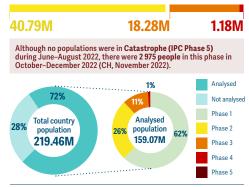
Chapter 3 | Major food crises in 2022 Nigeria

# Nigeria

#### **ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022**

19.45M people or 12% of the analysed population in 21 states and FCT in CH Phase 3 or above, June-August 2022



# CH acute food insecurity situation, June-August 2022



imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022.

### Food crisis overview



An additional 6.5 million people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in Nigeria between the 2021 peak in October-December. and the 2022 peak in June-August.

The sharp increase in acute food insecurity levels reflects a deterioration of conditions in northwestern. northcentral and northeastern states, driven by insecurity and conflicts, below-average market supplies and high food prices (FAO-GIEWS, September 2022).

Out of nearly 4.1 million people in CH Phase 3 or above in the northeastern BAY states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, over 504 000 were in inaccessible areas, mainly in Borno, and lacked access to critical life-saving support (CH, March 2022).

# A deteriorating outlook for 2023

In June-August 2023, the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above is projected to increase to 25.3 million, representing around 13 percent of the

analysed population. This included five additional states - Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Ogun and Rivers - and an additional 34 million people analysed compared with the previous year, of whom 2 million were in CH Phase 3 or above. The increase also reflects the impact of protracted conflicts and ongoing insecurity, and the expectation of a continued rise in food prices.

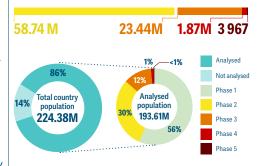
This projection includes 4.4 million people in the BAY states, of whom 578 000 will be in Emergency (CH Phase 4). Around 4 000 people are projected to face Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in the Bama local government area (LGA) in Borno unless coordinated and strategic lifesaving interventions are implemented to save lives and rebuild livelihoods (CH, November 2022).

# **Acute food insecurity since 2016**

The 16 states of Nigeria have been among the 10 worst food crises in terms of numbers of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), particularly in the three BAY states, since the first edition of the GRFC in 2017. This has been largely driven by the Boko Haram insurgency in

#### **ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION 2023**

### 25.31M people or 13% of the analysed population in 26 states and FCT in CH Phase 3 or above, June-August 2023



## Projected CH acute food insecurity situation, June-August 2023



Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2022.

Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016-2023



Source: Cadre Harmonisé.

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northeastern states and more recently by banditry and farmer-pastoralist conflict in northern and central states.

Between 2020 and 2021, the Nigeria analysis expanded from 16 to 21 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the analysed population increased from 49 percent to 71 percent. Still, when considering the same 16 states and FCT covered by CH analyses, the number of people in CH Phase 3 or above has increased each year since 2019.

During 2016 and 2017, populations have faced Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in Borno state: 55 000 people during October-December 2016 and 50 000 people in June-August 2017.

# Drivers of the crisis, 2022-23



Conflict/Insecurity Although the number of violent incidents in the northeastern BAY states decreased and more farmers were able

to cultivate land, large-scale displacements still occurred and the insurgent violence continued to disrupt agricultural livelihoods and markets in 2022.

Years of insecurity have limited farmers' ability to purchase inputs by reducing their incoming-earning opportunities (FAO-GIEWS, September 2022).

Banditry and kidnapping in the northwestern and northcentral states of Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Benue, Plateau and Niger continued to hinder food production (CH, March 2022). Additionally, communal attacks and farmer-pastoralist conflict persisted in Plateau and Benue states leading to population displacement, civilian fatalities, market disruptions and loss of livelihoods (FEWS NET, December 2022).



Weather extremes Rainfall was generally favourable across the country for the 2022 season, but between July and November,

flooding in riverine areas in central and northeastern states affected more than 4.4 million people across 36 states and the FCT, of whom over 2.4 million were displaced, about half in Bayelsa state. The floods damaged over 650 000 hectares of farmland (OCHA, November 2022) and affected livestock, fishponds and food storage at household, community and market levels (CH, November 2022).

Cereal production was projected at a near-average level (PREGEC. November 2022) due to overall conducive weather conditions and an expansion of the planted area to cereal crops, which more than offset crop losses associated with poor security conditions and floods (FAO) December 2022).



