



Hauwa Abubakar plays with her son Adamu, 18 months, upon his discharge from the malnutrition treatment programme at Pulka Primary Healthcare Centre in Pulka, northeast Nigeria, in February 2024.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Nigeria

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- In the northeast, northwest and north-central regions of Nigeria, humanitarian conflict or armed violence continues to affect 8.8 million people, including 4.9 million children,² who are in need of protection and access to health, nutrition, education, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) essential services.
- There are 2.9 million people displaced across the three regions, including 2 million in the northeast in areas affected by armed conflict; 514,490 in three violence-affected states in the northwest; and 401,403 in Benue State in north-central Nigeria.^{3,4}
- UNICEF is ensuring a multisectoral response, focusing on delivering nutrition, health and WASH interventions, and on education and child protection services in priority locations in the eight targeted states. UNICEF will emphasize gender sensitivity, advancing localization and the need for durable solutions for internally displaced persons.
- UNICEF requires \$255 million to deliver nutrition, WASH, health, child protection and education assistance to 5.4 million people in Nigeria, including 3.8 million children.

IN NEED
8.8 million people⁵
4.9 million children⁶

2021

2025

TO BE REACHED
5.4 million people⁷
3.8 million children⁸

2021

2025

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
US\$255 million

2021

2025

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



4.1 million

children and women
accessing primary health
care in UNICEF-supported
facilities



1.2 million

children with severe
wasting admitted for
treatment



676,864

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



955,003

Men and women, girls and
boys accessing a sufficient
quantity and quality of
water for drinking and
domestic needs

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Two million people remain displaced internally in northeast Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states)⁹ due to armed conflict ongoing since 2009;¹⁰ 514,490 are displaced in the northwest (Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara states) due to armed violence; and 401,403 are displaced in Benue State in the north-central region due to farmer-herder violence. Benue is hosting the second-highest number of internally displaced persons, after Borno.¹¹ Sixty per cent of internally displaced persons are children. In the northeast, 41 per cent of all those displaced live in camps, compared with 11 per cent in the northwest and 34 per cent in Benue State.^{12,13}

Borno State alone hosts 1.7 million internally displaced persons, with 924,000 (54 per cent) living in 250 camps.¹⁴ In 2021–2022, 160,000 internally displaced persons were relocated. None were relocated in 2023 and only 10,000 relocated in 2024.¹⁵ Relocations to areas outside garrison towns lack essential services and face increased security threats.

Some areas in the northwest are marked by the absence of government, resulting in lack of education and health care. Armed banditry is rampant across the northwest, and it is particularly aimed at the control of natural resources, including the gold mines in Zamfara.¹⁶ In late 2023, a new non-state armed group, Lakurawa, emerged, posing new threats in Sokoto State.¹⁷

Nearly 5.4 million children in northwest and northeast Nigeria will likely suffer from acute malnutrition through 2025, including 1.8 million with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 3.6 million with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis highlights worsening malnutrition in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states, driving a 27 per cent increase in the number of people in need and doubling severe wasting cases.¹⁸

While Nigeria was declared free from wild polio in 2020, vaccine-derived polio is rapidly spreading in northern Nigeria and in neighbouring countries.¹⁹ Due to the 2.2 million unvaccinated children²⁰ in Nigeria, and the weak sanitation system, outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (measles, diphtheria and meningitis) and cholera continue in the country's north and south.

Around 1.9 million children in Nigeria face protection risks, including violence, child labour, child marriage, abuse, neglect, exploitation, sexual violence, psychosocial distress and recruitment by non-state armed groups.

Floods occur regularly, due to overflow of the Niger and Benue rivers in north-central Nigeria, and to poor dam operations/management (e.g., flooding in Maiduguri, Borno State in 2024).

SECTOR NEEDS



5.2 million
people in need of health assistance²¹



1.7 million
Children in need of nutrition assistance²²



1.9 million
children in need of protection services



934,000
children in need of access to school²³



2.5 million
people to be reached with key hygiene messages

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Liyatu Maina, 29, is a water quality analyst promoting well-being and safe water access for women and children in northeast Nigeria.

