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SPR Reading Guidance



Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Nigeria
Standard Project Report 2016

World Food Programme in Nigeria, Federal Republic of (NG)



World Food Programme

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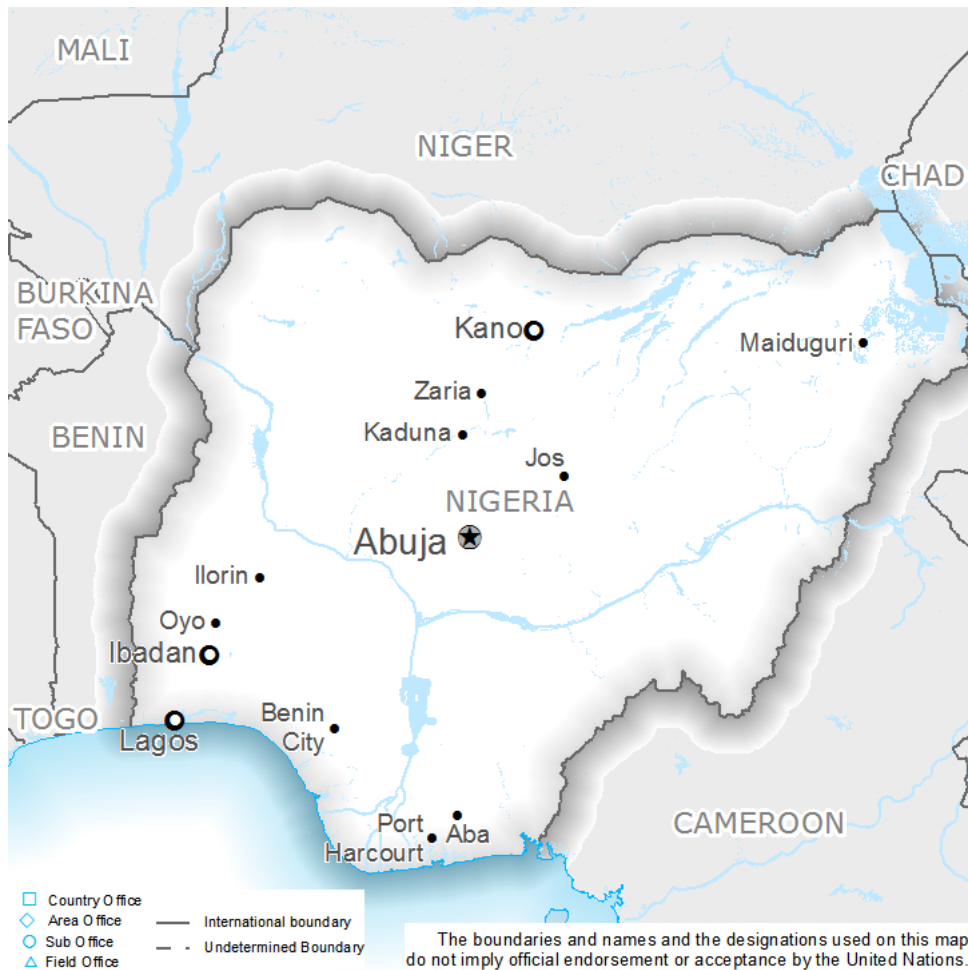
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

With a population of over 180 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Some 68 percent of the Nigerian population is literate, and the rate for men (75.7 percent) is higher than that for women (60.6 percent).

As of 2015, Nigeria was the world's 20th largest economy and overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. However, Nigeria has slipped into economic recession, with two consecutive quarters of declining economic growth. In August 2016, the Consumer Price Index measuring inflation increased by 17.6 percent (year-on-year), 0.5 percent points higher from the rate recorded in July (17.1 percent). The value of the Nigerian naira has depreciated by more than 30 percent between December 2015 and February 2016 primarily due to reductions in oil sector revenues in 2015 (FEWS NET, 2016).

According to the Lake Chad Basin Regional Market Assessment released in July, women play a marginal role in the trade of cereals around the Lake Chad Basin, especially in North Nigeria. Most women engaged in agricultural trade are small-scale retailers with no employees, whose main constraint is the lack of capital.

