

30 September 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.2/ 5	7.8 million	2 million	\$298 million	54%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (Re-prioritized HNRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (Re-prioritized HNRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (Re-prioritized HNRP 2025)
139 MSEK	15 MSEK	6,7 MSEK	160,7 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

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.

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.

Floods affected nearly 1.2 million people in 2024, including 419,000 in Borno alone. In 2025, over 100,000 more were displaced by flooding. Cholera is endemic, with more than 17,000 confirmed infections and 603 recorded deaths between January and November 2024. The widespread outbreak had slowed by the beginning of 2025 with 4 708 cases and 113 deaths recorded between January and July 2025, but with an upwards trend. 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. A new analysis is expected to be published in October 2025, but estimates suggest that the 2025 lean season is the worst in seven years with an estimated 9.6 million acutely food insecure in the northeast and northwest of the country (IPC 3-4).

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 set out to target 3.6 million people in need with a focus on Borno state. Due to vast funding shortfalls and global reprioritisation of response plans, this figure has had to be reduced to 2 million people in need, where the focus will be placed on people in areas with a multisectoral severity scoring of three and four. 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 over 640 000 individuals are displaced, according to UNHCR data from February 2025. Furthermore, in early 2025, IPC analysis projected that more than 5 million people would 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, and the latest estimates from UNICEF indicate that approximately 3.5 million children currently suffer from severe acute malnutrition across the country, with 2.5 million residing in just six states across the northeast and the northwest area

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 2,3 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 reprioritized 2025 HNRP is focused exclusively on life-saving assistance, for example only targeting people in severity 4 and 5, 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) represented more than 50 per cent of the total HRP funding while the United Kingdom, ECHO, Sweden, and Germany were subsequent top donors representing approximately 30 per cent of the HRP funding together. For 2025, the European Commission and United Kingdom are thus far the largest donors to the appeal, together covering approximately 40 per cent. Despite its cutbacks, the US is the third largest donor, followed by Germany and Sweden.

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.. 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. The reprioritized HNPR for 2025 is, despite its vastly decreased budget, only covered to 54 per cent. 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 September, Sida made an end of year allocation focused specifically on crises with very acute needs and severe underfunding. In this allocation, an additional 15 MSEK was allocated to Nigeria. This funding has been directed to UNICEF as a flexible contribution to their Humanitarian Action for Children response plan with the main purpose of addressing acute malnutrition needs among children.

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 Of which SEK 15 million already committed in 2024

² Already committed in 2024

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2025 (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ^[1]	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
OCHA Field Coordination	4,200,000	-
Save the Children	4,546,600	-
UNICEF	-	15,000,000
TOTAL	6,746,600	15,000,000

ⁱ 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] Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.