



PRESS RELEASE

UNFPA Cameroon, in collaboration with the Far North Regional Delegation of Public Health, is organizing mobile clinics to provide sexual and reproductive health and protection services from gender-based violence to displaced populations, refugees and host communities in the Far North of Cameroon.

Maroua, 15 March 2024 - UNFPA, the United Nations Agency for Sexual and Reproductive Health, in collaboration with the Far North Regional Delegation of Public Health, the women-led Organizations ALVF-EN and ALDEPA and the Community-Based Organisations (AJASSED, Care Vie Foundation, Family Club, Humanitarian Ambassadors and ONE), is organizing integrated mobile clinics to provide sexual and reproductive health and protection from gender-based violence services in eight health districts in the Far North region of Cameroon and in the Minawao Refugee Camp, targeting people affected by the security and climate crises.

From 15 to 31 March 2024, these mobile clinics will offer a range of essential health and protection services, free of charge, to displaced people, refugees and host communities affected by the security and climate crisis in the eight Health Districts: Fotokol and Mada in the Logone-and-Chari Division, Vélé and Guéré in Mayo-Danay, Guidiguis and Moulvoudaye in Mayo-Kani, Koza and Mozogo as well as the Minawao Refugee Camp in Mayo-Tsanaga. The services offered provide minimum emergency sexual and reproductive health care and are linked to primary health care. They include antenatal and postnatal consultations, STI and HIV screening, mental health consultations, including for survivors of gender-based violence, and primary health care. There will also be provision for screening for any other sexual and reproductive health and primary health needs, as well as referral to health facilities in the health pyramid, where appropriate

These integrated mobile clinics are being organized as part of the project ***"Prevention and response to gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health for vulnerable populations in poorly covered localities in the Far North of Cameroon"***. The project aims to fill gaps in the provision of sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services to populations affected by crises. Funded by the US Government through the US Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), the project aims to reach some 104,000 people in the target areas.



The organization of mobile clinics meets a crucial need for access to essential health services in the remote areas of Cameroon's Far North, where there is a high concentration of displaced persons and refugees. People in these areas face a number of obstacles in getting to health centers, including insecurity, long distances, lack of infrastructure and qualified staff, and high costs. Mobile clinics are an effective way of bringing health services closer to the population by facilitating access to minimum health care. They also aim to reduce financial barriers by making services free of charge, for affected populations, and to raise awareness of health issues: sexual and reproductive health, prevention of gender-based violence and promotion of menstrual hygiene. It is therefore a crucial tool for improving the health of affected populations, reducing inequalities in access to healthcare and improving their well-being.

People in the project's target areas are encouraged to participate, and to take advantage of the range of services offered free of charge.

For further information, please contact:

Samuel SAWALDA, Humanitarian Communication Focal Point, UNFPA Cameroon
Telephone: +237 698 43 86 48 Email: sawalda@unfpa.org

Aymar NARODAR SOME, Humanitarian Coordinator, UNFPA Cameroon,
asome@unfpa.org, Tel: +237 695 57 80 44

Dr Jean Alain MAH, Head of UNFPA Maroua Sub-Office, Tél: +237 696 60 10 50
Email: amah@unfpa.org

Dr. GORSE, Sexual and Reproductive Health Expert, UNFPA Maroua Tel: +237 698 02 22 99 Email: gorse@unfpa.org

Sandrine NGAPOUT, GBV Specialist, UNFPA Maroua Sub-Office, Tel: +237 677 27 01 95, Email: ngapout@unfpa.org

Note to editors: UNFPA, the United Nations Agency for Sexual and Reproductive Health, works for a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and every young person has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

In Cameroon, UNFPA is committed to meeting the urgent and long-term needs of populations in terms of sexual and reproductive health and protection against gender-based violence, including in humanitarian crisis contexts marked by protracted and multi-faceted crises, significant humanitarian needs and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Cameroon is experiencing prolonged and multi-faceted humanitarian crises that are seriously affecting the Far North region. For example, in 2023, 4.7 million people



needed humanitarian aid, including around 662,000 internally-displaced persons. Insecurity, attacks by non-state armed groups and natural disasters have destroyed health infrastructure and reduced access to essential health services, particularly for women and girls. According to the [United Nations High Commission for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#), some 120,000 Nigerian refugees are living in Cameroon's Far North region, including around 70,000 in the Minawao camp in the Mayo Tsanaga Division. Moreover, 52% of these refugees are women and girls, and 55% of them are children. In response to these challenges, UNFPA Cameroon is implementing a series of interventions to:

- **Provide emergency sexual and reproductive health services.** This includes the organization of mobile clinics, the distribution of reproductive health kits and the provision of care services for victims of sexual violence;
- **Strengthening local health systems:** UNFPA supports the training of health workers, the deployment of midwives, the rehabilitation of health infrastructures and the establishment of coordination mechanisms;
- **Providing services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence;**
- **Promoting awareness and behaviour change:** UNFPA conducts awareness campaigns on the risks associated with emergencies and prevention measures, and encourages the adoption of healthy sexual and reproductive practices.

UNFPA is committed to working closely with the Government of Cameroon, humanitarian organizations and local communities to ensure that the most affected populations have access to the sexual and reproductive health services and protection from gender-based violence that they need.

- **Web site:** <https://cameroon.unfpa.org/>
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