



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Cameroon Lake Chad Basin Crisis Response

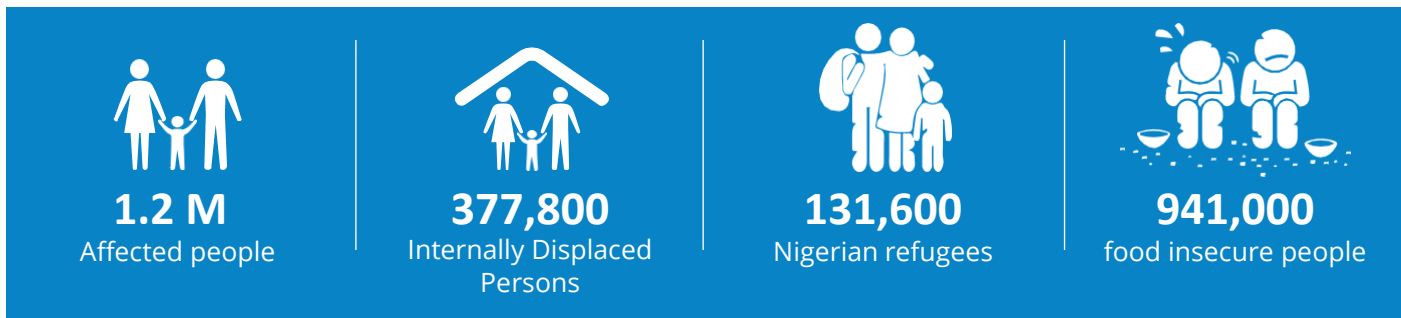
Operational Context

The crisis in the Lake Chad Basin has led to the influx of more than 131,000 Nigerian refugees into the Far North region of Cameroon, fleeing violent conflict between the government defence forces and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) since 2014. The incursions and frequent attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAG) in the region have also led to internal displacements, with 378,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) recorded. The conflict, coupled with extreme climatic events, inadequate infrastructural development and high poverty levels in the region has triggered a humanitarian crisis, impacting 1.2 million people.

Conflict over natural resources in the Far North intensified in 2021, displacing thousands of people is likely to reoccur in 2022.

This region experiences very long dry season and exceptional flooding during the rainy season, reducing farm yields and causing acute food shortages. The effects of climate change, conflicts and COVID-19 have led to an increase in the projected food insecurity situation from 2021 to 2022. Over 941,000 people are severely food insecure between June and August 2022 (Cadre Harmonisé, March 2022), compared to 820,000 people during the same period in 2021. With the recent price increases as a result of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the number of people needing food assistance is expected to increase.

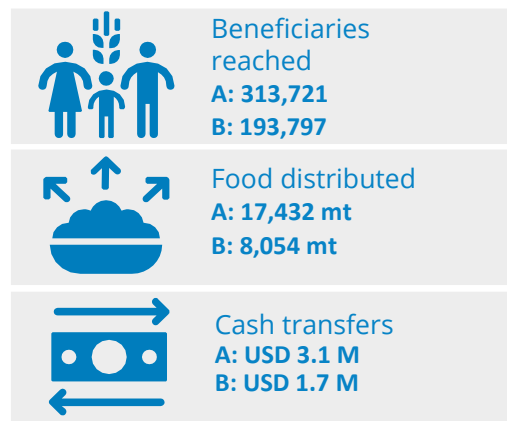
Humanitarian situation at a glance



WFP RESPONSE

In response to the needs of the affected populations, since 2014, WFP, with support from the Government and other partners, has been implementing an integrated package of interventions including life-saving emergency food assistance through food and cash-based transfers, school meals targeting schoolchildren in at-risks zones, seasonal support to vulnerable local communities during the lean season, early recovery and resilience building, nutrition improvement and market access support to smallholders. The activities are implemented within the framework of the WFP Cameroon Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026).

Highlights 2018–2021 (A) and January- September 2022 (B)



Unconditional food assistance

WFP assists crisis-affected people including the refugees and IDPs through unconditional in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers, enabling them to meet their food and nutrition needs and preventing their food security situation from worsening. In 2021, WFP distributed over 17,000 metric tons of food and USD 3.1 million to about 72,000 refugees and 81,000 IDPs in the FN Region.

