure 1: Impact of Caritas Bamenda in the North West Region, Cameroon.

Communities Targeted

North West Region

Mezam Division: Bamenda 1,2,3, Bafut (Nso Bawum Bafut), Tubah – Bambui (Felieh, Mantabang, Mushu, Azotiswih, Mbeh) & Babanki Tungo (Upper and Lower Village).

Menchum Division: Benakuma, Wum and Weh.

Momo Division: Mbengwe, Batibo, Njikwa:

Boyo Division: Belo.

Ngoketunja Division: Ndop and Balikumbat.

Bui: Oku

South West Region

Mamfe Division: Okoyong

Current Humanitarian Situation and Need

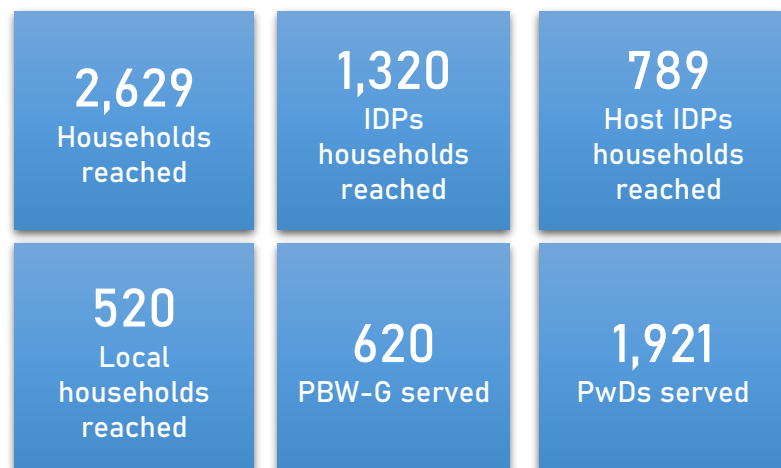
The ongoing armed conflict has resulted in the displacement of the population, with close to 2000 persons¹ being displaced towards the end of the year further leading to disruption of livelihoods, social structures, and community cohesion. Displaced individuals and host communities face increased pressure on limited resources, including food, water, and healthcare services. The conflict has led to loss of lives, destruction of property instilling fear and insecurity among the population. Approximately 360¹ children in the region suffered from severe acute malnutrition, highlighting the dire humanitarian situation. Access to basic needs, such as food, clean water, healthcare, and education, remains a significant challenge for the affected population.

Agricultural activities, which are a primary source of income and livelihood for many communities, have been severely disrupted due to insecurity. Artisanal farmers have been unable to cultivate

their lands, resulting in reduced crop production and income loss. This has led to increased food insecurity, and a heavy reliance on external assistance for basic needs. Additionally, the conflict has hindered trade and commercial activities, leading to the closure of businesses, job losses, and a decline in economic opportunities. Small-scale entrepreneurs, such as artisans and traders, have been particularly affected by the instability, as they struggle to sustain their businesses and generate income. The diversion of resources and attention towards conflict-related issues may hinder the region's ability to address long-term environmental challenges and build resilience to climate change impacts. Humanitarian organizations are working diligently to address the needs of the affected population even though the crisis still remain one of most underfunded in the world. Their efforts include providing emergency relief, such as food, water, and medical assistance, as well as supporting protection services and livelihoods.

RESPONSE

Food Security



Addressing food insecurity in the North West Region, Caritas Bamenda in collaboration with Caritas Germany and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is currently responding to the urgent food needs of the most affected population through in-kind and in-cash (e-voucher) assistance respectively. Globally, 2,629 households received in-kind and in-cash food assistance in the last quarter of 2023 to address their immediate food need. Majority (65%) of the households supported were women led. A total of 25 metric tons of nutritious rice, 2.275 metric tons of vegetable oils and 2,129 e-voucher cards were distributed to vulnerable households in the NWR led by IDPs, Host IDPs, and local vulnerable. The food assistance directly benefited 14,398 individuals and 13.3% were persons with disabilities and 4.3% being pregnant breastfeeding women and girls (PBW-G). In addition to food assistance, Caritas Bamenda disseminated key messages on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), empowering caregivers with knowledge on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and disease prevention. This integrated approach is aimed at addressing food insecurity and malnutrition among vulnerable persons fostering social cohesion and meeting household immediate food need in the North West Region.



