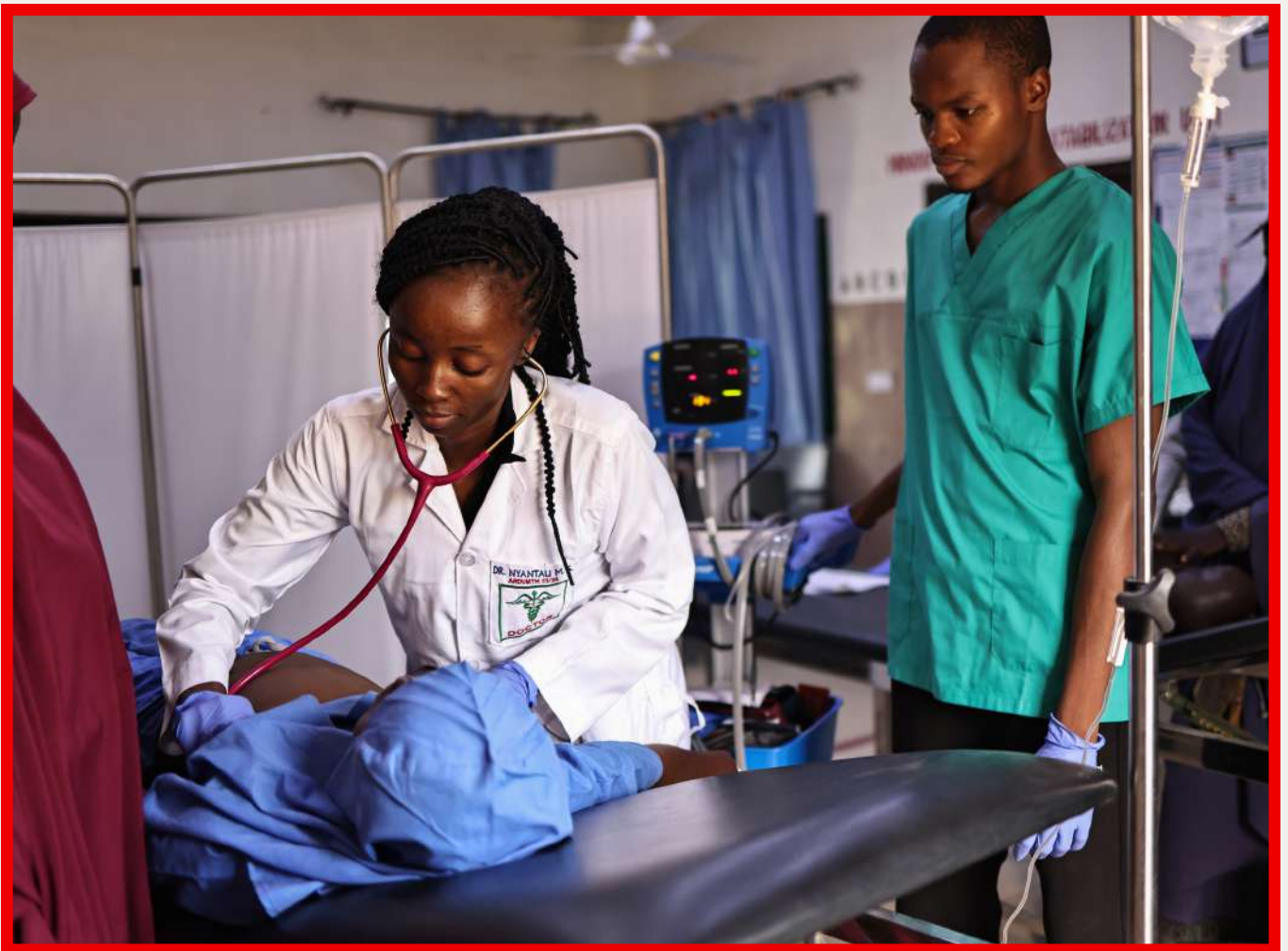


MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

NIGERIA COUNTRY PROJECT IMPACT REPORT

MARCH 2026



Ministry of Health doctor working with MSF, Nyantau Mancit Samuel, examines a female patient at the resuscitation area of the MSF-supported accident and emergency unit at Gwoza General Hospital, Gwoza, northeast Nigeria. Photo: © Musa Abba Adamu/MSF 2025



**HOW YOUR GENEROSITY SAVED LIVES
AND REDUCED SUFFERING IN 2025**

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES NIGERIA PROJECT IMPACT REPORT



THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)'s humanitarian work in Nigeria. As the population continues to grapple with the devastating effects of malnutrition and outbreaks of preventable diseases such as Lassa fever, cholera and measles, your generosity helps MSF teams reach people in urgent need, provide lifesaving care and support communities facing unimaginable crises. As you read this report, we trust you'll see the impact your generosity is having and why we are truly grateful for your support and solidarity. Thank you.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

People's lives in Nigeria have been disrupted by years of insecurity and fighting between government forces and armed groups in northeast Nigeria. Increased violence has forced thousands of people from their homes.

