

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 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>3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Nigeria</p> <p><i>IOM – August 2021</i></p>	<p>323,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Nigerian Refugees in West Africa</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2021</i></p>	<p>12.8 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population for 2021 Lean Season</p> <p><i>CH – April 2021</i></p>
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- OAG activity continues to generate widespread civilian casualties, prompt displacement, and exacerbate humanitarian needs throughout northeastern Nigeria.
- Intercommunal and OCG violence drive large-scale displacement in northwestern Nigeria.
- Acute food insecurity conditions persist across much of northern Nigeria, with Emergency—IPC 4—conditions prevalent in conflict-affected areas of the northeast.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Nigeria Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$316,704,165
	State/PRM ²	\$47,385,495
Total		\$364,089,660

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

Conflict in Northeastern Nigeria Continues to Drive Widespread Needs

Security conditions in northeastern Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states continued to deteriorate over the course of 2021, with organized armed groups (OAGs) carrying out repeated attacks on civilian and military targets, generating widespread displacement, exacerbating humanitarian needs, and limiting humanitarian access in the region, relief actors report. Several major OAG attacks on population centers in northeastern Nigeria displaced more than 200,000 people across the region between March and June alone, according to humanitarian actors. While OAGs have continued to target civilian populations, the number of civilian deaths directly attributed to OAG attacks declined slightly between May and August. However, beginning in May, local and international media reported an increased number of clashes between rival OAGs, with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa (ISIS-WA) consolidating and expanding its area of influence in northeastern Nigeria and carrying out more frequent attacks on Nigerian security forces and government targets, including health facilities and other critical infrastructure. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that nearly 2 million people are internally displaced in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, including at least 1.6 million people in Borno alone, with a total of 8.7 million people estimated to require humanitarian assistance across the region. Moreover, given the limited access to parts of northern Borno, the UN estimates that the actual displaced population in the state may actually be much larger.

Humanitarian access remains limited across northeastern Nigeria as OAGs continue to carry out frequent attacks along key roads, preventing relief actors from accessing much of the region outside major towns with a large Government of Nigeria (GoN) military presence, the UN reports. Since early 2021, OAGs have increasingly targeted humanitarian non-governmental organization (NGO) staff and facilities in violation of international humanitarian law, carrying out multiple attacks that have damaged or destroyed NGO-operated hospitals and other buildings and explicitly targeted NGO staff and volunteers. Since January, OAG attacks and other conflict-related violence have resulted in the deaths of two humanitarian staff workers in northeastern Nigeria.

Cholera and COVID-19 Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs in Nigeria

Ongoing outbreaks of cholera and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Nigeria are exacerbating humanitarian needs among affected communities. Between January and September 2021, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reported cholera cases in 23 states and Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT), including states in northern Nigeria with high levels of humanitarian needs. As of August 15, the NCDC had reported approximately 47,600 suspected cholera cases and nearly 1,800 related deaths in 2021. Humanitarian actors warn that residents of internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee camps with inadequate health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services are especially vulnerable to cholera and other waterborne diseases. In particular, the UN noted in late August that an increasing number of cases of acute watery diarrhea had been reported in Damboa, which hosts a large IDP population and has a limited humanitarian presence due to insecurity. Additionally, beginning in July, health authorities in Nigeria reported a growing COVID-19 caseload amid the pandemic's third wave in the country, driven largely by the highly transmissible Delta variant. In addition to its immediate health impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to an economic downturn in Nigeria, leading to a loss of income-generating opportunities and fueling atypically high staple food prices across much of the country, particularly in conflict-affected areas, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

CH Phase Classifications June – August 2021 ³	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	798,482 people in Emergency
Phase 3	12,018,140 people in Crisis
Phase 2	30,698,269 people in Stress
Phase 1	64,070,814 people Minimally Food-Insecure

UN Warns of Famine Risk in Borno

Food security conditions in conflict-affected areas of northern Nigeria continued to deteriorate during the June-to-August 2021 lean season, with Emergency—IPC 4—acute food insecurity conditions prevalent in several local government areas in Borno and Crisis—IPC 3—conditions widespread across much of Borno, Yobe, and northwestern Nigeria’s Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states, according to FEWS NET.⁴ In August, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) issued their highest-level alert for the food emergency in Nigeria, classifying the crisis as being among the most severe in the world, along with Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan, and Yemen.