In-cash (e-voucher) food assistance to participant, NWR



In-kind food assistance to participant, NWR

¹ Cameroon: North-West and South-West - Situation Report No. 58 (September-October 2023) | OCHA (unocha.org)

Livelihoods

350 Households reached	150 IDPs households reached	123 Host IDPs households reached
77 Local households reached	103 PBW-G served	301 PwDs served

In order to combat food insecurity in rural areas within Mezam facing significant poverty challenges exacerbated by the crisis, a comprehensive economic empowerment initiative was implemented in collaboration with Malteser International, CRS and Caritas Germany. This initiative aimed to promote the development of sustainable income-generating activities, enhance community resilience, and combat food insecurity in the targeted communities in the NWR through sustainable income-generating activities, specifically in areas of market gardening, livestock farming, and artisanal fishery. Through in-kind support, a total of 240 small holder farmers were provided with farming kits including a variety of seeds such as tomatoes, huckleberries, pepper, parsley, celery, onions, carrots, basil, and leeks, along with fertilizers, pesticides, and tools like wheelbarrows, hoes, spades, knapsacks, watering cans, and rain boots. This allowed them to cultivate diverse nutritious crops and establish small-scale vegetable production systems for income generation to improve on their standard of living. About 73.8% households assisted were female led. A total of 3,970 individuals are expected to benefit from the market gardening initiative.

In the area of livestock, 50 purebred Neima pig species and 75 bags of growers feed were donated to 25 trained pig farmers. Each received 2 piglets of opposite sexes and three bags of feed to sustain their growth and development. Additionally, 25 participants, with focus on persons with disabilities, were provided with two kids of African dwarf goats for capraiculture, enabling them to engage in livestock rearing and income diversification. Another 50 participants received support for artisanal fishing, including one plastic adapted pond each, 300 advanced juvenile catfish, and two bags of fish feed. Additionally, 110 vulnerable households were supported with inputs for poultry production. Each participant received 43 chicks of 3 weeks old, feeds, drinkers and feeders.

Participants also received extensive training in farm and livestock management. The training focused on various aspects such as crop cultivation techniques, animal care, feed composition and sustainable farming practices, and bookkeeping for effective record-keeping and financial management. They were also linked to markets for their products. This approach created a supportive environment that promoted self-sufficiency, empowering the participants with knowledge and skills to attain sustainable livelihoods.



Distribution of market gardening inputs to participants in North West Region Cameroon



Market Gardening initiative in Bambui, North West Region Cameroon



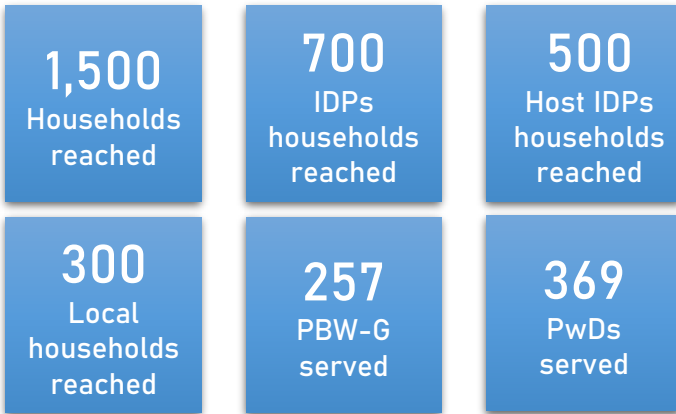
Artisanal household fish support in Babanki Tungo, North West Region Cameroon



Livestock support and Farming in Communities within North West Region of Cameroon.



