

Flash Update

Devastating floods sweep through West and Central Africa

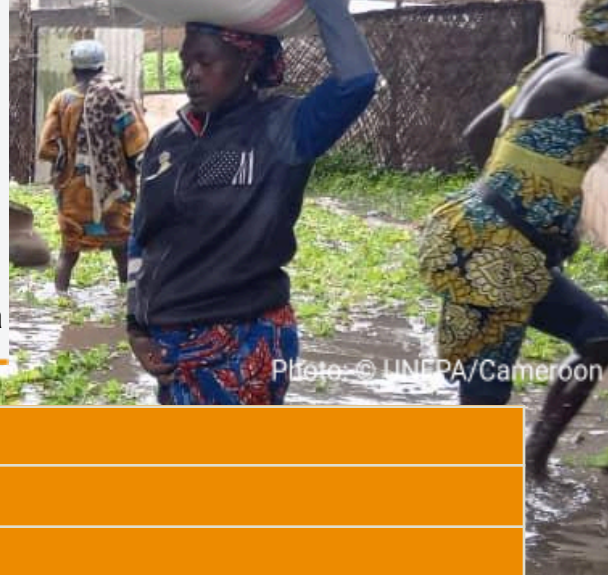
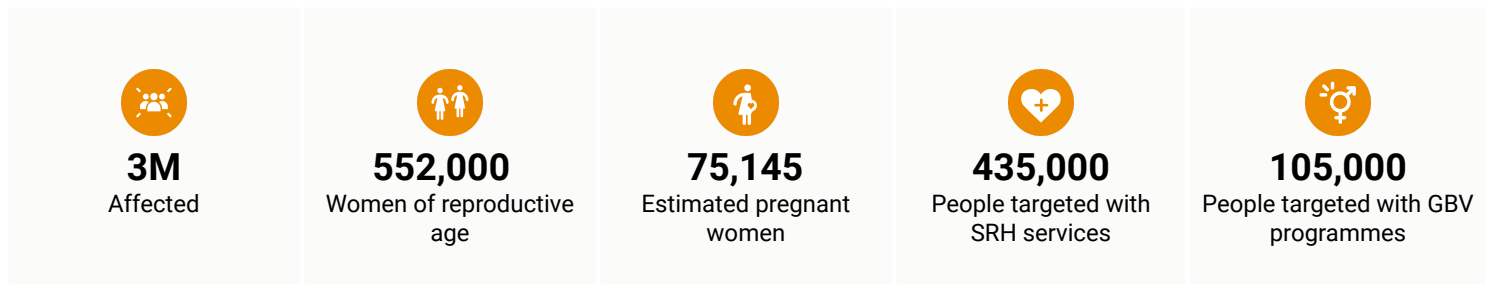


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Country:	Countries across West and Central Africa Region
Emergency type:	Climate disaster ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Jul 15, 2024
Date Issued:	Sep 9, 2024
Covering Period:	Jul 1, 2024 to Sep 6, 2024
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Key Figures



Highlights

- Widespread flooding across the West and Central African Region has triggered a humanitarian crisis, with devastating consequences for millions*. The most impacted countries include Chad with almost 1.5 million people affected ([OCHA](#)), Niger (700,000) ([UNHCR](#)) and Nigeria (600,000) ([OCHA](#)). Additionally, over 158,000 people have been impacted in Cameroon ([OCHA](#)); over 36,000 people in Guinea ([ECHO](#); [IFRC](#)); 45,000 people in Liberia; and 47,000 people in Mali ([Mali Government](#)).
- The total number of affected people has far exceeded previous years and is likely to increase ([OCHA](#)). Forecasts are predicting further heavy rains and flooding across much of the West and Central African region into September. OCHA reported that there were 465 fatalities and 1,747 people injured between 15 to 30 August.
- Torrential rainfall has caused rivers to overflow, displacing communities and damaging and disrupting access to essential services. Affected populations are in urgent need of food, health services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH), protection, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services, and water, hygiene and sanitation. **Women and children make up the majority of affected populations.**

*UNFPA recognizes the widespread flooding across the WCA region, however this report focuses on countries most impacted including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

