



Swiss Humanitarian Engagement in Nigeria 2024 – 2026

Context: Northeast Nigeria continues to face one of the world's most acute humanitarian crises. Now in its 15th year, the protracted conflict between Boko Haram factions and government forces has left almost 8 million people in need of humanitarian aid in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Violence, mass displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and food insecurity continue to affect civilians, especially women and children. Many communities remain cut off from assistance. Despite Nigeria's middle-income status, deep inequalities and weak public services leave the Northeast critically underserved.

Switzerland's Engagement

Switzerland, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has supported humanitarian efforts in Northeast Nigeria since 2014. The Swiss humanitarian engagement for the period 2024 – 2026 complements the peace promotion and dialogue facilitation efforts undertaken by Switzerland's Peace and Human Rights Division. Switzerland's approach is principled, field-based, and aligned with humanitarian needs and international frameworks.

Programme Objectives

- *Humanitarian Aid:* respond to urgent needs of conflict-affected people, through **food security** and **protection** interventions. Support focuses on sexual and gender-based violence, the provision of livelihoods and the increasing localization of aid delivery through the strengthening of local NGOs and funding mechanisms.
- *Durable Solutions:* support people affected by displacement to rebuild their lives, particularly in Yobe State where government-led initiatives offer promising ground.
- *Advocacy and Coordination:* promote better protection for civilians and strengthen collaboration across humanitarian, peace and development efforts – especially as the UN prepares for a transition to national leadership of the humanitarian response.

Partnerships

Switzerland works with a range of trusted partners including:

- **UN agencies** (UNICEF, FAO, Country-Based Pooled Fund, UNHCR)
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**
- **National and international NGOs**

Switzerland is an active advocate for localization, supporting local NGOs through direct funding and institutional capacity building. A contribution to the UN's Country-Based Pooled Fund, a mechanism managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) enables rapid, flexible responses, increasingly carried out by local partners. Switzerland is also committed to provide long-term, flexible funding to its partners.



Budget and Presence

- CHF 4 million per year of humanitarian **project contributions** (2024 – 2026)
- Regional contributions to ICRC and UNHCR (CHF 1.33 million in 2024)
- Swiss Humanitarian Aid expert and National Programme Officer based at the Swiss Embassy in Abuja
- Continued field presence ensures close coordination and oversight



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