WATER SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)



During the last quarter of the year, Caritas Bamenda still in collaboration with Malteser international donated four (4) solarized boreholes in Bafut, North West Region, and Okoyong, South West Region. These boreholes significantly increased the daily water supply in each community by 40,000 liters (80,000litres in both communities), benefitting an estimated population of 6,137 individuals. Given the prevailing armed conflict, access to clean and portable water has become even more critical for the affected communities and elsewhere, as infrastructure and resources have been severely disrupted. The provision of solarised boreholes has not only addressed the immediate water needs but has also contributed to improving the overall living conditions and resilience of the communities in the face of the crisis. In addition, a community water catchment was constructed in Mushu quarter, Bambui, North West Region, and distributed to four tap stands within the community ensuring access to water serving approximately 2,241 individuals. These tap stands have not only provided a lifeline for the community's water requirements but have also enhanced their ability to sustain other activities such as artisanal agricultural activities to cope the economic hardship imposed on the population by the crisis. Sensitization campaigns were also conducted so as to mitigate health risks in the areas of implementation. By raising awareness and promoting hygiene practices, Caritas Bamenda contributed to reducing the spread of diseases and improving the overall well-being of the communities. To complement this activity, a total of 2,000 narrow neck containers, 3,000 buckets and 2,000 hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable households in NWSW to enhance their access to proper water storage facilities while simultaneously improving household hygiene practices. Additionally, adolescent girls were provided with dignified high-quality menstrual hygiene kits as top up to support their personal hygiene needs. The aim of this intervention was to promote dignity and ensure improved sanitation for these vulnerable populations. The WASH assistance has had a profound impact on the lives of the affected communities, providing them with vital access to water, supporting their resilience in the face of the armed conflict, and promoting improved hygiene practices to safeguard their health.



Constructed solarized borehole donated to the community of Nso-Bawum Bafut



Distribution of narrow neck containers and hygiene kits in Okoyong, South West



Distribution of narrow neck containers and hygiene kits in Bafut, North West



Health

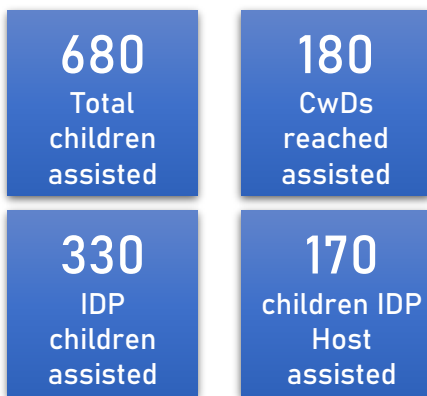
Through the disability empowerment programme funded by the Liliane Foundation, Caritas Bamenda in partnership with the CBCHS and through other initiatives such as UNICEF and Caritas Germany provided clinical counselling, curative and palliative health care services to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population within the North West Region. In the last quarter of the year,



a total of 479 individuals directly benefited vital health assistance. The support encompassed various services including clinical counseling, curative and palliative healthcare services. Among the recipients, 412 participants received financial aid, covering hospital bills, facilitating access to physiotherapy services, and ensuring access to necessary medications. Additionally, 7 individuals initially scheduled for surgeries were followed and the costs fully covered. Psychotherapy services were provided to 60 participants, addressing their mental health needs. This joint effort had a significant impact, improving the health and well-being of 479 individuals. The provided financial aid, medical treatments, and psychotherapy services, led to enhanced physical functioning, reduced pain, restored mobility, and improved mental health.



Education



We made significant effort in the education sector toward the last quarter of the year, focusing on children from internally displaced persons (IDP) households and children with disabilities resident in Mezam who were at risk of dropping out of school or had their education disrupted due to the ongoing crisis. In order to mitigate the impact of the crisis on their education, we provided formal education support to a total of 680 children. Our primary objective was to ensure that these children had the necessary resources and support to continue their education journey. Understanding the educational gaps that many of them had experienced, we extended our assistance to those who had significant disruptions in their learning. We covered tuition fees and house rents, alleviating the financial burden on their families. Additionally, we provided didactic materials to enhance the learning process and offered assistive learning devices to children with disabilities, enabling them to actively engage in their education. The assistance was focused on IDP children and children with disabilities from vulnerable households, aiming to bridge the educational gaps caused by the crisis to enhance the overall learning experience of these

children and create a more inclusive educational environment ensuring they have the opportunity to continue their education and build a brighter future for themselves.