WFP also provides seasonal food assistance to vulnerable host communities during critical times of the lean season (June–October), enabling them to meet their food and nutrition needs and preventing them from adopting negative coping strategies. Under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), WFP also provides assistance to displaced persons during emergencies such as intercommunal clashes which have become more prevalent due to the increasing pressure on the use of scarce natural resources.

School feeding programme

WFP, with support from the Government, UN agencies and NGOs, implements the school feeding programme in the region. This programme enhances school enrolment and retention while reducing dropouts and the risk of children being recruited by armed groups. Through the programme, WFP

provided nutritious school meals to over 71,000 schoolchildren in 2021. Between January and August 2022, WFP reached almost 72,000 people under the school feeding programme.

Early recovery and resilience

Using community-based approaches, WFP supports early recovery of affected populations and strengthens their resilience to shocks by implementing the food assistance for asset creation initiative in the region. Through this initiative, the mobilised communities are engaged in the creation and/or rehabilitation of agricultural and pastoral community assets such as water harvesting, feeder roads and soil; community farmlands to produce their own food and get involved in conserving natural resources and restoring the degraded natural environment. In 2021, 32,735 people benefitted from the asset creation initiatives.

Under its resilience portfolio, WFP also supports small-holder farmers who are most affected by the climatic conditions of the regions. The Far North is predominantly arid and susceptible to climate-related shocks including extreme high temperatures and droughts. These impact productivity and livelihoods of the smallholder farming communities. WFP, with support from the Government and other partners, is piloting a smallholder support

initiative in the region to enhance productivity and improve the incomes of the smallholder farmers. The initiative focuses on strengthening the resilience of smallholders through training sessions in post-harvest loss management, enhancing market access, financial education and management of income-generating activities, among others.

WFP has started procedures to purchase 380 mt of sorghum, 400 mt of rice and 15 mt of beans (niébé) from small-holder farmers in the Far North Region, valued at about USD 450,000.

Prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition

Working with other stakeholders, WFP complements government efforts in improving the nutrition status

of children aged 6 to 59 months by implementing malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes including the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP). In 2021, WFP assisted 44,800 children, distributing 1,052 mt of specialized nutritious foods to children aged 0-59 months. From January to August 2022 WFP distributed 104.2 metric tons of specialized nutritious foods to about 31,000 children aged 0-59 months as support for fighting malnutrition.

WFP integrates social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) in its programming to promote awareness of food and nutrition security, encourage families to produce, prepare and eat locally available nutritious diets, and promote good sanitation, hygiene and gender equality.

Beneficiary and distribution figures

Indicator	2021	Jan-Sep 2022
Total beneficiaries who received in-kind assistance	275,035	176,382
Refugees who received in-kind food assistance	77,099	69,731
IDPs and host population who received in-kind food assistance (including returnees)	184,759	106,651
Total beneficiaries who received cash assistance	38,686	17,415
People reached under the school feeding programme	74,139	71,457
People reached with malnutrition prevention and treatment activities	44,885	30,993
Total food commodities distributed (metric tonnage)	17,432	8,054
Total cash amounts distributed (USD)	3.1 million	1.7 million

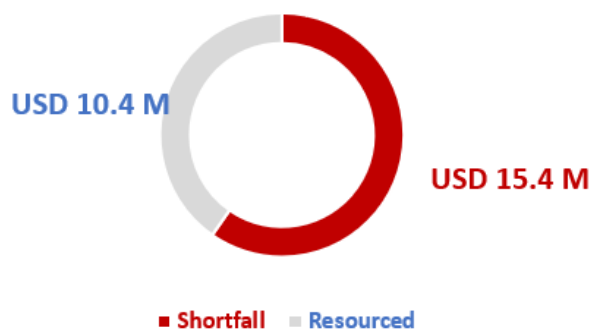
Partners

WFP has been able to implement its interventions thanks to the support of and collaboration with partners including the Government of Cameroon, donors, other UN agencies and cooperating partners.



Funding needs

To continue implementing activities in the Far North Region from November 2022 to April 2023, WFP urgently needs USD 15.4 million.





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