**Nigeria**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- An estimated 9.3 million people, including 5.7 million children, are affected by conflict in northeast, northwest and north central Nigeria. Of these, more than 2.9 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 herdsmen 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$270.3 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**

- **712,800** children with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **340,000** children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **828,600** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **1.2 million** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

**IN NEED**

9.3 million people

5.7 million children

**TO BE REACHED**

6.3 million people

4.1 million children

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

US$270.3 million

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.

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

About 9.3 million people are affected by humanitarian crises in 7 of Nigeria's 36 states (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe in the northeast; Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina in the northwest; and Benue in north central Nigeria). An estimated 2.9 million people, 55 per cent of whom are children and 25 per cent of whom are women, are displaced, while 1.1 million people in the northeast live in areas inaccessible to humanitarian workers. Displacement is largely due to a protracted armed conflict in its thirteenth year in the northeast; armed violence - including banditry and abductions - in the northwest; and community clashes between farmers and herders in the north central region.

High levels of food insecurity have aggravated malnutrition in northern Nigeria. Nearly 600,000 people in the northeast and 400,000 in the northwest were experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity as of August 2022. According to the most recent SMART survey in northwestern Nigeria, more than 354,000 children are expected to suffer from severe wasting in 2023 (130,000 more than in 2022). In the northeast, 358,000 children (40,000 more than in 2022) are expected to need treatment for severe wasting because hostilities have cut off their access to farmland. More than 40 per cent of critically food insecure people are residing in areas inaccessible to humanitarian actors.

Nationwide, Nigeria has experienced the worst levels of flooding in a decade, with 31 out of 36 states affected, according to government sources. This has contributed to cholera outbreaks, particularly in the northeast. Vaccine-preventable diseases remain endemic. In addition to battling other diseases, Nigeria experienced the world's largest measles outbreak in 2022, as well as a cholera outbreak that has claimed more than 400 lives, in particular in Borno and Yobe States in the northeast.

SECTOR NEEDS

6.2 million people in need of health assistance
3.5 million people in need of nutrition assistance
2 million children in need of protection services
1.4 million children in need of access to school
4.7 million people lack access to WASH services

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Around 100 conflict-affected children sit on a mat painting canvases in a temporary learning space inside the Hajj Camp in Maiduguri, in Borno State. Stroke after stroke, children accomplish their tasks with watercolours and brushes. Adama, a teenager, moves from one child to another to provide support. “The children are expressing their feelings,” she says.

Adama knows the therapeutic value of art. Like the children, the 18-year-old’s painting journey started when she was much younger. Born in 2004, Adama was 5 years old when conflict broke out. An introvert, Adama says drawing and painting helped her cope with trauma.

Read more about this story here

Adama, 18, stands by an art project in a temporary learning space in the Hajj camp in northeast Nigeria. She leads UNICEF-supported art sessions to help children cope with the scars of conflict.
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 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 an integral part of 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.

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: [https://www.unicef.org/appeals/nigeria/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.
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, UNICEF will require US$270.3 million to deliver an integrated package of nutrition, WASH and child protection services to address the needs of nearly 6.3 million people, including 5.1 million women and children. The crisis in Nigeria is protracted and multifaceted, with worsening insecurity, an influx of new arrivals and unplanned returns and the deteriorating food security situation accompanied by increased malnutrition. There is therefore a significant need for increased funding to support WASH, health and child protection to provide life-saving services to more children and families.

The increased funding requirement comes as the result of growing needs across the northeast and northwest regions, coupled with current inflation analysis and sector-level planning. What's more, the farmer-herder conflict has resulted in additional needs for women and children in Benue State, in northwest Nigeria, where UNICEF plans to respond to the needs of children and women living in dire situations in camps for those who are internally displaced. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country’s continuing crises. This could result in more than 4 million children being denied access to essential services.

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1. **Conditional Cash Transfer Program**

   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 cost of nutrition interventions. The total children in need is 5.7 (5.2 million in the northeast and .5 million in the northwest), with the number of internally displaced people standing at 2.9 million (2 million in the northeast and 0.9 million in the northwest and Benue State).

2. **Humanitarian Action**

   The increased funding requirement is due to growing needs in the three regions coupled with current inflation analysis and sector-level planning. In addition, UNICEF has extended the appeal to the north central region in 2023 due to increasing needs in this area.

3. **Target Setting**

   The target in the 2022 appeal was for sustainable sanitation and was 779,140. In 2023, UNICEF is providing new access to sanitation for 308,623 people while maintaining a total of 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 2022’s target, or 1,029,692. Of this target, UNICEF is planning to reach 308,623 people.

4. **Social and Behavioural Change**

   UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.

5. **Vaccination**

   In 2021, the sector target for "provision of WASH NFIs/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 2022’s target, or 1,029,692. Of this target, UNICEF is planning to reach 308,623 people.

6. **Conclusion**

   UNICEF is planning to provide all required sector nutrition supplies for severe wasting, programming and prevention. The increase in the target is based on the assessment of the severe wasting situation in the northwest, based on UNICEF, Draft SMART survey on global and severe acute malnutrition in Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, September 2022.

7. **Footnotes**

   - The increased funding requirement is due to growing needs in the three regions coupled with current inflation analysis and sector-level planning. In addition, UNICEF has extended the appeal to the north central region in 2023 due to increasing needs in this area.
   - The target in the 2022 appeal was for sustainable sanitation and was 779,140. In 2023, UNICEF is providing new access to sanitation for 308,623 people while maintaining a total of 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 2022’s target, or 1,029,692. Of this target, UNICEF is planning to reach 308,623 people.
   - The health projection is the projection and planning figure for the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for the northeast and UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children planning figure for the northwest.
   - Social and behavioural change, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
   - UNICEF is planning to provide all required sector nutrition supplies for severe wasting, programming and prevention.

8. **Funding Requirements**

   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.