

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

MARCH 16, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>217 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Nigeria</p> <p><i>UN – March 2022</i></p>	<p>8.3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need in Northeastern Nigeria</p> <p><i>UN – February 2023</i></p>	<p>3.2 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Nigeria</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2023</i></p>	<p>25.3 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population Across Nigeria</p> <p><i>CH – November 2022</i></p>	<p>4.4 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population in Northeastern Nigeria</p> <p><i>CH – November 2022</i></p>
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- Approximately 8.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance in northeastern Nigeria during 2023 due to conflict, displacement, and floods, according to the UN.
- Food insecurity is likely to remain elevated across northern Nigeria despite the April–May harvest, as conflict continues to disrupt agricultural activities and livelihoods and limit access to food.
- In response to heightened protection needs among conflict-affected populations, USAID/BHA has provided more than \$2.4 million to support protection programming for conflict-affected and displaced populations in FY 2023.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Nigeria Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹ \$52,834,902

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

Total \$52,834,902

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2023 Nigeria HRP Estimates 8.3 Million People Require Assistance in the Northeast

Approximately 8.3 million people will likely require humanitarian assistance in northeastern Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states in 2023 as protracted conflict, related displacement, and seasonal floods continue to generate high levels of need, according to the 2023 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) that the UN released in February in partnership with international organizations and the Government of Nigeria. While the estimated number of people in need remains largely unchanged from the 8.4 million people in need of assistance during 2022, the 2023 HRP increased the number of people identified to receive aid from 5.5 million individuals to 6 million individuals due to the increasing severity of needs, particularly those related to food insecurity and acute malnutrition. The estimated number of people in need includes approximately 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 1.5 million returned IDPs, many of whom are residing in insecure areas and lack access to essential services and livelihoods. Additionally, an estimated 4.7 million people residing in communities that host IDPs require humanitarian assistance, as conflict-related displacement strains already limited community resources. Populations in need continue to face insufficient access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, crowded living conditions, protection risks, and inadequate shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. In particular, protection needs remain high in northeastern Nigeria due to persistent attacks on civilians and the relocation of IDPs in displacement sites, with an estimated 4.3 million individuals in need of protection support. To address elevated protection needs, USAID/BHA has provided more than \$2.4 million to date in FY 2023 to support child protection case management, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and psychosocial support activities. Overall, the HRP requests \$1.3 billion—a slight increase compared to the 2022 HRP—to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in northeastern Nigeria.

Attacks on Civilians in Northeast Nigeria Generate Displacement and Restrict Humanitarian Access

In northeastern Nigeria, organized armed groups (OAGs) continue to carry out attacks on civilians, disrupting livelihood activities, generating widespread displacement, and limiting humanitarian access to populations in need, according to the UN. Of the approximately 3.2 million IDPs across the country as of December, more than 2 million displaced individuals were residing in northeastern Nigeria, with insecurity accounting for more than 90 percent of displacements, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). During January, OAGs targeted civilians through attacks and abductions, as well as illegal vehicle checkpoints that exposed civilians to protection risks across Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, UNHCR reports. Many of the incidents affected IDPs, returned IDPs, and the communities hosting them.

In addition, persistent attacks on civilians and public infrastructure in Nigeria's northeastern states have created a volatile security environment that threatens relief actors' ability to operate, according to the UN. Insecurity continues to hinder access to people in need, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the region where OAGs employ illegal checkpoints and improvised explosive devices, leaving the delivery of assistance confined to accessible areas. In Borno and Yobe, OAGs staged attacks along key supply routes, including one of the routes to Borno's capital city of Maiduguri during January, according to UNHCR. Despite access limitations, USAID/BHA continues to support partners providing food, health, nutrition, and WASH assistance to conflict-affected populations in northeastern Nigeria where security conditions allow.

Bank Note Changes Cause Cash Shortages in Nigeria

The Central Bank of Nigeria’s efforts to replace all banknotes in circulation with new, redesigned ones resulted in a cash shortage and undermined civilians’ ability to purchase basic items, according to UNHCR. The change, which the bank announced in October 2022, required citizens to exchange their currency by mid-February, before the bank would discontinue the notes. As a result, many individuals deposited old notes into their bank accounts to comply with the new policy and subsequently faced cash withdrawal limits, reducing their access to cash. In Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, where humanitarian needs in the country are most severe, civilians faced challenges in exchanging old banknotes for new ones as of January, UNHCR reports. In particular, Borno and Yobe have limited banking infrastructure, with banks in only three of Borno’s 27 local government areas (LGAs) and in four of Yobe’s 17 LGAs, limiting individuals’ ability to exchange notes in those states and exacerbating the cash shortage. Additionally, humanitarian organizations in northeastern Nigeria reported that the lack of new notes in circulation led to implementation challenges, UNHCR reports. Amid widespread cash shortages, the Central Bank announced on March 13 the extension of the use of old banknotes to December 31.

