



WFP Nigeria Country Brief September 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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. Conflict remains the main driving factor of 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 over three million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, the majority of them in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. The March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé found 4.4 million people in northeast Nigeria required 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)

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Photo credit: Clinton Ofoegbu, International Medical Corps

Caption: Bart Witteveen and Fidelis Erenje of the European Union's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) visit Teachers Village Camp at Maiduguri on 30 September 2021.

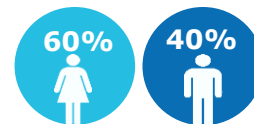
In Numbers

19,464 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 9.65 m cash-based transfers made

USD 196 m six-month net funding requirement (October 2021 to March 2022)

1,753,748 people assisted in September 2021



Operational Update

September marks the close of the lean season preceding the main harvest which enhances income opportunities and food availability for the most vulnerable people in the northeast living in insecure farming communities, urban areas and IDP camps without access to land for agriculture.

Despite growing needs that continue to significantly outpace contributions from donors, WFP sustained its **commitment to leave no one behind** in the northeast states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, providing support to 1,753,748 people, of whom 60 percent are women and girls.

WFP **crisis response food assistance** provided 17,885 mt of mostly locally sourced food to 1,216,792 people and USD 9.65 million in cash transfers through e-vouchers, prepaid cards, bank cards and mobile money to 479,070 people. WFP support also included 22,545 newly arrived internally displaced persons.

To prevent acute malnutrition, WFP distributed **emergency nutrition support** to 122,712 children aged 6-23 months and 85,823 pregnant and lactating women and girls. Another 7,597 children aged 6-59 months received nutrition assistance for treatment of acute malnutrition.

WFP has partnered with the **Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)** to gather evidence, shape policies, and build an enabling environment for rice fortification in Nigeria. This is an important step as Nigeria has a high burden of chronic malnutrition (11.5 million children under 5 are stunted) and micronutrient deficiency. Nigerians consume 181 million mt of rice per year.

Support for improved livelihoods continued to change the lives of 27,868 people, including 21,498 in Yobe State and 6,205 in Borno State. In Mafa local government area (LGA), WFP beneficiaries working in aquaculture value chain established a cooperative and registered as a business to support delivery of their fish and fish feed production to a wider market. The value chain includes fish farming, fish processing and fish feed production. WFP-supported women's village savings and loan associations increased savings by nearly NGN 400,000 (USD 1,000) in September, including over 10 percent reserved for group social funds.

WFP's multi-sectoral malnutrition prevention activity supported 5,727 vulnerable children 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls, in Bade LGA of Yobe State, providing access to locally available nutritious food through a voucher programme.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

2021 Total Requirements (USD)	2021 Available contributions (USD)	Six-month net funding requirement (USD)
471 m	288 m	196 m*

* Six-month net funding requirement as of 17 September 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

During September, WFP conducted an essential needs and nutrition assessment with the National Programme for Food Security (NPFSS), National Bureau of Statistics, National Population Commission, National Emergency Management Agency and NGO partners. The assessment surveyed 27,000 households in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States of the northeast, Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara States of the northwest, and Benue, Kaduna and Niger States of northcentral Nigeria. Both assisted and non-assisted households were included in the sample. The assessment will identify gaps in household food consumption and nutrition to inform future assistance priorities.

WFP and partners also carried out a market survey in September and published a market bulletin for the northeast, surveying markets across 33 local government areas, including 20 in Borno State, 2 in Adamawa State, and 11 in Yobe State. The current harvest in Borno and Yobe States is helping to stabilize staple food prices. However, consumer purchasing power continues to be eroded by high year-to-year increases in cereal prices, for example, in Maiduguri, 57 percent for maize and 234 percent for red beans, and in Damaturu, 45 percent for maize and 71 percent for red beans.

Challenges

Operational challenges affected the delivery of assistance in September. During in-kind food distributions, larger WFP food trucks faced access constraints in Magumeri, Monguno, Ngala in Borno State and Michika in Adamawa State. Following an official directive that all humanitarian cargo be accompanied and checked by the military, WFP faced difficulties in obtaining timely escorts, leading to partial dispatches in Gwoza and other locations.

For the first time since 2018, despite demonstrated readiness and agility to assist the Government of Nigeria to sustain and win its fight against hunger, WFP must consider resource scarcity-driven prioritized reductions in critical life-saving food and nutrition assistance. In September, WFP's multi-donor crisis response for people in the northeast faced a USD 196 million shortfall to sustain food assistance planned through March 2022, including USD 55 million required to assist the most vulnerable people in need through December 2021.

Donors in 2021

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Government of Nigeria, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and private donors.