



**LEAN SEASON  
FOOD SECURITY AND  
NUTRITION CRISIS  
MULTI-SECTOR PLAN  
update 1**

**2023**

This document outlines progress achieved against the multi-sector plan while also highlighting gaps and challenges.

# Background

In May 2023, the United Nations and partners launched a lean season multi-sector plan for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states in north-east Nigeria asking for US\$396.1 million to prevent the food and nutrition crisis in the region from deteriorating into a catastrophic situation. The plan presents a prioritization of the most urgent actions, including ramping up treatment capacity for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The plan also aims to respond to the most severe needs stemming from the crisis as well affected people's vulnerability to food insecurity. The \$396.1 million request is a highly prioritized part of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which seeks \$1.3 billion to assist 6 million people. The funding will enable humanitarian organizations to swiftly expand food and nutrition assistance, along with supplementary interventions, such as agricultural support, clean water and sanitation, healthcare, protection, and logistics in the BAY states as part of efforts to comprehensively address food insecurity and malnutrition. At the peak of the lean season, additional resources are needed urgently to address outstanding gaps.

## Situation overview

The BAY states are experiencing a severe food and nutrition crisis for the fourth consecutive lean season (June – September). The March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) assessment indicated that up to 4.3 million people in the BAY states are food insecure (integrated food security phase classification (IPC) 5-3). More than half a million of these people may face emergency levels of food insecurity, with extremely high rates of acute malnutrition. An estimated 2 million children under five in the BAY states are likely to face wasting (the most immediate, visible and life-threatening form of malnutrition) this year. Some 700,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) – meaning that they are 11 times more likely to die compared to well-nourished children.

As the lean season progresses, there are worrying signs of a worsening situation. Between May and July there was a 30 per cent increase in SAM admissions compared to the same period last year.

According to the [July 2023 Lean Season Food Security Outlook](#) published by the World Food Programme (WFP), in July, 51 per cent of households in north-east Nigeria had inadequate food consumption. This marks a 12-percentage point increase compared to the same time last year and an 8-percentage point increase compared to the start of the lean season. The inflation in prices of staple foods and poor economic conditions have compounded the situation. Year on year food inflation in July 2023 compared to July 2022 was 43 per cent in MMC and Jere markets in Borno State, according to Save the Children. The annual inflation rate in Nigeria accelerated for a sixth month to 24.08 per cent in July 2023, the highest since September 2005, with the increased food prices being one of the biggest upward contributors (National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria, July 2023).

The Food Security Sector partners' food basket monitoring for north-east Nigeria indicates that the cost of a minimum expenditure food basket increased from 47,025 naira in February 2023 when the last food assistance transfer review was done to 62,748 naira in August 2023 (for a household size of five). This implies a 33 per cent change, more than twice the 15 per cent change threshold required for the revision of food assistance transfer values.

# Funding update as of July 2023

Updated August 28



## 2023 LEAN SEASON MULTI-SECTOR PLAN



REQUIREMENT

**\$396.1 Million**

FUNDING

51%

49%

\$202.4M

Funding received

\$193.7M

Unmet

	Percent funded	Requirements	Funded
Food Security	56%	234.5M	131.3M
Nutrition	61%	65.8M	40.1M
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	18%	45.0M	8.0M
Protection	22%	21.9M	4.8M
Health	35%	15.8M	5.5M
Logistics	100%	12.7M	12.7M
<b>Total</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>396.1M</b>	<b>202.4M</b>