Environmental Protection: Climate Action

Recognizing the interconnectedness of the crisis and environmental degradation, Caritas Bamenda and Caritas Germany joined forces with local communities to combat the global threat of climate change. As part of this new approach, we donated a total of 200 ecofriendly seedlings, including *Prunus Africanus* and raphia palm, to the community nursery in Babanki Tungo that expressed the need to protect its community water assets at the verge of depletion. These seedlings were intended to be transplanted around the water catchment areas, strategically chosen to support the restoration and preservation of critical ecosystems. By planting these seedlings, we aimed to enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and contribute to water conservation efforts. Building upon this successful pilot initiative, we plan to expand this climate action component and include it as a



comprehensive package in communities facing environmental degradation. This package will encompass various activities such as reforestation, sustainable agricultural practices, waste management, and water conservation. Caritas Bamenda remains committed to addressing the interrelated challenges of the crisis and environmental degradation. By incorporating climate action into our interventions and working collaboratively with communities, we aim to empower communities to actively participate in environmental preservation and build resilience against climate change impacts and strive to foster sustainable environment and create a better future for the North West Region.

Protection



In the context of the ongoing crisis, Caritas Bamenda in collaboration with UNICEF, Caritas Germany and Malteser international has been actively engaged in providing comprehensive protection interventions to support individuals affected by violence in the North West Region. During the last quarter of 2023, protection assistance provided to the affected population involved psychosocial case management, child protection, GBV response and sensitizations on protection related issues. A total of 332 victims of violence were provided with counseling, mental health support, and community-based psychosocial activities by psychosocial support experts to help them cope with trauma and stress. Within our child protection program, we provided direct assistance to 210 children in the area of health, ensuring their physical well-being; identified and registered 845 children for birth registration, thus ensuring their legal identity and access to essential services. Through our permanent established ultra-modern Child Friendly Space in Bamenda, alongside temporal child-friendly spaces in Wum, Batibo, and Njikwa, we offered a wide range of informal activities to 1,372 children visiting the child friendly spaces such as plays, theater performances, music sessions, dancing activities, arts and crafts workshops, storytelling sessions, and interactive educational games to cater for the mental, emotional and social

wellbeing of children who had been victims of violence. Through these engaging activities, we aimed to nurture their creativity, critical thinking, and social skills, while providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment to them.

In our efforts to empower adolescent girls and boys who were victims of violence, we engaged 109 adolescents in life skills training and provided them with fully covered technical and vocational education and training opportunities at the child-friendly space in Bamenda. This initiative equipping them with practical skills in areas such as tailoring and hairdressing increased their opportunities to pursue income-generating activities and fostering their long-term resilience and empowerment. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), we offered a comprehensive package of in-kind and in-cash assistance as start-up kits/capital to 37 survivors to support them in establishing small-scale businesses for income generation. In addition, 5 female GBV survivors were registered for computer studies and secretarial work, 15 in hospitality management, and 2 male registered into motor mechanics. This approach aimed to promote economic independence and self-sufficiency among GBV survivors. In order to raise awareness and promote a better understanding of child protection issues within the communities, we reach out to about 26,625 individuals, including 10,509 women, boys, and girls on GBV sensitization campaigns providing them with education and information on various child protection-related topics. These sensitization efforts focused on topics such as child rights, GBV prevention, and risk mitigation measures, aiming to engender positive behavioral change and foster a protective environment for vulnerable individuals.



