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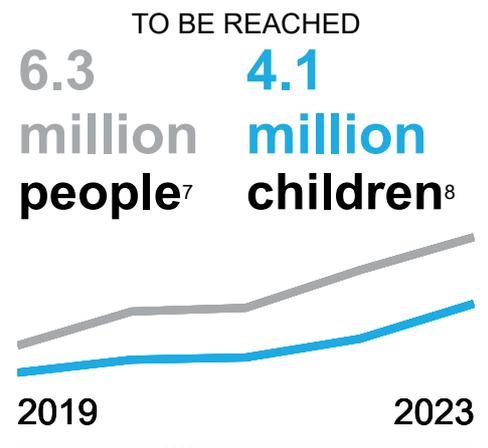
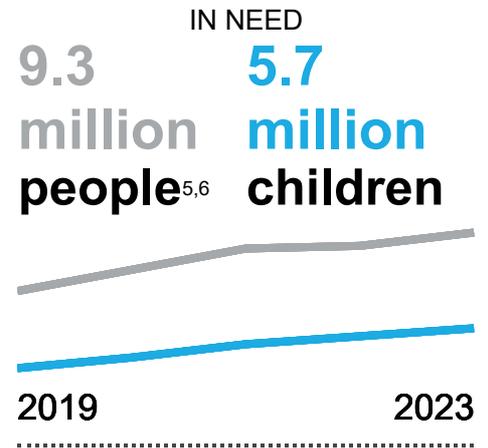
Humanitarian Action for Children

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.

Nigeria

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- An estimated 9.3 million people, including 5.7 million children, are affected by conflict in northeast, northwest and north central Nigeria.² Of these, more than 2.9 million people are displaced, while 1 million live in inaccessible areas.³ 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\$270.3 million⁴ 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



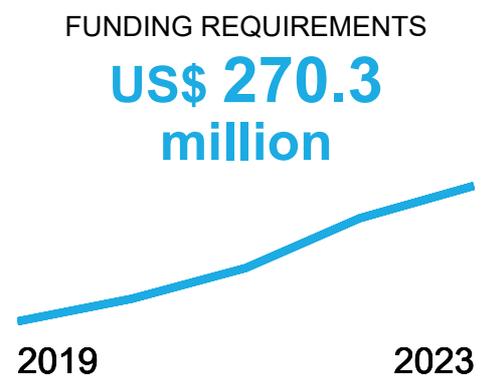
828,600

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



1.2 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



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,¹⁰ while 1.1 million people in the northeast live in areas inaccessible to humanitarian workers.¹¹ 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 2022.¹² 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).¹³ 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.¹⁴

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.⁹ 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.¹⁵

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁶



6.2 million
people in need of
health assistance¹⁷



3.5 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁸



2 million
children in need of
protection services¹⁹



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 localization²² 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

- **877,500** children vaccinated against measles
- **5,389,900** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities



Nutrition²⁴

- **712,800** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²⁵
- **753,800** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **581,200** 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

- **828,600** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **781,700** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,188,100** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **376,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services²⁶
- **308,600** people reached with critical WASH supplies²⁷



Social protection²⁸

- **36,500** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



Rapid response mechanism²⁹

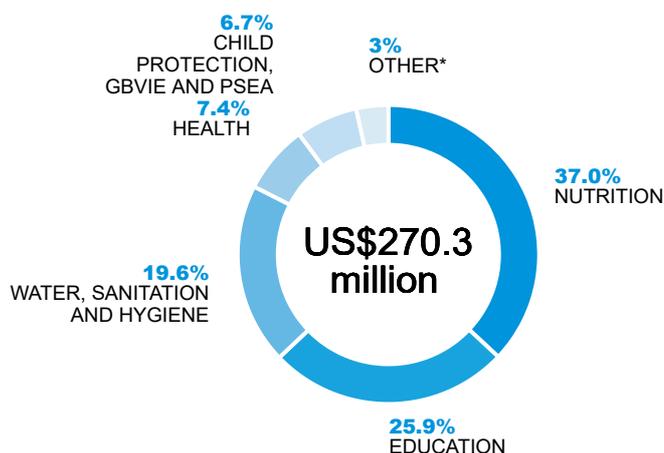
- **27,600** people reached through an integrated rapid response mechanism

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

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.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Health	20,000,000
Nutrition	100,000,000 ³⁰
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	18,000,000
Education	70,000,000 ³¹
Water, sanitation and hygiene	53,000,000
Social protection	5,000,000 ³²
Rapid response mechanism	3,000,000
Cross-sectoral	1,300,000
Total	270,300,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (1.8%), Rapid response mechanism (1.1%), Cross-sectoral (<1%).

