



Flash Update

Devastating floods sweep through West and Central Africa

Country:	West and Central Africa
Emergency type:	Climate disaster ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Jul 15, 2024
Date Issued:	Oct 4, 2024
Covering Period:	Sep 9, 2024 to Oct 2, 2024
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Key Figures



Nearly **5.1M**
People affected



1,071,000
Women of reproductive
age



180,720
Estimated pregnant
women



435,000
People targeted with
SRH services



105,000
People targeted with
GBV programmes

Highlights

- Widespread flooding continues across the West and Central African Region with nearly 5.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The most impacted countries include Chad, with 1,941,869 people affected ([OCHA](#)), Niger

with 1,176,528 affected (Government), and Nigeria with over 1.1 million affected ([OCHA](#)). Additionally, 365,060 people have been impacted in Cameroon; 188,000 in Mali and 132,496 people in Guinea (OCHA).*

- Torrential rainfall has displaced communities and damaged and disrupted access to essential services. Flooding has increased the risks of diseases spreading, including facilitating the cholera outbreak in the region ([OCHA](#)). Women and girls are disproportionately impacted. As primary caregivers, they suffer the consequences of the spread of diseases, including cholera, may not be permitted to seek health services and are at higher risks of miscarriage, obstetric complications and gender-based violence (GBV). Affected populations are in urgent need of food, health services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH), GBV prevention and response services, and water, hygiene and sanitation.
- The hunger crisis, already impacting 55 million people in the region, will likely worsen as flooding damages crops, disrupts food systems and slows down the delivery of assistance ([WFP](#)).

*UNFPA recognizes that there is widespread flooding across the WCA region, however this update focuses on countries most impacted including Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

Situation Overview

- **In Benin**, as of 22 September, 10,800 people have been affected by flooding ([OCHA](#)).
- **In Burkina Faso**, flooding has affected 16,500 people as of 22 September ([OCHA](#)).
- **In Cameroon**, 365,060 people have been affected by flooding in the Far North Region, an increase of more than 100% since 28 August ([OCHA](#)). The flooding has caused at least 30 fatalities in addition to the destruction of more than 56,000 homes and 82,000 hectares of agricultural land ([OCHA](#)).
- **In the Central African Republic**, torrential rains and strong winds impacted 22,900 people this year, including 5,490 in September in the prefectures of Ouham, Ouaka, Ouaham-Pendé, Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'poko and Bangui. In September, 4 fatalities were reported and 44 people injured, and 3,000 households displaced and 3,600 buildings destroyed ([OCHA](#)).
- **In Chad**, devastating flooding has affected 1,941,869 people in all provinces across the country, and caused 576 fatalities as of 1 October 2024 ([OCHA](#)). The 10 hardest-hit provinces are Mandoul, Moyen chari, Tandjile, Mayo-Kebbi Est, Batha, Salamat, N'djamena, Sila, Logone, Oriental and Borkou. Nationwide, 342,471 households have been impacted, and 217,779 houses have been destroyed. The floods have submerged roads and damaged bridges, restricting humanitarian access. The flooding of Bongor, the capital of Mayo-Kebbi Est province, affected 11,000 people and caused water contamination. A rapid assessment indicated an increased prevalence of diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory infections and skin diseases. There is a lack of access to essential services including SRH and GBV services, and water, hygiene, and sanitation across the country.
- **In Gambia**, as of 22 September, flooding has affected 9,700 people, displacing 2,700 people. 1,500 houses have been destroyed ([OCHA](#)).
- **In Guinea**, flooding has affected 132,496 people, the majority of whom are women (58%), in Conakry, Coyah, Kankan, Siguir, Kouroussa, Mandiana Dubreka, Forecariah, Telimélé, Kindia, Yomou and N'Zérékoré. This includes 423 women who are currently pregnant and 724 women who are breastfeeding. Around 860 households have been displaced, 4 health facilities flooded and 4 fatalities registered.
- **In Mali**, as of 22 September, flooding has impacted 188,000 people in all 19 regions and, according to government sources, claimed 64 lives ([OCHA](#)). Macina town was heavily hit – 900 houses were damaged or destroyed, affecting 11,000 people, who are sheltering in a stadium with affected populations ([OCHA](#)). The worst hit regions include Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao and Bamako (UNICEF) and the majority of those affected are women and children. An upsurge of malaria has been noted in the flood-affected regions, leading to over 100 deaths. Almost 78,000 farmers

have been impacted, aggravating the dire food security situation in the affected regions and compromising recovery.

- **In Niger**, as of late September, flooding has affected 1,176,528 people, according to government sources, including an estimated 600,030 women and girls. Around 241,070 are women of reproductive age, including 41,690 pregnant women.* Some 124,587 houses have been destroyed and 339 fatalities reported since June. There is substantial damage to infrastructure, including health facilities and roads, and shortages of fuel and supplies.
- **In Nigeria**, heavy rains resulted in the breach of the Alau Dam, affecting over 500,000 people, displacing around 400,000 people, and causing the death of 37 people in Maiduguri and Jere local government areas. September flooding in Adamawa state has affected approximately 50,000 people ([OCHA](#)). Nationwide, flooding has affected over 1.1M people and displaced 655,000 ([OCHA](#)). Borno State remains the worst hit, with over 400,000 people displaced. The extreme weather has caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including primary healthcare centers.
- **In Senegal**, flooding has affected 102,648 people, damaged 4,888 houses and 18 healthcare facilities.

