



Programme

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WFP Cameroon

Smallholder Farmers' Support and Resilience Strengthening

CONTEXT

The agriculture sector is the largest employer of the working population in Cameroon, employing over 70 percent of the workforce, and 90 percent of the rural workforce. However, it only contributes 15 percent to the country's national income.

The sector faces various challenges that prevent its rapid growth and significant contribution to national development. These include the effects of the climate crisis, soil degradation, limited access to land, high post-harvest losses, competition for limited resources, and lack of access to finance, inputs and sustainable markets, among others.

Smallholder farmers (SHFs), who are a single largest block of food producers accounting for 80 percent of the food consumed in the country, are among the worst affected. The challenges, which disproportionately affect women smallholders, are compounded by protracted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing insecurities resulting in internal displacement and an influx of refugees from Nigeria and the Central African Republic. The Ukraine crisis is also worsening the vulnerabilities of smallholder farmers by increasing the cost of food production due to increases in farming inputs and fuel, threatening to exacerbate food insecurity at national and household levels.

May 2023

WFP RESPONSE

WFP works with the Government and partners to support the recovery of crisis-affected communities and strengthen their resilience to better prepare for and withstand shocks. WFP and partners work alongside communities to create productive assets and promote income-generating activities using community-led, gender-responsive approaches. Additionally, WFP builds the capacity of smallholder farmers, especially women, to enhance their productivity and access to market for improved livelihoods. Activities are implemented in Adamawa, East, Far North and North regions, reaching refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities.

WFP prioritises women in its resilience activities, with women making up 57 percent of people assisted in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions. WFP's FFA and SAMS interventions have contributed to reduced workloads and difficulties women and girls face, such as the long distances they travel to collect water and wood and improving their access to productive opportunities through income-generating activities (IGAs), while also enabling them to have better control of their finances and other resources. Women's groups have received financial and material support to develop income-generating activities to improve their income and strengthen their autonomy.

Highlights (2018-2022)



Early Recovery and Resilience Support

The Food assistance for Asset creation (FFA) intervention is an initiative that enables WFP to address the most immediate food needs of vulnerable populations with cash, value vouchers or food transfers, while helping to strengthen their livelihoods, reduce the impact of climate-related disasters and build community and household resilience to current and future shocks.

Under this initiative, people build or restore their community assets through interventions geared towards supporting agricultural development which includes water harvesting, soil improvement, moisture retention, reforestation, watershed protection, and flood preparedness. WFP provides support through capacity strengthening, inputs and equipment and food or cash-based assistance to participating households.

The assets created have a multiplier effect by positively contributing to food consumption, enhancing the ability of smallholder farmers to increase production, and allowing households to boost their incomes through the sale of surplus food.

Diversification of food and income sources

In 2022, FFA activities to support early recovery and build resilience contributed to improving the diet of 8,036 vulnerable households (3,660 in Far North, 2,376 in North and 2,000 in East) with the establishment of 160 hectares of community fields and market gardens that produced 580 metric tons of nutritious food (maize, sorghum, soybeans, groundnuts, beans, cassava, vegetables, fruits, fish,

etc.), in addition to the construction of fish farms and small scale animal rearing.

Soil restoration and water conservation

The restoration and fertility of degraded soils in the Far North helped to combat the impact of climate-related disasters, namely flooding. Vulnerable communities established tree nurseries and reforested hectares of degraded land, which help to facilitate access to water for off-season agriculture through community-constructed water harvesting and storing systems such as irrigation canals, ponds, boreholes, wells and stone barriers. These communities also set up compost pits to improve soil fertility as a substitute for chemical fertilizers. In the East region, agroforestry systems (association of maize, beans, and cassava with trees) were developed on five hectares to expand climate-smart agriculture.

