

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

APRIL 3, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Nearly 32 million people across Nigeria are projected to experience Crisis—Phase 3—or worse conditions of acute food insecurity during the upcoming June-to-August lean season, according to a March CH analysis.
- NSAG activity continues to adversely affect civilian populations across northern Nigeria, with USG partner UNHCR reporting nearly 160 safety and security incidents between January and February.
- In late February, the BSG began closing IDP sites in Borno State’s Maiduguri city, relocating individuals to resettlement communities elsewhere in the state.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Nigeria Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA¹ \$41,218,655

State/PRM² \$6,560,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total \$47,778,655

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

Nearly 32 Million People Projected to Face Acute Food Insecurity During 2024 Lean Season as Macroeconomic Conditions Deteriorate

Cadre Harmonisé's (CH) March analysis indicates that approximately 31.8 million people countrywide are projected to experience Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the peak of the country's upcoming June-to-August lean season, the period when food is most scarce, primarily due to the below-average 2023 harvest season, devaluation of the Nigerian naira (NGN), rising inflation, and persistent conflict and insecurity.³ The projection marks a nearly 20 percent increase from CH's November 2023 analysis, which estimated 26.5 million people were likely to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. In particular, approximately 6.3 million people are likely to experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in northwestern Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states, a 50 percent increase when compared to the same period in 2023. Additionally, approximately 4.8 million people are expected to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. Notably, the NGN depreciated by an estimated 50 percent against the U.S. dollar (USD) between January 1 and 31, contributing to higher food prices during the month, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). The economic deterioration continued into mid-February, with the currency being devalued for the second time since June 2023, plummeting to approximately 1,500 NGN to 1 USD. As a result of the currency depreciation, the annual inflation rate in Nigeria had risen to nearly 30 percent as of mid-February, its highest level since 1996, international media report.

The inflation and resultant high staple food prices, compounded by below-average harvests in northern Nigeria due to insufficient rainfall and heightened insecurity between December 2023 and January 2024, continues to drive food needs across the country by reducing household purchasing power and access to food. For example, in Borno's capital city of Maiduguri, the price of maize was 14 percent higher in December 2023 compared to November 2023 and 74 percent higher compared to December 2022, according to FEWS NET. In response to rising food costs, the Government of Nigeria (GoN) announced the release of approximately 42,000 metric tons (MT) of grains from strategic reserves on February 8, which the GoN intends to distribute to the most food-insecure households, international media report. The Rice Millers Association of Nigeria—a private sector agricultural organization—also committed to releasing an estimated 60,000 MT of rice to stimulate Nigerian markets and lower the price of the commodity. USAID/BHA partners continue to deliver food assistance, through cash transfers, food vouchers, and in-kind food aid to the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations in northeastern Nigeria.

NSAG Violence, Abductions Heighten Protection Concerns for Civilians in Northern Nigeria

Nearly 160 safety and security incidents—including civil unrest, crimes, illegal vehicle checkpoints, improvised explosive device explosions, and non-state armed group (NSAG) abductions and attacks—were recorded in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe during January and February, affecting up to 200 civilians, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Protection Sector North-East partners reported nearly 180 attacks on civilians, including the unlawful killing of internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host community members, as well as up to 200 abductions,

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.

kidnappings, and forced disappearances of men and children, primarily ages 12–17 years, in Borno’s Bama, Damboa, Gwoza, Mobbar, and Ngala Local Government Areas (LGAs) between January 1 and March 14. Overall, the attacks resulted in 60 civilian deaths and injury to 70 others across the LGAs. The increase in violent incidents continues to raise significant protection concerns in northern Nigeria, particularly in Borno. In addition to the risk of civilian casualties, the Protection Sector North-East notes that conflict and insecurity have resulted in limited freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities, as well as contributed to low levels of government and humanitarian services.

