

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

JUNE 7, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>206 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Nigeria</p> <p><i>UN – December 2020</i></p> | <p>8.7 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need in Northeast Nigeria</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p> | <p>2.9 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Nigeria</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2021</i></p> | <p>308,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Nigerian Refugees in West Africa</p> <p><i>UNHCR – April 2021</i></p> | <p>12.8 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population for 2021 Lean Season</p> <p><i>CH – March 2021</i></p> |
|---|---|--|--|---|

- Major OAG attacks on population centers in northeastern Nigeria—including Borno State’s Damasak town and Yobe State’s Geidam town—have displaced hundreds of thousands of people since late March.
- Intercommunal violence and OCG activity continue to drive displacement and exacerbate needs in northwest Nigeria.
- Approximately 12.8 million people will require emergency food assistance during the June-to-August lean season, representing a significant deterioration of food security in Nigeria compared with 2020.



| | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Nigeria Response in FY 2021 | USAID/BHA ¹ | \$230,973,400 |
| | State/PRM ² | \$13,500,000 |
| Total | | \$244,473,400 |

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Violence Drives Displacement and Constrains Access in the Northeast

Organized armed group (OAG) attacks in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states have displaced more than 200,000 people since March and continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs and limit relief efforts, according to the UN. OAGs conducted multiple attacks between May 10 and 12 in and around Borno's capital city of Maiduguri, which hosts more than 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), resulting in widespread damage and displacement and representing an escalation of OAG activity in the area. In mid-April, OAG elements attacked Borno's Damasak town, Mobbar Local Government Area (LGA), killing at least 30 people and forcing an estimated 65,000 civilians to flee, the majority of whom sought shelter in neighboring Niger's Diffa Region, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. OAGs have also carried out multiple attacks in recent months in Borno's Dikwa LGA, displacing more than 30,000 people between early March and mid-April and forcing humanitarian organizations to suspend operations in Dikwa, according to the UN.

In Yobe, a series of OAG attacks on Geidam town beginning in late April displaced up to 150,000 people by the end of the month, representing the vast majority of the town's population, the UN reports. The number of IDPs from Geidam has reportedly overwhelmed basic services in host communities, which are largely located in other areas of Yobe. Security conditions in many host communities also remain precarious—in Kanamma town, approximately 22 miles from Yobe, OAGs launched another series of attacks beginning on April 29 that displaced 30,000 people, including many people recently displaced from Geidam, the UN reports.

OAGs have also increasingly targeted humanitarian staff and infrastructure in recent months, further restricting relief actors' already limited access to much of the northeast, according to the UN. Between January and March, humanitarian organizations reported nearly 1,200 security incidents affecting access in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, compared with approximately 700 incidents during the same period in 2020. OAGs continue to target civilian and humanitarian traffic along key roads in the northeast, leading aid workers to depend on the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to reach field sites. Additionally, OAG members reportedly damaged facilities used by humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during the March attack on Dikwa and the April attack on Damasak and have targeted NGO staff members in other attacks, according to the UN. As of April, the UN estimated that approximately 1 million people—including the entire population of Borno's Abadam, Guzamala, Kukawa, and Marte LGAs—resided in inaccessible areas of the northeast; relief actors warn that inaccessible communities likely have similar or greater humanitarian needs compared with nearby accessible areas.

Conflict and OCG Activity Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs in Northwest

Intercommunal violence—including clashes between agriculturalist and pastoralist communities—and organized criminal group (OCG) activity continue to endanger civilians, drive displacement, and exacerbate humanitarian needs across much of northwestern Nigeria's Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states, relief actors report. Between March and May, intercommunal conflict and OCG violence resulted in at least 388 deaths and more than 6,800 injuries across the region, according to IOM. Notably, a surge in violence in northern Katsina resulted in 137 fatalities and affected nearly 2,200 people in the state's Batsari LGA between May 24 and 30 alone. Mass abductions also continue in northwestern Nigeria, with OCG elements reportedly kidnapping approximately 20 people from Batsari on May 18.

While the displaced population in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara grew by nearly 50 percent between July and December 2020, the overall internally displaced population in the three states remained relatively stable between December 2020 and February 2021, IOM reports. However, the number of Nigerians fleeing from Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara to neighboring Niger's Maradi Region has continued to climb, with UNHCR reporting more than 80,000 Nigerian refugees in Maradi as of March, including nearly 11,000 Nigerian refugees who arrived between January and March 2021. Affected populations urgently require emergency food assistance, health care, relief items, and shelter support, according to IOM.