# Achievements

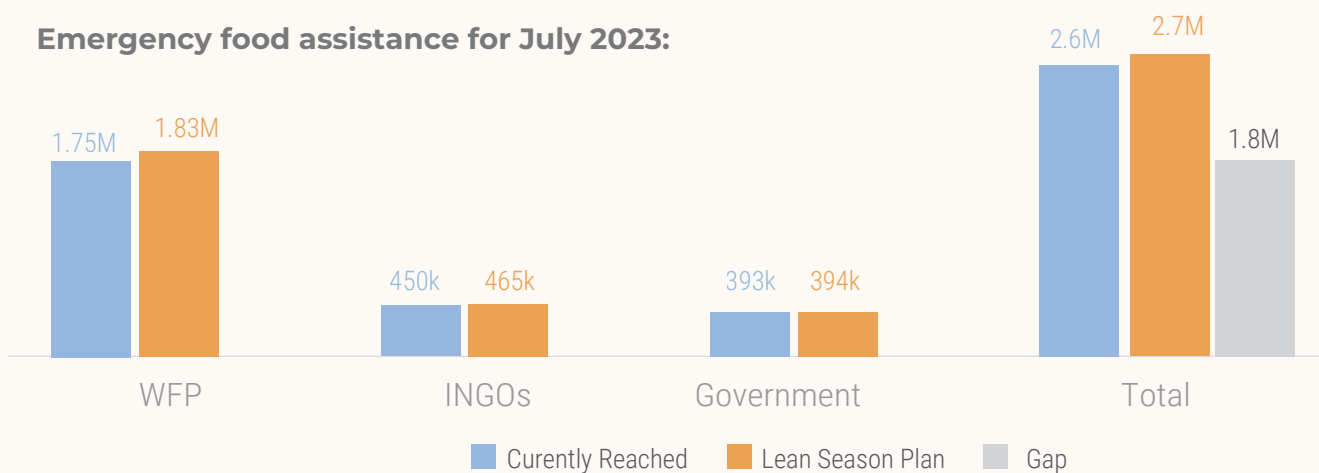
## Food Security

Partners have continued implementing the joint lean season scale-up bringing together non-governmental organizations, the Government and WFP to target 2.6 million people for food assistance in the BAY states, out of the 4.3 million people who are food insecure. As of the end of July 2023, Food Security Sector partners had reached approximately 2.5 million of the 2.6 million people targeted for the lean season with food assistance.

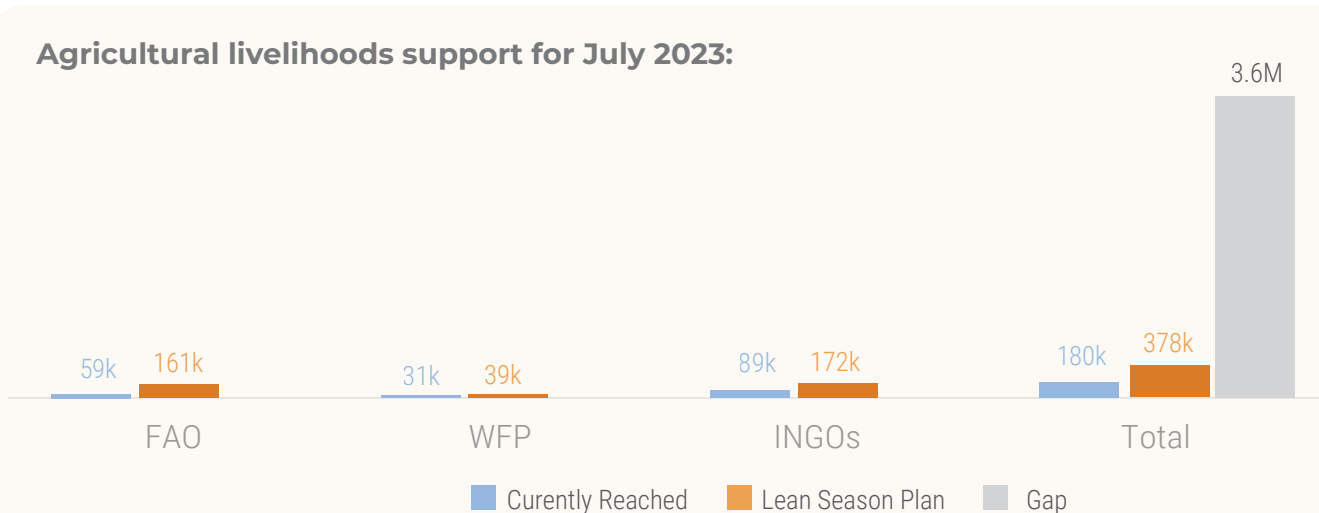
For agricultural livelihood support, the Food Security Sector reached 180,135 of the 499,000 people targeted for the lean season. The Sector continues to advocate for more support to agricultural livelihood activities to build the resilience of the affected people.

Given the 33 per cent increase between February and August 2023 in the cost of a minimum expenditure food basket compared to the most recently revised [food assistance transfer guidance note](#) in preparation for the lean season scale-up, the Food Security Sector is encouraging stakeholders to consider revising the transfer values for food assistance upwards, to ensure that the most vulnerable households continue accessing the required food assistance.

### Emergency food assistance for July 2023:



### Agricultural livelihoods support for July 2023:



State governments, particularly in Adamawa and Borno announced agricultural subsidy programmes for farmers in the respective states, in particular tractor support for ploughing and fertilizer during the months of June and July.

