



WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

UNFPA Regional Humanitarian Overview West and Central Africa 2024



Regional Humanitarian Situation in West and Central Africa in 2024

The West and Central Africa Region faces multiple new and protracted crises due to violence, insecurity, political instability and climate change, leading to prolonged droughts, food insecurity, and poverty. In 2024, **44 million people require humanitarian assistance**, including women needing sexual and reproductive health (SHR) services and protection against gender-based violence (GBV). The Sahel, namely Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, has been particularly challenged by interconnected crises, with political instability, rising violence, shrinking civic space, and protracted humanitarian crises worsened by the effects of climate change. Conflicts and insecurity worsen humanitarian access.

Spillover effects are straining resources in neighboring countries, including Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Ghana, which at the beginning of 2024 hosted approximately 87,000 asylum seekers, mostly women and children¹. These coastal countries face challenges in providing health services and supporting displaced populations.

Summary of humanitarian situation in numbers

44 million
Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance

1,745,937
Births are expected within 12 months (under normal circumstances)

9,991,819
Women of reproductive age (estimate)

1,309,453
Women are currently estimated to be pregnant

1 Gulf of Guinea UNHCR Joint Response Plan 2024 <https://reporting.unhcr.org/gulf-guinea-joint-response-plan>

Humanitarian Needs

- **The Sahel is one of the most vulnerable areas of the West and Central African region** with protracted humanitarian crises and other natural hazards becoming more severe and frequent due to climate change.
- **13.8 million people are forcibly displaced across the WCA region** of whom 8 million are internally displaced (UNHCR, April 2024).
- 6 of the 10 most neglected displacement crises in the world are in the WCA region including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali and Niger. **Chad and CAR continue to host an influx of Sudanese refugees** and respond to their basic needs. **Hunger levels are becoming acute** in several areas of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, where there are emergency levels of child wasting and concerns for malnutrition among pregnant women.
- In these complex and interconnected crises, **women and young girls, and adolescents are disproportionately impacted and are among the most vulnerable**; they are at increased risk of GBV, unwanted and early pregnancies, and maternal death.
- One of the most pressing challenges is ensuring access to essential SRH services, and the prevention and management of GBV.



UNFPA's Humanitarian Regional Response

Seven countries in West and Central Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria) have activated Humanitarian Response Plans. In addition, the Republic of Congo is part of the Regional Refugee

UNFPA WCARO Priority Countries for Humanitarian Response Reference Map – As of 10 October 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 10 October 2023

Sources: OCHA

Feedback: ocharowca@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int

Response for the Democratic Republic of Congo² and is included in the 2024 UNFPA Humanitarian Action Overview (HAO).

In response to mounting needs, UNFPA delivers SRH and GBV prevention and response services for the most vulnerable women and girls to people in need with a special focus on women and girls. UNFPA does this by working with implementing partners to run Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS), one-stop service centers, health facilities that provide SRH and GBV services, and deploying mobile clinics and mobile teams to reach women and girls in remote and hard-to-reach areas.



2 By the end of December 2023 the Republic of the Congo hosted 27,328 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For more information: Democratic Republic of the Congo: Regional Refugee Response Plan (January 2024-December 2025), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-2024-december-2025#:~:text=In%202024%2C%20community%2Dbased%20protection,Camp%20Coordination%20and%20Camp%20Management>

UNFPA supports its staff and implementing partners with technical training to ensure an effective response. While grappling with prolonged humanitarian crises the region is also confronted by weather-related disasters including deepening drought interspersed with flooding. UNFPA has pre-positioned supplies to be ready to respond to fast onset natural disasters whenever and wherever they occur.

In response to crises in the WCA region, UNFPA crafted a Roadmap for Better Fit-For-Purpose for Humanitarian Preparedness and Response (2023-2025). Aligned with this Roadmap, UNFPA implemented a Humanitarian Leadership Program and technical training in humanitarian response for surge deployments and staff as well as an integrated GBV/SRH and Cash and Voucher Assistance in humanitarian emergencies training for UNFPA personnel. These trainings provide UNFPA staff with strengthened capacity and skills to effectively implement humanitarian preparedness and response programs across the region.



