



Nigeria-Yobe State

Humanitarian Situation Analysis

As of 30 June 2020

KEY FIGURES

2.2M
People in Need

1.4M
People Targeted

0.3M
People Reached

311M
Financial Requirement

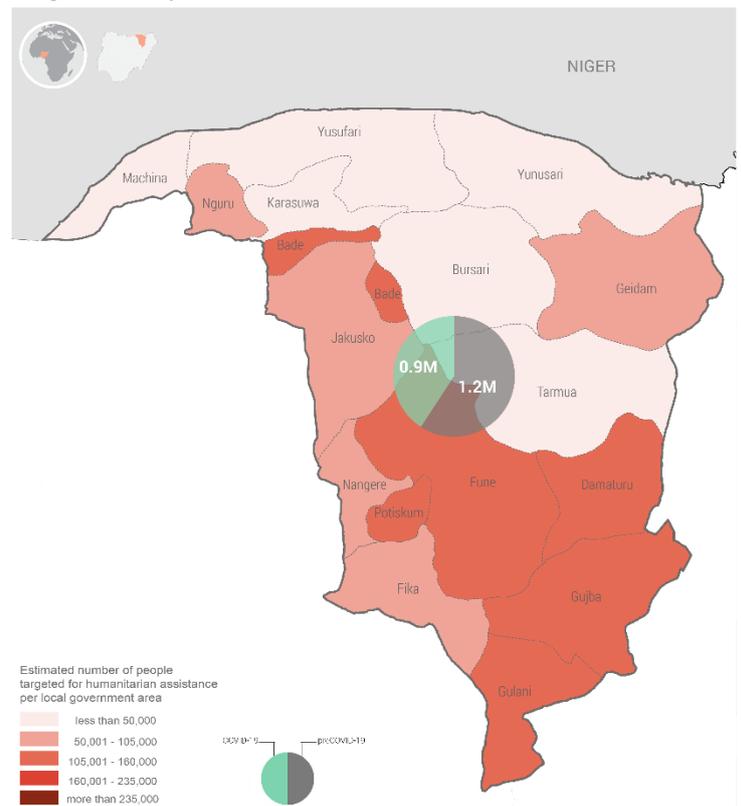
Context

Humanitarian needs in Yobe State increased marginally during the reporting period, mainly as a result of an upsurge in attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAG) and clashes between them and government forces displacing local populations.

Hazards affecting civilian populations include improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordinance, flash flooding, and COVID-19 pandemic. Flash flooding and windstorms destroyed nearly 400 houses, six public facilities and claimed at least eight lives across the LGAs during the reporting period marking the onset of the rainy season. Populations from inaccessible areas in Yobe and northern Borno State, and Nigerian refugees from the Niger Republic continue to arrive in Gujba, Damaturu, Gashua, and Geidam local government areas (LGAs), due to an upsurge in violence in those areas. The impacts on essential available services due to the influx of new arrivals and the COVID-19 aggravate the situation facing the communities.

Also, given stigmatization of people with COVID-19 and an increase in cases in host communities, there are fears that new arrivals, including IDPs and returnee-refugees, might face rejection for fear that they might bring and spread COVID-19. This could potentially result in increased vulnerability for people displaced and returnees. Mitigations strategies such as the Government-imposed border closure and movement restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 continue to disrupt agricultural activities and markets. The impact on livelihoods and the economy underlines the need for proactive actions to set up mechanisms that will improve the economic impact of the pandemic. As markets in the neighboring states of Borno, Gombe, Bauchi, Jigawa and Kano continue to experience disruptions to supplies and the operations of markets, impediments to access to food and livelihoods will increase the vulnerability of local populations. Already many households are food insecure or are experiencing increasing levels of malnutrition due to reduced incomes. The majority of IDPs in the informal economy, whose livelihood depends on daily earnings, were already facing food insecurity, a situation which is being aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Health Sector partners, led by WHO, continue to scale up response and support to the State

Targeted People for Humanitarian Aid in 2020



Ministry of Health (SMoH). This support includes guidance on risk communication and case management, community mobilization, tracing, training of medical personnel, and technical assistance to the isolation and treatment centers. Sporadic, but continuous activities of NSAGs in Gujba, Bursari, and Geidam LGAs are impeding humanitarian access and activities.

