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COVID-19 Report

The Prevention of COVID 19 among the Internally Displaced Persons from NW and SW Regions



***Distribution of COVID-19 Protection Materials to Persons Internally Displaced
(IDPs) by the Anglophone Armed Conflict in Cameroon, Ndobo - Douala
September 2020***

**By CYJULERC Cameroon
Submitted to**

**The International Committee of the Red
Cross (ICRC)**

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

COVID – 19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CYJULERC	Cameroon Young Jurists Legal Resource Center
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
SARS-CoV-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
WHO	World Health Organisation

I. Introduction

Cameroon Young Jurists Legal Resource Centre known by its acronym as CYJULERC is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization working to promote women and children's human rights, and the empowerment of marginalized communities in Cameroon. Created in 2003 with its headquarters in Buea, South West region of Cameroon and two field offices in Mamfe and Kousseri. Unfortunately, our target regions and communities have been undergoing armed conflict for over 5 years and 10 years respectively, due to the Anglophone crisis and the Boko Haram attacks and this has forced hundreds of thousands of our target population to internally displacement and to neighbouring Chad and Nigeria.

CYJULERC has contributed to achieving legislation to criminalized worst forms of discriminatory cultural practices against women, promoted juvenile justice and children's education, and contributed to the empowerment of women and their families for close to two decades. For more information, see our website <https://cyjulerc.org>

The CIVID 19 health pandemic was a second crisis that our internally displaced target population had to undergo. The first known case was in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and the disease spread rapidly worldwide, leading to the global COVID-19 health pandemic.

In Cameroon, the first case of COVID 19 was detected on the 6th of March 2020, and thirteen (13) barriers measures to combat the disease were published by the government on the 18th of March 2020.

In the face of the global Coronavirus pandemic (COVID 19) which has heralded difficult times for everyone, everywhere, internally displaced persons (IDPs) were most at risk. Many IDPs resided in densely populated overcrowded areas, and were unable to social-distance and self-isolate; and access to clean water, sanitation, basic healthcare and government support was extremely limited or largely nonexistent. Unfortunately, the government response did not have specific strategy to target IDPs who had been rendered vulnerable by the ongoing 5-year long conflict in the English speaking regions, and had to face a second crisis; the health pandemic.

Like the armed conflict crisis, women, girls, children and persons living with disability were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but paradoxically the government response had no specific policy that targets IDPs and the most vulnerable persons. Being a health pandemic that put the entire population at risk, even the most vulnerable were neglected, given the fact that community spread increased exponentially in the bigger cities and the fragile health system of Cameroon was stretched.

IDPs had little or no access to critical reliable information and protection materials. Sexual and Gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation on the rise among IDPs exacerbated by the pandemic. Unfortunately, with the diversion of attention and resources to the pandemic in big cities that were worse hit, vulnerable women and children were less likely to have access to health services, essential medicines and vaccines, routine maternal and reproductive health care services and this could have life threatening consequences in fragile health systems like Cameroon. Care services were not easily accessible to IDPs during the pandemic and this could cause life-threatening consequences like maternal deaths from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

Given limited funds, CYJULERC focused only on awareness raising, education and distribution of COVID 19 prevention materials; with a main goal to prevent COVID-19 from taking a toll on the vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in communities in big cities that had many cases of COVID 19.

Given the rapid spread and severe nature of the COVID 19 disease there was need to commence the campaign early. On the 28th of March 2020, CYJULERC commenced awareness-raising campaigns and the distribution of protection materials with own-funds under a project titled “Awareness Raising and Prevention of COVID-19 among Internally Displaced Persons from North West and South West Regions”. CYJULERC also reached out to humanitarian agencies and partners with applications for funding to enable her reach 10,000 internally displaced persons residing in the South West, Douala (Littoral region) and Yaounde (Center region) that were worst hit by the health pandemic.

