



Credit: WFP/Amadou Baraze

IN-KIND FOOD ASSISTANCE

WFP provides food assistance to some 1.1 million people monthly in Northeast Nigeria by using either in-kind (80 percent) or cash transfers (20 percent). Depending on the context, WFP's approach is to maintain flexibility has been able in order to switch between transfer modalities (cash or food) or adopt an hybrid approach.

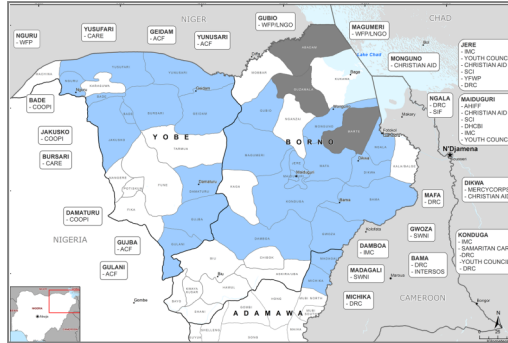
In areas where the on-going conflict disrupted food supplies, limited agricultural activities, and impeded market access, WFP has been providing a food basket consisting of five commodities: cereals, beans, fortified vegetable oil, iodized salt, and wheat-soya blend. The basket has been designed to meet the nutritional requirements of the beneficiaries.

Since the beginning of 2017, WFP has distributed every month on average 15,000 metric tons of food commodities to nearly 870,000 vulnerable people in 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. Throughout the period WFP has progressively targeted beneficiaries based on their vulnerability and not status. 56 percent of the people reached by WFP in-kind food assistance are women.

WFP has been purchasing locally approximately 70 percent of the food distributed, however fortified vegetable oil and specialized nutritional products are purchased internationally.

Protection means carrying out food assistance activities in ways that contribute to the safety, dignity and integrity of people in the communities receiving that assistance.

Food distribution sites are chosen in locations which are deemed safe for beneficiaries and where adequate



facilities such as drinking water and shade are in place to protect people's well-being and dignity, and activities are organized to minimize waiting time and take into account the distances beneficiaries need to travel.

As common practice to protect the interests of women, WFP makes them the holders of family ration cards.

Standard post-distribution monitoring are carried out to ensure that beneficiaries have received their rations and been able to get home safely with them. A telephone hotline is accessible for free to ask for explanations or comment about WFP's work. Solutions to optimize the feedback mechanism are currently being explored including piloting two softwares with the ability to record feedback, assign tasks, and ensure timely follow-up.

Despite steady progress in reaching people with food, the levels of insecurity and consequent restricted access are the main constraints encountered by WFP in carrying out its monthly food distributions plans.

WFP is working under the guidance of national and local authorities and has partnered with 18 humanitarian organisations including 6 national NGOs to carry out food distributions in targeted areas.

WFP co-leads with FAO the Food Security Sector.



BINTU

"We were hungry before, but with the food we are receiving [from WFP] our condition has improved. If this food assistance stopped we would not have any recourse except begging," Bintu says, describing how she and her children were forced to beg food off neighbors and passers-by.

The family had just returned to their home in Northeast Nigeria after spending months on the run, moving from village to village with nowhere to sleep, trying to escape the violence.

After her husband's death, Bintu – left to care for her five children on her own – had to flee again. "They took everything from us including our clothes. They kept us without food and water," she says.

Now living in Dikwa, Bintu and her family are among the hundreds of thousands of people the World Food Programme (WFP) is supporting in Borno state.