

Record peak acute food insecurity in Borno, Adamawa, & Yobe (BAY) States in North-East Nigeria



Thirty six percent of the population is acutely food insecure
Including 1.1 million people in Emergency and 10,300 in Catastrophic phases

North-East Nigeria is experiencing its **worst acute food insecurity peak in over a decade**.
The latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis reveals alarming figures:



6.4 million people projected to face **CH3+ (Crisis or worse)** conditions during the upcoming lean season (June – August 2026). This represents a **10% increase** from the earlier June – August 2026 projections done in October 2025 analysis that had estimated **5.8 million people in CH3+** reflecting worsening situation.



More than **1.1 million people** will be in **CH4 (Emergency)**, signalling severe food consumption gaps.



10,300 people are projected to fall into **CH5 (Catastrophe/Famine)** by August 2026 if urgent action is not taken.



Overall, **nearly four in every 10 people (36%)** in the **BAY States in North-East Nigeria** are acutely food insecure.

This crisis is not only a humanitarian emergency but a stability risk, threatening to exacerbate displacement, insecurity, and accelerate adoption of negative coping strategies.

Key drivers

- **Escalating insecurity:** widespread and persistent insecurity continue to disrupt livelihood activities and restrict access to farmland and markets.
- **Climate shocks:** early warning information points to likelihood of localized El Niño phenomena and floods that could potentially devastate agricultural production and disrupt seasonal farming activities and reduce household food stocks and incomes.
- **Economic stress:** Inflation and currency depreciation, elevated fuel prices and rising transportation costs have increased food and fertilizer prices beyond the reach of vulnerable families. Reduced incomes have diminished the household purchasing power.



Decreased food production

General livelihood collapse and weakening rural economies



High prices

High cost of food, fuel, fertilizers & limited access to farmlands limiting household incomes & purchasing power



Climatic shocks

Likelihood of localized El Niño phenomena and flooding projected to deepen the crisis



Insecurity

Renewed pockets of attacks in Askira/Uba, Chibok, Gwoza, and Kaga LGAs in Borno State restricting access to farmlands & markets

The overall response remains insufficient to address growing needs

Though underfunded, humanitarian aid remains essential. As of May 2026, 0.7 million people targeted lacked food assistance while 0.83 million missed emergency agricultural support due to funding gaps. Of the \$224 million required, \$161.3 million remains unmet. Food assistance reached 50% of the targeted beneficiaries while emergency agricultural production faces the largest gap of unmet needs (86%). These requirements only reflect the most acute needs under a hyper-prioritized response plan as millions of people in need are left behind. Despite important funding gaps, through timely and well targeted support, lives can continue to be saved, and further deterioration and worse outcomes averted.



Urgent Call to Action



Notwithstanding the severity of the situation, there remains a critical window to act. Immediate priorities include; the rapid scale-up of life-saving food assistance, alongside emergency agricultural support to enable vulnerable households to produce food and rebuild livelihoods. Investments in climate-smart agriculture, small-scale irrigation, early warning and anticipatory systems, combined with support for short-cycle, high-impact interventions, are critical to reducing risks, rapidly restoring livelihoods, improving food security, and building resilience in vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. Delays in funding during the current lean & agricultural season will significantly reduce response impacts and push millions into deeper food crisis.



Mobilize resources now



In 2026, the FSS requires US\$224.4 million to support 1.5 million people in need of food assistance, and 0.9M people needing urgent agricultural inputs. The funding breakdown includes approximately US\$197 million for food assistance, US\$27 million for emergency agricultural support and 382K USD for transition, localization and Food Security Sector coordination. So far, by mid-June, the plan was 71% underfunded with agriculture component being the least funded with a gap of 96% while the gap on food assistance funding shortfall stood at 67% unfunded.



