



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Nigeria Country Brief July - August 2023

In Numbers

1,895,416 people assisted



10,301 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 10.6 m distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 162.7 m six-month net funding requirements
(September 2023 – February 2024)

Numbers are for July 2023 unless otherwise specified

Operational Context

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and the sixth most populated in the world. The country faces multiple challenges, including reduced agricultural output due to flooding in 2022, the highest inflation rate in nearly two decades, and protracted conflict with non-state armed groups in the northeast states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY).

Conflict in the BAY states continues to drive displacement and disrupt agriculture and income-generating activities, resulting in heightened food insecurity, particularly among the 2.3 million internally displaced persons in 471,346 households and 2.1 million returnees in 341,895 households (IOM DTM Round 45). Economic shocks and adverse climate conditions further strain agricultural yields in both the northeast and northwest regions. The [March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé](#) projected that 24.8 million people across 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) would face crisis or higher food insecurity during the June to September lean season. In July, Nigeria's President declared a state of emergency on food security.

Since 2016, WFP has collaboratively provided lifesaving food assistance in Nigeria, working with partners to support the achievement of national targets for zero hunger by 2030. WFP focuses on crisis response, early recovery, and addressing the root causes of food and nutrition security through support for Government-led solutions.



Population: **223.8 million**
(UNFPA 2023)

2021 Human Development Index: **163 out of 191**

Income level: **Lower middle income**

Northeast and northwest: **5,932,000** children aged 6-59 months acutely malnourished; **1,623,000** with SAM and **4,308,000** with MAM (IPC Analysis, November 2022)

Operational Updates

- Continuing conflict in the northeast combined with spill-over effects from the political crisis in Niger triggered the arrival of 14,747 newly displaced individuals in Borno State in July and August. In Damasak, a Nigerian town bordering Niger, the number of new arrivals more than quintupled from the previous month. Amid these challenges, WFP provided unconditional resource transfers in July to 645,663 individuals using in-kind food while another 1,128,054 people received e-vouchers redeemable for food distributed by local vendors.
- Also in July, caregivers of 120,091 children aged 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition in Borno, Yobe and Sokoto states received specialized nutritious food from WFP to support their recovery.
- In August, WFP supported 19 organizations to position 504.5 mt of humanitarian cargo in common warehouse facilities across the northeast. The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) supported 102 organizations to safely transport 3,730 humanitarian workers and 21.8 mt of air cargo crucial for lifesaving humanitarian operations via helicopter to 11 hard-to-reach areas of the BAY states.
- WFP also facilitated a multi-country knowledge exchange mission for Nigerian delegates from four national agencies to meet with counterparts from Malawi, Somali and Rwanda to share technical know-how and experience for developing enhanced social registers and joint targeting for the design and implementation of shock-responsive social protection programmes. The mission was part of WFP's support for initiatives that drive change for improved social protection policies through [South-South and triangular cooperation](#).
- WFP completed a field test and validation exercise in August to confirm the compatibility of its redesigned tool that integrates formerly parallel monitoring of distribution and activity processes. The harmonized tool is expected to yield insights into these related processes that can be adjusted for greater efficiency and improved service provision.

You can be part of the solution!

WFP's ShareTheMeal has launched a campaign to advance Nigeria toward achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. The campaign is now closing in on its initial target of 500,000 meals. Scan the QR code or follow [this link](#) to learn more.



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Photo: A mother and her baby receive specialized nutritious food at a WFP-supported malnutrition treatment centre.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
2,561 m	286.2 m
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (September 2023 – February 2024)
473 m	162.7 m

Strategic Outcome 1: People meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

CSP Outcome 1: Food-insecure internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees, and host community members in crisis-prone and conflict-affected areas of Nigeria have access to adequate nutritious food and early recovery activities that meet their immediate food needs and live in cohesive households and communities, during and after shocks.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide food assistance and an integrated package of gender-transformative malnutrition prevention alongside social and behaviour change communication, asset creation, skills development, and complementary livelihood activities to crisis-affected, food-insecure people
- Provide malnutrition treatment activities, alongside gender-transformative social and behaviour change communication, to children 6–59 months of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls

Strategic Outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

CSP Outcome 2: Nutritionally vulnerable people in Nigeria benefit from better access to healthy diets and complementary services to improve their nutrition status in line with national targets by 2027

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activity:

- Support the provision of an integrated, multisectoral, gender-transformative, nutrition-sensitive package to nutritionally vulnerable groups

Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

CSP Outcome 3: By 2027, targeted vulnerable households and smallholder farmers in Nigeria have improved sustainable livelihoods and enhanced social cohesion derived from food systems that are resilient to shocks and thus facilitate enhanced access to nutritious diets all year round

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide an integrated package of nutrition and climate adaptive livelihood activities to vulnerable households, especially those with nutritionally vulnerable groups, to improve diets
- Provide support on gender-transformative, climate-smart, youth-inclusive food production, post-harvest and commodity quality management and marketing to smallholder farmers

Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems strengthened

CSP Outcome 4: National actors have strengthened capacity and an enhanced enabling environment for the development and management of food security and nutrition policies, strategies, processes, and programmes in line with national targets to achieve zero hunger by 2030

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activity:

- Provide nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative technical support on emergency preparedness and response, social protection, food systems, digital solutions, policy development and coherence and other innovative approaches targeting SDG 2 to national actors, including institutions

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

CSP Outcome 5: The humanitarian community in Nigeria is enabled to reach and operate in areas of crisis throughout the year.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide common logistic services to government, United Nations, and non-governmental organization partners to facilitate effective field operations
- Provide common emergency telecommunications services to the Government, humanitarian partners and crisis-affected communities to facilitate effective field operations, provide for staff security and support the protection of affected communities
- Provide United Nations Humanitarian Air Service services to all humanitarian partners
- Provide on-demand services to humanitarian actors

Monitoring

- WFP's Lean Season Food Security Outlook published in August indicates a growing challenge to ensure sufficient food consumption in the northeast, where 51 percent of households are experiencing inadequate food consumption. The report marks a 4 percent month-on-month increase and a 12 percent surge compared to the same period in 2022.
- The report also finds strong links between precarious income streams like daily wage labour and higher levels of inadequate food consumption and non-monetary poverty across multiple dimensions of food, health, education, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, and safety.
- The report's findings underscore the vulnerability to shocks of households that depend on more precarious income streams and highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to enhance livelihoods and build more resilient sources of income.

Challenges

- Funding shortfalls are impeding WFP's capacity to sustain lifesaving food assistance in Nigeria beyond December 2023. WFP currently faces a funding shortfall of USD 162.7 million through February 2024, with a pipeline break anticipated as early as November if additional contributions cannot be confirmed in time.
- UNHAS – WFP's essential air service provided to humanitarian organizations supporting crisis response in the northeast – is also severely constrained by the scarcity of donor funding and risks having to scale back operations.
- Increased food prices and high transportation costs associated with the recent surge in fuel prices are limiting the ability of WFP-contracted local retailers in northeast Nigeria to maintain inventories sufficient to meet the needs of vulnerable recipients of cash-based (e-voucher) food assistance. These challenges generated ripple effects that extended the latest redemption cycle from July into August, as many retailers had to make more frequent trips to replenish their food stocks.

Donors in 2023

Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, UN CERF and private donors.