



ABUJA, NIGERIA  
12 DECEMBER 2016



## 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

# FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA

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Hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and under the patronage of the Commissions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) brings together the region's key food and nutrition security stakeholders, including many high-level representatives.

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The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD) are organising the meeting, with support from the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF/ECOWAS).

Eight years of violent conflict across north-eastern Nigeria have severely weakened already fragile livelihoods resulting in a deep humanitarian crisis. Due to the Boko Haram insurgency and massive population displacement, the three north-eastern states, Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, reached extremely high levels of food insecurity in 2016. One out of three people in north-eastern Nigeria (or 4.4 million people) is currently faced with acute food insecurity. The number of food insecure people is likely to grow if appropriate measures are not taken soon. An estimated 5.1 million people could be affected during the next lean season (June-August 2017), according to the most recent analysis of the *Cadre harmonisé* of October 2016.

Last April, the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) sounded the alarm regarding the critical situation in north-eastern Nigeria, where some 3 million people were in crisis (phase 3).

The Government of Nigeria officially declared a nutritional emergency in the state of Borno in June 2016, acknowledging the need for international support: "The Government recognises that violent extremism has and continues to exert untold suffering to the people of North-East Nigeria. The grievous extent of the devastation means that the Nigerian people and their government alone cannot cope with the near catastrophic consequences." [...] This is not a Nigerian issue in isolation or even a regional problem affecting the Lake Chad basin countries alone but is quickly becoming a global problem that needs global synergies [...]."<sup>1</sup>

Several regional organisations and international partners have issued calls for action. However, the crisis has gained relatively little attention on the international scene and its response remains largely underfunded. Less than one third of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 for Nigeria has actually been funded (USD 78.5 million). The 2017 Plan aims to raise USD 1 billion to ensure vital, life-saving assistance for 6.9 million people.

Through high-level political dialogue between the Government of Nigeria, regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS) and development partners, the Network hopes to encourage the search for appropriate solutions to address the food and nutrition emergency, and to serve as the basis for the development of more structural responses. A joint declaration on the mobilisation of the international community, placed under the political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, will be presented on this occasion.

Photo: A young child runs through a refugee camp in the neighbourhood of Chateau, Diffa, in Niger, February 2016 © Phelps

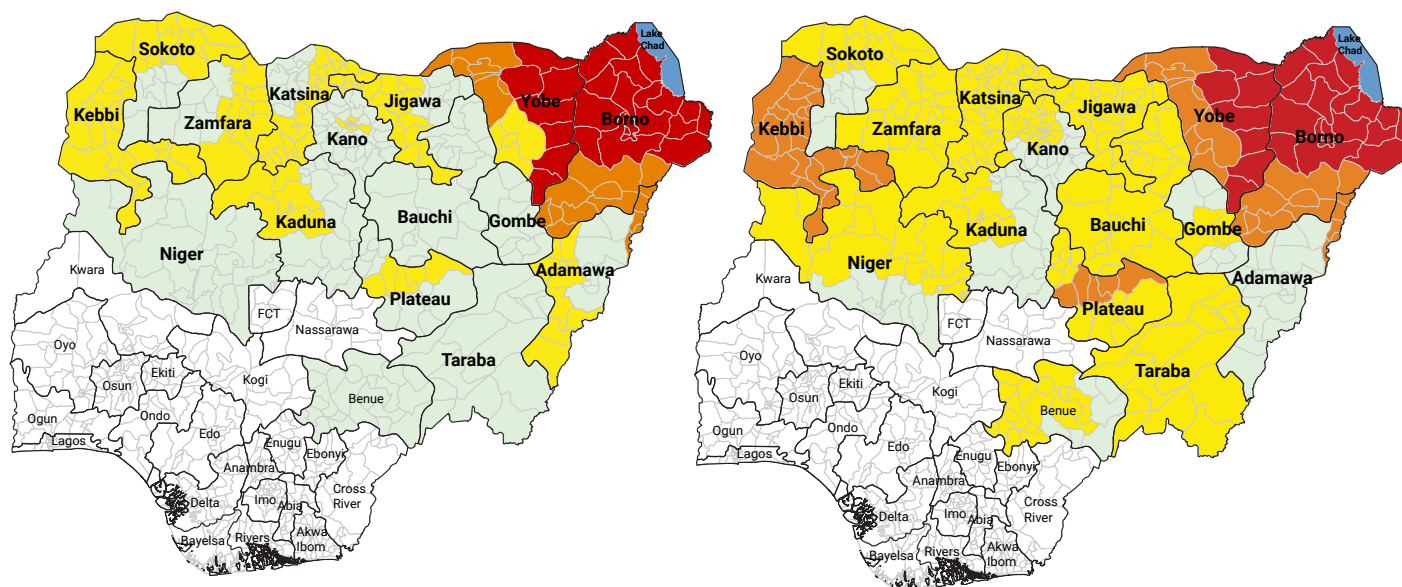
<sup>1</sup> H.E. Ahmed Zainab, Minister in charge of Budget & National Planning



# FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATION IN NORTH NIGERIA

October-December 2016

June-August 2017



Phase 1: Minimal Phase 2: Stressed Phase 3: Crisis Phase 4: Emergency Phase 5: Famine Not analysed

Source: *Cadre harmonisé*, national analysis, October 2016. © Agrhymet/CILSS

The October 2016 analysis of the *Cadre harmonisé*<sup>1</sup> expanded its coverage to include for the first time 16 out of 36 Nigerian states, almost half of the country. In these states, some eight million people are currently facing acute food insecurity (phases 3-5, October-December 2016). While the government has geared up its support and humanitarian access to north-eastern states is improving, the situation remains particularly worrisome in the state of Borno, where nearly 60% of the population (3.3 million people) is still facing acute food insecurity (phases 3-5), including 55 000 people threatened by famine (phase 5).

If no appropriate measures are taken, the current food and nutrition situation will likely get worse during the next lean season in June-August 2017. By then, the *Cadre harmonisé* projections indicate that the number of severely food insecure people in the 16 analysed states could reach 8 to 10 million people. The situation remains unclear however; nine local government areas (LGAs) are still categorised as “restricted” and 27 LGAs allow for only “limited” access due to a high level of insurgent activity. Analytical tools, data collection methods and training for local administrations need to be further developed in order to fine-tune and expand the analysis of the *Cadre harmonisé* to all parts of Nigeria.

<sup>1</sup> The *Cadre harmonisé* is an internationally recognised West African tool that analyses and identifies areas and people at risk of food and nutrition insecurity.

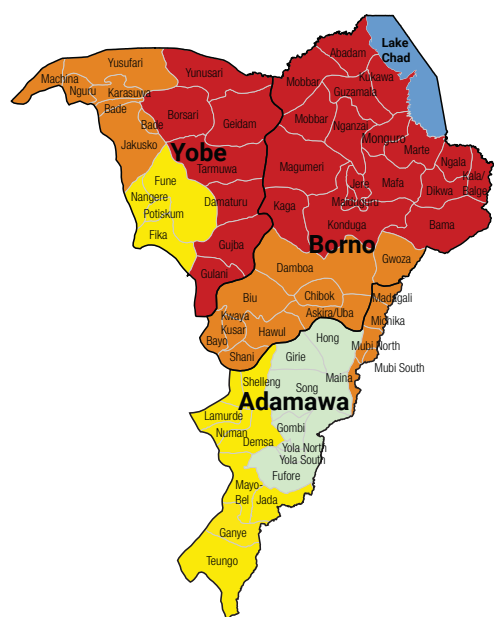
## Food and nutrition situation, October-December 2016

State	Total population	Phase 1: Minimal	Phase 2: Stressed	Phase 3: Crisis	Phase 4: Emergency	Phase 5: Famine	Total for phases 3-5
Adamawa	4 196 999	3 041 614	897 958	251 612	5 815	-	257 427
Bauchi	6 593 116	5 770 458	605 327	217 331	-	-	217 331
Benue	5 247 397	4 616 853	497 726	132 818	-	-	132 818
Borno	5 511 759	937 924	1 307 498	1 823 462	1 387 862	55 013	3 266 337
Gombe	3 227 471	2 773 688	453 783	-	-	-	-
Jigawa	5 782 600	4 523 822	1 080 211	178 567	-	-	178 567
Kaduna	8 263 574	6 652 155	1 399 072	212 348	-	-	212 348
Kano	14 828 136	11 926 278	2 586 081	315 777	-	-	315 777
Katsina	7 558 000	5 143 292	1 712 540	702 168	-	-	702 168
Kebbi	4 629 880	1 214 028	2 579 878	835 974	-	-	835 974
Niger	5 714 988	4 703 143	916 258	95 588	-	-	95 588
Plateau	4 146 442	2 941 118	1 025 700	167 561	12 063	-	179 624
Sokoto	5 218 629	3 803 124	1 097 164	318 341	-	-	318 341
Taraba	3 142 715	2 710 939	368 284	63 492	-	-	63 492
Yobe	3 280 832	1 169 408	962 350	725 465	423 609	-	1 149 074
Zamfara	4 626 716	3 398 279	1 072 226	156 211	-	-	156 211
<b>Total</b>	<b>91 969 254</b>	<b>65 326 124</b>	<b>18 562 054</b>	<b>6 196 715</b>	<b>1 829 349</b>	<b>55 013</b>	<b>8 081 077</b>