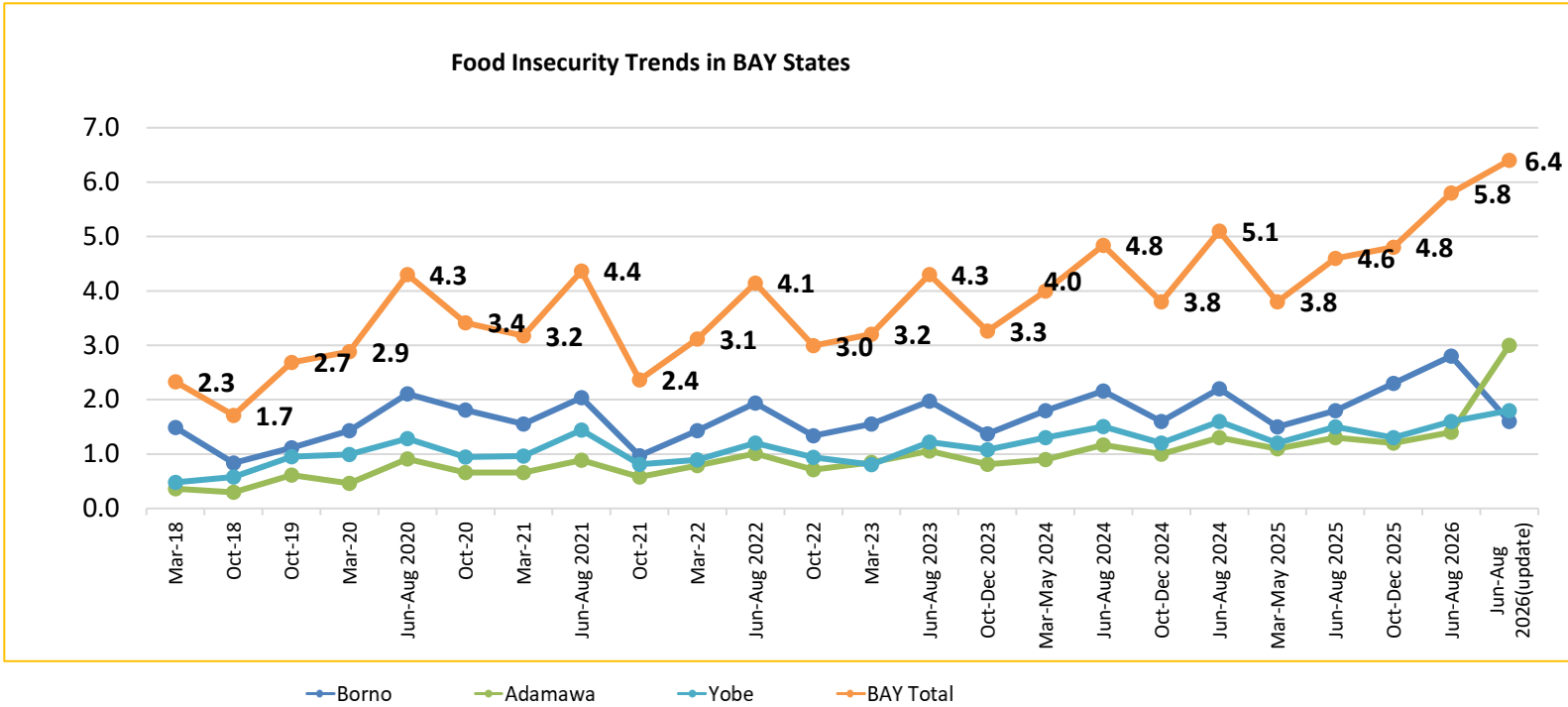
Cost of inaction



Failure to act timely will result in irreversible consequences, with further deterioration of food insecurity and worsening acute malnutrition, ultimately resulting in excess mortality and catastrophic hunger in the most affected areas.

Everyday counts – act now to prevent further deterioration and save lives

An alarming increase in people needing assistance, according to the latest CH analysis



Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation: June – August 2026

Growing number of people left behind on the backdrop of reduced funding and increased needs

