

1. Crisis overviewⁱ



The humanitarian crisis of Northeast of Nigeria (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, the so called BAY-states area) is protracted and largely fuelled by the armed conflict between the Nigerian government and insurgent groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province, hereinafter referred to as non-state armed groups (NSAGs). The conflict has regional dimensions and is spilling over into neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

The overall trend is that humanitarian needs and protection concerns in the BAY-states are rising while the conditions for principled humanitarian assistance are limited due to insecurity and a lack of respect for humanitarian principles by the parties to the conflict. There is access to the so called Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno state but affected people in remote areas are largely inaccessible for humanitarian actors. Moreover, the situation in Northwest of Nigeria is also deteriorating due to armed violence such as banditry, emerging NSAGs, widespread abductions and intercommunal fighting, while clashes between farmers and herders is causing displacement and humanitarian needs in the north-central region. The weak rule of law and a lack of access to basic services is contributing to rising needs in these areas.

Almost 1.2 million people have been affected by floods in 2024, and 419,000 only in Borno state. Cholera continues to spread with more than 17,000 confirmed infections and 603 recorded deaths between January and November 2024. The humanitarian needs response plan (HNRP) covers the BAY-states while Northwest of Nigeria is included in the operational response plan (ORP), which expired in December 2024. There are ongoing efforts to establish state government-led coordination in Northwest of Nigeria in early 2025 due to lack of United Nations (UN) resources to lead coordination.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Close to 25 million people were food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance across Nigeria between October and December 2024, a figure which is expected to increase to 33 million people between June and August 2025, according to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. Approximately a million people experience emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) with half living in Kano state. The affected population in phase 4 are expected to increase to almost 1.8 million during the recurring lean season, between June to August 2025. Four LGAs in Borno state were not accessible for data collection due to insecurity, estimating that almost 300,000 people are inaccessible in these areas.

In the BAY-states, an estimated 7.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, which is a reduction of approximately 100,000 people compared to 2024. This not because the humanitarian situation has improved, but rather because UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has revised its methodology. The 2025 HNRP will aim to target 3.6 million people in need and the vast majority are located in Borno state. In the BAY-states area, there are approximately a million people located in hard-to-reach areas, outside of garrison towns, according to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and not currently reached with humanitarian assistance. This is an estimate from 2019 as no humanitarian actor has access to these areas. It is difficult to estimate how many people have left these areas lately but in 2022, 90,000 people took refuge in more accessible locations, according to OCHA.

The humanitarian community relies on International Organization for Migration (IOM) displacement tracking matrix (DTM) figures, as well as IPC analysis, to track humanitarian needs and respond accordingly in the Northwest, where nearly half a million people are displaced. Furthermore, IPC analysis project that more than 5 million people will face crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity between June and August 2025. Almost 5.5 million children either suffer or will suffer from acute malnutrition between May 2024 to April 2025. Out of these children, 1.8 million either suffer or will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The lean season in 2025 will continue to pose challenges to food security in Northwest of Nigeria.

Many Nigerians face socio-economic challenges despite the fact that Nigeria is a lower middle income country with inflation rates, as high as 33,8 per cent in October 2024, limiting purchasing power. A government fuel subsidy was removed in 2023, having a negative impact on the economy as well. Resilience among the Nigerian population outside of Abuja and Lagos is low, overall, and 87 million people lived below the poverty line in 2023, according to the World Bank (WB). Access to livelihood opportunities and basic services in the Northeast of Nigeria such as hospitals is limited and infrastructure has been severely damaged due to the armed conflict while attacks on civilians caught up in the cross-fire between the Nigerian military and NSAGs occurs. In 2022, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) ranked Nigeria second after Somalia as the country with the highest number of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) incidents. Targeted abductions and attacks on civilians by NSAGs especially outside of garrison towns where civilians seek livelihood opportunities are common

and restricts freedom of movement. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable group and an estimated number of around two million are located in garrison towns as well as in informal settlements in Northeast of Nigeria. Returnees and host communities are also assessed as vulnerable groups, representing around six million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the BAY-states area with many resorting to negative coping mechanisms. Children face protection risks such as child labour as well as child and early, forced marriage (CEFM) and women and girls face gender-based violence (GBV) challenges.

