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UN Allocates \$15 Million To Address Food Insecurity, Malnutrition In North-East Nigeria



An eight-month old Maimuna Usman crawls towards an information card at a nutrition programme for pregnant and lactating in Borno State. Photo: OCHA

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Martins Griffiths has allocated US\$15 million emergency funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support urgently needed humanitarian assistance in north-east Nigeria.

“The food security and nutrition situation is deteriorating, with more and more families pushed towards vulnerability, and forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms including child labour and early marriage,” said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (a.i) for Nigeria Mr. Matthias Schmale. “As desperation pushes extremely vulnerable people to the edge, food and nutrition assistance is critical for their survival.

The \$15 million CERF allocation comes right on time to respond to the most urgent needs of people at extreme risk as we appeal to Member States to provide the resources we urgently need.”

The CERF allocation will enable humanitarian agencies to improve and strengthen timely and coordinated access to appropriate food and cash aid to the most vulnerable in crisis-affected areas. “Thanks to the support of humanitarian agencies and donors, a catastrophic food insecurity was averted in 2021.

However, danger looms again for the people of north-east Nigeria if efforts are not sustained and the urgently needed resources are not made...continue on page 2

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...available, enabling to take immediate action for the people of north-east Nigeria," added Schmale.

The \$15 million allocation to the humanitarian response in Nigeria is part of \$100 million that the UN allocated to fight hunger in Africa and the Middle East, as the spill-over effects of the war in Ukraine threaten to push millions even closer to famine and exacerbate humanitarian needs. Violence and conflict over the last 12 years have turned north-east Nigeria into a prolonged and alarming humanitarian crisis which has displaced 2.2 million people.

According to the Cadre Harmonisé food and nutrition analysis published in March 2022, about 600,000 people are projected to be in an emergency situation, not knowing where their next meal will come from. They are among 4.1 million people projected to be food insecure in the crisis-affected states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, during the

peak of the June to August 2022 lean season. This is a 19 per cent increase in the number of people in need of food security assistance since the October 2021 analysis, including an alarming 28 per cent increase in the number of people in the emergency category.

Malnutrition among children continues to be increasingly threatening, and \$351 million is urgently needed by May to deliver life-saving food security and nutrition assistance to the most affected people. In total, the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria is seeking \$1.1 billion to support 5.5 million people.

CERF is one of the fastest and most efficient mechanisms for providing emergency funding to people in need, through rapid allocations to new and deteriorating crises or where there's shortage of funds. The fund pools contributions from a range of donors, and resources are allocated on strict life-saving criteria to help the most vulnerable. Over the past six months, CERF has allocated more than \$170 million to address rising food insecurity in several countries, including those that will receive the new funding.

UN Country Team Receives Parliamentary Secretary To Canadian Minister Of Foreign Affairs



A group photograph of the Canadian High Commission delegation led by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Robert Oliphant (4th from the right) and some members of the UNCT led by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale (3rd from the right).

The United Nations Country Team, led by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale, on Thursday 22 April 2022, received in audience the Parliamentary Secretary to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Robert Oliphant at the UN House, Abuja.

The meeting discussed humanitarian and development challenges in Nigeria, as well as the work of the United Nations in the country.

The Resident Coordinator emphasised more of technical support for effective engagement in Nigeria. He explained that the United Nations was ready always to deploy its convening power to find solutions to challenges of sustainable development.

Heads of UN Agencies in attendance provided highlights of their thematic focus areas and priorities; as well as challenges and opportunities.

Honourable Oliphant explained that the Government of Canada was disposed to supporting Nigeria across the peace, hu-

manitarian and development spectrum. He was accompanied by Ambassador Kevin Tokar, the Canadian High Commissioner designate for Nigeria.





Spotlight Initiative



EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls

A Community Works To End Gender-Based Violence: Elizabeth's Story



Elizabeth Olamide-Obayomi . Photo: UNICEF Nigeria

Elizabeth Olamide-Obayomi seemed to be destined for a life of activism from her teenage years. As the head girl of her school, she learned the rudiments of relationship-building, effective communication and leadership. These skills came in handy when she began to fight for the rights of women who have suffered violence. “I made a vow after surviving my own ordeal never to allow any woman I know or whose situation is brought to my attention to suffer violence like I did,” said Elizabeth.

Trusted by her community, Elizabeth's attention is needed on a daily basis for cases of violence against women and girls in and around the 52 communities of the Ikorodu district, where she lives.

She works closely with the United Nations Spotlight Initiative Surveillance team to identify cases of abused women and girls and connect them with appropriate services. The most common types of violence, she says, are rape and domestic abuse, including against widows. “A lot of people hide behind religious and cultural beliefs to perpetrate evil,” she said.

Regular and open communication is key to her achieving success as a community leader. “Our people need to know how and why some of our regular actions, attitudes and beliefs constitute violence against other persons, especially women,” she said.

In-person discussions, both formal and informal, along with connecting with members on a WhatsApp platform – facilitated by the Spotlight Initiative – are opportunities to find home-grown solutions to the root causes of gender-based violence.

Research shows that gender-based violence is a global problem that continues to limit women and girls from achieving their

full potential, and a survey published by NOI Polls in July 2019 suggest that up to one in every three girls living in Nigeria experiences at least one form of sexual assault by the time they reach 25 years old.

