



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Regional Bureau of Western Africa : 3.5 million people affected by floods and drought

Climate vulnerability and livelihoods at risk across West Africa

Number of people affected—August 2024

Benin	20,395
Cameroon	183,271
CAR	8,000
Chad	1,495,969
Cote d'Ivoire	16,000
Gambia	2,991
Guinea	18,595
Guinea Bissau	3,195
Liberia	50,000
Mali	343,900
Niger	710,767
Nigeria	611,201
Sierra Leone	2,783
Togo	13,000
Total	3,480,122

WFP planned response

Sept 2024

Cameroon	80,000
Chad	400,000
Guinea	18,600
Guinea Bissau	15,300
Liberia	26,000
Mali	69,000
Niger	151,300
Total	760,200

Source: OCHA, WFP and national authorities
Figures may change as the situation evolves

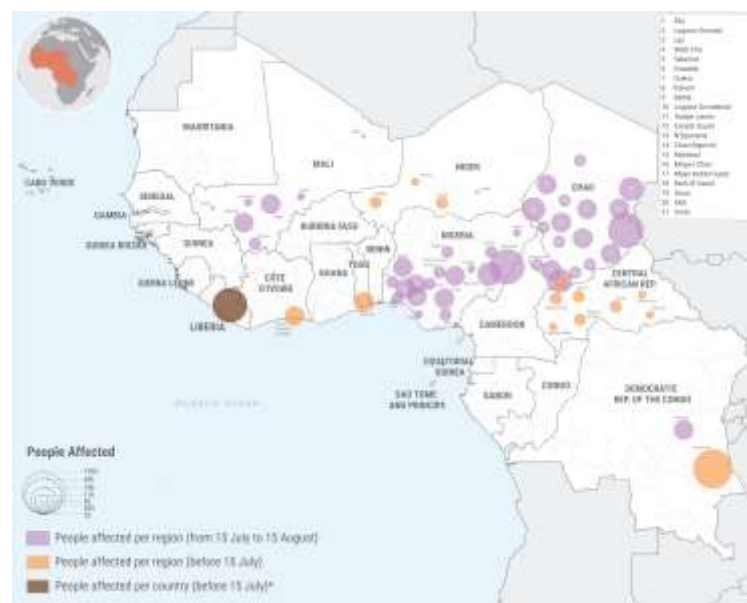
The situation regarding individuals affected by recent climate events in West Africa is increasingly concerning. The increasing frequency and magnitude of climate hazards, disrupted food systems, limited food production, barriers to regional trade, and soaring food prices constitute significant drivers of the food insecurity crisis in Western Africa. As of August 2024, 14 countries in West Africa have been affected by flooding episodes due to above-average rainfall, affecting around 3.5 million people, according to figures obtained from OCHA and national authorities. Chad, Mali, and Niger count the highest number of affected people, accounting for around 70 percent of the total affected. Approximately 50,000 people have been displaced across Chad and Nigeria due to these climate events. Many countries have declared a state of emergency. WFP is planning to target approximately 760,200 of the most vulnerable people among those affected during 3 months.

The Government of Mali has declared a national emergency in response to devastating floods that have caused widespread damage, loss of life, and destruction of property across the country. Over 1.6 million hectares of land, including nearly 500,000 hectares of cultivated land, have been reported as flooded. In Niger, the situation is equally dire, with 222 reported deaths and thousands left homeless, 44,600 houses destroyed, and 86 schools in urgent need of repair in the worst-hit regions of Maradi, Zinder, and Tahoua. The flooding has also led to the destruction of over 5,500 hectares of farmland and significant crop losses, putting food security at risk.

In Chad, nearly 1.5 million people have been affected, with 265,000 hectares of arable land flooded, and there are reports of potential dry spells affecting crops in parts of northern and northeastern Nigeria and Ghana. The situation has raised concerns about potential crop impacts, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of Nigeria.

Additionally, coastal countries are grappling with the aftermath of the Sahel crisis spillover and the effects of climate change. Guinea has reported 42,000 hectares of flooded croplands, and countries like Liberia are facing increasing difficulties in coping with the impact of the hazards, adding to the existing food insecurity and malnutrition challenges exacerbated by climate change. The situation in other coastal countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone and the Gambia is being closely monitored, and updates will follow as necessary. Official confirmation and government support are pending due to incomplete data.

