



Flash Update

Severe floods devastate Cameroon's Far North

Photo: © UNFPA/Cameroon

Country:	Cameroon
Emergency type:	Climate Disaster - Flooding
Start Date of Crisis:	July 2024
Date Issued:	15 October, 2024
Covering Period:	19 September 2024 – 03 October 2024
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Key Figures



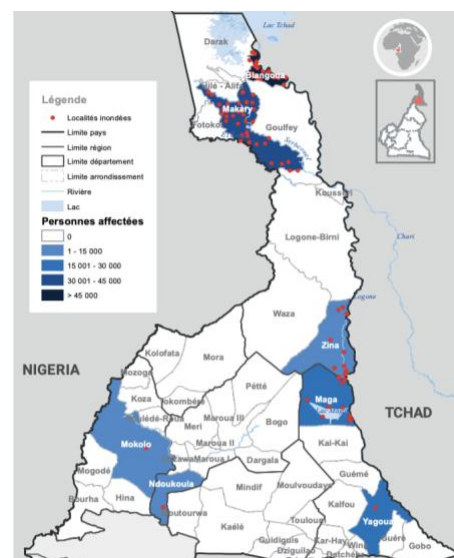
Highlights

- As of 3 October 2024, at least 356,730 have been affected by floods in 5 of the 6 divisions in Cameroon's Far North: Logone-and-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Diamaré, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Mayo-Kani. An estimated 30 people have died, including 4 children. More than 56,084 houses and 61 health facilities have been damaged ([OCHA](#)).

- Since August 2024, UNFPA and partners have reached 1,350 people with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including 812 pregnant women who received antenatal care and assistance to give birth safely. More than 570 babies have been born at UNFPA-supported health facilities in affected areas.
- UNFPA and the Ministry of Public Health are co-leading the Technical Working Group on SRH in Emergencies and estimate that over 123,000 women in affected areas urgently need SRH services. To address needs, a coordinated response plan has been developed, which includes the deployment of mobile clinics.
- Gender-based violence (GBV) safety audits have highlighted that the floods have significantly increased the risks of GBV, with 78% of key informants reporting a rise in incidents.

Situation Overview

- Approximately 356,730 people had been affected by flooding in the Far North Region as of early October ([OCHA](#)), an increase of more than 100% since 28 August. The flooding has resulted in at least 30 deaths.
- Protection risks for women and girls have increased with 192,842 estimated to be in need of GBV prevention and response services.
- Over 56,000 houses have been destroyed and 82,000 hectares of farmland severely flooded, disrupting livelihoods and straining local resources. Displacement and the loss of income has created urgent humanitarian needs.
- 65 health facilities have been damaged, disrupting access to SRH services. The risks of waterborne diseases, maternal mortality and other health issues remain high due to the unsanitary conditions.



Source: OCHA, August 2024 ¹

UNFPA Response

- On 19 September, UNFPA participated in a multi-sectoral assessment in Maga. Findings highlight the challenges and needs of women and girls in flood-affected areas. Settlement sites are overcrowded and toilets are located far from living areas, exposing women and girls to higher risks of rape, sexual assault and physical and psychological abuse. Most families on sites live in a single makeshift shelter and there are no private spaces for women and girls. There are no toilets on the Palia site, which hosts approximately 10,435 people. A rise in the reliance on negative coping strategies has increased the rates of child marriage. The local office of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family in Mada reported a 58% increase in child and forced marriage since the floods hit.
- GBV safety audits in 8 areas (Makary, Fotokol, Kousseri, Guéré, Velé, Yagoua, Mada and Kai Kai) reveal alarming protection risks for women and girls since the floods hit. Key findings indicate a high risk of early and forced marriage for adolescent girls (49%) and prevalent intimate partner violence (67%), exacerbated

¹ The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

by crowded and difficult living conditions in displacement sites. At service delivery points, psychological violence (26%), physical assault (22%), denial of resources, opportunities or services (22%), and sexual violence (20%) are the most reported incidents since the floods struck

- GBV safety audits also highlight that displacement has made it challenging for women and girls to access essential services at women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) and health facilities. Inconvenient schedules, longer and unsafe journeys, restrictive family dynamics, a lack of female staff and medicine shortages, in addition to a lack of financial resources and awareness, are all creating significant barriers to accessing care.
- During group discussions, women and girls proposed various solutions for community mechanisms to protect them, including safe housing and secure shelters.
- UNFPA is working in Mada, Goulfey, Fotokol, Kousseri, Velé, Guéré, Moulvoudaye and Kousseri, as well as in Makary and Blangoua, where damage to health facilities has disrupted on-site services. UNFPA has reached 1,350 people with SRH services including, 812 pregnant women who received antenatal care. More than 570 babies have been born at UNFPA-supported health facilities in affected areas.
- The UNFPA-led Technical Working Group on SRH in Emergencies has identified areas where mobile clinics are needed to replace damaged health facilities. International Medical Corps (IMC), the Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), IEDA Relief and UNFPA are deploying mobile clinics to take essential services directly to those in need. ALIMA's clinics are already operational in Blangoua and IMC is poised to deploy their mobile clinic.

Funding Requirements

- UNFPA urgently requires **USD 1,174,045** to expand SRH and GBV services in flood-impacted areas. This funding will allow UNFPA to meet the needs of at least **129,150** individuals, primarily women and girls.