MSF has been responding to disease outbreaks and emergency health needs in Nigeria since 1996, focusing on maternal and paediatric healthcare throughout the country. Our nutritional activities in the northwest and northeast continue to grow as we see more patients suffering from a devastating, and largely ignored, malnutrition crisis that is pushing people to their limits.

MSF has been raising the alarm about the worsening malnutrition situation in northern Nigeria since 2022. In 2024 alone, more than 250,000 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted to outpatient facilities where MSF works, and 76,000 acutely malnourished children with medical complications to inpatient facilities, representing an increase of 38 per cent and 53 per cent respectively compared to 2023.

Across the north, other factors aggravating the malnutrition crisis include disease outbreaks, which are worsened by low vaccine coverage, availability, and accessibility of basic health services, and other socioeconomic indices complicated by insecurity and ethnic or sectarian violence.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Spiralling violence and severe poverty, exacerbated by increased competition over depleting resources – which is a result of climate change – have left many people in northeast and northwest Nigeria vulnerable to chronic cycles of acute malnutrition.

In 2024, our teams continued to focus on nutrition activities, working in 33 outpatient and 10 inpatient therapeutic feeding centres across five states in northwest Nigeria: Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Kano and Kebbi. In Zamfara state we treated 65,000 children for malnutrition in 2024.

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PROJECT BACKGROUND, CONTINUED...

We also increased our response in the northeast, tripling our bed capacity in Maiduguri following a surge in cases, and doubling it in Kafin Madaki hospital, Bauchi state.

As the number of malnutrition cases continues to rise at an alarming rate, we continue to speak out and advocate for more to be done, calling on the government and other non-governmental organisations to increase their assistance to affected people, particularly in the northwest, where the crisis remains largely unrecognised.

CURRENT SITUATION

Malnutrition

Our teams continued to face an alarming malnutrition crisis in the northern part of the country in 2025, which is now being described as a public health emergency. Given the context of drastic cuts in international funding seen throughout the year, the need for prevention and treatment of malnutrition was enormous in the region, and urgent mobilisation was required.

According to UNICEF, an estimated three million children are currently suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the country – up from 2.6 million in 2024.



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CURRENT SITUATION, CONTINUED...

In Katsina state for example, where MSF has been present since 2021, our teams saw an ever-increasing number of malnourished children in our therapeutic feeding centres, with increasingly severe conditions and higher mortality rates. In Kebbi state, our team ran two inpatient facilities and six outpatient clinics. Between June and September 2025, more than 400 severely malnourished children were hospitalised per week, while over 1,400 received outpatient care weekly. The project used 100,000 sachets of therapeutic food every week. In September, more than 9,000 children were enrolled in our outpatient nutrition programme. These numbers are staggering – and they're still rising.

A worrying sign of the growing severity of this major public health emergency, is that adults – particularly women, including pregnant and breastfeeding women – are also affected. In a screening carried out in July in all five MSF malnutrition centres in Katsina state, on 750 mothers of patients, more than half the adult caregivers were acutely malnourished, including 13 per cent with severe acute malnutrition.

To cope with the massive influx of children expected by the end of the lean season in October, we increased our support to the local authorities in several states in north Nigeria where we provide care to communities.

In Katsina state for instance, we opened a new outpatient therapeutic feeding centre in Mashi and an additional inpatient therapeutic feeding centre in Turai, to provide a total of 900 beds in two hospitals where MSF teams work.

Lassa Fever

Lassa fever is a potentially deadly viral haemorrhagic tropical disease, and in early 2018, Ebonyi state in southeastern Nigeria recorded a particularly high seasonal outbreak. Hospitals were overwhelmed and many lives were lost, including those of healthcare workers exposed to the infection. MSF arrived in Abakaliki to support the response and what began as an emergency intervention soon evolved into a seven-year partnership with the Ebonyi state Ministry of Health, laying the groundwork for sustainable, locally led Lassa fever care.



Fatima Idris holds her 21-month-old child Musa Idris, who is being treated for malnutrition at the inpatient therapeutic feeding center in Maiyama Local Government Area, Kebbi State.
Photo: © Abba Adamu Musa/MSF 2025

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MSF'S RESPONSE

Malnutrition

In response to the alarming malnutrition rates seen in northern Nigeria in 2025, MSF collaborated with local authorities to distribute nutrition supplements for 66,000 children in Mashi, as a method for emergency prevention.

From January to May 2025, MSF admitted 24,784 severely malnourished children in inpatient therapeutic feeding centres, and 107,461 children in outpatient therapeutic feeding centres in northern Nigeria, an increase of 13 per cent compared to the same period in 2024.

Between January and June 2025, the number of children with nutritional oedema, the most severe and deadly form of malnutrition, rose by 208 per cent compared with the same period in 2024.

