



CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Operationalising the HDP Nexus in WFP Western Africa

Case Study: WFP Nigeria

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Introduction

In 2023, WFP's Regional Bureau in Dakar undertook a learning exercise to collate detailed and current information on how WFP country offices in Western Africa design and implement complementary, context specific, and agile HDP Nexus approaches. The goal is to inform and build WFP's evidence and advocacy with the latest practices from the field.

This document outlines the key findings of a case study conducted on Nigeria in early 2023, designed to identify Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) emergent and good practices.

It was produced based on face-to-face interviews conducted in Abuja in April 2023 with WFP staff and other external HDP Nexus stakeholders, virtual focus groups with WFP sub-offices, and desk review of WFP and partner documents.

WFP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE

WFP has extensive experience delivering assistance in contexts of conflict, fragility, and violence.

WFP signed up to the Peace Promise at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and adhered to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on the HDP Nexus in 2020. Both these commitments oblige WFP to engage in conflict-sensitive programming, to ensure that vital crisis response programming is sequenced and layered with longer-term programming to address the drivers of humanitarian need over time, and more broadly to contribute to peace outcomes.

WFP globally frames its contributions to the HDP Nexus and peace and development outcomes in two main ways. First, by contributing to broader efforts of the UN and governments to strengthen the coherence and complementarity of humanitarian, development, and peace outcomes for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Second, through WFP's own programming and partnerships across the HDP Nexus domains, including investments in resilience outcomes and shock responsive social protection.

WFP's approach to the HDP Nexus is underpinned by a number of principles that inform the design, preparation, and implementation of nexus interventions.

These are: a) commitment to partnerships and joint vision in support of national priorities, inclusion and localization; b) conflict sensitivity; c) gender, protection and accountability to affected populations; d) humanitarian principles; e) flexibility in design and implementation.

Operationalization of WFP's global approach to HDP Nexus in practice is based on emergent practices from the field, and the outputs of existing operational and strategic HDP Nexus partnerships.

Context for HDP Nexus operationalisation

At least one in two Nigerians, over 100 million people, live below the poverty line. Nigeria already has the second-highest prevalence of stunting in children under five in the world (only India is higher according to UNICEF), and according to the 2023 Cadre Harmonisé undernourishment and food insecurity are still rising.

The causes of these substantial and nationwide challenges are broadly related to low and declining agricultural production, macroeconomic challenges which were especially exacerbated by the Covid-19 response and subsequent global food and fuel price inflation, climate shocks, and insufficient coverage of social protection programmes.¹

WFP's main operational focus in Nigeria is the northeastern states where since 2009 protracted conflict and insecurity caused by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), and banditry and kidnapping for ransom, are compounding the nationwide challenges, disrupting livelihoods, triggering mass displacement, and constraining agricultural production as well as market access. Conflict between NSAGs and the Government of Nigeria has had a devastating impact on the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states.

Part of the wider Lake Chad Basin crisis, the conflict, which escalated significantly after 2014, has resulted in the forced displacement of approximately 2.2 million people (UN OCHA 2023).

The conflict has triggered a protracted humanitarian crisis with over 8.3 million people currently in need of assistance according to UN OCHA, and has contributed to other types of human rights violations including forced recruitment into the insurgency, sexual exploitation, and gender-based violence.

The region is also affected by other forms of conflict and violence common to the Lake Chad and Sahel regions, particularly relating to interactions between farmers and herders, and in relation to climate change.

At least 4.4 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the conflict-affected BAY states, including 588,000 people who already faced emergency levels between June and August – almost half of whom were unreachable for humanitarian assistance and in areas where food security assessments could not be conducted.

At the same time, the conflict has caused a degradation of government functions, a collapse of livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure, breakdown of community-based structures, disruptions in food production systems and a lack of access to basic services, setting back development gains.

In 2023 the conflict is at different stages in different localities. While the conflict continues in many places, there are some Demobilisation, Disarmament, and Reintegration processes underway for former Boko Haram fighters, but only touching a small number of people.

¹ Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review, 2017

In 2021 WFP also launched minimal programming in the Northwestern region, where millions lack access to basic health care and clean water, and immunisation coverage is far below national goals. The three worst-affected states of Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara registered a 50 percent increase in the number of people in need of food assistance (IPC Phase 3 – 5) in 2022.

Deeply rooted socio-economic grievances are also contributing to inter-communal tensions between farmers and herders. Banditry and violence against civilians, mass kidnappings, and cattle rustling are increasingly commonplace. 369,000 displaced people are currently registered by IOM as living within host communities or in informal settlements.

