



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Nigeria Country Brief

July 2021



## Operational Context

Nigeria, a federal constitutional republic with over 500 ethnic groups, is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populated country in the world. The crisis remains the main factor driving instability in northeast Nigeria. In May 2013, the Government declared a state of emergency in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States of northeast Nigeria.

UNHCR reports 2.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, most of them in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. The March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé finds 4.4 million people in northeast Nigeria require food assistance (IPC/CH Phase 3 and 4) during the June-September 2021 lean season.

WFP operations focus on crisis response to prevent further deterioration of food and nutrition security, reduce malnutrition, and minimize gender inequalities. The spread of COVID-19 in the country has imposed challenges for WFP food assistance operations, including accessing urban populations in need, and restrictions on movement of WFP and cooperating partner staff, transporters, and financial service providers. WFP has been present in Nigeria since 2016.



Population: **211.4 million**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**161 out of 189**

Economy: **Lower middle income**

Northeast: **320,000** children aged 6-59 months with SAM and **515,000** with MAM (HRP 2021)

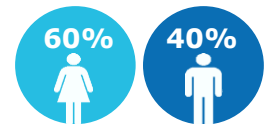
## In Numbers

**17,989 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 7.8 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 217 m** six-month net funding requirement (August 2021 – January 2022)

**1,625,953 people** assisted in July 2021



## Operational Update

- In July, WFP provided **unconditional resource transfers** to 1,573,939, crisis-affected people in northeast Nigeria and Zamfara State, distributing in-kind food to 1,080,994 people and cash-based transfers (CBT) to 492,945. People reached included 19,597 new arrivals.
- WFP distributed **emergency nutrition assistance** of specialised nutritious foods for prevention of acute malnutrition to 116,573 crisis-affected children aged 6-59 months and 77,410 pregnant and lactating women and girls. Food assistance for treatment of acute malnutrition reached 6,372 children aged 6-59 months.
- WFP provided **livelihoods support** to 27,755 vulnerable households via food or cash to support their immediate food needs and create or rehabilitate assets that strengthen resilience of individuals and communities to future shocks.
- Under the resumed and improved **multi-sectoral nutrition programme**, WFP provided USD 110,730 in cash transfers to 6,503 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls in Yobe State.
- WFP partnered with Nigeria's private sector to hold an inaugural **Zero Hunger Sprint Innovation Challenge** event at Lagos. The event connected investors from Nigeria's private sector with qualified local start-ups working on creative solutions to end hunger in Nigeria. Six women and men entrepreneur received awards of USD 50,000 or more to continue developing their prize-winning innovative ideas. [Read more](#)
- WFP facilitated awareness raising sessions on **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** (PSEA). Service providers and retailers in roles supporting WFP food assistance joined an in-person session at Damaturu and two online sessions for Maiduguri-based businesses and organizations. Ensuring safety from harm for the vulnerable people we serve is a core WFP commitment.

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[www.wfp.org/countries/nigeria](http://www.wfp.org/countries/nigeria)

Photo credit: WFP Nigeria

Caption: Winning innovators at the Zero Hunger Sprint in Lagos on 30 July 2021.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

| 2021 Total requirements (USD) | 2021 Allocated contributions (USD) | Six-month net funding requirement (USD) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>477 m</b>                  | <b>74 m</b>                        | <b>217 m*</b>                           |

\*Six-month net funding requirement as of 9 August 2021.

### 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 2025

**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).

## Assessments

- WFP's Famine Monitoring Systems reported that more than 61 percent of households in northeast Nigeria have **inadequate diets**, while **hunger and food deprivation** affect 83 percent or more. Households forced to rely on **negative coping strategies** exceed 51 percent.
- **Global acute malnutrition** stands at critical levels – 20 percent for moderate acute malnutrition and 6 percent for severe acute malnutrition.
- Very high levels of **poor food consumption and acute malnutrition** were recorded in Bama, Gwoza, Magumeri and Kukawa local government areas of Borno State. Driving factors remain disrupted livelihoods, limited availability of food and restricted access to markets, water, sanitation and health services.
- Market monitoring in Borno and Yobe States shows the impact of **currency depreciation and high food prices** in reducing purchasing power of market-dependent consumers. In June, year-to-year food prices increased over 21 percent and Nigeria's currency exchanged for as much as NGN 525 per USD on the parallel market, aggravated by the Central Bank of Nigeria's ban on sales of foreign exchange to Bureau de Change operators.

## Challenges

- Due to **delayed arrival of contributions** forecast with high probability, WFP has been unable to deliver food pre-positioned by the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF). This lifesaving food is urgently required in time for September distributions.
- Cash-based transfers to people in need have been slowed by weak **field capacity of financial service providers**. WFP is taking steps to diversify providers.
- The **current funding gap** of USD 217 million through January 2022 may limit numbers of people assisted or force reductions in ration size, increasing the risk that the most challenged locations will suffer high mortality rates, especially among children, the elderly, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and people with disabilities.

## Donors

Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, private donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States