

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Nigeria’s worst diphtheria outbreak has resulted in 453 deaths and more than 7,200 confirmed cases since late 2022, according to health actors.
- Rising food and fuel prices and related food shortages prompted the GoN to declare a national emergency on July 13.
- USAID/BHA partners continue to provide life-saving food, nutrition, protection, and WASH support to people across northeastern and northwestern Nigeria.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$278,702,560
For the Nigeria Response in FY 2023	State/PRM ²	\$38,759,830
Total		\$317,462,390

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on pages 6–7

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

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Nigeria Records More Than 7,000 Confirmed Cases in Country's Worst Diphtheria Outbreak

Nigeria's most severe diphtheria outbreak in recorded history resulted in at least 453 deaths among more than 7,200 confirmed cases between December 2022 and late September 2023, according to health officials and humanitarian actors. This represents a case fatality rate of more than 6 percent, with most deaths occurring among unvaccinated patients, health actors and international media report. The infectious bacterial disease—known to cause difficulty breathing, fatigue, and heart issues, among other symptoms—affected 18 of the country's 36 states during the same period, especially northcentral Kano State, where health actors had documented nearly 86 percent of confirmed cases as of September 24. In response, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) formally declared a disease outbreak in January 2023. Though diphtheria is easily preventable by a vaccine, multiple years of insufficient vaccination coverage have driven the current epidemic, with fewer than one-half of the country's children ages 15 years and younger being fully protected against the disease, the UN reports. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a three-dose vaccination series beginning at infancy and three subsequent booster doses to fully protect against diphtheria; however, as of late September, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that up to 2.2 million children across Nigeria had not received a single dose of the diphtheria vaccine. Consequently, children ages 5–14 years comprised nearly three-quarters of confirmed cases during the reporting period, according to health officials and NCDC. Diphtheria poses the greatest risk to unvaccinated individuals and people living in densely crowded places or unsanitary conditions, relief actors have cautioned.

In collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, the Government of Nigeria (GoN) initiated a multi-phase vaccination campaign during late August and established an Emergency Task Force to coordinate the diphtheria outbreak response in mid-September, the UN reports. Health actors vaccinated nearly 430,000 people in Katsina State, more than 357,000 people in Bauchi State, and more than 138,000 people in Yobe State between August 21 and September 5, according to WHO. As of September 5, health actors continued to implement vaccine campaigns in Kaduna and Kano states. UNICEF procured and delivered 9.3 million doses of diphtheria vaccines to affected states—including Kano, Bauchi, Borno, Yobe, Katsina, Kaduna, and Jigawa—during September. The UN agency plans to procure an additional 4 million doses of the vaccine for the GoN in the coming weeks. In addition to vaccinating individuals in outbreak-affected states, UNICEF and WHO continue to support the GoN with community engagement, case management, and infection prevention and control activities, including distributing antibiotics and personal protective equipment.

Rising Food and Fuel Prices and Inadequate Food Consumption Exacerbate Acute Food Insecurity in Northeastern Nigeria

Protracted conflict and insecurity in northeastern Nigeria have contributed to worsening food security conditions by damaging or destroying infrastructure, disrupting livelihoods, and generating new displacement. Rising food and fuel prices have compounded the needs of conflict-affected populations across Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Following the GoN's removal of fuel subsidies in June, fuel prices approximately tripled, resulting in increased food prices—due to heightened transport costs—and reducing household purchasing power, relief actors report. Subsequent food shortages across the country prompted the President of Nigeria Bola Tinubu to declare a national emergency on July 13. As insecurity and poor macroeconomic conditions persist, populations in areas of Borno's Abadam, Bama, Guzamala, and Marte local government areas (LGA) will likely experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity

between June 2023 to January 2024, FEWS NET projects.³ Restricted mobility and frequent illegal taxation and looting perpetrated by organized armed groups (OAG) may further limit food access and availability while insecurity continues to hinder humanitarian access to these areas, leaving vulnerable households without access to life-saving food assistance. Meanwhile, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in urban areas across the three states will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through 2023 due to their limited access to food or humanitarian assistance.

Amid heightened levels of acute food insecurity, approximately 60 percent of households in northeastern Nigeria reported inadequate food consumption, representing an estimated 16 percent increase in affected households compared to the same time last year, according to an August UN World Food Program (WFP) report. Increasing food prices likely contributed to this trend, with WFP reporting that the average price of the minimum food basket—consisting of rice, maize, beans, oil, sugar, and salt—for a family of five increased by 12 percent across Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states between July and August. According to the UN agency’s market monitoring report, WFP anticipates prices will remain above average during the rest of the year, which will reduce purchasing power and adversely affect vulnerable households, particularly those reliant on markets for essential commodities. In response to food needs across northeastern Nigeria, Food Security Sector partners—including USAID/BHA partner WFP—delivered emergency food assistance to 2.5 million people in need across Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states during July, reaching 1.5 million people with cash assistance and 1 million people with in-kind food commodities, including some populations residing in hard-to-reach areas.

