

Nigeria – Complex Emergency

MARCH 12, 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 Northeastern Nigeria</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p>2.9 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Nigeria</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2021</i></p>	<p>306,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Nigerian Refugees in West Africa</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2021</i></p>	<p>13 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population for 2021 Lean Season</p> <p><i>CH – November 2020</i></p>
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- The 2021 Nigeria HRP requests \$1 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 6.4 million people in the northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe.
- Recent OAG attacks in Borno targeted humanitarian facilities and IDP camps, causing secondary displacement and disrupting aid operations. Meanwhile, persistent insecurity in northwestern Nigeria has generated urgent need for humanitarian assistance.
- Despite challenges, USG partners continue to deliver critical assistance to conflict-affected populations across northern Nigeria, including through nearly \$112 million in FY 2021 USAID/BHA funding.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Nigeria Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹ \$111,962,249

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

Total \$111,962,249

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2021 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan Requests \$1 Billion

The UN released the 2021 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on March 3, requesting \$1 billion to provide multi-sector assistance to conflict-affected populations in Nigeria's northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. The UN anticipates that 8.7 million people across the three states will require humanitarian assistance in 2021, a decrease of approximately 1.9 million people compared to the amended 2020 HRP released in June 2020 to provide additional support to people negatively affected by Nigeria's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. However, the HRP underscores that the decrease does not necessarily reflect declining humanitarian needs in northeastern Nigeria; rather, the reduced number of people in need is due to resource constraints and challenges in delivering assistance to people living in inaccessible areas. The amended 2020 HRP, which required nearly \$1.1 billion, was only 48 percent funded by the year's end, the UN reports. Overall, the 2021 HRP aims to reach 6.4 million people in northeastern Nigeria with assistance, including 1.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 3.6 million host community members.

In particular, the 2021 HRP seeks to address needs resulting from population displacement in northeastern Nigeria and prioritizes efforts to improve IDP camp conditions and services, alleviate acute food insecurity, and support livelihoods, among other strategic objectives. The UN notes that IDPs residing in both formal camps and informal camps and settlements continue to experience limited access to basic services, crowded living conditions, significant protection risks, and inadequate shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. While needs remain most critical in informal settlements, IDPs living in host communities with dwindling resources are also encountering limited access to basic services. In addition, the UN reports that returnees continue to face insecurity, risks from unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination, and humanitarian needs generated by insufficient access to services and livelihood opportunities upon return to their communities of origin.

Attacks in Borno Displace Thousands and Limit Humanitarian Access

In February and March, organized armed group (OAG) attacks in 10 local government areas (LGAs) across Borno resulted in widespread displacement, exacerbated humanitarian needs, and hampered relief efforts, according to the UN. On February 18 and March 1, OAGs attacked Dikwa LGA, where more than 75,000 IDPs—3,800 of whom had recently arrived following a mid-February attack in nearby Marte LGA—were sheltering and more than 100,000 people were receiving humanitarian assistance as of early March, the UN reports. The March 1 attack in Dikwa displaced nearly 28,000 people, many of whom relocated to areas with limited services and no access to humanitarian assistance. During the March 1 attack, OAGs damaged a hospital and targeted a UN base for humanitarian workers, prompting aid workers to shelter in a bunker. A February 23 attack on Borno's capital of Maiduguri—the base of operations for many humanitarian organizations working in northeastern Nigeria—left 17 dead and more than 45 injured after OAGs launched rocket-propelled grenades into residential areas, the UN reports.

The attacks on Dikwa resulted in increased security threats against relief actors operating in the LGA, prompting the temporary withdrawal of aid workers and reducing organizations' ability to reach vulnerable IDP and host community populations in Dikwa. In a March 2 statement, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria Edward Kallon urged armed groups to respect international humanitarian law and protect civilians and humanitarian property and personnel. Similarly, a coalition of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Nigeria released a statement on March 3 condemning the attacks and deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure and critical aid facilities in Dikwa.

Refugee Returns to Borno Commence Under Tripartite Agreement

A joint statement from a February 10 meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon—formed in 2017 between the Government of Cameroon (GoC), the Government of Nigeria (GoN), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR)—confirmed that nearly 5,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon had expressed a willingness to return home. Under the agreement, an initial group of more than 340 Nigerian refugees from the Minawo camp—which hosts more than half of the 117,000 Nigerian refugees registered in Cameroon—relocated to Banki town in Borno’s Bama LGA as of March 8. The returnees received emergency food assistance and relief commodities upon their arrival in Borno. Despite the continued interest in facilitating returns for Nigerian refugees, relief actors have expressed concern that conditions in Borno are not suitable for returns due to insecurity and limited resources. The Tripartite Commission’s statement reaffirmed that the GoN is responsible for ensuring education, reconstruction, and reintegration programs, as well as security for returnees from Cameroon. Meanwhile, the GoC is responsible for providing protection for the more than 110,000 Nigerian refugees remaining in Cameroon. Furthermore, the agreement stipulates that UNHCR maintains access to both refugees in Cameroon and returnees in Nigeria to provide life-saving assistance. With support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), UNHCR continues to monitor the relocation of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon to ensure that returns meet minimum standards of safety, protection, and dignity.