Elizabeth's first intervention as an activist was on behalf of a 19-year-old pregnant widow and mother of a toddler who was physically assaulted by her in-laws, rendered homeless, and dispossessed of the financial benefits paid to her by her late husband's employer.

To Elizabeth, this was a violation of the widow's rights, especially since the perpetrators were receiving their own financial benefits from the same employer. However, she said it took tact to avoid “causing a permanent rift in the family, as the widow and her children will forever remain part of the extended family.”

She rallied other community women and worked with civil society organizations and the Nigerian police force. As a result, the hijacked financial benefits were recovered in full. She also helped the widow to buy a plot of land with the recovered money and build a home, where she currently lives with her children.

For Elizabeth, helping women in these situations is just her way of doing the right thing. “This is an abnormal reality and each of us has a responsibility to bring about a change.”

The Spotlight Initiative is a global partnership between the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in support of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. It was launched in September 2017 by the UN Secretary-General and the EU High Representative and Vice President.



Spotlight Initiative



EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls

One Man’s Fight To End Gender-Based Violence In Lagos

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative rallies men and boys to speak out and defy stereotypes that normalize gender-based violence in Ogolonto, Lagos State



Idris Oloruntade. Photo: UNICEF Nigeria

“A lot of our men see wife-beating as normal, because some of our cultural practices make it easy to tolerate such behavior,” said 19-year-old Idris Oloruntade, as he left home to facilitate an information session on gender-based violence for students in one of the public schools in Ogolonto, his community. Oloruntade is the son of the paramount leader (Baale) of Ogolonto and uses his influence to try to end violence against women and girls in his community.

His passion for activism against gender-based violence was ignited two years ago, when he discovered his aunt was being physically abused by her husband.

He started by ensuring his aunt’s husband was arrested. The law enforcement agents made his aunt’s husband sign an undertaking never to abuse his wife again.

Oloruntade is a member of the Ikorodu National Youth Council and works closely with the Spotlight Initiative – global partnership between the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

With the Spotlight Initiative team, he helps to educate his community on the dangers of gender-based violence. He actively participates in public enlightenment campaigns and organizes awareness sessions for students in public schools in his district, sharing information on how girls can protect themselves from violence, ways to seek redress, and who to contact when viola-

tions occur. He tells the boys to cultivate self-discipline and learn to walk away from situations that could lead them to commit any form of violence against girls.

His advice to boys and girls is to report every instance of violence committed against them, or the ones they have witnessed, no matter how small it might seem to them. He explained that “when cases are reported, violations become visible, and solutions are possible.” So far, Oloruntade has visited 15 public schools in his district with this message.

Oloruntade has become a rallying point for youths in Ogolonto on the topic of gender-based violence. He believes that the easiest way to win the war against the menace is for every family to become involved by reporting cases and actively following up to get justice for survivors and hold offenders accountable. That way, “no girl or woman is left behind,” he said.

Gender-based violence is often rooted in harmful social, cultural, and religious norms and is a human rights violation against women and girls. It encompasses sexual, physical, emotional, psychological, and other forms of violence and has devastating impacts on the victims, survivors, families, and communities.

Estimates published by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that 1 in 3 (30 percent) of women globally have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual violence from intimate partners or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

UN Calls For Enhanced Approaches To Address Food Insecurity, Malnutrition



Hon. Dr. Abubakar (4th from right) taking a group photo soon after officiating the meeting in Abuja.

The United Nations in Nigeria has called for enhanced coordination and systematic approaches to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals including those related to food security and nutrition.

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale, made the call during the opening of the 13th Multidisciplinary Meeting for West Africa and Sahel by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that was recently held in Abuja.

“Our priority is to work with the government and partners in a coordinated one UN approach to ensure transformative partnerships that accelerate the achievements of the SDGs including those related to food security and nutrition,” he said.

According to him, following the successful Global Food Systems Summit in Rome last September, the UN is currently exploring how it can best support the Federal Government in its call for action to further transform food systems in Nigeria.

“I commend the systematic approaches undertaken by FAO for securing not only development gains in the fight against hunger and poverty but also progressing on the delivery of Global Sustainable Development Goals,” Mr. Schmale said adding:

“FAO’s new strategic framework seeks to support our collective 2030 Agenda through the transformation into more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment and Better Life that leave no one behind.”

The hybrid meeting was guided by a theme ‘Joining Efforts to Build Resilient Agrifood Systems in West Africa and the Sahel’. It attracted the attendance of top government officials including ministers of agriculture, development partners, members of the academia, sister UN Agencies and FAO experts as well as projects’ beneficiaries.

Nigeria’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar, reiterated the need for countries to jointly work together and strengthen collaboration on key transboundary issues.

“This way we ensure that our priorities as a country and those of the region align with FAO’s objectives for our own benefits and development through cooperation and coordination,” Dr. Abubakar said.

In alignment with this, FAO Assistant Director General Regional Office for Africa, Dr. Abebe HaileGabriel, while highlighting on the importance of the meeting, said that the theme was very timely and pertinent.

“Agriculture is very crucial in many regions of the world and particularly West Africa and the Sahel. It cannot wait for other priorities to be addressed first. Accelerating actions for results and impact for resilient agri-food systems call therefore for continued political commitment and engagement as well as better planning,” he pointed out.

This was echoed by FAO’s Subregional Coordinator for the West Africa (SFW), Dr. Robert Guei, who while explaining the key objectives of the meeting, said that the region’s agri-food systems were not functioning as they should. “Increasingly, food supply chains and the livelihoods of agri-food system actors are disrupted by shocks – from droughts and floods to armed conflict and food price spikes, climate change and environmental degradation,” he explained.