***Food assistance partners face significant funding challenges. The food security sector continues to advocate for sustained support to sustain the lean season scale up until the end of September.***

## Nutrition

Several factors have enabled an effective response in 2023, including the rollout of a robust Nutrition Sector multi-risk emergency response preparedness plan, prepositioning of essential nutrition supplies, early roll-out of anticipatory and surge actions, and increased delivery through the rapid response mechanism (RRM) or mobile teams in hard-to-reach areas. Together, this has reduced pressure on an already overstretched health system.

From May to July, 582,000 of the 1 million children and women targeted for lean season support were reached with preventive and treatment services. This includes 122,000 children aged 0-59 months with SAM (50 per cent of the lean season target) who were treated in stabilization centres and outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) sites. This in addition to 137,000 children aged 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (59 per cent of the lean season target) who were treated in targeted supplementary feeding programme (TSFP) sites. Stabilization centre bed capacity was scaled up to at least 1,575 across the BAY states, including 824 beds in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and Jere. Notably, the treatment pipeline has been secured for the lean season.

The Nutrition Sector also developed and oriented partners on the use of simplified approaches to treat uncomplicated acute malnutrition. Further, the sector used cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the nutrition response. As of July 2023, 108,000 women and children across the BAY states received nutrition assistance through the CVA response modality.

***The shortfall of preventive nutrition supplies (especially micronutrient powders and supplies for blanket supplementary feeding programmes) and limited funding for operational costs to support preventive programmes has affected the scale up of these services.***

Activity Name	BAY Lean Season Target	Achieved				
		Adamawa	Borno	Yobe	BAY	%Achieved
Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) for children aged 6 - 23 months	81,802	187	802	-	989	1%
BSFP for pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG)	81,081	35	200	3,729	3,964	5%
Micronutrient powders (MNP) distribution for children aged 6 - 23 months	122,025	-	2,158	28,447	30,605	25%
Skilled maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) counselling for PBWG	422,107	5,659	221,768	65,433	292,860	69%
Treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) for children aged 0 - 59 months	242,020	11,276	75,587	35,168	122,031	50%
Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) for children aged 6 - 59 months	233,005	-	81,448	55,944	137,392	59%
Treatment of acute malnutrition for PBWG	27,051	97	1,514	1,031	2,642	10%

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

As of the end of June 2023, WASH Sector partners (33 organizations) had reached 1.5 million (or 51 per cent) of the 3 million people targeted in the 2023 HRP target. A total of 11,745 people with SAM who were admitted to nutrition programmes were assisted with critical WASH supplies, representing 22 per cent of the 54,101 people targeted. WASH non-food items (NFIs) were provided to new arrivals in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Borno State and remain prepositioned in contingency for the cholera response. A total of 12,225 WASH cholera kits (including hygiene, sanitation and household water treatment and storage items) are prepositioned as contingency stock for 73,350 vulnerable people in case of cholera outbreaks. The sector conducted a capacity mapping of its partners, and seven organizations have the resources needed to trigger case-area targeted interventions to respond in the BAY states. The sector has started a series of training programmes in WASH for 125 emergency coordinators and front-line workers.

The WASH Sector has worked on designs and equipment for water points to prevent the frequent vandalization of water facilities in Borno State, including the theft of submersible pumps. The Sector has also worked on innovative solutions for fecal sludge management and more solid household pit latrines in host community settlements where latrines collapse. In line with earlier commitments to shift away from prolonged water trucking, the WASH sector has continued to explore advanced technologies and improved water system designs to provide sustainable access to water through

the small-town water systems. Ground water studies and assessments are ongoing in Damboa to develop a comprehensive water supply system by the end of the year.

While its dedicated funding ended at the end of July, UNICEF, as provider of last resort, regularly carried out desludging of full latrines in 115 IDP camps in Borno State, across Bama, Dikwa, Ngala, Gwoza, Konduga, Jere, MMC, Damboa and Mafa LGAs. In Adamawa, the suspension of humanitarian activities during elections was lifted and WASH activities resumed in June across the state.

## Health

Anticipatory actions in planning, including timely prepositioning of medical supplies and other logistics and responding to acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera, have strengthened response efforts in 2023. Across the BAY states, no positive case of cholera has been reported, but cholera treatment facilities are already in place across the states and risk communication and community engagement has been deployed and engaged.

As of the end of June, 0.18 million people were reached by the sector, constituting 13 per cent of the 1.4 million targeted for the lean season period. More details can be found on the Health Sector Dashboard and the operational presence mapping for [Adamawa](#), [Borno](#), and [Yobe](#) states.



