



WFP in Northeast Nigeria



Credit: WFP / Adedeji Ademigbuji

IN-KIND FOOD ASSISTANCE

Overview

In-kind food assistance is one of WFP's primary ways of delivering food assistance to displaced people and communities in Northeast Nigeria. This modality currently accounts for about 70 percent of WFP activities in the country.

Since the launch of WFP operations in Northeast Nigeria in (March) 2016, WFP has rapidly scaled up to reach more than one million people monthly with food and nutrition assistance. In September 2017, WFP assisted 1.3 million people making it the highest number reached since the beginning of its operation.

With a food basket consisting of five commodities: cereals, beans, fortified vegetable oil, iodized salt, and wheat-soya blend, WFP between January and December 2017 distributed on average 15,000 metric tons of food commodities monthly to 868,000 people in 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States.

WFP plans to expand the number of food assisted beneficiaries to up to 1.5 million in the peak of the lean season in mid-2018, as well as to new areas depending on needs and accessibility.

Reaching those furthest behind

Through In-kind food assistance, WFP has been able to reach those furthest behind—internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees as well as highly vulnerable sections of the populations of the affected states.

In determining those who most need food assistance among the vulnerable, WFP assesses the food security needs in discussion with partners directly and through the Food Security Sector. WFP also employs community-based targeting discussing with IDPs in government designated camps, unofficial camps and in host communities based on needs using the agreed

vulnerability criteria.

Despite steady progress in reaching people with food, WFP encounters some challenges in carrying out its monthly food distributions plans due to a restrictive and volatile environment in Northeast Nigeria, coupled with limited access to roads during the rainy season and difficulties with crowd control—as populations are often too impatient to access food during distributions.

Partnerships

In addition to partnering with government's emergency agencies—NEMA, SEMA & others—WFP works with UN Agencies such as IOM and UNHCR to implement SCOPE, our biometric beneficiary registration and information platform that tracks data and operational information about the people we assist and to map out food security, protection and nutrition needs.

WFP also partners with 17 humanitarian organisations, including 9 national NGOs, to carry out food distributions in targeted areas.

International NGOs (in alphabetic order): Action Against Hunger (ACF), ACTED, CARE International, Christian Aid, COOPI, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), INTERSOS, and Plan International.

National NGOs (in alphabetic order): African Healthcare Implementation and Facilitation Foundation (AHIFF), Borno Women Development Initiative (BOWDI), Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN), Damnaish Human Capacity Building Initiative (DHCBI), National Youth Council Nigeria (NYCN), Network for Integral Rural Assessment Community Development Foundation (NIRA), Samaritan Care and Support Initiative (SACSUI), Social Welfare Network initiative (SWNI) and Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP).



Bintu in Dikwa

"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 for food from neighbours and passers-by.

The family had just returned to their home in north-eastern 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.