See <https://web.facebook.com/Cameroon-Young-Jurists-Legal-Resource-B-106617838696442? rdc=2& rdr>

On the 27 of June 2020, CYJULERC was excited to receive COVID 19 protection materials from International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), at the head office in Buea. The material comprised of 10,000 reusable facemasks, 1000 buckets with taps and 20,000 bars of soap.

II Goal

The main goal of the project was to arm IDPs who were most at risk of contracting COVID 19 with reliable knowledge to combat the disease and to hand over protection materials to enable them prevent the disease, considering they were residing in regions with high prevalence.

III Objectives

The project objectives were as follows:

1. To educate 10,000 internally displaced people from the South West and North West regions including most vulnerable groups like persons living with disabilities, single and adolescent mothers, residing in the Center, Littoral and South West regions which were most hit by the COVID 19 pandemic on government and WHO guidelines on COVID 19 preventive measures, and link them to the government and WHO online information sites to enable them have reliable updates;
2. To distribute COVID 19 protection materials, to wit: buckets with taps, facemasks, hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and bars of soap to 10,000 internally displaced people from the South West and North West regions including most vulnerable groups residing in the regions which were most hit by the COVID 19



IV Implementation of Activities

There were two main activities for the project, the information and education campaign and the distribution of COVID 19 protection materials.

However, considering that the campaigns targeted households and specific groups such as religious groups, ethnic communities, colleges with many IDPs, persons living with disabilities, single and adolescent mothers, primary schools, colleges and holiday camps within and the outskirts of Douala and Yaounde, and entire villages in the Manyu Division of the South West region; the number of persons reach was more than twice our target population of 10,000.

1. Twenty-four (21) campaigns that targeted different groups of IDPs in general, and specific vulnerable groups were organized in the three regions of the Littoral, Center and South West regions.

Twenty-eighty thousands five hundred and two (28,502) internally displaced persons from the South West and North West regions, residing in 21 communities in the three target regions were educated on the 13 government preventive measures and the WHO guidelines of COVID 19 prevention. Demonstration exercises on the preventive measures were carried-out.

2. One thousand, thirty-two (1,032) buckets with taps, fifteen thousand (15,000) facemasks, and twenty five thousands (25,000) bars of soap were distributed as COVID-19 prevention materials between August 2020 and December 2021 to 28,502 internally displaced persons in 21 campaigns at different locations in the three target regions.

IV.1 Organizing specific IDPs targeted groups campaigns

Upon the declaration of the health emergency due to COVID-19 in Cameroon in March 2020, CYJULERC started the project to enable IDPs who were most at risk and residing within high-risk communities to prevent the disease. An action plan was adopted and the CYJULERC project team produced flyers to raise awareness and educate IDPs. The flyers and information were online on the CYJULERC's website and on social networks, see <https://CYJULERC.org/COVID-19/> for easy access especially during lockdowns. A sample of the flyer can be see below.

STOP THE SPREAD



WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.



MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.



AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH

Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.



IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, COUGH AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING, SEEK MEDICAL CARE EARLY

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

Source: World Health Organization

IV.II Strategy

A simple strategy was used by CYJULERC to raise awareness and educate its targeted IDPs from the South West and North West regions residing in communities in the Littoral, Center and South West regions who were most vulnerable to the pandemic, about the COVID-19 prevention measures. The names of IDPs and members of their households were collected by focal persons and CYJULERC field staff before each campaign to facilitate distribution, however more IDPs whose names weren't on the lists showed up for and all participated in the campaigns fully.

The implementation was easy for CYJULERC had a database of IDP women and adolescent girls collected during the implementation of its project on 'Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones in Cameroon' in 2018, so the team used the Focal Persons of that project to mobilize IDPs.

The project team also carried out trips and identified stakeholders, to wit: ethnic leaders, the religious leaders, the leaders of schools and colleges with IDPs to spread information on the dates, time and location of campaigns by CYJULERC caravan.

The program of each campaign included the dissemination of flyers and messages on the prevention of COVID-19 as well as the demonstration of respect for barrier measures, followed by the distribution of protection kits against COVID-19 to specific groups of targeted internally displaced persons.

