The significant humanitarian needs in Nigeria are driven by conflict and violence. In the northeast, ongoing hostilities between non-state armed groups and security forces have affected 7.9 million people and displaced 1.8 million. In the northwest and north-central regions, inter-communal violence has displaced nearly 310,000 people and undermined the livelihoods of thousands more. The humanitarian situation is particularly dire in areas with previously high levels of malnutrition and common childhood illnesses. In northwest Zamfara and Sokoto states, over 200,000 children are estimated to be severely malnourished. In the northeast, nearly 290,000 children are estimated to be severely malnourished and 3.5 million people require water and sanitation. At least 1.1 million children need support to access education, and 1.77 million children require child protection services. In addition, dozens of states face the risk of environmental emergencies and disease outbreaks. The frequency and impact of annual flooding have eroded the resilience of riverine communities; and cholera and measles outbreaks affected more than 700 and nearly 29,000 children in 2019, respectively.

Humanitarian strategy

Across Nigeria, UNICEF works in close partnership with the Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach people affected by crisis. UNICEF will continue to partner with 11 international NGOs and 9 national NGOs, and seek to expand its partnerships in new locations, including in the northwest. UNICEF will also expand its geographic focus into these areas to respond to emergency needs in nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection and health for internally displaced persons and host communities. In northeast Nigeria, UNICEF will deliver an integrated package of interventions to conflict-affected populations in line with the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan 2019–2021. In most of its northeast sectors, UNICEF will hand over a greater share of service delivery to partners whose capacity in the region is increasing, providing UNICEF more scope to focus on coordination, setting sector standards and quality programming. In nutrition, UNICEF will continue to manage the pipeline for ready-to-use therapeutic food for all sector partners. UNICEF will also ensure strong linkages between humanitarian action and development activities. Gender-based violence risk mitigation efforts will be strengthened across all programme sectors. In collaboration with the Government, UNICEF will continue to provide coordination support as co-lead of the nutrition, WASH and education sectors and the child protection sub-sector.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$68.8 million available against the US$120.1 million appeal (57 per cent funded). This enabled UNICEF to reach some 1.6 million children in conflict-affected states in the northeast with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Integrated primary health care services and UNICEF-supported health facilities, safe water and sanitation, communication for development, psychosocial support and inclusive education. In WASH, UNICEF focused on the operation and maintenance of facilities, in addition to the construction of new facilities, and increased the number of internally displaced persons with sustained access to safe water. UNICEF was an active facilitator in the containment of the 2019 measles outbreak in the northeast through its support of a reactive vaccination campaign for over 1.3 million children. Despite lack of funding for nutrition, which almost resulted in a break in the ready-to-use therapeutic food pipeline in the fourth quarter, over 96,000 children with SAM received treatment. Child protection services reached 245,000 children with psychosocial support and tens of thousands of children received risk education on explosive remnants of war. At least 37,000 children accessed education services in safe learning spaces, and teacher training on psychosocial support services benefited more than 249,000 children.
**NUTRITION**

Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment 264,146 183,354 158,488 96,952

Caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding 763,685 614,688 305,474 267,502

New children aged 6 to 23 months in affected areas receiving multiple micronutrient powder 577,200 149,687 282,034 124,086

**HEALTH**

Children under 2 years vaccinated against measles* 720,230 1,374,113

Outpatient consultations in health facilities supported by health partners 1,140,000 3,009,841

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

People have sustained access to the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene through the construction/rehabilitation of new boreholes 400,000 286,920 149,800 169,391

People having sustained access to the agreed safe quality and quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene 3,100,000 1,001,986 500,000 768,630

People who have access to gender- and disability-sensitive sanitation facilities 1,000,000 689,109 500,000 548,817

People reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes to prevent hygiene-related illness in children, especially diarrhoea 3,100,000 686,783 1,550,000 274,282

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Children, adolescents and caregivers reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces, life-skills education and livelihoods services 575,000 364,778 287,500 244,959

Children facing protection risks received protective and specialized services 13,700 3,732

Children and adolescents released from armed forces or groups who benefited from community reintegration support 10,000 1,572 7,000 1,572

**EDUCATION**

Out-of-school boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years affected by crisis accessing formal or non-formal basic education 1,584,831 124,898 1,050,000 37,098

Boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years accessing inclusive, quality learning with age-appropriate learning materials 1,584,831 176,626 1,050,000 105,752

Teachers trained in psychosocial support skills and positive discipline 6,000 3,634 4,000 3,403

---

**Funding requirements**

In 2020, UNICEF is requesting US$145.1 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in northeast, northwest and north-central Nigeria. In the northeast, UNICEF will continue to contribute to the multi-year inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (2019–2021). A lack of funding would undermine UNICEF’s ability to treat hundreds of thousands of acutely malnourished children in northeast and northwest Nigeria. It would also prevent UNICEF from addressing critical WASH and health services for internally displaced people and protecting children’s right to education in disaster-affected areas across the country.

---


4 Ibid.


6 In addition to responding to the protracted conflict in northeast Nigeria. UNICEF’s 2020 appeal also targets affected populations in Nigeria’s northwest (WASH (50,000), health (100,000), education (10,000)) and north-central regions (WASH (20,000), health (100,000), education (10,000)).

7 Available funds include US$29.7 million received against the 2019 appeal and US$30 million carried forward from the previous year.


10 This includes 5,828,200 children, women and men receiving primary health care services in UNICEF-supported facilities (comprises 2.2 million children, 1.4 million adults and 137,743 persons with disabilities (3.6 per cent)). Women and girls make up 50.5 per cent of the total and men and boys make up 49.5 per cent of the total.

11 Children represent 50 per cent of total population of people in need. The total includes 50.5 per cent girls, 49.5 per cent boys and 2.3 per cent children with disabilities. ‘Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’.

12 This is based on the total amount of ready-to-use therapeutic food that UNICEF will provide to sector partners.

13 This target is based on the assumption that there will be a mass vaccination campaign, as was the case in 2017 and 2019.

14 In line with the expanded appeal for WASH, 50,000 and 20,000 people will be reached in the north-west and north-central regions, respectively.

15 Beneficiaries will be reached through the operation and maintenance of existing water points. Some 270,000 people will be reached through new construction.

16 Specialized services include reunification, alternative care, cash-based support and gender-based violence assistance.

17 The target for education includes 10,000 children in northeast and north-central Nigeria, respectively.

18 The funding requirement is an aggregate of the funds needed to respond to humanitarian needs in the northeast, northwest and north-central regions of Nigeria.