Economic shocks High food prices were attributable to the soaring prices of farm inputs, fuel and transportation, Annual

inflation hit a 17-year high in October at just over 21 percent, driven by high food prices, increasing fuel and transportation costs, and limited foreign exchange reserves (FEWS NET, November 2022). Annual food inflation reached a record high of 23.7 percent in October. In some markets in the northeast and northcentre, yearly increases of prices were higher, due to insecurity, high transportation costs and disruptions associated with flooding. Prices of rice were up to 55 percent higher on a yearly basis underpinned by strong demand (FAO, December 2022).

During the 2023 lean season, an atypical increase in food prices due to the factors mentioned above is expected. although early harvest from the 2022/23 dry season may help to stabilize market supply and mitigate deterioration in food availability and access (CH, November 2022).

#### DISPLACEMENT

IDPs living in northeastern, northwestern and northcentral regions, 2022



Time 1.19M in northcentral and northwest Nigeria

Source: IOM, December 2022.



IDPs Three regions of Nigeria - the northeast, northwest and northcentral - host over 45 percent of the total IDP population of West

Africa and the Sahel – a total of 3.56 million displaced people (UNHCR, February 2023).

In the northeastern states, there were about 2.37 million IDPs by the end of 2022. Most of the were in Borno, where people continued to abandon their homes in 2022, followed by Adamawa and Yobe states. According to DTM monitoring, the majority (95 percent) reported conflict as the primary reason for leaving their homes, followed by communal clashes (5 percent) (IOM DTM, February 2023). Around 56 percent live in host communities and 44 percent in camps.

In the northcentral and northwestern states, about 1.19 million people were internally displaced by the end of 2022 largely due to escaping from armed banditry/ kidnapping and communal clashes, or, to a lesser extent, to increasing tensions between pastoralists and farmers over land and border issues (IOM DTM, March 2023). Around 79 percent live in host communities and 21 percent in camps and camp-like settings (IOM DTM, October 2022).

Reliant on informal, low-paid and insecure livelihoods, IDPs face high levels of acute food insecurity. Overall, more than 891 000 IDPs in Borno and Benue and 58 000 returnees in Borno were projected to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) from June to August 2023, of whom nearly 289 000 were projected to be in Emergency (CH Phase 4) (CH, November 2022).



Refugees mainly live in host communities, 2022







94 percent of the refugees are from Cameroon, 6 percent from the Niger, the Central African Republic and other countries. Source: UNHCR, December 2022.



Refugees Most of the almost 92 000 refugees in Nigeria (94 percent) fled conflict in the northwestern and southwestern regions of

Cameroon. Around 63 100 live in host communities and 23 300 in four refugee settlements; around 41 percent are children (UNHCR, February 2023). From June to August 2023, nearly 41 000 refugees were projected to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), representing almost half (48.6 percent) of the refugee population (CH, November 2022).

Findings from Essential Needs Assessments in various camps and settlements found food consumption gaps as well as deteriorating livelihoods. Refugees were taking on debt to access food and non-food items. They faced challenges accessing health services and water for drinking and cooking, likely affecting nutrition (CH, November 2022).

The prevalence of wasting across four camps/sites ranged from 'low' to medium' (1-2 percent), while that of stunting was very high (32-52 percent) (UNHCR SENS, 2021).

The arrival of Cameroonian refugees predominantly fleeing conflict in the northwestern and southwestern regions of Cameroon added a new dimension to the already complex humanitarian situation in Nigeria.

Food remains one of the critical needs of these refugees since they cannot risk crossing back and forth to Cameroon in search of food and livelihood opportunities to sustain their families. Limited access to livelihood opportunities and suitable land for

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agricultural production results in an excessive reliance on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. According to the results of a survey conducted in four refugee settlements in 2021, the wasting prevalence was considered 'low' by WHO thresholds at 4.6 percent, but at 44 percent the stunting prevalence was well above the 'very high' 30 percent threshold. Only 19 percent of children aged 6–23 months received an iron-rich diet, well below the UNHCR target of ≥60 percent (UNHCR SENS, 2021).