Insecurity in Northwestern Nigeria Exacerbates Humanitarian Needs

Intercommunal conflict and organized criminal group (OCG) violence—including abductions—continue to drive displacement in northwestern Nigeria and generate humanitarian needs. The number of IDPs in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states in northwestern Nigeria neared 280,000 people in December, representing a nearly 50 percent increase from the 187,000 IDPs in July, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Armed attacks and kidnappings were the primary cause of displacement for 62 percent of IDPs in Katsina, 82 percent of IDPs in Sokoto, and 73 percent of IDPs in Zamfara, IOM reports. During a one-week period in February, armed clashes affected more than 6,800 individuals and resulted in 184 deaths across Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara. Moreover, between December and February, OCGs abducted more than 600 children from schools in northwestern Nigeria, although most have since been released, according to the UN.

On March 3, the UN issued a statement urging the prioritization of specialized rehabilitation measures, including psychosocial support and sexual and reproductive health services, for the hundreds of abducted children that OCGs had abducted and released. Victims of abduction who are released remain at an increased risk of exploitation, trafficking, and gender-based violence (GBV), according to the UN. Kidnappings have also disrupted education in Nigeria, as many released children have not returned to class. Furthermore, some schools have closed out of fear of becoming targets of subsequent attacks. UN experts cited the need for sensitization and awareness-raising efforts for the children’s families and communities to rebuild social relations and to overcome stigma. Long-term measures aimed at restoring physical and psychological well-being focus on the expansion of community-based programs to support the care, rehabilitation, and reintegration of girls and women.

CH Phase Classifications
June – August 2021

Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	1,230,032 people in Emergency
Phase 3	11,742,066 people in Crisis
Phase 2	28,766,859 people in Stress
Phase 1	61,509,974 people Minimally Food-Insecure

Food Security Outlook Worsens Throughout Northern Nigeria

Acute food insecurity is projected to increase across much of northern Nigeria through September due to the effects of ongoing conflict and resultant displacement on livelihoods and humanitarian operations, according to a February Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis. Furthermore, despite slight improvements in macroeconomic conditions following significant decline related to secondary effects of COVID-19, conflict-related disruptions to market access and livelihood activities are contributing to worsening food insecurity, particularly in Borno. Many households in northeastern Nigeria will likely continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity, while some households in conflict-affected, inaccessible areas of Borno will likely face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity in the coming months.⁵ A risk of Famine levels of acute food insecurity remains in areas where escalating conflict could further reduce household access to income, food, and humanitarian assistance for prolonged periods, according to FEWS NET.

In northwestern and north-central Nigeria, increased armed group activity in early 2021 and below-average harvest yields have resulted in households facing Crisis levels of acute food insecurity. Additionally, displaced households in northwestern Nigeria with limited access to income are projected to continue to face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity until the dry season harvest in April. Overall, approximately 13 million people across Nigeria will likely experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the 2021 June-to-August lean season, according to the Cadre Harmonisé (CH).

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

KEY FIGURES



1.1 Million

People supported monthly through USG-funded emergency food assistance



\$6.9 Million

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care programming



13

USAID/BHA-funded partners supporting WASH activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

To address acute food insecurity in Nigeria, USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and six NGO implementing partners to provide emergency food assistance—primarily through food vouchers to support local markets, with in-kind food commodities provided to vulnerable households in remote areas of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. In-kind food commodities include U.S.-sourced nutrition products such as corn-soy blends to help prevent acute malnutrition in children ages five years and younger. USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs and WFP in northeastern Nigeria to address rising levels of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—using both U.S.-sourced and international purchase of ready-to-use therapeutic foods, as well as locally produced nutritious foods. With more than \$60 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA is providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to people in Nigeria affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition due to continued high levels of conflict and displacement, rising commodity prices, low agricultural output, and COVID-19-related, adverse economic effects.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and eight NGOs to provide life-saving health care to conflict-affected populations throughout Nigeria. Often 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 through 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 northeastern Nigeria—and distribute vaccines to and conduct emergency health services for populations in need. In addition, State/PRM funds UNHCR and NGOs that support essential health interventions for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Nigeria.

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 \$8.8 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA partners with IOM, UNICEF, and 13 NGOs to support critical WASH activities throughout Nigeria, including maintenance of sanitation and waste management systems at IDP camps in Dikwa and rehabilitation of water systems destroyed by conflict in Borno. USAID/BHA also supports activities that 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 supports WASH activities that assist IDP and refugee populations across Nigeria.



\$6.2 Million

In dedicated USG support for protection programming

PROTECTION

The U.S. Government (USG) supports nine partners to address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations in northern Nigeria. USAID/BHA partners provide child protection, 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 UXO, which continue to threaten the safety of Nigerians. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR and NGO partners reached more than 48,000 IDPs through project monitoring and site visits related to protection programming in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, reaching nearly 28,000 individuals in Borno alone. Additionally, State/PRM partners provide critical protection assistance, including prevention of GBV, to Cameroonian refugees residing in Nigeria.



\$3.6 Million

In dedicated USG 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. With nearly \$4 million in FY 2021 funding for shelter and settlements activities, USAID/BHA partners with IOM and four NGOs to support the construction and fortification of shelters to reduce vulnerabilities to climatic shocks and security incidents for IDPs across Nigeria. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners provide emergency shelter items to vulnerable households to enable them to meet basic needs and provide safety material kits to disaster risk reduction committees in IDP camps 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 the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa have resulted in high levels of insecurity 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.
- 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.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers; Health; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter; WASH	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$58,160,000
UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$750,252
WFP	HCIMA, Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
	Food Assistance—Cash, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$30,000,000
	Nutrition	Adamawa, Borno, Yobe	\$14,983,910
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$68,087
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$111,962,249

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 12.

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)