

# NIGERIA

## Country-wide flooding

### CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

Since June 2022, heavy rainfall and strong winds have been severely affecting Nigeria (ECHO 12/07/2022). As at 6 October, flooding had affected 33 of its 36 states (SBMIntel 06/10/2022). The most affected states are Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, and Rivers in southern Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory in central Nigeria (ECHO 18/10/2022). As at 20 October, the crisis had displaced more than 1.4 million people and affected over 2.5 million (Reuters 20/10/2022 a; Al Jazeera 17/10/2022). Bayelsa State was reported to be the worst affected, with around 700,000 people displaced or affected as at 18 October (ECHO 18/10/2022). Detailed information on humanitarian needs for each state is limited as there has not been any comprehensive needs assessment yet.

As at 18 October, over 600 fatalities and more than 2,400 injured people were reported across the country (Reuters 20/10/2022 a; ECHO 18/10/2022; Al Jazeera 17/10/2022).

The floods have triggered a cholera outbreak in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (the BAY states). As at 30 September, 7,700 cases, including 324 deaths, were reported across these three states. 5,400 of these cases were in Borno state alone (OCHA 19/10/2022). Conflict and insecurity also affect Borno (ECHO 07/10/2022). Flooding, a lack of access to hygiene services, and the contamination of water are likely to further increase the spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

### ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

Heavy rainfall is expected to continue over the southern states of Nigeria (ECHO 18/10/2022). The accumulation of rainwater is likely to cause further flooding along the Niger and Benue Rivers. Riverine flooding is also likely to worsen as water is released from dams, such as Lagdo Dam in Cameroon (USAID/FEWS NET 2022; The Nation 11/10/2022). Consequently, the number of affected and displaced people may continue to rise.

Rivers state is one of the main oil- and gas-producing states of Nigeria. Parts of this state have been significantly inundated (Reuters 20/10/2022 a). Gas production in affected areas has been shut down; supply disruptions are expected nationwide and from Nigeria to Europe (Reuters 17/10/2022). Power supply disruptions can also be anticipated, isolating affected communities. Around 90% of foreign exchange in Lagos depends on fossil fuel exports, meaning the situation will also likely worsen the current economic crisis in Nigeria (Euronews 18/10/2022).

### HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

Flooding has affected roads, bridges, and some communication lines, leaving certain communities entirely inaccessible and cut off from services. As at 30 September, Rann and Damasak local government areas (LGAs) in Borno state, which were hosting displaced people, were only accessible via helicopter (OCHA 19/10/2022). As at 4 October, in Lokoja, Kogi state, roughly 113.3km of roads were submerged in floodwater (Int'l Charter 04/10/2022). As at 9 October, the floods had destroyed a major road connecting eight communities to the rest of Anambra state, forcing people to rely on boats for access. On 7 October, a locally made vessel capsized in Anambra, resulting in at least 76 deaths (The Guardian 09/10/2022). In Ahoada West LGA of Rivers state, 150,000 people were reported to be displaced and inaccessible as at 20 October (Reuters 20/10/2022 a).

In August, members of a non-state armed group (NSAG) attacked civilians and vehicles carrying food and other critical supplies along major highways, particularly the Maiduguri-Gajiram highway (OCHA 20/09/2022). The groups have also targeted humanitarians working in these areas, and there have been reports of kidnappings.



### KEY PRIORITIES

+2,5M

AFFECTED PEOPLE

+1,4M

DISPLACED PEOPLE

Cholera

OUTBREAK REPORTED  
IN SOME STATES

#### NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Government of Nigeria
- Nigerian Meteorological Agency
- Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency
- Nigerian Red Cross

#### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, IOM)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- INGOs (initial response activities)

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

### Shelter

Flooding has damaged around 203,400 houses, including over 82,000 fully damaged or destroyed houses (ECHO 18/10/2022). In Borno state, the floods have destroyed six camps hosting over 15,000 IDPs, leaving over 8,400 households in immediate need of shelter. IDPs are temporarily living with relatives in nearby camps and public buildings, such as schools and markets (IOM 07/10/2022). In Jigawa state, 13 temporary IDP camps and some public buildings have been set up to host displaced people (The Guardian 02/09/2022; Daily Post 01/09/2022). There is no clear number of temporary shelters across the country.

The reported number of displaced people has also increased from 100,000 in late September, to more than 790,000 on 11 October, to over 1.4 million people on 20 October (Floodlist 12/10/2022 and 17/10/2022; Reuters 20/10/2022 a). These figures mean that people will likely continue to need shelter as flooding continues in these areas.