#### **NUTRITION**



Number of **children under 5 years old with wasting**, in northwest and northeast Nigeria, May 2022–April 2023







Source: IPC. November 2022.

A total of 5.93 million children under 5 years old were expected to be wasted from May 2022 to April 2023 in the northern states of Nigeria:

3.90 million in the northwestern states and 2.03 million in the northeastern states.

This is an increase of 56 percent from the previous IPC AMN conducted in the northeastern states (January–December 2022). A similar comparison for the northwestern states is not possible, as it was the first time an IPC AMN analysis was conducted there.

From May to September 2022, more than half of the 134 LGAs included in the analysis for northeast and northwest Nigeria were facing Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above) levels of acute malnutrition. Of them, 30 were facing Critical levels (IPC AMN Phase 4).

Of the 63 LGAs analysed in northeast Nigeria, 13 were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) in Borno and

Yobe states, 17 in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and 30 in Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2). In northwest Nigeria, out of 71 LGAs with sufficient data, 17 were classified in IPC AMN Phase 4, 25 in IPC AMN Phase 3 and 28 in IPC AMN Phase 2.

Although acute malnutrition levels were expected to improve slightly during the two projected periods of October–December 2022 and January–April 2023, the majority of the LGAs were expected to remain in IPC AMN Phase 3 or above (IPC, November 2022).

According to the Nutrition and Food Security
Surveillance (NFSS) conducted in 2022 in the
northeastern states, the wasting prevalence ranged from
8.6 percent in Adamawa to 14 percent in Borno, while
the SMART 2022 survey revealed a wasting prevalence
of 13.5 percent in Katsina, 14.2 percent in Sokoto and
9.5 percent in Zamfara. All of those states presented
a severe wasting prevalence above the 2 percent
emergency threshold, except Adamawa (1.3 percent) and
Zamfara (1.7 percent).

#### **Drivers of undernutrition**

Poor household environment Diseases and infection associated with poor WASH services in some areas of northeast and northwest Nigeria have adversely affected the nutrition situation.

In states affected by floods, including Adamawa,
Jigawa and Kogi, displaced and resident populations
experienced difficulty accessing potable water and
healthcare services (CH, November 2022), raising the risk
of diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea, cholera and
dysentery, which contribute to malnutrition.

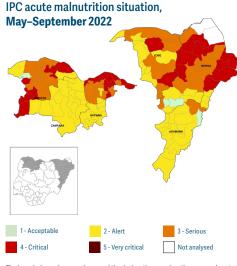
High prevalence of infectious disease
A severe cholera outbreak killed more than
465 people and affected over 18 000 others in 31 states
between January and November 2022. According to
WHO, flooding and insecurity triggered population
movements from places with cholera outbreaks to places
not yet affected, increasing the risk of spread of the
disease (OCHA, November 2022).

Low coverage of health services and poor health-seeking behaviours also contributed to the high levels of disease and wasting among children in the analysed areas. Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets The protracted crisis in northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, with widespread displacement, destroyed infrastructure and collapsed basic social services. Inadequate access to safe nutritious foods, especially in the context of rising food prices, has contributed to inadequate consumption.

While the CH acute food insecurity and IPC AMN analyses were both conducted at the LGA level, the analysis of contributing factors to acute malnutrition was carried out at the zonal or domain level (i.e. a cluster of several LGAs) in line with available data representativeness. As a result, it is not possible to establish direct links at LGA level (IPC, November 2022).

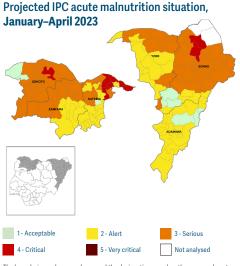
Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices Most children aged 6–23 months across the analysed regions did not receive adequate diets, particularly in terms of diversity. Across ten domains in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in northeast Nigeria, the percentage of children who received the recommended Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) was considered 'Extremely Critical' (<10 percent). The situation was a bit better in the northwest, but still ranged from 'Serious' to 'Extremely Critical' (IPC, November 2022).

The most recent anaemia data from 2019 indicate a 'severe' public health problem, with 68.9 percent of children aged 6–59 months and 55.1 percent of women of reproductive age anaemic (WHO Database, 2019).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Nigeria IPC TWG, November 2022.



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