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for every child

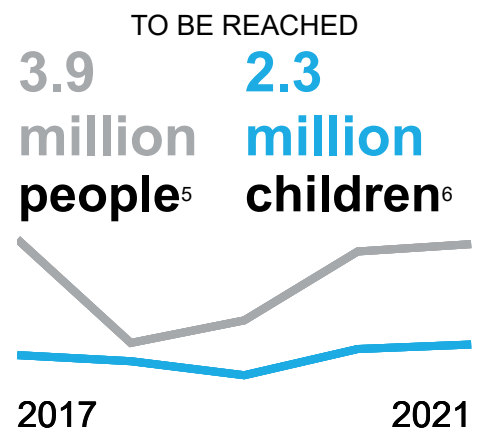
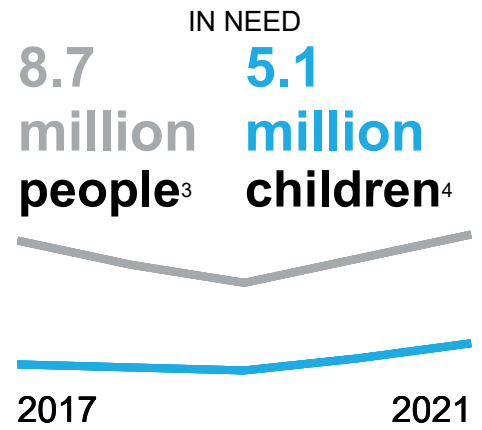
Humanitarian Action for Children

A newborn receives a vaccine at the Major Aminu Primary Health Centre, in Yola, Adamawa, northeast Nigeria. The clinic is one of many that UNICEF has renovated with funds from the European Union.

Nigeria

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 8.7 million people – including 5.1 million children and over one million people living in inaccessible areas – need humanitarian assistance in northeast Nigeria.¹ There are over 600,000 crisis-affected people in the northwest with little access to humanitarian support.² The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated humanitarian needs and devastated weak service infrastructure.
- UNICEF will provide life-saving assistance to 3.9 million crisis-affected people, including to address severe acute malnutrition (SAM); improve access to safe water and sanitation; provide integrated health services; improve the psychosocial well-being of children and caregivers; and increase access to education. Services will be delivered within the framework of COVID-19 response plans through inter-agency coordination and partnership with the Government and others.
- UNICEF requires US\$179.2 million to deliver an integrated package of nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education services to address the needs of vulnerable and crisis-affected children.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



419,375

children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition



834,585

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



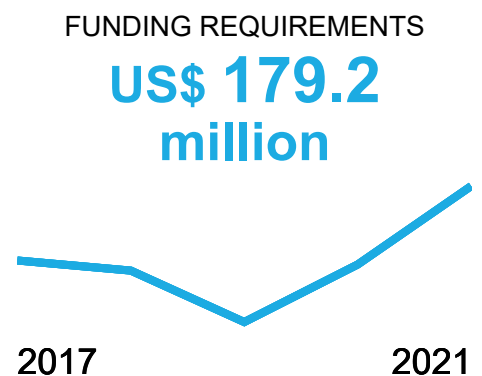
175,000

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



761,332

children accessing educational services



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Over a decade of armed conflict in northeast Nigeria has resulted in large-scale population displacements. In 2021, an estimated 8.7 million people – including 1.7 million internally displaced persons and 1 million people living in inaccessible areas – will require humanitarian assistance across the northeast.⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the needs of affected people and further impacted weak basic service infrastructure.

Insecurity in the northwest has escalated due to persistent herder-farmer tensions, rising crime and organized attacks by non-state armed groups. The violence has left over 600,000 people in need and led 44,500 to flee to neighbouring Niger.⁸ The relative calm brought about by political mediation in mid-2019 has dissipated, with violent incidents increasing in frequency and severity. This deterioration has resulted in the proliferation of armed groups, including potential linkages with the Lake Chad Basin crisis. Without a response, the situation in the northwest could deteriorate akin to the crisis in the northeast.