The CYJULERC caravan specifically targeted internally displaced women and their families, persons living with disabilities, school dropouts, adolescent and single mothers residing in the three target regions of Cameroons. Each woman and family received a bucket with a tap, the number of facemasks necessary for her household and some bars of soap.

COVID 19 hand washing stations were installed in IDPs densely populated communities to enable respect of the barrier measures by all and especially children.

The campaigns began in early April 2020 at EBEBDA in the Centre region with CYJULERC'S own funds. Flyers were distributed, education and demonstration of

barrier measures on COVID 19 prevention were carried out. Reusable facemask and bars of soap were distributed to 300 IDPs. Eight (8) hand-wash stations were installed in the IDPs communities considering the dense population of IDPs residing with a limited surface area. See photographs below.



CYJULERC commenced their campaign against COVID 19 among IDPs at EBEBDA, Center region, Cameroon, April 2020 - <https://web.facebook.com/Cameroon-Young-Jurists-Legal-Resource-B-106617838696442?rdc=2&rdi>



CYJULERC reaching out to IDP communities in the Centre region with COVID-19 materials, at the onset of the fight against Coronavirus in Cameroon, May 2020

However, with the support of the ICRC on June 29, 2020, CYJULERC continued its campaigns from August 2020 simultaneously in the three target regions. The campaigns were implemented as planned without interruption until the last campaigns in December 2021 in the South-West region.

In terms of logistics, CYJULERC’s Toyota Pick-Up was the main means of transportation. Many volunteers joined the campaign in the field in the various locations, thus facilitating not only the setting up and installation of tents when needed, but also the maintenance of order, the registration of participants and the distribution of materials. See photographs below and for more information visit: <https://CYJULERC.org/COVID-19/>.





CYJULERC reaching out to IDPs' families in Catholic Church, Bonaberi, Douala, Cameroon with COVID 19 prevention materials, August 2020



CYJULERC raising awareness on covid-19 among internally displaced women and their family and distributing covid-19 materials, Buea the South West region, August 2020.



CYJULERC reaching out to IDP women & families from Anglophone regions in Yaoundé, July 2020



IV.III. Distributing COVID-19 kits to specific IDPs targeted groups

Once the campaigns were organized and the participants gathered, the distribution of protective materials against COVID-19 that was part of the agenda took place immediately after the demonstration of the use of pros and cons of barrier measures. In general, the CYJULERC caravan had to distribute 1,050 buckets with taps, against 15,000 face masks and 25,000 bar soap. This distribution of COVID-19 material took place from early April 2020 with the beginning of the first campaigns till December 2021 at the close of the project. For more see our Facebook page - <https://web.facebook.com/Cameroon-Young-Jurists-Legal-Resource-B-106617838696442? rdc=2& rdr>



Distribution of COVID 19 materials to Adolescent IDP girls in Mbanga, Littoral region, Cameroon, February 2021 <https://web.facebook.com/Cameroon-Young-Jurists-Legal-Resource-B-106617838696442? rdc=2& rdr>



CYJULERC reaching out to IDPs with disabilities and IDP families in Mabanda, Bonaberi, Douala, Cameroon with COVID 19 prevention materials, November, 2020



CYJULERC reaching out to adolescent mothers and their kids in the South West region with COVID 19 materials, December 2020.



CYJULERC reaching out to youth summer football training camp with COVID-19 prevention materials in the Centre region to promote respect of barrier measures Akono, Center region, August 2021



MIVA Switzerland Project Coordinator, Peter Ganther, join CYJULERC caravan on its way to the field to educate students and distribute COVID 19 prevention materials to over 1.200 students in NABESK, Bounduma, GSS Bwiyuku and Bulu Blind Center, December 2021



CYJULERC President handing COVID 19 materials to NABESK founding member, Bounduma – Buea, December 2021