Situation Overview

- **In Cameroon**, 158,620 people have been affected by flooding in the Far North Region as of 28 August, of whom an estimated 38,069 are women of reproductive age, including 4,133 women who are currently pregnant. The flooding has caused at least five fatalities in addition to the destruction of more than 8,600 homes ([UNHCR](#)), agricultural land and livestock. Weather forecasts predict rainfall above 125% of the average for August, September and October, which is likely to worsen the situation ([OCHA](#)).
- **In the Central African Republic (CAR)**, torrential rains and strong winds affected 2,700 people and destroyed 500 buildings (OCHA) during the month of August. On 18 August, Mbomou prefecture was severely impacted; several people were injured, including a pregnant woman who had to be evacuated to Bangassou hospital for medical care. In addition, around 186 houses were damaged, including temporary shelters for asylum seekers. Heavy rain and strong winds also hit Moyenne-Sido, in the sub-prefecture of Kabo, destroying 139 houses.
- **In Chad**, devastating flooding has affected 1,495,967 people in all provinces across the country with 341 fatalities as of 3 September. The provinces of Mayo, Kebbi Est, Tandjilé, Salamat, Mandoul, Sila, Lac, and Wadi Fira are the most affected ([OCHA](#)). Nationwide, 266,590 households have been impacted and 164,079 houses have been destroyed. The floods have submerged roads and damaged bridges, restricting humanitarian access. There is a lack of access to essential services including, SRH services, and water, hygiene, and sanitation across the country.
- **In Guinea**, flooding at the end of July impacted the Siguiri commune in the North East, affecting an estimated 19,195 people ([IFRC](#)). As of 27 August, 17,185 people have been affected by flooding in the Boké and Conakry Regions ([ECHO](#)).
- **In Liberia**, heavy rainfall since June has resulted in flooding in three counties (Margibi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa) in 59 communities, affecting 45,000 people, of whom 44% are women and 18% are children under 15 years. The floods have damaged homes, limited access to health services, increased the incidence of water borne infections, and impacted women and girls' ability to manage their menstruation.
- **In Niger**, flooding has affected more than 700,000 people ([UNHCR](#)), including an estimated 330,000 women and girls, of whom 147,000 are women of reproductive age including 24,800 pregnant women* as of late August. Close to 50,000 houses have been destroyed and over 217 fatalities reported since June. There has also been substantial damage to infrastructure, including health facilities and roads, and there are currently shortages of fuel and supplies.
- **In Nigeria**, windstorms, heavy rain and floods have affected over 600,000 people in 29 of the country's 36 states. Over 225,000 people have been displaced and at least 200 have died ([UNHCR](#)). Borno State has been the worst-hit, with 137,502 people displaced, followed by Yobe and Adamawa States. The extreme weather has caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including primary health care centres.
- **In Mali**, the Government declared a state of national disaster on 24 August due to the severe flooding that has affected over 47,000 people and resulted in 30 deaths since the start of the rainy season in June. The regions of Ségou, Gao and Bamako are the most affected. Over 903 households have been relocated to temporary shelters in schools. In addition, heavy rains on 16 August caused flooding and 1,990 houses to collapse. Two people died and 3,148 households were displaced – out of which 242 have sought shelter at schools (OCHA).

Impacts

- **Hundreds of people have been killed** across the affected regions and **millions of people have been impacted with thousands displaced** from their homes, seeking shelter in temporary camps or with host communities.
- **Critical infrastructure, including health facilities and schools**, as well as **homes, roads and bridges** have been **damaged or destroyed. Access to SRH and GBV services has been disrupted.**
- The flooding has damaged water and hygiene facilities and contaminated clean drinking sources, increasing the **risk of waterborne and communicable diseases.**

UNFPA Response

- **The deployment of mobile clinics and medical supplies and equipment:** UNFPA is working with partners to deploy mobile clinics and provide Interagency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits containing life-saving supplies and medicines, including for emergency obstetric care, for affected populations.
 - UNFPA Chad has deployed 20 humanitarian midwives to temporary reception sites in N'Djamena and Lac Province, where flood-affected people have relocated. UNFPA is supporting the government to deliver a campaign to provide critical information for pregnant women on the risks and warning signs of complications in pregnancy and where to seek care with a skilled birth attendant. Clean delivery kits are being distributed to all women who are over six months pregnant. UNFPA Chad has also deployed two humanitarian midwives to N'Djamena where a tent has been installed to accommodate displaced families. IARH kits, dignity kits and condoms are also being distributed.
 - UNFPA Niger has distributed 1,575 IARH kits to 6 regions (Diffa, Tahoua, Maradi, Tillaberi, Niamey and Zinder) to support emergency obstetric care, the treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the clinical management of rape.
 - UNFPA Mali and its partners have deployed integrated GBV/SRH mobile teams to Gao and Segou to provide essential integrated SRH/GBV services to impacted communities. In addition, UNFPA has distributed IARH kits to three health districts (Gao, Ansongo and Bla). Menstrual hygiene kits and clean delivery kits have been distributed to girls and pregnant women along with information on how to use the kits and available SRH/GBV services.
- **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 Nigeria is delivering essential SRH/GBV services in flood-affected areas through existing supported health facilities and implementing partners. Frontline workers and community volunteers are actively conducting outreach to provide psychosocial support and conduct rapid assessments.
- **Distributing dignity kits:** UNFPA and partners are providing dignity kits, containing basic hygiene items, to women and girls.
 - UNFPA Niger has distributed 1,224 dignity kits in six regions (Diffa, Tahoua, Maradi, Tillaberi, Niamey and Zinder).
 - UNFPA Nigeria is distributing dignity kits to internally displaced people (IDPs) in flood affected areas in mixed migration centres and Jere Local Government Areas (LGAs) that remain accessible, and to women and girls in Ngurno camp in Monguno LGA.
 - UNFPA Mali, in collaboration with the government's technical response services, has distributed dignity kits to women and girls in two impacted areas in Gao.
- **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 \$5.8 million to provide lifesaving assistance to flood-affected populations across the region.

Donors and partners' support will ensure access to critical SRH and GBV services for women and girls in need.