Enabling environment for HDP Nexus operationalisation

The government of Nigeria is addressing the vulnerabilities in the country through institutional and programmatic action plans. The medium-term National Development Plans (2021-2025) aim to lift 35 million Nigerians out of poverty, while the government's flagship social investment programmes and social protection plans target 100 million Nigerians by 2050.

Recognizing the multiple dimensions of this context, **the United Nations in Nigeria has also developed a HDP Nexus approach that draws together humanitarian, development, and peace efforts in a joined-up strategy to support the country to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.** The UN Strategic Framework integrates existing humanitarian, development and peace approaches.

WFP in Nigeria is aligned with national and United Nations priorities, including Nigeria's National Development Plan for 2021–2025, Nigeria Agenda 2050, the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition for 2021–2025, and the National Humanitarian–Development–Peace Framework.

WFP is also aligned with national and regional strategies such as the Buhari Plan for Rebuilding the Northeast (2016), state development plans, and the Lake Chad Basin Commission's Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (2018).

In the broadest terms, the common thread of these plans and strategies is to contain the crisis, and wherever possible push towards its resolution. Currently there is no commonly agreed strategy for operationalising these outcomes, meaning multiple interlinked governance, humanitarian, development, and economic initiatives are currently happening in parallel.

The government and the international community nonetheless recognize that anticipatory actions, humanitarian and development efforts should prevent, mitigate and build resilience to shocks, bringing about more sustainable solutions to protracted food insecurity.

There is also consensus on the need to move beyond traditional humanitarian approaches and sector silos. **This requires substantially improved synergies between humanitarian, development; and peace actors, with coherent, coordinated and integrated responses to obtain better combined results and improve the effectiveness of ongoing current initiatives.**

Government counterparts in the BAY states have especially highlighted the need for stronger coordination among HDP actors and emphasized their commitment to leading a “better together” approach. In practice it is nonetheless acknowledged that in the absence of an end

to hostilities, or initiation of reconciliation or peacebuilding process separate from the armed and military responses, opportunities for HDP Nexus operationalization are constrained.

From the point of view of WFP’s main donors, humanitarian funding is anticipated to continue shrinking in the years ahead relative the end of needs, as donors seek to accelerate transitions to resilience-based programming and national systems strengthening, decoupled from the existence or not of a credible strategy to end the conflict and promote reconciliation and reconstruction.



WFP's approach to the HDP Nexus in Nigeria

Under its 2023-2027 CSP, WFP has committed to integrate its dual mandate in Nigeria through work at the HDP Nexus, applying targeted emergency responses that save lives while forging shock-responsive pathways to early recovery and sustainable, resilient food security, all underpinned by the integration of nutrition, gender, climate change adaptation and protection concerns into its changing-lives activities.

While conditional and unconditional assistance in the Northeast has had a significant impact in previous years, especially with preventing famine in the region, the widespread needs across the country require an integrated approach, anchored in effective government led programmes and capacities.

WFP has committed to a twin track approach; a shift from being a traditional operational partner implementing food and nutrition assistance, to over time position WFP as an enabling partner, strengthening systems at the national and regional levels for maximum synergy and impact with partners at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

In the Northwest, WFP Nigeria has committed to adopt a whole of system approach for its operations, with attention to exit strategies right from the start through three pathways: (1) Strengthening of government systems for effective humanitarian response, (2) Strengthening of the private sector for collaboration and contribution and (3) Supporting the government-led national food systems transformation priorities.

At a national level, working jointly through the Nigeria United Nations country team and guided by the United Nations sustainable development

cooperation framework for Nigeria for 2023–2027, WFP is aligning its programmatic approaches with national priorities and government systems, advocating the implementation of scalable, evidence-based approaches to addressing the root causes of Nigeria's entrenched food security and nutrition challenges.

Pillar 1: scaling up life-saving assistance and complementary measures to prevent and mitigate the risks of severe food insecurity

WFP provides lifesaving assistance to crisis-affected people in the northeast States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY), including through in-kind food, e-vouchers, bank transfers (prepaid cards and debit cards), and mobile money solutions that help to strengthen the functionality of local markets and financial services; and life-changing interventions in locations with more stable environments. Furthermore, WFP also introduced an integrated complimentary livelihood support to affected population to foster early recovery and anticipatory action across the BAY state.