### WASH and health

With about 2.5 million flood-affected people, there will be a need to provide clean water and sanitation facilities to mitigate the risk of waterborne diseases (OCHA 19/10/2022; Floodlist 17/10/2022). The contamination of water and lack of hygiene facilities resulting from the floods have caused a cholera outbreak in the BAY states (OCHA 20/09/2022). As at 30 September, more than 7,700 cholera cases, including 324 deaths, were reported across these states (OCHA 19/10/2022). Over 5,400 of these cases were in Borno state alone. As at 5 October, roughly 50% (2,500) of the cholera cases reported in Borno state, including 116 deaths, were in Bama, Dikwa, Jere, and Konduga LGAs (ECHO 07/10/2022). In Adamawa state, there is a lack of water point mapping, testing, chlorination, and treatment for drinking water in the cholera-affected LGAs (OCHA 19/10/2022).

Flooding has affected more than 230 health facilities, including 30 that are completely flooded and unusable (Premium Times 17/10/2022; Daily Post 17/10/2022). Satellite imagery from 13–17 October suggests that floodwaters affect an estimated 738 health facilities (UNOSAT 19/10/2022).

### Food security and livelihoods

The floods have destroyed many crops, particularly in the northern region of Nigeria where the majority of food is produced. Since June 2022, flooding has destroyed over 630,000 hectares of cropland across the country (WFP 17/10/2022). In Benue state, the food basket of Nigeria, more than 100,000 hectares of cropland was inundated as at 5 October (Reuters

06/10/2022). The situation raises concerns about the impact the floods will have on the country's food supplies, which are already suffering from pre-existing disruptions resulting from armed conflict in the northwestern and central regions of the country (The Guardian 19/09/2022).

The floods have submerged essential crops in Jigawa state, such as cassava and yam. Excess water from Benue River completely submerged around 4,400 hectares of the farmland of Olam Company, one of Nigeria's largest contributors to the rice value chain, in Nasarawa state (SBMIntel 06/10/2022; Daily Trust 09/10/2022). These agricultural losses are likely to cause food scarcity in the region.

The destruction of crops and agricultural areas is also disrupting the livelihoods of the population since around 70% of the population is involved in subsistence farming (Nations Encyclopedia accessed 20/10/2022). The situation creates significant challenges for people's ability to access food and purchase NFIs and other assets (SBMIntel 06/10/2022; Daily Trust 09/10/2022).

## AGGRAVATING FACTORS

### Violence and insecurity

Many of the flood-affected states are experiencing increasing violence from NSAGs. On 22 September, NSAG members killed 14 people and injured over 30 in Benue state (Vanguard 22/09/2022; Independent 22/09/2022). In Zamfara state, at least 30 people drowned while fleeing an invasion of their village by militia (ACLED 13/10/2022; Daily Trust 06/10/2022).

Insurgency in northeast Nigeria has resulted in at least 350,000 deaths since 2009 (ECHO 30/09/2022). Floods severely affect this region, which hosts over 15,000 IDPs (IOM 07/10/2022). Prolonged conflict and subsequent displacement in this region affect host communities' access to household assets and labour opportunities. These issues also decrease their purchasing power at the same time that the cost of staple food is increasing (FEWS NET 01/08/2022). Violence and insecurity have created access challenges for humanitarian organisations in the affected regions, with an estimated 1.2 million people inaccessible in northeast Nigeria (ECHO 30/09/2022).

Clashes between farmers and pastoralists in Benue state had resulted in 23 deaths as at 20 October (Reuters 20/10/2022 b). There have been increasing instances of intercommunal violence because of resource-based competition and lack of access to land. This has also been fueled by underlying ethnic and religious tensions.

Violence related to the anticipated general elections in February 2023 has been taking place across the country, with clashes reported between parties' supporters in Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, and Oyo states (ACLED 13/10/2022).

## Displacement

The activities of Boko Haram and other NSAGs have been causing constant displacement in the northeast of the country since 2009 (IDMC accessed 19/10/2022; CFR 12/05/2022). UNHCR has reported over three million IDPs in Nigeria, of which over two million have been displaced across the BAY states in northeastern Nigeria since the beginning of the conflict between NSAGs and government forces (UNHCR accessed 20/10/2022; UNHCR accessed 20/10/2022; WFP 30/09/2022; ECHO 30/09/2022). Between 3–9 October 2022, 1,640 new IDPs were recorded in the BAY states because of conflict (IOM 14/10/2022). A significant portion of conflict-displaced people in Borno state resides in Bama, Dikwa, Konduga, and Jere LGAs, which are also highly suffering from the flooding and cholera outbreak (ECHO 07/10/2022).

Between mid-July and 31 August, violence from NSAGs along the Nigeria-Cameroon border displaced more than 6,000 Nigerians and 5,000 Cameroonians into Madagali LGA in Adamawa state (OCHA 20/09/2022). At the time of displacement, flooding was already affecting these areas. Refugees and IDPs likely need adequate protection from the floods and critical WASH support to mitigate the further spread of cholera in the state.

