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Context

Severe floods across Nigeria during the recent agricultural season (April–October) have had a devastating impact on livelihood assets, food stocks and yield prospects for the main harvest, disrupting people's lives and livelihoods. The disaster will increase the vulnerability of farming and fishery households to food insecurity for the greater part of 2023, especially during the lean season (June–August 2023). These conditions, coupled with the high proportion of households facing large food consumption gaps and the heavy reliance on purchased grain in the face of increased food prices, will likely lead to the further deterioration of the food security situation within a few months after the main harvest. The floods have also negatively impacted fish production as aquatic ecosystems and fish farms were damaged, exposing riverine communities and fish farmers to food insecurity and income loss.

The flooding is further aggravating the already high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in the country, as the impacts of the disaster force vulnerable households to deplete their productive assets to secure their immediate needs. More specifically, the current floods have exacerbated the precarious food security situation in northwestern Nigeria and in the northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, already affected by the ongoing protracted Boko Haram conflict, devastating crops and livestock-based livelihoods, and undermining the outcome of the humanitarian assistance provided thus increasing communities' vulnerabilities. Over 9.3 million people are in high acute food insecurity (October–December 2022) across northwestern Nigeria and in the three northeastern states, and this figure is projected to increase to more than 13.9 million by the next lean season, if appropriate assistance is not provided.

Restoring the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and livestock keepers will help them produce food for themselves and their communities. Urgent agricultural assistance is a frontline humanitarian response to mitigate the impact of the floods and save lives.

As the dry season sets in (November–March), affected households should be supported to take advantage of the soil moisture caused by the floods to grow fast-maturing crops to quickly produce food. Investing just USD 75 in seeds and fertilizer, enables a family of seven to produce over 1 500 kg of rice covering nearly ten months of household cereal requirements.

Nigeria

Urgent call for assistance



to assist
770 000 people



FAO requires
USD 21.6 million



Period
**November 2022–
October 2023**



Targeted areas
**Adamawa, Borno,
Katsina, Sokoto, Taraba,
Yobe and Zamfara**

Objectives

- ▶ To respond to the impact of the floods through the provision of urgent life- and livelihoods-saving agricultural assistance to the most affected populations to restore their food production for improved food security and nutrition.
- ▶ To increase the resilience of flood-prone communities by strengthening community-level disaster risk management mechanisms, assessments and data analysis to inform anticipatory actions.
- ▶ To protect and restore livelihood assets devastated by the effects of climate-related disasters and speed up the recovery of flood-affected communities.

Response

- Provide severely affected households with cereal and vegetable production support (early maturing seed varieties and fertilizer) for the dry season, taking advantage of the residual soil moisture from the floods.
- Provide emergency agricultural assistance through the provision of quality seeds (cereals, pulses and vegetables) and fertilizers to flood-affected communities for the rainy season (June–September).
- Provide fishing gear to riverine flood-affected fishers for them to resume their livelihoods activities.
- Provide emergency fresh food vouchers to the most affected households to reduce critical food consumption gaps and protect the assets distributed.
- Strengthen the resilience of communities to floods through disaster risk reduction interventions including community-level water harvesting informed by feasibility studies that FAO is undertaking in the Northeast. This will reduce the vulnerability to floods and provide water for crop and livestock production as means of adaptation.
- Strengthen the provision of animal health services to protect the livestock assets of affected households as flooding has health consequences for both livestock and humans.
- Rehabilitate agricultural production infrastructure damaged by the floods including livestock water points, irrigation facilities and fishponds.
- Continuously monitor, assess and analyse the food security and nutrition situation in the most affected areas to enable relevant anticipatory actions against future disasters.

Participating organizations

As a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and a co-lead of the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group, FAO is complementing the response of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development is the main partner at the federal level and coordinates other key partners, including the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. At the state level, FAO is working closely with the emergency management authorities, ministries of agriculture, as well as civil society actors and members of the HCT.

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In numbers



As a result of the floods:

- **3.2 million people** impacted
- **+1.4 million people** internally displaced
- **569 000 ha** of cropland estimated to be destroyed or damaged



17 million people in high acute food insecurity countrywide (October–December 2022)



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