Across targeted states, over 7.2 million people are projected to be food insecure. This situation, coupled with poor access to basic services, is exacerbating the vulnerability of crisis-affected children and women.⁹ Based on current global acute malnutrition levels, an estimated 807,000 children under 5 years will be acutely malnourished in 2021 in the northeast.¹⁰ Rapid assessments in the northwest indicate proxy global acute malnutrition rates exceeding 15 per cent, with some locations indicating over 30 per cent.¹¹

WASH services remain far from Sphere standards due to pre-existing underdevelopment and lack of space for facilities in overcrowded camps.¹² The mortality rate due to unsafe WASH services is 69 people in 100,000 – among the highest in Africa.¹³ Two thirds of health facilities have been damaged due to conflict in the northeast, an area prone to malaria, cholera and measles outbreaks.¹⁴

Children remain at risk of trafficking, abduction and sexual violence across the country. Twenty-one per cent of reported cases of gender-based violence involve children, and 35 per cent of these children are unaccompanied or separated.¹⁵ Children are in urgent need of quality education, and prolonged school closures are affecting nearly 4.2 million students.¹⁶ Overall, nearly 10 per cent of children are out of school.¹⁶ Learning outcomes remain poor: Two children in three who finish their primary educations are unable to do basic arithmetic. Insecurity has affected school attendance and access, with over 1,400 schools damaged due to conflict.¹⁷

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

1.5 million malnourished children and pregnant/lactating women¹⁸



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

1.7 million children/caregivers need protection services^{19,20}



Water, sanitation and hygiene

2.9 million people need safe water and sanitation²¹



Education

1.2 million children need access to education²²

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Miriam, 15, who has been out of school, now attends at a UNICEF-supported home-based radio learning centre in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Mariam, 15, had big dreams when her family lived in Bama in conflict-ravaged northeast Nigeria.

“I was a Class 3 student at the Bama Central School at the time. We lived in a big house and I had hopes of becoming a doctor,” she said.

That dream was interrupted when the family lost their belongings in a violent raid and fled to Maiduguri. Since relocating in 2016, Mariam has not been enrolled in school.

A new UNICEF initiative targeting out-of-school children is giving Mariam and thousands of other out-of-school children in Borno a lifeline to a promising future.

[Read more about this story here](#)

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In coordination with the Government, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, UNICEF will target the most vulnerable populations in Nigeria in 2021, including internally displaced persons and host communities affected by conflict and natural disasters. UNICEF's response will be integrated and multi-sectoral, focusing on conflict-affected populations in the northeast and northwest and emergency COVID-19-related risk communications. UNICEF co-leads the nutrition, WASH and education sectors and the child protection sub-sector in collaboration with the Government. UNICEF will partner with international and national non-governmental organizations to ensure rapid response and coordinated, localized support to affected populations.

UNICEF and partners will be among the first responders to the crises through targeted WASH, nutrition and health assistance and education, child protection and risk communication activities. The programme strategy will include the continuous sensitization of communities, including training for mothers/caregivers on screening children for malnutrition. Through its outreach to detect, treat and refer cases of SAM, UNICEF will provide beneficiaries with messages on preventing infectious diseases. In WASH, UNICEF will support improved access to services, gender-sensitive programming and mid- to long-term initiatives while maintaining emergency response capacities. Children who are displaced, separated, unaccompanied and/or formerly associated with armed groups will receive psychosocial support, early learning/stimulation and learning through play. UNICEF will scale up coverage and improve quality gender-based violence services through case management, medical assistance, psychosocial support and access to legal support. The education response will strengthen linkages between humanitarian action and development programming by improving access and quality through top-line government engagement and on-the-ground support to partners. UNICEF will also pilot shock-responsive social protection initiatives to increase cash-based responses to recurrent natural disasters, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.²³

UNICEF has integrated most COVID-19 response activities into its regular work planning and will support the Government on containment and mitigation using a multi-layered response strategy aligned with the Government's response plan and coordinated with the National Center for Disease Control/Presidential Task Force. UNICEF will continue to prioritize risk communication and its expertise in outbreak management and rapid procurement and its expansive geographical presence and programme coverage to support decentralized, evidence-based activities.²⁴ Throughout the response, UNICEF will ensure the continuity of confidential, safe and accessible community reporting mechanisms for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF will continue to engage through the access working group, the operational humanitarian country team and the humanitarian country team on continuous context analysis and sustained advocacy with the Government to improve access and reach inaccessible populations.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/nigeria/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **419,375** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **553,768** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Health

- **387,758** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **3,920,725** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁵



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **834,585** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **390,840** people accessing appropriately designed gender- and disability-sensitive sanitation facilities
- **1,761,670** people exposed to key hygiene awareness messages and/or provided with water, sanitation and hygiene non-food items and/or cash for non-food items



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **175,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **36,500** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **422,253** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse
- **250,000** children and community members benefiting from information on child care and child protection, including on grave child rights violations