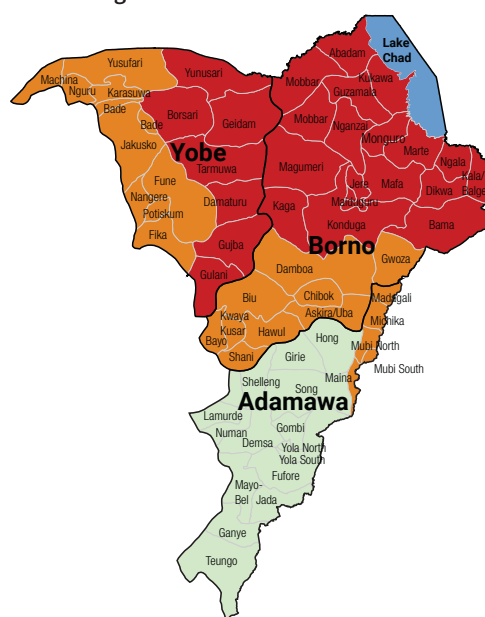
Source: *Cadre harmonisé*, national analysis, October 2016. © Agrhymet/CILSS

# ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA

October-December 2016



June-August 2017



Phase 1: Minimal Phase 2: Stressed Phase 3: Crisis Phase 4: Emergency Phase 5: Famine Not analysed

Source: *Cadre harmonisé*, national analysis, October 2016. © Agrhymet/CILSS

## RAPIDLY SCALING-UP THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

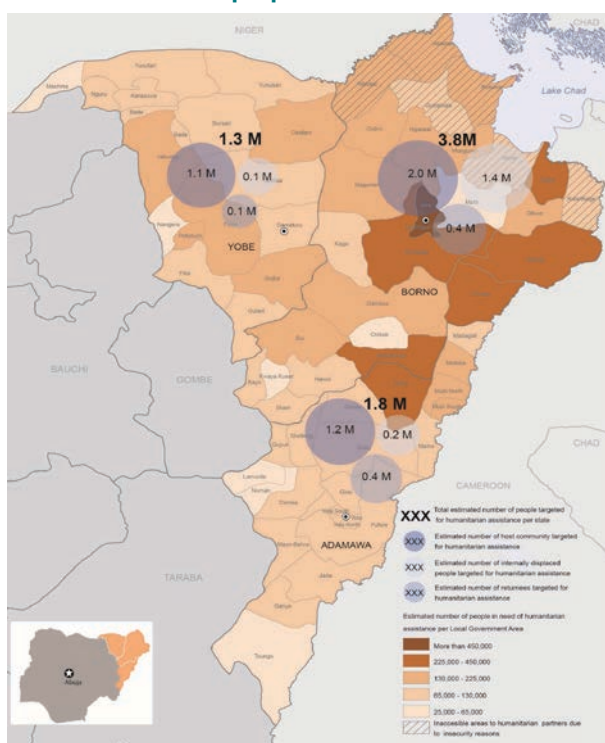


**It is vital to rapidly scale up the emergency response and deliver timely and targeted humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations** in order to save human lives and prevent further deterioration of the

crisis during the next lean season. To make this happen, it is urgent to improve the security conditions to ensure humanitarian access to these areas, improve co-ordination of collective action, and rapidly fill the funding gaps.

## HIGH RISK OF CHILD MORTALITY IN NEWLY ACCESSIBLE AREAS

### Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance



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Severe acute malnutrition among children is a major concern, in particular in refugee and internally displaced persons camps. Some extremely high rates of under-five mortality have been recorded in the Bama area of Borno state. According to UNICEF, nearly 100 000 children with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted to therapeutic feeding programmes in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states (23.4% of the targeted children in need). Some 12 000 children have been screened in 22 IDP camps. Rapid SMART surveys<sup>1</sup> and MUAC screenings<sup>2</sup> conducted in the newly accessible localities of Bama, Banki, Monguno, and Dikwa in Borno State and Gujba and Gulani in Yobe State revealed extremely high levels of acute malnutrition ranging from 20-60%, far above the emergency threshold of 15%. The situation remains “serious to critical” in the more accessible areas (Kaga, Konduga, Maiduguri Metropolitan Center [MMC], and Jere LGAs in Borno State as well as Jakusko LGA in Yobe State) where global acute malnutrition levels range from 8-20%.

<sup>1</sup> Nutrition and health survey using *Standardised monitoring and assessment of relief and transition* (SMART) methodology.

