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Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Nigeria

The significant humanitarian needs in Nigeria are driven by conflict and violence. In the northeast, ongoing hostilities between non-state armed groups and security forces have affected 7.9 million people and displaced 1.8 million.¹ In the northwest and north-central regions, inter-communal violence has displaced nearly 310,000 people and undermined the livelihoods of thousands more.² The humanitarian situation is particularly dire in areas with previously high levels of malnutrition and common childhood illnesses. In northwest Zamfara and Sokoto states, over 200,000 children are estimated to be severely malnourished. In the northeast, nearly 290,000 children are estimated to be severely malnourished and 3.5 million people require water and sanitation.³ At least 1.1 million children need support to access education, and 1.77 million children require child protection services.⁴ In addition, dozens of states face the risk of environmental emergencies and disease outbreaks. The frequency and impact of annual flooding have eroded the resilience of riverine communities; and cholera and measles outbreaks affected more than 700⁵ and nearly 29,000⁶ children in 2019, respectively. The cumulative impacts of these disasters have weakened the coping capacities of communities.

Humanitarian strategy

Across Nigeria, UNICEF works in close partnership with the Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach people affected by crisis. UNICEF will continue to partner with 11 international NGOs and 9 national NGOs, and seek to expand its partnerships in new locations, including in the northwest. UNICEF will also expand its geographic focus into these areas to respond to emergency needs in nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection and health for internally displaced persons and host communities. In northeast Nigeria, UNICEF will deliver an integrated package of interventions to conflict-affected populations in line with the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan 2019–2021.⁷ In most of its northeast sectors, UNICEF will hand over a greater share of service delivery to partners whose capacity in the region is increasing, providing UNICEF more scope to focus on coordination, setting sector standards and quality programming. In nutrition, UNICEF will continue to manage the pipeline for ready-to-use therapeutic food for all sector partners. UNICEF will also ensure strong linkages between humanitarian action and development activities. Gender-based violence risk mitigation efforts will be strengthened across all programme sectors. In collaboration with the Government, UNICEF will continue to provide coordination support as co-lead of the nutrition, WASH and education sectors and the child protection sub-sector.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$68.8 million available against the US\$120.1 million appeal (57 per cent funded).⁸ This enabled UNICEF to reach some 1.6 million children in conflict-affected states in the northeast with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), integrated primary health care services in UNICEF-supported health facilities, safe water and sanitation, communication for development, psychosocial support and inclusive education. In WASH, UNICEF focused on the operation and maintenance of facilities, in addition to the construction of new facilities, and increased the number of internally displaced persons with sustained access to safe water. UNICEF was an active facilitator in the containment of the 2019 measles outbreak in the northeast through its support of a reactive vaccination campaign for over 1.3 million children. Despite lack of funding for nutrition, which almost resulted in a break in the ready-to-use therapeutic food pipeline in the fourth quarter, over 96,000 children with SAM received treatment. Child protection services reached 245,000 children with psychosocial support and tens of thousands of children received risk education on explosive remnants of war. At least 37,000 children accessed education services in safe learning spaces, and teacher training on psychosocial support services benefited more than 249,000 children.

Total people in need

7.9 million⁹

Total children (<18) in need

4.6 million¹⁰

Total people to be reached

3.8 million¹¹

Total children to be reached

2.2 million¹²

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 455,619 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment¹³
- 156,490 children aged 6 to 59 months receiving micronutrient supplementation
- 167,797 caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling

Health

- 1,186,800 children vaccinated against measles¹⁴
- 3,826,200 children, women and men receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities

WASH¹⁵

- 500,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene¹⁶
- 313,840 people accessing gender- and disability-sensitive sanitation facilities
- 1,186,800 people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes

Child protection

- 232,400 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 1,578 women and children provided with response interventions to address gender-based violence
- 1,400 children and adolescents affected by protection risks who received specialized support services¹⁷
- 3,080 children separated from armed groups accessing reintegration support

Education

- 541,928 out-of-school boys and girls accessing formal or non-formal education
- 604,797 children aged 3 to 17 years benefiting from learning supplies, including early childhood development kits¹⁸
- 644,580 crisis-affected children who received mental health and psychosocial support through the strengthened capacities of teachers and parents to provide supportive care environments at school and at home

