



After Fati's sister Amina died, Fati continued exclusive breastfeeding of Amina's nine-month-old daughter, Aisha. She learned about wet nursing by attending a UNICEF-supported mothers' support group.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Nigeria

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- An estimated 9.2 million people, including 5.5 million children, are affected by conflict in northeast, northwest, and north-central Nigeria. Of these, more than 3.2 million people are displaced, while 1 million live in inaccessible areas. Humanitarian crises due to protracted armed conflict, armed violence, and community clashes between farmers and herders have resulted in alarming food insecurity and malnutrition, compounded by epidemics and childhood illnesses within a context of deteriorating water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions.
- UNICEF will provide an integrated multisectoral response, focusing on programmatic convergence for conflict-affected populations. The rapid response mechanism will provide timely and coordinated support to areas with increased needs. A systematic gender lens will be applied to all programme designs while strengthening programme quality.
- UNICEF requires US\$297.3 million to deliver an integrated package of assistance focusing on nutrition, education, WASH, health, and child protection services to address the needs of vulnerable and crisis-affected children.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



713,000

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



340,000

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



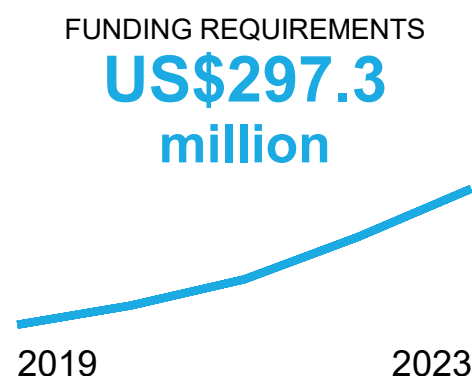
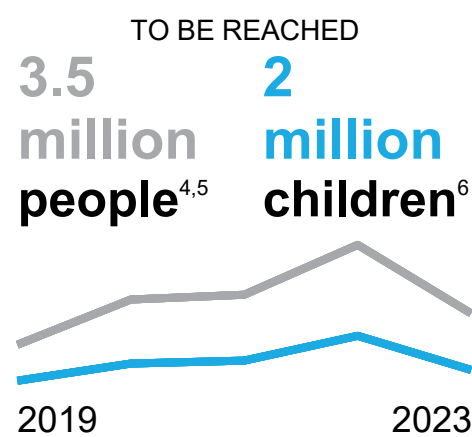
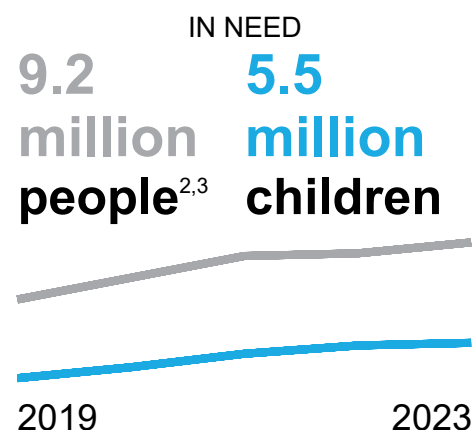
782,000

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



1.2 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Approximately 9.2 million individuals are impacted by humanitarian crises across seven states in Nigeria: Borno, Adamawa, Yobe (northeast); Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina (northwest); and Benue (north central). Of these, an estimated 3.2 million people are displaced, including 59 per cent children and 25 per cent women. Moreover, around 1.1 million individuals in the northeast reside in areas inaccessible to aid workers. The main causes of displacement are a prolonged armed conflict in the thirteenth year in the northeast, armed violence (banditry and abductions) in the northwest, and clashes between farmers and herders in the north-central region.⁷

According to the March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis report, an estimated 4.25 million people in Nigeria may face food insecurity (CH Phase 3-5) during the 2023 lean season. This represents a 3 per cent increase from the 4.1 million individuals affected in 2022.⁸ In 2022, the number of children receiving treatment for severe wasting surpassed the annual target by 20,000, reaching 335,000 cases compared to 316,000 in 2021.⁹

With the upcoming lean season in 2023,¹⁰ the number of malnourished children is anticipated to rise from 1.74 million to 2 million. The prevalence of severe wasting among children has also seen a significant increase of 14 per cent, rising from 614,000 cases in 2022 to 690,000 cases in 2023, as indicated by combined severe wasting estimates. A recent SMART survey highlights that over 354,000 children in northwestern Nigeria are projected to suffer from severe wasting in 2023, which is 130,000 more than the previous year.¹¹