IDP and Refugee Relocations Continue as Relief Actors Raise Concerns

Since 2020, the Borno state government (BSG) has been actively working to close IDP camps and facilitate the eventual relocation of all IDPs in the state to their areas of origin and intends to close all IDP camps in Maiduguri, which hosts Borno's largest IDP population, by the end of 2021. Efforts to close camps have intensified in recent weeks, with the BSG announcing on May 19 that it planned to close three IDP camps in Maiduguri by the end of May. Humanitarian organizations have raised concerns about the returns process, noting that many areas of return remain unsafe—including Damasak and Dikwa towns, which both experienced major OAG attacks in April—and have little access to livelihoods and basic services, including those provided by relief actors and government institutions. In an April survey of IDPs in the northeast by IOM, 74 percent of respondents living in camps and 65 percent of respondents living in host communities said that they intend to eventually return to their areas of origin, with 68 percent reporting that they were waiting for security conditions to improve before doing so. In addition to the ongoing IDP returns process, the Government of Nigeria (GoN) and BSG continue to facilitate the voluntary return of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon through the tripartite agreement among the GoN, the Government of Cameroon, and UNHCR. Since the most recent meeting on the tripartite agreement was announced in February, approximately 3,800 Nigerian refugees have relocated to Borno's Bama LGA, receiving emergency food assistance and relief commodities upon their arrival in Borno.

Relief Actors Report Significant Protection Needs in Northern Nigeria

The ongoing displacement crisis in northeastern Nigeria and the socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic generated significant protection needs in 2020, particularly among IDPs and refugees, according to a recent report from the Protection Sector, the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Protection concerns are particularly acute in areas of the northeast that are inaccessible to humanitarian actors; a February study by a BHA partner of inaccessible areas of Adamawa and Borno identified forced marriage and forced recruitment by OAGs as commonly reported protection concerns, in addition to the threat of OAG attacks. Separately, in northwestern Nigeria, a January protection assessment conducted by UNHCR and local NGOs found that many IDPs in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara lack access to livelihoods and basic services and that worsening insecurity is preventing IDPs from returning to their communities of origin.

| CH Phase Classifications June – August 2021 ³ | |
|--|--|
| Phase 5 | 0 people in Catastrophe |
| Phase 4 | 800,724 people in Emergency |
| Phase 3 | 12,030,310 people in Crisis |
| Phase 2 | 30,733,573 people in Stress |
| Phase 1 | 64,053,125 people Minimally Food-Insecure |

Food Security Deteriorates in Northern Nigeria

Widespread insecurity, protracted displacement, and the macroeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic—including high inflation rates, the continued depreciation of the Nigerian naira against the U.S. dollar, and rising food prices—are contributing to deteriorating food security conditions across much of Nigeria, according to a Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis released in March 2021. Approximately 12.8 million people in 16 states and Nigeria’s Federal Capital Territory will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the 2021 June-to-August lean season, when food is most scarce, representing a nearly 50 percent increase compared to the 8.7 million people who experienced Crisis levels of acute food insecurity during the 2020 lean season.⁴ The figure includes more than 4.4 million people in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, representing a slight increase compared to the acutely food-insecure population in those states during the 2020 lean season. However, of the 4.4 million experiencing acute food insecurity in the northeast, nearly 881,000 people reside in areas inaccessible to relief actors and face high risks of increased levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition due to a lack of humanitarian assistance and limited market access.

In their joint March-to-July 2021 acute food insecurity early warning report, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) issued their highest level alert for food insecurity in northeastern Nigeria, classifying the food insecurity crisis in the country as among the most severe in the world, along with South Sudan and Yemen, with inaccessible areas noted to be facing particularly high levels of food insecurity. In its 2021 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crisis Compact, the Group of Seven pledged support to scale up humanitarian response activities and strengthen the resilience of acutely food-insecure populations.

In addition, escalating intercommunal conflict and OCG violence and resulting displacement in northwestern Nigeria is exacerbating food insecurity in the region, as IDPs experience reduced access to food, income, and livelihoods. In northwestern Nigeria, acute food insecurity is disproportionately high among IDPs compared to non-displaced individuals; a recent WFP assessment found that 80 percent of IDPs in the region had inadequate food consumption, compared to only 30 percent of the non-displaced population. A separate survey conducted in the northwest by UNHCR and local NGOs found that food, livelihoods, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs are particularly widespread among IDPs in the northwest, with 94 percent of surveyed IDPs in Katsina, 88 percent in Sokoto, and 78 percent in Zamfara reporting that they lack sufficient access to food. Overall, nearly 2.4 million people in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara will likely experience Crisis levels of acute food insecurity during the 2021 lean season—a nearly 200 percent increase from the 808,000 people who experienced acute food insecurity during the 2020 lean season.