WFP is currently engaged in discussions with the government in the northwest states of Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara to utilize the states' social protection systems to deliver food



and nutrition assistance to people affected by banditry/kidnapping and the returnees and other vulnerable people in those states.

In Northwestern Nigeria, the crisis response approach will involve very strong government participation right from the planning of response through monitoring and evaluation to address the vulnerability among affected populations.

A hybrid approach will be adopted, depending on context and location, where WFP could directly deliver unconditional food assistance or provide enabling circumstances for government to support its citizens, perhaps deploying the government social protection systems to provide an emergency and humanitarian response.

The focus is to provide assistance to households to alleviate food access shortfalls; i.e., the difference between their food consumption requirements and what they are able to provide for themselves without adopting distress (i.e., negative or damaging) coping strategies.

WFP will consider using government health facilities to deliver malnutrition treatment programmes as well as mainstreaming nutrition under school feeding and social protection policy and programmes in the region, informed by recommendations from the FNG country analysis.

ENABLING “NEXUS SENSITIVE” AND CONTEXT SPECIFIC APPROACHES

WFP programmes are taking a “nexus sensitive” approach, meaning WFP is seeking to rigorously ensure its humanitarian interventions are grounded in the community, and do not negatively impact prospects for either peace or development.

WFP has conducted conflict sensitivity and risk assessments in seven local government areas of Borno State and three in Yobe State, and undertaken with SIPRI in-depth conflict context analyses to map opportunity for WFP to make programmatic contributions to peace.

As well, WFP has ensured community-based participation planning in granular “hyper-local” targeting processes.

Findings from these assessments have helped inform planning for conflict-sensitive WFP programming that should minimize negative impact on communities while maximizing positive effects for peace.

Guided by community feedback, WFP and cooperating partners improved conditions at distribution sites by reducing crowding, shortening waiting times, and providing appropriate shade and seating for recipients of food assistance.

WFP engages in continuous listening via group discussions and the gathering of feedback. These insights are documented, analysed and integrated as programme improvements.

For example, transfer modality preferences expressed by community members are considered during the shift from in-kind to CBT.

Gender, protection, and accountability to affected populations assessments conducted in the BAY states also inform programme design and decision-making. Lessons learned from this community feedback and protection approach also informed the design of WFP Nigeria's Country Strategic Plan for 2023-2027.

Complementary to this approach is WFP Nigeria's work building the capacity of local NGOs and WFP cooperating partners, training them on protection, community feedback mechanisms, and impartial targeting to ensure convergence of humanitarian actions on the most vulnerable people.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO SHAPE AND BENEFIT FROM ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS

In partnership with FAO and Nigeria's National Food Security Sector Coordination systems and local government leadership, WFP is also exploring ways to facilitate a more inclusive and bottom-up approach to Anticipatory Action (AA) programming by reflecting the perspectives and priorities of at-risk and affected populations, including particularly vulnerable groups, in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of AA.

Specifically, WFP is participating in efforts to establish and/or strengthen Community Managed Anticipatory Action Groups i to build community level networks, inclusion and strengthening of locally led efforts and tools for early warning and early action in various areas including climate-related mitigation and adaptation, natural resource management and strengthening community/household level preparedness and contingency planning.

This approach will **leverage and build the capacity of national coordination systems and ensure local government leadership by bringing multiple partners together for joint and synergic actions** towards addressing immediate effects and key drivers of food insecurity. At the community level, the project will work directly with the existing community structures in planning and execution.



Pillar 2: reinforcing integrated community-based resilience

To reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance and support an HDP Nexus approach, WFP has integrated livelihood interventions with unconditional resource transfers to support early recovery among crisis-affected food-insecure households.

WFP support for complementary livelihoods advanced the HDP Nexus by reducing humanitarian dependency through helping food assistance recipients to grow more food or generate new sources of income that contribute to meeting household needs.

Interventions especially seek to reinforce the Government's drive for economic diversification through agriculture, including efforts to increase agricultural production by smallholder farmers.

WFP has already completed a value chain analysis of the sorghum and millet value chains which was followed by a market assessment on the demand and supply ecosystem of processed products from sorghum and millet, also highlighting the potential for growth and employment opportunities along different nodes of the value chain. WFP will be working with relevant government agencies such as the Nigeria Commodity Exchange, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and relevant research and technological incubation institutions. To further help build the resilience of Nigeria's smallholder farmers, who comprise 60 percent of Nigeria's population, WFP support for complementary livelihoods aims to reduce humanitarian dependency by helping food assistance recipients to grow more food or generate new sources of income that contribute to meeting household needs. WFP has piloted complementary livelihood interventions across five Local Government Areas of Borno State, in alignment with state government priorities.

