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## CONCEPT NOTE

# Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Response for Vulnerable Families in Northern Nigeria

A GlobalGiving-ready humanitarian project concept developed in response to the United Nations warning that nearly 35 million Nigerians may face acute food insecurity during the 2026 lean season.

<b>Project Title</b>	Feed Hungry Families in Northern Nigeria Crisis
<b>Prepared By</b>	Ikechukwu Kelechukwu, Executive Director, Empower Future Initiative
<b>Organization</b>	Empower Future Initiative (EFI)
<b>Funding Target</b>	USD 100,000 (indicative GlobalGiving project target)
<b>Target Period</b>	June 2026 - May 2027

Prepared for donors, institutional partners, corporate supporters, and community stakeholders committed to hunger relief, food security, child nutrition, and humanitarian resilience in Nigeria.

# 1. Executive Summary and Organizational Profile

Nigeria is facing a deepening hunger and malnutrition crisis, especially across the northern states. The United Nations Humanitarian Country Team has warned that nearly one in seven people in Nigeria - approximately 35 million people nationwide - may face acute food insecurity during the June to August 2026 lean season. The warning also highlights severe risks for children, with an estimated 6.4 million children in North-west and North-east Nigeria likely to be acutely malnourished in 2026.

This concept note presents a practical, community-centered response by Empower Future Initiative (EFI) to support vulnerable households through emergency food assistance, child nutrition support, hygiene promotion, referral pathways, and early recovery assistance. The project is designed for GlobalGiving and partner mobilization, with a focus on dignity, accountability, transparency, and measurable humanitarian impact.

**Project purpose: To reduce hunger, prevent child malnutrition, protect vulnerable families from harmful coping strategies, and strengthen household resilience in communities affected by acute food insecurity in northern Nigeria.**

## About Empower Future Initiative

Empower Future Initiative is a Nigerian nonprofit organization committed to empowering youth, women, vulnerable children, displaced families, and underserved communities through education, skills development, health and well-being, technology for social impact, climate-smart action, peacebuilding, and emergency relief. EFI operates with a commitment to transparency, community participation, and partnerships that protect dignity while creating opportunities for long-term recovery.

EFI recognizes that hunger is not only a food problem. It is also a health, education, livelihood, protection, and resilience challenge. When families lack food, children can miss school, caregivers may sell productive assets, health risks increase, and communities lose stability. This project therefore combines immediate humanitarian relief with nutrition awareness, referral support, and early resilience actions.

## Summary Profile

<b>Project title</b>	Feed Hungry Families in Northern Nigeria Crisis
<b>Lead organization</b>	Empower Future Initiative
<b>Prepared by</b>	Ikechukwu Kelechukwu, Executive Director
<b>Target population</b>	Food-insecure households, children at risk of malnutrition, women-led households, displaced families, elderly people, persons with disabilities, pregnant and nursing mothers.
<b>Indicative budget</b>	USD 100,000

## 2. Situation Analysis and Problem Statement

The 2026 lean season is expected to intensify hunger risks in Nigeria. The UN warning points to a nationwide acute food insecurity burden, with northern Nigeria carrying the heaviest share. The main drivers include insecurity, displacement, food inflation, reduced household purchasing power, climate shocks, weakened livelihoods, and humanitarian funding gaps.

Reports reviewed for this concept note state that Nigeria is among the largest hunger crises globally, and that delayed assistance could force families to reduce meals further, sell assets, or withdraw children from school. These coping strategies can create long-term damage. When a family sells farming tools, livestock, or small business assets to buy food, its capacity to recover is weakened. When children miss school because households cannot cope, the effect can last for years.

### Key Humanitarian Concerns

- **Acute hunger:** Approximately 35 million Nigerians are likely to face acute food insecurity during the June to August 2026 lean season.
- **Child malnutrition:** About 6.4 million children in North-west and North-east Nigeria are likely to be acutely malnourished in 2026.
- **Funding gap:** The 2026 Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan of USD 516 million was reported as just over 40 percent funded, with about USD 215 million received as of May 2026.
- **Household coping:** Families at risk may reduce meals, sell assets, borrow money, migrate, withdraw children from school, or rely on less nutritious food.
- **Protection risks:** Children, women, elderly persons, displaced families, and persons with disabilities face additional barriers during food crises.

