



HOPE BEFORE HUNGER

Emergency Food Assistance and Resilience Support for Vulnerable Nigerian Families
Facing the 2027 Hunger Crisis

Funding Request	US\$180,000
Duration	12 Months • October 2026 – September 2027
Direct Beneficiaries	5,000 people / 1,000 households
Primary Focus	Food Security • Nutrition • Livelihoods • Climate Resilience

Turning early warning into early humanitarian action.

Prepared by HopeShield Humanitarian Foundation • Nigeria

PAGE 1 — EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria continues to face a severe and complex food-security crisis driven by conflict, displacement, economic hardship, climate shocks, disrupted livelihoods and high food prices. Recent humanitarian assessments show that millions of people are already experiencing acute food insecurity, particularly in conflict-affected northern states.

FEWS NET's current Nigeria analysis covers July 2026 through January 2027, providing a forward-looking early-warning basis for humanitarian preparedness. FEWS NET's June 2026 outlook estimated that **21–22 million people would remain in need of humanitarian food assistance through January 2027**. This creates a clear opportunity for anticipatory action.

HopeShield Humanitarian Foundation proposes **Hope Before Hunger**, a 12-month humanitarian and resilience programme designed to support approximately **5,000 vulnerable people from 1,000 households** in selected conflict-, displacement-, climate- and economically vulnerable communities.

The project will combine emergency food assistance, food vouchers or cash-based support where appropriate, nutrition screening and referral, nutrition education, climate-smart agricultural inputs, livelihood recovery, local procurement, community accountability and monitoring.

The intervention prioritises internally displaced persons, returnees, women-headed households, children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, older people, persons with disabilities, farmers affected by insecurity, and families that have lost productive assets or income.

The project seeks **US\$180,000** from humanitarian donors, foundations, corporate CSR programmes, philanthropic individuals, diaspora partners and development organisations.

The guiding principle is simple: **act before vulnerable families exhaust their coping capacity.**

PAGE 2 — HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Nigeria's food-security challenge is shaped by overlapping humanitarian, economic and environmental pressures. Conflict and insecurity have displaced communities, restricted movement, disrupted agricultural production and weakened household livelihoods.

WFP reported on 2 July 2026 that conflict and shrinking humanitarian assistance were driving northern Nigeria's hunger crisis to levels not seen in nearly a decade. Its assessment reported more than **17 million people across nine conflict-affected northern states** experiencing Crisis, Emergency or Catastrophic levels of hunger.

WFP also identified the northeast as a major epicentre of the crisis. Its current Nigeria country information reports that approximately **5.8 million people in the northeast were facing severe food insecurity in 2026**, alongside major displacement caused by violence and insecurity.

FAO has likewise highlighted the scale of Nigeria's emergency. Its 2026–2028 Emergency and Resilience Plan states that **34.7 million people were projected to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity by mid-2026**, illustrating the depth of the national food-security challenge.

The drivers are interconnected: insecurity limits access to farmland and markets; displacement removes productive assets and income; high food and transport costs reduce purchasing power; and climate shocks can damage crops and livestock.

Early warning and early action

The significance of the January 2027 outlook is not only the number of people currently facing hunger. The key concern is whether vulnerable households will enter 2027 having already exhausted their coping mechanisms.

HopeShield therefore proposes a pathway of **Early Warning → Early Targeting → Emergency Assistance → Nutrition Protection → Livelihood Recovery → Resilience**.

PAGE 3 — PROBLEM STATEMENT AND JUSTIFICATION

Millions of Nigerian households are struggling to maintain reliable access to sufficient and nutritious food. The challenge is particularly severe among families affected by conflict, displacement, poverty, climate shocks and livelihood disruption.

When households cannot meet food needs, they may reduce meal frequency, consume less diverse diets, borrow for food, sell livestock or tools, withdraw children from school, reduce healthcare expenditure or take on unsustainable debt.

These coping strategies can deepen poverty even after an immediate food shortage has passed. Children under five are especially vulnerable to the effects of inadequate food and poor dietary diversity, while pregnant and breastfeeding women require particular nutritional protection.

Why this intervention is needed

- Provide timely assistance before vulnerable households reach more severe levels of food insecurity.
- Protect household food consumption and dignity through appropriate in-kind or market-based assistance.
- Identify nutrition risks early and connect vulnerable people to appropriate services.
- Help households rebuild productive capacity rather than relying on emergency relief alone.
- Strengthen local food markets through responsible procurement where feasible.
- Create transparent community feedback and accountability mechanisms.

HopeShield's approach deliberately combines **survival and recovery**. Food assistance addresses immediate needs, while livelihood and climate-smart support helps families rebuild their capacity to secure food and income.