UNFPA's priority areas in the WCA region

- **Gender-Based Violence:** provision of quality GBV services including case management, psychosocial support, and health services. UNFPA is the lead agency on the GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR)³ working closely with partners to coordinate GBV services in the WCA region including response, prevention, and risk mitigation, as well as maintaining strong referral pathways.
- **Sexual Reproductive Health:** UNFPA supports the delivery of the Minimum Initial Service Package for reproductive health in crises which includes safe deliveries and emergency obstetric care, health services for survivors of sexual violence, the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and family planning services. UNFPA also supports health facilities with essential life-saving medicines and supplies. UNFPA is a co-lead of the Global SRH Task Team with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) under the Global Health Cluster and leads SRH Working Groups across the region.
- **Capacity Building UNFPA personnel and implementing partners:** UNFPA develops the capacities of its staff and partners at the leadership and technical levels to ensure the quality of its prevention and intervention programs.
- **Comprehensive integrated humanitarian response:** this includes the delivery of quality SRH and GBV services through mobile teams, women and girls safe spaces, and health facilities.
- **Supplies:** UNFPA is strengthening the supply chain mechanisms in the region to reliably deliver life-saving reproductive health supplies despite logistical, infrastructural and access challenges in humanitarian settings.

3 The GBV AoR brings together non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, academics and others under the shared objective of ensuring life-saving, predictable, accountable and effective GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response in emergencies, both natural disaster and conflict-related humanitarian contexts." <https://gbvaor.net/>

Snapshot of UNFPA's 2023 Key Results Across the WCA Region

In 2023, UNFPA delivered SRH and GBV services to over 1.9 million individuals in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. This included facilitating 308,350 safe deliveries, providing family planning to around 424,000 women and supporting static and mobile clinics. UNFPA also addressed GBV through prevention, response, and coordination efforts, reaching the most vulnerable people with quality services and distributing dignity kits. UNFPA supported health facilities with medical supplies, including life-saving equipment, capacity-building and technical tools to enhance quality SRH and GBV service delivery.



2,687,865

People reached with SRH services



435,243

People reached with GBV services



62,057

Women and girls received a dignity kit



506

Static health facilities delivered SRH/GBV services



792,692

People reached with awareness-raising activities and life-saving information on GBV.



117

Mobile outreach teams supported SRH and GBV services

Humanitarian Funding Needs for 2024

The humanitarian situation in Western and Central Africa needs urgent attention. In 2023, six out of the 10 most neglected displacement crises were in the West and Central Africa region⁴.

Despite contributions from donors, humanitarian operations in West and Central Africa remain under funded.

The UNFPA Humanitarian Appeal Overview for the region received only 31% of the required funding in 2023.

Humanitarian Action Overview (HAO) identified an overall funding requirement of US\$106 million for the West and Central African Region. As of the end of June 2024, the HAO is only 30% funded.



⁴ The world's most neglected displacement crises 2023, Norwegian Refugee Council, 2024, available at <https://www.nrc.no/feature/2024/the-worlds-most-neglected-displacement-crises-2023/>

Humanitarian Action Overview 2024 Funding Needs and Funding Received as of June 2024

WCAR Countries	Funding required \$ USD.	Funding received \$ USD	Per cent Funded
Burkina Faso	\$7,000,000	\$3,116,198	45%
Cameroon	\$11,070,664	\$2,654,660	24%
Central African Republic	\$19,251,816	\$2,645,853	14%
Chad	\$21,122,570	\$6,669,306	32%
Mali	\$15,000,000	\$6,829,445	46%
Niger	\$9,250,000	\$3,721,883	40%
Nigeria	\$20,928,452	\$5,375,000	26%
Republic of Congo	\$2,439,232	\$790,561	32%
Total	\$106,062,734	\$31,802,906	30%

Asks to the donor and partner community

- **Increase Humanitarian Funding:** Demonstrate commitment to humanitarian action by increasing funding and providing predictable, flexible and multi-year allocations for protection from GBV and SRH services in humanitarian crises in the WCA Region.
- **Prioritize Needs-Based Assistance:** Ensure equitable and effective humanitarian allocation of funding based on the assessed needs of affected populations, with a particular focus on reaching the most vulnerable individuals and communities. Suspending or interrupting assistance has dire consequences for the most vulnerable and reverses hardwon development gains.
- **Promote the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approach:** Advocate for political and financial support to invest in resilience-building and durable solutions for crisis-affected areas, increasing engagement of finance actors, including international financial institutions and climate finance mechanisms, to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus for SRH and GBV.
- **Support GBV and SRH Coordination in Emergencies:** Support GBV and SRH inter-agency coordination mechanisms to enhance collaboration and information-sharing among all humanitarian partners, ensuring a harmonized and effective response that leaves no one behind.





"The humanitarian challenges we are facing in our region are growing and are multifaceted. We have equipped our country teams with the skills and competencies to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow"

Dr. Sennen Hounton,

UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa

For more information

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