### Problem Statement

Food-insecure families in northern Nigeria lack reliable access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food during the lean season and beyond. Children and other vulnerable groups face elevated risks of malnutrition, illness, school disruption, and long-term developmental harm. Without timely community-based support, households may adopt negative coping strategies that deepen poverty and reduce future resilience.

### Rationale for EFI Response

EFI will use a community-led targeting approach to prioritize households with the highest vulnerability. The response will not only provide food packages, but also integrate nutrition education, referrals for malnutrition cases, hygiene promotion, and practical early recovery support. This approach is designed to address urgent hunger while protecting long-term dignity, household stability, and community resilience.

**Core assumption: Food assistance delivered early and with accountability can prevent severe malnutrition, reduce harmful coping strategies, protect education, and help families remain stable through the lean season.**

### 3. Project Goal, Objectives and Target Beneficiaries

#### Overall Goal

To reduce acute hunger and prevent child malnutrition among vulnerable households affected by the 2026 Nigeria food insecurity crisis, while strengthening community resilience and dignity through accountable, locally guided humanitarian assistance.

#### Specific Objectives

- Provide emergency food assistance to 2,000 food-insecure households, reaching an estimated 12,000 people over the project period.
- Identify and support children at risk of malnutrition through nutrition screening, referral pathways, caregiver awareness, and targeted nutrition packs.
- Promote hygiene, safe food handling, and clean water practices to reduce illness that can worsen malnutrition.
- Reduce harmful coping strategies, including meal reduction, asset sales, high-interest borrowing, child labor, and school withdrawal.
- Strengthen community accountability through transparent beneficiary selection, local feedback, and monitoring reports for donors and partners.

#### Priority Beneficiaries

Beneficiary Group	Why They Are Prioritized	Support Package
<b>Children under five</b>	High risk of acute malnutrition, illness, and growth disruption.	Nutrition screening, fortified food, referral support, caregiver counselling.
<b>School-age children</b>	Hunger affects concentration, attendance, and learning.	Household food support, school continuity messaging, monitoring.
<b>Pregnant and nursing mothers</b>	Maternal nutrition affects both mother and child survival.	Priority food packages, nutrition education, referral links.
<b>Displaced and women-led households</b>	Loss of livelihood, assets, social support, and income sources.	Food assistance, hygiene kits, early recovery inputs.
<b>Elderly persons and PWDs</b>	Mobility, income, and access barriers increase vulnerability.	Inclusive targeting, assisted distribution, household follow-up.

#### Target Location and Selection Approach

The project will focus on food-insecure communities in northern Nigeria, with final locations selected through needs verification, community consultation, access and security assessment, partner coordination, and availability of local volunteers. Targeting will prioritize households experiencing acute hunger, child malnutrition risk, displacement, disability, elderly dependency, or women-led household vulnerability.

## 4. Intervention Strategy and Activity Components

EFI will implement an integrated hunger relief and nutrition support model that combines immediate food assistance with household resilience actions. This approach recognizes that families need food today, but also need dignity, information, referrals, and protection from negative coping strategies.

### Component 1: Emergency Food Assistance

Provide household food packages containing locally appropriate staple foods such as rice, beans, maize or grain alternatives, cooking oil, salt, and complementary items based on market availability and nutritional value. The distribution model will prioritize fairness, dignity, safe access, and accountability.

### Component 2: Child Nutrition Screening and Support

Work with trained volunteers and local health actors to identify children who show signs of malnutrition risk. Where appropriate, use basic community screening approaches, referral pathways, caregiver education, and nutrition packs to support vulnerable children and mothers.

