



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# 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 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.

Smallholder farmers (SHFs) who produce 80 percent of the food consumed in the country are among the

worst affected. Women smallholders are disproportionately affected. Increasing insecurities resulting in internal displacement and an influx of refugees from Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR), the rising fuel and agricultural inputs prices have increased the vulnerabilities of smallholder farmers and worsened household-level food insecurity.

Therefore, WFP Cameroon is implementing a resilience programme that integrates nutrition and climate-sensitive activities. This asset creation assistance initiative also contributes to the implementation of the UN humanitarian peace development (HPD) Nexus, by including conflict sensitivity in its programmatic approach.

## WFP Response

WFP collaborates with the Government and partners to support the recovery of crisis-affected communities and enhance their resilience, thereby better preparing them to 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 markets, thereby improving their livelihoods. Activities are implemented in Adamawa, East, Far North, North, Northwest and Southwest regions, reaching refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities.

WFP prioritises women, with women making up 63 percent of people assisted under resilience-building and livelihood activities. WFP's Food assistance for Asset Creation (FFA) and Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) interventions have contributed to reduced workloads and difficulties women and girls face 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 receive financial and material support to develop income-generating activities, thereby strengthening their autonomy.

## Early Recovery and Resilience Support

The Food Assistance for Asset creation (FFA) enables WFP to address the most immediate food needs of vulnerable populations while helping to strengthen their livelihoods, reduce the impact of climate-related disasters and build community and household resilience to shocks.

Communities build or restore agriculture-based assets through interventions designed to support agricultural development. WFP supports participating households through capacity strengthening and the provision of inputs, equipment, and food or cash-based assistance.

### DIVERSIFICATION OF FOOD AND INCOME SOURCES

WFP's FFA activities contribute to improving the dietary intake of vulnerable people in targeted communities. Through WFP's support, community fields and vegetable gardens are established to provide locally consumed nutritious foods. Farmer groups are also provided with resources and trained on fish production, poultry farming and small-scale animal rearing.

In 2024, about 209 ha of community fields were cultivated, 92 fishponds were established or rehabilitated, and 150 ha of pastureland were restored.

## PEOPLE REACHED 2024

Region	People Reached	Percent women	Cash Transferred /Food distributed
Adamawa	19,174	55%	\$ 421,627
East	21,234	61%	\$ 401,113 / 244 mt
Far North	37,401	68%	\$ 1.7 million
North	2,715	59%	\$ 107,355
Northwest	8,047	65%	\$ 396,477
Southwest	7,312	61%	\$ 533,935
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,883</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>USD 3.5 million 244 mt</b>



## SOIL RESTORATION AND WATER CONSERVATION

The restoration of the fertility of degraded soils helps combat the impact of climate-related disasters.

Vulnerable communities set up compost pits, establish tree nurseries, reforest degraded land, and facilitate access to water for off-season agriculture.

In 2024, communities planted 8,990 tree seedlings, constructed 97 community ponds, 34 culverts, 10 solar-powered boreholes and 14 diversion bays.

## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The rehabilitation of local feeder roads supports critical infrastructure that links farms to markets and enables cattle transport. In 2024, participating communities rehabilitated 61 km of feeder roads. WFP also supports smallholder farmers to explore opportunities in more remunerative markets, with 70 community storage units constructed.



## Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS)

WFP is implementing a market-driven approach to Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) to enhance productivity and improve the incomes of smallholder farmers. WFP is collaborating with the decentralised technical services of line ministries and cooperating partners. Activities are geared towards value creation of productive assets developed under FFA, promotion of regenerative farming practices, improved access to finance and inputs, reduced post-harvest losses, and enhanced market access.

As part of strengthening farmers' capacity, WFP

and its partners established 95 climate-smart agricultural demonstration fields, with over 3,000 participants.

WFP-supported farmer groups and cooperatives to improve market opportunities by linking them with schools under the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative. In 2024, 1,428 small producers from 26 cooperatives sold their farm products valued at over USD 892,500 to schools.

WFP also supported the creation of 180 village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), benefitting 5,940 smallholder farmers, mostly women, who were trained on entrepreneurial ventures and petty trading, and saved approximately USD 16,600 from their produce sales.



- Smallholder farmers VSLAs created and supported in 2024, with 5,940 members.
- 70 small-scale producer cooperatives linked to HGFS



- From 691 farmer groups Supported under SAMS.
- 1,592 farmers trained in post-harvest management, boosting productivity and market competitiveness

## Programme Outlook

### TRANSITION PATHWAY

WFP has defined a transition pathway to accompany assisted populations from full humanitarian dependency to livelihood interventions that enable them to build resilience to the main drivers of food insecurity, including climate shocks and price spikes of basic goods. WFP seeks to create pathways to resilience and livelihood building through asset building, adaptation to and mitigation of climate-related impacts, cooperative promotion to insert smallholder farmers into local value chains and management of post-harvest losses.

In parallel, WFP is also working on institutional strengthening to build the capacity of the government's social protection system, increasing coverage and diversifying the safety nets available to the most vulnerable people.

### FOOD SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

- SheCan project pilot: Anchored on the HGFS initiative, the project will support the financial inclusion of 750 smallholder farmers (mostly female entrepreneurs) through access to affordable and tailored microloans, as well as financial literacy, in the East Region.
- Cameroon Food Optimisation, Resilience, and Technology (CAMFORT) project: Joint WFP/UNIDO product to promote food transformation and the national import-substitution policy.

- Livestock Index Insurance: Implemented under CAMFORT, this initiative will provide microinsurance to pastoralists against shifts in grazing patterns and climate-related losses.
- Seasonal (lean season) assistance to smallholder farmers during periods of lack between seasons.
- UN Food Systems Summit Hub initiatives: Cameroon is one of three countries selected to pilot three Hub initiatives. WFP will implement Hub funds to support the National Convenor and implement the Road Map. The initiatives comprise the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative, the Science-Policy-Society Interface (SPSI) and the Youth Leadership Programme.

### RESOURCE OUTLOOK

The funding requirement to cover the resilience activities (livelihood support and seasonal assistance) is USD 29.5 million, with a shortfall of USD 18.9 million (64 percent of the total needs) from July to December 2025.

Photo page 1: WFP/Joseph Fambove

Photo page 2: WFP/Emily Pinna

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