Liyatu Maina, 29, from Bama, northeast Nigeria, became a humanitarian worker in 2021 with GOALPrime Organization of Nigeria, supported by UNICEF. As a water quality analyst, she promotes well-being and clean water access for women and children in hard-to-reach communities like Rann and Mafa. Despite challenges including floods and scarce resources, she supports the prevention of waterborne disease outbreaks by leading initiatives including distribution of cholera kits, construction of emergency latrines and drilling of boreholes funded by UNICEF and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Liyatu finds joy in her impactful work, despite access challenges and persistent resource gaps in the region.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

This appeal covers eight states, with a primary focus on Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states in the northeast and Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina states in the northwest, but also including limited humanitarian action in Benue and Jigawa states in north-central Nigeria.

UNICEF will aim to secure treatment for severely wasted children living in areas affected by conflict or armed violence, or in areas hosting internally displaced persons. Costs of treating severe wasting constitute 60 per cent of this appeal. In addition, UNICEF will aim to provide a limited health, WASH and child protection response to displaced people in Benue State, as well as gender responsive flood-related preparedness work in Jigawa State. Beyond these protracted emergencies, responses will be directed to other states in the event of sudden-onset emergencies related to infectious disease outbreaks, floods or armed violence.

UNICEF's appeal for resources for the northeast supports the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. Depending on availability of funding, UNICEF serves as provider of last resort in nutrition, WASH, education and child protection in the northeast. In coordination with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, UNICEF and four local and three international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will deploy the Rapid Response Mechanism to hard-to-reach areas where there are no sector partners, or where those partners are overstretched.

In the protracted situations of violence and conflict, as in areas affected by infectious disease outbreaks and floods, UNICEF will deliver assistance to those that need it most – women, children and adolescents – based on evidence-based needs assessments. UNICEF will coordinate with relevant authorities, other United Nations agencies and local and international NGOs. The multisectoral response will deploy an integrated package of interventions in prioritized locations (including nutrition; WASH facilities in primary health care centres; integrated WASH and social and behaviour change responses to infectious disease outbreaks and flooding; and integrated education/protection interventions to meet needs related to abductions of students or attacks against schools and health facilities). Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse will remain central to all interventions.

Throughout its response, UNICEF will enhance localization, advance gender-responsive and adolescent programming, integrate people living with disabilities and strengthen intersectoral coordination for an effective, life-saving response.

UNICEF's humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach is based on a 2024 risk analysis on conflict, violence, floods and epidemics. Emergency preparedness will be strengthened via standard operating procedures, contingency partnerships, supply pre-positioning and community engagement to enhance accountability and response.

2025 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health (including public health emergencies)

- 4,067,208 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 950,600 children vaccinated against measles (supplemental dose)



Nutrition²⁴

- 1,230,539 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 1,434,010 primary caregivers (women and men) of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 504,175 children (6-23months) who received Small Quantity Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (SQ-LNS).
- 579,856 Pregnant women reached with Iron and Folic Acid or Multiple Micronutrient supplementations



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA²⁵

- 273,300 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 69,250 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 4,000 Children and adolescents who have exited an armed force and groups provided with gender responsive protection or reintegration support
- 500 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- 123,500 Children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse
- 339,200 Children and community members benefit from information on child care and child protection including on grave child rights violations²⁶
- 4,300 boys and girls at risk and children with disability provided with comprehensive multi sectorial case management support



Education

- 676,864 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 624,864 Girls and boys receiving individual learning materials
- 7,136 teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support
- 10,278 School management committees trained on effective school governance, inclusive education, and child-friendly learning environments



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 955,003 Men and women, girls and boys accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 214,359 Men and women, girls and boys accessing appropriate sanitation services
- 187,286 Men and women, girls and boys reached with critical WASH supplies
- 1,370,298 Men and women, girls and boys reached with key hygiene messages



Social protection

- 30,000 households benefitting from social assistance from government funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance
- 75,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- 1,124,000 people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- 115,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