Conflict dynamics

Conflict continued in Yobe State, including NSAG attacks and clashes with government forces along the LGAs of Geidam and Gujba, bordering Borno State. The security situation in these LGAs remains unpredictable and volatile. Government forces continue to carry out operations and maintain a high level of alertness following NSAG activities across border LGAs. There is a significant increase in the threats of attacks on both civilian and military convoys, abduction/kidnapping (at illegal vehicle checkpoints), and IEDs along these routes. UXOs also pose a threat, with incidents reported in June in Gujba LGA, with the police issuing warning of widespread threats across the LGAs, particularly across farming areas. NSAG attacks were targeting civilian communities across Bursari, Geidam, Gujba LGAs, and abductions in Lantewa, Tarmuwa LGA along the Damaturu – Babangida road. An attack in Buni Gari (27/04/2020), Gujba LGA, resulted in the burning down of activity centers of some humanitarian actors in the community, which triggered a temporary suspension of operations. A similar attack was recorded in Dapchi, Bursari LGA (18/05/2020), where NSAG operatives burned down houses and public buildings, and also looted medical supplies from the health facility. Aid operations in Geidam LGA (19/05/2020) also recorded some disruptions following a spike in NSAG attacks and clashes.

Pre-existing structural constraints and deficiencies

Yobe is one of the poorest states in Nigeria, with a poverty rate of 72.3 per cent - being the seventh highest in the country (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS))¹. The humanitarian situation in Yobe State is characterized by pockets of severe and extreme levels of poverty in the return areas and within some urban communities hosting IDPs. People in rural areas are farmers, while widespread illiteracy, unemployment, and limited infrastructure contribute to low human capital development. Extreme poverty levels among families continue to have significant impacts on the wellbeing and development of children.

Additionally, vast and entrenched inequality in access to essential services deprives minority ethnic groups of possibilities for developing and improving their situation. There has been notable progress made towards improving access to health services, electricity, potable water, and other essential services. However, reducing ethnic inequalities in access to government services, including electrical power, power remains a challenge.

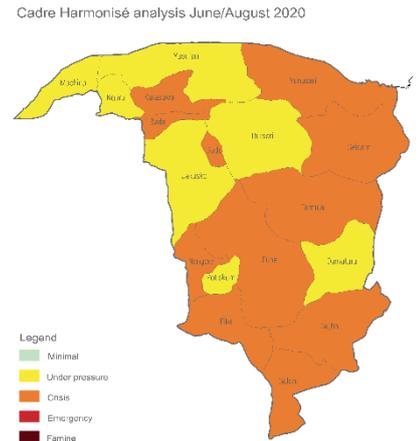
While gains have been made in narrowing the gender gap in access to education, the distribution of economic goods is uneven by ethnicity. Humanitarian needs in Yobe are exacerbated by poverty associated with lack of access to essential services, ethnic disparities, low economic development and protracted armed conflict.

Conflict-related displacement

People, including IDPs from inaccessible areas (some also from neighboring Borno State) and Nigerian refugees from the Niger Republic, continue to arrive in Damaturu (the state capital), Nguru, Gashua, and Geidam LGAs of Yobe State. The influx of new arrivals could be attributed to the relatively calm security situation in Yobe, which in general seems to encourage IDPs in Borno to travel to Yobe. An average of about 450 people arrive in Yobe State a month, but the monitoring and the registration process are facing significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Humanitarian partners also reported an increase in caseloads, congestion of IDPs in host communities, and mounting additional pressures on already stretched facilities providing services in host communities. This influx of people from areas with limited health and hygiene facilities into densely populated communities also increases the risk of infectious diseases. Timely monitoring, verification, and profiling of the new arrivals by IOM and SEMA is challenging because the IDPs are residing in the host communities; validation and registration of new arrivals has overtime been difficult due to the fact that both host populations and existing IDPs are claiming to be new arrivals; this is partly attributed based on the perception that new arrivals will be given immediate assistance by humanitarian actors hence everyone is claiming to be new arrival. With few or no shelters available, combined with a lack of land to construct additional shelters, the majority of the new arrivals are currently living in open spaces and makeshift shelters, a situation already worsened by the rainy season.

