**Situation Update**

WFP urgently requires USD 210 million to maintain essential food assistance and nutrition support to households in northeast Nigeria until May 2022. The widening gap between increasing requirements and scarce donor resources forced WFP to reduce food rations to 70 percent and cut emergency caseloads to 1.5 million people in November and 1.1 million in December. Over 500,000 people who previously received support from WFP are now without critical food assistance.

While appreciating realities of competing demand for financial resources in these times of multiple crises, WFP has asked donors to prioritize northeast Nigeria in end 2021 and early 2022 planning of humanitarian assistance to avert the threat of famine and save lives of vulnerable women, men, girls and boys. Continuity of food assistance remains essential to ensure crisis in northeast Nigeria does not fester and spread across borders to Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

**Cadre Harmonisé alarms WFP Country Director**

Commenting in November on findings of the newly released Cadre Harmonisé, Acting WFP Country Director Ronald Sibanda: said “Without immediate food assistance, these people will face a catastrophe. The most powerful tool that WFP can deploy to save lives is emergency food assistance. This will remain critical to mitigate the direct effects of food insecurity in the northeast.”

**Maiduguri camp closures raise deep concerns**

Closure of camps in Maiduguri has prompted movement of 74,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to satellite villages and hard-to-reach areas and disrupted delivery of food assistance to vulnerable households. Affected people have resettled in communities of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe that receive little or no humanitarian assistance.

Citing a need to increase self-reliance, the Government of Borno State suspended food and other distributions by humanitarian partners to these newly resettled communities. WFP and partners are deeply concerned that these returns could lead to greater hardship among returnees and increase the number of new arrivals across the northeast.
WFP Response

In November, WFP supported 1,414,347 vulnerable people, including 13,490 newly arrived IDPs. WFP food assistance reached 94 percent of people targeted, 189,667 fewer than reached in October. The reduced caseload is consistent with revised WFP planning necessitated by the current scarcity of donor resources.

Among November recipients of WFP food assistance, 34 percent (551,214 people), received cash transfers of USD 7.1 million through e-vouchers, prepaid cards, bank cards and mobile money. WFP also distributed 12,105 mt of mostly locally sourced food to over one million people in need.

Lifesaving nutrition support provided by WFP addresses increasing challenges for vulnerable families and their children in northeast Nigeria, including needs which pre-date the conflict there but have been made worse by its consequences. In November, WFP nutrition packages helped 126,631 children aged 6-23 months and 87,396 pregnant and lactating women and girls.

WFP provided specialised nutritious food to 14,777 children aged 6-59 months to treat moderate acute malnutrition. WFP’s multi-sectoral malnutrition prevention activity provided USD 147,311 in cash-based support for 5,906 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls to help improve their nutrition status.

Through WFP support for improved livelihoods, 33,408 people benefitted from income generating asset creation in support of activities such as fodder production, aquaculture, and wet and dry season food production.

WFP was unable to reach six percent of people targeted for assistance in November due to logistical and operational challenges, including difficulties in obtaining military-recommended official escorts for humanitarian cargo. Some cash transfers previously planned for Borno were reduced to align with joint verification and reconciliation exercises undertaken with Government authorities. Technical challenges experienced in the issuance of e-vouchers also impacted timely delivery of WFP food assistance.

Coordination and Partnerships

11 national and 13 international NGOs, 2 UN agencies (IOM and UNFPA), and 3 Government agencies (Yobe State Primary Health Care Management Board, Borno State Primary Health Care Development Agency, and Zamfara State Primary Health Care Board)
Donors include Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Government of Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and private donors.

Food Security

- The October Famine Monitoring Bulletin published in November warns of high famine risk in Bama, Gwoza, Damboa, Konjuga, Kukawa, Madagali and Magumeri. The Bulletin recommends close monitoring of these areas for elevated food consumption gaps, malnutrition and unsustainable negative emergency coping strategies.
- Food Security Sector partners have been reducing food assistance and support for livelihoods in northeast Nigeria due to scarcity of funding. Without increased resources, the gap between food assistance and assessed requirements in 2022 is expected to be even greater than 2021.
- The most recent Cadre Harmonisé analysis estimates 3.48 million people in northeast Nigeria will be food insecure in 2022, more people than required food assistance during 2018-2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Logistics

- Sector-managed storage facilities operated by NGO service providers in five locations across Borno State received 686,511 mt of humanitarian cargo for 15 organizations. The Sector supported 30 organizations with common services or storage and movement of cargo, coordination and information management.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETS)

- ETS provided Internet connection services to 3,543 individuals from 104 organizations, including 16 UN agencies and non-governmental organizations based at three state capitals and deep-field locations across the northeast. ETS also completed a mission to Dikwa to assess requirements for re-establishing services at the humanitarian hub that was attacked by a non-state armed group in March.

UNHAS

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) continued to serve three fixed-wing and eleven helicopter routes, satisfying 93 percent of requests and transporting 4,994 passengers and 12.36 mt of cargo. In a user survey of 424 passengers completed in November, UNHAS earned a 94.4 percent satisfaction rate.

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