In northeast Nigeria, disease outbreaks remain a significant and ongoing concern. The World Health Organization's report reveals that in 2022, 461 deaths were attributed to cholera, with 298 cases confirmed and 163 suspected. Most of these fatalities, approximately 85 per cent, occurred in Borno, while Yobe accounted for 15 per cent, and Adamawa had less than 1 per cent.¹²

The deteriorating WASH situation in camp settings and return areas further exacerbates the risk of disease outbreaks and common illnesses for children. Cholera cases in the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states are directly linked to underlying issues such as open defecation in affected communities and the lack of clean drinking water in rural areas, urban slums, camps, and similar environments.¹³

Adding to the challenges, Nigeria has experienced the most severe flooding in a decade, impacting 31 out of 36 states, according to government sources. This further contributes to the increase in cholera outbreaks in 2023.¹⁴ Moreover, vaccine-preventable diseases persist, with Nigeria experiencing high measles outbreaks.¹⁵

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁶



4.3 million
people in need of
health assistance¹⁷



2.4 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁸



1.5 million
children in need of
protection services¹⁹



1.2 million
children in need of
access to school



3 million
people lack access to
WASH services²⁰

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Abubakar Wakala, an 80-year-old farmer, is leading the efforts to end the cholera outbreak in Sokoto, Northwest Nigeria.

Despite the heartbreaking loss of his eldest son and wife, due to a cholera outbreak, 80-year-old farmer Abubakar Wakala, is bravely leading the fight against cholera in his community with support from UNICEF. From raising awareness about the dangers and consequences of open defecation, and advocating for the installation of toilets in every household, Abubakar contributed to a cholera-free community. Abubakar Wakala stands as a beacon of resilience, demonstrating that even in the face of tragedy, one person can make a profound difference.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF will provide humanitarian assistance to people in need, prioritizing children and women in Nigeria's northeast, northwest, and north-central regions. Working in partnership with authorities, United Nations agencies, and national and international non-governmental organizations, UNICEF will reach those affected by conflict and other crises. The response will be multisectoral, integrating nutrition, health, WASH, child protection, and education, with social and behavioural change as a cross-cutting component. In the northeast, UNICEF will serve as the provider of last resort and ensure sector leadership in nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection.

UNICEF and partners will strengthen the rapid response mechanism to provide immediate assistance to scale up services in areas of high need. UNICEF will use humanitarian cash transfers and shock-responsive social protection as a cross-cutting response strategy with UNICEF sectors while ensuring linkages to the Government for system strengthening and sustainability.

UNICEF will enhance its risk-informed and rights- and results-based programming all along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Particularly in the northwest, the humanitarian component of nexus programming will focus on supporting government-led preparedness and response via evidence-based analysis and response planning, shock-responsive social protection, and the establishment of standby partnerships. UNICEF will ensure the response is child-focused and gender-sensitive. Mitigating risks and preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse, and gender-based violence will be integral to the interventions. UNICEF will strengthen localization and further integrate accountability throughout its response.

UNICEF will provide access to quality treatment for children suffering from severe wasting. To reduce malnutrition in the long term, UNICEF's response aims to increase the proportion of infants aged 0-5 months who are exclusively breastfed to 65 per cent and the proportion of children aged 6-23 months who are receiving the minimum dietary diversity to 28 per cent by 2025.

Health interventions will ensure a timely and effective response to disease outbreaks, provide routine immunization to children under 5 years of age, and improve the primary health care system. UNICEF's WASH response will be integrated with health and nutrition services to maximize impact, while innovative approaches will focus on sufficient and sustainable access to WASH services.

UNICEF's education interventions will focus on increasing children's access to formal and informal vocational skill opportunities required to address the multifaceted learning needs of children. This will occur via catch-up classes, accelerated learning programmes, vocational skills training, and pathways back to inclusive age-appropriate levels of formal education. UNICEF's child protection response will focus on reintegrating children formerly associated with armed groups while investing in child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support, in communities, camps, and schools.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/nigeria/situation-reports>

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.