Speaking earlier on, the FAO Representative in Nigeria and to ECO-WAS, Fred Kafeero, said that the meeting offered an opportunity for enhancing collaboration, joint planning, and mutual accountability in driving actions towards a resilient Agri-food Systems in West Africa and Sahel.

The FAO’s MDT13 ended up with ten actionable recommendations aimed at enhancing strong collaboration and cooperation in ensuring food security and nutrition in the region.



Father Becomes HeForShe Champion, Saves Daughter From FGM



Ibrahim and his wife beaming with smiles outside their tent in Teachers village camp in Maiduguri. Photo: UN Women Marian Roberts

Ibrahim Babangida a beneficiary of UN Women’s northeast programming lives at Teachers Village Camp in Borno State as a committed HeForShe champion advocating for COVID prevention and against gender-based violence within his community.

Through the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) -COVID Emergency Window project implemented with technical support from UN Women which seeks to train women’s groups and leaders to play a stronger role in advocacy and accountability, Ibrahim received sensitization on the prevention of COVID-19 and gender-based violence (GBV).

The father of four lived happily with his family in Baga in northeast of Nigeria until armed insurgence attacked his home eight years ago. He and his family escaped to Teachers Village camp for shelter and safety. Ibrahim lost his source of income and had to depend on government support which was infrequent and insufficient to sustain his family.

“I was a businessman travelling to Lagos for buying and selling of electronics before we were attacked. My family and I had to run for our safety. I lost everything and was rendered jobless overnight. We have lived in this camp since then depending on government support and benevolence of friends.” he recounted.

According to Ibrahim, thoughts of losing his source of income made him frustrated to the point where he at times transferred his aggression unto his wife until he became a beneficiary of the UN Women’s northeast programme. “I received sensitization on the negative effects of gender-based violence (GBV) and ever since, my wife now has an equal say in every decision, we make concerning our family”, he said.

Ibrahim is now an advocate in his community where he also educates other men on the implications of being infected by COVID-19, rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced and early marriage, and all forms of violence against persons. He



Eight-year-old Fatima finishing her homework in her home at Teachers village camp in Maiduguri. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

and other HeForShe champions are known for pursuing cases of GBV and ensuring offenders are punished.

His commitment to prevent gender-based violence began from his household where he refused the traditional arrangements to circumcise his eight-year-old daughter. “Traditionally, plans and arrangements had been made for my daughter, Fatima to be circumcised at a certain age. After I encountered the project and received all the sensitization, and knowing the risk associated with FGM, my wife and I decided not to go ahead with the practice anymore”.

Knowing how early and forced marriage can affect girls, Ibrahim commits to protect his only daughter from all forms of violence. “My daughter, Fatima always tells me she wants to become a medical doctor in future, and I am going to educate and support her in order to achieve her dreams”, Ibrahim said.

WPHF is supporting women in Nigeria to contribute to lasting peace by financing a range of local CSO projects that aim to end sexual and gender-based violence, protect women’s rights and respond to COVID-19 in settings of conflict and crises.

UN, Government Of Germany Upgrade Maiduguri Maximum Security Custodial Centre



Unveiling of the plaque during the handover of infrastructures to the Maiduguri Maximum Security Custodial Centres by the Country Rep of UNODC, Oliver Stolpe

As Federal and State Government, civil society and international development partners continue to work towards putting an end to more than ten years of conflict in Northeast Nigeria, the role of the Nigerian Correctional Service has rarely, if ever, been the focus of attention. Despite its critical role in rehabilitating offenders, including those who perpetuated acts of terrorism, only limited resources have been invested both by Government and its partners. And yet, the ultimate objective of imprisonment, namely to protect society against crime and terrorism, can only be achieved if the period of imprisonment is used to ensure that offenders are both able to support themselves and willing to lead a law-abiding life upon release.

This changed in 2020 when the Nigerian Correctional Service, UNODC and the German Government forged a partnership aimed to enhance the rehabilitation and reintegration facilities and capabilities of Maiduguri Maximum Security Correctional Centre.

In 2021 phase I of the project “Strengthening the Capacity of the Nigerian Correctional Service to Effectively Rehabilitate and Reintegrate Prisoners Held for an (Alleged) Association with Boko Haram” was launched. Since then prison staff working at the Centre have received extensive training on the Nelson Mandela Rules, on dynamic security management as well as on integrating sports into a holistic rehabilitation programme.

In addition, extensive infrastructural improvements have been made in order to enable the Centre to provide a far more sophisticated, diverse and eventually effective offer of recreational, vocational and educational services.

The United Nations marked the hand-over of phase I of the infrastructural improvements, including: Improved access to light and water for inmates and staff, through the provision installation of eco-friendly solar energy sources to supplement the current prison electrical system with up to 72 hours of power reserve; Improved access to vocational skill development opportunities by inmates through the transformation of existing

facilities into two functional vocational training workshops which will be fully equipped during phase II; Improved access to education through the refurbishment of the classroom and the provision of standard educational materials; and finally Improved mental and physical health and well-being of prisoners through the constructions of extensive new sports facilities, including football, volleyball and badminton pitches and the provision of the respective sports equipment.

