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Women wait for medical consultation at a health center in Bogo, Cameroon, on Sept. 2.
PHOTOS BY DESIRE DANGA ESSIGUE/REUTERS

Officials: U.S. aid cuts curtail malaria fight

Babies die in Cameroon amid shortage of medicine, health workers

Amindeh Blaise Atabong,
Robbie Corey-Boulet
and Jennifer Rigby
REUTERS

BOGO, Cameroon – Nine-month-old baby Mohamat burned with fever for three days before his family took him to the closest health center in northern Cameroon, but it was too late. He died of malaria that day.

Mohamat's death was part of a spike this year in malaria fatalities that local health officials attribute to foreign aid cuts by the United States.

Before the cuts, Mohamat might have been diagnosed earlier by one of more than 2,000 U.S.-funded community health workers who would travel over rough dirt roads to reach the region's remotest villages.

See **MALARIA**, Page 5A



A worker unloads boxes of the drug artesunate in a warehouse in Maroua, Cameroon, on Sept. 2. The life-saving drug for severe malaria, paid for by U.S. funds, is now in short supply.

The Trump administration says it is reforming foreign aid that did not align with its “America First” agenda, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said repeatedly that no one has died as a result of the cuts.

North Atlantic right whale numbers rise slightly

Gareth McGrath
USA TODAY NETWORK

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH – The start of November not only means turning the clocks back an hour, but also signifies the start of a roughly six-month window where large vessels off parts of the Mid-Atlantic coast again have to slow down to help protect the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration implements the go-slow zones for vessels larger than 65 feet to reduce the threat of vessel collisions, one of the top killers of the extremely rare marine mammal along with fishing gear entanglements.

Primarily located around the entrances to major ports, including Wilmington and Morehead City, and a continuous zone between Southeastern North Carolina down to the Georgia-Florida line, the speed zones extend about 15 miles or so offshore and limit large vessels to 10 knots, or 11.5 mph.

The move is one of the most significant steps regulators have taken in recent years to try and help protect the right whales, whose numbers have in the low hundreds for decades.

But highlighting the precarious state of the species, some researchers and environmentalists believe the federal government should be doing more.

The ‘right’ whale for hunting

The right whales migrate along the North Carolina coast from their summer feeding grounds off New England and the Canadian Maritimes to their winter breeding grounds off the U.S. Southeast.

Like humpbacks, the North Atlantic right whale was a popular target for whalers, getting its name because it was the “right” whale for hunting due to its size and propensity to travel close to shore, making it easy to harvest and drag ashore.

See **WHALE**, Page 2A

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