



CASH-BASED TRANSFERS FOR DELIVERING FOOD ASSISTANCE

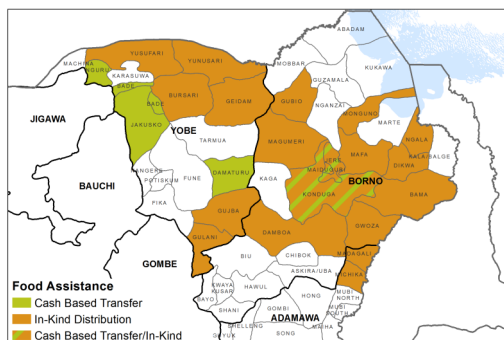
WFP provides food assistance to some 1.1 million people monthly in Northeast Nigeria. Increasingly, food assistance comes through cash-based transfers (CBT) that allow beneficiaries to buy food in the market and be more in charge of key decisions that affect their lives.

Since January 2017, WFP on average has been disbursing around US\$3 million each month to 193,000 people in 7 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno and Yobe states through CBT.

WFP in Northeast Nigeria uses two cash-delivery mechanisms: e-vouchers and mobile money. Households are provided with 17,500 Naira (approximately US\$50) per month which is estimated to provide for a family size of five people.

CBT beneficiaries have been largely assisted through mobile money: vulnerable households receive a monthly electronic credit allocation on their phones. The recipients receive an SMS notification from WFP, and can then withdraw the cash or use the mobile money at local shops.

At the beginning of February 2017, WFP started to pilot e-vouchers in Borno and Yobe states using electronic cards. The e-cards are essentially pre-paid debit cards. Each card is automatically loaded with money each month, allowing beneficiaries to buy the food that they need, when they need it in local shops equipped with the retail POS system to process the cards.



WFP partners with IOM to conduct biometric registrations of IDPs, and imports beneficiary data into SCOPE, the central repository of WFP beneficiary data.

The SCOPE platform is an online database system used for beneficiary registration, intervention setups, distribution planning, transfers and distribution reporting. Once initial registration is complete, an ID card is provided to participants allowing a more efficient monitoring and tracking of food and cash distributions.

WFP engages with telecom companies and financial service providers, such as Airtel and Access Bank, as well as 26 local food retailers to optimize the food supply chain and ensure that consumers get the best possible price.

As recent surveys show a gradual recovery of most of the markets, WFP is contracting 50 additional retailers.

WFP would like to link up with other partner efforts in inclusive financing and digital money to ensure its beneficiaries can transition to more sustainable forms of self reliance. 56 percent of WFP CBT beneficiaries are women.



HALIMA GARBA

"The insurgency left everyone homeless and hungry. When the situation became calm, my husband had no job and I have to beg to cater for the children while he does menial jobs," says a 40-year old Halima Garba, "Now I was registered and given a blue card with my picture to receive a paper at a food store to collect food. Mugode (thanks) World Food Programme (WFP)."

The mother of eight children says her children are in school now because they have food to eat and stay in class. Halima is one of thousands most vulnerable people born and living in Maiduguri.

Halima joins the thousands IDPs inside a vast compound waiting patiently to register for WFP's newly introduced electronic voucher cards to get food from retailers approved by WFP.

Powered by a digital platform called SCOPE, the cards allows them to buy food at participating stores.