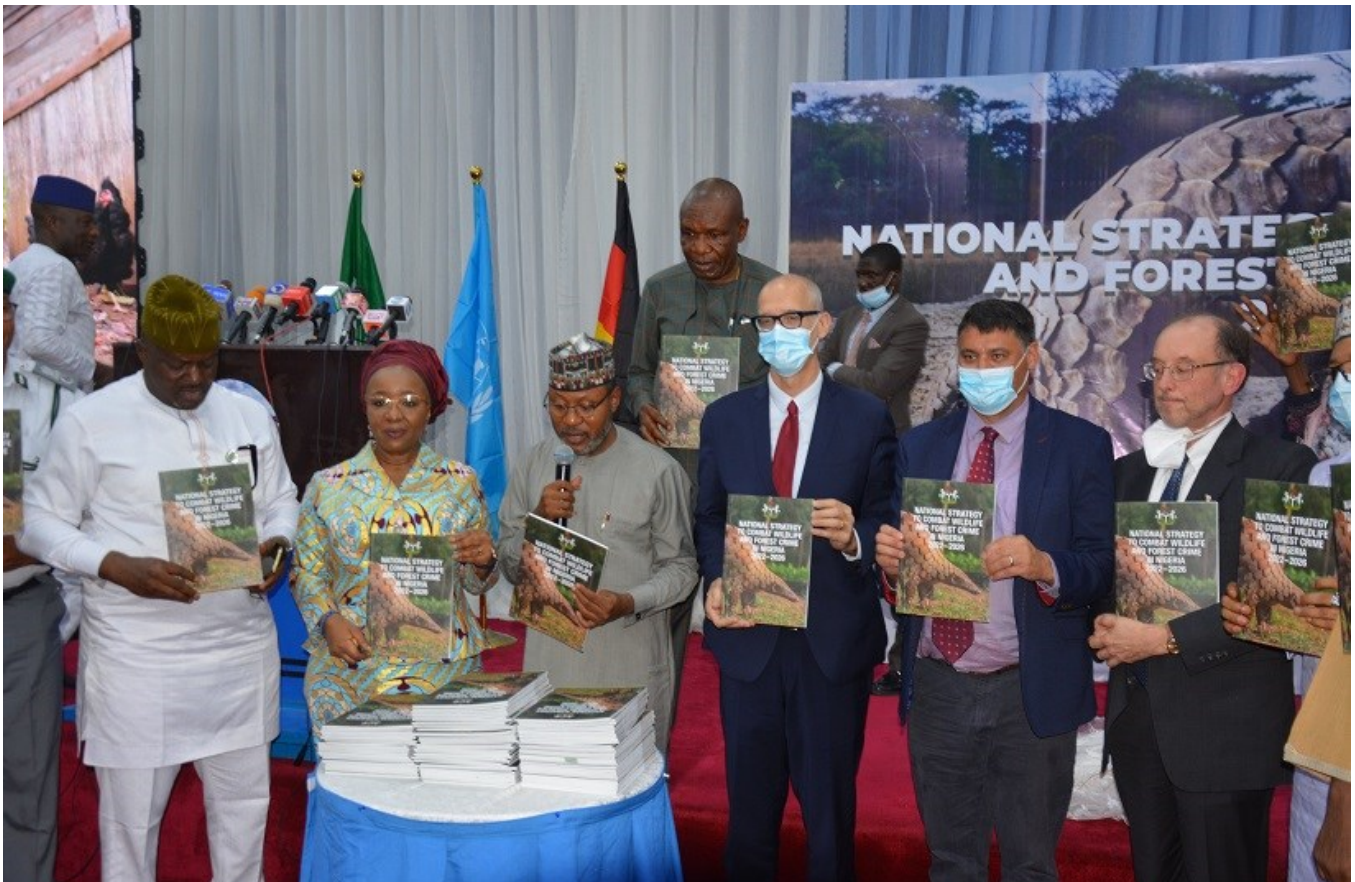
Under its second phase the project will further upgrade the vocational training facilities and workshops as well as renovate the living quarters of staff of the NCoS Deradicalization Programme.

These efforts complement the already ongoing work of UNODC in partnership with UNFPA and UNAIDS aimed to improve the access of prisoners, in particular women and girls, to health services, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.



Donation of Wheelbarrows to facilitate work at the Maiduguri Maximum Security Custodial Centres

Nigeria Launches Its First National Strategy To Combat Wildlife And Forest Crime In Nigeria 2022-2026



Unveiling of the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026 by the Minister of State for Environment, Sharon Ikeazor flanked by other stakeholders.

In recent years, Nigeria has evolved into a primary transit hub for trafficking in illicit wildlife and forest products, particularly for the global illegal pangolin trade, sourced primarily from Central Africa. UNODC's World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 found that in 2019 alone, at least 51 tons of pangolin scales seized globally originated from Nigerian ports compared to only 2 tons in 2015. More than half of all seizures of pangolin scales worldwide could be traced back to Nigeria in 2019.

Moreover, from around 2011, great volumes of rosewood, locally known as "kosso", were exported from Nigeria to Asia. In October 2018, the CITES Standing Committee recommended that parties suspend commercial trade in kosso from Nigeria until the country carries out a non-detriment findings assessment for trade in the species.

Data further suggest an increasing role of Nigeria in the illicit ivory trade. Despite a global decline in trafficking in ivory since 2011 and Nigeria being home to only 0.02% of Africa's elephant population, 23% of all ivory seized globally between 2015 and 2019 had been trafficked through Nigeria.

