



Guidance Note: Food Assistance Targeting for Scale Down.

Updated December 2023.

1. Background.

The emergency food assistance lean season scale up programming covered the peak of lean season that started June and ended September 2023. Thereafter, the Food Security Sector (FSS) partners started the scale down on the numbers of people assisted with emergency food assistance starting the month of October 2023, going forward through the harvest and post-harvest period.

This revised food assistance strategy was adopted to ensure efficiency by reaching the highest number of most food insecure people during the most critical time of the year (peak of the lean season). This period is normally characterized by limited food availability and difficulty in access, especially due to increasing food prices. The food access challenges during the peak of the lean season lead to higher exposure to protection risks for the most vulnerable individuals. During the harvest and post-harvest period where food is relatively more available and prices relatively stable, the number of people assisted will be reduced to focus only on the most vulnerable individuals. The scale down started October, 2023.

2. Purpose of the Food Assistance Targeting Guidance for Scale Down

The targeting criteria for scale down provides a generic guidance with regards to prioritization of locations and the most vulnerable individuals or households that should be prioritized during the scale down. The list of indicators for guidance is not exhaustive. This only serves as a guide to the FSS partners.

NB: This targeting guidance does not cover food assistance transfer value. This is strictly a guide on *“how to prioritize scale down the locations and numbers of individuals or households to be targeted for scale down”*. For the latest transfer values for the food assistance, please see the FSS website [here](#).

3. How was the Food Assistance Targeting Guidance Note for Scale Down developed?

The targeting guidance note for scale down was developed following a number of consultations. Community consultations through 65 Focus Group Discussions with separate male and female groups from IDP, Returnee and Host Community groups in 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The consultations were done by partners in Borno and Yobe states prior to the scale up in March 2023.

The Food Security Sector Harmonization Taskforce was involved in the discussions.

The FSS also shared the draft guidance with the Protection, Nutrition and Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) Sectors for review.

The targeting criteria also included feedback from the state level food security sector strategies for [Borno](#), [Adamawa](#) and [Yobe](#) that were recently developed with the support of an independent consultant.

Following the consultations above, in a separate meeting, consultations were also done with the State Emergency Management Authority (SEMA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

4. Which Local Government Areas (LGAs) and households/individuals should be prioritized for the scale down

This targeting guidance covers two levels of prioritization based on generic vulnerability criteria as mentioned below:

a) Targeting Criteria at LGA level

The objective of the providing guidance at location (Local Government Area) level is to prioritize the most critical LGAs that should be targeted for emergency food assistance during the scale down. A list of LGAs were categorized as highest, medium and low priority as in the map (In Annex)

Indicators were selected from each sector critical to food security and awarded *weights* in order to rank or prioritize the locations as indicated below.

Sector	Indicators	Source	Comments on weighting
Food Security	Cadre Harmonise Phases of LGAs	October 2023 CH Analysis results	Phases of LGAs
	Dry Spell Risk	NiMET August 2023 rainfall prediction	LGAs experiencing Severe Dry Spell Over 30 days (3), Moderate Dry Spell Over 15 to 21 days (2), others (0)
Nutrition	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) of LGAs	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) September 2023 Analysis	Phases of LGAs

Camp Coordination and Camp Management	LGA receives new arrivals from inaccessible areas	IOM/SEMA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Round 44, August 2023	High risk (5), Moderate (4), Low Risk (3) <i>NB: This indicator has the highest weight given that new arrivals from the inaccessible areas have extremely high levels of vulnerability in terms of food security, nutrition and general protection.</i>
	LGA receives new arrivals especially those from accessible areas/Returnees	IOM/SEMA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Round 44, August 2023	High risk (3), Moderate (2), Low Risk (1)
	LGA has IDPs in Camps	IOM/SEMA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Round 44, August 2023	Yes (2) No (0)
	LGA has IDPs in Host Community	IOM/SEMA Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Round 44, August 2023	Yes (1) No (0)
Others (market prices)	LGAs with relatively high cost of food basket		Yes (1) No (0)

The Food Security Sector recommends that all the highest priority locations (except those with asterik in the map) be targeted for assistance during the scale down. Some of the medium priority locations also could be selected especially those that have existing Internally Displaced Peoples’(IDP) camps and/or continue to receive new arrivals from different locations including the inaccessible areas.

The higher the total score for the LGA, gives it a higher chance to be prioritized.

NB: The targeting of LGAs should not only be limited to the quantitative figures. A qualitative analysis should also be applied. For instance, Some of the LGAs might not have weights due to

absence of figures certain indicators. For instance, IPC categorization for Abadam, Kukawa, Marte and Guzamala are not available.

Partners are also advised to consider reviewing some of the medium categorized LGAs which may have significant numbers of IDPs in camps or continue to receive new arrivals, to ensure that the most vulnerable who significantly rely on emergency food assistance are covered.

After selecting the LGAs to be maintained for the scale down, partners will target households or individuals who are food insecure.

b) Targeting at HH level

At household level, partners will target the most vulnerable households or individuals. Partners should ensure to include the criteria below among the key guidance when prioritizing households for scale down.

Categories with highest levels of vulnerability

- Priority should be IDPs in camps. Particularly IDPs in camps in the garrison towns who face restriction in movements and largely rely on emergency food assistance should be considered as a priority.
- New arrivals particularly new arrivals from inaccessible areas are an extremely vulnerable category that must be targeted for assistance.
- IDPs in the host communities are also vulnerable although not the extent of those in garrison towns or new arrivals from inaccessible areas.
- Other categories that may be considered for assistance is resources allow may include extremely vulnerable host community.
- Among the extremely vulnerable IDPs and host community members that may be targeted include
 - Households with children under 5 years or pregnant & breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) suffering from acute malnutrition and enrolled in a treatment program (Stabilization Center, Outpatient Therapeutic Programme or Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme). Food Security partners can obtain the lists of those enrolled in treatment programs from Nutrition Sector partners in their respective catchment areas.
 - Widows
 - Single headed households, especially the single female headed households.
 - Unaccompanied children

Please see priority location map for scale down [here](#).