WFP with UNICEF has also launched a multi-year resilience-building initiatives with a focus on building peace, strengthening governance, restoring infrastructure, and providing life-saving services. The first initiative supports the resilience needs of 200,000 people over five years through improved value chain employment opportunities for women and young people and establishes more robust food systems to support smallholder farmer access to markets in northeast Nigeria.

The second initiative will provide sustainable employment for 12,500 households over three years that strengthens resilience and also enhances social cohesion through integrated support for food for assets programming and nutrition.

MAXIMISING THE TRIPLE NEXUS IMPACT OF "PROXIMITY PROCUREMENT"

The conflict in North East Nigeria has destroyed essential infrastructure, food production resources, and disrupted markets and the food supply chain. Many communities have been left without access to basic necessities, including food. In some areas up to 90 percent of conflict affected people and IDPs are smallholder farmers. The UN has estimated that unemployment and poor economic prospects are a key driver of recruitment into armed groups especially for young people. Nonetheless, North East Nigeria retains the natural and human resources for extensive food production.

In this context, taking into account that there are pockets in the northeast regions where stability and relative security have been established, WFP has been operationalizing its "Out of Conflict Into Solutions" Strategy in Nigeria. Under this approach WFP is on the one hand using its CBT modalities to increase demand for local purchases and to kick-start local markets, and on the other expanding its role as a player in domestic food markets, in 2022 purchasing over 83,000 mt of locally grown food, including 20 percent confirmed as sourced from smallholder farmers. WFP also collaborated with contracted retailers and financial services to support food access in communities where local markets and household purchasing power are yet to recover, in line with the outcomes of a SIPRI study on the local economic development impact of investments in e-vouchers and retailers. WFP Nigeria is also piloting the use of local

food procurement used in WFP unconditional assistance programmes from relatively stable agricultural areas as close as feasible to conflict areas. The program will involve identifying and partnering with local farmers, setting up distribution centres in strategic locations, and providing support for farmers to increase production. The initiative also includes training for community members on sustainable farming practices, food storage, and management with a special emphasis on the Post-Harvest Losses management and good agricultural practices.

The programme has the potential to achieve HDP Nexus goals by exploiting the added impact that local procurement might have in the economic environment of host communities and refugees, favouring business, increasing employment, and contributing to the HDP Nexus. These transfers also support the Government's strategic priority to build a more affordable, Nigeria-grown food supply, and promote linkages to markets for smallholder farmers, especially women, Nigeria's strongest drivers for a more socially equitable and economically diversified future.

WFP Nigeria anticipates the food procurement programme will serve as an example of the critical role of localization in building resilience in conflict scenarios, as well as adding value by reducing logistics costs; dynamizing the economy; creating business opportunities; reducing unemployment; reducing the carbon foot print of WFP procurement; empowering local communities; building resilience in the face of conflict; and potentially both reducing the incentives for people to join non-state armed groups while also increasing the cost of continuing the violence and conflict.

In time the local procurement programme may be connected to WFP and broader government programmes.

Pillar 3: strengthening national systems

WFP supports enhanced national plans, policies, and other strategic documents to optimize synergy and coherence in Nigeria's medium- and long-term vision to achieve food and nutrition security.

BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2021, WFP provided trainings and capacity building on targeting and protection in humanitarian response to the Zamfara state Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development. The trainings emphasized best practices and the importance of adopting a Nexus approach during emergencies.

WFP has also provided emergency preparedness and response planning training to up to 15 percent of staff in various departments of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and its subsidiary agencies.

Thanks to their strengthened capacity, the trained staff will be better prepared to respond autonomously to emerging food and nutrition vulnerability, especially in parts of Nigeria currently without a WFP operational presence.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION

WFP Nigeria has identified social protection as one of the enabling tools to operationalize the HDP Nexus, where expertise developed in the humanitarian space can be leveraged in pursuit of broader national development goals.

With support from the World Bank, the government has set up the National Social Safety Nets Coordination office to manage the social registries of very poor and vulnerable households in the country, the National Cash Transfer Programme to provide cash transfers to those households, the Nigeria Covid 19 Action Relief and Economic Stimulus (NG CARES) project to provide support to households suffering from varying chronic vulnerabilities including poverty. While these efforts have achieved some success, there are critical gaps in the current set-up which includes early warning systems/shock responsiveness, and making the social protection programs nutritionally sensitive. These are areas where WFP can provide support.

