



World Food Programme

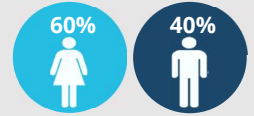
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nigeria Country Brief February 2024



In Numbers

928,676 people assisted*
in February 2024



1,050 mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 4.6 million distributed through cash-based transfers*

US\$ 166.4 million six-month net funding requirement
(March – August 2024)

*Preliminary figures



Operational Context

Nigeria is Africa's most populated country and the sixth most populated in the world. More than half of Nigerians are multidimensionally poor, and 65 percent of them live in the North.

The northern states – the country's once main food production source – now face a complex combination of high poverty levels, recurrent conflicts, and harsh climatic conditions. Further compounded by disruptions of traditional agricultural livelihoods due to limited or no access to farmland and chronic displacement of more than 1.2 million people in north-west and north-central states and 2.3 million people in the north-east. Increased levels of desperation make vulnerable people resort to drastic measures and risk exposure to kidnappings and killings to meet basic needs.

Projections from the November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé indicate that conflict and insecurity, extreme weather events, and high food, fuel, and farm inputs prices will drive 26.5 million people across the country into acute food insecurity by the next lean season in June-August 2024. High reliance on imports also challenges food security as the National Bureau of Statistics reported total country imports increased by 163 percent by end of 2023 compared to end 2022.

Since 2016, WFP has collaborated with the Government and other partners and is currently implementing the 2023–2027 Country Strategic Plan to provide food and nutrition assistance to meet the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable people. WFP also creates pathways to transition from relief to resilience building, links its strategies to national and state development priorities and builds capacity for Government-led solutions.



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

2023-2024 Human Development Index:
161 out of 193

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)

Strategic Updates

- On 29 February, WFP held a [launch event](#) to receive **25,000 mt of Ukrainian wheat** donated with support from eight twinning donor partners (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), who covered associated shipping and distribution costs. The event was widely covered and attended by the Ambassadors and representatives from Ukraine and from twinning donor countries. WFP has commenced the inclusion of received wheat in food baskets to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in northeast Nigeria.
- In February, WFP led the technical discussion on the theme: **“Shock Responsive Social Protection”** – at the cash and voucher assistance and social protection taskforce group chaired by ECHO and FCDO. Through this discussion, WFP provided updates on its technical support to the government-led process to deliver the humanitarian–development–peace (Triple) Nexus.

Operational Updates

- WFP targeted 836,216 vulnerable people for **unconditional food in-kind and e-voucher assistance**. In February, WFP commenced including wheat in food baskets to meet the food and nutrition needs of families in northeast Nigeria. For the March distributions and beyond, WFP will continue wheat distributions through in-kind and hybrid distributions for e-voucher modalities—where wheat will be provided to replace grain in vouchers and complemented with cash-based transfers (CBT) to purchase other food items from local markets.
- WFP prepositioned food assistance for 16,500 people arriving from hard-to-reach areas of Borno State and experiencing recurring displacement due to the armed conflict. Prepositioned nutrition-sensitive food will cover the food needs of displaced persons and address access constraints in areas prone to seasonal road damage and other transport coordination delays
- WFP's focus on addressing moderate acute malnutrition in 168,129 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls targeted for supplementary feeding programmes across the northeast and northwest.
- WFP is committed to working with the Government and partners to build more resilient, inclusive, and effective food systems. In February, WFP is providing food assistance for assets to 24,445 people to restore or build their communal and household assets.
- UNHAS transported 72 percent of its 2,301 February passengers on rotary-wing flights by helicopter across 11 deep-field locations in the northeast, helping humanitarian workers and cargo reach communities in need.

Photo caption: Twinning donors and Director of Nutrition and Food Safety, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs Fatimah Shugra Mahmood, arriving at the grain acceptance event ©WFP/Nigeria.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
2,561 million	398 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (March – August 2024)
560.8 million	166.4 million

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 (UNHAS) to all humanitarian partners
- Provide on-demand services to humanitarian actors

Monitoring

- **Assessment:** WFP supported the Government Essential Needs Assessment (ENA) data collection in six northeast and northwest states: Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara. Information from the ENA is critical to decision-making in food and non-food interventions for WFP and partners. State and national-level workshops were held in collaboration with the key stakeholders, including the National Bureau of Statistics, the National Programme on Food Security, the state-level CH cells and Emergency Management Agency, and other partners.
- **Process monitoring:** To respond to the increased need for improved monitoring tools, WFP adapted and field-tested the corporate tools rolled out as part of the recommendations for the [WFP Global Assurance Project](#). Through a hybrid virtual and physical approach, WFP has improved the capacity of five monitoring staff on Open Data Kit (ODK)—a data collection software—to design and develop functional monitoring tools that align with WFP corporate standards and the Nigerian context.

Challenges

- WFP net funding requirement to sustain operations through August 2024 is **166.4 million**, with a critical funding gap for emergency response activities and the UN common logistics, emergency telecommunications and air services. This is likely to impede the lean season plans to reach 1.7 million vulnerable people in need.
- **Logistics constraints:** Delays in obtaining clearance for commodity movement with military escorts delayed some February deliveries of food commodities. The closure of main supply routes to Rann caused by seasonal rains and the opening of Cameroon dams also hampered the delivery of food commodities.
- **Humanitarian access:** Multiple security incidents, such as conflict, armed banditry, abductions, and increased use of improvised explosive devices, impede humanitarian access.

Donors in 2024

Canada, Germany, Japan, Sweden, United States and private donors