



OVERVIEW

Since May 2024, West, Central and East Africa as well as the Arabian Peninsula have been hit by torrential rains at unprecedented levels exacerbated by climate change. The hardest-hit countries are also affected by years of conflict, worsening the vulnerability of local populations. Assessments of the situation have been conducted by in each country by authorities and partner organizations. According to their reports, 9,164,000 people have been affected by severe floods across 13 countries.* It has been reported that 1.3 million people have been internally displaced by floods and at least 680,791 houses have been destroyed or severely damaged in the last months.



9.1 Million people affected*



1.3 Million people displaced*



681K Houses destroyed or severely damaged*



13 Conflict-affected countries heavily hit:

[Burkina Faso](#)

[Cameroon](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

[Chad](#)

[Ethiopia](#)

[Mali](#)

[Niger](#)

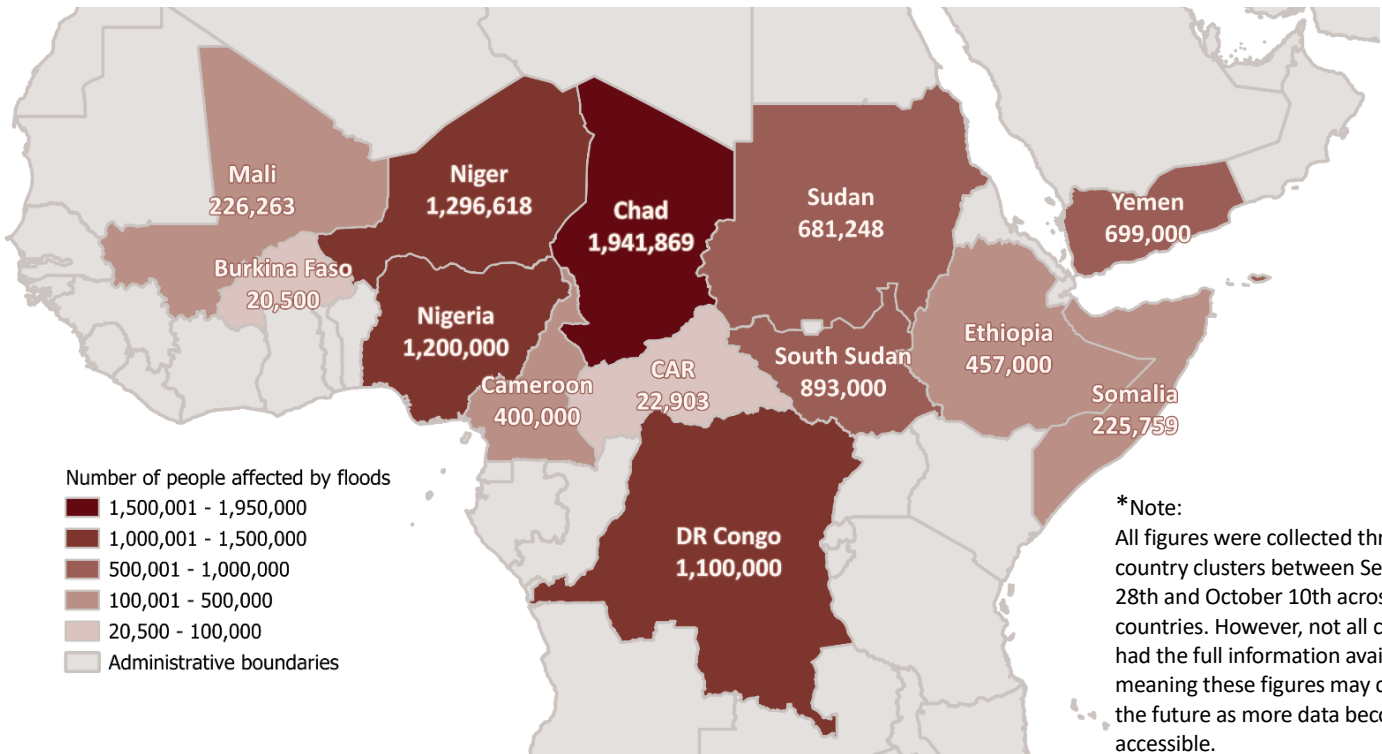
[Nigeria](#)

[Somalia](#)

[South Sudan](#)

[Sudan](#)

[Yemen](#)



Goz-Amir, Chad ©UNHCR





Emergency Needs

The severe flooding has caused unprecedented damage, leaving 4.3 million people in need of emergency shelter assistance, including tents and plastic sheeting. In addition, 6.1 million people have lost essential household items, such as mattresses, cooking items, and mosquito nets, putting their health at risk, especially babies and children.



