Humanitarian, peace and stability, Nigeria

With humanitarian funding halved, who does Nigeria's aid plan now leave out?

Funding for Nigeria's humanitarian plan fell 63% between 2022 and 2025. The 2026 plan targets 2.5 million people in three states, while 36 million Nigerians were projected to face crisis-level hunger in the lean season.

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In short

- Donors funded the 2025 plan with US$281.9 million, 31% of what it required and half of the US$555.7 million received in 2024. Funding per person targeted fell from US$137 in 2022 to US$78 in 2025, against a planned cost of about US$253.
- The 2026 plan asks for US$516.4 million, less than donors actually gave in 2024, to reach 2.5 million people. It targets 42% of the 5.9 million people in severe need in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe: the lowest share of eight plans in West and Central Africa.
- 83% of the Nigerians projected to be in Crisis or worse in the 2026 lean season lived outside the three states the plan covers. Nationally, the number rose from 24.9 million in 2023 to 36.3 million in 2026 (12.8% to 16.7% of the population analysed), and those in Emergency or worse rose 76% in a year.

The evidence

Each figure carries its source, its date and a label for how much weight it can bear. Open 'How we know this' for the method.

✓ Record or count — 2025

31%

of the 2025 plan's US$910.2 million requirement was funded: US$281.9 million, half the 2024 amount.

OCHA Financial Tracking Service

How we know this

Funding reported to the Financial Tracking Service against the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. It excludes unreported aid and government spending. Read in January 2026, after the plan year closed.

Modelled or projected — 2026

42%

of the 5.9 million people in severe need in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe are targeted by the 2026 plan: 2.5 million.

Probatio Africa calculation from OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2026

How we know this

People targeted divided by people in need in each 2026 plan, at launch in December 2025. The other West and Central African plans target between 49% (DR Congo) and 75% (Mali).

Modelled or projected

June–August 2026

83%

of Nigerians projected to be in Crisis or worse in the lean season lived outside Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, the only states the plan covers.

Probatio Africa calculation from the Cadre Harmonisé, October–November 2025 analysis

How we know this

34,755,459 people projected in phases 3 to 5 nationally, less about 2.8 million in Borno, 1.4 million in Adamawa and 1.6 million in Yobe, from the same analysis: about 29 million, or 83%.

Modelled or projected

June–August 2026

2.08 million

Nigerians were projected to be in Emergency or Catastrophe, up 76% on 2025. More than 10,000 were projected to be in Catastrophe in Borno.

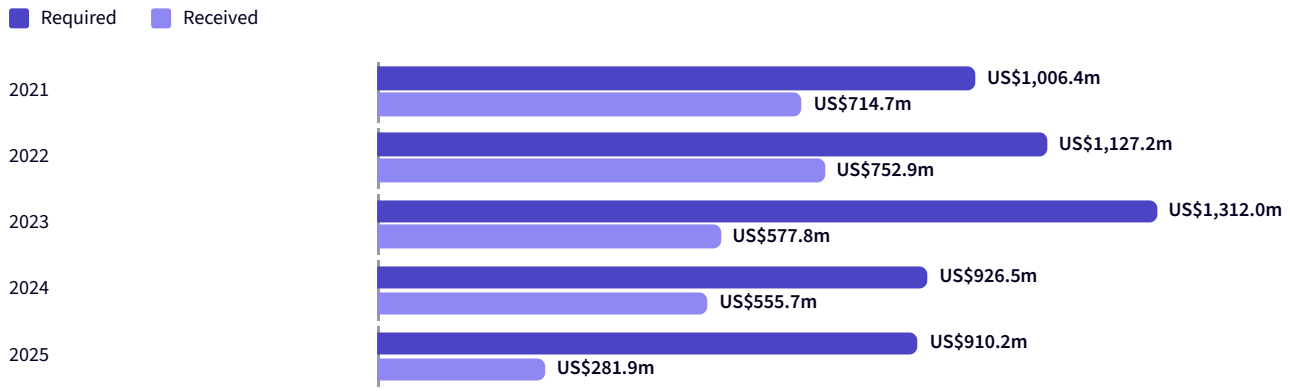
Cadre Harmonisé, February–March 2026 cycle (published July 2026) and March 2025 cycle

How we know this

Phase 4 (Emergency) 2,072,109 plus phase 5 (Catastrophe) 10,277, against 1,182,488 in phase 4 projected for the 2025 lean season. Projections, not counts.

Required and received: Nigeria's humanitarian plans, 2021 to 2025

US$ million, funding reported against each year's plan



OCHA Financial Tracking Service, read January 2026 (the 2021 page in an undated copy). The 2026 plan requires US$516.4 million; in-year funding is not shown because we could not verify a current figure.