### Component 3: Hygiene, Safe Water and Disease Prevention

Provide hygiene kits and household education on handwashing, safe food storage, water treatment, and sanitation. This is important because illness and poor hygiene can worsen malnutrition, especially among children under five.

### Component 4: Household Resilience and Early Recovery

Support selected households with small livelihood recovery inputs, such as seeds, small trade items, food storage containers, or other locally relevant materials, to help reduce repeated dependence and protect productive assets.

### Component 5: Community Mobilization and Accountability

Use community committees, youth volunteers, women leaders, and local stakeholders to support transparent beneficiary identification, feedback collection, complaint handling, and post-distribution monitoring.

Phase	Key Activities	Deliverables
<b>Month 1</b>	Community entry, needs verification, local stakeholder engagement, beneficiary registration.	Validated beneficiary list, security/access plan, baseline data.
<b>Months 2-4</b>	Food distribution, nutrition screening, hygiene kits, referrals, caregiver education.	Households reached, children screened, referral cases documented.
<b>Months 5-8</b>	Follow-up support, early recovery inputs, community awareness, post-distribution monitoring.	Reduced coping strategies, feedback reports, family case stories.
<b>Months 9-12</b>	Final monitoring, learning review, donor reporting, sustainability planning.	Final report, lessons learned, continuation plan.

## 5. Implementation Plan, Safeguarding and Risk Management

### Implementation Principles

- **Dignity:** Assistance will be provided in a respectful, non-discriminatory manner that protects privacy and reduces stigma.
- **Do no harm:** Distribution points and beneficiary communication will be planned to reduce crowding, conflict, exploitation, and unsafe movement.
- **Community participation:** Local leaders, women representatives, youth volunteers, and vulnerable groups will contribute to targeting and feedback.
- **Transparency:** EFI will maintain beneficiary records, procurement documentation, delivery notes, and donor-facing progress updates.
- **Inclusion:** Persons with disabilities, elderly persons, women-led households, displaced families, and other vulnerable groups will be intentionally considered.

### Safeguarding and Protection

EFI will ensure that all project staff, volunteers, and community focal persons understand basic safeguarding standards, including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, respectful communication, confidentiality, and safe referral for concerns. Beneficiary selection will not require political affiliation, religious identity, ethnicity, or personal favors. Complaints and feedback channels will be made available in appropriate local formats.

### Risk Management Matrix

Risk	Potential Effect	Mitigation Strategy
<b>Insecurity/access constraints</b>	Delayed distributions or inability to reach some communities.	Security monitoring, flexible scheduling, local partners, safer distribution points.
<b>Food price volatility</b>	Reduced purchasing power and smaller food packages.	Market assessment, flexible procurement, bulk purchase, local alternatives.
<b>Inclusion errors</b>	Some vulnerable households may be missed.	Community validation, grievance channels, targeted home follow-up.
<b>Fraud/diversion</b>	Loss of trust and reduced impact.	Procurement controls, documentation, spot checks, beneficiary confirmation.
<b>Health and crowding risks</b>	Distribution-related safety concerns.	Staggered distributions, hygiene practices, crowd management, clear communication.

### Coordination

EFI will coordinate with community leaders, local government actors where appropriate, health workers, volunteers, and humanitarian stakeholders to avoid duplication, strengthen referrals, and improve accountability. Project learning will be documented and used to improve future food security interventions.

## 6. Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Sustainability and Budget

### Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Key Indicator	Target / Assumption	Means of Verification
Households reached	2,000 food-insecure households, approximately 12,000 people, depending on household size.	Distribution lists, signed receipts, beneficiary verification.
Children supported	Priority support to children under five, school-age children, and adolescents at nutritional risk.	Screening records, referrals, caregiver feedback, follow-up visits.
Women and caregivers reached	Pregnant and nursing mothers, women-led households, and caregivers prioritized.	Beneficiary database, community verification, post-distribution monitoring.
Nutrition outcomes tracked	Improved meal frequency, reduced negative coping strategies, referrals for malnutrition cases.	Baseline/endline surveys, monitoring reports, photos, case stories.