Health

- **878,000** children vaccinated against measles
- **2,577,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁴



Nutrition²⁵

- **713,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **842,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **606,000** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **340,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **120,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **350,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **4,500** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support



Education

- **782,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **782,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,188,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **376,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **309,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies²⁶



Social protection²⁷

- **53,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



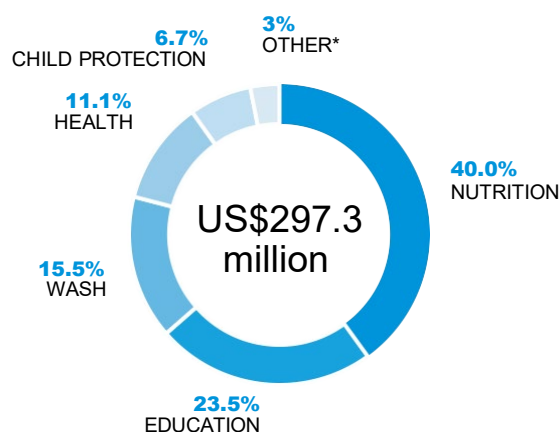
Rapid response mechanism²⁸

- **37,000** people reached through an integrated rapid response mechanism²⁹

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF has increased its appeal to align with the Nigeria 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan funding requirements. The US\$297.3 million budget addresses the needs of approximately 3.4 million people, including 2.7 million women and children, by providing a comprehensive package of nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services. The crisis in Nigeria is complex and prolonged, characterized by escalating insecurity, the influx of new arrivals and unplanned returns, and worsening food security leading to increased malnutrition and common illnesses for children. Consequently, there is a critical need for additional funding to support WASH, health, and child protection interventions, ultimately saving the lives of more children and families.

Compared to the initial humanitarian appeal 2023, the increased funding in the revision aligns with sector-level planning and the approved Nigeria 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan. Another reason for the increase is the growing needs in the northeast and northwest regions, coupled with the impact of inflation. The farmer-herder conflict has also generated additional needs for women and children in northwest Nigeria. Insufficient and delayed funding will hinder UNICEF's capacity to support the national response to ongoing crises. This shortfall could result in over 2 million children being deprived of essential services they urgently require.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	33,000,000
Nutrition	119,000,000
Child protection	20,000,000
Education	70,000,000
WASH	46,000,000
Social protection	5,000,000
Rapid response mechanism	3,000,000
Cross-sectoral	1,300,000
Total	297,300,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (1.7%), Rapid response mechanism (1.0%), Cross-sectoral (<1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	20,000,000	33,000,000	23,723,846	9,276,154	28.1%
Nutrition ³¹	100,000,000	119,000,000	43,924,965	75,075,035	63.1%
Child protection	18,000,000	20,000,000	4,087,464	15,912,536	79.6%
Education ³²	70,000,000	70,000,000	7,092,243	62,907,757	89.9%
WASH	53,000,000	46,000,000	13,884,532	32,115,468	69.8%
Social protection ³³	5,000,000	5,000,000	2,244,634	2,755,366	55.1%
Rapid response mechanism	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	33.3%
Cross-sectoral	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,335,971	-35,971	0%
Total	270,300,000	297,300,000	98,293,655	199,006,345	66.9%