Productivity and market disruptions

Unlike in the neighboring states where markets were closed due to government-imposed lockdown and curfew to minimize the spread of COVID-19, markets in Yobe have remained open. These markets play a vital role in helping neighborhood food stall operators supply essential food items and agricultural inputs to enhance all-round food availability. The spread of COVID-19 pandemic in Yobe and neighboring states continues to disrupt agrarian markets, indicating the need for proactive actions to set up mechanisms that will reduce the economic impacts. However, as markets in the neighboring states continue to witness fluctuations and disruptions in supply and prices, implications are that access to food, even after the ease of the lockdown measures, will be impacted, with consequences for food security situation of the state. Several households continue to face food and nutrition insecurity due to reduced income levels, insecurity, displacement, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The risks of UXOs across farming areas in Gujba, Gulani, Tarmuwa, Bursari, and Yunusari LGAs is also disrupting farming activities and impacting the state's productivity. Moreover, food distribution systems continue to face challenges, leading to disruption of the supply of staple food commodities, especially from neighboring states, as well as within the state.



¹National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria_ <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1092>

Disruptions of essential social services

Yobe State is experiencing recurrent natural disasters such as storms and flooding, in addition to conflict – driving displacement and destruction of property and critical facilities and disrupting services. Even though the state government did not impose movement restrictions within the state, its borders were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, leading to disruptions in the inflow of goods and services. In past rainy seasons, Yobe recorded incidences of flooding and windstorm from torrential downpours, which destroyed homes, infrastructures and many farmands across all the 17 LGAs of the state, Yobe SEMA had before this rainy season alerted relevant government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on the need for proactive measures to curtail the recurrent disaster.

A number of households and public infrastructure were affected within this reporting period. The impacts increased the vulnerability of the affected populations, particularly IDPs and host community populations, particularly access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health services. Although the state government made efforts to improve the delivery of health services, access to these facilities and services remain challenging, particularly in rural areas due to poor and neglected road infrastructure and insecurity caused by NSAGs.

There may be underreporting of illness as people are reluctant to seek medical assistance in fear of being quarantined and discriminated against should they have contracted COVID-19. This together with lack of awareness and prevention measures, will increase the risk of community transmission.

Food insecurity and loss of livelihoods

The increase in displacement due to the recent attacks by the NSAG and the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in Yobe continues to impact on livelihoods negatively, and consequently on food and nutrition security. There was an increase in numbers of food insecure people ¹ from March to May 2020, compared to the previous months (October 2019 CH Analysis²). The number of LGAs that were in "crisis" phase has increased from eight in October 2019 to 11 in the March

¹ <https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/final-fiche-report-june-2020-cadre>

²

2020 CH analysis out of the 17 LGAs in the State. However, despite the humanitarian assistance and an increase in food crop production in the state, the COVID-19 pandemic and the pockets of hazards and vulnerabilities pose threats to food and nutrition security. Acute food insecurity conditions led to an increase in the proportion of households resorting to negative coping strategies compared to the previous months. Furthermore, most of the LGAs in the northern parts of the state are still facing nutritional challenges with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates ranging from 12.6-13.3 per cent (CH Analysis - March to May 2020, and projection for June to August 2020). Of a total population of about 4.5 million, some 23 per cent are in Phases 3 to 5 during the period. The coming months will see an increase of 19 per cent of people in urgent humanitarian assistance, according to the latest CH analysis.

