



World Food Programme

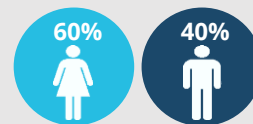
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nigeria Country Brief October 2023



In Numbers

1,107,132 people assisted



3,012 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 6.8 m distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 206.7 m six-month net funding requirements
(November 2023 – April 2024)

Operational Context

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and the sixth most populated in the world. Positioned with the Sahelian and Sudan savanna belts spanning its north, the country is confronted with a significant food insecurity crisis. In 2024, 26.5 million people across 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) of Nigeria are projected to face crisis or worse levels (IPC Phase 3 and 4) of food insecurity.

In July 2023, Nigeria's President declared a state of emergency on food insecurity. Since then, the Government has rolled out policies and programmes to boost agricultural productivity and increase access to food, but underlying challenges continue to drive food insecurity.

In the northeast, protracted conflict threatens 2.3 million internally displaced persons, while violent competition for climate-strained natural resources is fuelling banditry and kidnapping in the northwest and northcentral states. These threats are compounded by climate shocks and a severe economic crunch characterized by record-high food inflation, unemployment, and rising poverty.

Present in Nigeria since 2016, WFP provides lifesaving support to people most in need while working with the Government and other national actors to develop sustainable solutions and an enabling environment to help realize Nigeria's goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.



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

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

Income level: **Lower middle income**

Northeast and northwest: **4.41 million** children aged 0-59 months acutely malnourished; **1.04 million** with SAM and **3.37 million** with MAM (IPC Analysis, October 2023)

Operational Updates

- Since October, WFP has scaled down emergency food assistance to sustain support to the most affected people living in areas where crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity prevails across northeast Nigeria. In October, WFP provided nutrition integrated **unconditional food assistance to 978,059 people** through in-kind food and electronic vouchers distributed in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. These included 5,262 newly arrived internally displaced people who received in-kind food. WFP delivered supplementary nutritious food to 55,869 children (aged 6 - 59 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls using in-kind food or electronic vouchers.
- While lasting solutions are needed to address the root causes of hunger, prevailing food consumption gaps and poor health seeking behaviours propel acute malnutrition affecting 4.41 million children and 585,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in northwest and northeast Nigeria. WFP collaborates with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and cooperating partners to provide malnutrition treatment in 412 state-run primary health care facilities across the northeast and northwest states. In October, WFP provided 316 mt of **specialized nutritious food to 182,080 children** facing moderate acute malnutrition across Borno, Sokoto and Yobe States.
- WFP is working with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to drive the development and implementation of a **roadmap to fortify rice** in Nigeria. The Promoting Rice Fortification in Nigeria (PriFN) project launched the pilot production of fortified rice in October under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Health and hosted by the Government of Kebbi State. Over the next months, the project will test local acceptance of fortified rice with 500 children and teachers from 23 schools in Kebbi State. In future, the project plans to integrate locally produced fortified rice into daily school meals to reach 10 million children through the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme.
- WFP is also working in Sokoto State to digitise and enhance the Government's **information management infrastructure for cash-based transfers**. This collaboration for knowledge transfer is part of WFP's wider efforts to strengthen government capacity for sustainable and transparent social protection initiatives.

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Photo: A recipient of WFP food assistance uses the WFP-issued SCOPE card to redeem an electronic voucher via a point-of-sale device at Damasak in Borno State. **Credit:** WFP/Damilola Onafuwa

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
2,561 m	326.3 m
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (November 2023 – April 2024)
473 m	206.7 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 price monitoring of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) price across [34 markets in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States](#) highlights the contrasting effects of the ongoing harvest on food prices across diverse locations. Market assessments in rural Local Government Areas (LGAs) show substantial decreases in SMEB prices, for example, down 20 percent points in Geidam, 16 in Dikwa and 12 in Michika. In contrast, for urban LGAs, SMEB prices remained the same or increased marginally. The SMEB price was relatively stable in Maiduguri with a 1 percentage point increase, up 3 percentage points in Mafa and up 4 percentage points in Damaturu.
- High food needs are expected to persist among conflict-affected households, particularly in Borno State, as most households cultivated only small plots during the planting season and have limited income generating opportunities.

Challenges

- Escalating violence against civilians in the northeast posed a significant challenge during October, hindering access to remote locations and disrupting the delivery of WFP food assistance. Food distributions were temporarily halted in Yobe State due to heightened insecurity.
- Social tensions triggered by community dissatisfaction with scaled down food distributions delayed the start of electronic voucher redemptions in some operational areas. The redemptions resumed following engagement with community members reiterating that the reductions were necessary to sustain support to people most in need while WFP and partners continue their efforts to mobilize additional resources.
- WFP urgently requires USD 206.7 million to continue providing unconditional food assistance to the most vulnerable crisis-affected people beyond January 2024.

Donors in 2023

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