



IN NUMBERS



3.4 million

people facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (Phases 3+), *Cadre Harmonisé* (October–December 2020)



2.1 million

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



USD 33.9 million

still needed by FAO under the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19

KEY MESSAGES

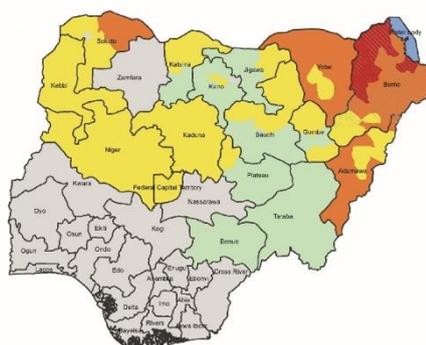
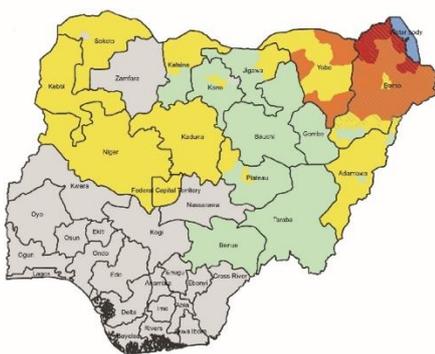
- Persistent conflict, recurrent flooding and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures in the northeastern part of the country have further exacerbated socio-economic indicators, hampering commodity trade and economic activities, including farming and food production.
- In September 2020, this dire situation prompted the UN Secretary General to forewarn the Security Council that northeastern Nigeria is one of four ongoing crises “facing the spectre of heightened food insecurity and potentially famine” and that action is needed now to address both the deepening humanitarian crisis and the low level of funding.
- The latest *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis (October 2020) indicates that over 3.4 million people are currently facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (Phase 3+) in the three northeastern states, a figure that is projected to rise to 5.1 million in the 2021 lean season (June–August), if adequate assistance is not provided. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition is also a cause for grave concern with stressed to emergency malnutrition thresholds in Yobe (14.7 percent) and Borno (14.5 percent) states.
- Under the 2020 HRP, FAO’s rainy season agricultural support programme in the North-East benefited 23 300 households, contributing to increased food security among conflict-affected households during the pandemic, providing a key source of food and income. Livestock production support is also being provided to 3 250 households across the region.
- FAO is targeting 17 300 households for the 2020/21 dry season whereby beneficiaries will be provided with vegetable seeds and fertilizer, allowing them to produce their own food and generate income from selling production surplus.

MAPS

Cadre Harmonisé analysis (October 2020)

Current situation (October–December 2020)

Projection (June–August 2021)



BACKGROUND

A decade of conflict has severely disrupted food production systems in northeastern Nigeria, with the worst affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe experiencing high displacement, extensive human, social and economic losses, and acute levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Of the 2.1 million IDPs (DTM IOM, Round 33, August 2020), who face significant food and livelihood challenges in the three northeastern states, more than 80 percent are in Borno. Due to persistent insecurity and the influx of IDPs, host communities have reduced access to land and other resources for food production, leading to high levels of poverty and malnutrition. Vulnerable households also have less access to basic services and humanitarian assistance due to some areas being ‘hard-to-reach’ (H2R) or deemed ‘no go’ areas amid security concerns. Compounding these challenges is severe climate variability that is negatively affecting production systems, resulting in reduced crop yields and livestock productivity. As a result, over 3.4 million people in the three northeastern states are facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (October–December 2020), a figure that is projected to increase to 5.1 million people by June–August 2021, if immediate mitigating actions are not taken.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

As communities struggle with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related urgent and essential measures put in place to contain its spread, a number of other factors have also affected agricultural production and intra- and inter-regional trade, including the movement of key agricultural commodities. These include incidences of drought, floods, pests and diseases, attacks by insurgents, military restrictions on movements and the ban on cultivating certain types of crops for security reasons.

Nearly 60 percent of the land area in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States experienced dry spells for up to 14 days, which have severely impacted yields. Flooding has also affected yields in a number of local government areas (LGAs). In addition, pests and diseases have affected crops such as cowpea, maize, okra and sesame. Farmers in certain parts of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe had difficulties accessing their farms due to attacks and/or restrictions imposed by the military.

Due to low productive capacities among affected populations, many continue to depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival. Regulations governing the movement of cash and the absence of information and communications technology infrastructure remain a significant challenge to providing 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. Safe access to fuel and energy is an ongoing concern in northeastern Nigeria, posing myriad protection risks and contributing to 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 RESPONSE

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES



- 17 300 households** to receive dry season farming support through one of the two following types of kits:
- Kit 1: amaranth (200 g), cabbage (20 g), carrot (120 g), okra (300 g), onion (250 g) and tomato (20 g) seed and 25 kg of fertilizer
 - Kit 2: 12.5 kg of rice and 25 kg of fertilizer



750 households to each receive a goat package and **550 households** to be supported with poultry packages



4 800 households to be supported with a fresh food voucher



20 300 households to be supported each with a fuel-efficient stove

RESPONSE TO DATE

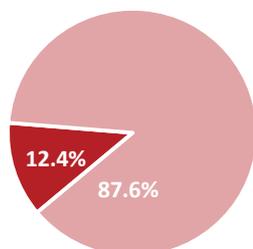


23 300 households reached during the 2020 rainy season



1 950 households received livestock production support; **1 050 female-headed households** provided with a goat package; **900 female-headed households** provided with a poultry package consisting of noiler chicks and feed

2020 FUNDING



■ **Funding to date:**
USD 4.8 million

■ **Funding gap:**
USD 33.9 million

FAO is seeking USD 38.7 million to assist 831 600 people. Of this amount, USD 4.8 million have been mobilized.

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

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