### Learning and Reporting

EFI will produce periodic GlobalGiving updates, donor reports, photos where consent and safety allow, beneficiary stories, and financial summaries. Post-distribution monitoring will capture changes in meal frequency, dietary diversity, school attendance risks, health referrals, and household coping strategies. Lessons will be shared with partners and used to refine targeting, distribution methods, and resilience support.

### Sustainability and Exit Strategy

This project begins with emergency food assistance because hunger needs immediate action. However, sustainability will be promoted through nutrition education, hygiene awareness, local volunteer engagement, safe food storage messaging, referral pathways, and small early recovery inputs. Households will be encouraged to rebuild productive activities, preserve assets, keep children in school, and participate in community resilience systems.

### Indicative Budget Summary

Budget Line	Amount (USD)	Purpose
Emergency food packages	55,000	Staple food support for vulnerable households during lean season and crisis peaks.
Child nutrition support	15,000	Screening, nutrition packs, fortified food, referrals, and caregiver education.
WASH and hygiene support	8,000	Soap, water treatment, dignity items, and hygiene messaging to reduce disease risks.
Livelihood recovery inputs	8,000	Small recovery support to reduce harmful coping and help households rebuild stability.
Logistics and distribution	7,000	Transport, storage, volunteer mobilization, security-aware distribution planning.
Monitoring, reporting, accountability	4,000	Baseline, verification, post-distribution monitoring, stories, financial reporting.
Coordination and admin	3,000	Project coordination, communications, documentation, bank/transaction costs.
<b>Total indicative request</b>	<b>100,000</b>	Flexible GlobalGiving target; final scale will depend on funds received and local prices.

### Cost Effectiveness and Accountability

The indicative budget is designed to be flexible because food prices and logistics costs can change during a crisis. EFI will prioritize value for money, local procurement where safe and appropriate, clear documentation, and transparent reporting to donors. The project can scale upward or downward based on funds received through GlobalGiving and other partners.

## 7. Reference Page - UN Warning and News Links

The following official and news sources were reviewed in preparing this concept note. They report or contextualize the UN warning on acute hunger, child malnutrition, humanitarian funding gaps, and Nigeria’s deepening food security crisis.

