# WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

Flooding situation overview (as of 1 November 2024)

unicef for every child

## CHILDREN AFFECTED BY FLOODS

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Seasonal floods and subsequent water-borne disease outbreaks are a perennial risk for countries in West and Central Africa. Heavy rainfall, exacerbated by climate change, coupled with limited water drainage infrastructure and the vulnerability of populations displaced by other causes, rapidly impacts large numbers of people in the region.

In 2022, 8.5 million people were affected by regional floods, leading to the displacement of 3.2 million people. In 2023, 4.5 million people were affected, leading to the displacement of 235.5k people. With two months remaining of the year, during which floods historically reach a peak, 7.1 million have already been affected. Of these, more than a million have been displaced.

This year's severe flooding is proving much more extensive than in previous years when attention could be focused on just a few affected countries. So far in 2024, 18 of the 24 countries in West and Central Africa have already experienced floods. The Lake Chad Basin countries (Chad, Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon) have been disproportionately affected, accounting for 5.3 million people affected. Many of these people are already displaced by conflict or are more acutely impacted by hazards due to poor infrastructure and poverty.

The flooding impacts water and sanitation, health infrastructure and medical care for children. Education facilities have been destroyed, or sometimes are used by those displaced. As a result, access to education has been impacted for an estimated 10 million children across Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. In Nigeria, UNICEF was able to reunite 181 children following their separation from families due to the floods. With cholera already arriving in many countries, and general vaccine stocks also destroyed by flood waters, children in West and Central Africa are facing a high-risk situation that continues to worsen with each passing day.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of 16 October 2024)

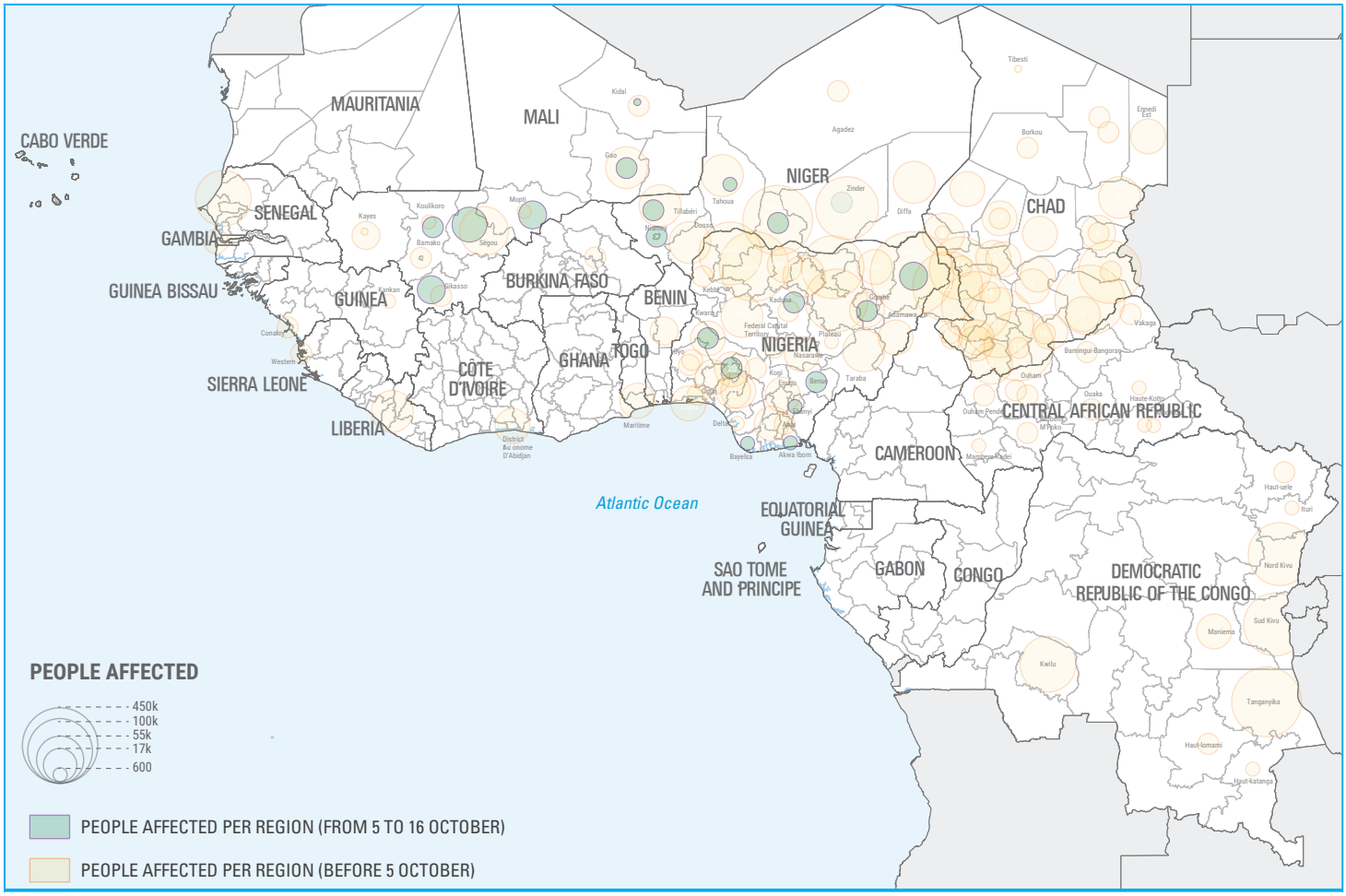
- **7.1 million** PEOPLE AFFECTED
- **1,501** PEOPLE DEAD
- **4,496** PEOPLE INJURED
- **1 million** PEOPLE DISPLACED
- **555** SCHOOLS AFFECTED
- **169** HEALTH FACILITIES AFFECTED



