



IN NUMBERS



3.7 million

people projected to be in severe acute food insecurity (Phases 3+), *Cadre Harmonisé* (June–August 2020)



1.8 million

internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the crisis (Displacement Tracking Matrix [DTM], International Organization for Migration [IOM], March 2020)



1.1 million

people targeted to receive assistance from FAO in 2020



USD 33.6 million

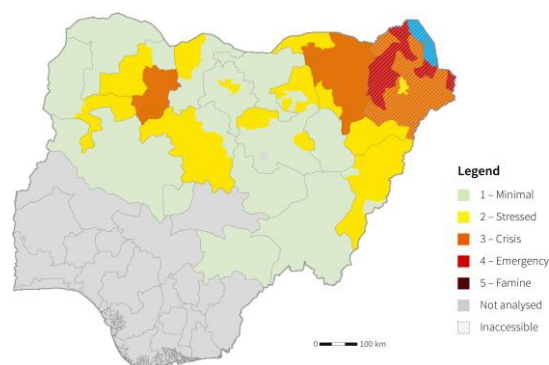
still needed by FAO under the 2020 Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19

KEY MESSAGES

- Conflict-affected households in the North-East face further negative socio-economic impacts caused by measures taken to curtail the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), including lockdown and physical distancing directives that have hindered commodity trade and overall economic activity.
- The dry season agricultural support programme in northeastern Nigeria contributed to increased food security among conflict-affected households during the pandemic, providing a key source of food and income. FAO reached 35 000 households with crop seeds, NPK 15:15:15 fertilizer and water pumps under the programme.
- The latest *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis (March 2020) indicates that around 3.7 million people in the three northeastern states are projected to face severe acute food insecurity (Phases 3+) during the lean season (June–August 2020) – the analysis was carried out prior to COVID-19.
- FAO will shortly begin agricultural input distributions for its rainy season programme to reach 63 300 households, as well as the provision of livestock production support to 11 900 households across the North-East. FAO will be supporting 40 percent fewer beneficiaries in the 2020 rainy season compared with the previous year, amid additional livelihood challenges that have emerged due to COVID-19.
- Under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19, FAO has increased its funding requirement for 2020 to respond to the additional needs that have emerged in relation to the pandemic.

MAP

Projected acute food insecurity situation (June–August 2020)
Cadre Harmonisé, March 2020



BACKGROUND

Livelihoods have been disrupted by the armed conflict in the North-East and both production systems and households in the region remain fragile to external shocks. Although the entire northeastern region has paid the price of conflict, the worst affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe have experienced the highest displacement, immense human, social and economic losses, and severe levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Of the 1.8 million IDPs who face significant food and livelihood challenges in the three northeastern states (DTM IOM Round 30, March 2020), more than 80 percent are in Borno. Due to the influx of IDPs and the tense security situation, host communities have reduced access to land and other resources for food production, leading to high levels of poverty and malnutrition. The latest *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis (March 2020) predicted that 3.7 million people in the three northeastern states would face severe acute food insecurity in June–August 2020, if adequate humanitarian support is not provided. The situation will likely be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The region is also in the midst of an environmental crisis, with severe climate variability negatively affecting production systems, resulting in reduced crop yields and livestock productivity that FAO is addressing through the distribution of high-quality agricultural inputs and training using participatory methods such as farmer field schools.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a slowdown in production and intra- and inter-regional agricultural trade in the North-East, including of the movement of key agricultural commodities. The region's food supply chains were affected, with the closure of wet markets and retail stores in densely populated urban areas for significant periods of time during April–May. In addition, the surge in attacks which began at the start of the year were sustained throughout May, preventing farming households from accessing food and livelihood support in some areas. Due to low productive capacities among affected populations, the majority continues to depend on humanitarian assistance for survival. Regulations governing the movement of cash and the absence of information and communications technology infrastructure remains a significant challenge to providing targeted local government areas with social protection measures such as cash transfers. While livelihood support has enhanced food production, crisis-affected households are yet to return to pre-conflict production levels. This is largely due to limited access to land, assets and capital to invest in agricultural inputs. Livestock rearing and aquaculture interventions mitigate the risk of seasonal crop failure and other climate-related shocks. Through the diversification of production and income sources, these alternative livelihood activities provide liquid assets. Insufficient safe access to fuel and energy is an ongoing concern in northeastern Nigeria, posing risks in terms of malnutrition, protection, deforestation, health risks and communal tensions over natural resources. Furthermore, Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states demonstrate high vulnerability and low adaptive capacity to the effects of climate change, particularly dry spells, erratic rainfall and floods.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES



63 300 households to receive one of the following rainy season kits:

- **Kit 1:** cowpea, millet/maize/sorghum seeds and fertilizer
- **Kit 2:** amaranth and okra seeds, and fertilizer
- **Kit 3:** groundnut and sesame seeds



1 400 youths to receive 1 400 bulls;
6 250 households to receive 25 000 goats;
850 households to receive 17 000 point of lay pullets and housing; **3 400 households** to receive 68 000 Noiler chicks; **20 water points** to be rehabilitated



400 households to benefit from fish farming and processing starter kits (fingerlings, feed, fish tanks, smoking kilns, etc.)



18 000 households to receive locally produced fuel-efficient stoves

ACHIEVEMENTS



Distributions to targeted beneficiaries for the rainy season are expected to begin in mid-June



263 youths have received one bull each for fattening; other livestock support activities are currently in progress

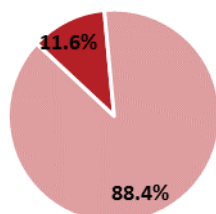


150 households reached with fish starter kits; **75 female-headed households** trained on environmentally-friendly fish processing techniques



11 400 households reached with fuel efficient stoves

FUNDING



■ **Funding to date:**
USD 4.4 million

■ **Funding gap:**
USD 33.6 million

ASSESSMENTS

FAO, in partnership with fellow Rome-based agencies the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on a joint assessment/analysis to ascertain the impacts of COVID-19 on Nigeria's agriculture sector, food systems, and food security and nutrition with which to inform decision-makers engaged in the implementation of a response plan. The final report should be published by the end of June 2020.

Resource partners: the Government of Germany, the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

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