



Credit: WFP/Adedeji Ademigboji

LIVELIHOODS INTERVENTIONS

While sustaining the provision of essential life-saving and nutrition food assistance in Northeast Nigeria, WFP has been engaging in activities which protect people's livelihoods promoting longer term resilience.

In May 2017 through joint programming, WFP and FAO implemented activities aimed at reducing food consumption gaps and needs and rebuild livelihoods of vulnerable affected populations during the lean season.

The joint effort took an integrated two-track emergency response approach: combining emergency food assistance provided by WFP through in-kind food or Cash Based Transfers (CBT), with FAO fast tracking small holder agriculture production through the provision of seeds, tools and fertilizers as well as small scale livelihoods starter kits in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. The project targeted 140,000 beneficiaries between May and September.

A joint output monitoring is planned in the first weeks of November and a sample of 384 households receiving agricultural inputs will be surveyed.

“**Livelihoods are the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living.**”

WFP and FAO have further sought European Union funding and in close collaboration with Nigerian authorities and the Borno State Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Reconciliation (MRRR), aim to improve self-reliance and restore livelihood capacities of conflict-affected populations. The project's overarching objective will be to provide in safe and stabilized areas of Borno State the means to

resume agriculture-based and other environmental-friendly livelihoods, thereby allowing them to progressively sustain their own food and nutritional needs. This will be achieved through the combination of productive measures supported in the same locations by conditional and unconditional social transfers.

Recently the World Bank has extended its financing through the FADAMA III project. FADAMA has sought WFP as a partner with recognized experiences in implementing livelihood programmes. In October, FADAMA and WFP have signed a Memorandum of Understanding through which WFP will conduct interventions in 2 LGAs of Jere and MMC through income generating activities, agriculture interventions, and social protection – cash-for work interventions. The project aims to increase asset ownership of beneficiaries involved in livestock and agricultural production with special focus on youth and women heads of household.

WFP's approach to strengthening livelihoods and building resilience in Northeast Nigeria is aligned with a range of national level strategies and frameworks. These include the UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Northeast Nigeria (2017) within its Food Security Sector that aims at promoting resilience and durable solutions for affected people including through restoration of livelihoods, and the 2016 *Buhari Plan* entitled *Rebuilding the North East* encompasses an Agriculture and Food Security intervention strategy and a Small-Scale Entrepreneurship Support Programme.

WFP co-leads with FAO the Food Security Sector.



MUSA ABDULLAHI

Not so long ago, Musa Abdullahi, was so hungry he ate everything that came his way —even the millet seeds he had set aside for planting.

But today, Abdullahi's family has found shelter and humanitarian assistance at Kasaisa camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), about seven kilometres away from Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State.

“Farming is our mainstay and all we know,” Abdullahi said. “We thank WFP and FAO bringing back these memories we cherished before we were displaced.”

Backed by Nigeria's government, the joint initiative aims to restore livelihoods in vulnerable communities across Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. More than 50,000 households are benefitting from the initiative during the lean season that runs to September.

In June 2017, FAO began distributing seeds so displaced people can start planting on land adjacent to the camp.

“The two pronged approach of providing food assistance and seeds to farming communities during the lean season” says Anthony Sabiti Head of Programme at WFP's office in Damaturu, “will help conflict-affected populations to move towards restored livelihood capacities, allowing them to sustain their food and nutrition needs in the long term”.