

1. Summaryⁱ

10	33.4 million	99 MSEK	0 MSEK	0 MSEK	99 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱ	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱⁱ	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

Nigeria’s northern states face multiple natural and man-made disasters which has led to protracted humanitarian needs with wide spread displacement, food security challenges and serious protection concerns.¹ Insecurity is a grave concern and driven by insurgency related to armed conflict, violent banditry and intercommunal clashes. The violence perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) has reached its highest intensity in years, with civilian deaths on a sharp incline. There is an increasing risk of cross-border spillover effects with other conflicts in the Sahel region, and potential for increased tactical coordination between bandit and NSAG networks both inside and outside of Nigeria’s borders.

The mass displacement following in the wake of violence has a negative impact on livelihood opportunities which exacerbates an already dire food security situation.² Nigeria is projected to see close to 35 million people experience critical food and nutrition security conditions (IPC Phase 3-5) in the 2026 lean season, which would mean Nigeria has the highest number of food-insecure people in the world. Similarly, acute malnutrition levels are very high, especially among children under the age of five. The food and nutrition security needs are considered the most severe in the so called BAY-states (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) in the Northeast (NE), and Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara (SoKaZa) in the Northwest (NW).³ Across northern Nigeria disease outbreaks such as cholera and diphtheria are reoccurring and exacerbated by a critically weak health care system. The humanitarian needs are further compounded by environmental shocks such as reoccurring flooding and dry spells which have devastated agricultural production⁴.

¹ NRC initial submission 2026 (Nov 2025) and IRC multisectoral needs assessment (May 2025)
² ACAPS, “Conflict dynamics and humanitarian implications in NE, NW and NC Nigeria (18 November 2025)
³ Cadre Harmonise Identification of Risk Areas and Vulnerable Population in the Sahel & West Africa, Oct 2025
⁴ ACF situational analysis (November 2025)

Sida's initial allocation to Nigeria is 99 MSEK. Multisectoral interventions reaching people in the NE and the NW will be prioritised, with a special focus on addressing food and nutrition insecurity and protection concerns.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Across Nigeria, close to 35 million people are expected to be living in conditions classified as crisis or above (IPC 3-5) in the 2026 lean season. The majority of these live in the northern parts of the country. Across the NE and NW, over 1.8 million individuals are expected to reach emergency (phase 4) levels of food insecurity. Of these, the highest share is found in Borno state, although Adamawa and Yobe states in the NE, and Kaduna and SoKaZa states in the NW also have projected phase 4 figures. Borno State is even expected to see some 15 000 people in phase 5 (catastrophe).⁵ Children, pregnant and lactating women, and IDPs are particularly vulnerable, although rural farming communities also are of concern given how insecurity disrupts farming and market activities.⁶ The limited access to food also has bearing on nutritional status; 3.5 million children under the age of five are estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in the country, with 2.5 million residing across the six BAY- and SoKaZa states.⁷ Women and children in Yobe (NE) and Katsina (NW) score particularly low in relation diversified diet and inadequate micronutrient intake, which is posing serious risks to maternal and child health. With low availability of functioning health services and water and sanitation (WASH) facilities the situation is even further aggravated.⁸

In general, protection needs are vast as violence and insecurity pose major safety concerns for people across all the northern states. In the BAY states, civilian casualties have grown following a shift by the NSAG to increasingly target civilians. The use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and illegal check points make major supply and transportation routes unsafe, increasing the risk of robbery, abduction and death.⁹ The insecurity is also severely hampering delivery of humanitarian aid, and estimates from 2020 suggest that over 1.2 million people in remote areas are outside the reach of humanitarian organisations.¹⁰ In the NW, the SoKaZa states are particularly affected by violence, which, despite intensified military operations to hinder the expansion of armed groups into ungoverned space and limit the razing of villages, is displacing hundreds of thousands of individuals.¹¹ As in any displacement crisis, women, girls and other vulnerable groups face increasing risks of gender based violence (GBV) in both the NE and NW.¹²