Kidnappings, OAG Violence Persist in Northeastern, Northwestern Nigeria

OAG attacks in northeastern Nigeria’s Borno State led to the deaths of 128 farmers and the abduction of nearly 40 farmers between January and June, according to Save the Children Federation (SCF). The violence persisted into August, with the UN reporting that OAG attacks resulted in the deaths of more than 20 farmers and abduction of 50 farmers from their fields between late July and early August. Specifically, OAG actors’ attacks on two villages in Borno’s Kukawa LGA during late July resulted in 25 deaths, including 18 herders grazing their livestock, and an unknown number of injuries, according to international media. Separately, OAG actors abducted 21 female farmers approximately 12 miles from Muna El Badaway displacement camp in Borno’s Jere LGA on August 7, the UN reports. Also in early August, attacks by OAG actors resulted in the deaths of 10 farmers outside Maiduguri town in Borno, according to local media. These incidents represent the latest in a series of violent attacks against civilians engaged in agricultural and rural livelihood activities in northeastern Nigeria. The increased risk individuals engaged in agricultural endeavors face has disrupted food production and exacerbated food insecurity in the affected areas, according to SCF.

Meanwhile, organized criminal groups (OCG) are increasingly relying on mass kidnappings for ransom to generate income amid the escalating macroeconomic crisis in northwest and northcentral Nigeria’s Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, and Zamfara states, according to relief actors. Reported incidents and abductees more than doubled from June to August, FEWS NET reports. Rising financial pressure has also prompted an increase in OCG violence against civilians and indiscriminate looting and robbery, which has heavily impeded financial and physical access to basic services, farmland, and markets during the start of the main harvest season, limiting affected populations’ access to income and food.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC Phase 5 is referred to as “Catastrophe” when classifying a household and “Famine” when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

KEY FIGURES



13

USG-funded partners supporting nutrition activities



14

USG-funded partners supporting health activities



14

USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities



15

USG-funded partners providing protection services

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance in Nigeria as high levels of displacement, increased food and fuel prices, low agricultural output, and climatic shocks—including flooding—continue to result in acute food insecurity and malnutrition. USAID/BHA supports WFP and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide cash transfers and food vouchers—enabling vulnerable populations to meet their food needs while supporting local economy in areas where markets are functioning—and in-kind food commodities for vulnerable households in remote areas of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. USAID/BHA also supports UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and ten NGOs to provide preventative nutrition support for conflict-affected children and pregnant and lactating women to reduce the prevalence of wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition.

HEALTH

State/PRM and USAID/BHA partner with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), WHO, and ten international NGOs to provide essential health care services to conflict-affected populations throughout Nigeria. Often implemented in coordination with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming, USAID/BHA health assistance provides medical supplies, training for community health workers, and support for health facilities, such as the provision of confidential gender-based violence (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.

WASH

USAID/BHA funds UNICEF, IFRC, and 12 implementing partners to conduct critical WASH activities, including constructing WASH infrastructure—such as boreholes and handpumps—at IDP sites, monitoring 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

While partners consider protection needs into all USAID/BHA- and State/PRM-supported activities, U.S. Government (USG) partners specifically address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations throughout Nigeria, providing child protection, GBV prevention, mental health and psychosocial support, and other specialized protection services. 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.



9

USAID/BHA
partners implementing
shelter programs

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USG assistance provides safe, covered living spaces for people who have been displaced by conflict and natural disasters in Nigeria. USAID/BHA supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), IFRC, and other partners to fortify shelters, engage at-risk 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 at-risk 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.

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 northeastern and northwestern areas of the country. Additionally, on October 19, 2022, Ambassador Leonard issued a separate 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/BHA²			
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
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara	\$8,000,000
IOM	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), HCIMA, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$17,000,000
	Agriculture, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Adamawa, Anambra, Benue, Bayelsa, Jigawa, Kogi, Nasarawa, Yobe	\$2,500,000
SCF	ERMS, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Jigawa	\$950,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	HCIMA	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$850,852
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture, HCIMA	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$2,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$1,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$2,897,234
UNICEF	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara	\$7,525,173
	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$2,600,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); HCIMA; Logistics Support; Protection	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$58,800,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$10,174,962
WHO	Health, HCIMA, Nutrition	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$2,000,000
Implementing Partners	Agriculture; ERMS; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Health; Logistics Support; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$157,910,484
	Logistics Support		\$2,635,500
	Program Support		\$108,355
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$278,702,560
STATE/PRM			
FHI 360	Health, Protection	Taraba	\$1,574,830
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	ERMS, Food Assistance, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$19,300,000
SCF	Education, Health, Protection	Benue, Cross River	\$1,360,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Education, ERMS, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$16,500,000

Implementing Partner	Health	Countrywide	\$25,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$38,759,830
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$317,462,390

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, 2023.

² Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.

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 [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)