In a bid to address these challenges, the Government of Nigeria with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Germany developed its first ever comprehensive strategic document – the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026.

The National Strategy was launched in a high-level high visibility event in Abuja, Nigeria on Monday 11 April 2022 and reflects Nigeria's aspirations for "A Nigeria Free of Wildlife Crime".

The seven key objectives of the National Strategy are to: Enhance Institutional Capabilities in all relevant institutions to drive evidence-based action to understand, detect and deter wildlife crime; Strengthen the Legal Framework to enable legal and sustainable trade, protect Nigeria's fauna and flora and deter wildlife crime through a harmonised and strengthened legal framework; Increase Collaboration by ensuring strong coordination led by accountable partners; and Honour Commitments by ensuring compliance with national and international commitments to regulate legal trade and combat wildlife crime.

Others are to remove Crime Enablers such as corruption and financial crime from enabling wildlife crime; Raise Awareness of Wildlife Crime, generating social and political will by raising awareness in all stakeholders as to the value of nature and the threat of wildlife crime; and Alternative Livelihoods which seeks to empower local communities through the development of wildlife crime prevention initiatives and alternative livelihoods.

The development of the National Strategy aligns with one of the Priority Areas of UNODC's Strategic Vision for Nigeria "Protecting People, the Economy and the Environment Against Organised Crime" specifically, Priority Area 4.3 which seeks to ensure that Nigeria's Environment is Protected from Crime" through the Strategic Action: "Promote and support the implementation of the National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime, including through research and data collection as well as the establishment and support of multi-stakeholder platforms".



“I Prayed That Hunger Would Not Take My Children”

With the help of WFP, Fanaa, a 25-year-old mother, who survived conflict in northeastern Nigeria, has struggled to create a better life for her family



Fanaa holds her daughter, Fatima, 1, next to her second daughter Zara, 4 (2nd from left), as she and other newly arrived internally displaced mothers with their children attend a WFP famine assessment and nutritional needs exercise in an IDP camp in Bama, Borno state in north-eastern Nigeria . Photo: WFP

More than a decade of conflict has torn northeast Nigeria apart. Thousands of people have been killed. Hundreds kidnapped, tortured and forcibly detained. Farmers have abandoned their fields, crops have not been harvested, roads have been blocked.

As a result, millions of people across the three northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe have been displaced and face severe food shortages, verging on famine in some areas. The World Food Programme (WFP) provided life-saving food and nutrition assistance to more than 1.7 million people in the region last year.

Fanaa, 25, was a victim of the insecurity. She fled to Bama five years ago with her four children where she receives food assistance from WFP.

Bama town, in Borno State, is littered with the shells of burnt-out homes. Many streets are derelict and abandoned. Its population numbered 270,000 people. But in 2014, it was occupied by a non-state armed group. When the Nigerian army retook the town six months later, most of the population had fled and almost 85% of the buildings were left damaged or destroyed by the escaping fighters.

Like most of those living here, Fanaa left her village due to insecurity triggered by attacks from non-state groups and counter operations from the military.

“This fighting has destroyed our lives. We have lost so much, nothing but suffering. There is not enough food like before and all the roads are closed,” she says.

“Sometimes, we just had water. I would put it on the fire to boil until the children fell asleep just to assure them that food would soon be ready. I used to pray that

hunger would not take my children.” Fanaa explains with a weary sigh. “We lived, we suffered for so long.”

Yangana’s story of how she arrived in Bama, a town on the old trans-Africa route not far from Cameroon, is typical of many.

“When the attacks began in our village, we ran. We no longer had a home, nowhere to wash and no food. We were just running all the time.”

“At one time, I was separated from my husband, children, my mother, and in-laws. We lost each other while running in the forest,” she explained.

After Fanaa found her mother and children, but not her husband, they decided to trek to Bama where traditional leaders said they would be cared for. On arrival, she also found that WFP was providing food. She says the support of WFP and its partners has been invaluable.

“We are so grateful that they have not given up. Not just on us, there are other people, including mothers with lots of children, who were suffering like me,” she says.

As part of its humanitarian assistance, WFP, with contribution from the European Union (EU), is providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to 1.2 million people in Nigeria during the lean season this year.

“We still need their help. If they leave us, it will be so difficult for us. I don’t know how we will survive,” she added in a quiet voice as one of her children leant against her.

Fanaa hopes one day to return home and back to the life she knew and enjoyed.

“We used to have enough food, we prayed and lived happily together with each. Now, with the crisis we are suffering a lot,” she explains.

Global Compact For Migration: UN Supports Nigerian Government

Ahead of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), ILO, IOM and other members of the UN Migration Network have organized a three-day national preparatory workshop in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria.



A cross-section of participants at the national voluntary review meeting

As part of planning and in-country consultations ahead of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) which comes up in May 2022, the International Labour Organization (ILO); International Organisation for Migration (IOM); and other members of the UN Migration Network; have supported the Government of Nigeria to convene a three-day national preparatory workshop from 11th – 13th of April in Lagos State, Nigeria.

The event was convened by the Government of Nigeria through the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to amongst other things provide a platform for stocktaking as it pertains to implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) at country level, and further facilitate the development of a country report in view of the National Voluntary Review process.

The Global Compact for Migration is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, under the auspices of the UN, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It was adopted based on the need for collective commitment to improving cooperation on international migration as recommended by the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants at an Intergovernmental Conference held in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 December 2018, and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2018 (A/RES/73/195).