⁵ Cadre Harmonize for Identification of Risk Areas and Vulnerable Population in the Sahel and West Africa, p 5 (October 2025)

⁶ WFP. Increased insurgent attacks in Nigeria threaten regional stability and drive sharp spike in hunger, 2025-11-25, (accessed 2025-12-08)

⁷ UNICEF power point presentation (UNICEF-Sida Nigeria briefing 2025-10-23)

⁸ IRC multisectoral needs assessment (May 2025)

⁹ OCHA. Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 (January 2025)

¹⁰ ACAPS, "Conflict dynamics and humanitarian implications in NE, NW and NC Nigeria (2025-11-18)

¹¹ North West Nigeria Second operational plan August 2025 – July 2026

¹² OCHA. Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 (January 2025)

The insecurity and mass displacement, coupled with the frequent occurrence of natural hazards, is also eroding community structures and increasing the use of negative coping mechanisms. This exacerbates vulnerabilities and protection risks, many of which affect children. In 2024, Nigeria ranked 4th in the world for grave violations against children with 2 436 incidents recorded.¹³ The situation is particularly dire in the BAY states given the protracted insurgency, and reports note that children are abducted from homes and schools, forcibly recruited as child soldiers, and subjected to sexual violence and early marriages. Also the NW is seeing high numbers of grave violations against children, including in the form of mass abductions and sexual violence. Meanwhile, the North Central (NC) region recorded the highest number of attacks on schools.¹⁴

3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian response in Nigeria is going through a transition. On top of the “humanitarian reset” and UN80 structural reform processes, Nigeria has been selected by the Inter-Agency Standing



Committee as a transition country, meaning that ownership of the international humanitarian coordination architecture should be handed over to the Government of Nigeria at the federal and state levels in the coming year(s). The transition has been initiated with the formulation of transitions plans, work on integration of humanitarian coordination within government structures, and planned inclusion on local and national actors (LNA) implementation benchmarks in the 2026 humanitarian planning cycle.¹⁵ For 2026, however, the humanitarian response will still be coordinated under the UN-led Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for the northeastern BAY-states, and to lesser extent the North West Nigeria Operational Response Plan (ORP) led by the Nigeria NGO Forum (NIF) and UNICEF.

Whereas the HNRP for 2026 includes text on the NW, the targeting is solely for the NE. This originates in the needs in the NE deriving from a non-international armed conflict, and the needs in the NW instead drawing from organised criminality, chronic poverty and climate shocks. Furthermore, with dwindling humanitarian funding and the humanitarian reset, the HNRP was reprioritised in 2025 to only covering the most critical needs, meaning a heavy reduction of its coverage. This restrictive methodology will be maintained for 2026, and the people in need (PiN) figure of 5.9 million only includes populations in the BAY states living in areas identified as intersectoral severity level 3 and above. As a result, the target will only cover 2.5 million people at immediate risk of death, severe malnutrition, and protection risks in intersectoral phase 4 and 5

¹³ UN General Assembly Security Council, Children and armed conflict, Report off the Secretary-General, 17 June 2025; UNICEF power point presentation “UNICEF-Sida Nigeria briefing 23 October 2025

¹⁴ UNICEF, Act to Protect, Child Right Violations and Monitoring Report (December 2024 – June 2025)

¹⁵ Humanitarian Reset/Transition Interim Monitoring Framework v2 (draft) (2025-11-18)

areas. As the epicentre of the crisis, Borno State is in focus. As noted above, the security situation makes it impossible to reach all areas in need, and approximately 15-20 priority locations, home to up to 500,000 people, face severe access constraints.¹⁶

The ORP focuses on multisectoral life-saving assistance and protection of the most vulnerable in the three most affected SoKaZa-states, although it also aims to strengthen the HDP nexus in an additional four states (Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, and Kebbi).¹⁷ The primary target groups in the NW will be IDPs, host communities, returnees, and disaster affected households, and to a smaller degree other vulnerable populations across all seven identified states. The estimation for the 2026 lean season in the NW is that approximately 5 million people will be in IPC 3 or above, with close to 1 million in the three worst affected SoKaZa states. It is worth noting that the HNRP document includes a section advocating for people not assisted through the HNRP, highlighting the severe needs that exist outside its scope in the NW hot spots. However, with vast unmet needs already in the NE, responding actors find it hard to expand and scale up, which means that many needs go unmet.

