



**Food Security Sector Harmonization Guide**

**Food Basket Composition and Coverage**

There are different food items in the market but partners should consider the most cost efficient items (while culturally appropriate) for the food basket. Maize is the most common staple for most households in northeastern Nigeria. Rice, also a staple, is preferred, but typically consumed on “special” days and is perceived as easier to prepare than maize. Household expenditure data from Save the Children from August 2016 to May 2017 has shown that households spend most their money on maize compared to rice. Sorghum is not purchased by majority of the households. The Household Economy Approach (HEA), conducted in February – April 2017 in urban Maiduguri, found that most households purchased maize, but when resources increased through receipt of the transfer, expenditure on rice increased. Table 1 below shows the food items households most commonly buy.

**Table 1. Most Commonly Purchased Food Items**

Staple	Non-staple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rice (imported and local)</li> <li>• Maize grain</li> <li>• Maize flour</li> <li>• Millet</li> <li>• Sorghum</li> <li>• Wheat</li> <li>• Beans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yam</li> <li>• Sweet potato</li> <li>• Dried fish</li> <li>• Palm oil</li> <li>• Vegetable oil</li> <li>• Pasta</li> <li>• Vegetables</li> <li>• Groundnut</li> <li>• Groundnut paste</li> <li>• Sugar</li> <li>• Fruits</li> </ul>

In modelling the food basket, several factors were considered including beneficiary preference, availability, seasonal price fluctuations and the ease with which households can prepare the items in the food basket compared to availability of fuel.

Based on currently available information, it is recommended that partners providing food assistance (all modalities) in accessible, urban areas cover 70% of the survival kilocalorie needs (1,470 kcal out of 2,100 kcal). In rural areas and in camps where Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are unable to access the surrounding area to engage in trade, labor, and farming, the current recommendation is that

partners cover 100% (2,100 kcal) of the survival kilocalories needs when evidence confirms that the vast majority of households don’t have access to sustainable livelihoods opportunities and market labor. The Food Security Sector partners should review kilocalorie coverage following the next harvest (September 2017) to ensure that coverage levels accurately reflect the average food gap. The amount transferred should meet a family’s food needs for one month.

**Modality Selection**

It is important to emphasize that whenever markets are functional and feasible delivery mechanisms exist, cash based transfers should be utilized. However, in locations where there are no or very weak markets, direct food distribution is the most appropriate form of transfer. Partners should conduct a market assessment, as well as ensure that beneficiary modality preference is well understood and taken into account.

The Excel Calculator is for determining transfer values for cash or voucher programming. For direct food distribution, it is recommended that partners follow the WFP food basket detailed below (see table 3).

**Household Size**

The Excel Calculator for determining the cash or voucher transfer amount allows partners to vary the household size, however, across the majority of the partners in Maiduguri, the average household size is five and should not exceed seven, according to the urban HEA findings. The Harmonization Working Group recommends per capita transfer, with a maximum of 10 members per household. For partners that do not use per capita transfer, the recommended household size for urban areas is five. To date, there has not been a consensus on the



household size for rural areas. However, the Mini-Coordination groups within the Food Security Sector will be asked to include household size harmonization in their Terms of Reference.

### Cash and Voucher Transfers

The table below along with the Excel calculator provides the list of food items that partners should use to determine the transfer value for both cash and voucher modalities. The intention is to provide a harmonized logic for arriving at a transfer value rather than a single absolute transfer value. This allows partners use the calculator to determine transfer values while being able to adjust to changes across geography and time.

<b>RATION CONTENTS</b>	<b>100% Daily Ration g/person/day</b>	<b>100% Daily Ration Energy kcal</b>	<b>70% Daily Ration g/person/day</b>	<b>70% Daily Ration Energy kcal</b>
MAIZE GRAIN, WHITE	250	913	175	639.1
RICE, WHITE, MEDIUM GRAIN	150	540	105	378
BEANS, DRIED	75	255	52.5	178.5
OIL, PALM, UNFORTIFIED	10	88	7	61.6
OIL, VEGETABLE [WFP]	20	177	14	123.9
SUGAR	10	39	7	27.3
SALT, IODISED [WFP]	5	0	3.5	0
GROUNDNUTS (PEANUTS), DRY	15	85	10.5	59.5
ONION	8	3	5.6	2.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>380.1</b>	<b>1,470</b>

The minimum transfer amount per household is based on three data points; food basket items (fixed), unit price (variable) and average household size (variable). Partners should ensure adequate price monitoring using the FEWS NET Nigeria/WFP Market Price Monitoring guidance. Adequate price monitoring should accompany the minimum transfer amount calculated in the Excel Calculator. If price monitoring indicates that the transfer value (or kcal coverage) varies by +/- 15% from current market prices, partners should consider revising the transfer value.

### In-Kind Transfers

For in-kind food distributions, the WFP food basket below should be used. As with the cash and voucher transfers, households in rural areas, with limited access to labor opportunities, land, and markets should receive 100% of the food basket. WFP provides the 70% in-kind food basket in MMC, Konduga and Jere (Borno) and Damaturu (Yobe).

<b>RATION CONTENTS</b>	<b>100% Daily Ration g/person/day</b>	<b>100% Daily Ration Energy kcal</b>	<b>70% Daily Ration g/person/day</b>	<b>70% Daily Ration Energy kcal</b>
CEREALS	350	1,260	245	882
PULSES	100	340	70	238
OIL	35	309	24.5	221



SALT	5	0	3.5 (4)	0
CSB+	50	188	35	132
TOTAL	540	2,097	379	1,472

### Targeting and Criteria

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The Food Security Sector recommends that partners working in accessible areas target based on vulnerability, rather than status, and consider poor and very poor households (IDP and host community). Partners should work with communities to develop targeting criteria. It is important to ensure that in using community based targeting approaches, partners also validate and verify that exclusion errors have not occurred. This can be done by meeting with others in the community to understand which groups or characteristics may be excluded. The recently formed Mini-Coordination Groups should include harmonization of key targeting criteria in their Terms of Reference. The main idea is to agree on the guidelines, keeping in mind that vulnerability criteria may differ from one location to another.

However, in hard-to-reach areas, it is recommended to use basic vulnerability criteria in order to reduce exclusion errors that may result in leaving out needy people.

While a rural HEA has yet to be conducted, the urban HEA found that the following targeting criteria could be used to identify poor and very poor households.

1. Household without assets both productive (e.g livestock, land) and non-productive assets (e.g house, furniture, TV set) are regarded as poor.
2. Households without stable source of income and rely on desperate livelihoods options.
3. Households involved in firewood gathering and selling to earn a living.
4. Households whose source of income is water vending.
5. Household employed in domestic labor.
6. Households involved in cap making.
7. Households providing unskilled labor for construction.
8. Households relying on petty trade as a source of income.
9. Households involved in carpentry.

### Protection

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Please see attached documents:

***WFP in Nigeria—Making Protection Central to Food Assistance***  
***Gender Mainstreaming in Nigeria – Food Security***

### Instructions on Using the Calculator

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### Additional Notes

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- i. This document doesn't provide guide for one-off transfers
- ii. Other non-food needs are not captured among household cash needs which can be addressed by cash and voucher programming
- iii. Transfer values are based on market prices in the lean season. This should be revised during the harvest period. A new transfer value would be expected as season changes.
- iv. Note the geographical market price limitation, prices used were obtained from Baga, Monday, and Customs Market. In other locations outside MMC and Jere key markets price data should be obtained by partners to update the calculator.