

SITUATION OVERVIEW

27.2 Million people affected across the WCA region*

The Humanitarian Reset: A Shift to Nationalized Leadership In January 2026, the region accelerated a transition toward full national leadership of humanitarian responses, targeting completion in Nigeria and Cameroon by 2028. This shift involves prioritizing aid with reduced targets, such as Cameroon narrowing its focus to 1.8 million people while committing 30% of funding to local actors. Nigeria is localizing its workforce, recruiting 93% of new midwives directly from Yobe State, while Burkina Faso and Niger are formalizing state-led development plans and coordination structures. Meanwhile, Mali is increasingly relying on community and women-led organizations to maintain access in areas where international actors cannot operate.

Security Situation: The region faces volatile military entrenchment and asymmetric warfare, with insurgents targeting key infrastructure in Niger and Mali. This instability, compounded by political crises in Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic (CAR), is driving mass displacement.

Centering Midwives as a Frontline Response: UNFPA has prioritized the training and deployment of midwives to ensure continuity of care in high-risk regions. In Nigeria, 122 midwives were positioned across the BAY states to drive a localized response, while 64 midwives bolstered national capacity in Niger. Essential obstetric care in northern Mali is now provided by community midwives following the withdrawal of other actors. Additionally, midwives in the CAR have been integrated into multidisciplinary teams to surge clinical capacity in specific towns



Credit: © UNFPA Nigeria/Seyi Fashina

2026 NEEDS



7.4M

Women of Reproductive Age (WRA)



1.2M

Estimated pregnant women



2,653

Newborns who will experience complications in the next month



1,922

Currently pregnant women who will experience complications in the next month

*Estimations based on the IAWG on Reproductive Health in Crises MISP calculator



Credit: © UNFPA CAR/Karel Prinsloo

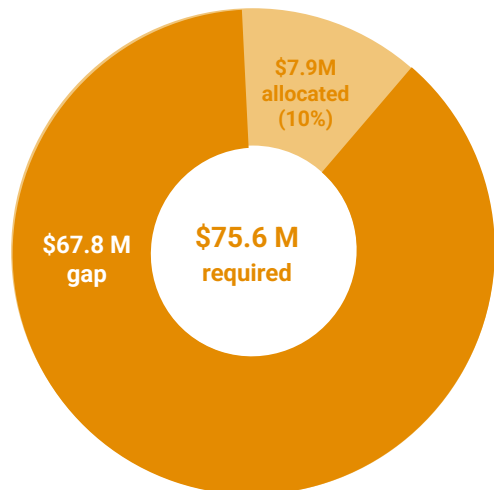
Country Spotlight: Central African Republic

Compounding Crises of Climate and Displacement

CAR is currently facing a dual emergency defined by severe weather events and renewed displacement flows. On January 21, 2026, unexpected torrential rains and violent winds struck Bossemptélé destroying approximately 300 homes. This unseasonal destruction has left hundreds of families in urgent need of shelter and domestic assistance.

Simultaneously, the northeast region is absorbing a new influx of refugees fleeing the war in Sudan. Between November 2025 and mid-January 2026, more than 200 displaced persons arrived in Zoukoutounialah near Ndélé. The demographic profile highlights significant vulnerabilities: **49% of the group are women and girls**, who now face heightened risks of gender-based violence, psychological trauma, and limited access to healthcare

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS



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*The Global Needs Overview 2026, Humanitarian Action, OCHA, 8 December 2025. This figure excludes the 14.9 million people in need in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is not a country covered within the scope of UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office.