The Boko Haram-induced crisis remains the principle driving factor of instability in North East Nigeria with growing concerns as violence and sustained fighting against the insurgency continue to lead to population displacements. At end of October, there were 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North East Nigeria, of which 54 percent are women and 56 percent are children under the age of 18. The largest IDP populations are located in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States corresponding to 93 percent of the total IDP population. In addition, according to the Nigeria 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan, neighbouring countries, Cameroon, Chad and Niger are hosting

over 215,000 Nigerians that fled the country due to Boko Haram violence.

The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted in May/June 2016 confirmed the results of the joint United Nations (UN) Assessment carried out in April 2016 on the dire food security and nutrition conditions of the IDPs and local communities in Maiduguri wards which had necessitated WFP to immediately commence its food assistance.

According to the October 2016 *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis on food security and nutrition which covered 16 states in North Nigeria, the epicentre of the crisis remained to be in Borno and Yobe States, where insecurity and lack of access to land are the key drivers for extremely poor cereal production. Around 4.6 million people (48 percent women) are estimated to be food-insecure in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, with 55,000 in extreme food insecurity (Phase 5) and 1.8 million in an emergency situation (Phase 4), requiring immediate food assistance. According to the *Cadre Harmonisé*, there are indications that the situation in Adamawa and Yobe may improve until August 2017. However, the spill-over effect of the insurgency affecting other areas will continue to have negative impacts on the outcome indicators of food consumption, livelihoods and nutrition. The negative impacts are expected to be strongest in Borno State and light in Adamawa and Yobe States.

The IDP population is experiencing high malnutrition and mortality rates with access to health facilities and humanitarian assistance limited to government controlled areas. Malnutrition rates among women of reproductive age in Borno (15 percent) and Yobe (20 percent) are more than twice the national average of 7.4 percent. The situation is compounded by chronically high anaemia rates among women of childbearing age and the high prevalence of low birth weight children. In June 2016, due to the dire situation and need for immediate response to combat malnutrition, the Ministry of Health declared a state of nutrition emergency.

Restricted movements and fear of attacks have prevented farmers from working their fields. As a consequence, food production has been severely affected, with 23 percent of households producing crops in Borno, 59.8 percent in Adamawa, and 70.4 percent in Yobe. Eighty percent of the rural population depend on crop or livestock farming. Livelihoods are still affected, either modified or inaccessible, by the emergency for both IDP and host populations. In Borno alone 20 percent of the population report not having access to any livelihood activities. In addition, high inflation rates have further affected livelihoods and food security.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

The overall humanitarian response in North East Nigeria was a government-led response with the National and State Emergency Management Agencies (NEMA/SEMA) being the lead at federal and state levels. In August 2016, strengthening its role in coordination for 2016 and beyond, the Government put in place an Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) under the leadership of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) focused on the states that were mostly affected by the Boko Haram violence – Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States. The HRP served as a framework of the Government and all other humanitarian actors to build a link between immediate and short term humanitarian response and longer term development activities.

Humanitarian partners relied on platforms such as the *Cadre Harmonisé*, which is the current regional framework aimed to prevent food crisis by quickly identifying affected populations and proffering appropriate measures to improve their food and nutrition security. The analysis used the food and nutrition security outcome indicators corroborated by relevant contributing factors to identify the food and nutrition insecure areas within the sixteen states of Nigeria (in the case of the October 2016 *Cadre Harmonisé*).

Other joint assessments on food security, nutrition, health, livelihood, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection and other sectors were carried out through inter-sector coordination initiatives. WFP played an active role in providing technical guidance on food security and vulnerability assessments as necessary. In addition, WFP and the food security sector members were guided by the needs outlined in the *Cadre Harmonisé* in preparing the sector response plans and requirements that were embedded in the 2016 HRP.

A sectorial approach to deliver humanitarian response was put in place to enhance coordination between various humanitarian actors and the government response. The activated humanitarian sectors in 2016 included nutrition, food security, health, protection, education, shelter/non-food items, WASH, logistics and emergency telecommunications. WFP co-leads the Food Security Sector with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is the lead agency for the logistics and telecommunications sectors.