There are gaps in all sectors, but health (including GBV services) and food security were heavily impacted by the fundings cuts in 2025. In 2025, emergency shelter and NFIs, WASH, health and food security were some of the least funded key response sectors in the HNRP.

In regards to efficiency, humanitarian organisations in Nigeria struggle with bureaucratic hurdles such as administrative delays, legal ambiguity for NGOs, and political interference. The combined security, logistical, and resource challenges impede access to remote areas and delay service delivery, in particular to people living in areas under the control of non-state armed groups.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida will allocate its funding in line with the priorities of the 2026 HNRP to meet the most severe needs of the affected population. At the same time, Sida will allow flexibility for partners to respond outside the HNRP to meet critical needs in relevant sectors also outside of the BAY states. The portfolio will focus on long-standing partners with proven capacity to deliver strong results. Sida strongly encourages collaboration with local organisations, but given limited in-country monitoring capacity (no Sida staff in the Abuja Embassy), Sida will primarily focus this work on engaging with central operational partners to ensure they pursue equitable partnerships with LNAs. Direct partnerships with LNAs is not seen as realistic, given the limited resources for follow-up in Nigeria.

Sida will prioritise partners who can provide humanitarian support at scale in acute sectors such as nutrition, food security, health and protection. Partners who have the capacity to deliver a flexible, multi-sectoral response will be prioritised, as will partners with a clear localisation strategy, to ensure Sida's contribution is in alignment with the humanitarian reset and Nigeria's transition plans. Although it requires careful risk awareness and mitigation strategies to ensure the safety of local

¹⁶ Draft HNRP 2026, section People in Need (PiN)

¹⁷ North-West Nigeria Second Operational Response Plan (August 2025 – July 2026)

partners, working with LNAs also provides an opportunity to work in hard-to-reach areas otherwise inaccessible to humanitarian intervention, in particular outside garrison towns in Borno State.

For the initial humanitarian allocation, Sida has put emphasis on NGO partners, given that they tend to have less flexible funding and smaller budgets than their UN counter-parts, and thus have less capacity to absorb a later allocation from Sida. Similarly, Sida took into consideration its funding allocation made in late 2025, meaning that partners considered therein will receive a smaller initial allocation. All partners will receive a flexible contribution, which will cover their full humanitarian country programme in Nigeria.

The majority of Sida's funding is expected to go to the NE, where the humanitarian response is concentrated due to severity of needs and limited opportunities for longer term initiatives. There are also fewer partners in the NW, despite the presence of serious humanitarian needs. With limited funding, partners find it difficult to scale up in the NW without spreading too thin. Some organisations also consider their mandate as primarily covering the NE given the presence of a recognised internal armed conflict. Sida has considered this in its allocation, and ensured to include partners who have capacity to work in both the NE, NW and, to a smaller extent, other humanitarian hot spots in the NC, depending on needs. Several stakeholders have also highlighted a greater potential for resilience building activities in the NW, which could be of interest to Sida to explore through targeted HDP nexus-aligned interventions.

The partners benefitting from Sida's contribution will work through a mix of service delivery, cash and vouchers and in kind support.

In its allocation Sida has also considered the priorities of other large donors such as ECHO and FCDO, in order to provide complementary support. Opportunities for co-financing may be considered later in the year.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	20,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	10,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	15,000,000
Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF)	17,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	10,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	12,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	15,000,000
TOTAL	99,000,000

¹ The 2026 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.

ⁱⁱ Sida's initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida's initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology

ⁱⁱⁱ The number of people with humanitarian needs according to Sida's allocation analysis is based on the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs that is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Nigeria, the selected sources are HNRP 2025 (as changes in GHO 2026 are being triangulated), complemented by latest IPC for people with humanitarian needs outside of the HNRP scope.