WFP participated in a diagnostic analysis of the previous Nigeria National Social Protection Policy (NSPP 2017 to 2020) to produce a newly revised version (NSPP 2021 to 2025) with an accompanying “implementation plan” and “M&E framework.”

WFP also supported the Governments of Borno and Sokoto States to align their social protection policies with the countrywide framework – addressing the humanitarian situations in these

states and serving as a bedrock on which to build development and peaceful coexistence.

With the International Labour Organization, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, WFP worked to assess and strengthen capacity to provide shock-responsive social protection systems within both the Federal Government and the Government of Sokoto State (Northwest Nigeria). Working as part of a Joint UN SDG pilot, WFP supported Sokoto State with technical training on digital cash transfer programming, financial inclusion, and design of a management information system.

WFP and other partners supported Sokoto State to form an inter-ministerial cash working group that delivered digital cash transfers to over 600 vulnerable households comprising pregnant and nursing women and children aged 6-23 months.

These efforts helped the Government of Sokoto State to build a functional digital cash transfers system, strengthen in-house technical capacity, and secure essential infrastructure to operate an end-to-end cash distribution process.



WFP also trained the State Government and partners on the role of social protection in emergencies, building frameworks and drawing lessons learned that will be applied to similar capacity strengthening efforts. These outcomes demonstrated how technical support to social protection institutions could achieve multiple long-term development results, including improved access to healthcare, enhanced access to food and food security, and improved livelihoods for beneficiaries.

Building on the success of technical support at national level and that of the Sokoto state pilot, WFP together with Government of Nigeria has identified key areas of technical support within the social protection space: system architecture; operations; and knowledge management. These key areas when strengthened will make the social protection systems a cornerstone of humanitarian service.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING

Established in 2016, the Government of Nigeria's National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme helps to feed students nutritious meals, increase school enrolment and completion rates, and stimulates local markets by employing cooks and purchasing food from smallholder farmers living in nearby communities.

The programme is implemented by the The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development countrywide with technical support from WFP.

In 2021, the Federal Government and WFP conducted a joint assessment of the national home-grown school feeding programme identifying key areas for improvement. Building on the recommendations from that assessment, the Federal Government with WFP technical



support introduced the WFP-designed School Meal Planner (SMP) PLUS tool, an internet-enabled application to help school administrators design menus for improved meals at school that balance the nutritional requirements of students with the use of less expensive, locally sourced ingredients.

Smallholder farmers Access to Markets (SAMS) in Northeast Nigeria

WFP Nigeria in 2021 with funding from the WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich piloted a SAMS project in 4 local Government Areas of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The pilot project which was jointly implemented by WFP Nigeria, Adamawa state government – Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and a private start-up firm in Nigeria (Thrive Agric) was targeted at stable areas within the troubled Northeast Nigeria.

The project targeted farmers in these stable locations whether IDPs or host communities who have access to land for farming.

Upon enrolment into the program, both Adamawa state government and Thrive Agric with technical support from WFP guided the farmers with good agricultural practices and post-harvest reduction strategies as well as packaging to meet acceptable standards. **The pilot project reached over 10,000 framers including IDPs and host community farmers, increased their productivity, linked them to premium markets which resulted in a 12 per cent increase in their income while promoting peaceful co-existence between the IDPs and the local communities.**

STRENGTHENING CASH POLICY

The National Cash and Voucher Assistance Policy is another high-level strategic document now undergoing consultative review and stakeholder validation. Supported by WFP, the policy is expected to set guidelines for the optimal administration of cash-based assistance provided to Nigeria's most food-insecure vulnerable people.

Pillar 4: joint analysis and learning, and coordination

WFP provides both financial and technical support for improved coordination of state and federal food and nutrition security policies and operations.

As well, in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics, National Programme for Food Security, National Population Commission, and UNHCR, WFP has expanded the annual Essential Needs Assessment (ENA) to nine states, up from six states in the previous year, while also integrating a wider range of vulnerable groups including refugees.

The ENA provides additional evidence to inform Cadre Harmonisé analysis, an essential tool for improved preparedness of the Government, United Nations agencies and others to respond to current and future emergencies.

In addition to the ENA, WFP conducts real-time food security monitoring for 26 states and FCT which feed into the twice a year Cadre Harmonise analysis.