Malnutrition and diseases

The current nutrition situation in Yobe State is of concern, with a sharp rise in acute malnutrition rates being reported across LGAs. Geidam, Yusufari, and Nguru LGAs have the highest acute malnutrition rates, the Nutrition Sector plans to extend the scale-up of nutrition interventions to Bade, Postiskum, and Jakusko LGAs. The nutrition imbalance is driven not only by food insecurity but also by poor child feeding practices, disease, lack of clean water, poor sanitation and hygiene.

The poor nutrition status is worsened by the current rainy season and the COVID-19 pandemic. Closure of all neighboring state land borders has led to a disruption of the food supply, causing increased food prices and, hence, affected food security. According to the Nutrition Sector, between May and June 2020, 11,901 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted into the outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) A further 71,161 children had moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases into the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP), and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP), and 15,407 received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling through the various health and education interventions.

Malnourished children and women are more at risk from COVID-19 due to their compromised immune system and further complications of increased needs in terms of energy, protein and micronutrient requirements. There is also a likelihood that households affected by COVID-19 may divert resources to COVID-19 treatment, resulting in reduced access to nutritious and appropriate health care with the children and women most affected, resulting in malnutrition. High rates of diarrhea and malaria are contributing to the increased acute malnutrition situation. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic effects resulted in reduced screening and referral of severe malnutrition cases by the community health workers (CHW), nutrition interventions (e.g., IYCF care groups), and caregivers fearing to go to health facilities. The pandemic also affected the Nutrition Sector's plan to conduct nutrition assessments and surveys.

Humanitarian Access

An upsurge of NSAG activities had significant impacts on humanitarian access during the reporting period. Most INGOs and other key stakeholders reduced their physical presence in Dapchi and Babangida areas due to multiple sporadic attacks. These activities range from illegal vehicle checkpoints to abductions and killing of passengers, particularly along Damaturu – Babangida – Dapchi road. The recent attacks on humanitarian assets in Buni Gari, Gujba LGA, and the disruption of humanitarian activities in Geidam and relocation of distribution centers in Gujba, among other incidents, affected the humanitarian access to the affected populations and communities.

Although the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) is supporting humanitarian partners to access remote deep field locations, many communities remain inaccessible, particularly in Sassawa and Gabai in Damaturu LGA; Goniri, Gwatala/Gotunba, Dadingel, Mandunari and Ngurbuwa wards in Gujba LGA; Kushmaga ward in Gulani LGA, Danani/Lawanti ward in Bursari LGA; Sungul Koka, Mafa, Guduram and Tarmuwa wards in Tarmuwa LGA; Borko, Futchimiram, and Dejina wards in Geidam LGA; and Dekwa, Deketura, Bultuwa and Kanama wards in Yunusari LG.

Trends factor analysis

The trend of NSAG activities has in this quarter recorded a slight increase. While humanitarian partners in the first quarter envisaged a decrease in the number of new displacements and new arrivals, there is a significant rise in caseloads beyond

the initial projection. Some key factors driving this trend is the upsurge of violence within Yobe and neighboring of Borno State, floods, and massive windstorms as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to March 2020 CH, in the current period (March to May 2020), the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance increased with 105, 363 people compared to the previous months. The fluctuation in the market functionality, and disruption in the neighboring states, will impact food and nutrition security situation. There is a likelihood that projected humanitarian needs will be aggravated by COVID-19 outbreak in the state, mainly due to additional pressure on the health system, but also as a result of border closures and movement restrictions disrupting livelihood activities and essential services.

Humanitarian Coordination

The new State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (SMoHADM) and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) continue to lead and coordinate humanitarian response in the state. During the reporting period, humanitarian coordination was strenuous as some humanitarian actors withdrew their staff from field locations to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19. Government line Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), which are sector focal points, are facing challenges to maintain the coordination meetings in the context of COVID-19. Lack of ICT equipment and technical support affected the shift to virtual coordination meetings- some sectors are yet to conduct their monthly meetings in the entire second-quarter period. Despite the challenge and constraints, all local and state humanitarian coordination meetings were held via teleconferencing. OCHA continued to support the state government in the facilitation of virtual humanitarian coordination meetings and follow-ups in the deep fields.