Community and social infrastructure

The construction or rehabilitation of local feeder roads supported critical infrastructure that links farms to markets and enables to transport of cattle. Additional community infrastructures that were established or refurbished included, sheds at market sites, mill shelters, drying areas, and small granaries. as well as the manufacture of improved energy-efficient stoves to reduce pressure on natural resources for fuelwood. These infrastructures have therefore contributed to improved living conditions of communities and allowed smallholder farmers to explore opportunities in more remunerative markets.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS)

WFP Cameroon, with the support of the Government and other partners, is piloting the corporate model of Smallholder Agricultural Market Support in the Far North, North and Adamawa regions to enhance productivity and improve the incomes of smallholder farmers through a market-driven approach. The initiative focuses on strengthening the resilience of smallholders through training and technical support in post-harvest loss management, enhancing market access, financial education, farm production entrepreneurship/management of income-generating activities and value chain development. Between 2020 and 2022, WFP has reached more than 9,700 smallholder farmers.

Through this initiative, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, supports the structuring of smallholder farmers to form groups, community associations and cooperatives, thus facilitating their collective access to markets and placing them in a stronger negotiating position for better commodity prices. The initiative has also enabled the setting up of Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSLA) to increase women's access to credit.

Between 2021 and 2022, WFP and its cooperating partners promoted the development of local agricultural value chains among smallholder farmers by encouraging to adopt improved farming practices, use of improved quality seeds and seedlings and to diversify crop production. WFP also provides processing machines (for cassava and cereals), motor pumps and tricycles to producer cooperatives to improve post-harvest management of farm products and increase market access among men and women.

Market access for smallholder farmers

In 2022, WFP facilitated access to markets for smallholder farmers by integrating them as suppliers of products (eggs, beans, cassava flour, milk, etc.) for its Home-Grown School Feeding programme that was piloted in the East and Adamawa regions. In addition, direct local purchases of 265 MT of food (rice, sorghum, cowpeas) were made from six smallholder cooperatives in the Far North region for USD 123,819. WFP will scale up purchase from smallholder farmers in 2023.

People assisted 2018-2022

FFA		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Far North	Beneficiaries	24,995	37,000	53,870	32,735	18,045
	Cash transferred (USD)	480,648	528,446	856,839	288,240	298,368
	Food distributed (MT)	626	1,372	1,285	918	-
North	Beneficiaries	1,375	5,000	2,240	2,240	5,001
	Cash transferred (USD)	-	-	-	-	238,869
	Food distributed (MT)	146	249	110	154	80
Adamawa	Beneficiaries	4,500	8,000	770	5,761	-
	Food distributed (MT)	334	372	38	397	-
East	Beneficiaries	12,875	18,970	4,250	17,505	8,780
	Cash transferred (USD)	-	-	-	230 910	51,104
	Food distributed (MT)	606	1,078	176	807	-
Total FFA	Beneficiaries	43,745	68,970	61,130	58,241	31,826
	Cash transferred (USD)	480,648	528,446	856,839	519,149	588,341
	Food distributed (MT)	1,711	3,071	1,609	2,276	223

SAMS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Far North	-	-	1,500	1,500	1979
North	-	-	1,500	1,141	-
Adamawa	-	-	2,000	1,300	-
East	-	-	-	-	1,621
Total Smallholder farmers supported	-	-	5,000	3,941	3,600



"The money I receive from WFP will allow me to feed my family and meet other small needs. This gives me hope and motivates me more to be able to continue the work of creation and rehabilitation of assets in our site. The awareness sessions on cholera and nutrition education provided by WFP and its partner EFA will allow us to better protect ourselves and our families and communities and ensure the health of our children."

Guedjo Wouyak, 56-year-old widow and mother of eight, beneficiary of WFP's FFA project in Mokola (Far North Cameroon): Happy to have received for the first time her transfer of money following the FFA activities she was engaged in. Photo: EFA Cameroon

Resilience Programme Outlook

To explore sustainable ways of supporting crisis-affected populations, WFP, in collaboration with other stakeholders, is finalising a resilience strategy that will be implemented within the Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026).

WFP is planning to scale-up activities in all the regions affected by crises, including the Northwest and Southwest regions, and plans to support 114,000 beneficiaries in 2023 (84,000 for early recovery activities and 30,000 for resilience activities).

Resource Outlook

WFP urgently needs **USD 15.9 million** (91 percent of the total requirement) to carry out vital livelihood support interventions from May to October 2023.

Since 2018, WFP has been able to implement its interventions thanks to the support of, and in collaboration with partners including the Government of Cameroon, donors, other UN agencies, and cooperating partners.



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