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*A devastating flood swept through Maiduguri, Borno State, North East Nigeria leaving many families displaced*

### PEOPLE AFFECTED BY REGION




*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

**Creation date**: 7 November 2024 **Sources**: OCHA WCAR, UNICEF

## UNICEF IN ACTION

A high level of emergency preparedness across the region has enabled UNICEF and partners to quickly pivot and respond to the unusual level of rains. In Chad, UNICEF and partners were able to respond within 48 hours to provide urgent sanitation assistance including the digging of latrines. Across the region, UNICEF and partners are acting to meet immediate humanitarian needs, as well as longer-term challenges through investment in climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impact of floods in the future. In Burkina Faso, UNICEF and local authorities constructed gutter systems that prevented floods in the Fada region and in Mali, UNICEF-supported water points were not impacted by floods due to investments in more resilient construction.

### RESPONSE IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

5.3 million people have been affected by floods in the Lake Chad Basin area in 2024. Many are refugees and internally displaced people who have fled the conflict. In addition to the immediate impacts of floods such as displacement, destruction of infrastructure and exposure to diseases, floods have also devastated agricultural lands and disrupted the harvesting season. In Chad alone, 356,000 hectares of croplands have been destroyed in a country that already has a nationally declared nutrition crisis and high cereal and food prices. More than 58,000 children under 5 in Chad are expected to experience elevated levels of acute malnutrition in 2024. Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon have also experienced the same dynamics of the destruction of farmlands and existing nutrition crises exacerbated by climate change, placing millions of children in high levels of acute food insecurity.




*UNICEF has provided dignity and cholera prevention kits to over 4,000 families or 24,000 people in camps and communities across camps and communities in Maiduguri, helping to protect families from disease and maintain basic hygiene during the floods.*

In Northeast Nigeria, the bursting of the Alau Dam in September impacted more than 40 per cent of the city of Maiduguri, displacing people into surrounding areas, destroying health and education infrastructure. The area has since seen an outbreak of cholera. In cooperation with the government, UNICEF was able to provide assistance to 131,000 people across 20 camps for displaced people within the first 10 days. With the Lake Chad Basin already prone to floods each year, UNICEF maintains pre-positioned stocks in each of the countries in the region, with partners able to quickly deploy. In addition to supplies, UNICEF Cameroon has been able to reach 1,300 households with multi-purpose cash assistance, giving families greater say in how assistance is utilised.
Along with the floods have come cholera outbreaks, with 12,000 cholera cases already reported in the Lake Chad Basin. UNICEF is considering the coming months as particularly high risk for further cases as a result of the floods. Across the region, UNICEF has been distributing cholera kits, providing water trucking of safe drinking water, constructing and rehabilitating latrines and has been working with local organisations to expand hygiene promotion messages to prevent cholera in the absence of latrines.