Intersectoral and multisectoral analysis

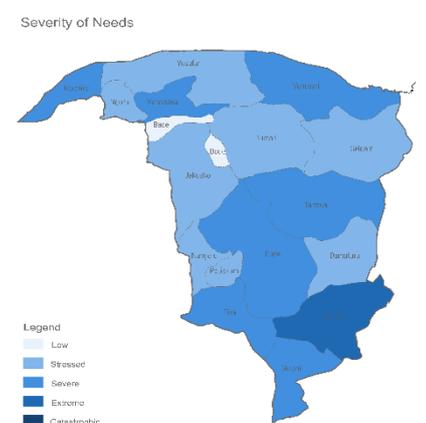
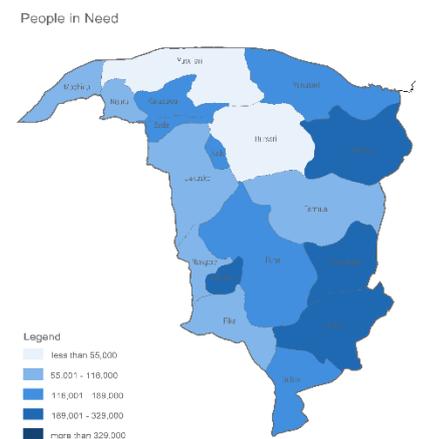
Needs analysis

Across Yobe State, 2.2 million people out of a total estimated 3.5 million people – more than one in two people – will need humanitarian assistance in 2020, including 47 per cent due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Overall, the people in need of humanitarian assistance have more than tripled from 0.7 million in 2019, resulting mainly from rising violence and insecurity, poverty and lack of access to services and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some 1.2 million people, over 56 per cent of people in need, need short-term assistance to address their acute physical and mental wellbeing³. The response will adapt to the dynamics, complexities, and evolving operational environment in the state. An overall 41 per cent of LGAs are experiencing a of humanitarian consequences related to their wellbeing and coping mechanisms. This corresponds to more than 0.7 million people in need, among which about 187, 000 are facing extreme acute needs in Gujba LGA. More than 0.5 million individuals are facing severe wellbeing consequences in Damaturu, Gujba, Fune, and Gulani; 0.5 million have living standards, and more than 254,000 people have coping mechanism consequences.

A breakdown by population groups indicated the highest proportion of households with severe needs are in the host communities (21 per cent). In terms of absolute numbers, the host community population has the highest number of individuals estimated at 0.7 million with severe needs.

Across the state, the severity of the needs is emanates mainly from lack of access to water and sanitation, education, and shelter – accounting for 49 per cent of households with more than one need. These needs are particularly acute in Damaturu, Fune, Gujba, and Gulani LGAs. GBV cases are particularly extreme in Gujba LGA.

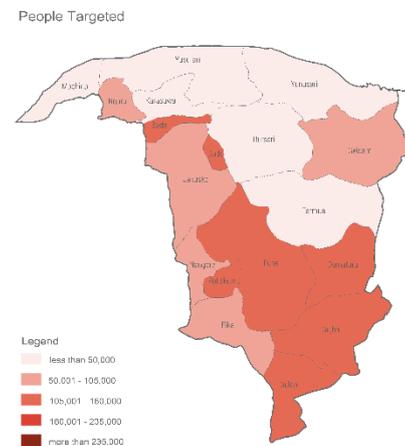


³ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/programme-cycle/space/document/2020-humanitarian-needs-overview-templates>

At the LGA level, at least 60 per cent of households in 11 LGAs suffered from severe or extreme humanitarian needs, with Fika, Fune, Machina, Nangere, Potiskum, and Tarmua as the LGAs facing the most acute needs. The highest percentages of households with acute needs were reported in Yusufari (83 per cent), Machina (81 per cent), Fune (78 per cent), and Yunusari (73 per cent). It is important to note that Machina, Yusufari, and Yunusari LGAs in the northern part of the state are facing additional needs relating to land degradation due to desertification and shortages of arable land.