The Food Security Sector had a dedicated Coordinator and Information Management Officer who supported the 33 humanitarian actors that worked to provide efficient and coordinated humanitarian food assistance and livelihood support to the affected population. The sector Working Group meetings held at the capital and at field levels

ensured enhanced coordination and experienced strong government participation.

Through the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors, dedicated staff were put in place to support government-led coordination with regards to the logistics and communications. This significantly improved coordination among various humanitarian actors and enabled enhanced information sharing and gap analysis, and actual service provision based on the gaps and requirements.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

WFP Nigeria supports government emergency response in North East Nigeria in addressing hunger by using food assistance where it adds value. WFP further assists the government through capacity development activities mainstreamed in its projects, and provides continuous support such as vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM). WFP co-leads the Food Security sector with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and provides technical assistance and guidance in coordination with the sector to ensure efficient support is provided by the food security actors.

WFP Regional EMOP 200777 addresses acute food insecurity to vulnerable and displaced people affected by Boko Haram violence in North East Nigeria. The Nigeria component of the regional operation provides response through its various modalities of assistance namely, cash-based transfers (CBT), in-kind food distributions and prevention of malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months.

WFP also manages air services to the humanitarian community through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) under the Special Operation 200834.

In addition, WFP leads the Logistics and Telecommunications sectors in Nigeria in the framework of Special Operation 201032. Under the logistics component, WFP aims to facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and consolidated information related to logistics capacities, and to enhance the capacity of humanitarian community to deliver relief items to hard-to-access locations. The Emergency Telecommunications component aims to fill critical operational gaps requiring an immediate response in order to enable the timely and effective delivery of information and communications technology (ICT) services to the humanitarian community.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) released in December 2015 had a total requirement of USD 248 million. Out of the total, the Food Security and Nutrition requirements were USD 86 million. Needs consistently increased as areas became accessible and more internally displaced persons (IDPs) and affected host communities were identified for assistance. WFP's food assistance and nutrition response needs alone rose from 71 million USD in June 2016 to 92 million USD in December.

Compared to the other Lake Chad Basin countries, the Nigeria operation experienced a healthy funding response from the donor community enabling WFP to reach the targeted beneficiaries in 2016. The fact that several United Nations agencies put the Nigeria operation at highest corporate priority (internal Level 3), enabled donors to advocate for the situation in North East Nigeria to be on the agenda of international funding initiatives and grants.

Donor contributions to the emergency assistance as well as the common services of United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications sectors were mostly flexible, and made it possible for WFP to significantly scale up its food assistance and through the sectors provide efficient common services within a few months.

Timely and flexible funding for food assistance enabled WFP to utilize funding as per the prioritised needs at the times the contributions were received. The flexibility of almost all the funds received from donors in 2016 enabled WFP to make use of advance financing until funds were confirmed to ensure the urgently needed commodities were purchased on time ensuring procurement at better prices. In addition, WFP was able to save on the lead time required for getting the assistance to beneficiaries. This enabled WFP to mitigate gaps in assistance. The major constraints remain security, access and unreliable infrastructure and systems in the case of cash-based transfers.

In spite of this, the current level of response is far below the overall humanitarian needs in the North East and WFP will continue to advocate for more resources, while scaling up further. WFP is already working to further scale up response to increase its target to 1.8 million people at the beginning of 2017.

Achievements at Country Level

According to the August 2016 *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis, 4.4 million people in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa were food-insecure. Out of these, 1.1 million people were severely food-insecure in Borno and Yobe States. As more locations in the North East became accessible, the figure almost doubled with 1.8 million people being severely food-insecure according to the October 2016 *Cadre Harmonisé*.

WFP has been present in Nigeria since September 2015 with an initial focus on capacity development, particularly to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). In May 2016, to respond to the famine-like situation in the North East, WFP at the Government's request began food assistance operations in rural areas. WFP and partners activities were later scaled up in order to meet soaring needs in the region.

At the end of 2016, the Ministry of Health declared a state of nutrition emergency in Borno State calling for urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance in newly accessible areas. Since August 2016, WFP's North East operation was placed at the highest corporate priority (internal Level 3) to ensure that appropriate response mechanisms were activated for life-saving assistance to the most affected people. Experienced staff were rapidly deployed in the region while processes were put in place to hire long-term national and international staff in WFP's three established offices in Abuja, Maiduguri (covering Borno State) and Damaturu (covering Yobe State).

