

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013

- At least 234 dead and 20,000 displaced by inter-communal conflict for January and February 2013.
- The CERF approves 6.4 million USD for flood response in Nigeria. Projects to be implemented between January – June 2013
- UNICEF projects approximately 491,862 children fewer than 5 will suffer from SAM and 926,529 from MAM in 2013.
- 243 cases of Lassa Fever infection have been reported in 17 LGAs of 9 states.

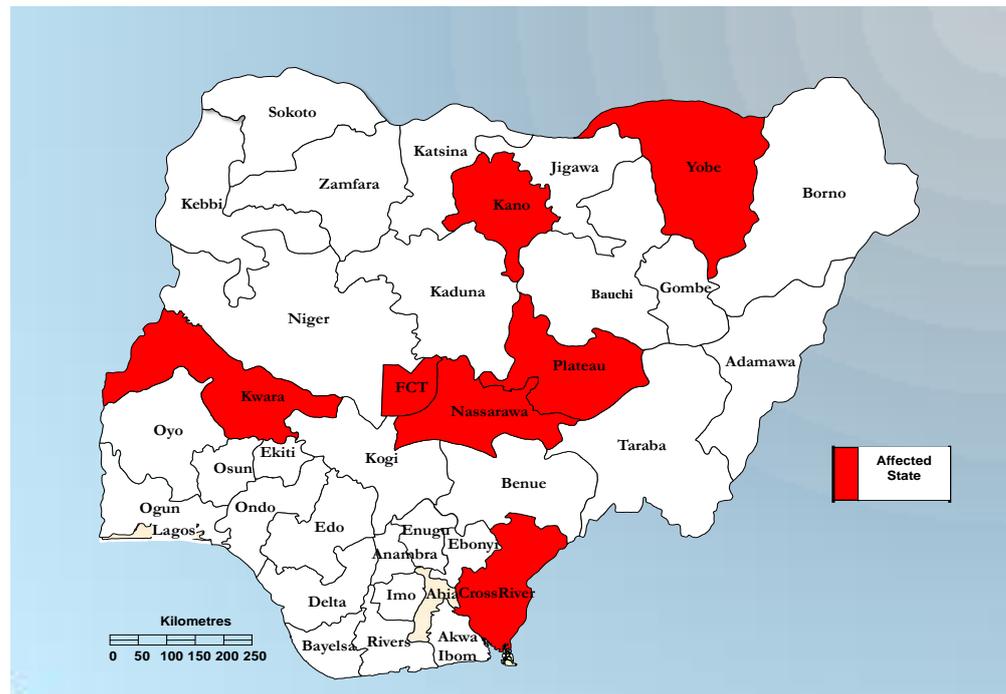


### In This Issue

- January and February Displacement P.1
- Flood response and predictions for 2013 P.2
- Food security response in the Sahel States P.3
- Insecurity: a threat to polio eradication P.4
- Monitoring Lassa fever P.4

## Fatalities and displacement from Inter-communal conflict and insecurity

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) presented updates on fatalities and displacement from inter-communal conflict across the country for the month of January at the National Humanitarian Forum held February 1.



In the month of January, 173 lives were lost and 15,000 people displaced due to inter-communal conflict and insecurity including conflict over farm and grazing land. These incidents took place in Nasarawa state, Cross River State, Borno State Nigeria's capital Abuja, and Plateau State.

This figure rose to at least 234 fatalities and 20,000 displaced from inter-communal clashes and insecurity by the end of February. Nasarawa was one of the worst affected states with 120 people killed and 12,300 internally displaced due to inter-

communal violence which occurred on 10 to 13 January. 792 people died from inter-communal conflict and insecurity in 2012.

## Flood Response and Predictions for 2013

*The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved a total of 6.4 million US\$ for the 2012 flood response*

According to NEMA, the 2012 flood crisis affected some 7.7 million people, including 2,157,419 IDPs. The Government of Nigeria disbursed 17.6 billion Naira (US\$110 million) to flood-affected States. The Presidential Committee on Flood Relief and Rehabilitation raised more than 11 billion Naira (US\$ 70 million) for immediate relief and longer term reconstruction and rehabilitation; demonstrating a best practice in mobilizing the private sector in disaster response.

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved a total of 6.4 million US\$ for the 2012 flood response. The Humanitarian Country Team identified, in consultation with the Government, critical gap areas.

Funds will be allocated to four lifesaving projects to be implemented from January to June 2013:

- Life-saving WASH interventions for flood-affected communities to reduce morbidity and mortality in term of water-borne and sanitation related diseases, by ensuring provision of safe water, proper sanitation and improved hygiene for the affected populations. The project is supporting health, nutrition, food security, protection, education and cross-sectoral issues. This will include ensuring 500,000 people (45% under 15 children, 50,000 families) have access to safe water, basic sanitation facilities and practice proper hygienic behaviour;
- Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) to provide timely information on potential disease outbreaks among flood affected populations; and reduce the mortality and morbidity of the affected population through prompt provision of emergency health care and response to disease outbreaks in flood affected communities in the 15 most affected States;
- Provision of Basic NFIs to the most vulnerable displaced families to ensure healthy living conditions for most vulnerable IDP families. The floods washed away the houses and personal belongings of the IDP population. There is a critical need for provision of basic NFIs to enable them access to healthier and dignified living condition;
- Life-saving support for fisheries producers in states most affected by the 2012 flood to prevent a protracted food and livelihood emergency in eight most affected states. The project will enabling families to re-engage in small-scale fisheries to improve household income and in turn access to food and nutrition.