4.3 million people in need of shelter



6,1 million people in need of NFI

Disaster Risk Reduction

Precipitation is projected to increase between 20 and 40 percent in the Sahel because of climate change. Therefore, the majority of those who lost their houses would need to be supported in implementing disaster risk reduction measures to prevent further disasters or lessen the impact of future disasters. If not possible, supporting people moving to nearest safe areas may be required.

Investing in DRR measures is estimated to cost significantly less than both relocation expenses the annual costs of repeated emergency responses. For example, research from IDP sites in Yemen indicates that DRR efforts amount to less than 20% of relocation costs and only half the expenses associated with annual emergency responses.



Niger ©IOM

CHALLENGES



High vulnerability in conflict contexts

Ongoing conflicts make it difficult to implement preventive measures, build and maintain infrastructures, set up early warning systems and disaster management plans, or respond to disasters.



Vicious Cycle of Vulnerability due to disasters

38 million people were forced to leave their home in the 13 countries. IDPs often move to places that are often unsuitable for settlement and exposed to hazards such as floods. Floods affect the most vulnerable making them even more vulnerable.



Neglected crisis

Nine of the countries were named as 10 of the [world's most neglected displacement crises](#) in 2023 by the Norwegian Refugee Council.



Multiple displacements

IDPs have been displaced multiple times, due to insecurity, floods, droughts and loss of livelihoods.



Mines and insecurity

Floods spread mines to new locations, putting local populations and humanitarian organizations at risk



Tensions between communities

Additional displacement due to floods fuels past intercommunity tensions.



Access constraints

While some affected areas have already received shelter or NFI assistance, other areas face access constraints due to insecurity and road damage. Shelter Cluster partners are coordinating with the Logistics Cluster and authorities to reach the most vulnerable populations.



Limited contingency stock

The Shelter Cluster heavily relies on core pipelines, which supply essential materials for responses in key field hubs. However, due to lack of funding, several countries could not preposition stock in remote areas. In addition, NFI and emergency shelter stocks need urgent replenishment.

Cost of Inaction

Without an adequate response, people sheltering in open spaces or damaged structures will be exposed to harsh weather conditions, leading to increased health risks such as malaria and resulting in higher mortality rates. Vulnerable groups—especially women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly—will face heightened protection risks, including GBV. The scarcity of resources could exacerbate tensions between host communities and IDPs, leading to conflict and other protection risks associated with overcrowding and lack of privacy.



North Cameroon ©UNHCR/Moise Amedje Peladal

CALL TO ACTION

Increased Funding for Shelter Response: An additional **USD 217 million** is required to address the flood and landslide emergencies, supplementing the 650-million-dollar funding gap for ongoing conflict response programs under the Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP).

Prepositioning of Contingency Stocks: While most country shelter clusters prepared contingency plans prior to the floods, they were unable to secure funding for shelter and NFI contingency stocks due to low levels of funding. In countries with significant logistical and security access constraints, **prepositioning contingency stocks in strategic hubs is crucial for effective emergency response.**

Increased Climate, DRR and Anticipatory Action Funding: Targeted investments in climate resilience within conflict-affected countries, including flood defenses, early warning systems, and resilient infrastructure. **Investment in anticipatory actions and disaster risk reduction is extremely cost-effective and protects communities' lives and assets.**

Empowering Local Communities and civil society organizations in conflict zones to take charge of flood preparedness and response including developing low-tech **early warning systems, mapping vulnerable areas, and strengthening natural defenses** like riverbank vegetation. Local actors often have better access and knowledge of the terrain and can effectively reduce flood risks even when formal support is limited.

DRR and environment resources

Shelter Projects:
Lessons From Floods

Flood Risk in Humanitarian
Settlements: Compendium of
Mitigation Measures

Environment, Climate Change and DRR Mainstreaming:

Entry points

Needs overview

Response Planning