WFP increased its coverage and capacity by ramping up its engagement with international and national non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, signing field-level agreements (FLAs) to implement food distributions and nutrition assistance beginning October 2016. With generous and flexible contributions from donors who kept the Nigeria emergency operation a priority, WFP could undertake implementation.

WFP successfully scaled up its life-saving food assistance in Yobe and Borno States, first targeting 200,000 beneficiaries in June 2016, reaching 1 million by the end of December, surpassing its 2016 revised target of 724,000 people. Assistance was provided through cash-based transfers (CBT), in-kind food distributions, and provision of specialised nutritious foods (SNFs) to children aged 6-59 months. WFP ensured that a joint package of food and nutrition assistance was provided in most targeted locations.

To boost access to remote areas where no humanitarian assistance had been provided or was limited, WFP launched a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in November with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). RRM teams flew in with the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) helicopters to remote areas, or travelled by road when security allowed, and stayed up to six days providing a comprehensive package of food, nutrition, water and sanitation and other essential services. The RRM focused on remote locations handed over by the International Committee of the Red Cross with a total of 400,000 beneficiaries. By the end of December, just one month into the hand-over, WFP provided assistance to 300,000 people.

WFP has been co-leading the Food Security Sector with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since its early stage, and played an active role in needs assessment and targeting exercises with the vulnerability analysis and mapping activities. The Food Security Sector reached 1.9 million people with food assistance, agriculture production inputs and livelihoods activities in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and Gombe States. Of the 1.9 million reached, WFP in partnership with the Government and other NGOs, provided life-saving food assistance to 1 million vulnerable people in Borno and Yobe States.

WFP played a lead role in the common humanitarian services of the Logistics Sector and Emergency Telecommunications Sector that were set up in November 2016, after needs were identified by the humanitarian community operating in North East Nigeria. Both sectors aimed to facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics and emergency telecommunications services and consolidated information, to enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community to deliver timely and uninterrupted response.

UNHAS allowed safe and timely access to the North East; using the fixed wing aircraft, the humanitarian community had access to Maiduguri and Yola several days a week while the UNHAS helicopter flew to various remote locations in Borno and Yobe States.

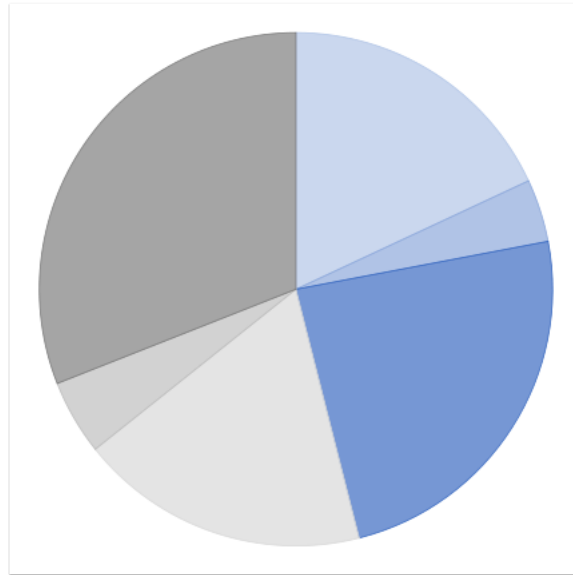


Annual Country Beneficiaries

| Beneficiaries | Male | Female | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Children (6-23 months) | 77,554 | 79,077 | 156,631 |
| Children (24-59 months) | 106,075 | 106,574 | 212,649 |
| Children (5-18 years) | 40,212 | 48,108 | 88,320 |
| Adults (18 years plus) | 244,378 | 315,139 | 559,517 |
| Total number of beneficiaries in 2016 | 468,219 | 548,898 | 1,017,117 |

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

| Project Type | Cereals | Oil | Pulses | Mix | Other | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| Regional EMOP | 11,039 | 944 | 3,838 | 2,673 | - | 18,494 |
| Single Country IR-EMOP | - | - | - | 48 | - | 48 |
| Total Food Distributed in 2016 | 11,039 | 944 | 3,838 | 2,721 | - | 18,542 |