PAGE 4 — GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND BENEFICIARIES

Overall Goal

To prevent severe hunger, protect vulnerable Nigerian families from worsening food insecurity, and strengthen household resilience in conflict-, displacement-, climate- and economically vulnerable communities.

Specific Objectives

- **Emergency Food Assistance:** Reach approximately 1,000 vulnerable households / 5,000 people with timely food assistance.
- **Nutrition Protection:** Improve early identification of nutrition risks among children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- **Livelihood Recovery:** Support at least 300 vulnerable households with livelihood or climate-smart agricultural inputs.
- **Community Resilience:** Strengthen community preparedness, food-security awareness, accountability and referral mechanisms.
- **Accountability:** Maintain transparent monitoring, safeguarding and financial reporting systems.

Target beneficiaries

- Internally displaced persons and returnees.
- Women-headed households.
- Households with children under five.
- Pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Persons with disabilities and older people without reliable support.
- Smallholder farmers affected by insecurity or climate shocks.
- Households that have lost livelihoods, productive assets or stable income.

Geographic targeting

Final locations will be selected through rapid needs assessment, community consultation and review of food-security evidence. Selection will consider severity of food insecurity, displacement, nutrition vulnerability, livelihood disruption, market accessibility, climate exposure and humanitarian access.

PAGE 5 — PROJECT STRATEGY AND KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Emergency food assistance

HopeShield will provide locally appropriate food assistance. Packages may include rice, beans, maize or millet, garri or other locally appropriate staples, vegetable oil, salt and nutritious food products where appropriate. Assistance will reflect household size and assessed vulnerability.

Where markets are functioning and safe, food vouchers or controlled cash assistance may be used to provide flexibility while supporting local markets.

2. Nutrition protection

- Child nutrition screening.
- Screening and referral for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Nutrition and dietary-diversity education.
- Infant and young-child feeding awareness.
- Hygiene and safe food-preparation messaging.
- Referral of suspected malnutrition cases to appropriate services.

3. Livelihood recovery

At least 300 vulnerable households will receive appropriate livelihood or agricultural recovery support, potentially including climate-resilient seeds, agricultural tools, production inputs, poultry/livestock inputs, livelihood grants, business training, financial literacy and post-harvest management.

4. Local procurement

Where appropriate, HopeShield will procure food locally to support farmers and traders, strengthen local markets and reduce unnecessary transport distances. Procurement will use transparent procedures and appropriate supplier controls.

5. Community accountability

Beneficiaries will receive information about eligibility, entitlements, distribution arrangements, safeguarding and complaints channels. Confidential feedback will support corrective action and programme learning.

PAGE 6 — IMPLEMENTATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND SAFEGUARDING

Implementation timeline

- **Months 1–2:** Needs assessment, community consultation, market assessment, registration, verification, procurement planning, baseline and safeguarding orientation.
- **Months 2–9:** Food procurement and distribution, food vouchers/cash where appropriate, nutrition screening, education, referrals and post-distribution monitoring.
- **Months 4–10:** Livelihood assessment, agricultural inputs, recovery support, climate-smart agriculture and business/financial-literacy training.
- **Months 10–12:** Endline assessment, outcome measurement, beneficiary feedback, lessons learned, financial reconciliation and donor reporting.

Strategic partnerships

HopeShield will seek collaboration with relevant government authorities, local government structures, community leaders, health facilities, nutrition providers, agricultural extension workers, food suppliers, community-based organisations, women's and youth groups, humanitarian actors, private-sector partners and institutional donors.

Protection and safeguarding

- Staff codes of conduct and safeguarding orientation.
- Child safeguarding and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Confidential complaints and feedback channels.
- Gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive programming.
- Safe distribution arrangements.
- Confidential handling of beneficiary information.
- Referral pathways for protection and health concerns.

Risk management

Risk	Potential effect	Mitigation
Insecurity	Delayed access	Security assessment and flexible scheduling
Food inflation	Reduced purchasing power	Market monitoring and adaptive procurement
Supply disruption	Delayed distributions	Multiple suppliers and advance planning
Diversion	Reduced programme impact	Verification, documentation and monitoring
Exclusion	Vulnerable people missed	Community validation and complaints
Climate shocks	Livelihood losses	Climate-smart inputs and contingency planning

PAGE 7 — RESULTS, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Expected results

- **5,000 people** receive direct humanitarian support.
- **1,000 households** receive emergency food assistance.
- **1,500+ vulnerable women and children** benefit from nutrition screening, education and/or referral activities.
- **300 households** receive livelihood or agricultural recovery support.
- Participating households report improved food access.
- Negative coping strategies are reduced.
- Communities have stronger feedback and accountability mechanisms.