Adolescent girls learning tailoring at the Caritas adolescent club in Bamenda



Children learning art and craft at the Caritas Child friendly space in Bamenda

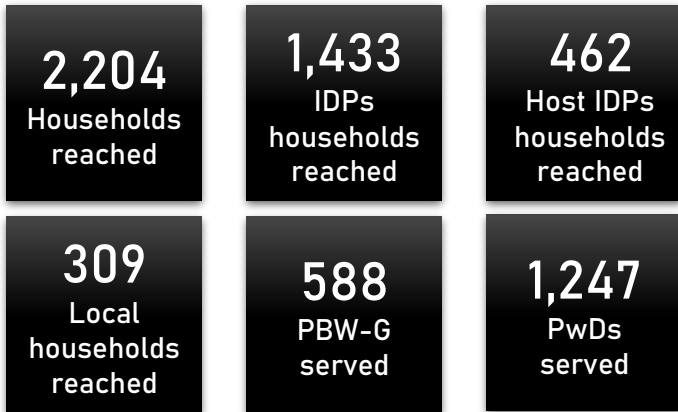


Provision of startup kit and establishment of table business to a young IDP mother of two in Bamenda, North West Region.



Provision of startup kit and establishment of road side food selling to a young IDP mother of one in Bamenda, North West Region.

Shelter/NFIs



Caritas Bamenda in partnership with CRS, Caritas Germany and other initiatives, provided shelter and NFI assistance to 2,204 households during the last quarter of the year. A total of 2098 households received regular cash-based transfers for NFIs, enabling them to purchase essential items like WASH and other household goods. Additionally, 106 households received in-kind support specifically for shelter assistance. The assistance provided by Caritas Bamenda positively impacted a total of 11,760 individuals. Among the beneficiaries, 67.8% were females, ensuring the empowerment and inclusion of women in the program. And 10.6% of the beneficiaries were persons with disabilities, highlighting Caritas Bamenda's commitment to inclusivity and addressing the specific needs of vulnerable populations while 5% of the total beneficiaries were pregnant and breast feeding women and girls, emphasizing the organization's

focus on supporting the well-being of expectant and nursing mothers in the crisis affected region. By providing in-cash and in-kind assistance, Caritas Bamenda contributed to meeting the basic needs of the affected communities and helped to restore a sense of stability and dignity among the participants.