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

| Project Type | Cash | Value Voucher | Commodity Voucher |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Regional EMOP | 7,332,000 | - | - |
| Total Distributed in 2016 | 7,332,000 | - | - |

Supply Chain

The Nigeria supply structure was designed for local procurement of beans, sorghum, millet and salt, while vegetable oil (85 percent), rice (100 percent) and all specialised nutritious foods – ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) and SuperCereal – were procured internationally via the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), and in-kind donations. WFP originally planned to procure RUSF locally but could not go ahead as there were no organizations with the required capacity or products that met WFP quality standards. The main entry point for internationally purchased commodities is the port of Lagos. However, in 2016, to shorten the lead time, 100 percent of rice and vegetable oil were purchased locally at a cost approximately 50 percent higher than international purchase.

In 2016, Food Supplier Agreements were put in place to procure beans, rice, millet, sorghum and oil locally to shorten procurement lead time.

Regionally procured commodities were being used as a secondary sourcing option. For instance, commodities from Cameroon served Banki and Maiduguri Local Government Areas (LGAs) as required.

Locally procured commodities from suppliers were delivered directly to Maiduguri and Damaturu warehouses with a storage capacity of 27,000 mt, which allows for approximately 1.5 months of stock holding. This was based on estimated food distribution levels of approximately 19,000 mt per month in both states.

Transport contracting from Maiduguri and Damaturu to the food distribution points in targeted areas was done through local private transport companies. All food movements outside Maiduguri and Damaturu were monitored by the military and escorts were mandatory for insecure locations.

WFP led the Logistics Sector that was activated in September 2016. The Logistics Sector provided logistics coordination, civil-military liaison, logistics information management and logistics service provision by augmenting existing storage capacities in the main affected Borno State.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

| Commodity | Local | Regional/International | Total |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Beans | 6,287 | 1,379 | 7,666 |
| Iodised Salt | 199 | 30 | 229 |
| Ready To Use Supplementary Food | 100 | - | 100 |
| Rice | 17,021 | 865 | 17,886 |
| Sorghum/Millet | 6,136 | - | 6,136 |
| Vegetable Oil | 2,137 | 310 | 2,447 |
| Total | 31,880 | 2,584 | 34,465 |
| Percentage | 92.5% | 7.5% | |

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

| Commodity | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Ready To Use Supplementary Food | 286 |
| Total | 286 |

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

WFP revised its project budget three times in 2016 to adjust requirements and transfer modalities in a complex and evolving operating context. From various assessments undertaken, challenges faced and experiences gained, WFP revised its implementation strategy, by not only scaling up response but also remaining agile in terms of response options.

The cash-based transfer (CBT) modality experienced delays in the early months of implementation due to slow and poor registration data, but also challenges of the service provider Airtel that did not have the cash liquidity required to scale up the response. To overcome the slow registration pace, WFP expanded its options: using first the International Organization for Migration (IOM), partner in charge of internally displaced persons (IDPs) tracking and registration, then Yobe University, and hired volunteers, all using mobile phones. This resulted in large numbers registered into WFP's beneficiary registration platform SCOPE. To address the liquidity issue, Airtel gradually increased the number of agents on the ground.

During the last quarter of 2016, WFP significantly scaled up its response, while also addressing some of the challenges hampering cash transfer scale up. In a complex context, with most IDPs living in urban centres with host communities, WFP launched a Multi-Sectorial Capacity Assessment to determine the appropriate cash delivery mechanism (mobile transfer or electronic voucher). At the same time, Airtel engaged in identifying and recruiting more fixed agents to support the mobile cash transfer. As from the second quarter of 2017, WFP plans to introduce an additional cash delivery mechanism – end-to-end electronic vouchers using SCOPE – in areas with functional and integrated markets. This will further broaden WFP ability to scale up its response using CBT.