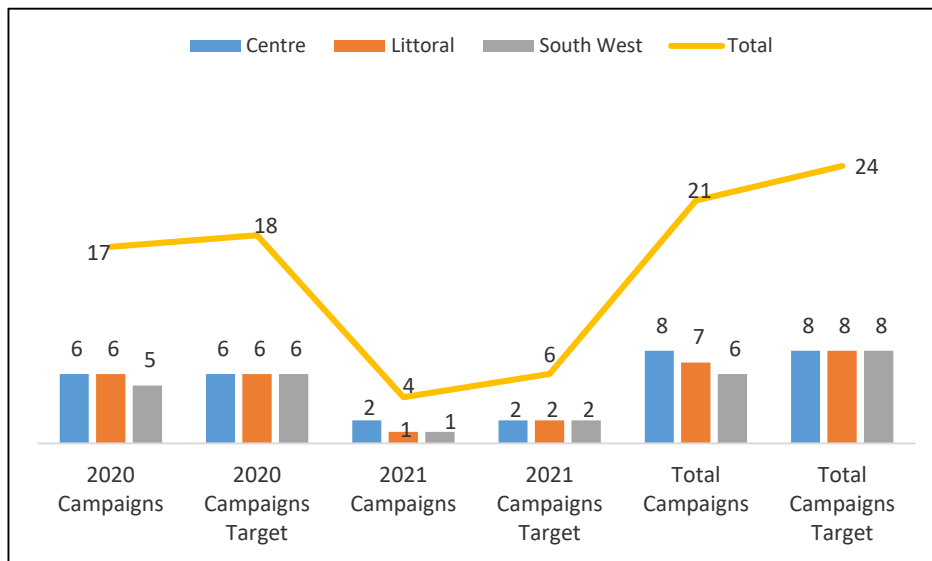
CYJULERC on a COVID-19 education and awareness raising campaign and the distribution of prevention materials to over 1,200 students in NABESK and GSS Bwiyuku, Buea, December <https://web.facebook.com/Cameroon-Young-Jurists-Legal-Resource-B-106617838696442? rdc=2& rdr 2021>.



V Results

With regard to the two main activities of this project, three (3) specific results were targeted and achieved: (1) the number of campaigns held; (2) the number of internally displaced people reached with information; and (3) the quantity of COVID-19 prevention material distributed.

V.I. Number of campaigns held



Number of COVID-19 awareness-raising campaigns held between 2020 and 2021

- 17 COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns held in 2020 out of 18 planned

According to the bar chart above, the CYJULERC caravan organized 17 COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns in 2020 out of 18 planned. This gives a coverage of 94% of COVID-19 campaigns in 2020. In 2020, all campaigns were implemented as initially planned, six (6) in the Center and six (6) in the Littoral regions. However, given the fact that the spread of COVID-19 was delayed in the third target region, that is the South-West, priority was given to the other two regions that had more cases and exponential spread.

- 4 COVID-19 awareness-raising campaigns held in 2021 out of 6 planned

According to the bar chart above, the CYJULERC caravan organized four (4) COVID-19 education campaigns in 2021 out of six (6) planned. This gives a coverage rate of COVID -19 education campaigns in 2021 of **67%**.

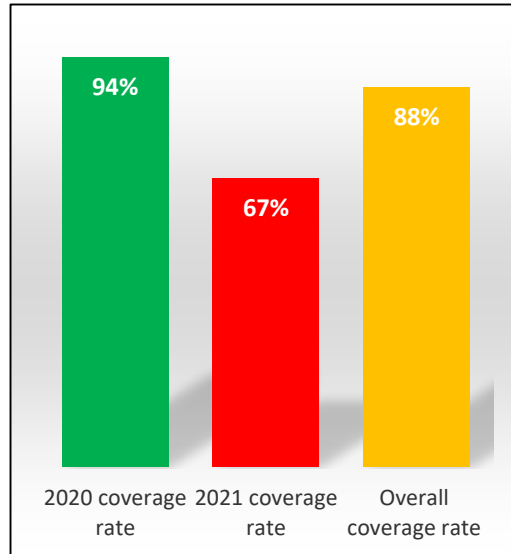
In 2021, all campaigns were carried out as initially planned in the Littoral and South West regions. One campaign was carried out in February 2021 at Mbanga, a city with a dense population of IDPs, mostly women and children, in the outskirts of Douala in the Littoral region. 2,014 facemasks, 3000 and 100 buckets were distributed to 2014 IDPs.