Response and gaps analysis

The 2020 multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA)⁴ and detailed analysis contained in the Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO)⁵ indicated an increase in needs across the Yobe State compared to 2019. The humanitarian community anticipates that the operational constraints that hampered effective response in 2019 will continue, or worsen, in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. This relates particularly to lockdown measures, including movement restrictions and border closures. The response in 2020 prioritises and targets IDPs, returnees, and host communities that the humanitarian community can realistically and safely reach. The humanitarian community requires US\$ 310.5 million to deliver the response to 1.4 million people and achieve the strategic objectives as outlined in the HRP. The 1.4 million people targeted out of the 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Yobe State include a 16 per cent increase from initial estimates (as of January 2020) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall people targeted for humanitarian assistance this year represent a 40 per cent increase from the target in 2019. More than halfway through the year, only 29 percent of funding needed for the the humanitarian response in Nigeria has been received by partners.



In 2020, the humanitarian community plans to assist 1.4 million people (85 per cent of people in need) with multisectoral responses that have a direct impact on peoples' short term mental and physical wellbeing, and help them access timely and integrated multi-sector assistance and protection interventions. The assistance continues to address specific severe and extreme needs of women, girls, men, and boys, and specific vulnerable groups such as elderly, children under five years, and people with disabilities who have been displaced, living in host communities or at various stages of return. The inter-sectoral response will be delivered through the most appropriate modalities, including static/facilities-based approach, mobile teams, as well as in-kind, cash and voucher assistance programming.

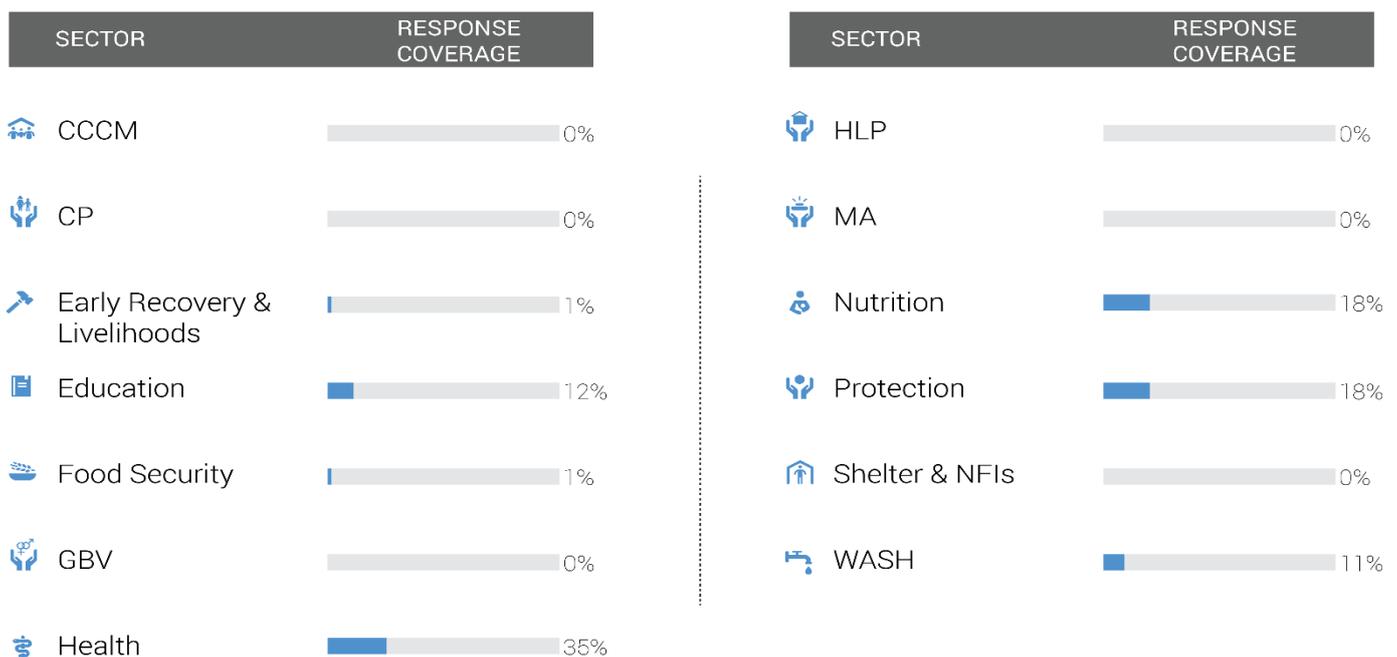
The response prioritises populations in accessible LGAs in Yobe state based on the severity of needs. Specific attention is focused on the differentiated needs of women, girls, boys, and men as well as specific vulnerable subgroups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and children under five.