Security restrictions, resulting in limited access, were the main constraint for in-kind food distributions, including prevention of acute malnutrition programme. Delivery of food assistance outside the state capital cities was done using military escorts or local authorities, limiting the quantity of food to be sent to some locations, to reduce beneficiaries exposure to risks. To overcome this challenge, WFP expanded its partnerships and used a joint WFP-United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Rapid Response Mechanism to deliver assistance in hard-to-reach areas, and was successful in reaching more people in remote areas. In November and December, WFP significantly increased in-kind assistance, including in areas that were previously targeted with CBT assistance which enabled WFP to reach more people.

The prevention of acute malnutrition programme faced protection challenges resulting from needs for crowd control particularly in IDP camps amidst unpredictable security concerns at distribution gatherings. WFP established innovative ways of managing challenging situations such as: engaging community volunteers for crowd control and issuing of colour-coded entitlement tokens in advance in densely populated locations; conducting stagger distribution for more than one day so as to serve more manageable crowds per day; sensitising on programme objectives with emphasis on malnutrition identification and prevention to ensure targeted beneficiaries are prioritised; and putting in place flexible contingency plans due to insecurity such as calling-off and rescheduling distributions whenever local authorities sounded warnings of such occurrences. Moreover, WFP is reviewing its prevention of acute malnutrition implementation strategy and coverage, including different approaches in specific geographical areas – focusing either on children aged 6-23 months, on 6-59 months, or a combination following specific criteria or protocols.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

Special Operation 200834 aimed to provide safe access for humanitarian workers to North East Nigeria using fixed wing aircraft and to remote locations within Borno and Yobe States of North East Nigeria using helicopters. Supporting WFP Strategic Objective 1 – Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies – the project had the following objectives:

1. To provide a safe, effective and efficient access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions in Nigeria;
2. To transport life-saving cargo including medical supplies and high-energy foods; and
3. To perform evacuations of humanitarian staff.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

| Cost Category | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation | 19,967,648 |
| Direct Support Costs | 1,553,069 |
| Indirect Support Costs | 1,506,450 |
| Total | 23,027,167 |

Project Activities

In 2016, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) successfully maintained a safe and reliable fixed-wing service to facilitate the transportation of passengers and urgently needed commodities to the north-eastern cities of Maiduguri, Yola, Bauchi, Dutse and Gombe on behalf of the humanitarian community.

In July 2016, UNHAS added a helicopter operation based in Maiduguri to its fleet in order to provide access for organizations to reach satellite camps and areas that are inaccessible by other means and do not have fixed-wing compatible airfields. Such locations included Bama, Banki, Gwoza, Pulka, Baga, Dikwa, Ngala, Rann and Monguno. In addition to passenger movement, UNHAS helicopters regularly transported urgent medical supplies, nutrition supplements, vaccinations, mosquito nets, shelter and other essential items for distribution. Due to the high level of demand experienced even after the arrival of the additional helicopter and the resulting increase of humanitarian interventions in the North East, a second helicopter was added in September 2016 and by the end of December preparations were underway to add a third helicopter for operations in 2017.

Operational Partnerships

In order to ensure a needs-based and coherent response, a key pillar of the United Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation is to coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors. In addition to the Nigerian Aviation Authorities and the Nigerian Armed Forces, the service coordinated with both International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and *Médecins sans frontières - France* (MSF-F) aviation sections to share aviation related information. Through attendance at various humanitarian forums, including Program Access Coordination and Humanitarian Country Team meetings, UNHAS was able to lead coordination efforts for its activities and this improved the effectiveness of the service by ensuring that they corresponded to the community's needs.

Performance Monitoring

In 2016, at corporate level, WFP Aviation enhanced its monitoring mechanism and performance based management by utilising the Performance Management Tool (PMT) that was commissioned in 2015. The PMT is a set of operational and strategic parameters defined and measured to enable WFP Aviation managers to improve service effectiveness, efficiency and value for money. This tool enables decision makers to automatically collect and process data into a visualised presentation allowing them to analyse variations and trends necessary to make informed decisions. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Nigeria utilised the PMT to measure all aspects of the service whilst meeting the constantly evolving needs of the humanitarian community. The tool can assist in the measurement of efficiency versus effectiveness of the operation by calculating the cost involved in carrying a passenger per km for a defined sector. This has allowed UNHAS to accurately analyse route selection efficiency by sector.

