






SITUATION REPORT #20

Country:	Cameroon
Emergency Type:	Complex humanitarian crisis: Conflict, instability, climate crisis and displacement (refugees & internal displacement crisis) in the Far North (FN), East, North-West and South-West (NW/SW) regions
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Attacks against civilians and persistent lockdowns were reported in the NW and SW regions which are **also** restricting humanitarian access and women’s and girl’s ability to access SRH services when needed.
- **11,128 people were reached with SRH services** including 1,358 safe childbirths assisted by UNFPA’s midwives.
- **2,314 people were reached with prevention and response services for gender-based violence (GBV) including** 1,409 with information on GBV prevention and available services; 535 with services; and 370 people received training to strengthen capacity for the delivery of services.
- **As of late May 2024, UNFPA has received USD \$1,809,780**, thanks to the generous support of USAID-BHA, Canada, Norway, and UN-CERF. This covers 16% of the required funding needed for UNFPA’s humanitarian response in Cameroon in 2024.

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 PROTECTION
				

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Cameroon navigates a difficult security landscape with tensions, violence and displacement impacting various regions. Fighting between armed groups and government security forces increased in the NW and SW regions in the lead-up to the National Day celebration on 20 May, and "ghost town" strikes disrupted business activities in the regions. The International Crisis Group reported that at least 16 people were killed and calls for a ceasefire were made.

Despite this volatile and complex situation, UNFPA is on the ground, providing services for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and protection from GBV to women and girls most in need. UNFPA has two decentralized offices and three antennas in humanitarian hotspots across the country.

UNFPA RESPONSE

Gender-based violence

- **228 displaced women and girls in the SW (132), FN (64), and East (32) regions received dignity kits**, containing basic hygiene and menstrual supplies, and information on menstrual health management.
- **3 additional Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSSs) were opened** in Kupe Manengouba (Tombel-Muabong quarter), Manyu (Mamfe-Army garage) and Menchum (Wum Centre-Nyanga quarter) divisions in the NW and SW regions.
- In the FN, **over 350 women and girls participated in psychosocial support activities and received emotional and social support through WGSSs** in Guidiguis, Moulvoudaye, Moskota, Koza, Vélé, Guéré, Fotokol, and Mada.
- **Over 1,409 individuals participated in educational sessions** in the FN, NW, East, and SW regions. These sessions focused on raising awareness of available GBV services and support. 57.25% of the participants were women and girls.
- **52% of case management cases for GBV survivors were satisfactorily closed in May** - other cases are ongoing; 27.7% of survivors were minors.
- **UNFPA reinforced the capacities of 370 military personnel deployed to the FN (170) and East regions (200)** on protection from GBV, conflict-related sexual violence and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. These included soldiers of the elite corps of Cameroon Defence Forces – Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) – and those deployed to Central Africa to support the UN peacekeeping mission within the framework of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Sexual and reproductive health

- **UNFPA deployed 35 midwives to 21 UNFPA-supported facilities.**
- **167 women and girls benefited from Inter-Agency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits** for safe childbirth; and **65 baby boxes**, containing supplies for newborns, were distributed in targeted health areas.
- **6 awareness-raising sessions on SRH were organized in communities reaching 1,700 people.**
- **735 women who had made at least 2 antenatal care (ANC) visits were seen. 1,358 deliveries and 62 cesarean sections were performed** at UNFPA-supported health facilities. **143 obstetric emergencies were referred**, with midwives recording **176 obstetric complications.**
- **4 cases of maternal death** were recorded in the District Hospitals of Mada (02), Karhay (01) and Yagoua (01), of which 1 was audited. In terms of neonatal deaths, 18 cases were recorded during the month of May, of which 2 were audited.
- **764 cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were diagnosed and treated.**
- **80 women received life-saving post-abortion care.**

- A total of 1,281 consultations and hospitalisations were recorded at health facilities supported by UNFPA.
- 65 women received baby boxes in the Far North region.

Mental health and psychosocial support integration

- UNFPA’s priority is to ensure that mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is integrated into protection from GBV as well as SRH services. UNFPA used Inter-Agency Standing Committee MHPSS guidelines, aligning interventions to its requirements. During the reporting period UNFPA provided basic services and security in a do-no-harm manner to women and girls:
 - 100 women and girls in the SW region received dignity and menstrual hygiene kits, contributing to their psychosocial well-being.
 - 65 women received baby boxes, contributing to their postnatal psychosocial well-being.
 - 350 women and girls benefitted from structured and unstructured psychosocial group activities, which focused on non-specialized psychosocial support through basic emotional counseling, psychological first aid, and safe referral in the WGSSs.

Challenges

- There is a **shortage of oxytocin, magnesium sulfate and misoprostol for managing obstetric emergencies**. Supplies are unevenly distributed across health facilities in the FN region. These medicines have arrived in the country but there are delays with customs clearance.
- **Geopolitical conflicts are affecting the trade route via the Red Sea**, where there are tensions leading to attacks on commercial vessels.

RESULTS SNAPSHOTS



11,128 - 93% women
People reached with SRH services



2,314 - 62% women
People reached with GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities



293
Dignity kits and baby boxes distributed to women and girls



17
Safe spaces for women and girls supported



15 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits distributed to 16 health facilities



21 Health facilities supported

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Gender-based violence

UNFPA leads the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) in Cameroon at both the national level (Yaoundé) and sub-national levels (FN and NW/SW regions). In the FN region, the GBV AoR participated in an inter-agency field mission organized by OCHA in Blangoua, Hile Alifa, Logone-and-Chari. The mission aimed to assess the needs of newly-displaced persons, monitor the prevailing humanitarian situation and ongoing response efforts, and identify persistent gaps requiring regional monitoring or advocacy with relevant authorities at sub-national and national levels. The need for specialized protection services and support for women and girls is critical as there are no specific GBV partners operating in these localities. The Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Cameroon do provide medical and psychosocial support and referrals for survivors of sexual violence, but comprehensive services are located some distance from where displacement persons are currently living. Discussions with women and girls revealed that they face a significant risk of sexual violence, early marriage and a denial of resources. Cultural barriers, however, make reporting these incidents difficult.

Sexual and reproductive health

The Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergency Technical Working Group (SRHiE TWG) held its monthly meeting on 22 May. The meeting focused on two key areas:

- A presentation on the contents of Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits was made to the group, and shared with the larger health sector, to ensure greater awareness of the availability of these kits at health facilities.
- DEMENTOU Humanitarian, the International Medical Corps (IMC) and IFRC shared good practices and information on their activities.

FUNDING STATUS

- UNFPA requires a **total of USD \$11,070,664** to provide life-saving reproductive health and GBV prevention and response services **for 1,287,800 people**, including **1,050,400 women and girls** and **237,400 boys and men**.
- As of late May 2024, UNFPA has received **USD \$1,809,780, USD (16.5%)** thanks to the generous support of **USAID-BHA, Canada, Norway, and UN-CERF**, leaving a **funding gap of USD \$9,190,220 USD**.
- UNFPA has been approved as a partner with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) funded intervention in Anticipatory Action and Disaster Preparedness in the FN, which is scheduled to commence in July 2024.