*MISP Calculator

UNFPA Response

- **The deployment of mobile clinics and medical supplies and equipment:** UNFPA is working with partners to deploy mobile clinics and provide Inter-agency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits containing life-saving supplies and medicines, including for emergency obstetric care, for affected populations.
 - UNFPA Cameroon has adapted its programme activities in Mada, Goulfey, Fotokol, Kousseri, Velé, Guéré, Moulvoudaye and Kousseri, Makary and Blangoua, where damage to facilities has disrupted in-site SRH/GBV services. Around 1,350 individuals accessed SRH care through mobile clinics, including 812 women who received antenatal care. 573 births were assisted at UNFPA-supported health facilities in affected areas. UNFPA is collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health and other international organizations to increase the outreach of mobile clinics in disaster zones.
 - UNFPA Chad is on the ground, supporting the Ministry of Public Health and Prevention to provide life-saving SRH and GBV services to affected populations. Some 248 humanitarian midwives have been deployed to provide integrated SRH/GBV services to affected populations. 1,841 IARH kits have been distributed to health facilities, which include contraceptives and supplies for emergency obstetric care. Around 11,980 dignity kits have been distributed to women and girls.
 - UNFPA Mali has distributed 200 clean delivery kits to pregnant women and 134 menstrual management kits to flood-affected women and girls. UNFPA Mali and partners have also deployed mobile clinics to affected areas to provide prenatal, and postnatal consultations, family planning services, as well as case referrals. Around 1,681 women and girls and 185 men/boys have accessed services.. In addition, 1,676 people were sensitised on SRH, family planning and GBV. UNFPA Mali donated 1 post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) Kit and IARH Kits to health facilities in the most affected areas to cover the needs of 340 people.
 - UNFPA Niger supported the government's relief efforts by providing 1,200 dignity kits across all affected regions, along with 600 bags of rice (each weighing 50 kg) and 500 five-litre cans of oil for pregnant women in impacted households. In Maradi, the hardest-hit region, UNFPA participated in an inter-agency mission to assess the multi-sectoral needs in the commune of Sori Tagris, where over 12,000 displaced people from 22 flood-ravaged villages are now sheltering. Based on this assessment, UNFPA established a temporary maternity unit in a tent and deployed three midwives.

- **Strengthening GBV prevention and response:** UNFPA is supporting GBV referral pathways, working with communities to raise awareness of GBV risks and mitigation strategies, training service providers, and establishing GBV services for women and girls.
 - UNFPA Cameroon participated in multi-sectoral assessments in Maga, highlighting the heightened risks of GBV for women and girls in overcrowded, flood-affected areas. The GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) conducted safety audits which highlighted increased protection risks, including early and forced marriage..
 - UNFPA Niger established a safe space for women and girls, staffed by a GBV case manager, a psychologist, and facilitators to provide awareness-raising sessions and socio-recreational activities.
 - UNFPA Nigeria is addressing the SRH and GBV needs of some 91,000 displaced people in camps and host communities. So far, 5,526 have been reached with integrated GBV and SRH services including antenatal care; support for safe deliveries; postnatal care; obstetric referrals; family planning; mental health and psychosocial support; and GBV case management through 4 established service points in camps and mobile outreach in communities. Dignity kits have also been distributed to women and girls in need. Some 14,693 displaced people have been sensitised on GBV, SRH and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- **Distributing dignity kits:** UNFPA and partners have provided dignity kits, containing basic hygiene items, to women and girls affected by the flooding.
 - UNFPA Chad distributed 11,980 dignity kits to flood-affected women and girls.
 - UNFPA Guinea is providing dignity kits to pregnant women affected by the floods via the Director General of the National Agency for the Management of Humanitarian Emergencies and Disasters (ANGUCH). To date 438 kits have been distributed in impacted sites with the support of UNFPA's field offices.
 - UNFPA Mali has distributed 400 dignity kits to affected populations.
 - UNFPA Niger has distributed 1,200 dignity kits across affected regions.
 - UNFPA Nigeria has distributed 1,500 dignity kits to internally displaced people in flood-affected areas.
- **Coordinating with partners:** UNFPA is coordinating with governments, UN agencies and NGOs to ensure a comprehensive and integrated response to the needs of affected communities with a focus on the SRH and protection needs of women and girls.

Funding Required

UNFPA urgently requires US\$ 7.8 million to provide lifesaving assistance to flood-affected populations across the region. The support of our donors and partners is crucial to ensuring women and girls have access to essential SRH and GBV services. In 2024, UNFPA has already allocated over US\$ 1.3 million to countries in the WCA region through its Emergency Fund and Humanitarian Thematic Fund to support the flood response.