The project was constantly reviewed and the service adapted as required in order to meet the demands of the humanitarian community as the situation evolves. Feedback received from users on the destinations served and the frequency of flights has been very positive and the operation will continuously solicit user feedback in order to provide a needs-based service.

Results/Outcomes

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) facilitated the transportation of humanitarian workers and humanitarian cargo to destinations throughout the North East Nigeria, and was key in ensuring that aid reached the most vulnerable populations in the most remote areas in the country in a timely manner. In addition, UNHAS performed medical evacuations for the humanitarian workers and played a crucial role in ensuring safety. UNHAS also operated special flights to facilitate high level missions to project sites and beneficiaries. During 2016, UNHAS facilitated numerous assessment missions throughout the North East for the humanitarian community and government counterparts. A total of 64 organizations comprising non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions relied on UNHAS to implement and monitor humanitarian activities in North East Nigeria.

Results were much higher than originally planned, this is mainly due to the increasing number of humanitarian actors scaling up their responses in the North East with more locations becoming accessible. New UNHAS members were able to reach the displaced populations in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states. Examples of such scale up is the joint United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP Rapid Response Mechanism (RMM) that started in November where teams were flown into remote areas in Borno state and stayed on the ground for up to six days to provide comprehensive package of food, nutrition, health and other assistance. When the second helicopter was introduced to meet a consistently high and increasing demand, the number of services also significantly increased, including the number of hours of flight, the number of passengers and tonnages moved.

The introduction of UNHAS flights significantly reduced travelling times and consequently, the inherent security risks previously encountered by humanitarian actors when moving personnel and cargo by road to the North East. UNHAS flights enabled these organizations to overcome logistical bottlenecks and increase significantly the scale of their response, thus reaching larger parts of the affected population.

Story Worth Telling

On 11 August, reports of an outbreak of Polio among the internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in Gwoza Local Government Area (LGA) were received. The situation, if not immediately controlled, could have resulted in dire consequences on the IDP communities that were already living in worrying circumstances. At 10 am on the same day, a joint mission from the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) contacted the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) requesting for an urgent flight to conduct vaccinations. In only two hours time, the mission members were in the helicopter on their way as to assess and control the outbreak by administering the vaccines as UNHAS was able to operate the unscheduled flight in response to this emergency request. This was possible thanks to an excellent collaboration received from the Government which ensured clearances were secured immediately. Along with the mission team, UNHAS transported over 70 kg of vaccines. The mission was the first emergency request received by UNHAS since it had started the helicopter service in mid-July and was fully successful. Other such flights followed where UNHAS helicopters, in addition to passenger movement, regularly transported urgent medical supplies, nutrition supplements, vaccinations, mosquito nets, shelter, non-food item (NFI) kits and other items for distribution. *"I would like to thank WFP for the life-saving services you are providing through Air Services. You have indeed*

revolutionised how we reach difficult areas.” wrote a UNICEF staff in response to timely and dependable service provided by UNHAS.

The introduction of UNHAS helicopters has proven crucial in providing organizations the means to effectively assess needs and administer, monitor and scale up their activities in order to reach affected populations. *“Thank you so much for all the ongoing and consistent support to IRC for all our movements and needs”* appreciated the International Rescue Committee (IRC) representative. *“We couldn’t do any of our work well if you were not here to support us and help keep us moving in safety and security. Looking forward to an everstrong collaboration.”*

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Amadou Baraze

Rapid Response Team arriving in the remote location of Ngala Local Government Area to stay on ground for six days in order to provide life-saving food assistance to displaced persons.

Project Indicators

Output Indicators

| Output | Unit | Planned | Actual | % Actual vs. Planned |
|--|---------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| SO1: Special Operation (Air Ops) | | | | |
| Metric tons of cargo transported | metric ton | 25 | 59 | 235.2% |
| Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services | agency/organization | 50 | 64 | 128.0% |
| Number of destinations served | site | 9 | 17 | 188.9% |
| Number of needs assessments carried out | assessment | 4 | 2 | 50.0% |
| Number of passengers transported | individual | 8,400 | 14,796 | 176.1% |
| Percentage response to medical and security evacuation | % | 100 | 100 | 100.0% |