



Credit: WFP/Simonpierre Diouf

SPECIALIZED NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

WFP food interventions in Northeast Nigeria include specialized nutritional assistance to directly treat and prevent malnutrition of children under age five, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Since the beginning of 2017 WFP has been assisting monthly an average of 133,000 children and since March 2017, 88,000 pregnant and lactating women in 25 LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States.

WFP provides specialized ready-to-eat supplementary food (Plumpy'Sup) targeting children under five through blanket distributions. These nutrition products help complete the children's diet so they get enough calories and micronutrients on a daily basis.

Due to congestion and delays at Lagos port during the height of the lean season (June-August) specialized nutrition food did not reach the North-East in sufficient quantities to allow blanket distributions to children under five as planned. WFP distribution plan was therefore adjusted to ensure blanket coverage of children under two. As challenges at the port are being addressed, nutritional programmes have reverted to the original plans in October.

Since March 2017, WFP has been also supporting pregnant and nursing mothers with a monthly provision of supplementary nutritious food. The women are provided with a highly fortified blend of corn and soya and vegetable oil fortified with vitamin A.

WFP implements with UNICEF and Action Against Hunger (ACF) an Integrated Nutrition Programme

(INP) to reduce severe child malnutrition through increasing coverage of Infant and Young Child Feeding interventions, enhancing micronutrients supplementation and improving quality and reducing households food insecurity and poverty. Cash-based transfers (CBT) are used to maximize impact of nutrition-specific interventions.



WFP and UNICEF have also developed a country-level joint nutrition response plan that defines an integrated package of essential health and nutrition services combining the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, and of effective and efficient interventions addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition.

For its nutrition programme WFP partners with the National State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the State Primary Health Care Department Agency, the Nutrition and Protection Sectors, UNICEF, WHO and international and national NGOs: Action Against Hunger, CARE, Christian Aid, COOPI, Danish Refugee Council, International Medical Corps, INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, Secours Islamique France, and six local NGOs.



AISHAT ABUBAKAR

23-year-old Aishat Abubakar brings her 12-month-old boy, Mohammed, to Mala Kariri primary school. In the large school compound, she and other nursing mothers receive the nutritional product Plumpy'Sup, popularly called Magani Tamuwa, or 'malnutrition medicine' in Hausa.

A peanuty-tasting, power-packed product, Plumpy'Sup counts among the so-called 'therapeutic' foods WFP uses to treat moderate-acute malnutrition among children under five.

"You would cry if you had seen Mohammed five months ago," Aishat says of her now thriving son. "I could not produce enough milk to feed him, but since WFP enrolled for this Tamuwa, he is now looking healthy."

In Maiduguri and elsewhere where WFP and other humanitarian actors have intervened, child malnutrition has dropped from 30 percent a few months ago to less than 10 percent today, says WFP Nutrition Officer Martin Ahimbisibwe.

"And that's because of the food assistance we've been providing, along with support from other humanitarian actors," he adds.