Strategic opportunities for HDP Nexus operationalization

WFP in Nigeria has successfully undertaken activities and adaptations which are advancing the HDP Nexus approach and improving wider prospects for improved food and nutrition security, development, and peace. Its overall approach is seeking to reduce the caseload of people in need even in protracted crises, while looking longer-term to make people resilient and self-sufficient, to make less money go further in achieving these two goals, and to contribute to establishing or re-establishing functioning markets, basic services, and social protection systems.

Opportunities for further advancing application of these approaches include:

1. The presence of non-state armed groups and government forces operating in the same operational environment as well as the impact of counter-terrorism and stabilisation agendas have impacted on humanitarian access in Northern Nigeria. **As WFP seeks to expand its influence on conflict dynamics in the region, and to support the gradual transition to peace, peace dividends, and development, it would benefit from an updated conflict analysis** evaluating the linkages of conflict, hunger and malnutrition in Nigeria, and the evolving opportunities for WFP conflict sensitive programming in the different contexts.
2. **WFP can continue to emphasise its food systems approach**, encapsulating the means of production and rebuilding communities' ability to produce and access markets, as well building demand for nutritious foods including through cash and e-voucher programming by WFP and the government, and building shock-responsive social protection systems that can help with emergency responses where and when they are needed in these contexts on a sustainable basis.
3. The "proximity procurement" model developed by WFP Nigeria is unique in the subregion in terms of its specific targeting of communities in areas of risk of conflict spread and the model that has been developed by the Supply Unit to operationalize this approach. **This approach merits a dedicated learning exercise and wider sharing of its outcomes and lessons.** Aligning WFP's market approaches including cash, vouchers, and local procurement with broader conflict-specific outcomes offers a broad operational and policy-oriented runway.
4. Social cohesion outcomes from WFP interventions are derived from numerous aspects of WFP's targeting and programming, and indirectly from its social protection, capacity strengthening, technical support to government, and systems strengthening work. **A cross-sectoral, thematic approach to social cohesion which seeks to exploit synergies between approaches but also to harmonize and standardize measurement and promotion of outcomes would be productive**, especially if aligned with a broader system-wide joint analysis process.
5. WFP Nigeria's approach to integrating and aligning its targeting, gender protection- and community feedback mechanisms is well developed and focused, it would merit a dedicated lessons learning exercise to ensure its broader application. **By addressing gender inequalities, promoting women's participation, and preventing violence against women, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts can contribute to more sustainable and inclusive peace.**

6. As WFP Nigeria rolls out its 2G CSP, it should **seek to integrate WFP into wider UN and donor coordination forums as well as national and sub-national fora, and grow awareness of WFP's existing impact at the national level and outside the Northeast.** This is especially the case considering the spotlight that will be placed on Nigeria in 2023 as one of the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement's priority pilot countries, offering enhanced pooled funding and political awareness.

7. Area-based programming and convergence programmes are a major feature of HDP Nexus approaches in other contexts and could offer WFP another means with which to align with National Action Plans.

Conclusion

The severe hunger and malnutrition situation in Nigeria derives from a combination of a long-term chronic situation, which is being aggravated through human and climate shocks, adding multiple layers to acute vulnerabilities.

Conflict is at the core of the challenge as both a driver of hunger and malnutrition, and an insurmountable obstacle to the implementation of programmes and approaches to improve the situation.

While Nigeria offers a major test of the HDP Nexus approach, it also offers a major opportunity. The region from Lake Chad across to Kano was until relatively recently a trade hub of sub-Saharan Africa. **Northern Nigeria can again be the breadbasket of Nigeria and contribute significantly to improving food security in the region.** In 2023, WFP's national and international stakeholders are aligned in their intent to achieve this ambition.

In this context peace and production is the ultimate solution for the operations in which WFP is involved. WFP is focused on solutions at scale, on shifting from humanitarian programming into resilience, and working with partners on increasing development opportunities through both UN, civil society, and national structures.



Acronyms

AA	Anticipatory Action
BAY	Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States
CBT	Cash-Based Transfers
CSP	WFP Country Strategic Plan
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
ENA	Essential Needs Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FNG	Fill the Nutrient Gap
HDP Nexus	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
IOM	Integrated Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IT	Information Technology
NG CARES	Nigeria Covid 19 Action Relief and Economic Stimulus
NSAG	Non-State Armed Group
NSIP	National Social Investment Programme
NSPP	Nigeria National Social Protection Policy
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SAMS	Smallholder Agricultural Market Support
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SMP	School Meal Planner
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

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