Results framework

Result	Indicator	Target
Improved food access	Households receiving food assistance	1,000
Humanitarian reach	People directly supported	5,000
Nutrition protection	People screened/educated/referred	1,500+
Livelihood recovery	Households supported	300
Accountability	Beneficiaries aware of feedback channels	80%+
Improved outcomes	Households reporting improved food access	70%+

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

HopeShield will establish a MEAL framework from project inception. Monitoring will include baseline assessments, beneficiary registration, distribution records, post-distribution monitoring, household food-consumption indicators, market-price monitoring, nutrition records, livelihood follow-up, satisfaction surveys, complaints tracking and endline assessment.

Where safe and appropriate, data will be disaggregated by sex, age, disability status, displacement status, household type and location.

Donor reporting

Donors will receive structured reports covering programme performance, financial performance, results, ethically collected beneficiary stories, implementation challenges, mitigation actions and lessons learned. Appropriate financial, procurement and programme records will be maintained.

PAGE 8 — BUDGET, SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNDING APPEAL

Proposed budget

Budget component	Amount (US\$)
Emergency food baskets and food assistance	105,000
Nutrition screening, referral and education	18,000
Livelihood and agricultural recovery	25,000
Transportation, storage and distribution	14,000
Community mobilisation and accountability	6,000
Monitoring, evaluation and financial review	7,000
Project coordination and administration	5,000
TOTAL	180,000

Value for money

HopeShield will promote value for money through competitive procurement, local sourcing where appropriate, market assessments, multiple suppliers, transparent beneficiary selection, efficient distribution, expenditure monitoring and evidence-based adaptation.

Sustainability

Emergency food assistance will be complemented by livelihood recovery, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition knowledge, local market engagement, community participation and linkages to existing services. The aim is to help families move from emergency assistance toward greater food and livelihood security.

Funding appeal

US\$25	Contribute to emergency food support for a vulnerable person.
US\$50	Contribute toward food assistance for a vulnerable household.
US\$100	Contribute toward a substantial emergency food package.
US\$500	Support food assistance and nutrition protection for multiple vulnerable people.
US\$1,000	Contribute toward emergency relief and livelihood recovery.
US\$5,000	Support a significant community-level response.
US\$10,000+	Support a major component of the project and measurable humanitarian impact.

Together, we can turn early warning into early action—and help vulnerable Nigerian families move from crisis toward resilience.

PAGE 9 — EVIDENCE AND REFERENCES

Nigeria Acute Hunger Warning: 2026–2027

This project is informed by national and international food-security assessments, early-warning systems and humanitarian situation reports. The references below are included so donors and readers can independently verify the evidence underpinning the concept note.

1. FEWS NET — Nigeria Acute Food Insecurity Classification, July 2026–January 2027

FEWS NET provides forward-looking analysis for July–September 2026 and October 2026–January 2027. Its June 2026 outlook estimated 21–22 million people would remain in need of humanitarian food assistance through January 2027.

Verification: <https://fews.net/nigeria-acute-food-insecurity-classification-july-2026-january-2027>

2. World Food Programme — Northern Nigeria Hunger Crisis, 2 July 2026

WFP reported more than 17 million people across nine conflict-affected northern states experiencing Crisis, Emergency or Catastrophic levels of hunger, attributing the deterioration to conflict, displacement, disrupted livelihoods, high food and transport costs and shrinking humanitarian assistance.

Verification: [WFP official news release](#)

3. WFP — Nigeria Country Profile

WFP's current country information reports 35 million people facing acute food insecurity, 4.8 million children and women requiring nutrition assistance annually in the northeast, and 2.3 million people displaced by violence and insecurity in the northeast.

Verification: [WFP Nigeria country page](#)

4. FAO — Nigeria Emergency and Resilience Plan 2026–2028

FAO reported that 34.7 million people were projected to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity by mid-2026, alongside major nutrition and livelihood needs.

Verification: [FAO official announcement](#)

5. FAO–WFP Hunger Hotspots — June to November 2026

The joint Hunger Hotspots early-warning framework identifies locations where acute food insecurity is expected to worsen and calls for urgent anticipatory action.

Verification: [WFP Hunger Hotspots report](#)

6. FEWS NET — June 2026 Nigeria Food Security Outlook

The June outlook provides the specific estimate of 21–22 million people expected to remain in need of humanitarian food assistance through January 2027.

Verification: [FEWS NET June 2026 outlook](#)

Responsible humanitarian communication

Acute food insecurity should not automatically be described as famine. Famine is a specific technical classification requiring defined thresholds. HopeShield therefore uses the evidence to justify early humanitarian action without claiming that Nigeria as a whole is experiencing famine.

Evidence-based early warning • Early action • Dignified assistance • Measurable impact

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