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ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. Northeast Nigeria: People in need: 8.4 million; children in need (62 per cent of people in need): 5.2 million (2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria), including 2 million internally displaced people. Northwest Nigeria and Benue State in north central Nigeria: 898,702 internally displaced people, including 494,286 children (55 per cent of the people in need) (IOM Displacement Report Nigeria-North Central North West Round 10, unpublished, and Nigeria IOM DTM Round 41 June 2022 Northwest and Benue: IDPs (Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara and Benue)). Therefore, the total people in need for this Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is 9.3 million (8.4 million in the northeast and 0.9 million in the northwest). 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).
3. This includes 2 million internally displaced people in the northeast and 900,000 people in the northwest and in northcentral regions. Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Round 41, Baseline Assessment in Northeast Nigeria, June 2022, IOM DTM Round 9, North-Central and North-West Zones Displacement Report (unpublished) and preliminary figures of forthcoming IOM DTM assessment for north central and northwest zones.
4. 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.
5. Northeast Nigeria: People in need: 8.4 million; children in need (62 per cent of people in need): 5.2 million (2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria), including 2 million internally displaced people. Northwest Nigeria and Benue State in north central Nigeria: 898,702 internally displaced people, including 494,286 children (55 per cent of the people in need) (IOM Displacement Report Nigeria-North Central North West Round 10, unpublished, and Nigeria IOM DTM Round 41 June 2022 Northwest and Benue: IDPs (Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara and Benue)). Therefore, the total people in need for this Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is 9.3 million (8.4 million in the northeast and 0.9 million in the northwest). 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).
6. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
7. This figure was calculated based on UNICEF's target to be reached with primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities (5,389,891), plus the measles vaccination target (877,538), for a total of 6,267,429. Total adults to be reached are 2,209,855, or 35 per cent; and total children to be reached are 4,057,573 (with primary health care 3,180,035, plus an additional 877,538 through measles vaccination), or 65 per cent. Of these children, 2,150,514 are girls, 1,907,059 boys. The total number of people to be reached includes 3,336,290 women/girls (52 per cent) and an estimated 2,695 people with disabilities (0.05 per cent). UNICEF is committed to a needs-based approach, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has sector coordination responsibilities.
8. This figure was calculated based on the highest coverage programme target for children to be reached (with primary health care, 3,180,035 (59 per cent), plus measles vaccination, 877,538, for a total of 4,057,573). Of these children, 2,150,514 are girls, 1,907,059 boys and 2,029 are children with disabilities (.05 per cent).
9. OCHA, North-east Nigeria: Borno, Adamawa, Yobe States (BAY) Cholera and Flooding Snapshot, 22 September 2022.
10. This includes 2 million internally displaced people in the northeast and 900,000 people in the northwest and in the north central region. Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Round 41, Baseline Assessment in Northeast Nigeria, June 2022, IOM DTM Round 9, North-Central and North-West Zones Displacement Report (unpublished) and preliminary figures of forthcoming IOM DTM assessment for north central and northwest zones.
11. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Nigeria: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
12. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity, Oct. 2022 to Jan. 2023 Outlook, FAO, 2022.
13. UNICEF, Draft SMART survey on global and severe acute malnutrition in Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, September 2022.
14. FAO and WFP, Hunger Hotspots.
15. UNICEF, "Measles cases are spiking globally", online article, 4 May 2022, available at <www.unicef.org/stories/measles-cases-spiking-globally>.
16. Sector needs are based on planning figures for the development of the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria for the northeast, and dependent on the northwest/north central Nigeria IOM DTM June 2022 (unpublished).
17. The health figure 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.
18. The nutrition figure 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, based on the nutrition SMART survey carried out in the northwest. The northeast numbers will be revised when the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan is finalized.
19. The number is based on the number of people in need from the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. This will be revised when the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan is finalized.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. Social and behavioural change, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
24. UNICEF is planning to provide all required sector nutrition supplies for severe wasting, programming and prevention.
25. 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 wasting in Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, September 2022.
26. 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 target of 1,002,473 for sustainable access to sanitation.
27. 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 reaching 308,623 people.
28. 8,500 households will be reached with shock-responsive social protection services, while humanitarian cash transfers will target 18,000 households.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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.