Education

- **761,332** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **761,332** children receiving individual learning materials



Social protection and cash transfers

- **10,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors²⁶

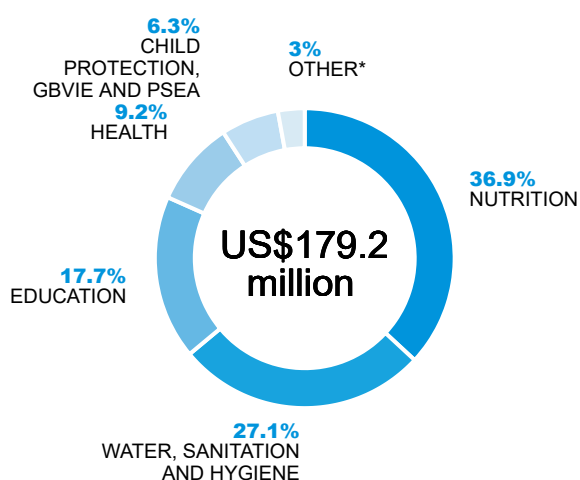


C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **24,828,515** people reached with messages on access to services²⁷
- **5,313,349** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

In line with Nigeria's inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan 2018–2021, UNICEF is requesting US\$179.2 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children in 2021. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the multi-layered needs in the northeast and the deteriorating conflict in the northwest, there is a significant need for increased funding in nutrition, WASH, health and education. These resources will allow UNICEF to provide life-saving services in the most vulnerable and conflict-affected areas to over 4.2 million people. Without additional and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the ongoing and multifaceted crisis and maintain emergency RCCE COVID-19 response services in key hotspot locations.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	66,123,174
Health	16,481,753
Water, sanitation and hygiene	48,483,524
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	11,214,555 ²⁸
Education	31,742,090
Social protection and cash transfers	1,500,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	2,167,859
Emergency preparedness	1,500,000
Total	179,212,955

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : C4D, community engagement and AAP (1.2%), Emergency preparedness (<1%), Social protection and cash transfers (<1%).*

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ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2021 HRP', OCHA.
2. Data from state emergency management agencies, 2020.
3. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2021.
4. Ibid.
5. This figure was calculated using the highest coverage programme target for people to be reached with health care services (3,920,725 people). This includes 2,117,192 women/girls (54 per cent), 1,803,533 men/boys (46 per cent) and 588,108 people with disabilities (15 per cent). In the last two years, UNICEF has focused on strengthening the capacities of sector partners to increase their coverage of needs, providing coordination support and technical expertise and improving the quality of the response. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. This figure was calculated based on the highest coverage programme target for children to be reached with health care services (58 per cent of 3,920,725 for a total of 2,274,020. This includes 1,205,231 girls (53 per cent), 1068,789 boys (47 per cent) and 341,103 children with disabilities (15 per cent).
7. 'Nigeria: 2020 HRP Addendum COVID-19 Response Plan'.
8. Data from state emergency management agencies, 2020 & International Organization for Migration Displacement Report 5, January 2021.
9. Cadre Harmonisé analysis covering the Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Katsina, and Sokoto States projected for June through August 2021. Data for Zamfara was not available.
10. Nutrition sector estimate for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, 2020.
11. UNICEF rapid assessment on northwest Nigeria, September 2019.
12. Sphere standards are sector-specific standards for humanitarian action to promote quality and accountability. See: <<https://spherestandards.org/>>, accessed 9 October 2020.
13. World Health Organization (WHO), 2019.
14. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2021.
15. Gender-based Violence Information Management System, January to June 2020.
16. Ibid.
17. Buba, Imrana Alhaji, 'Towards Addressing Primary Education Crisis in North-East Nigeria', Anals of Social Sciences and Management Studies, vol. 3, no. 1, 21 February 2019.
18. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview,' OCHA, 2021.
19. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
20. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2021
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
24. COVID-19 indicators were removed and embedded in State workplans as activities are ongoing and part of regular programming, including States under the HAC coverage. RCCE activities remain within the HAC to respond to new waves and hotspots based on emerging trend analyses.
25. Figures were reduced to align with the HRP as well as to the response strategy in the north-west.
26. This will be conducted through pilot programming in the northwest.
27. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
28. This includes US\$9,539,439.4 for child protection interventions; US\$1,034,648.31 for gender-based violence in emergencies interventions; and US\$664,967.05 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.