Coordination

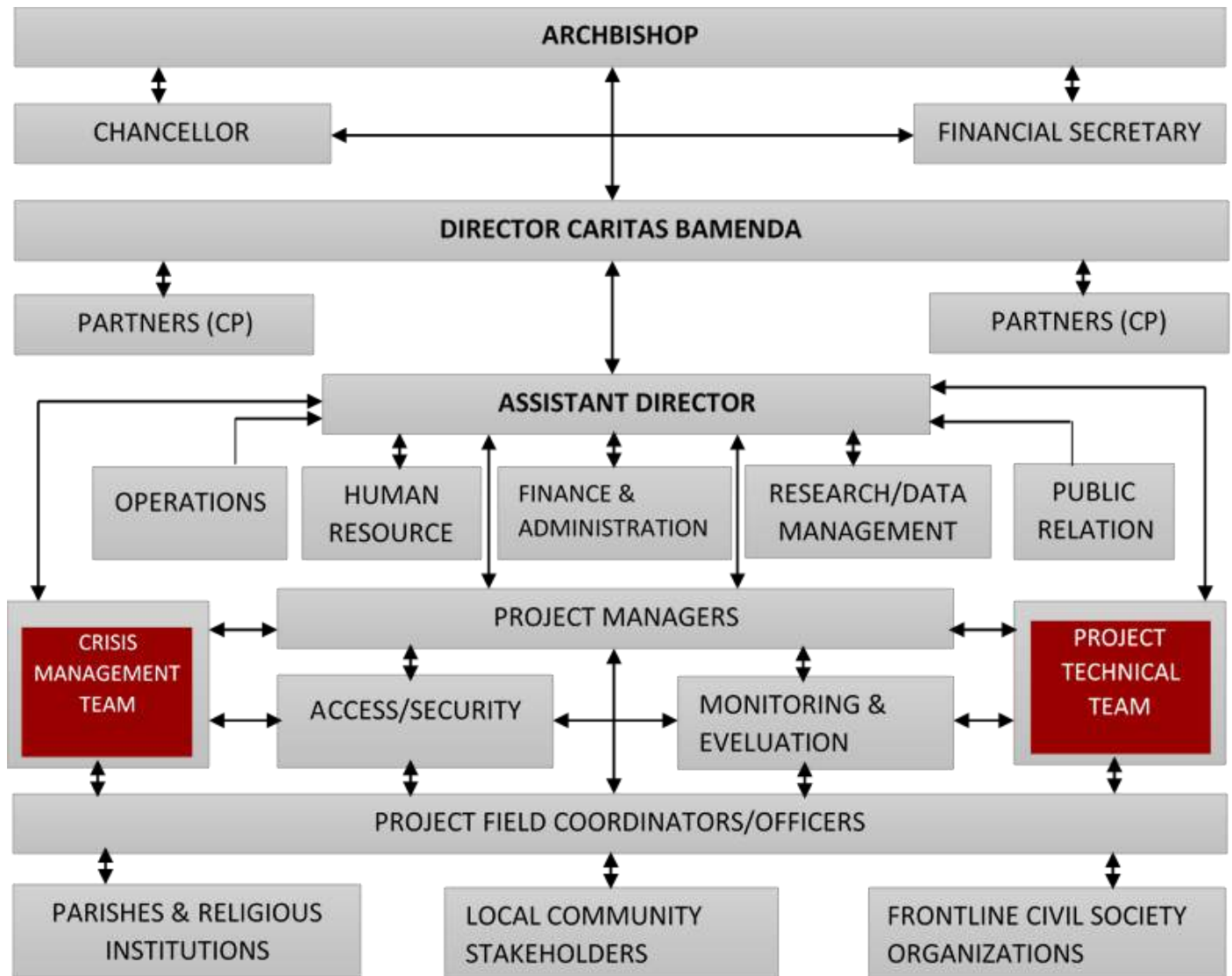
Caritas Bamenda operates under the oversight of the local diocese, deaneries and parishes supported by a vast network of resources, institutions and infrastructure. These structure enables the organization to effectively respond to humanitarian needs in a more efficient and effective manner, even in the most hard-to-reach areas. Recognizing the importance of collaboration and cooperation, Caritas Bamenda actively engages with humanitarian clusters, including food security, protection, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), health, shelter and non-food items (NFIs), cash working group, and education clusters. By participating in these clusters, we share information, coordinate activities, and align our interventions with sector-specific strategies. This collaboration ensures that our efforts are complementary to those of other actors, avoiding duplication, and maximizing the impact of the overall humanitarian response. In addition, we involve local stakeholders in our community engagement process to foster ownership and sustainability. Caritas Bamenda actively engages community leaders and local organizations/associations, empowering them to participate in decision-making processes and contribute to the planning and implementation of interventions. This local ownership has helped to build resilience within the communities ensuring that our humanitarian response is sustainable beyond the immediate crisis need. This collaboration with local stakeholders also allows us to conduct comprehensive need assessment, identify gaps, and development of joint strategies and plans. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in effective resource allocation, ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

Capacity Building



During the last quarter of the year 2023 all personnel of Caritas Bamenda received internal capacity building on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to safeguard the vulnerable populations, uphold ethical standards, ensure compliance with donor requirements, strengthen internal capacity, and mitigate reputational risks.

Our Organigram



Contacts

Rev. Father Frankline KAMGEH

Director Caritas Bamenda

Email: kamgeh@caritasbamenda.org

Phone & Whatsapp: +237 675 786 928

Banlav Eric NGAH

Assistant Director Caritas Bamenda

Email: banlav.eric@caritasbamenda.org

Phone: +237 690987984

Whatsapp: +235 61734425