

# Nigeria

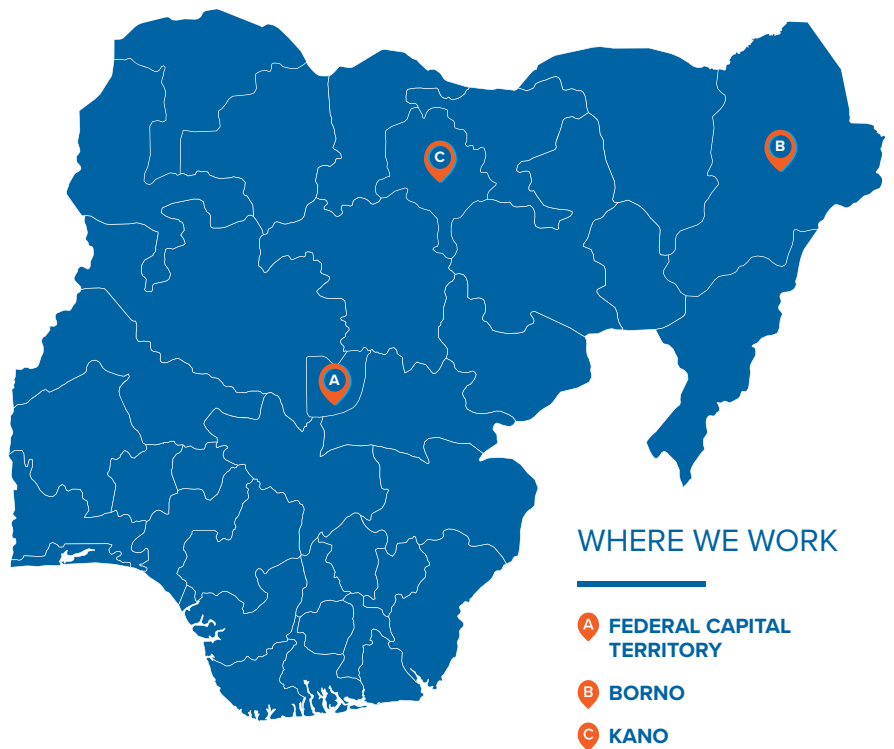
**The ongoing conflict in northeast Nigeria continues to fuel one of Africa's largest humanitarian crises. Amid the fighting, more than 8.4 million people need lifesaving assistance and more than 3 million are internally displaced.**

Food insecurity is widespread, with almost 20 million people unsure where their next meal will come from, and tens of thousands on the verge of famine-like conditions. International Medical Corps is responding to emergency needs in Borno state—the epicenter of the crisis—as well as Kano state, further west.



**International Medical Corps has worked in Nigeria since 2013. Our teams deliver programs in health, nutrition, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, food security and livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).**

In Borno, where political and religious violence drives instability and displacement, International Medical Corps is working in the state capital, Maiduguri—as well as in the northern, central and southern parts of the state—to provide lifesaving assistance to community members and families forced from their homes by violence. We also serve as a key actor supporting polio-eradication efforts across the state, including in areas that have only recently become accessible to humanitarian organizations.



## NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Nigeria is home to one of the most widespread and severe food crises in the world. Ongoing armed conflict has destroyed livelihoods, livestock and agricultural lands, eroding families' ability to feed themselves. For many, these shortages pose the threat of extreme, famine-like conditions, while hundreds of thousands of children face life-threatening malnutrition.

International Medical Corps provides lifesaving treatment for severe acute malnutrition to children under 5 in Borno state. We partner with community volunteers who go house to house, screening children for malnutrition and referring cases to International Medical Corps outpatient treatment centers, which we manage with the state Ministry of Health, and stabilization centers for malnutrition cases with medical complications. Community volunteers also provide training for mothers and caretakers on healthy maternal, infant and young-child nutrition, especially among pregnant and nursing mothers.

Together with the UN World Food Programme (WFP), International Medical Corps distributes nutrient-dense, ready-to-use supplementary food to children aged 6–59 months who are moderately malnourished, managing their treatment in our targeted supplementary feeding centers. The WFP also supports International Medical Corps' general food distribution and cash-based transfers in Borno state. Our ongoing food distribution efforts, both in-kind and through cash transfers, have so far reached thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Borno state.

We also provide communities with stable and safe places to create communal and individual assets and improve local livelihoods. Our programs focus on meeting the immediate food and nutritional requirements of people facing acute insecurity and malnutrition. We work to enhance livelihood capacities of vulnerable populations in southern Borno through poultry and goat distribution, kitchen gardening and income-generating activities that help IDPs and host communities rebuild their livelihoods.



## HEALTHCARE

International Medical Corps works with state ministries of health to make healthcare services available to internally displaced families and vulnerable host-community residents. We have surveillance and referral systems in place to respond to outbreaks of disease, including cholera, Lassa fever and COVID-19. We also collaborate with community-based organizations to strengthen existing local healthcare structures in Borno and Kano states.

### Health Program Focus: Polio Eradication

Though Nigeria was certified in 2020 as free of the wild poliovirus, International Medical Corps, the federal Ministry of Health (MoH), Polio Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and other development partners continue to aggressively seek out all forms of the virus that may still exist in the country. Through local implementing partners, we work with state governments to implement vaccination and surveillance programs in remote and dangerous areas of Borno and Kano states.

With our state and community partners, we mobilize populations, communicate the health and safety of the oral polio vaccine and increase family participation in immunization programs. The supplementary immunization activities and outbreak response that International Medical Corps supports in collaboration with



the MoH and EOC have provided vaccines to tens of thousands of children in Borno and Kano states. The last reported case of wild poliovirus in Nigeria was reported in August 2016.



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

We are working to prevent and respond to GBV in three local government authorities (LGAs) of Borno state. We provide survivor-centered GBV response services, through comprehensive case management and referrals for specialized and advanced care. We train service providers from government and partner agencies on GBV core concepts, referral pathways and available GBV services, ensuring that survivors receive appropriate care. International Medical Corps' GBV risk mitigation program in 2023 reached more than 250,000 people with basic information on GBV and its consequences, and on services available to them.

Locally operated women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) offer emotional healing and empowerment to vulnerable women, girls and GBV survivors while providing an environment for women and girls to socialize, share information and learn such skills as basic literacy and arithmetic. We engage hundreds of men and women through the "Engaging Men through Accountable Practices" (EMAP) approach, which focuses on individual behavior change with men. Local women guide our EMAP programs to transform the harmful beliefs and behaviors by men that foster GBV, beginning with such techniques as self-reflection and accountability.

We reach hundreds of women through women's economic and social empowerment programs, with a three-pronged approach comprising village savings and loans associations, discussion groups and competency-based enterprise programs. Hundreds of girls in our GBV program have participated in our adapted "Girl Shine" course, which supports adolescent girls' self-determination in humanitarian settings.





## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

To protect the health of IDPs, International Medical Corps provides access to drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation services to nearly 67,000 people across three LGAs— Askira/Uba, Damboa and Gwoza—in Borno state. We disseminate hygiene information, drill wells, rehabilitate well-drilling equipment, provide adequate water-storage tanks, and chlorinate water at the source and at household levels to increase water quality.

International Medical Corps also constructs and rehabilitates infection prevention and control infrastructure to support health facilities, working closely with government bodies and the health sector. We construct, operate and maintain latrines and showers, and provide waste disposal units and drainage systems to eliminate vector-borne diseases. Local volunteers bolster our WASH program by providing education to families on the importance of personal hygiene and on how to prevent potentially deadly waterborne diseases, such as cholera.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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