# Challenges

Key challenges for food insecurity include the impact of the evolving economic situation and shifts in government economic policies. These challenges are compounding the impact of years of protracted crisis, making it even more expensive for both the affected people to fend for themselves and for humanitarian operations.

- **High inflation as a result of the floating of the Naira and the removal of the fuel subsidy** impacting on affected people's ability to procure food, transport and other necessities.
- **Increased operational cost for humanitarian partners.**
- **Limitations in access to agricultural land**
  - Despite the improvement in access to land for food production over the past three years, this remains a significant challenge, especially in the garrison towns. More advocacy is needed to increase land access. Insecurity continues to pose a risk to farmers.
- **Limited funding**
  - There is a significant reduction in funding this year, a high number of people have been reliant on emergency food assistance over the past four years (especially during the lean season).
  - Funding towards agricultural livelihoods and resilience in general has continued to decrease for the past four years, despite significant opportunities in Adamawa, Yobe and parts of Borno state.

Nutrition partners are challenged by the high level of needs, the numbers of SAM cases are predicted to double compared to last year. In 2023, the total number of children with SAM admitted into treatment programmes between May and July across the BAY states increased by 30 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. Risk analysis and monitoring based on the IPC for acute malnutrition (IPC AMN), admission trends for acute malnutrition, morbidity patterns, and conflict-induced displacement has indicated that by April 2023, 17 local government areas (LGAs) across the BAY states had surpassed tipping points to trigger response actions that were included in the Nutrition Sector's emergency response preparedness plan.

Additionally, the Nutrition Sector is challenged by:

- Low coverage of preventive nutrition programmes.
- Emerging issues with the fuel and Naira crisis may contribute to further deterioration of the nutrition situation.
- Even with the scale-up, the caseload of SAM with complications in MMC and Jere LGAs is overstressing existing bed capacity.
- Adamawa State is underserved with preventive and treatment nutrition programmes.
- Stabilization centres in Yola are operating sub-optimally and are insufficient for the high caseloads, likely resulting in many children being denied admission. In Damaturu, the only stabilization centre stopped functioning more than six months ago due to lack of funding.
- The high cost of transportation is likely also preventing parents bringing their children for life-saving assistance in stabilisation centres in many remote locations as well as Damaturu.

Limited funding has been a significant challenge for WASH. Thirty-three per cent of water points and 68 per cent of sanitation facilities are partially working or not functional in the IDP camps, which might



contribute to increasing open defecation and the spread of disease.

Key challenges for the Health Sector include the lack of adequate funding to support the pipeline and stocks of essential drugs and medicines, SAM kits and nutrition-related supplies. Only 34.8 per cent of the \$168.8 million requested for the lean season has been received by the sector.

## Gaps

**As of the end of July 2023, the Lean Season Food Security and Nutrition Crisis Multi-Sector Plan seeking \$396.1 million is only 51 per cent funded (\$202.4 million).**

A lack of funding has resulted in many gaps in the humanitarian response in the BAY states, with the 2023 HRP for Nigeria funded at 29 per cent of the \$1.3 billion requirement at the end of July. As of the end of July, the Food Security Sector received \$123.9 million (26 per cent) of the \$470 million of the 2023 HRP request. Amongst the funds received, \$9.9 million was for agricultural livelihood support, which accounts for 8 per cent of the total amount received.

In the same period, the Nutrition Sector received \$63.4 million (or 48 per cent) of the \$133.2 million needed for 2023. This includes \$40.1 million for the lean season response, which is 61 per cent of the requested \$65.8 million. The Nutrition Sector is already experiencing a pipeline break for preventive nutrition supplies and could also face a major shortfall of treatment nutrition supplies in September if funds are not received in time.

Significant gaps remain in ensuring optimal stabilization centre bed capacity and co-location of services for the treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition to ensure continuum of care. Only 43 per cent of wards have services for the treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition in the same location. A total of 26 accessible LGAs across the BAY states do not have a functional stabilization centre. Of the 1,700 stabilization centre beds required during the peak of the lean season in August, 1,575 (93 per cent) are currently functional.

As part of this multi-sector plan, WASH is only 9 per cent funded. Halfway into 2023, the WASH Sector in the 2023 HRP is only 16.7 per cent funded. The WASH Sector Common Pipeline is funded at 13.3 per cent. The lack of funding for WASH has resulted in limited response capacity in Yobe State. Despite the already low presence of WASH partners, some organizations have closed parts of their WASH programme, which is creating even more service gaps in the state.

