

UNHCR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

FLOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE

01 - 31 January 2025

OVERVIEW

Floods continue to affect a growing number of people in Chad and Mali. As of 31 January, over 5.3 million people have been affected by floods, with 1.94 million in Chad, 1.52 million in the Niger, 733,000 in Mali, 698,000 in Nigeria, and 448,000 in Cameroon.

Timbuktu remains the most severely flood-affected region in Mali, especially its circle of Dire, Timbuktu, Gundam and Gourma-Rharous. The region recorded close to 60,000 households affected by floods, representing 304,400 people.

A rise in lake levels displaced over 8,500 people in Chad's lake region. A mission conducted by partners to the Kaiga Kindjiria and Daboua sub-prefectures reported increased insecurity due to the rising waters, which have enabled incursions by armed groups.

In Maidiguri, Nigeria, although 30 camps already closed, 36,000 individuals comprising 6,000 households remain in Gubio Road camp, and are in need of shelter, household items, cash and food assistance. The Borno State Geographic Information Service officially closed Bakassi camp. Displaced persons with homes were transported to their homes directly, while those without homes are being offered alternate shelter.

In Cameroon, although water levels have receded, many flood-affected families are hesitant to return and await assistance linked to ongoing profiling. Travel along the Kousseri-Zina-Maroua road remains challenging, preventing rapid response. Local authorities underscore the importance of sustainable projects with long-term environment and economic benefits. They also highlight the need for equal treatment and support to persons displaced from both Chad and Cameroon.



@Credit Photo : Abdoulaye Mohamed, Stop Sahel on 06 January 2025 : Heavy Damage in Alkorofondia's Village, Timbuktu's Urban District.

UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION



US\$ 10.6M

UNHCR's requirements for the flood emergency response in West and Central Africa.

UNHCR emergency flood response supports flood-affected displaced persons to meet immediate needs by providing non-food items, cash, shelter, and protection; prioritizing families most in need through risk and mitigation.



Overall : 456,634

Cash, non-food, shelter items dispatched to authorities, and partners, including Protection and Risk Mitigation.



256,313



117,571



14,467
Protection



17,995
Risk and Mitigation



20,288
Shelter and Settlement



30,000
Documentation

UNHCR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mali : UNHCR supported the construction of 50 sustainable climate-resilient shelters for 250 flood-affected people within the sustainable settlement in Gao. Recipients of the shelters will access existing services available to inhabitants.

UNHCR provided technical training to 2,500 people for communities to build back safer. Flood and fire risk mitigation training was delivered by UNHCR with the Regional Directorate of Civil Protection in Mopti, Kayes and Gao.

To mitigate the impact of floods, UNHCR built water drainage infrastructure in the heavily affected districts of San and Timbuktu. Drainage infrastructure channels were made of masonry, concrete and slab, and covered up to one kilometer. The drainage infrastructure is part of the UNHCR strategy to support sustainable solutions to strengthen municipal and human settlements.

UNHCR also strengthened water and sanitation facilities in the settlements of Benbara (Koro), Benena (Tominian), San and Douentza.

Niger : In the Niger, the level one emergency funds contributed to providing cash for shelter and non-food items to vulnerable individuals within IDP, refugee, and host communities. While the initial target was to reach 10,000 individuals (2,000 households), the project assisted 41,675 people, representing 6,113 households, including 2,084 refugees at risk of gender-based violence and flood victims in the departments of Guidan Roumdji and Madarounda households. Each of these households received 80,000f in cash through a multi-sectoral cash approach for shelter and latrine reconstruction, including labor costs.

Nigeria : In Maiduguri, Borno State and Adamawa and Yobe States, over 41,000 households with 208,000 individuals received non-food items and over 16,000 households with 67,000 individuals received cash assistance. During the response period, a toll-free helpline remained active and nearly 400 calls were received. Callers were seeking information on how to receive assistance and how to report missing persons.

Over 30,000 individuals were provided with identity documents including birth certificates, national identity numbers, and indigenous certificates in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, in collaboration with the Nigerian Bar Association.

Cameroon : In January, 23,450 individuals from 3,181 households in Logone et Chari received cash or NFI kits, which included kitchen utensils, mats, mosquito nets, soap, blankets, tarpaulins, and jerrycans. In Mayo-Danay, UNHCR assisted 6,930 flood-affected individuals in 1,078 households with NFIs and cash in the communes of Yagoua, Maga, and Vélé. Emergency shelter assistance empowered households displaced by floods to meet immediate needs. In the Massil Alkanan site in Kousseri, Logone et Chari,

250 displaced Chadian households with 1,478 individuals received emergency shelter kits, consisting of tarpaulins and wood. Furthermore, 50 emergency shelters were constructed hosting 287 flood victims in Tildé.

Coordination

In Nigeria, in coordination with the Ministry of Women Affairs, UNHCR reunited displaced children with their parents in Borno state. In Mali, the State of Natural Disaster Response Plan secured pooled funds like the Regional Humanitarian Funds for West and Central Africa (RHF/WCA) and the Underfunded Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF UFE) including a climate window to support unmet needs, exacerbated by the natural disaster that occurred throughout the country. This effort aims to empower eligible national and international NGOs to join efforts with UN Agencies for effective and coordinated response.

In Cameroon, coordination in the protection and shelter sectors is ongoing for the development of a 2.5 hectare site in Tilde to host families displaced by floods. The site was allocated by administrative and traditional authorities and adheres to the humanitarian development nexus standards.

Profiling of flood affected families is ongoing in the Mayo-Danay commune, where access was challenging until recently. The Protection and Shelter Cluster have registered non-food item and shelter needs in Vélé and Kaikai, with the most vulnerable households prioritized for assistance.

Gaps and Challenges

In Mali, fluvial flooding in Timbuktu's region, damaged up to 60,000 shelters. Despite efforts from humanitarians alongside the government, needs for life saving essential kits and shelter remain.

In Cameroon, access to flood-affected areas remain challenging due to poor road conditions. Insufficient funding limits the ability to address all cash and protection needs of persons displaced by floods.