³ Estimates based on the March 2021 CH analysis.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5. The CH, a separate tool used only in West Africa, has a similar scale ranging from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

KEY FIGURES



1.1 Million

People supported monthly through USG-funded emergency food assistance



\$20.6 Million

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care programming



15

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting WASH activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

With nearly \$125 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA is providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance in Nigeria as continued high levels of conflict and displacement, rising commodity prices, low agricultural output, and adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to result in acute food insecurity and malnutrition. USAID/BHA supports WFP and six NGOs to provide emergency food assistance—through food vouchers to meet needs while also supporting local markets, or through in-kind food commodities provided to vulnerable households in remote areas of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. USAID/BHA also supports 10 NGOs and WFP in northeastern Nigeria to address rising levels of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—using both U.S.-sourced and internationally purchased ready-to-use therapeutic foods, as well as locally produced nutritious foods, to prevent and treat malnutrition.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and eight international NGOs to provide essential health care services to conflict-affected populations throughout Nigeria. Often implemented in coordination with nutrition and WASH programming, USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports health units, and trains community health workers to meet local health needs, including COVID-19 prevention and response activities. USAID/BHA partners deploy mobile teams to deliver health care and nutrition services to hard-to-reach populations, particularly in conflict-affected northeastern Nigeria, including distributing vaccines to populations in need. In addition, State/PRM funds UNHCR and NGOs that support essential health interventions for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Nigeria. State/PRM also partners with an NGO in support of health activities for Cameroonian refugee populations in Benue State.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Nigeria to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and prevalence of acute malnutrition. With nearly \$17.5 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA partners with IOM, UNICEF, and 13 NGOs to support critical WASH activities, including maintenance of sanitation and waste management systems at IDP camps and rehabilitation of water systems destroyed by conflict in Borno. USAID/BHA-supported activities also train local health workers to reduce the spread of waterborne illnesses in flood-affected communities and build awareness of best practices to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Additionally, State/PRM supports WASH activities that assist IDP and refugee populations across Nigeria.



\$12.5 Million

In dedicated USG support for protection programming

PROTECTION

The U.S. Government (USG) supports nine partners to address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations in northern Nigeria. USAID/BHA partners provide child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, psychosocial support, and other specialized protection services to IDPs in northeastern Nigeria. Additionally, USAID/BHA-supported protection programming includes mine risk education to mitigate risks related to mines and unexploded ordnance, which continue to threaten the safety of Nigerians. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR and NGO partners reached more than 48,000 IDPs with protection programming in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, including nearly 28,000 individuals in Borno alone. Additionally, State/PRM partners provide critical protection assistance, including prevention of GBV, to Cameroonian refugees residing in Nigeria.



\$4.1 Million

In dedicated USG support for shelter activities

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Through shelter and settlements programming, the USG supports the provision of safe, covered living spaces for people who have been displaced due to conflict and natural disasters in Nigeria. With more than \$4.1 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA partners with IOM and four NGOs to support the fortification of shelters to reduce vulnerabilities to climatic shocks and security risks for IDPs across Nigeria. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners provide household items to vulnerable households to enable them to meet basic needs and supports community-led disaster risk reduction committees in IDP camps with safety materials to reduce the risk of flooding and fires. State/PRM supports UNHCR and various NGOs in providing education and shelter and settlements support to IDPs and refugees countrywide.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Armed attacks led by Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awati Wal Jihad and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa have resulted in high levels of insecurity in northeastern Nigeria since 2013, exacerbating humanitarian needs and displacing more than 2.9 million people. Violent clashes between the armed groups and government forces have hampered humanitarian access to affected regions, increasing civilian vulnerabilities to armed group activity. Separately, in northwestern Nigeria, increasing levels of armed criminal group activity and intercommunal conflict have generated widespread humanitarian needs, displacing many residents within the region and to the neighboring Republic of Niger.
- From November 2016 to October 2018, USAID supported a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the USG response to the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria. To support the field activities of the DART, USAID also stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team, which deactivated in August 2018.
- On November 19, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard redeclared a disaster for Nigeria in FY 2021 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the ongoing complex emergency in the northeast. Additionally, on March 29, 2021, Ambassador Leonard declared a separate disaster for Nigeria in FY 2021 in response to the ongoing complex emergency in the northwest and resulting humanitarian needs.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|--|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| Implementing Partners (IPs) | Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter; WASH | Adamawa, Borno, Yobe | \$166,810,000 |
| UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) | HCIMA | Countrywide | \$750,252 |
| UNICEF | Nutrition | Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara | \$6,200,000 |
| WFP | HCIMA, Logistics Support | Countrywide | \$9,100,000 |
| | Food Assistance—Cash, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement | Adamawa, Borno, Yobe | \$30,000,000 |
| | Nutrition | Adamawa, Borno, Yobe | \$14,983,910 |
| WHO | Health, Nutrition, Protection | Adamawa, Borno, Yobe | \$3,000,000 |
| | Program Support | Countrywide | \$129,238 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING | | | \$230,973,400 |
| State/PRM | | | |
| IP | Multi-Sector Assistance | Countrywide | \$8,700,000 |
| UNHCR | Multi-Sector Assistance | Countrywide | \$4,800,000 |

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING | \$13,500,000 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021 | \$244,473,400 |

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 7, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)