<b>1. United Nations Secretary-General Noon Briefing - Nigeria hunger crisis warning (22 May 2026)</b>	<a href="https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/highlight/2026-05-22.html">https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/highlight/2026-05-22.html</a>
<b>2. Punch Nigeria - 35 million Nigerians risk acute hunger in coming months - UN</b>	<a href="https://punchng.com/35-million-nigerians-risk-acute-hunger-in-coming-months-un/">https://punchng.com/35-million-nigerians-risk-acute-hunger-in-coming-months-un/</a>
<b>3. TheCable - UN says 35 million Nigerians risk acute hunger from June to August</b>	<a href="https://www.thecable.ng/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-acute-hunger-in-coming-months/">https://www.thecable.ng/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-acute-hunger-in-coming-months/</a>
<b>4. P.M. News Nigeria - UN warning: 35m Nigerians may face acute hunger next few months</b>	<a href="https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2026/05/23/un-warning-35m-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-next-few-months/">https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2026/05/23/un-warning-35m-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-next-few-months/</a>
<b>5. Pulse Nigeria - Hunger crisis looms as UN warns 35 million Nigerians may struggle to find food</b>	<a href="https://www.pulse.ng/story/hunger-crisis-looms-as-un-warns-35-million-nigerians-may-struggle-to-find-food-in-coming-months-2026052313341612420">https://www.pulse.ng/story/hunger-crisis-looms-as-un-warns-35-million-nigerians-may-struggle-to-find-food-in-coming-months-2026052313341612420</a>
<b>6. Nigeria Info - Insecurity: UN warns 35 million Nigerians may face acute hunger in coming months</b>	<a href="https://www.nigeriainfo.fm/news/national/insecurity-un-warns-35-million-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-in-coming-months/">https://www.nigeriainfo.fm/news/national/insecurity-un-warns-35-million-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-in-coming-months/</a>
<b>7. Xinhua - Amid conflict, millions in Nigeria face hunger in coming months</b>	<a href="https://english.news.cn/africa/20260523/6f5859775f0144a4b5e664b723c4fd17/c.html">https://english.news.cn/africa/20260523/6f5859775f0144a4b5e664b723c4fd17/c.html</a>
<b>8. Independent Nigeria - 35 million Nigerians may face acute hunger from June - Report</b>	<a href="https://independent.ng/35-million-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-from-june-report/">https://independent.ng/35-million-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-from-june-report/</a>
<b>9. 21st Century Chronicle - UN says 35 million Nigerians risk acute hunger in coming months</b>	<a href="https://21stcenturychronicle.com/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-acute-hunger-in-coming-months/">https://21stcenturychronicle.com/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-acute-hunger-in-coming-months/</a>
<b>10. The Nigerian Voice - 35 million Nigerians may face acute hunger in coming months, says UN</b>	<a href="https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/368398/35-million-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-in-coming-months.html">https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/368398/35-million-nigerians-may-face-acute-hunger-in-coming-months.html</a>
<b>11. Reuters - UN says 35 million Nigerians risk hunger after global funding collapse</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-hunger-after-global-funding-collapse-2026-01-22/">https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-hunger-after-global-funding-collapse-2026-01-22/</a>
<b>12. BusinessDay - UN says 35 million Nigerians risk hunger after global funding collapse</b>	<a href="https://businessday.ng/agriculture/article/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-hunger-after-global-funding-collapse/">https://businessday.ng/agriculture/article/un-says-35-million-nigerians-risk-hunger-after-global-funding-collapse/</a>
<b>13. The Guardian - Malnourished children and desperate mothers on the frontline of Nigeria hunger crisis</b>	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/30/malnourished-children-and-desperate-mothers-the-healthcare-facility-on-the-frontline-of-nigerias-hunger-crisis">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/30/malnourished-children-and-desperate-mothers-the-healthcare-facility-on-the-frontline-of-nigerias-hunger-crisis</a>
<b>14. The Nation - Over 34 million Nigerians at risk of food crisis by mid-2026</b>	<a href="https://thenationonline.ng/over-34-million-nigerians-at-risk-of-food-crisis-by-mid-2026/">https://thenationonline.ng/over-34-million-nigerians-at-risk-of-food-crisis-by-mid-2026/</a>
<b>15. Associated Press - UN food agencies warn acute hunger will worsen in 13 hotspots as famine risks rise</b>	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/a399839162c23531efc3e096d7d69b76">https://apnews.com/article/a399839162c23531efc3e096d7d69b76</a>
<b>16. WFP - FAO-WFP report warns worsening hunger in 13 hotspots</b>	<a href="https://www.wfp.org/news/new-fao-wfp-report-warns-worsening-hunger-puts-13-hotspots-significant-risk">https://www.wfp.org/news/new-fao-wfp-report-warns-worsening-hunger-puts-13-hotspots-significant-risk</a>
<b>17. UNICEF - Acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain alarmingly high as crises deepen</b>	<a href="https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/acute-food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-remain-alarmingly-high-crises-deepen-un-eu">https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/acute-food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-remain-alarmingly-high-crises-deepen-un-eu</a>
<b>18. WFP - Global acute food insecurity and malnutrition warning by UN, EU and partners</b>	<a href="https://www.wfp.org/news/acute-food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-remain-alarmingly-high-crises-deepen-un-eu-and-partners">https://www.wfp.org/news/acute-food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-remain-alarmingly-high-crises-deepen-un-eu-and-partners</a>

Note: This concept note uses publicly available humanitarian news reports and official UN-facing briefings to justify the urgent need for a community-based emergency food security and nutrition response in Nigeria.