Sources: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

What the data show

Funding received against Nigeria's plan fell from US$752.9 million in 2022 to US$281.9 million in 2025, a fall of 63%; coverage fell from 66.8% to 31.0%[1,4]. More than half of the fall (58%) came in 2025 alone, when funding dropped 49% from US$555.7 million[1,2].

The plan shrank with the money. The number of people targeted fell from 6.0 million in 2023 to 2.5 million in 2026[7,11], and the 2026 requirement of US$516.4 million is 43% below 2025's and 7% below what donors actually gave in 2024[1,2,7]. Funding per person targeted was US$137 in 2022, US$96 in 2023, US$126 in 2024 and US$78 in 2025, while the plan's own cost per person was between US$205 and US$253[1,2,3,4,9,10,11,12]. In 2025, donors paid about 31 cents of every planned dollar per person.

Need moved the other way. The Cadre Harmonisé projected 24.9 million Nigerians in Crisis or worse for the 2023 lean season, 31.8 million for 2024, 30.6 million for 2025 and 36.3 million for 2026; as a share of the population analysed, that is a rise from 12.8% to 16.7%[13,14,15,16]. The number projected to be in Emergency or worse rose 76% in a year, to 2.08 million, with more than 10,000 people projected to be in Catastrophe in Borno[15,16].

Who is left out follows from the plan's design. In the October–November 2025 analysis, 83% of the 34.8 million Nigerians projected in Crisis or worse for the 2026 lean season lived outside Borno, Adamawa and Yobe[17,21]. Within those three states, the plan does not target 3.4 million of the 5.9 million people in severe need[6,7]: at 42%, the lowest share targeted of eight plans in West and Central Africa, where the others range

from 49% to 75%[8]. And inside the target, by March 2026 food assistance had received 1.3% of the US$224.4 million it required for the year; no one had been reached in Adamawa or Yobe[18].

Where sources disagree

Two Cadre Harmonisé figures exist for the 2026 lean season: 34.8 million from the October–November 2025 analysis[21] and 36.3 million from the update in the February–March 2026 cycle, which re-analysed nine states[16]. Our sector page quotes WFP's figure of 36.2 million; the Cadre Harmonisé table gives 36,289,939, which rounds to 36.3 million, so we cite the Cadre Harmonisé directly.

The fall in people in need, from 7.8 million in 2025 to 5.9 million in 2026, is partly a change of method: the 2026 figure counts only people with severe to extreme needs, out of 7.3 million needing some assistance[6,7]. It is not evidence that needs fell.

Displacement figures differ by source: 3,679,757 internally displaced people in October 2026 on IOM and NEMA data published by UNHCR[19], and 3.5 million at the end of 2025 on the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's estimate[20].

What this means for decisions

- The coordinated plan now covers a small fraction of national need. Hunger in the north-west and north-central states sits outside any coordinated appeal, so it depends on government and development programmes.
- Funding per person far below the plan's own cost means either fewer people reached or thinner help for each. Reporting both reach and the depth of assistance would show which, and with what effect on malnutrition and health.
- With people in Emergency up 76% in a year, how the plan prioritises within its 2.5 million target matters as much as the target itself.
- The Financial Tracking Service records reported funding against the plan. Government spending and unreported aid fall outside it, so it shows the coordinated response, not all help reaching people.

Method

- Funding and requirements: OCHA Financial Tracking Service, coordinated plans for 2021 to 2025, read in January 2026 after each plan year had closed (the 2021 page in an undated copy). Figures for 2020 were not available to us and are not shown.
- Funding per person targeted: funding received ÷ people targeted in the same year's plan (2022: 752.9 ÷ 5.5 million; 2023: 577.8 ÷ 6.0; 2024: 555.7 ÷ 4.4; 2025: 281.9 ÷ 3.6). Planned cost per person: requirement ÷ people targeted.
- Share outside the plan's states: national phase 3 to 5 projection for June–August 2026 (34,755,459) less the totals for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in the same analysis (about 5.8 million), divided by the national figure.
- Comparison with other plans: people targeted ÷ people in need for each 2026 plan in West and Central Africa, at launch.

Limitations

- We could not verify 2026 funding received to date, so the brief does not report it.
- People in need are estimated with methods that changed between years; targets and funding are the more reliable comparison over time.
- Cadre Harmonisé figures are projections. Areas that cannot be reached because of insecurity are estimated with special protocols, and some are not analysed.
- These data show money and targets, not which cuts had which effects on people.

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