ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Escalating conflict and economic shocks worsened acute food insecurity despite increased humanitarian efforts.

PEAK 2023 (JUNE–AUGUST)

- 24.9M people or 13% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. About 1.1 million people were in Emergency (CH Phase 4). This significant increase since the 2022 peak is attributable to expanded analysis to cover further vulnerable states (35 million additional people) as well as conflict/insecurity and economic shocks. About 0.4 million IDPs or 75 percent of the analysed IDP population in Borno, Sokoto and Zamfara faced high levels of acute food insecurity.

Source: CH Nigeria, March 2023

PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE–AUGUST)

- 26.5M people or 13% of the analysed population projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity. This increase in numbers reflects additional coverage (+16 million people), worsening insecurity and high inflation. About 1.1 million people are projected in CH Phase 4. Around 0.5 million IDPs are in Borno, Sokoto and Zamfara and are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

Source: CH Nigeria, November 2023

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

- Conflict/insecurity In 2023, insurgents in northeastern Nigeria, mostly in Borno, raided croplands and triggered population displacement, while widespread insecurity in northwestern and north-central regions also displaced households and impaired harvests and market functionality (CH, November 2023).

- Economic shocks Currency devaluation and surging petrol prices raised transportation and food costs, especially in conflict areas. High agricultural input prices constrained production. Inflation increased, reaching the highest since 1996 in January 2024 (Focus Economics, February 2024).

- Weather extremes Favourable weather conditions were positive for the 2023/24 cropping season, though pockets of drought in Bauchi, Borno and Yobe states adversely affected agricultural output in local areas (CH, November 2022).

- Inadequate practices The Minimum Acceptable Diet among children aged 6–23 months ranged from Serious to Critical. Poor childcare practices, including inadequate exclusive breastfeeding, further aggravate the situation.

- Inadequate services Poor health-seeking behaviour, the collapse of health and nutrition services as well as limited access to WASH infrastructures contribute to the high prevalence of disease among children, including fever, malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea as well as measles and cholera outbreaks (IPC AMN, October 2023).

- Lack of food High levels of acute food insecurity driven by high food prices and inflation contributed to poor food consumption in terms of both quantity and quality.

PEAK 2023 (JANUARY–AUGUST)

A protracted major food crisis A lower-middle-income country, Nigeria has included in all editions of the GRFC as a major food crisis, with acute food insecurity worst in the conflict-affected northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. The CH coverage expanded from 16 states in 2016–2020 to 21 states and the Federal Capital Territory in 2021, and to 26 states in 2023, over 90 percent of the population. In Borno, around 55 000 people faced Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) in late 2016 and 50 000 in mid-2017. In October–December 2022, 3 000 people were in this phase. No populations were estimated in Catastrophe for 2023 or projected for 2024.

Source: CH Nigeria, November 2023

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

5.9M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in northwestern and northeastern areas, May 2022–April 2023

0.6M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in May 2023–April 2024

One-fifth of analysed areas were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) largely due to insecurity, poor diet and collapsed services. Lack of access hindered data collection in two conflict-affected areas.

Source: Nigeria IPC TWG, November 2022.

Source: Nigeria IPC TWG, October 2023.

DISPLACEMENT

3.4M forcibly displaced people by 2023

0.1M refugees and asylum-seekers


Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024

Source: CH Nigeria.

Source: Nigeria IPC TWG, November 2022.

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