“Nigeria not only participated actively in the process and adoption of this document but also has demonstrated its commitment to the implementation by being the first country to start off the implementation after its adoption and this has earned Nigeria a position among the GCM champion countries,” said Sadiya Umar Farouq, Minister of Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

The ongoing Migration Review Forum aims to assess the progress made at local, national, regional, and global level in implementing the Compact in the framework of the UN through a state-led approach and with the participation of 95 attendees from government ministries, agencies, civil society organizations, INGOs and UN agencies in Nigeria.

“Our presence here is a clear indication of the commitment of the Nigerian Government towards the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration” said Frantz Celestin, IOM Nigeria Chief of Mission. “As champion and priority country, Nigeria is held at even higher standards for its commitment in implementing the GCM given the country’s dynamic and complex development landscape,” he added.

This consultative meeting is intended to update all national migration stakeholders on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)’s process and frameworks and develop a position paper as part of the IMRF preparations while building momentum ahead of the meeting in New York on 17-20 May 2022.

“I am pleased that the adoption and institutionalization of the GCM and its 23 goals resulted in the creation of a National Action Plan for GCM implementation”, said Imaan Suleiman- Ibrahim the Federal Commissioner for National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons.

GCM is a non-binding document that respects states’ sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory and demonstrates commitment to international cooperation on migration. It presents an opportunity to improve the governance of migration, to address the challenges associated with today’s migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

“International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) is the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including areas that focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders”.



The Pain Of Starvation Through The Eyes Of A Mother



Rukiyyah, a resident of Jenchinga camp for internally displaced persons in north-east Nigeria is unable to feed her children. Photo: OCHA/Adedeji Ademigbuji.

Today, 4.1 million people are under the threat of a food crisis in north-east Nigeria. The human cost is seen through the eyes of four mothers as they fight to keep their children alive.

Violent conflict in north-east Nigeria over the last 12 years has caused a prolonged and alarming humanitarian crisis. The insecurity has displaced 2.2 million people and left 8.4 million people across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022.

The June-August lean season is fast approaching. It is a perilous period between planting and harvesting when food is scarce, job opportunities are scant and incomes plummet. A March 2022 food security assessment, Cadre Harmonisé, indicates that looming food insecurity threatens an estimated 4.1 million people in the months ahead. Most of these people are projected to reach crisis levels, not knowing where their next meal will come from. Ahead of this precarious period, malnutrition among children continues to threaten the region.

Many conflict-displaced women are struggling to keep their children alive due to severe acute malnutrition (SAM), which is often a dangerous consequence of food insecurity. Most of these mothers spend days and nights in nutrition stabilization centres where their children are admitted, mostly for hunger-induced illnesses.

Little Abubakar and his younger brother endured severe hunger while returning from Chad with their mother, Rabi.

The battle to save Abubakar

At a stabilization centre tucked inside the General Hospital in Gashua town, Yobe State, the gloomy spectacle of severe hunger-induced disease is visible throughout the young children's ward.

Four-year-old Abubakar Musa was a classic SAM case but with a tragic end. Lying in his bed, the young child was too exhausted to open his eyes. His breathing was fast paced, his tiny body was wrapped in a blanket and he relied on a nasogastric feeding tube for intermittent milk to stay alive.

Abubakar's gaunt face and rash-ridden body painted a picture of the impact of malnutrition: a spike in fever, cough and measles. Caregivers at the stabilization centre said these ailments were a possible outcome of a brewing SAM crisis among new arrivals from Chad and displaced people from nearby informal settlements.

Three months ago, little Abubakar endured severe hunger with his younger brother while they returned from Chad with their mother, Rabi, to resettle in a Gashua community. They trekked for four days without food and water.

Rabi, Abubakar's mother, experienced what no mother would wish for. Rabi is from Gunduram, Doro Baga in Borno State. Seven years ago, her village was attacked and she was forced to flee to Chad in search of safety. But in the community where she and her family settled as refugees, there were constant attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAGs). Sometimes, the armed group kidnapped villagers, demanded ransoms and forced farmers to surrender their harvest. This violence forced Rabi to return to Nigeria.

When her young children showed signs of sickness, Rabi first relied on alternative medicine to treat them. One child healed, but the other, Abubakar, did not respond to the treatment and his condition deteriorated. He had convulsions, which forced Rabi to rush him to the stabilization centre.

She explained: "Two of my children were sick due to starvation. One recovered but one [Abubakar] is dying. He is being treated in a hospital. He has been through a lot in his short life. Life is tough. We don't have enough money to buy food and medication."

Last month, on 2 April, the young mother received the devastating news that Abubakar lost his fight against malnutrition and passed away. Fati lost two children to starvation.

Read full story on OCHA Medium: <https://www.unocha.org/story/pain-starvation-through-eyes-mother>



The Nurse Who Is Every Child's 'Grandma' In Ayetoro

A nurse's dedication brings relief to the hard-to-reach fishing community of Ayetoro - Makoko



Temitope Salami, a nurse, and the officer in charge of Ayetoro primary health center

They call her “grandma” in the hard-to-reach Ayetoro - Makoko community where she provides lifesaving routine immunization services to help prevent childhood diseases.

“It makes me happy to see the children I have immunized growing well and to see mothers bringing their children for immunization on schedule” said Temitope Salami, a nurse, and the officer in charge of Ayetoro primary health care center located in a hard-to-reach fishing settlement by the Lagos Lagoon.

