



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nigeria Country Brief March 2020



Operational Context

Nigeria, a federal constitutional republic with over 500 ethnic groups, is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. The crisis induced by non-state armed groups remains the principal driving factor of instability in northeast Nigeria. These groups have been increasingly expanding their operational capabilities since 2010. In May 2013 a state of emergency was declared by the Government in the States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

There are 2.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) reported in Nigeria (IOM/DTM Round 31), of which most are in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. The March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) reports nearly three million people in need of food assistance in these states. WFP operations are focused on crisis response to prevent further deterioration of food and nutrition security, reduce malnutrition and minimize gender inequalities. WFP activities are concentrated in IDP camps and host communities in rural areas of northeast Nigeria that are more vulnerable and food insecure.



Population: **201 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **158 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Estimated that >1m children (6-59 mths) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States are undernourished, 367,000 SAM & 727,000 MAM. (HRP 2019-2022)

In Numbers

7,534 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 4.6 m cash-based transfers made

USD 78 m six-month net funding requirement (April 2020 – September 2020)

716,755 people assisted
in March 2020

Operational Update

Unconditional **food assistance** reached 657,143 internally displaced people and host communities in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. WFP provided in-kind food to 376,864 people and reached 280,279 more through mobile money and e-vouchers.

WFP **malnutrition prevention activities** reached 181,609 children and pregnant and lactating women. This includes 4,008 children 6–59 months who received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children aged 6-23 months received cash-based transfers of NGN 5,000 conditioned on participation in UNICEF-supported maternal, new-born and child health services, maternal support groups, and income generating activities. Cash transfers enabled 21,224 mothers and caregivers to improve daily diets during the critical 1,000-day window of opportunity from conception to a child's second birthday.

WFP provided food or cash **livelihoods support** for 18,604 households. The livelihoods programme was affected by government restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This assistance helps vulnerable households meet their immediate food needs and create or rehabilitate assets that strengthen resilience of individuals and communities to future shocks.

WFP's **COVID-19 Task Force** continued to focus on prevention and staff wellness, business continuity planning and programme and supply chain operations. The Task Force proactively plans how WFP will ensure the northeast response continues to reach people in need, even in the most challenging scenarios.

WFP has taken immediate measures to mitigate COVID-19 risks in northeast operations by increasing the number of distribution sites to avoid large gatherings, staggering distribution cycles, providing rigorous sensitization to ensure no stigmatization of beneficiaries, modifying layout of distribution sites to enable quick processing, and maximizing work-from-home arrangements for staff. Countrywide, WFP plans technical support to strengthen existing national social protection mechanisms.

Findings from the pre-COVID March 2020 **Cadre Harmonisé (CH)** analysis informed by the February 2020 Emergency Food Security Assessment indicate 2.89 million people are currently food insecure (CH/IPC Phase 3 to 5) across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States between March and May 2020, with 273,328 of these in inaccessible areas of Borno State.

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Photo: WFP Nigeria

Caption: UNHAS staff conduct safety inspection in Maiduguri.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Total Requirement 2020 (USD)	Six Month Allocated Contributions (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirement (USD)
288 m	113 m	78 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and local communities affected by crisis in Nigeria are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of shocks

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide unconditional food assistance and income-generating activities to food-insecure internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and host communities affected by crises (URT: unconditional resource transfer).
- Provide nutrition prevention and treatment packages to children 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls, other nutritionally vulnerable populations and persons with caring responsibilities (NPA: malnutrition prevention).

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable people in chronically food insecure areas have enhanced nutritional status in line with the achievement of national and global targets by 2015

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Support improving the nutrition status of children, pregnant and lactating women and girls, adolescents and other nutritionally vulnerable groups (including people living with HIV) through an integrated malnutrition prevention package, including access to nutritious food and quality care, social and behavioural change communication and capacity strengthening (NPA: malnutrition prevention).

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in targeted areas become more resilient to shocks and are able to meet their basic food needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide conditional transfers to food-insecure persons, including women, young people and smallholders (ACL: asset creation and livelihood support).

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Federal, state and local actors have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition programmes in line with national targets in the short, medium and long term.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support the technical capacity of federal, state and local actors in information management systems, vulnerability assessment and mapping, monitoring and evaluation, safety net management, food technology and fortification, supply chains, nutrition and emergency preparedness and response, integrating gender. (CSI: institutional capacity strengthening).

Strategic Result 6: Policies to support sustainable development are coherent

Strategic Outcome 5: Government and partner efforts to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 are supported by effective and coherent policy frameworks

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support the Zero Hunger Forum and food and nutrition security coordination and advocacy in line with the recommendations of the zero-hunger strategic review (CSI: institutional capacity strengthening).

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian community is enabled to reach and operate in areas of humanitarian crisis throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide common emergency telecommunications services to government, United Nations and NGO partners to facilitate effective field operations and provide for staff security (CPA: service provision and platforms).
- Provide common logistic services to government, United Nations and non-governmental partners to facilitate effective field operations (CPA: service provision and platforms).
- Provide humanitarian air services to all partners until appropriate alternatives are available. (CPA: service provision and platforms).

Challenges

The spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria creates new constraints for WFP food assistance operations in northeast Nigeria, including restrictions on movement of humanitarian actors, transporters and financial service providers. The new COVID-19 environment also creates a challenge for communal livelihoods activities.

Sectors

The **Food Security Sector** set up COVID-19-related task forces on food assistance, remote monitoring and agricultural livelihoods. The FSS Food Assistance COVID-19 Task Force has developed guidance notes with recommendations for mitigation of risks of spreading COVID-19.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector provided Internet connectivity services to 2,863 humanitarians from 94 organizations.

Logistics Sector processed 535 humanitarian cargo movement notifications from 28 organizations to 48 destinations using 11,491 vehicles. The Logistics Sector anticipates extra duty for storage of COVID-19 related health and water, sanitation and health (WASH) items.

UN Humanitarian Air Service served 90 agencies, transported 6,155 passengers, 14,492 mt of cargo, and ensure the medical evacuation of four passengers. UNHAS plans augmentation with a fifth Maiduguri-based helicopter for movement of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) roving testing and contract tracing team in the northeast. The helicopter will be equipped with bio-isolation materials to ensure optimal health safety and medevac capability.

Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

Conflicts and the crisis persist in northeast Nigeria and thousands of people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States uprooted from their homes remain dependent on humanitarian assistance. *Find out how Ramatu Mohammed, a 30-year-old widow, is benefiting from WFP assistance:* <https://insight.wfp.org/my-children-will-not-go-hungry-fe86b9bcde42>

Committed contributions in 2020

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