With devastating floods recurring each year, strong preparedness has been key to UNICEF's response. All countries in the Lake Chad Basin benefited from pre-positioned supplies, strong local partnerships and flexible funding to enable the rapid deployment of response activities. Strong relationships with national and local governments have also enabled joint activities that expand the reach and sustainability of interventions. In the coming months, UNICEF will continue to respond, repair infrastructure and strengthen our ties to local responders to ensure no child is left behind in the Lake Chad Basin.

# WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

## Floods response overview (as of 1 November 2024)

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### CAMEROON

**HEALTH**
- 130,015 people vaccinated against cholera (22,500 children 1-4 years)
- 12,353 patients received health services with UNICEF's support

**NUTRITION**
- 2,961 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment

**WASH**
- 1,930 WASH kits distributed
- Support provided for the construction of 10 emergency latrines for 100 households in IDP sites
- 734 packs of 300 tablets of aquatabs each were distributed to households

**EDUCATION**
- 560 WASH and dignity kits and 10 educational kits were distributed
- 19 tents were installed to provide safe space for education and child protection activities

**CHILD PROTECTION**
- 1,019 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 34 children who have received individual case management

**MULTI-PERPOSE CASH**
- 128 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers

### NIGERIA

**HEALTH**
- 4 health centres set up providing primary health care, equipped with medicines and medical consumables, and UNICEF supported 58 government health workers
- 150,000 measles and 500,000 cholera vaccines delivered

**NUTRITION**
- 13,500 children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- 2,800 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 1,180 moderately malnourished children received small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements (SQ-LNS)
- 4,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women counselled on dietary practices and child spacing

**WASH**
- Over 43,600 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic need
- 28,200 people reached with hygiene promotion
- 11,250 people accessing appropriate sanitation services

**CHILD PROTECTION**
- Of 375 unaccompanied and separated children, 181 were reunified with their families
- Almost 1,400 children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE**
- Over 130,000 people reached with hygiene promotion messages including to show people how to 'dig & bury' faeces with a stick to prevent cholera in the absence of latrines

### CHAD

**HEALTH**
- 25 test kits prepositioned for cholera in 25 province

**WASH**
- 4,710 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs.
- 5,400 people accessing appropriate sanitation services.
- 16,610 people received at least one awareness-raising message on good hygiene practices

**CHILD PROTECTION**
- 5,874 children, including 2,181 girls, have received psychosocial support.

**NFI**
- 5,194 people benefited from kits distribution

### NIGER

**HEALTH**
- 2 treatment kits for severe malaria, capable of treating 500 children, were also donated to health facilities in the Tahoua region.

**NUTRITION**
- 1,730,839 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition
- 109,563 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 185,129 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling

**WASH**
- 3,708 households received water purifiers and soap
- 24,500 individuals receiving hygiene kits.
- 2,578 migrants people accessing appropriate sanitation services.

**EDUCATION**

700 damaged classrooms benefit for minor rehabilitation, enabled a safe return to school for 28,000 students, including 14,439 girls

**CHILD PROTECTION**
- 108,922 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 36 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- Supported 31,200 children, 4,000 women, and 1,530 men with home visits by CVPEs.
- 10,939 people benefitde from 1,293 protection kits distributed

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE**
- 6,480 actors trained in flood management communication
- 1,587,703 people reached with flood prevention and hygiene messages through radio broadcasts.
- Engaged 37,428 engaged people provided feedback on services, showing active community participation.
- 1,829 young people informed on flood-risk prevention and management via U-Report chatbot

## FUNDING REQUIRED

FUND ASK
**US$19 million**

UNICEF is asking for US$19 million to enable and expand planned response actions across West and Central Africa. This will help UNICEF to meet the urgent needs of children and families whose lives have been torn apart by floods and for whom access to essential services is highly constrained. UNICEF will provide multi-sectoral support with government and local partners in the areas of WASH, Child Protection, Nutrition, Education and Health to the maximum extent possible to achieve our mandate to work for the fulfillment of the rights of every child.


**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**

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