Rapid response mechanism²⁷

- 150,000 People reached through rapid response mechanism



Emergency preparedness and response coordination²⁸

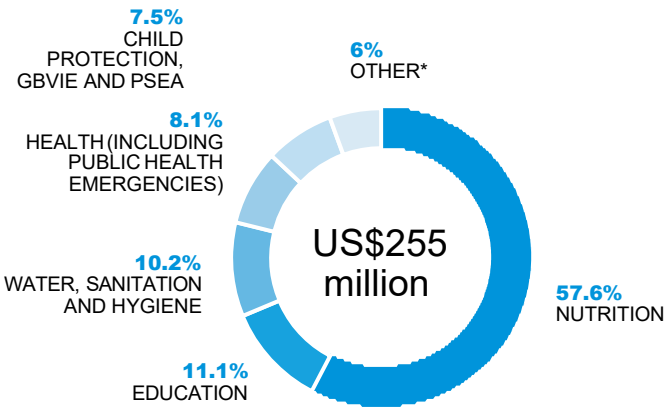
- 100,000 People reached through Emergency preparedness and response

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2025

UNICEF urgently appeals for \$255 million for its humanitarian action in Nigeria in 2025, to deliver comprehensive, life-saving assistance in nutrition, WASH, health, child protection and education for 5.4 million people (3.8 million children) facing worsening crises in the eight targeted states. Alarminglly, \$147 million, nearly 60 per cent of the total requirement, is needed to address life-threatening malnutrition, because nutrition status has sharply deteriorated due to escalating food insecurity and multiple vulnerabilities.

The humanitarian situation in 2025 remains dire, particularly in the northeast and northwest. In the northeast, secondary emergencies, including climate-induced emergencies like flooding, cholera outbreaks and a fragmented, government-led return programme for internally displaced persons, coupled with ongoing insecurity across the region, have significantly increased humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, the northwest faces escalating banditry, abductions and violence that have worsened food security and malnutrition. Additionally, farmer-herder conflicts in the north-central region continue to threaten the safety and well-being of families.

Without sufficient and timely funding, the survival of 3.5 million children remains at grave risk, their well-being jeopardized by the compounding effects of malnutrition, conflict and environmental crises. This funding requested in this appeal is crucial to sustain life-saving interventions and provide critical support to affected communities. It will offer a lifeline of hope to the most vulnerable children in affected regions in Nigeria.



**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (2.7%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (1.2%), Emergency preparedness and response coordination (1.0%), Rapid Response Mechanism (<1%).*

Sector	2025 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	20,700,000
Nutrition	147,000,000
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	19,000,000 ²⁹
Education	28,200,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	25,900,000
Social protection	6,800,000 ³⁰
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,000,000 ³¹
Rapid Response Mechanism	1,800,000
Emergency preparedness and response coordination	2,600,000
Total	255,000,000

