



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Lake Chad Basin Crisis Response

## Operational Context

The crisis in the Lake Chad Basin has led to the influx of almost 126,000 Nigerian refugees into Cameroon, 96 percent of whom are in the Far North region of Cameroon. They are fleeing violent conflict between the government security forces and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in Nigeria since 2014. Additionally, incursions by NSAGs and clashes over natural resources in the Far North Region have resulted in internal displacement. Furthermore, the Far North Region is prone to extreme weather conditions, such as devastating floods, which typically occur between August and November each year. Between July and October 2024, torrential rains affected more than 459,000 people, resulting in 38 deaths. About 85,300 hectares of cultivated farmland were destroyed, and

about 5,500 animals were lost. The conflict, extreme climatic events and other infrastructural problems have led to more than 452,700 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The high poverty levels in the region have triggered very high rates of malnutrition. Wasting is at 8.5 percent for out-of-camp refugees and 10.1 percent for internally displaced persons. Stunting rates are at an alarming 35.5 percent, surpassing the national average of 29 percent.

The March 2025 Cadre Harmonisé results indicate about 1.2 million people (24.5 percent of the population compared to 20.8 percent in 2024) will be severely food insecure between June and August 2025, which represents the lean season.

# WFP Response

WFP, with support from the Government and other partners, has been implementing an integrated package of interventions in the Far North Region. WFP's assistance includes life-saving emergency food assistance, school feeding, resilience-building for early recovery to withstand future shocks while building social cohesion between the local population, internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees. WFP also responds to the nutritional needs of children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) suffering from malnutrition. Additionally, WFP supports victims of climate-related disasters like floods and prolonged dry seasons.

Respect, dignity, protection, and accountability to affected people (AAP) are key elements of WFP's interventions. WFP operates a call centre that runs 24 hours daily to receive beneficiaries' feedback. The call centre is reachable through a toll-free number.

|  |                 |  |
|--|-----------------|--|
|   | 126,200         | Nigerian refugees                                  |
|   | 475,900         | Internally displaced persons (IDPs)                |
|   | 1.2 million     | Acutely Food-Insecure People Jun-Aug 2025          |
|   | 416,400         | WFP CSP Plan                                       |
|   | 165,000         | People Reached January-April 2025                  |
|  | \$ 27.3 million | 91% Net Funding Requirement for July-December 2025 |

## BENEFICIARY AND DISTRIBUTION FIGURES – FN CRISIS RESPONSE

| Indicator   | 2022               | 2023               | 2024               |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>People who received in-kind food assistance</b>                | <b>209,694</b>     | <b>290,452</b>     | <b>284,631</b>     |
| Refugees who received in-kind food assistance                     | 93,784             | 90,172             | 76,242             |
| IDPS and Residents who received in-kind food assistance           | 115,910            | 200,280            | 208,389            |
| <b>People who received cash assistance</b>                        | <b>37,976</b>      | <b>84,421</b>      | <b>242,418</b>     |
| People reached with malnutrition prevention and treatment support | 19,401             | 56,341             | 120,505            |
| People reached through food assistance for asset creation         | 20,347             | 45,715             | 37,400             |
| People reached under the school feeding programme                 | 71,993             | 61,402             | 49,249             |
| <b>Total food distributed (metric tonnage)</b>                    | <b>9,118</b>       | <b>13,639</b>      | <b>5,043</b>       |
| <b>Total cash amounts distributed (USD)</b>                       | <b>2.2 million</b> | <b>3.7 million</b> | <b>8.2 million</b> |





## EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

WFP assists crisis-affected people, including refugees, returnees and IDPs, through monthly 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 2024, 61 percent of WFP beneficiaries (319,900 people) were assisted under emergency general assistance, including 4,365 under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to support security-induced displaced persons and 131,000 under flood response.

According to WFP's post-distribution monitoring (PDM) result conducted in June 2024, 52 percent of respondents in the Far North Region achieved an acceptable food consumption score compared to 51 percent in February 2024, with households receiving assistance in cash having a higher score (62 percent) than those in kind (10 percent).

## SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

WFP continues to complement the government's efforts in implementing school feeding in primary schools in the region. This initiative provides learners

with daily cooked and nutritious meals, often the only meal they eat during school days. This initiative incentivises parents to enrol their children in school and enhances attendance and retention.

The school feeding initiative has a multiplier effect of minimising adverse risks, such as early or forced marriages for girls and forced recruitment of boys by criminal gangs, while providing opportunities for communities to benefit from the advantages of improved educational levels.

Through this programme in 2024, approximately 32,100 pupils received warm meals in school under school feeding in emergencies and 17,150 under the home-grown school feeding initiative.

## MALNUTRITION PREVENTION

Working with other stakeholders, WFP complements the government's efforts to improve the nutrition status of children aged 6 to 59 months and PBW/G by implementing malnutrition screening, referrals, treatment and prevention programmes.

WFP integrates social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) into its programming to promote food and nutrition security awareness, encourage families to produce, prepare and eat

locally available nutritious diets, and promote good sanitation, hygiene, and gender equality.

The June 2024 PDM results showed that only five percent of children aged 6-23 months achieved a minimum acceptable diet, a significant drop from 16 percent in February 2024.

## EARLY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE STRENGTHENING

Using community-based approaches, WFP supports the early recovery of affected populations and strengthens their resilience to shocks by implementing food assistance for asset creation activities.

Through this initiative, community members are engaged in creating and rehabilitating productive agriculture-based assets such as farms and gardens, artificial ponds, wells, irrigation canals, livestock drinkers, protective dikes, stone cords, compost pits, the setting up of tree nurseries and the reforestation of degraded land. These assets help strengthen the food system while conserving and restoring natural resources. With host communities and displaced populations working together, social cohesion is strengthened.

Post-harvest management is a crucial focus of the programme, with communities rehabilitating feeder roads, forming associations or cooperatives to increase their bargaining power and ability to build capital, and developing micro-savings and loan schemes. Additionally, they construct drying and storage facilities for their farm produce.

WFP and its partners also trained smallholder farmers in post-harvest management, market access, financial literacy, developing new value chains, and managing income-generating activities.

In this region where gender norms restrict young girls and women's decision-making abilities, WFP is implementing several initiatives, particularly aimed at empowering women. These include supporting women-led cooperatives, training them on sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening their food security and socio-economic empowerment and facilitating access to markets and financial services.

Finally, WFP has introduced an innovative Livestock Index Insurance scheme that provides microinsurance to pastoralists against shifts in the grazing patterns and climate-related losses.

## JANUARY-APRIL 2025 REACH

| ACTIVITIES                | People Reached | % Female | Food (MT)/Cash (USD) |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| General food assistance   | 106,350        | 53%      | 427 MT/\$ 903,800    |
| Nutrition assistance      | 34,285         | 61%      | 162 MT/\$ 68,400     |
| School Feeding            | 5,600          | 35%      | 16 MT                |
| Early Recovery assistance | 18,715         | 66%      | \$528,000            |

Photo page 1: WFP/Joseph Fambove  
Photo page 2: WFP/Glory Ndaka

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