Temitope helps mothers and caregivers understand the importance of vaccinating their children, ensures that children are vaccinated and follows up when immunization appointments are missed. Her six key messages of what every mother should know about immunization is conspicu-

ously displayed behind her seat which she carefully goes over with them before every round of immunization.

Ayetoro - Makoko is an itinerant community but Temitope knows how to reach the children with lifesaving routine immunizations against preventable childhood diseases. “I go knocking on their doors especially when a child misses immunization appointment. We also organize immunization outreaches where we take the vaccines to their doorsteps as most mothers in Ayetoro are petty traders who go out of the community early in the mornings to earn a living”.

Due to traditional beliefs, some women in the community still deliver their babies at home. Temitope follows up to get the children immunized.

“It may take some time to convince some of the parents, but ultimately they allow my team immunize the children.”

Temitope Salami is well respected and appreciated in Ayetoro for her passion and dedication. “Their prayers and kind words give me joy and fuel my passion”.

Incidentally, Nursing happened to Temitope by chance. She wanted to be a Medical Lab Scientist but changed her mind during her Industrial Attachment – a prerequisite practical training for Medical lab students. “The demeanor of the nurses I met at the Ogun State University Teaching Hospital during the training charmed me into the nursing profession and I immediately made the switch”.

It's been over 15 years since then and Temitope has remained committed to providing critical routine immunization services to thousands of children in hard-to-reach communities in Lagos state which has taken her across Kosofe, Ibeju Lekki and Yaba districts.

Meet IFAD Nigeria's New Country Director, Dede Ekoue

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Nigeria welcomes its new Country Director, Mrs Dede Ekoue. As Country Director, working under the delegated authority of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mrs. Ekoue will assume responsibility and accountability for, and day-to-day management of all operational and programmatic activities of IFAD Nigeria.

Mrs Ekoue has more than 20 years of experience in management and leadership positions with UNDP, UN-WOMEN, including interim leadership positions with FAO and UNIDO. Her experience in international development and public leadership covers policy engagement, rural economy and transformation, agricultural sector, environment and climate change, gender equality, youth employment and leadership, entrepreneurship and private sector development, and governance.

She has invaluable experience in partnership with multilateral and bilateral institutions as well as with international non-governmental organizations.

From 2018 until January 2022, she was the UN-Women Country Representative in Haiti. From 2007 to 2010, Mrs. Ekoue was Deputy Resident Representative Program and Operations for UNDP in Cameroon. Between 1996 and 2007, she served as Africa Relationship Manager of Women's World Banking in New York, USA. She assumed several international leadership functions including co-Chair for the International Development Association (IDA-World Bank) 's 18th Replenishment and Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 16th United States- sub-Saharan African Trade and Economic Cooperation (AGOA) Forum. Mrs. Ekoue was a three-time Minister in the Republic of Togo and held the following positions: i) Minister of Planning and

Development and Land Use Planning, ii) Minister of Environment and Forest Resources, and iii) Minister of Social Action, Women Promotion and Literacy, between 2010 and 2015.

She holds a Bachelor degree in Economics with major in Business Management in 1986, at the University of Benin in Togo, a Graduate Degree in International Finance and Taxation in 1987 at the

University of Lille, France, and a Master's in Business Administration in 1993 at the Jackson State University, USA. She is a Fellow of the competitive USAID's African Graduate Program (AFGRAD) at the African – American Institute, as well as a graduate of the African Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment Program (AWLAE) of Winrock International, USA. She worked and held official missions in more than 25 countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. She is fluent in French, English and Mina.



Mrs. Dede EKOUE, Country Director for IFAD Nigeria

UN, UI-SCREAM Move To End Child Labour Now



A group photograph of participants.

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Dutch Government funded ACCEL Africa Project in Nigeria, in collaboration with the University of Ibadan (UI), has trained 62 teachers, community influencers and other stakeholders from Abuja, Niger, Ondo, Ekiti, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, and Lagos states on the application of the Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts, and the Media (SCREAM) Modules to eliminate child labour in Nigeria.

The training, which held at the Otunba Subomi Balogun Conference Centre, UI Hotel, Ibadan from Saturday, 9 April to Wednesday, 13 April 2022, incorporated interactive teachings with games, role play, painting, and other practical sessions delivered by a team of 6 professors, 6 PhD Tutorial Assistants, and 4 Administrative Support Assistants from the Pediatric Ophthalmology, Ethics, Pragmatics, Child Psychology, Industrial Relations, Mining, Agricultural Extension, and Accounting fields. The ACCEL Africa Project Coordinator also facilitated sessions and provided technical input.

The SCREAM Module - ILO's education and social mobilization template designed to help educators promote understanding and awareness of child labour among young people, had been adapted and developed by a team of intellectuals at the University of Ibadan to suit the child labour contexts in Nigeria's agriculture and Artisanal Gold Mining (ASGM) supply chains and beyond.

The UI adapted and developed modules cover: 'The Concept of Child Labour and International Labour Standards', 'Being a Child in the Nigerian Society', 'Hazardous Child Labour in Artisanal Mining Sites and Agriculture', 'Does Gender Matter in Artisanal Mining Work /Agriculture?', 'From Child Labour to Decent Work', 'Improved Agricultural/Mining Techniques', and 'My Role, Our Role in Artisanal Mining and Agriculture'.