### **More floods expected in 2013 for States; NIMET warns**

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) has sounded the alert that based on prevalent conditions characterizing this year's Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP) patterns; more rainfall possibly lead to more floods is expected in some parts of the country in 2013. Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, Kwara and other neighbouring states could be affected. On the other hand, States in western Nigeria are expected to receive lower amount of rainfall than last year. The Director General of NIMET disclosed this at the recent 2013 Seasonal Rainfall Prediction.

The Agency further stated that North-eastern states might experience high rainfall levels, amounting to about 429 millimetres within 120 days. The South should expect 2,900 millimetres of rain within 290 days. The National Emergency Management

Agency (NEMA) is putting preparedness measures in place. The UN will be supporting the agency in this effort through reviewing and aligning the UN and NGOs inter-agency Contingency plans with the National Contingency plans.

It is critical that for 2013, early warning from NIMET galvanizes early action to maximize the impact of the on-going response to the 2012 flood crisis in Nigeria. Failure to do this could lead to losing the gains already made in addressing the humanitarian consequences of the 2012 floods.

## Food Security likely to deteriorate during lean season in worst hit areas by flood and insecurity

*Declines in crop production and cash income, combined with high food prices and insecurity are likely to result in acute food insecurity in localized areas with peaks during the lean season.*

FEWS NET, WFP, CILSS, NEMA and OCHA undertook a joint assessment to three areas hit by the 2012 floods (northern, north west, central/east). The assessment revealed that flood damage was more severe than initially anticipated.

Resulting declines in crop production and cash income, combined with high food prices and insecurity are likely to result in acute food insecurity in localized areas with peaks during the lean season between July and September in the north and May-July in the south.

Hardest hit areas include the floodplains along the Niger and Benue River and north central Nigeria. Updated production estimates suggest that total cereal and tuber harvests were roughly six per cent below average. Below-average food stocks and income levels have reduced food access and have caused poor households to resort to atypical coping strategies, including heavier reliance on wage labour, small ruminant sales, increased migration, and substitution to less preferred foods. Substantial flood related losses to other livelihood activities, including livestock and fishing production, were also noted.

## Strengthening response for on-going food insecurity in the Sahel states

The situation of children and women in Nigeria remains critical in terms of food insecurity in the Sahel States. SMART nutrition surveys carried out in 8 Sahel states including Kebbi, Jigawa, Kano, Gombe, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe, and Borno of Northern Nigeria from 28 August to 5 October 2012 show a high prevalence of global acute malnutrition. Rates range from 9.2% in Kano to 16.2% in Sokoto State, while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition ranges from 1.6% in Katsina to 4.4% in Sokoto State. UNICEF and partners have projected that estimated 296,500 children under-5 years of age will be affected by severe acute malnutrition and an estimated 910,516 by moderate acute malnutrition.

UNICEF, Save the Children, Action Against Hunger and Catholic Relief Services are leading various interventions in the eight most affected states. The agencies are providing integrated interventions in 4 key sectors including: Food Security, WASH, Nutrition and Protection. Education will be introduced in 2013 to scale up the minimum package. CRS/Caritas have already reached 790 household with cash transfer in Sokoto, Jigawa, Katsina and Zamfara. According to UNICEF, a total of 15,394 new cases of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were treated in December 2012 in the 450 Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) sites in the affected states. The cumulative number of children reached in Nigeria from January until December 2012 is at 217,506; of these 201,301 are from Sahelian states and 16,205 from non-Sahel states - Bauchi, Gombe and Adamawa.

## Insecurity a threat to polio eradication in northern Nigeria

*The attacks are likely to delay the global current efforts to stamp out the virus by the end of 2013*

On 8 February, gunmen killed 10 polio health workers as they were participating in a polio immunization campaign in Kano, in northern Nigeria. The attacks are likely to delay the global current efforts to stamp out the virus by the end of 2013. Nigeria, alongside Pakistan and Afghanistan, is one of three countries still considered to have endemic polio.

According to WHO, in 2012, Nigeria accounted for 121 of the 222 polio cases recorded worldwide (or 54 per cent of the cases worldwide), against 52 of the 650 cases in 2011 (or 8 per cent), and the only case reported in neighbouring Niger last year was "imported" from northern Nigeria.

National Immunization Days are still planned to take place throughout. UNICEF is focusing on communication and social mobilization to support activities and engage communities to dispel misperceptions around health activities.

## Government intensifies monitoring of Lassa fever

The Nigeria Disease Prevention and Control (DPC) Unit/WHO, in collaboration with the Federal and State Ministries of Health, continue to monitor and advise on the prevention and control of Lassa Fever and Cholera in the 37 states of the federation. A total of 243 Lassa fever cases and 15 deaths in nine States have been confirmed so far. An additional seven suspected cases and three deaths were reported from Edo, Plateau and Taraba States. All the states in Nigeria have been advised to reinforce active surveillance, case management and public enlightenment.

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