<sup>2</sup> Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape used to determine the nutritional status.

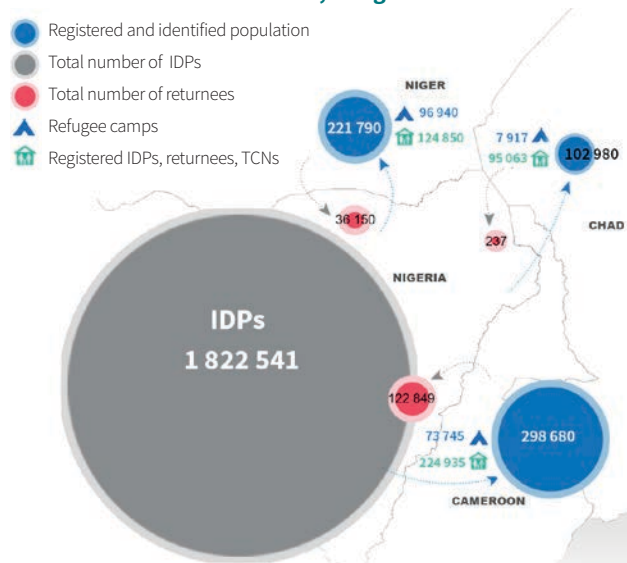
## LARGE-SCALE **POPULATION DISPLACEMENT**

Depending on the data sources, between 1.8 and 2.1 million people are still forcibly displaced within Nigeria. The number of newly displaced persons in 2015 is estimated at 737 000 people: 85% as a result of insurgency attacks by Islamists, 12.6% due to communal clashes and 2.4% by natural disasters (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre – IDMC). The total IDP population has declined from April to June, mostly thanks to the return of IDPs to newly accessible areas within Borno, including Damboa, Magumeri, Askira, Uba and Chibok (FewNet).

Nevertheless, providing humanitarian assistance and access to basic services for the large number of displaced populations remains a major challenge. Moreover, this massive and prolonged displacement has also put additional pressure on the already limited resources of host communities (competition for productive land, employment and food in the market as well as trade opportunities). According to UNOCHA, the population of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno, has more than doubled in the last ten years (with more than 710 000 people having been forced to flee their homes).

These large-scale population displacements also heavily affect Nigeria's neighbouring countries: some 178 000 people fled into neighbouring Cameroun, Chad and Niger. In turn, nearly 160 000 Nigerian nationals, including refugees, had returned from these countries to Nigeria.

### Estimated number of IDPs, refugees & returnees



Source: UNHCR, *Nigeria, Regional Refugee Response Plan Update*, June-October 2016

## ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF THE CRISIS



**North-east Nigeria is the epicentre of a humanitarian crisis which heavily impacts the broader Lake Chad basin. An efficient crisis response cannot be conceived in isolation.**

## THE MARKET SITUATION IS GRADUALLY IMPROVING

Food availability is extremely limited and there has been no food production in conflict-affected areas for the last three years. Consequently, household and market food stocks have been depleted and some areas have no or limited access to markets. The depreciation of the Naira puts additional pressure on food prices, further diminishing households' purchasing power. According to the June 2016-January 2017 Outlook published by FewsNet, the situation is, however, gradually improving:

“Market and trade routes are becoming relatively more accessible in much of the north-east region. Roads from Maiduguri to Damaturu and to Biu are now accessible with only some disruptions and checkpoints. This includes a major trucking route in the region (Maiduguri-Damaturu). The road from Maiduguri to Damboa has also re-opened, although it remains accessible only with military escort. Maiduguri to Gamboru through Dikwa is also recently opened up and is more accessible. Similarly, major urban markets including Maiduguri, Biu, Potiskum, Damaturu, Mubi, and Yola are more functional relative to previous months and are adequately supplied. Most semi-urban markets are functioning at below-average levels, while rural markets continue to be significantly impacted. Cross-border trade activities along Yobe, Adamawa and Borno state borders with Niger, Chad and Cameroon remain disrupted.”



## DEVELOPING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Over the past eight years, the resilience of the affected displaced populations and host communities has been seriously weakened; malnutrition has become a generalised chronic problem, and infrastructure has been largely destroyed. **Beyond emergency relief, it is therefore crucial to develop a long-term vision and recovery plan for these conflict-affected areas** in order to create a safe and secure environment, restore livelihoods and reconstruct the local economy. Inclusive dialogue conducted within the framework of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) among all stakeholders and across various policy sectors, will offer an opportunity for identifying humanitarian and development priorities for these extremely fragile areas.

## Market functioning in north-eastern Nigeria, August 2016

