

REPORT ON THE 2026 NIGERIA HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE PLAN (HNRP) LAUNCH

Date: 22 January 2026

Organisation: Debbie Kauna Foundation, Adamawa State

Introduction

On 22 January 2026, the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) was officially launched at the UN House, Nigeria. The event brought together federal and state government representatives, United Nations agencies, international and national NGOs, donors, and civil society actors to review Nigeria's evolving humanitarian landscape and outline coordinated response priorities for 2026.

Representing Debbie **Kauna Foundation**, an Adamawa State-based organisation currently implementing a **peacebuilding project supported by UNDP**. The event provided critical insights into humanitarian trends, funding gaps, and the humanitarian peace development nexus, with particular focus on **Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States**.

Humanitarian Context in Northeast Nigeria

Speakers consistently highlighted that **18 years of conflict and insecurity** in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States have been compounded by **food insecurity, climate change, disease outbreaks, and economic shocks**.

Key challenges identified include:

- Persistent displacement and insecurity, including a recent uptick in suicide bombings in parts of the northeast
- Climate-related shocks such as flooding and drought affecting farming and pastoral livelihoods
- Reduced humanitarian funding since 2023, worsening service delivery gaps
- High food inflation linked to economic reforms and rising agricultural input costs
- Farmers' inability to return safely to their farmlands due to insecurity

It was noted that **40% of approximately 2.3 million women and children lack access to essential health and nutrition services**, underscoring the scale of unmet needs.

Humanitarian Needs at a Glance

The humanitarian overview was delivered by **David Stephen, Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)**, who emphasized that:

- Peace and production must go hand in hand to address food insecurity sustainably
- People want to be productive and self-reliant, particularly through agriculture, but insecurity continues to limit opportunities
- The northeast holds significant economic and agricultural potential, especially in crop farming and livestock, if safety and climate risks are addressed

He stressed that the current moment demands **humanitarian solutions that protect lives now while laying foundations for recovery**, noting that times are critical and everyone—government, UN, NGOs, and communities, has a role to play.

Nutrition Situation and Child Welfare

Sahid Abdullatif, Country Director of UNICEF Nigeria, presented a sobering picture of the nutrition crisis:

- The nutrition situation remains **critical across Nigeria**, with **6 out of every 10 malnourished children located in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States**
- Women and children remain the most affected, facing hunger, malnutrition, displacement, and limited access to basic services
- Progress has been made through collaboration with **NAFDAC and the Federal Government** to approve and scale **locally produced Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)**
- Nigeria now produces therapeutic nutrition commodities locally and exports to other countries

- There is an urgent need to **scale up investment in the Child Nutrition Fund** to sustain and expand gains

UNICEF emphasized prevention alongside treatment, warning that without increased investment, hard-won progress could be reversed.

State Government Perspectives

Yobe State

The **Secretary to the State Government of Yobe State, Baba Mallam Wali**, reaffirmed the state's commitment to addressing humanitarian and development challenges, acknowledging the severity of food insecurity, malnutrition, and displacement.

Borno State

Represented by **Dr. Mairo Mandara Special Adviser and coordinator for sustainable development, partnerships and humanitarian support to the Borno State governor**, highlighted that:

- In 2026, **Borno and Adamawa States are projected to face severe to extreme humanitarian conditions**
- Disease outbreaks and food insecurity are increasing vulnerabilities, especially for women and children
- This is a year to **double efforts**, deploy funding strategically, reach last-mile communities, and strengthen collaboration

She called for intensified support to food systems, climate-smart agriculture, and nutrition interventions—especially those targeting women and children.

Adamawa State

Speaking on behalf of the Adamawa State Government, **Dr. Balinga**, Executive Secretary (Representative), stated that:

- **Approximately 5.9 million people in the Northeast** are projected to face severe humanitarian crises, reflecting continued high levels of vulnerability in the BAY states and surrounding areas.

- Key drivers include border-related violence, seasonal flooding, disease outbreaks, and climate shocks
- Humanitarian funding is declining, but Adamawa State is responding through investments in healthcare, support for displaced families, and durable solutions

He emphasized that collaboration with the UN and Federal Government is strengthening resilience, reducing aid dependency, and restoring dignity, stressing the commitment that **no child in Adamawa and BAY States should go to bed hungry**.

Role of Humanitarian Partners and Civil Society

Dr. Ndubusi Anyanwu, Director of the INGO Forum, noted that:

- Global humanitarian pressures are reshaping Nigeria's response landscape
- The HNRP is launched at a time when needs are at their peak
- Protection, accountability, and safe humanitarian access are **life-saving imperatives**, not optional principles

Dr. Susan B. Tanwei of Siri Care Foundation reinforced that local actors are not just responders but **anchors of hope and agents of change**, emphasizing that the humanitarian–peace nexus is a practical pathway to sustainable solutions, not a slogan.

Government Leadership and Accountability

During the plenary and ministerial remarks, including representation from the **Minister of Humanitarian Affairs**, strong emphasis was placed on:

- Government leadership in humanitarian coordination
- Blocking leakages and strengthening accountability mechanisms
- Using humanitarian action as a bridge to stabilization, recovery, and poverty reduction
- Expanding access to livelihoods, addressing root causes of insecurity, and strengthening resilience

The Nigerian Government reaffirmed its commitment to providing leadership in humanitarian coordination, ensuring that interventions align with national policies, strengthen government systems, and contribute to poverty reduction and inclusive growth to ensure **no Nigerian is left behind**.

Conclusion and Key Takeaways

The 2026 Nigeria HNRP launch underscored that:

- Humanitarian needs in northeast Nigeria remain severe and complex
- Women and children continue to bear the heaviest burden
- Nutrition, food security, peacebuilding, and climate resilience are deeply interconnected
- National leadership, local partnerships, and sustained funding are essential

For organisations like the **Debbie Kauna Foundation**, the event reaffirmed the importance of **locally led, people-centred, and peace-sensitive interventions**, particularly in Adamawa State, where humanitarian, peace, and development efforts must move forward together.

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