CH Phase Classification June 2023-August 2023	
Phase 5	3,967 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	1,867,242 people in Emergency
Phase 3	23,439,691 people in Crisis
Phase 2	58,737,151 people in Stress
Phase 1	109,564,800 people Minimally Food Insecure

Food Security Conditions Projected to Worsen in Northern Nigeria During Lean Season

Across northern Nigeria, insecurity remains one of the key drivers of acute food insecurity, with security concerns and movement restrictions reducing agricultural activities, disrupting livelihoods, restricting food availability, and limiting access to functional markets, according to a January Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis. Acute food insecurity remains pervasive in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, where approximately 4.4 million people are likely to face Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the June-to-August lean season, the period when food is most scarce, representing an increase from 4.1 million in 2022, according to a November 2022 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis.² A majority of the individuals likely to experience Emergency—Phase 4—levels of acute food insecurity countrywide reside in inaccessible areas of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, according to a January CH Humanitarian Situation Monitoring Report. In particular, formerly displaced households that have returned to inaccessible conflict-affected areas remain highly vulnerable to acute food insecurity in northeastern Nigeria.

In northwestern Nigeria, persistent insecurity and organized criminal group activity, coupled with limited access to humanitarian assistance, have led to Crisis outcomes in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states, FEWS NET reports. In addition, elevated food prices, which are above the five-year average, continued to exacerbate food insecurity in the region amid reduced access to income-generating activities, as of January. As a result, food-insecure households have resorted to utilizing negative coping strategies, such as reducing portion sizes or the number of meals per day, according to a January CH report. Despite likely improvements in food availability during the April-to-May dry season harvest, agricultural activity remains below average due in part to reduced access to farmland in conflict-affected areas and among recently returned households. As a result, households will likely continue to face insufficient food consumption despite improved food access, according to FEWS NET.

² Cadre Harmonisé (CH) is a standardized framework used across West Africa and the Sahel that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The CH scale is comparable across countries in West Africa and ranges from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

KEY FIGURES



14

USG-funded partners supporting nutrition activities.



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USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting health activities.



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USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities



\$2.4 Million

In dedicated FY 2023 USAID/BHA support for protection programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA is providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance in Nigeria, as high levels of conflict and population displacement, increased food and fuel prices, low agricultural output, and climatic shocks—including recent flooding—continue to result in acute food insecurity and malnutrition. USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide cash transfers and food vouchers to meet needs while supporting local markets, as well as in-kind food commodities for vulnerable households in remote areas of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. USAID/BHA also supports UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN World Health Organization (WHO), WFP, and 11 NGOs to provide preventative nutrition support for conflict-affected children and pregnant and lactating women to reduce prevalence of wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA partners with UNICEF, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), WHO, and seven 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 health assistance includes providing medical supplies, training for community health workers, and support for health facilities, such as the provision of confidential GBV treatment and care. USAID/BHA partners deploy mobile teams to deliver health care and nutrition services—including communicable disease prevention and treatment—to hard-to-reach populations, particularly in conflict-affected areas of northeastern Nigeria. Additionally, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) supports health programming in Nigeria’s Taraba State to reduce the spread of communicable diseases.

WASH

USAID/BHA funds IFRC and 15 implementing partners to conduct critical WASH activities, including constructing WASH infrastructure, such as boreholes and handpumps, at IDP camps; monitoring and disinfecting WASH facilities; and promoting WASH messaging through community health workers. USAID/BHA-supported activities also include cleaning water containers and latrines, clearing drains, and managing solid waste.

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support implementing partners to address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations, including providing child protection, GBV prevention, psychosocial and mental health support, and other specialized protection services throughout Nigeria. Additionally, USAID/BHA-supported protection programming includes education to mitigate risks related to mines and unexploded ordnance, which

continue to threaten the safety of Nigerians.



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USAID/BHA partners implementing shelter programs

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USG assistance provides safe, covered living spaces for people who have been displaced due to conflict and natural disasters in Nigeria. USAID/BHA supports IOM, IFRC, and other partners to fortify shelters, engage local and vulnerable populations in shelter design and construction, and reduce security risks for IDPs and host communities in northeastern Nigeria. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners provide household items to vulnerable populations to enable them to meet basic needs and support community-led disaster risk reduction committees in IDP camps with safety materials to reduce the risk of flooding. State/PRM partner UNHCR, in collaboration with various NGOs, provides 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 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 3.1 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 neighboring Niger.
- From November 2016 to October 2018, USAID maintained 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 established a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team, which deactivated in August 2018. Support was transitioned to the USAID/BHA Humanitarian Assistance Response Technical Office based in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja.
- On October 4, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard renewed the declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) in Nigeria for FY 2023 due to the ongoing complex emergencies in the northeast and northwest. Additionally, on October 19, 2022, Ambassador Leonard issued a DHN due to the effects of flooding throughout Nigeria.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IFRC	Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bayelsa, Delta, Kogi	\$250,000
	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Logistics Support MPCA; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Enugu, Nasarawa, Rivers	\$1,500,000
IOM	Agriculture, HCIMA, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Adamawa, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Jigawa, Kogi, Nasarawa, Yobe	\$2,500,000
Save the Children Federation	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS),	Jigawa	\$950,000

(SCF)	MPCA, Protection, WASH		
UN Office for Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIMA	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$850,852
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); HCIMA; Logistics Support	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$27,000,000
	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$9,984,050
Implementing Partners	Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Borno	\$8,800,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$52,834,902
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$52,834,902

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 16, 2023.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

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