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

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.

Summary: Remaining effective in the humanitarian response in West and Central Africa