FEWS NET notes that the number of households in Borno engaged in agricultural activities in 2021, while slightly higher compared with 2020, remains well below pre-conflict levels, and OAG attacks continue to disrupt agriculture and other income-generating activities and limit access to basic services and markets. Additionally, insecurity in northwestern and north-central Nigeria—particularly in Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Plateau, and Zamfara states—and resulting movement

restrictions imposed by local authorities have also disrupted agriculture and reduced household incomes. Much of northern Nigeria also experienced abnormally heavy rainfall between June and August, damaging crops and causing displacement due to flooding in some areas. A March CH analysis estimated that approximately 12.8 million people in northern Nigeria would experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season, with more than 798,000 people facing Emergency conditions. Although food security conditions may improve moderately during the September-to-January harvest period, FEWS NET projects that Crisis conditions will persist in much of the northeast and northwest.

More than 80 percent of households in inaccessible areas of Borno—where access to markets ranges from limited to nonexistent—were likely experiencing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity as of July, according to the Famine Monitoring System (FMS), a joint monitoring initiative led by food security and nutrition actors. Most IDP households recently displaced from these areas had no remaining food stocks at the time they left their areas of origin, and more than 20 percent were acutely malnourished, FMS reports. FAO, FEWS NET, and WFP have all warned that, should the conflict in the northeast intensify and further constrain humanitarian access and household movements, some areas of Borno could experience Famine—IPC 5—levels of food insecurity in the coming months, although such conditions are not currently believed to be present.⁵

Conflict and Displacement Continue in Northwest

Organized criminal group (OCG) activity and intercommunal violence—particularly conflict between agriculturalist and pastoralist communities—have continued to escalate in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara in recent months, generating significant protection risks, driving widespread displacement, and

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 Cadre Harmonisé (CH), a separate tool used only in West Africa, has a similar scale ranging from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

⁵ A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

exacerbating humanitarian needs, relief actors report. Insecurity had displaced more than 350,000 people across the three states as of August, representing a nearly 30 percent increase in the region’s internally displaced population since February, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In September, clashes between farmers, herders, bandits, and local communities resulted in at least 51 deaths and the displacement of at least 3,700 people in Katsina and Sokoto, according to the UN. Previously, intercommunal violence and OCG attacks in Katsina and Zamfara resulted in 119 deaths and the displacement of an estimated 2,800 people between August 16 and 22. In addition, OCG actors continue to target schools and school-age children in mass abduction attacks. OCG elements infiltrated a secondary school in Zamfara’s Kaya village on September 1, kidnapping at least 73 students—mostly girls—and one staff member. During the attack, the abductors opened fire, critically injuring at least one child, international media report.

KEY FIGURES



1.8 Million

People supported monthly through USG-funded emergency food assistance



\$23 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for life-saving health care programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

With more than \$206 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA is providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance in Nigeria, as high levels of conflict and displacement, rising commodity prices, low agricultural output, and the economic impact 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, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and WFP to address rising levels of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—throughout Nigeria, 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. In addition, in August, State/PRM partner UNHCR provided cash transfers sufficient for three months’ worth of food to more than 26,000 refugees residing in Benue and Cross River states.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports UNICEF, WHO, and six 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 areas of northeastern Nigeria, including distributing vaccines to populations in need. In addition, State/PRM partner UNHCR supported more than 20 health facilities in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba states in August, providing medical equipment and supplies, COVID-19 prevention commodities, and staff capacity-building. In addition, UNHCR conducted hygiene promotion

and awareness activities, including cholera and COVID-19 prevention education, with volunteers across the region.



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USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting WASH activities

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 \$24 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. USAID/BHA-supported programs 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 partner UNHCR is improving WASH infrastructure to increase safe drinking water supplies among refugee and host community populations in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba. Working with an NGO implementing partner, UNHCR is constructing new manual and solar-powered wells, as well as upgrading existing wells with solar power.



\$14 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for protection programming

PROTECTION

The U.S. Government (USG) supports 16 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. Moreover, State/PRM partners provide critical protection assistance, including GBV prevention services, to Cameroonian refugees residing in Nigeria.



\$14 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA 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 nearly \$14 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA partners with IOM and five 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 ISIS-WA 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	\$174,374,000
IOM	HCIMA, Protection, Shelter, WASH	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$15,000,000
UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$750,252
UNICEF	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Adamawa, Borno, Katsina, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara	\$13,384,760
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,125,000
WHO	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$3,000,000
WFP	HCIMA, Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$14,898,000
	Food Assistance—Cash, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$77,712,000
	Nutrition	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$16,262,229
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$197,924
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$316,704,165
State/PRM			

IPs	Health, Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$25,535,495
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$21,850,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$47,385,495
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$364,089,660

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 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)