According to the National Project Coordinator of the ACCEL Africa Project in Nigeria, Dr. Agatha Kolawole, the certified trainers are now expected to establish SCREAM Clubs in their various schools and communities, continuously provide children with information on their rights regarding child



labour and decent work and sensitize children as touchpoints to reach their peers.

Speaking at the end of the training, Professor Akinola Odeunmi, a Professor of Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis, and Director the UI Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, expressed optimism that the trainers would apply the tailor-made approaches in adapting the modules to their peculiar social and cultural settings.

A participant at the workshop and principal of Galadima Kogo Community Primary School in Niger State, Joshua Ozizi says the training has corrected earlier held misconceptions, revealed the techniques required to eradicate child labour in local communities and emphasized the need to apply indigenous languages in interacting with parents and care givers especially those in rural communities, on the menace of child labour and the gains of decent work.

Since 2020, the ACCEL Africa Project in Nigeria has carried out a series of interventions on child labour including research, the development and validation of Nigeria's National Policy and National Action Plan on the elimination of child labour and forced labour, the provision of school kits and re-registration of out-of-school children and other direct and indirect interventions. The project also provided educational support to over 1400 children in Ondo and Niger states.

The Project is also working with the University of Ibadan to develop a curriculum on the elimination of child labour in Nigeria to increase the knowledge base and raise awareness on the dangers of the scourge.

UN Is Maximizing The Power Of Zakat For Families Forced To Flee In Nigeria



UNHCR Representative in Nigeria, Ms Chansa Kapaya, flanked by UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, Mr Innocent Idibia, UNHCR High Profile Supporter Judith Adu, UNHCR Celebrity Supporter Ali Nuhu and other participants during the Ramadan Iftar dinner

Across Nigeria, 3.2 million people have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict and violence. Behind this staggering number are complex journeys of men, women and children who have undergone unimaginable hardship. Families run to IDP camps daily with little more than the clothes on their back.

On 8 April 2021, UNHCR in Nigeria launched the Refugee and IDP Zakat Fund to provide critical support for forcibly displaced Nigerian families in Northeast and Northwest Nigeria. Ten fatwas endorse the Refugee and IDP Zakat Fund by leading Muslim scholars and institutions worldwide. The Fund does not charge any fees in distributing Zakat and ensures that 100% of the Zakat is used towards life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced individuals and families as they fall under 4 of the 8 Zakat beneficiary categories.

On 6 April 2022, UNHCR and the Association of Zakat and Waqf Operators in Nigeria (AZAWON) held a joint workshop at Transcorp Hilton Abuja on “Maximizing the Power of Zakat to Support Displaced Families in Nigeria.” The workshop focused on capacity building and skill sharing to strengthen the Zakat systems in Nigeria, which will support UNHCR’s Refugee and IDPs Zakat Fund.

44 Zakat institutions and 12 Islamic organisations attended the workshop. UNHCR representation includes Ms Chansa Kapaya, UNHCR Representative in Nigeria, and Khaled Khalifa, UNHCR Senior Advisor and Representative to the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCCC).

In her remark, Ms Chansa Kapaya noted the kindness of the Muslim community in Nigeria, as she has witnessed the incredible dedication to building communities and the help in alleviating hardship. She further hoped that the workshop outcomes would be fruitful and that UNHCR and Zakat operators in Nigeria would exchange innovative ideas and identify new ways to support Nigeria’s internally displaced communities.

Following a productive and fruitful zakat houses workshop and a series of meetings held between UNHCR and prospective donors and stakeholders, UNHCR Private Sector Partnerships Africa collaborated and partnered with UNHCR Nigeria, Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation and hosted a Ramadan Fundraising Iftar dinner at Eko Hotel in Lagos on 7 April 2022. The Ramadan Fundraising Iftar raised awareness and support for UNHCR’s Islamic Philanthropy initiatives in Nigeria and forged new partnerships with Islamic institutions and stakeholders in attendance.

The Ramadan Iftar dinner had participation from Islamic community members, business stakeholders, IDPs, UNHCR’s Regional Goodwill Ambassador Innocent Idibia (2Baba), UNHCR High Profile Supporter Judith Adu and UNHCR Celebrity Supporter Ali Nuhu. UNHCR Representative in Nigeria, Ms Chansa Kapaya, and UNHCR Representative for the GCCC Mr

Khaled Khalifa, were also in attendance.

In his remark, Mr Khalifa noted that UNHCR had reached 90 million people who are forcibly displaced worldwide and bridging the gap to helping internally displaced people and refugees in Nigeria to access basic needs.

UNHCR raised \$22,000 at the Ramadan Iftar dinner with additional pledges.



Cross-section of participants during the workshop for Zakat Institutions

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction

1. Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Mr Clem Agba (5th from the right); UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale (6th from the right); Resident Representative of UNDP, Mohamed Yahya 93rd from the right); Country Representative of UNFPA, Ms Ulla Mueller (4th from the right); Deputy Representative of UN Women, Mr Lansana Wonneh and a representative of UNICEF, after a meeting hosted by the Minister of State in Abuja.
2. Resident Representative of UNDP, Mohamed Yahya (Left); UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale (Middle) and a dignitary at the Regional Stabilisation Facility (#Nigeria Window) board meeting.
3. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale (Left) visited the Hajj Camp in Maiduguri, north-east Nigeria to assess the needs of families and children formerly linked with armed groups.

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