For the Health Sector, in addition to funding limitations, there are also gaps related to human resources and localization of the response. Timely response efforts have been hindered by the current economic situation in the country and security threats from non-state armed groups (NSAGs).

# Cost of inaction

Extremely high rates of acute malnutrition and cases of mortality are predicted over the lean season period, unless a rapid and significant scale up of humanitarian assistance is undertaken.

As more people in urgent need of food aid go unassisted, there is an increased risk of starvation and death among the most vulnerable people.

We will likely also see an increase in negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex, selling possessions and child labour and child marriages.

There is also an increased risk of youth joining armed groups, as well as IDPs returning to insecure areas where they are cut off from humanitarian assistance and other social services. People are venturing further away from the security of garrison towns to either farm, collect firewood or seek other livelihoods opportunities, at great risk to their lives.

## **[The full Lean Season Food Security and Nutrition Crisis Multisector Plan 2023](https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/lean-season-food-security-and-nutrition-crisis-multisector-plan-2023)**

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/lean-season-food-security-and-nutrition-crisis-multisector-plan-2023>



# GUIDE TO GIVING: HOW TO HELP

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1

## Support the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF)

The NHF is a rapid, flexible funding mechanism helping Nigerian NGOs, international NGOs, and UN agencies respond to the most pressing emergencies. It is also instrumental in addressing underfunded priorities in the Humanitarian Response Plan.

The NHF is used strategically to complement Central Emergency Relief Funds (CERF), both being intended to have a multiplier effect in terms of drawing in additional funding. The NHF is being used strategically to foster innovation for the operation in north-east Nigeria, as well as promote best practices of humanitarian assistance. This has included the instigation of durable solutions pilots for internally displaced people. It has also included promotion of localisation and capacity building for local actors, improving accountability to affected people, a focus on gender and protection.

In addition to promoting greater accountability, the fund is also seeking to promote greater efficacy of humanitarian action through better joined up action through promoting consortia and area-based approaches. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, the NHF enables the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to address the most critical humanitarian needs defined in the Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan. To contribute to the NHF, please contact: George Swinimer, Head - Humanitarian Financing Unit, Nigeria Humanitarian Fund, +234 703 174 8223, [swinimer@un.org](mailto:swinimer@un.org)

2

## Support the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

The CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to ensure that urgently needed humanitarian assistance reaches people caught up in emergencies whenever and wherever crises strike. CERF's Rapid Response window allows country teams to kick-start relief efforts in a coordinated and prioritized response when a new crisis emerges. CERF's window for Underfunded Emergencies helps scale-up and sustain protracted relief operations to avoid critical gaps when no other funding is available. To donate to CERF, please contact OCHA's Donor Relations Section in Geneva, Switzerland, [ocha.donor.relations@un.org](mailto:ocha.donor.relations@un.org)

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## For Individuals, corporations & foundations

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# WE WANT TO COUNT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

OCHA runs a database and website—the Financial Tracking Service (FTS)—which records all humanitarian contributions (cash and in-kind) to emergencies. It aims to give due credit and visibility to donors for their generosity, and to show to all the running total of current funding and remaining resource gaps.

Please take a moment to send information about your contributions to [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org) or through the on-line contribution report at <http://fts.unocha.org> with the following information: Donor name (country/organization) Name of recipient organization Contribution description Amount in US\$ or original currency FTS' tables online are updated daily. For the latest information about reported funding to the humanitarian response in Nigeria, please visit: Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1110/summary>

## Get the latest updates



OCHA coordinates humanitarian action to ensure crisis-affected people receive the assistance and protection they need. It works to overcome obstacles that impede humanitarian assistance from reaching people affected by crises, and provides leadership in mobilizing assistance and resources on behalf of the humanitarian systems

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ReliefWeb aims to be the central website for Information Management tools and services, enabling information exchange between clusters and IASC members operating within a protracted or sudden onset crisis.

<https://reliefweb.int/country/nga>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-february-2023>

## Humanitarian Action

ANALYSING NEEDS AND RESPONSE

Humanitarian Action supports decision-makers by giving them access to key humanitarian data. It provides the latest verified information on needs and delivery of the humanitarian response as well as financial contributions.

<https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1110>



The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is the primary provider of continuously updated data on global humanitarian funding, and is a major contributor to strategic decision making by highlighting gaps and priorities, thus contributing to effective, efficient and principled humanitarian assistance.

<https://fts.unocha.org/countries/163/summary/2023>