However, CYJULERC realized during the first campaign in Buea in August 2020 that reached 410 IDPs; that many IDPs moved back to their village settlements for fear of the health pandemic. This situation cause a long delay in the implementation of the project in the South West region. CYJULERC waited for the end of the rainy season and one campaign was held for 6 village communities in October 2021, at Eyanchang, for Mfuni, Besongabang, Ntenako, Ndekwai and Nchang. Two thousand and seven (2,007) facemask, 150 buckets with taps and 3000 bars of soap were distributed and 3,166 persons were reached.

The last campaign was held at the NABESK Secondary school for its students and those of GSS Buyuku at the outskirts of Buea. 1,200 facemasks, 150 buckets and 2000 bars of soap and 1,200 persons were reached.

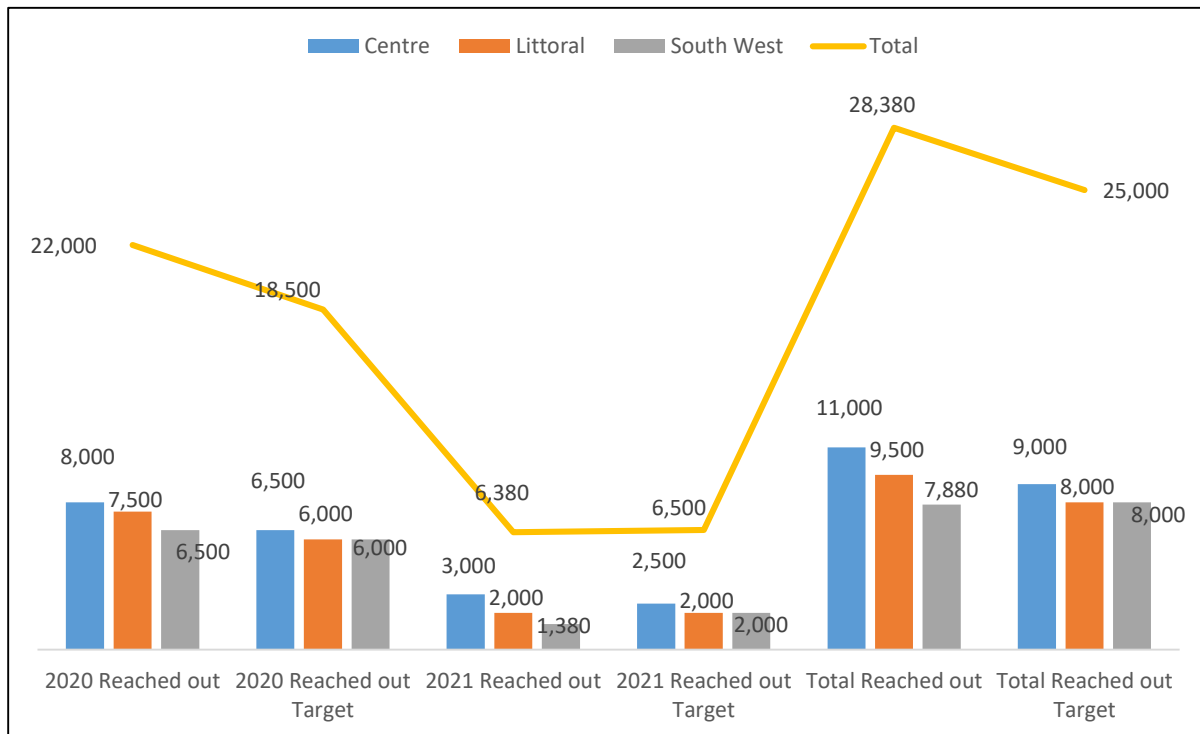
- 21 COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns held in all out of 24 planned

According to the bar chart above, the CYJULERC caravan finally organized a total of 21 COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns between April 2020 to December 2021 out of 24 planned. This gives an overall coverage rate of COVID-19 of **88%**. Eight thousand (8000) and seven thousand five hundred IDPs were reached respectively reached in the Center and Littoral regions.