Notably, armed individuals abducted an estimated 200 primary school students ages 8–15 years, as well as the head teacher, from the Local Government Education Authority School in northwestern Nigeria’s Kuriga village, located in Kaduna State’s Chikun LGA, on March 7. In response, Kaduna government security forces conducted search and rescue operations, recovering more than 130 children as of March 24, international media report. The incident marked the second large-scale abduction of civilians in northern Nigeria within a one-week period; on February 29, suspected Islamic State of Iraq and Syria–West Africa (ISIS-WA) actors abducted an estimated 200 displaced women and children in Ngala, one of the largest abductions in Borno since 2014, according to international media. Both incidents represent an escalating trend of protection violations by NSAGs across northern Nigeria. Overall, more than 3,600 people were reported kidnapped across Nigeria in 2023, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project reports. U.S. Government (USG) staff continue to monitor the threats to civilians and the impact of such insecurity on the humanitarian operating environment.

Borno State Government Begins Planned Closure of IDP Camps in Maiduguri

The Borno State Government (BSG) began the closure of all informal IDP camps in Maiduguri and surrounding areas on February 25, with a plan to close all camps and return the IDPs to their areas of origin by the end of May, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports. Following the closure of Kwar Maila camp in late February, the government relocated more than 1,150 people to newly constructed housing units in Konduga LGA’s Dalori town; the resettlement community includes a hospital, school, and safe drinking water facilities, according to Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum. In addition, the BSG distributed one-time resettlement packages, including blankets, clothing, food, and mats, to support the returnees.

Thousands of IDPs displaced by NSAG violence across northeastern Nigeria have been living in informal camp settlements in Maiduguri since 2013; the BSG has returned more than 170,000 IDPs from various camps in Borno to their areas of origin since 2021. The government-supported relocations aim to reduce overcrowding in settlements, which the BSG states has contributed to a degradation in the quality of humanitarian services provided in the camps. However, humanitarian actors continue to raise concerns that some of the areas designated for returns or relocation are still affected by insecurity, require mine clearance to support sustainable livelihoods, or lack basic services and sufficient support staff, OCHA reports. USAID/BHA and other relief 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.

Ongoing Ethnic Conflict Exacerbates Protection Risks in Northern Nigeria

Long-standing tensions between ethnic and religious groups in northcentral and northwestern Nigeria often result in attacks and banditry, increasing protection risks and humanitarian needs among civilian communities. Notably, in Benue State, enduring farmer–herder conflicts leading to civilian displacement contribute to the state’s high number of IDPs at nearly 395,000, the second highest in Nigeria after

Borno. Multiple farmer–herder attacks across Benue’s Agatu, Apa, and Guma LGAs resulted in the deaths of 40 people, injury to nearly 150 others, and the displacement of up to 12,370 individuals to nearby communities between February 15 and 18, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In addition, the attacks fully damaged nearly 500 shelters and partially damaged 1,650 shelters across the three LGAs, affecting up to 4,650 individuals.

Separately, organized criminal groups carried out armed banditry and kidnappings in communities across Zamfara State’s Birnin Magaji and Maru LGAs, resulting in the displacement of approximately 660 individuals between February 14 and 15. Similarly, in Plateau State’s Mangu LGA, several armed bandit attacks between January 1 and February 20 resulted in the deaths of 66 individuals and injury to more than 60 others, damaged nearly 250 shelters, and displaced more than 2,000 people to neighboring Bauchi State, IOM reports. Displaced populations required food; shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance; and other relief commodities as of February 20. Humanitarian actors, including IOM, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) are responding.

KEY FIGURES



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USAID/BHA partners supporting nutrition activities



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USG-funded partners supporting health activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

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 widespread 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. USAID/BHA also supports UNICEF, WFP, and ten 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 IFRC, UNHCR, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, and nine 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.



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USG-funded partners supporting WASH activities

WASH

USAID/BHA funds UNICEF, UNFPA and nine 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. In addition, State/PRM partners support refugees and host communities by constructing and repairing WASH infrastructure and conducting water quality checks.



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USG-funded partners providing protection services

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 ISIS-WA have resulted in high levels of insecurity in northeastern Nigeria, exacerbating humanitarian needs and displacing more than 3.1 million people since 2013. 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 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 2024^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$25,700,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$9,996,454
Implementing Partners	Nutrition	Adamawa, Borno, Katsina, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara	\$4,500,000
Program Support			\$22,201
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$41,218,655
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,600,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,960,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$6,560,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$47,778,655

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 3, 2024.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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)