

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 22, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Nearly 26.5 million people across Nigeria are projected to experience Crisis—Phase 3—or worse conditions of acute food insecurity during the June-to-August 2024 lean season, according to a November CH analysis. USAID/BHA partners continue to provide in-kind food and multipurpose cash assistance to IDPs and other vulnerable people.
- In late November, the Borno State Government publicly announced plans to close an IDP site hosting more than 23,000 people by March 2024.
- Seasonal heavy rains and subsequent flooding in October negatively affected more than 157,000 people and displaced an estimated 68,000 people, according to UNICEF.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Nigeria Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA¹ \$6,700,000

State/PRM² \$2,600,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on pages 5–6

Total \$9,300,000

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

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

³ For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding toward the response in FY 2023, refer to Nigeria Fact Sheet #4 released on September 30, 2023, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Nearly 26.5 Million People Projected to Face Acute Food Insecurity During 2024 Lean Season

Nearly 26.5 million people—approximately 11.5 percent of Nigeria’s estimated population—are likely to experience Crisis—Phase 3—or worse conditions of acute food insecurity during the peak of the country’s upcoming June-to-August 2024 lean season, the period when food is most scarce, according to the November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis.³ This projection includes nearly 5.4 million people in northwestern Nigeria’s Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states and nearly 4.4 million people in northeastern Nigeria’s Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. Additionally, the countrywide estimate includes more than 1 million individuals expected to face Emergency—Phase 4—outcomes across the country, particularly in conflict-affected areas. These projections reflect an estimated 7 percent increase in acute food insecurity compared to the 2023 lean season, during which 24.8 million people across Nigeria—including 4.2 million people in northeastern states and 4.3 million people in northwestern states—experienced Crisis or worse outcomes.

Nigeria continues to host more than 56 percent of West Africa’s overall food-insecure population, according to the CH analysis. More than 18.5 million people are facing Crisis—Phase 3—or worse conditions of acute food insecurity during the post-harvest period of October-to-December 2023, reflecting a 9 percent increase from the same period in 2022, the CH reports. Persistent insecurity and poor macroeconomic conditions—including inflation and high fuel and staple food prices—continue to drive food needs across the country by reducing household purchasing power and access to food. In response to food needs across northeastern Nigeria, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners delivered in-kind food commodities and multipurpose cash assistance to households in need across Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe throughout 2023.

Borno State Governor Announces Plans to Close IDP Sites by March 2024

On November 22, Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum publicly announced plans to close Monguno LGA’s Government Senior Science Secondary School internally displaced person (IDP) site—which hosts more than 23,000 people displaced by organized armed group (OAG) violence—by March 2024, in efforts to resume academic activities at the school, national media report. The Borno State Government (BSG) plans to relocate many of the IDPs originally from areas with persistent insecurity to approximately 1,000 resettlement houses outside Maiduguri, Borno’s capital city. Meanwhile, IDPs originally from communities the BSG deems more secure will be expected to return to their areas of origin, and the BSG intends to provide resettlement packages to returning IDPs. USAID/BHA and other humanitarian actors continue to monitor camp closures in northeastern Nigeria and advocate for dignified, safe, and voluntary IDP solutions, including local integration, relocation, and returns to areas of origin, security permitting.

OAG Violence, Abductions Disrupt Livelihoods in Northeastern and Northwestern Nigeria

Conflict and violent crime continued to increase during November, hindering agricultural and other income-generating activities in affected communities throughout Nigeria, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Civilian-targeted attacks, including abductions for ransom, are

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

increasing across northeastern and northwestern Nigeria, FEWS NET reports. Additionally, armed actors reportedly have raided croplands and harvested civilian crops, impeding households' ability to access their land and constraining temporary increases in food due to the harvest, particularly in Borno. In northwestern and north-central Nigeria, abductions and OAG attacks persist; notably, coordinated groups of armed actors abducted more than 100 people in Zamfara State's Maru Local Government Area (LGA) on November 24, according to international media. Similar attacks also occurred in October and November in Nigeria's Benue, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara states, FEWS NET reports.

Seasonal Flooding Adversely Affects More Than 157,000 People Across Nigeria

Seasonal heavy rains and subsequent flooding had adversely affected more than 157,000 people and displaced an estimated 68,000 people across Nigeria as of October, exacerbating already high levels of humanitarian need and requiring urgent food and shelter assistance, according to Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). In Adamawa State, the release of water from Cameroon's Lagdo Dam in October compounded seasonal flooding, affecting more than 50,000 people and displacing an estimated 10,000 people as of mid-November, according to UNICEF. In response to increased humanitarian needs resulting from the floods, relief actors delivered health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to an estimated 22,000 people in flood-affected areas as of November, including mobile medical consultations and chlorine for water purification.

Despite the widespread impact of the October floods, the June-to-October rainy season was milder than the previous year, according to UNICEF. Heavy flooding during the 2022 rainy season affected nearly 2.6 million people across Nigeria and displaced more than 1.3 million people, many of whom required humanitarian assistance, UNICEF reports.

Heightened Levels of Acute Malnutrition Persist in Northern Nigeria

Nearly 4.4 million children ages 0–59 months in northeastern and northwestern Nigeria will likely experience acute malnutrition through April 2024, including approximately 1 million children projected to face severe acute malnutrition (SAM), according to an October IPC analysis.⁴ The prevalence of acute malnutrition is predicted to deteriorate to Serious—IPC AMN 3—levels in Borno State's Mafa LGA and Yobe State's Geidam LGA beginning in January 2024. In addition, acute malnutrition is expected to worsen in several LGAs in Adamawa State from Minimal—IPC 1—to Stressed—IPC 2—levels. High levels of insecurity and OAG attacks, as well as poor economic conditions, hinder households' access to nutritious foods, driving malnutrition, according to the analysis. Moreover, persistent OAG attacks constrain relief workers' ability to reach people in need, leaving children without access to life-saving assistance, according to the IPC analysis.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity of acute malnutrition. The IPC Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN) scale, which is comparable across select countries and time, ranges from Acceptable—IPC AMN 1—to Extremely Critical—IPC AMN 5—for acute malnutrition.

KEY FIGURES



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USAID/BHA partners supporting nutrition activities



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USG-funded partners supporting health activities



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USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities



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USG-funded partners providing protection services

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA partners provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance in Nigeria as high levels of population 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 the UN World Food Program (WFP) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide cash transfers and food vouchers—enabling vulnerable populations to meet their food needs while supporting local economies 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, WFP, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and 11 NGOs to provide preventative and curative nutrition assistance 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 9 international NGOs to provide essential health care services to conflict-affected populations in Nigeria. Often implemented in coordination with nutrition and WASH programming, USAID/BHA health assistance provides medical supplies, trains community health workers, and supports urgent services at health facilities, such as the provision of confidential gender-based violence (GBV) treatment and care. USAID/BHA partners also 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, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 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 across all USAID/BHA- and State/PRM-supported activities, USG partners specifically address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations in 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.



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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 by conflict and natural disasters in Nigeria. USAID/BHA supports IOM 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 November 8, 2023, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. William Stevens renewed the declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) in Nigeria for FY 2024 due to the ongoing complex emergencies in the northeastern and northwestern areas of the country.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,700,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$6,700,000
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,600,000

TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$2,600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024	\$9,300,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 22, 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](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)