*Summary of COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns
Coverage rate between 2020 and 2021*

V.II. Number of IDPs reached with information



Number of IDPs reached with COVID-19 preventive measures information and materials between 2020 and 2021

- 22,000 IDPs reached with COVID-19 prevention information in 2020 out of 10,000 targeted

According to the bar chart above, CYJULERC reached 22,000 IDPs with COVID-19 prevention information in 2020 out of 10,000 targeted. This gives a coverage rate 119% in 2020. The 11,000 and 9,500 IDPs were respectively reached in the Center and Littoral regions where the disease was spreading more and 8,000 in the South West regions.

Although the target, the data shows that the South West region was the least region reached out, due to the insufficient number of campaigns held in this region and due to the fact that the pandemic was not severe. Priority was on the Center and Littoral regions that had more cases.

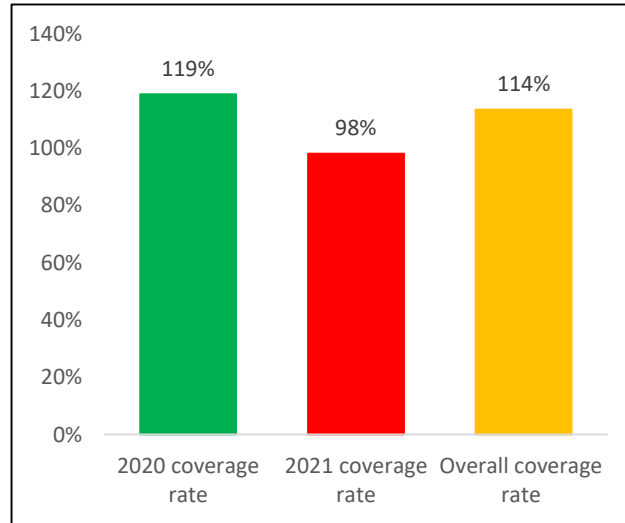
However, the use of resources in the other two regions easily compensates this shortfall created by the South West region the number of targeted IDPs was more than double as seen in the chart.

- 6,380 IDPs reached with COVID-19 prevention information in 2021 out of 6,500 targeted

According to the bar chart above, CYJULERC reached 6,380 IDPs with COVID-19 preventive information in 2021 out of 6,500 targeted. This gives a coverage rate of 98% of IDPs reached with COVID-19 prevention information in 2021. In 2021, CYJULERC could not reached the number of IDPs with COVID-19 preventive information as initially planned because the spread of COVID 19 in the region was relatively low.

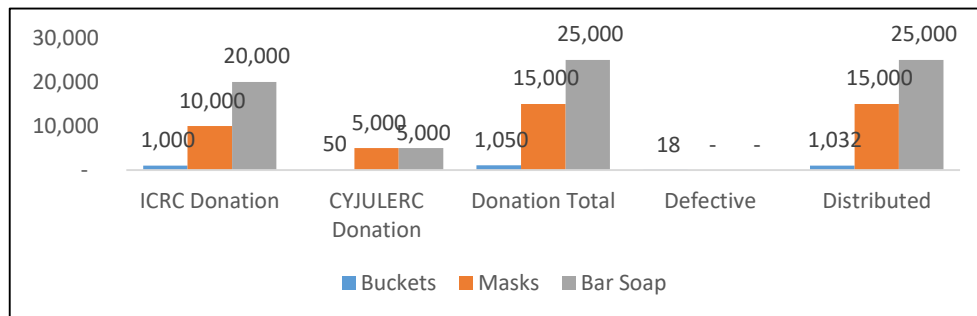
- 28,380 IDPs reached with COVID-19 prevention information between 2020 and 2021 out of 25,000 targeted

According to the chart above, the CYJULERC caravan finally reached 28,380 IDPs with COVID-19 preventive information out of the initial 25,000 targeted. This gives a coverage rate of IDPs reached with COVID-19 preventive information of 114%.