## Upstream water flow

Though flooding is the most recurring climate hazard in Nigeria, the floods so far in 2022 have been particularly damaging given a combination of increased heavy rainfall and upstream water flow from dams and reservoirs (OCHA 19/10/2022; Haider 10/10/2019). Reservoirs and dams are routinely opened to release excess water from accumulated rainfall in those sites (Al Jazeera 17/10/2022). As at 13 September, the Lagdo dam in Cameroon and the Kainji and Jebba dams in Nigeria were opened, increasing upstream water flow and aggravating riverine flooding (OCHA 19/10/2022; The Sun 19/09/2022; The Guardian 19/09/2022).

## Food insecurity

There are high levels of food insecurity in the country, with up to 4.1 million people projected to face acute food shortages in the BAY states alone (OCHA 20/09/2022). Up to 40% of people in the northeastern part of the country have had inadequate food consumption during the lean season (May–August) (WFP 06/09/2022; IPC 17/12/2021).

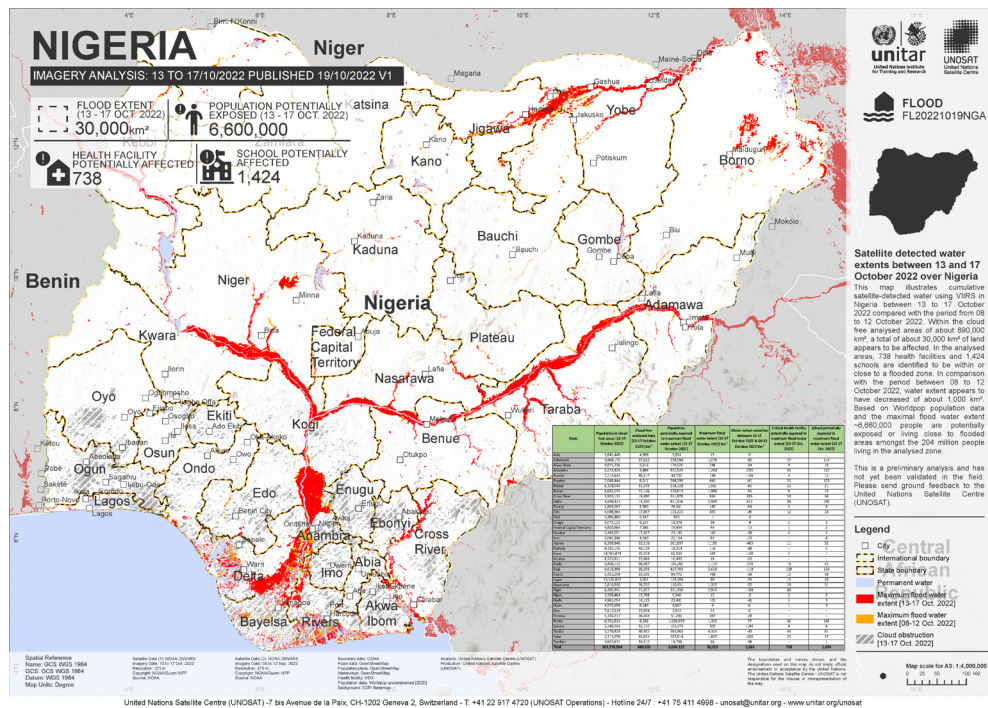
## Malnutrition

In June, more than 1.3 million children under five years of age and over 150,000 pregnant and nursing women in northeast Nigeria were projected to face acute malnourishment in 2022. Acute malnutrition typically worsens during the lean season (May–August) because of poor access to livelihoods and land, especially in Borno state (IPC 23/06/2022). As northeast Nigeria experienced floods and a cholera outbreak during the 2022 lean season, the malnutrition situation can be expected to deteriorate in the affected areas.

## Inflation

Inflation in Nigeria reached its highest in 17 years at 20.8% in September 2022, an increase from 20.5% in the previous month (TE accessed 20/10/2022). Basic food prices have been increasing, limiting food access for people in the country. Fuel prices continue to drive up already high transportation and production costs (Reuters 27/09/2022; FEWS NET 30/09/2022). Increasing food, fuel, and fertiliser prices also create socioeconomic tensions. As the Government struggles to respond to the crisis because of heavy debt burdens and limited fiscal space, the floods will present an additional strain on an already stretched economy (WFP 17/10/2022).

## SATELLITE IMAGERY ANALYSIS OF NIGERIA FROM 13–17 OCTOBER



Source: UNOSAT (19/10/2022)

## OVERFLOW OF NIGER RIVER AS AT 2 OCTOBER



Source: Al Jazeera (17/10/2022)