ENDNOTES

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM), IDP and Returnee Atlas: November 2024 – Mobility tracking, round 48, North-East Nigeria, IOM, Nigeria, 2024.
2. Comprising 7.8 million people based on the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, which covers the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe; and 1 million people displaced in the three northwest states of Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara and in Benue State in north-central Nigeria.
3. IOM, IDP and Returnee Atlas: November 2024 – Mobility tracking, round 48, North-East Nigeria, 2024.
4. IOM, Nigeria – NCNW Displacement Report 15: Needs monitoring (December 2024).
5. Comprising 7.8 million people based on the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, which covers the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe; and 1 million people displaced in the three northwest states of Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara and in Benue State in north-central Nigeria.
6. The 4.9 million (approximately 56 per cent) is disaggregated into 2.7 million girls and 2.2 million boys based on 2025 HNRP PIN for the Northeast and IOM DTMs' data for Northwest and North Central December 2024.
7. The total number of people to be reached is 5.4 million (based on those receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities, and hygiene promotion). Of these, 4.6 million are women and children. Of the overall 5.4 million, 70 per cent (3.8 million) are children, 15 per cent (802,653) are women, 12 per cent (644,521) are men. 3 per cent (150,774) are elderly men and women. The total figure includes an estimated 805,652 people with disabilities (15 per cent of the target population), of whom there are 338,664 children with disabilities. The disaggregation for people with disabilities and children with disabilities aligns with the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025. UNICEF is committed to serving as the provider of last resort where it has sector coordination responsibilities.
8. Children make up 3.8 million (70 per cent) of people to be reached; 2.2 million (57 per cent) are girls, and 1.6 million (43 per cent) are boys.
9. IOM, IDP and Returnee Atlas: November 2024 – Mobility tracking, round 48, North-East Nigeria, 2024.
10. Armed clashes involving non-state armed groups were reported as the main driver of displacement in 94 per cent of locations in northeast Nigeria. Communal clashes were considered the main driver in 5 per cent of locations, farmer - herder conflicts in 2 per cent and the ripple effects of armed banditry/kidnapping in the northwest in fewer than 1 per cent. Source: IOM, IDP and Returnee Atlas: November 2024 – Mobility tracking, round 48, North-East Nigeria, 2024.
11. IOM, Nigeria – NCNW Displacement Report 15: Needs monitoring (December 2024).
12. IOM, Nigeria – NCNW Displacement Report 15: Needs monitoring (December 2024).
13. IOM, IDP and Returnee Atlas: November 2024 – Mobility tracking, round 48, North-East Nigeria, 2024.
14. IOM, IDP and Returnee Atlas: November 2024 – Mobility tracking, round 48, North-East Nigeria, 2024.
15. UNICEF, Nigeria: Humanitarian Situation Report no. 1, reporting period 1 January to 30 June 2024, 3 August 2024.
16. Fowora, Shittu, "From mines to mayhem: The link between gold and banditry in Nigeria", on news site Nigerian Mining.com, 22 July 2024, available at <www.unicef.org/media/159891/file/Nigeria-Humanitarian-SitRep-MYR-2024.pdf>.
17. Reuters news service, "Who are the Lakurawa insurgent group threatening Nigeria?", 11 November 2024, available at <www.reuters.com/world/africa/who-are-lakurawa-insurgent-group-threatening-nigeria-2024-11-11/>.
18. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Nigeria (Northeast and Northwest): Acute malnutrition situation for May – September 2024 and projections for October – December 2024 and January – April 2025, IPC, 27 November 2024, available at <www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159140/?iso3=NGA>.
19. World Health Organization (WHO), Polio Transition in a Snapshot: Nigeria, WHO, 10 April 2024, available at <www.who.int/publications/m/item/nigeria-polio-transition-snapshot>.
20. https://www.unicef.org/media/152961/file/Nigeria-2023-COAR.pdf?utm_source.
21. Sector target is based on the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 figure of 3.2 million for the northeast plus 2 million for UNICEF targets in northwest and north-central Nigeria.
22. Sector target is based on Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan figures, 851,215 children for the northeast and 800,858 for northwest.
23. The sector target is based on Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan figures.
24. According to the 2024 North-East Nigeria Nutrition & Food Security Surveillance and the IPC acute malnutrition (AMN) analysis, the nutrition situation has significantly deteriorated in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states and is projected to worsen in 2025, with half of the local government areas (LGAs) expected to be in a serious or critical nutrition state, most of them in IPC AMN Phase 4. This worsening nutrition scenario is the primary driver for the 27 per cent increase in the sector number of people in need in northeast Nigeria for 2025, compared with 2024.
25. Child protection also plans to carry out capacity building and training of 500 social workforce and child protection committees/partners.
26. Mine action intervention is included under the indicator "Children and community members benefit from information on childcare and child protection, including grave child rights violations." This indicator encompasses such activities as providing information on childcare, raising awareness and offering educational programmes.
27. This number represents the UNICEF share of the target in the intersectoral plan within the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025.
28. The target includes individuals engaged through such emergency preparedness activities as simulations, capacity building, development of standard operating procedures, and responses to climate-induced events and public health epidemics/outbreaks.
29. Of this line item, \$2.5 million is for prevention and response activities around gender-based violence in emergencies and for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
30. Of this line item, \$6.6 million is for a response for 75,000 households, while \$216,000 is for UNICEF technical assistance.
31. Of this line item, \$2.3 million will fund UNICEF activities on reflective dialogue with communities, while \$750,000 will support feedback mechanisms.