Prolonged dry spells and heavy rains are exacerbating existing economic challenges. This is also an indirect driver of ongoing conflicts. These extreme weather events not only threaten the resilience of communities in the area but also worsen the already critical food security situation. Furthermore, access to essential services like health care, education, and markets has been severely disrupted, leading to a higher risk of waterborne diseases such as



Source: OCHA— West and Central Africa 2024 Flooding snapshot August 2024

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According to the latest Cadre Harmonise results, the food security outlook for the region remains worrisome. Nearly 55 million people were estimated to not be able to meet basic food needs during the 2024 lean season - an increase of 7 million people compared to last year.

Insecurity and population displacement remain the key factors in food insecurity in the region, with a negative

impact on livelihoods and pressure on resources.

Besides, the regional average inflation rate reached 20%, and prices of major cereals recorded an increase of roughly 30% compared to the five-year average.

Extreme climate events are further affecting the region's food systems and limiting access to food and basic services for the most vulnerable.

WFP ENGAGED ALONGSIDE GOVERNMENTS

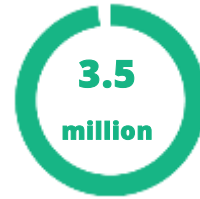
In Western and Central Africa, the WFP is collaborating with various public and private sector partners to develop climate risk finance (CRF) programs. These programs offer capacity building in risk profiling and contingency planning, which help governments and vulnerable households anticipate, absorb, and rapidly recover from climate shocks. The CRF instruments, including Anticipatory Action (AA) and Macro and Micro Insurance, rely on parametric triggers for the early release of funding for predefined actions to be implemented before or immediately after a shock occurs.

WFP is also aiding governments in mobilizing additional resources, prioritizing the most vulnerable ones, and enabling humanitarian partners to scale up assistance to the most affected populations as soon as possible. In Niger, the Government has set up a Task Force to coordinate the national response to the affected populations, distributing food, shelter, mosquito nets, and blankets to the victims since early July. However, the national capacity to address the scale of the immediate needs is severely strained, prompting the Government to call on humanitarian partners for urgent support.



WFP staff helping affected communities gather household remains after their homes got destroyed in Nigeria.

In response to this alarming crisis, WFP is working closely with government authorities, UN agencies, including OCHA, and other partners to ensure that assistance reaches those most in need. WFP is committed to providing immediate support to the affected populations, recognizing the urgent requirement for humanitarian aid in these challenging times. Meanwhile, in several other countries, plans to respond to similar crises are still in the development stages under governmental coordination, as in Nigeria and most Gulf of Guinea countries. WFP is deeply committed to proactive measures in the region and is actively working to strengthen the capacity of early warning systems in several countries, including Niger, Mali, and Chad. This initiative aims to establish triggers that will facilitate the implementation of anticipatory actions. By enhancing these mechanisms, and aligning its response with national social protection systems whenever possible – leveraging existing social safety nets and social registries to target affected populations, and using national cash transfer platforms to deliver timely and effective assistance – WFP seeks to mitigate the impacts of flooding and drought starting next year,-



3.5 million people affected and requiring urgent assistance.

50 USD million urgently needed

To support **760,200** affected communities meet their basic food needs.



ensuring a more effective response to climate-related challenges and In response to the recent flooding and drought in West Africa, WFP started implementing several vital activities to assist affected communities:

Emergency Food Assistance: In Chad, Mali, Niger, and Cameroun, WFP is already providing immediate food and cash distributions to vulnerable families using internally available resources, however these are limited. In this countries WFP is planning to target approximately 700,000 individuals in critically affected areas. This assistance is crucial for meeting basic food and nutrition needs.

Post-Flood and Drought Recovery Support: In Countries like Ghana and Nigeria, where they are focused on smallholder farmers, WFP is under discussion with the government and partners to offer support to help rebuild livelihoods, including providing agricultural inputs and resources to restore destroyed crops and also support the social safety net of the affected population.

Social Protection: In Chad and Niger, WFP is working closely with governments to ensure that future emergency responses build upon existing social safety nets, align with ongoing social assistance programs (transfer value, modality etc.) and use as well as expand existing national registries to target affected populations.

Anticipatory Action Programs: WFP is enhancing the capacity of governments and local partners by establishing early warning systems and delivering timely information to communities. This proactive approach aims to mitigate the impacts of future climate-related disasters.

Climate Risk Insurance: WFP is implementing climate risk insurance schemes to support governments in managing climate-related risks and providing financial safety nets for communities affected by disasters.