ENDNOTES

1. The data of the population in need (PiN) is from the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP); the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report 11 (March 2023) for Northwest and North Central Nigeria and IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix(DTM) Round 43 (February 2023) Northeast Nigeria. The total 9.2 million persons comprise 8.3 million in the northeast and .9 million in the northwest. The total number of children in need is 5.5 (4.9 million in the northeast and 0.6 million in the northwest), with the number of internally displaced people standing at 3.2 million (2.2 million in the northeast and 1 million in the northwest and Benue State).
2. Northeast Nigeria: 8.3 million people in need, 4.9 million children in need (48 per cent of people in need) (2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria), including 2.2 million internally displaced people (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Round 43 (February 2023) Northeast Nigeria). Northwest (Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto) and Benue State in north-central Nigeria: 963,322 internally displaced people, including 568,708 children (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report 11 (March 2023): IDPs (Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara and Benue). Therefore, the total number of people in need of this Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is 9.2 million (8.3 million in the northeast and 0.9 million in the northwest). The total number of children in need is 5.5 (4.9 million in the northeast and 0.6 million in the northwest), with the number of internally displaced people standing at 3.2 million (2.2 million in the northeast and 1 million in the northwest and Benue State).
3. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children. However, with improved capacity among sector members, UNICEF considers coverage of certain percentage of the needs, while also serving as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
4. This figure was calculated based on UNICEF's number of people to be reached with primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities (2,577,291), plus the measles vaccination target (877,538), reaching a total of 3,454,829 people to be reached. The total number of adults to be reached is 1,151,609, or 33 per cent, and the total number of children to be reached is 2,038,349. Of these children, 1,209,190 (35 per cent) are girls, and 1,094,029 (31 per cent) are boys. The total number of people to be reached includes 1,842,575 women/girls (53 per cent), 518,225 men (15 per cent), and an estimated 172,741 people with disabilities (0.05 per cent).
5. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children. However, with improved capacity among sector members, UNICEF's coverage is based on agreement with sector members while also serving as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. This figure was calculated based on the highest coverage programme target for children to be reached 2,038,349. Of these children, 1,209,190 (35 per cent) are girls, 1,094,029 (31 per cent) boys. The total number of people to be reached includes 1,842,575 women/girls (53 per cent) and an estimated 172,741 people with disabilities (0.05 per cent).
7. Reference to the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP); the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix(DTM) Report 11 (March 2023) for Northwest and North Central Nigeria and IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix(DTM) Round 43 (February 2023) Northeast Nigeria
8. Cadre Harmonisé of Food and Nutrition March 2023 Analysis Results for Borno State, 6 April 2023, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/cadre-harmonise-food-and-nutrition-march-2023-analysis-results-borno-state>>
9. UNICEF, Nigeria Situation Report January-December 2022.
10. Cadre Harmonisé of Food and Nutrition March 2023 Analysis Results for Borno State, 6 April 2023, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/cadre-harmonise-food-and-nutrition-march-2023-analysis-results-borno-state>>
11. IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis May 2022-April 2023, published on 23 November 2022.
12. Northeast Nigeria Humanitarian Response Health Sector Bulletin December 2022
13. Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023.
14. Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention-Cholera Situation Report 05 Epidemiological week 18-21: (01 May - 28 May, 2023).
15. OCHA, Nigeria Situation Report updated: 17 Jun 2023.
16. Sector needs are based on planning figures of the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria for the northeast, Northwest Nigeria Operational Response Plan (unpublished) and the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report 11 (March 2023) for Northwest and North Central Nigeria and IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix(DTM) Round 43 (February 2023) Northeast Nigeria
17. The figure is based on the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. The figure is based on the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan and it reduced from an initial 4.7 million to 3 million to align with the sectoral plan.
21. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
22. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
23. Social and behavioural change, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
24. The targets were reduced from initial 5.4 million people to 2.57 million to align with the approved Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan launched in 2023.
25. UNICEF is planning to provide all required sector nutrition supplies for severe wasting, programming and prevention.
26. In 2021, the sector target for the provision of WASH non-food items/essential household items was set at 1.6 million. Of this number, only 2 per cent was achieved. In 2022, the target was set at 2.9 million, and so far only 8 per cent (242,714) of the target has been achieved. In 2023, based on ongoing analysis for the Humanitarian Response Plan, the sector's provisional target is 36 per cent of the 2022 target, or 1,029,692. Of this target, UNICEF is planning to reach 308,623 people.
27. 3,000 households will be reached with shock-responsive social protection services, while humanitarian cash transfers will target 7,600 households. The increase in target from 36,500 to 53,000 is due to the expansion of humanitarian cash transfers within UNICEF's sector response.
28. The rapid response mechanism will be an integrated response approach that will target WASH (access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene) with a nutrition response that covers severe wasting.
29. The increase in the target is to align with inter-sector planning and the overall Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 target.
30. Changes in budgets align with UNICEF's sector-level planning and the approved Nigeria 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
31. The effects of rising food, fertilizer and fuel prices resulting from multiple global factors, including the war in Ukraine, have driven up global humanitarian needs and increased the cost of nutrition interventions.
32. Based on the education sector cost analysis and the education in emergencies standard costing framework, the education in emergencies cost-per-person ranges from US\$90 to US\$150, depending on the type of programming, number of grades (higher grades means higher costs), cost fluctuations, access, security and transportation costs.
33. For the northeast, the amount is approximately 45,000 Naira (US\$105) per household, which is a one-time humanitarian cash transfer based on the standard minimum expenditure basket. For the northwest, the amount is approximately 30,000 Naira (US\$70) per household, based on six months at 5,000 Naira per month, in line with the national conditional cash transfer programme.
34. The effects of rising food, fertilizer and fuel prices resulting from multiple global factors, including the war in Ukraine, have driven up global humanitarian needs and increased the cost of nutrition interventions.
35. Based on the education sector cost analysis and the education in emergencies standard costing framework, the education in emergencies cost-per-person ranges from US\$90 to US\$150, depending on the type of programming, number of grades (higher grades means higher costs), cost fluctuations, access, security and transportation costs.
36. For the northeast, the amount is approximately 45,000 naira (US \$105) per household, which is a one-time humanitarian cash transfer based on the standard minimum expenditure basket. For the northwest, the amount is approximately 30,000 naira (US\$70) per household, based on six months at 5,000 naira per month, in line with the national conditional cash transfer programme.