3. The humanitarian response

At federal level, the line ministries relevant for the humanitarian response are the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. The position as Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation was vacant for many months during 2024 but has now finally been filled. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), under the Office of the Vice President, coordinates the humanitarian response officially and receives support from OCHA in Northeast of Nigeria. The 2025 HNRP is expected to focus exclusively on life-saving assistance, for example only targeting people in severity 3 and 4, while durable solutions and resilience-building remain outside the response plan – to be covered by development partners. Increased access to basic services is a responsibility by the Nigerian government as well as development partners, according to the UN. During 2024, The United States of America (USA) represents more than 50 per cent of the total HRP funding while the United Kingdom, ECHO, Sweden, and Germany are subsequent top donors representing approximately 30 per cent of the HRP funding together.

There is a plan to establish a humanitarian trust fund jointly funded by the government, UN and bilateral donors where the Nigerian government and private sector will cover more than half of the funding. This could be seen as the Nigerian government taking more responsibility in covering humanitarian needs, but limited progress has been made during 2024. The 2024 HRP was only 59.9 per cent funded by the end of the year, which is an increase compared to 2023 HRP funding levels, although partly explained by a lower 2024 funding target. However humanitarian funding for Nigeria is appearing to decline, like other parts of the world, due to global competition of resources. Humanitarian needs remain vast in Nigeria and likely to persist, if not increase over the years, as long as armed conflicts are ongoing. There will, however, be a significant change in the humanitarian response during 2025 in three main areas, according to OCHA, i.e. localisation, prioritisation and a greater focus of anticipatory action (AA).

The Borno State Governor (BSG) is continuing to push for a post-conflict and development narrative. Almost all IDP camps in Borno state have now been closed but there are still informal settlements and garrison towns hosting a larger number of IDPs as many awaits resettlement. There are figures indicating that as many as 160,000 IDPs have forcibly been relocated to areas, which is an estimate, with limited access to humanitarian assistance and lack of safety due to the presence of NSAGs. The UN Secretary General (UNSG) Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement visited Nigeria in May 2023 to identify durable solutions for IDPs in

Northeast of Nigeria, recommending joint government and UN-wide efforts to return IDPs in a systematic and orderly way. Involvement of INGOs and NGOs has been limited so far. Implementation of the Kampala Convention by the Nigerian government has been limited so far. Humanitarian access continues to be severely challenging, especially in Borno state, due to insecurity and because partners must navigate extensive bureaucratic impediments and time-consuming visa procedures for international staff, as well as seeking security clearances from authorities to travel by road. This means that they are heavily reliant on the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to deliver assistance in hard-to-reach areas.

The global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 is having major consequences on aid operations, and the Humanitarian Country Team is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape. For example, prioritization of the most critical humanitarian and protection needs will be needed, according to OCHA, in severity 4 – 5 categories.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida will align its focus with the 2025 HNRP to meet the most severe needs of affected population and continue to allow for partners to respond outside of the HNRP based on most critical needs. The portfolio will focus on a limited number of partners due to lack of adequate follow-up capacity as Sida does not have staff members at the Embassy in Abuja. The support to partners will be financially balanced and strategic given the humanitarian needs as outlined in the 2025 HNRP and ORP. Quality funding such as flexible and multi-year support will be provided to the extent possible. Furthermore, partners with a multi-sectoral response have been prioritised due to the many needs in various sectors across northern parts of the country.

In terms of response modality, partners are always best placed to assess what kind of main modality to use but cash will be encouraged where there are access to functional markets. In line with localisation, Sida will encourage partners to partner up with national and local organisations and to work closely with communities for increased ownership and access conditions. Programmatic integration of gender mainstreaming as well as protection will be encouraged regardless of response sector. To be able to respond in an impartial way, Sida urges its humanitarian partners to address those most in need of humanitarian assistance and protection regardless of the existence of a humanitarian needs response plan, or not.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	WASH, FSL, Health, Nutrition, MHPSS, Protection	20,000,000
ICRC	Multisectoral	15,000,000
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	20,000,000 ¹
NHF	Multisectoral	19,000,000
NRC	WASH, Education, Protection, FSL, Shelter, CCCM, ICLA	15,000,000 ²
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH, Education, Protection	35,000,000
WFP	Food Security	15,000,000
TOTAL		139,000,000

¹ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

¹ Of which SEK 15 million already committed in 2024

² Already committed in 2024