**Summary of IDPs reached with information on COVID 19
Coverage rate between 2020 and 2021**

V.III. Number of COVID-19 prevention kits distributed

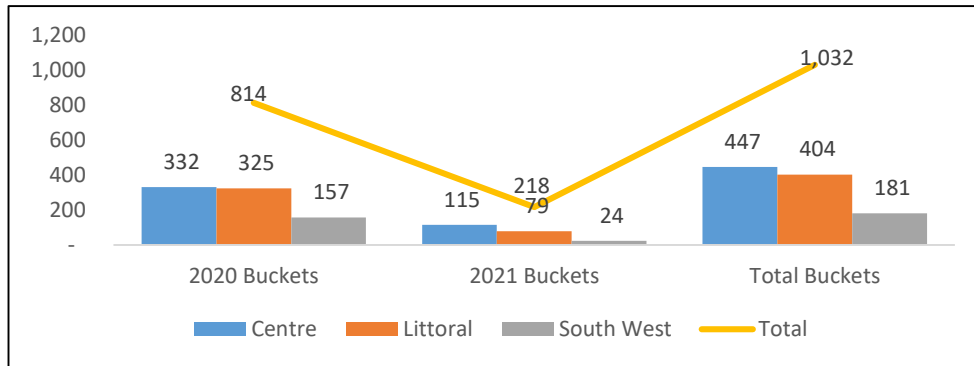


**Summary of COVID-19 materials received and distributed
between 2020 and 2021**

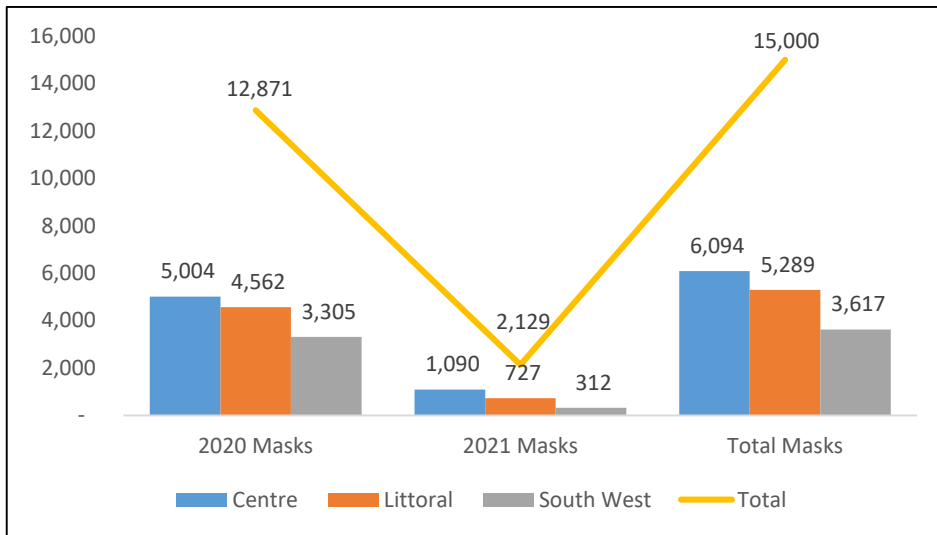
- 1032 buckets with taps, 15,000 masks and 25,000 bar soaps distributed between 2020 and 2021

According to the graph, CYJULERC started assisting IDPs with COVID-19 preventive material consisting of 50 big buckets of 50 liters attached with taps, 5,000 masks and 5,000 bar soaps. With the ICRC donation, this material increased to a total of 1,050 buckets with taps, 15,000 masks and 25,000 bar soaps available for distribution between 2020 and 2021. Subsequently, while mounting the taps on the buckets, 18 buckets had faults and 1,032 remained for distribution. The

