As part of the Lake Chad Crisis regional response, WFP responds to the consequences of Boko Haram’s long running violence and military counter-offensives. Millions of people across the region were affected and 9.2 million people are in urgent need of assistance.

WFP Niger delivers an integrated response package in 8 municipalities (Maïné Soroa, Chetimari, Diffa, Gueskerou, Bosso, Toumour, N’Guigmi and Kablewa). The response package consists of:

- Unconditional food assistance to vulnerable residing in and out of camps consisting of food distribution with cereal, pulses, oil, super cereal and salt, and/or food assistance in the form of cash;
- Conditional food assistance for asset creation to populations residing in specific zones outside camps, targeting refugees, returnees and IDP.
- Support to the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children 6-23 months and pregnant women in health centers and in camps;
- Prevention of acute malnutrition for children 6-23 months in targeted households through a Prevention package with a daily ration of 200 g of SuperCereal Plus, active screening for acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months, referrals to health centers and key family practices sensitisation sessions at distribution sites;
- School meals activities targeting school aged children in emergency and other schools, providing cereal, pulses, oil, super cereal and salt for the meals. Beyond bringing children back to school and improving their nutrition and food security, this crucial support also restored some stability in their daily lives.

“Aboubakar is 69 years old. He is from Assaga in Nigeria. He arrived in Boulongououri two years ago with his seven children. “We had to run for our lives. We were scared. Boko Haram came in our village and killed 13 people. The cries still resonate in my mind,” says Aboubakar, his voice filled with anxiety. Boubakar’s family benefitted from WFP’s support. “It helps us a lot. My life is better now and I am more confident about our future,” says Aboubakar with a smile.”
HOW DOES WFP WORK IN NIGER?

WFP promotes an integrated approach, providing a multisectoral response combining conditional and unconditional transfers and capacity development support to address the multidimensional needs. The food security response was linked from the start to WFP’s prevention of acute malnutrition programme in an effort to ensure that the most vulnerable children aged 6–23 months from targeted households in and out of camps received the nutrients and caloric intake needed to prevent an increase in malnutrition and mortality rate. Importantly, to reduce potential conflicts, because of the increased pressure on food stocks and competition for resources in the region due to the continued influx of people in need, host communities were included in the regional strategy so that their most basic food needs were met.

Recognizing the varied composition of the mixed migration flows into and the necessity to address acute and chronic food insecurity in the region, WFP uses the Household Economy Analysis socio-economic (community-based) targeting methodology, to ensure that beneficiaries living out of camps are assisted based on their vulnerability, regardless of their IDPs, refugees, returnees or host communities status. Refugees and IDPs living in camps are assisted based on their status. WFP Niger also plays a key role in coordinating the response. WFP and FAO jointly co-lead the food security cluster, chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, at both national and regional level, with the active participation of government counterparts, national and international NGOs, and UN agencies.

Food security is also monitored through the mobile Vulnerability Assessment (mVAM) system with WFP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, using mobile phones. Finally, WFP works in close partnership with the other actors present in the field to ensure a coordinated response. Within this framework, a joint WFP/UNICEF plan for nutrition response was developed for the Lake Chad region, to ensure a scale-up of operations to better meet the needs and to improve the quality of intervention at country level. Another partnership is ongoing with UNICEF on education, with strong complementarities on the support to schools.

KEY RESULTS

In 2016, WFP achieved the following results:

• Over 195,000 residing in and out of camps received unconditional food assistance in the form of food or cash. Of these, an estimated 23,500 refugees in the two refugee camps (Kablewa and Sayam Forage) benefited from monthly general food distributions.

• Some 23,700 beneficiaries, amongst which refugees, returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations, received conditional food assistance for asset creation to support early recovery.

• Some 46,000 moderately malnourished children 6–59 months and some 28,000 malnourished pregnant and lactating women were treated against malnutrition.

• Prevention of malnutrition activities through blanket feeding were carried out for over 14,500 children aged 6–23 months.

• School meals were provided to over 26,700 children. The programme assisted a total 319 schools including 16 with emergency school meal programmes.

WFP ENGAGES TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION OF AND ACCOUNTABILITY TOWARDS BENEFICIARIES

WFP closely monitors activities to ensure beneficiaries’ safety, dignity and integrity is preserved throughout the programme. In 2016, WFP trained staff and food security actors on international humanitarian and international law in conflict zones as well as on humanitarian access. In 2017, WFP strengthened its targeting methodology to discuss with communities other selection criteria than economic-based ones, such as women-headed households with numerous children, survival of gender-based violence, children-headed households and households headed by a person with specific needs. Throughout the programme, WFP promotes women’s representativeness by including them in the targeting and complaint committees and in surveys.

WFP has taken important steps to ensure accountability towards affected populations is met. To achieve this objective, WFP sets up complaint committees with trusted persons from the community who are listened to. In 2017, WFP will also strengthen its accountability by setting up a hotline number. Complaints will be then followed up with beneficiaries.