



Photo: © UNFPA/Cameroon



# Flash Update

## Severe floods devastate Cameroon's Far North

Country:	Cameroon
Emergency type:	Climate Disaster - Flooding
Start Date of Crisis:	July 2024
Date Issued:	3 October, 2024
Covering Period:	2 September 2024 – 25 September 2024
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### Key Figures



**463,563**  
people affected



**111,225**  
Women of  
reproductive age



**12,080**  
Estimated pregnant  
women



**129,150**  
People targeted by  
UNFPA with SRH  
services



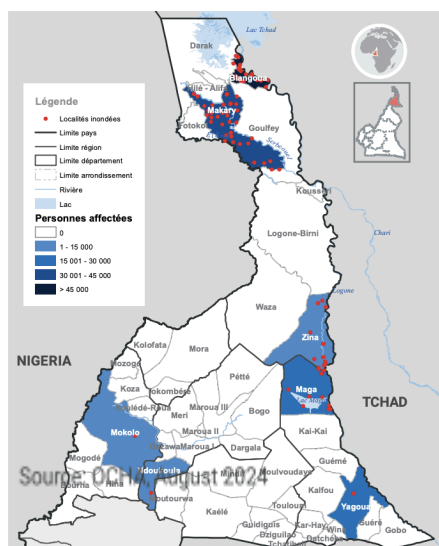
**23,920**  
People targeted by  
UNFPA with GBV  
programmes

## Highlights

- As of 25 September 2024, at least 463,563 people 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. This includes an estimated 30 fatalities, of whom 4 were children, and damage to more than 56,084 houses and 61 health facilities.
- Since August 2024, UNFPA's response has reached 1,350 patients with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care, including 812 pregnant women who received antenatal care and support for safe births. More than 570 babies were born at UNFPA-supported health facilities in affected areas.
- The UNFPA and Ministry of Public Health co-led Technical Working Group on SRH in Emergencies estimates that over 123,000 women in affected areas need urgent SRH services. To address these needs, they have developed a coordinated response plan, including the deployment of mobile clinics.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) safety audits revealed that the floods have significantly increased the risks of GBV, with 78% of key informants reporting a rise in incidents.

## Situation Overview

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- Approximately 463,563 people have been affected by flooding in the Far North Region as of 19 September ([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, and 192,842 are 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.
  - 61 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.

## 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

houses approximately 10,437 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 Empowerment and 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) revealed alarming protection risks for women and girls since the floods hit. Key findings highlight a high risk of forced marriage for adolescent girls (49%) and prevalent intimate partner violence (67%), exacerbated by the cramped 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 began.
- GBV safety audits also highlight that displacement has made it challenging for women and girls to access essential services. They now face longer and unsafe journeys to reach women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) or health facilities. Inconvenient schedules, unsafe travel routes, restrictive family dynamics, a lack of female staff, and medicine shortages are all creating significant barriers to accessing essential services, in addition to a lack of financial resources and awareness.
- During group discussions, women and girls proposed various solutions for community mechanisms to protect women and girls, 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 facilities has disrupted on-site services. UNFPA has reached 1,350 people with SRHs services including, 812 pregnant women who received antenatal care. More than 570 babies were born at UNFPA supported health facilities in the 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. These clinics will be operated by international non-governmental organizations including International Medical Corps (IMC), the Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), and Action Contre la Faim (ACF), alongside UNFPA.

## Funding Requirements

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