	Sector 2019 target	Sector total results	UNICEF 2019 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	264,146	183,354	158,488	96,952
Caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding	763,685	614,688	305,474	267,502
New children aged 6 to 23 months in affected areas receiving multiple micronutrient powder	577,200	149,687	282,034	124,086
HEALTHⁱ				
Children under 2 years vaccinated against measles ⁱⁱ			720,230	1,374,113
Outpatient consultations in health facilities supported by health partners			1,140,000	3,009,841
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENEⁱⁱⁱ				
People have sustained access to the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene through the construction/rehabilitation of new boreholes	400,000	286,920	149,800	169,391
People having sustained access to the agreed safe quality and quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	3,100,000	1,001,986	500,000	768,630
People who have access to gender- and disability-sensitive sanitation facilities	1,000,000	689,109	500,000	548,817
People reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes to prevent hygiene-related illness in children, especially diarrhoea	3,100,000	686,783	1,550,000	274,282
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children, adolescents and caregivers reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces, life-skills education and livelihoods services	575,000	364,778	287,500	244,959
Children facing protection risks received protective and specialized services			13,700	3,732
Children and adolescents released from armed forces or groups who benefited from community reintegration support	10,000	1,572	7,000	1,572
EDUCATION^{iv}				
Out-of-school boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years affected by crisis accessing formal or non-formal basic education	1,584,831	124,898	1,050,000	37,098
Boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years accessing inclusive, quality learning with age-appropriate learning materials	1,584,831	176,626	1,050,000	105,752
Teachers trained in psychosocial support skills and positive discipline	6,000	3,634	4,000	3,403

* Results are as of 31 August 2019.

ⁱ UNICEF was able to achieve its health targets despite a significant gap in humanitarian funding by drawing on other, non-emergency funds to maintain basic primary health care services.

ⁱⁱ Overachievement was due to the 2019 reactive campaign to a measles outbreak in Borno.

ⁱⁱⁱ WASH indicators for access to water and sanitation are broken down into access resulting from new construction and sustained access through existing facilities. UNICEF was able to reach high achievements in access to water despite a significant funding gap due to the relatively low cost of operations and maintenance activities.

^{iv} Low education results can be attributed mainly to low enrollment during the year. UNICEF expects to significantly increase the number of children reached in 2019 from the beginning of September/October onwards.

Funding requirements

In 2020, UNICEF is requesting US\$145.1 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in northeast, northwest and north-central Nigeria. In the northeast, UNICEF will continue to contribute to the multi-year inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (2019–2021). A lack of funding would undermine UNICEF's ability to treat hundreds of thousands of acutely malnourished children in northeast and northwest Nigeria. It would also prevent UNICEF from addressing critical WASH and health services for internally displaced people and protecting children's right to education in disaster-affected areas across the country.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$) ¹⁹
Nutrition	47,886,640
Health	19,726,710
Water, sanitation and hygiene	37,312,000
Child protection	10,476,110
Education	28,468,416
Emergency preparedness	1,250,000
Total	145,119,876

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, 2019.

² International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, 'Nigeria – North Central And North West Zones Displacement Report 1 (August 2019)', IOM DTM, 28 August 2019.

³ Estimate of the Inter-Sector Working Group for the Nigeria 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, 'An Update of Cholera Outbreak in Nigeria', NCDC, <<https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=7&name=An%20update%20of%20Cholera%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>>, accessed 30 September 2019.

⁶ Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, 'An Update of Measles Outbreak in Nigeria', NCDC, <<https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=11&name=An%20update%20of%20Measles%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>>, accessed 30 September 2019.

⁷ In addition to responding to the protracted conflict in northeast Nigeria, UNICEF's 2020 appeal also targets affected populations in Nigeria's northwest (WASH (50,000), nutrition (200,000), health (13,100), child protection (21,000), education (10,000)) and north-central regions (WASH (20,000), health (100,000), education (10,000)).

⁸ Available funds include US\$29.7 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$39 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2019.

¹⁰ Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan.

¹¹ This includes 3,826,200 children, women and men receiving primary health care services in UNICEF-supported facilities (comprises 2.2 million children, 1.4 million adults and 137,743 persons with disabilities (3.6 per cent)). Women and girls make up 50.5 per cent of the total and men and boys make up 49.5 per cent of the total.

¹² Children represent 58 per cent of total number of people in need. The total includes 50.5 per cent girls, 49.5 per cent boys and 2.32 per cent children with disabilities. 'Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

¹³ This is based on the total amount of ready-to-use therapeutic food that UNICEF will provide to sector partners.

¹⁴ This target is based on the assumption that there will be a mass vaccination campaign, as was the case in 2017 and 2019.

¹⁵ In line with the expanded appeal for WASH, 50,000 and 20,000 persons will be reached in the northwest and north-central regions, respectively.

¹⁶ Beneficiaries will be reached through the operation and maintenance of existing water points. Some 270,000 people will be reached through new construction.

¹⁷ Specialized services include reunification, alternative care, cash-based support and gender-based violence assistance.

¹⁸ The target for education includes 10,000 children in northwest and north-central Nigeria, respectively.

¹⁹ The funding requirement is an aggregate of the funds needed to respond to humanitarian needs in the northeast, northwest and north-central regions of Nigeria.

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