The insurgency in northeastern Nigeria remains a significant driver of the humanitarian crisis. Severe flooding across the country in 2022 devastated crops and livestock. Price spikes are further hindering vulnerable households’ access to food. By mid-year, **4.35 million people are projected to be acutely food insecure** during the lean season in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. Around **80 percent of northeastern Nigerians live in rural areas and depend on agriculture** to provide for their families. Restoring their livelihoods is crucial to the humanitarian response.

What investments in agriculture can achieve

- **USD 170** = With the seeds provided, each household can cultivate 1 ha of land and produce an estimated 2.28 tonnes of maize and cowpea, worth USD 1 267 on the local market.  
  = Support a family of 7 to produce staple food for a year

- **USD 375** = The provision of a goat kit (1 male and 3 female goats, feed and mineral licks) along with technical training and veterinary services would increase a household’s assets to over 10 goats in a year worth USD 637.  
  = Restore a family’s productive assets and food supply, including daily milk

- **USD 80** = With a fuel-efficient stove, briquettes and training, a women can reduce the number of weekly outings for firewood collection by 50%, and weekly fuel wood expenditure by 46%.  
  = Reduce vulnerable women’s exposure to protection risks by 50%, as well as cooking time and smoke inhalation
Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

Now entering its 13th year, the armed insurgency in northeastern Nigeria is exacerbating humanitarian needs in the country. The conflict is causing widespread displacement, and disrupting basic infrastructure and people’s livelihoods. Coupled with high prices of food, fuel and other essential commodities, these factors are hindering people’s access to food.

Nigeria, as other countries in the Sahel, is on the frontline of the climate crisis, with floods and droughts becoming more severe. Last year, the country experienced the worst flooding in more than two decades, affecting 4.4 million people. The floods worsened food security as they coincided with the harvest season and caused the spread of waterborne disease, with cholera killing 390 people in Borno State alone. Climate change is increasingly intertwined with conflict as a driver of population displacement. Desertification, for example, is reducing arable land for farmers as well as pasture for livestock, triggering increased tensions among farmers and herders around scarce natural resources.

Without urgent action, 4.35 million people are projected to be in high acute food insecurity at the peak of the 2023 lean season (June–August) in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, of whom nearly 4,000 in Catastrophe (Cadre Harmonisé Phase 5). This represents a 7-percent increase compared with same period in 2022. Also worrying is the continued risk of mortality among children due to acute malnutrition, as the number of children suffering from acute malnutrition is projected to increase from 1.74 million in 2022 to 2 million in 2023.

In 2023, hundreds of thousands of families will continue to struggle to survive, resorting to negative coping mechanisms that expose them to grave protection risks, if appropriate assistance isn’t provided. Scaling up agricultural livelihoods is key to boost food production, nutrition and income income generation among vulnerable, crisis-affected families.

Key facts

**Drivers of food insecurity**

- Insecurity
- High food and fuel prices
- Banditry
- Extreme climate events

**Population in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states:** **13.4 million**

- 4.35 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity in three states of whom **3,967** in Catastrophe
- +2.2 million people acutely malnourished in the three states
- +2 million internally displaced people
- USD 3.40 out of 100 in humanitarian assistance to food sectors went to support agriculture and livelihoods (2016-2021)
In 2022, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reached 118,108 households (826,756 people) through its emergency agricultural activities. For example, 42,800 households were provided with a total of nearly 300 tonnes of crop seeds and 1,070 tonnes of fertilizers in time for the rainy season. Furthermore, through the provision of micro-gardening support, beneficiary households produced nutritious vegetables that significantly contributed to improving their nutrition and generate income – about USD 450 per household.

**Coordination**

As co-leads of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in Nigeria, FAO and the World Food Programme work closely with 50 local and international partners, in collaboration with institutional counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

**FAO priorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package</th>
<th>Cost per beneficiary household (USD)</th>
<th>Number of beneficiary households</th>
<th>Total cost (USD)</th>
<th>Funds needed by</th>
<th>Planned implementation period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enable farmers to plant during the rainy season to secure a harvest</td>
<td>Seed kit 1: maize (10 kg), sorghum (8 kg) or millet (8 kg), cowpea (10 kg); and fertilizer (25 kg)</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>20,399,927</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>May–September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek kit 2: groundnut (10 kg) or sesame (1.5 kg); amaranth (0.2 kg); okra (0.3 kg); fertilizer (25 kg)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technical training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve access to nutritious vegetables through homestead gardening and dry season food production support</td>
<td>Seed kit: assorted vegetable, or maize (10 kg) and rice (12.5 kg), fertilizer (25 kg); hand tools; and technical training</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>34,286</td>
<td>3,188,611</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Year-round for homestead gardening; September–March for dry season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce exposure to protection risks associated with fuelwood collection for cooking among vulnerable women</td>
<td>One fuel-efficient stove and pack of briquettes</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>28,571</td>
<td>2,285,714</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package</td>
<td>Cost per beneficiary household (USD)</td>
<td>Number of beneficiary households</td>
<td>Total cost (USD)</td>
<td>Funds needed by</td>
<td>Planned implementation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restore vulnerable households’ livestock assets to increase women’s socio-economic empowerment and protection</td>
<td>Four goats, feed and mineral licks, along with technical training and veterinary services</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>37 143</td>
<td>13 928 571</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve immediate access to fresh and nutritious foods during the lean season through Fresh Food Vouchers</td>
<td>Provision of vouchers to purchase assorted fresh food items including fish, eggs, vegetables and pulses</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>37 143</td>
<td>11 142 857</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>May–October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access to decent jobs and income for women and youth through agro-enterprise development and aquaculture</td>
<td>Establishment of agro-enterprises including agro-processing, marketing, and aquaculture production</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>28 571</td>
<td>25 714 286</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>April–December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REQUIRED CITATION

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map(s) in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.