As of May 2020, the humanitarian community has reached 23 per cent of the population targeted with multi-sector (Education, Health, Nutrition, Wash, Early Recovery and Food Security) assistance and general protection interventions. Some 35 per cent of these interventions are mostly health-related. However, significant gaps remain in Food Security, Protection sub-sectors, Early Recovery, and CCCM and Shelter -NFI, where less than one per cent of people targeted have been reached.

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/map/nigeria/nigeria-2019-multi-sector-needs-assessment-msna-north-east-nigeria-multi-sector-needs>

⁵ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria/document/nigeria-2020-humanitarian-needs-overview>

People Reached and Gap*



* Source: Sector submission on RPM.

Forecast

- Security deployment along NSAG movement routes could trigger more clashes with government forces, which will have a significant impact on the civilian population along the axis.
- As market functionality in the neighboring states continues to witness fluctuations and disruptions, implications are that food access and stability in coming months - even after the ease of the lockdown - will be threatened, thus limiting the food and nutrition security situation of the state
- While the federal and state governments lifted the ban on inter-state movements, there are indications that the livelihoods of vulnerable groups could worsen as a result of the rise in prices of essential commodities.
- Malnourished children and women are more at risk of COVID-19 due to their compromised immune system and further complications of increased psychological needs in terms of energy, protein, and micronutrient requirements.
- Direct implementation of humanitarian interventions/programmes, including in-kind distributions, assessments, registration, among others, will take a longer time due to the implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures, including physical distancing. This is expected to make targeting and re-targeting very difficult, with implications for many vulnerable households susceptible to negative coping mechanisms
- Recurrent incidents of natural disasters (flood and windstorm) continue to destroy properties and livelihoods. There are indications that the trend might increase at the peak of the rainy season around August - September 2020.

Recommendations

- Adopting the standard protocols for management and treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition among children as well as increased admission on morbidity/illness in the state should be advocated
- To ensure optimal functionality of markets amid the spread of COVID-19, there is a need to implement mitigation measures including social distancing, hand-washing, and sanitizers in the markets, as closures of the markets, as an alternative, is affecting the local economy and the wellbeing and livelihoods of populations
- The Food Security Sector, in coordination with the state government, to assess the impact of flooding on agricultural production this year and the possible repercussion on food security in 2020.
- Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to strengthen advocacy on the need for more donor resources to respond to recovery, resilience, and development needs in the state.
- Intensive public and community enlightenment/awareness on the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the state to mitigate community spread and transmission of COVID-19 pandemic should be implemented to promote buy-in and compliance
- As Yobe continues to witness incidents of road-planted IEDs and accidental explosions of UXOs, there is a need for mine action sub-sector to scale up community sensitization and awareness in high-risk areas.
- There is a need for humanitarian partners to roll out post-COVID-19 preparedness and response plan to cushion the impacts of lockdown on vulnerable populations.
- The state government needs to urgently implement policies that will bring about improvements in the living standards of poor populations in all seventeen (17) LGAs of the state to reduce dependency and vulnerabilities.