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Flood anticipatory action in Adamawa state and flood response in Yobe state

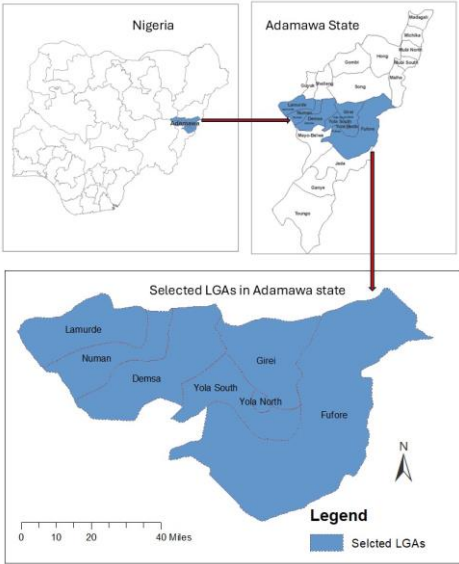
SITUATION OVERVIEW

In April 2025, the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NiHSA) released its flood outlook for the year, identifying Adamawa and Yobe among the 36 states at risk of riverine flooding. An interagency committee, chaired by the Office of the Vice President and co-chaired by OCHA, led the development of Nigeria’s flood anticipatory action framework.

On 8 September 2025, OCHA activated the flood anticipatory action in Adamawa state targeting 7 Local Government Areas (LGAs) along the River Benue namely Yola South, Yola North, Fufore, Numan, Lamurde, Demsa, and Girei.

By 16 September 2025, 13 communities in Yola North and Yola South LGAs—including Limiwa, Rumde, Shinko, Jambutu, Damilu, Bachure, Gwadabawa and Runde—were submerged. Thousands of residents have been displaced, with many seeking refuge along major roads and in temporary camps set in Damari area. Emergency response teams from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), police, and other security agencies have been deployed for search, rescue, and evacuation operations.

Apart from Adamawa state, other states in Northeast Nigeria have equally been affected by the floods such as Yobe state. On 15 August 2025, heavy rainfall in Yobe State caused a river in Potiskum to overflow, resulting in flash floods that impacted 21 communities across five wards, affecting approximately 2,557 households (about 12,785 people).



Just two days later, on 17 August following intense rainfall and rising underground springs, more than 2,937 people in 550 households in Garin Kolo and Ajim communities were found to be at immediate risk of flooding. Homes, farmland, and sources of livelihood are under threat, making urgent preventive and mitigation measures essential to prevent widespread displacement, food shortages, and outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Situation in Numbers



In Adamawa state

- 350,000 at risk of being displaced by floods
- 14 Local Government areas at risk of flooding

In Yobe state

- 21 communities across 5 wards, with an estimated 2,557 households (12,785 people)

UNICEF Response



In Adamawa state

- 1,000 cholera kits distributed
- 1,500 WASH kits and 7,320 water purification tablets distributed
- 84 water sources chlorinated

In Yobe state

- 10 water sources have been rehabilitated

In Adamawa state

- 57,369 reached with hygiene promotion messages

In Yobe state

- 29,920 reached with hygiene messages





Government Response

In Adamawa state, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) is coordinating the anticipatory action with support from the focal point from National Emergency Management Agency. The government had planned for NGN 3 billion (approximately US\$ 2 million) to support the population who will be affected by the floods. A coordination mechanism has been established with OCHA chairing the mechanism. The coordination based on the existing interagency classification of sectors namely WASH, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and CCM, and AAP. In Yobe State, Yobe state emergency management agency is coordinating the response.

UNICEF Preparedness

- To prepare for the floods, UNICEF prepositioned emergency supplies in Maiduguri (3,000 Hygiene Kits, 4,200 Cholera Kits and 100 Tarpaulins) and Yola (2,000 Hygiene Kits, and 2,5000 Cholera Kits) warehouses working with respective state level emergency agencies.
- A contingency planning was conducted for Yobe with participated from 10 LGAs in collaboration with OCHA, and National Emergency Agency.
- Community awareness on flood risk was conducted using the community volunteers.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF anticipatory action for Adamawa is supported through the CERF allocation while the floods response in Yobe is supported through KFW allocations. The response is being implemented in partnership with government agencies (SEMA, RUWASSA and Ministry of environment) and local partners (Water Supply and sanitation Initiative, Goal Prime, Lindi Peace Foundation and Northeast Nigeria Youth Initiative).



WASH

In Adamawa state

- A total of 57,369 people residing in high-risk and flood-prone locations have benefited messages on access to safe water through bucket and shock chlorination, regular water quality assessments, and monitoring of residual chlorine levels. Hygiene promotion activities have been carried out through direct engagement, as well as radio and television campaigns, supported by feedback and referral systems—all aimed at minimizing the risk of waterborne diseases.
- Ongoing water source chlorination has reached 84 boreholes in Demsa, Girei, Yola South, Yola North, and Fufore. In Demsa and Girei alone, up to 52,000 liters of household water have been treated.
- 1,000 cholera kits and 1,300 hygiene kits have been distributed to vulnerable communities across the seven LGAs.
- Work is underway to rehabilitate 21 existing water supply systems in designated evacuation centers, targeting 50,000 people. Furthermore, 140 emergency gender-segregated sanitation blocks (each with three showers and four latrines) are being restored in these centers to serve the same population.

In Yobe state

- 10 water sources rehabilitated (6 handpumps, 4 motorized boreholes with submersible pumps). One solar-powered borehole provides 10,000 liters/day. An additional 5,000 liters/day is trucked in by SEMA, making a total of 15,000 liters/day.
- 5 blocks of 2-compartment emergency toilets (10 drop-holes total) have been constructed reaching 200 people. This includes 10 hand washing stations at the evacuation centers.
- Up to 150 WASH NFIs (soap, menstrual hygiene kits, jerrycans, water purification tablets) have been distributed.
- 29,920 individuals have been reached with hygiene messages on safe water, Sanitation and handwashing practices across the 3 LGAs (Potiskum, Nangere and Bade).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement in Adamawa state

Social and behaviour change teams are actively creating awareness through speaker campaigns in streets and commercial areas. They are promoting effective hygiene practices to drive behavioral change in hotspot communities that are vulnerable to flooding and disease outbreaks such as cholera. They are broadcasting critical hygiene and water safety messages in local languages, including Fulfulde and Hausa.

In Yobe state

Through the implementing partner WASSI and volunteer community mobilizers, there is ongoing community engagement with the displaced communities. Traditional and religious leaders are also engaged with focus on supporting with the dissemination of hygiene promotion messages and need to evacuate from lowland areas that are at risk of flooding.

Cross cutting issues (Gender, Disability and Protection)

The ongoing flood anticipatory action in Adamawa State and flood response in Yobe State has taken into consideration protection issues by ensuring the interventions are safe, gender-sensitive, and child-friendly. Consideration have been made to ensure that the construction of gender segregated sanitation blocks are safe for women and girls.

Resource mobilization

The ongoing flood anticipatory action in Adamawa state is funded by generous contribution CERF and SIDA while rapid response mechanism to support the flood affected communities in Yobe State is funded by funding from KFW. In 2025, under its Nigeria Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal, UNICEF budgeted US\$ 7.4 million—out of the total US\$ 255 million appeal—to support Rapid Response, Emergency Preparedness, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and related critical interventions.

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