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SUMMARY

**Remaining effective in the
humanitarian response**
in West and Central Africa

As the need for humanitarian assistance in West and Central Africa continues to grow, UNFPA's response has evolved from looking solely at the immediate need, to encompassing planning for the population's future.

Using a comprehensive strategic plan, the organization uses both a modes of engagement formula and a five pillar framework to guide its humanitarian response to make sure it is relevant, evidence-based and comprehensive.

The four **modes of engagement** include: advocacy, policy dialogue and advise; knowledge management; service delivery and capacity development.

The **five pillar framework** to respond to humanitarian and crisis situations includes:

- Pillar 1:** Providing sexual and reproductive health assistance
- Pillar 2:** Tackling gender-based violence
- Pillar 3:** Using data to inform decision making
- Pillar 4:** Improving disaster preparedness
- Pillar 5:** Linking humanitarian and development initiatives



UNFPA psychosocial counselor speaking with a survivor of insurgency, GGSS IDP Camp, Borno State
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In 2015, UNFPA demonstrated **effective delivery** of humanitarian assistance in a number of crises, including ensuring psychosocial support for the victims of Boko Haram in Nigeria and supplying thousands of reproductive health kits to health facilities in the Lake Chad Basin region.

It used **advocacy and policy dialogue** to advance the humanitarian agenda, bringing together governments to address cross-border issues and maintaining a relationship with policy makers which kept the plight of the vulnerable current and visible.

The organization also continued to engage with the private sector to ensure financial and technical inputs in efforts such as the UNFPA-led Ebola contact tracing effort.

An important part of UNFPA's response was and is its **commitment to resilience building**. Forward thinking initiatives such as those which provide vocational training to young people and social cohesion exercises which promote peace and understanding, are part of the organization's commitment to making the vulnerable better able to withstand shocks.

The organization uses **data** collected from surveys and censuses to guide its responses and inform its programming activities, as part of its commitment to better **knowledge management systems**. It also encourages its partners to do the same.

These approaches have already established UNFPA as a leading deliverer of humanitarian assistance in the region. Going forward, the organization plans to step up delivery of services whilst ensuring a more holistic approach, to ensure that assistance does not just address present crises, but strengthens communities to face the future.