

SITUATION REPORT #19






Country:	Cameroon
Emergency Type:	Complex humanitarian crisis: Conflict, instability, climate crisis and displacement (refugees & internal displacement crisis)
Date issued:	May 10, 2024
Covering Period:	April 1-30, 2024
Contact Persons:	Justin Koffi, Resident Representative, jukoffi@unfpa.org Noemi Dalmonte, Deputy Resident Representative, dalmonte@unfpa.org Aymar Narodar Some, Humanitarian Programme Coordinator, asome@unfpa.org Liliane Munezero, GBV AoR Coordinator, lmunezero@unfpa.org Samuel Sawalda, Humanitarian Communications Focal Point, sawalda@unfpa.org

HIGHLIGHTS

The overall context across crisis-affected regions in Cameroon is summarized below:

- In March 2024, the Far North, Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon experienced repeated clashes, attacks against civilians and lockdowns.
- Lockdowns have been regularly enforced, closing businesses, halting transportation and making markets inaccessible, making it harder for the affected population to access basic necessities like food and medicines.
- Humanitarian access has been disrupted and reduced, impacting women and girls' ability to access life-saving sexual and reproductive health services.

KEY FIGURES

3,400,000	816,000	88,600	367,000	594,000
TOTAL AFFECTED PEOPLE	WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	ESTIMATED PREGNANT WOMEN	WOMEN AND GIRLS TARGETED WITH SRH SERVICES	WOMEN AND GIRLS TARGETED WITH GBV PROGRAMMES
				

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Cameroon continues to grapple with security challenges on two main fronts, with the overall situation marked by tensions, violence, killings, and mass displacements of the population.
- Despite the overall tense environment, UNFPA is on the ground, continuing to deliver reproductive health and protection services to women and girls in need in the FN region (Maroua, Kousseri); East region (Bertoua and Gado Bajere); West region (Foumbot and Bana); SW region (Buea); and the NW region (Bamenda).
- Data from UNFPA-supported services highlight that intimate partner violence continues to be the most reported form of gender-based violence (GBV) followed by a denial of resources, opportunities and services (40%), sexual violence (35%), emotional violence (15%), and physical assaults (10%).

UNFPA RESPONSE

Gender-based violence:

- Some 681 women and girls received psychosocial support at Women and Girls' Safe Spaces in Guidiguiss, Moulvoudaye, Moskota, Koza, Vélé, Guéré, Fotokol, and Mada – FN region.
- Over 5,900 people in the FN, NW, East and SW – 74% women and girls – participated in sensitization sessions to increase awareness of and access to available reproductive health and protection services.
- 22 members from the GBV platform in the Littoral region received training on psychosocial care for survivors of violence.
- 352 dignity and menstrual hygiene kits were distributed to women and girls in the FN and NW/SW.

Sexual and reproductive health:

- Five Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits were delivered to health districts in Fotokol, Mada, Vélé, and Yagoua. The kits contained equipment and supplies to support safe births and the clinical management of rape for 240 individuals.
- 35 humanitarian midwives were deployed to hard-to-reach areas in Cameroon (FN: Yagoua, Maga, Vele, Kousseri, Makary, Goulfey, Guere, Koza, Mozogo, Vélé, Guéré, Fotokol, Mada, Guidiguiss, and Moulvoudaye; NW/SW: Buea and Bamenda; West: Bana and Foumbot; East: Gado and Bajere) to strengthen the delivery of maternal and child health services for pregnant women.
- More than 2,790 safe births were supported by skilled birth attendants in UNFPA-supported health districts in Fotokol, Mada, Kousseri, Goulfey, Koza, Mozogo, Guidiguiss, Moulvoudaye, Kar Hay, Yagoua, Vélé, Guéré, Maga and Bogo – FN region; Gado Badzere in the East; Bana and Foumbot in the West; Buea in the NW; and Bamenda in the SW. More than 1,580 pregnant women received antenatal care and 710 mothers accessed postnatal care.
- 125 baby boxes – which include blankets, disposable diapers and wipes, shampoo and soap– were distributed to pregnant women in UNFPA-supported health districts.
- 594 new and old clients of family planning services accessed services in UNFPA-supported health districts.
- 242 individuals were treated for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in UNFPA-supported health districts.
- Health talks on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), STIs, and family planning were attended by 2,157 people in UNFPA-supported health districts.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS):

In the Far North region:

- 721 women and girls accessed essential GBV services, including medical, legal, security, mental health and psychosocial support.

- 20 new cases were registered for GBV case management, and received psychosocial support through counseling, psychological first aid and referrals.

Challenges:

- Despite ongoing efforts, delivering critical reproductive health and protection services to women and girls in remote regions of Cameroon remains a significant challenge. This is due to the difficulty of procuring and distributing essential medicines, equipment, and supplies to health facilities in these areas. Resources to support survivors' economic needs are limited as most programmes are focused on life-saving rather than resilience-building activities.
- Since March 2024, dignity kits, menstrual hygiene kits, and first aid kits have been required in Mayo Danay and Logone-and-Chari (FN region) to mitigate GBV risks for women and girls, but these are still not available. Services and supplies for the clinical management of rape cases in the West and Littoral regions – which are not included in the Humanitarian Response Plan – are urgently needed.

RESULTS SNAPSHOTS



6,712

People reached with SRH services
94% Female



6,609

People reached with GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities
77% Female



477

Non-food items distributed to individuals



14

Safe spaces for women and girls supported



5 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health kits distributed to 4 health facilities



21 Health facilities supported

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Gender-based violence:

- **Far North region:** UNFPA is leading the GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) in the FN. In April 2024, the GBV AoR strengthened the capacity of 12 organizations (MINPROFF, IRC, RESAEC, ARDHU, ALVF-EN, UNFPA, OCHA, Rayons de Soleil, ONE, ADECOPA-CAM, IMC et INTERSOS) to ensure quality and ethical GBV programming in emergencies.
- The GBV AoR also participated in an inter-agency field assessment, organized by the Protection Cluster in Mokolo, to discuss and evaluate the protection needs of newly-displaced persons reported by the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). GBV referral pathways were updated for ethical and safe referrals.
- **Littoral and West regions:** The GBV platforms established in the Littoral and West regions are improving care for survivors of violence. The referral pathways in the Littoral region have been updated and will be printed and disseminated. This will make it easier to provide holistic care for survivors.

Sexual and reproductive health:

At the fifth monthly meeting of the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHiE) Working Group on 16 April 2024, the 5W tool was shared with all group members to map out SRH interventions. It serves as a centralized repository of information, providing a detailed overview of SRH projects, organizations involved, and target populations in specific locations enabling collaboration, informed decision-making, and resource allocation. It also serves as a valuable tool for advocacy and awareness-raising, highlighting the importance of SRH and promoting access to quality services.

FUNDING STATUS

- UNFPA’s humanitarian response plan for 2024 in Cameroon requires a total of USD 11 ,070, 664. As of late March 2024, only USD 1,955,000 (17.8%) has been received: USD 750,000 from USAID, 420,000 USD from Canada, USD 305,000 from Norway and USD 500,000 from CERF, leaving a funding gap of USD 9,045,000 (82.2%).
- Their invaluable contributions allow us to provide life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, combat gender-based violence, and empower women and girls in the Far North, East, North West, and South West regions.
- UNFPA is actively pursuing new funding opportunities, with proposals currently in the pipeline with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).
- We urge all donors to consider the urgent needs of women and girls in Cameroon and contribute to a more secure and healthy future for all. By working together, we can ensure that UNFPA continues to deliver life-saving services and empower women and girls to rebuild their lives and communities.