MSF increased inpatient bed capacity, scaled up outpatient therapeutic feeding centres, and hired more staff to facilitate as many patients as possible.

Lassa Fever

In 2025, MSF formally handed over operations to the Ebonyi state Ministry of Health and the Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital (AE-FUTHA). This transition was carefully planned

and included donations of medical equipment, ambulances, and waste management tools. Enough supplies were provided to last through the next Lassa fever peak season.

MSF also supported the creation of internal committees within AE-FUTHA to maintain standards in infection control, patient care, and outbreak response - ensuring that progress would continue after our departure.

More broadly, MSF experts partnered with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and federal authorities, to improve detection, prevention, and medical care guidelines.



The inpatient therapeutic feeding center in Maiyama Local Government Area in Kebbi State, Nigeria, is full of caregivers and patients being treated for malnutrition. Photo: © Abba Adamu Musa/MSF 2025

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MSF'S RESPONSE, CONTINUED...

Launch of Emergency Medical Services in Borno

MSF commenced emergency medical activities at Gwoza General Hospital in Borno state, northeast Nigeria. The project, launched in August 2025 to support the Ministry of Health, aims to provide lifesaving care for people who have been deeply affected by years of extreme violence and limited access to healthcare. Between 8 August and 30 November, MSF admitted 1,606 patients in the emergency room.

In addition to providing emergency care, MSF conducted health promotion activities and offered clinical training to the Ministry of Health staff. MSF has worked in Borno state since 2014 and remains committed to supporting the Ministry of Health to ensure continuity and sustainability of services.

Paediatric Physiotherapy

In 2025, our teams launched paediatric physiotherapy programmes in the northwestern states of Kano and Katsina. These sessions include guided exercises, play-based therapy, and training for caregivers to continue therapy at home. Each intervention was tailored to the child's developmental stage and condition, helping rebuild strength, coordination, and confidence. While still in their pilot stage, the two projects are already showing promising results in helping children regain motor

functions and achieve developmental milestones.

Mental Health Support for Children and Caregivers

Children who suffer from malnutrition are at increased risk of anxiety, depression, and developmental delays, while caregivers often feel helpless and overwhelmed as they watch their child grow weak and unresponsive. To address this, MSF provides psychosocial support as part of our malnutrition projects in several states - including Zamfara, Bauchi, Sokoto, Borno, Kebbi, Kano, and Katsina. Services include play therapy, counselling, and caregiver education to help families manage emotional and behavioural challenges.



MSF staff and caregivers gently support children as they relearn the vital milestone of walking during a psycho-stimulation session in the playroom at Kafin Madaki General Hospital in Bauchi, Nigeria. While some children use baby walkers, others are encouraged to walk independently with minimal support. These sessions, often combined with recreational activities, help children relax and strengthen emotional bonds with their caregivers. Photo: © Abdulkareem Yakubu/MSF 2025

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PATIENT STORY

Usman's physiotherapy after suffering from malnutrition:

"Before Usman fell ill, he could crawl and stand. But he lost those abilities due to the sickness"

- Aisha Aliyu, Usman's mother.

Thirteen-month-old Usman Aliyu was treated for malnutrition at the MSF-supported inpatient therapeutic feeding centre in Unguwa Uku hospital in Kano state before participating in physiotherapy sessions.

"In the physiotherapy sessions, he was taught to stand again and is now taking steps towards walking," says his mother.

During these sessions, MSF's physiotherapists teach parents simple physiotherapy techniques that they can continue practicing with their children to regain lost motor functions when they are discharged.



MSF physiotherapist Mubarak guides Usman to walk with the aid of a plastic push-toy during a group session with caregivers of children suffering from malnutrition at the MSF-supported inpatient therapeutic feeding center in Unguwa Uku, Taurani Local Government Area of Kano state. Photo: © Abba Adamu Musa/MSF 2025

An MSF physiotherapist in Kano, Fatima Abdulmajid says, "When I first arrived, I was shocked by the severity of motor delays, but seeing the children's progress week after week through motor stimulation makes me proud of the work we are doing."



1,668,100
Outpatient
consultations



696,100
Routine
vaccinations



532,200
Malaria cases
treated



296,600
Children
admitted to
outpatient
feeding
programs



200,600
Patients
admitted to
hospital



35,800
Births
assisted

Collective data of all MSF sections operating in Nigeria for 2024. Data for 2025 will be available in early 2026.

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Thank you for standing in solidarity with patients in **Nigeria** and around the world. We are so grateful for your support, which makes it possible for MSF to deliver immediate and longer-term medical humanitarian care to people in crisis.

For more information or to discuss your interests in the work of MSF, please contact **Chris Waugh, Philanthropy Manager, MSF**
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MSF Belgium president Katrin Kiswani and Dr Salma Ibrahim Anas (in green), Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria on Health speak with a caregiver at the outpatient therapeutic feeding center in Jega Local Government Area of Kebbi State. Photo: © Abba Adamu Musa/MSF 2025

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