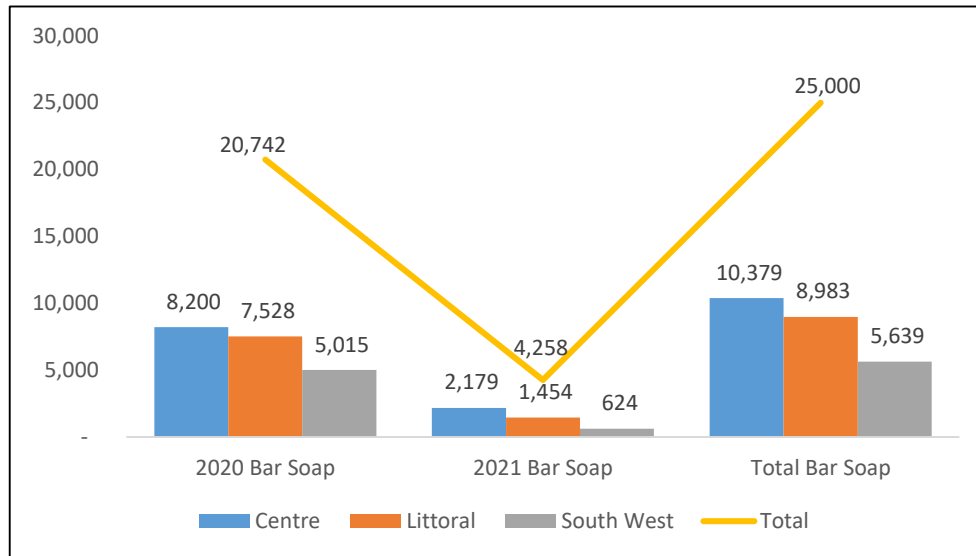
CYJULERC caravan was able to distribute all these materials with great joy to help save lives.



Details of Buckets with taps distributed between 2020 and 2021



Details of Masks distributed between 2020 and 2021



Details of bar soaps distributed between 2020 and 2021

VI Difficulties

Shortage of COVID-19 materials: the main difficulty of this project was the shortage of the COVID-19 protection materials that could not ensure the holding of all the campaigns as planned. Furthermore, there were more IDPs in some locations than expected so we couldn't reach all especially within communities at the outskirts of cities and village settings. However, all persons reached were very satisfied.

Shortage of transportation and logistics means: Transportation of the materials was done by CYJULERC Pick-up with a limited capacity as such we had to plan many trips. A more so there were provision for logistics means because the donation only involved material, and CYJULERC alone had to bare all cost of logistics of implementation from own funds.

VII Recommendations

Need for a strategic or long-term project: Though the prevalence of COVID-19 seems to be dropping in our country, most women, adolescent mothers and young IDPs lost all their stretched resources as a result of COVID 19 health

pandemic. They need humanitarian support to enable them survive and rebuild their livelihoods.

There is need to support organisations with means of logistics to ease campaigns and distribution.

VIII Appreciations

CYJULERC, the voice of the voiceless is by this means extending the sincere appreciation of all the direct and indirect beneficiaries of this project to the donors, ICRC who came to their rescue at these very difficult times of their lives. Our sincere gratitude to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Cameroon for their material support to enable the implementation of CYJULERC's vision to help IDPs prevent COVID 19 pandemic successfully.

We do not know of any death among IDPs as a result of COVID 19, this success is largely due to our "Humanitarian Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons from NW and SW Regions" project. The Internally displaced persons in Cameroon will forever remain indebted to ICRC.



CYJULERC reaching out to Secondary Schools hosting IDPs with COVID-19 prevention materials in the South West region to promote respect of barrier measures, NABESK Buea, December 2021





Appreciation and gratitude to ICRC from Internally Displaced Persons



IX Please see Financial Report Attached.