

**FOOD AND NUTRITION
SECURITY ENDLINE
EVALUATION REPORT
JUNE 2017-APRIL 2018**



**SUPPORTING INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS (IDPS) AND VULNERABLE HOST
COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE FOOD AND
NUTRITION SECURITY IN BORNO AND YOBE
STATES, NIGERIA**



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With appreciation of working together.

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Cover photograph

A lead mother demonstrates nutrition screening skills (MUAC measurement). Source: RDC 2018.

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Acronyms

CBT	Cash Based Transfer
CSS	Coping Strategy Score
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
FCS	Food Consumption Score
CI	95% Confidence Interval
EBF	Exclusive breastfeeding
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HH	Household
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGA	Local Government Area
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MMC	Maiduguri Metropolitan Council
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
NFSS	Nutrition and Food Security Surveillance
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
PUI	Premiere Urgence Internationale
RPBA	Recovery and Peace Building Assessment
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SC	Stabilization Centre
SD	Standard Deviation
SMART	Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief Transitions
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
CRM	Complaints and Response Mechanism
CH	Cadre Harmonise
NGN	Nigerian Naira

Executive Summary

The project under assessment **Supporting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Vulnerable Host Communities to Improve Food and Nutrition Security in Borno and Yobe States, Nigeria** was implemented by a Consortium of three International INGOs; Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), COOPI and ZOA in Borno and Yobe States between June 2017 and April 2018. Funded by Food for Peace through OFDA, the project targeted to reach a total of 9,657 HH through food assistance using e-vouchers and community sensitization on nutrition. With the project ending in April 2018, Regional Development Consultants (RDC) was commissioned to undertake an end line evaluation. From the findings, the evaluation team conclude and recommend as below:

- ❖ The project has had a positive impact on household food security comparing project indicators data collected at baseline, PDMs and the final evaluation. Both qualitative and quantitative data affirm this observation. However, the project would have done better on food security indicators particularly FCS had the level of sharing been reduced.
- ❖ The nutrition component did a great job on both EBF, but was not very influential on beneficiary food purchase patterns at the vendor's store given the level of sharing reported across the project area.
- ❖ The project coordination was found to have worked well during the implementation period. The evaluators believe the consortium could have negotiated for a single contract with the e-voucher service provider – hence value for money.
- ❖ The two project sites (Borno and Yobe) are not homogenous. The evaluation reveals that beneficiaries in Yobe state are less vulnerable compared to their Borno counterparts. This observation justifies the need to embrace resilience building in protracted crisis especially in Yobe where communities have fair access to farmland and livestock keeping compared to their Borno counterparts.
- ❖ The project design was appropriate as it addressed the prioritized needs of the local communities. With an exception of Yobe state, the integration of nutrition into the food assistance component was found limited or none existent in Borno. With PLWs under the nutrition component not deliberately targeted for the food assistance and assuming the broad vulnerability across the project area, the food assistance component was unlikely to attain nutrition outcomes. The evaluators strongly recommend for the targeting of PLWs from the start.
- ❖ The use of technology was found appropriate to the context. In addition to the positive attributes including beneficiary dignity enhancement, safety, security, injection of capital into the local economy, the evaluation team felt that there are grey areas of interest to future programming including the use of multiple wallets (including e-voucher, and unconditional cash) to minimize on the risk of food sharing or sale. In addition, it would be interesting to see how having an additional UCT wallet for the same beneficiaries will impact on practices such as food sale. Principally, the use of technology had enhanced the project's ability (efficiency) to deliver food assistance to the affected people.
- ❖ Project strategies were found effective but selected interventions would require additional complimentary activities or follow up programme to build on the achievements of FFP project and maximize impact. For instance, the positive

reception of the family planning component under the IYCF by female beneficiaries would not yield much in exclusion of the male counterparts yet regarded as extremely relevant by 98% of female respondents.

- ❖ The project was generally found efficient although there were few cases where efficiency was reduced due to operation delays including vendor payments. The IYCF component was found the most efficient given the achievements it had made with minimal resources. Where cooking demonstrations were included, the nutrition indicators were evidently achieved.
- ❖ The evaluation mapped out two project outcomes with potential to sustain post the project period. The IYCF component given the community participation (strongly owned by female beneficiaries and achieved much with less resources). The lead mothers will continue to be IYCF knowledge contact points even post the period.
- ❖ The project did a good job in addressing gender mainstreaming in the CRM committees but could have done a better job by inclusion of male participants into the IYCF component as some of the access and control dynamics rested with the male. For instance, food purchase was reported as typically a male activity meaning that households would benefit from the men's IYCF knowledge post the project food transfers.

Based on the conclusions made above, the following recommendations can be made;

- ❖ For better impact, future projects of similar nature should ensure that complimentary activities that are critical to achievement of impact of core project interventions should be prioritized. A clear case here being the cooking demonstrations as part of the IYCF training.
- ❖ Project design should be well grounded on adequate needs analysis to capture complimentary needs and local attitudes. Family planning was found to have both religious and cultural dimensions that would have an impact on the project success.
- ❖ To enhance project efficiency, future intervention of a similar nature should rethink potential to negotiate with service providers as a consortium rather separately as implementing partners. This is likely to have an impact on the value for money.
- ❖ For better results on nutrition outcomes, interventions of a similar nature would need to rethink the project food security – nutrition integration design. An entry point would be deliberate targeting of PLWs under the nutrition component for food assistance.
- ❖ Future intervention of this nature would have better results if they are designed with a shock responsive safety net thinking in place. Although market prices were stable across the project period, the project had not build in a crisis modification component for eventual vertical expansion (transfer value adjustment) in the event of market disruptions.
- ❖ The targeting process had registered at least 80% of the households in the project area. This is a value universal beneficiary register that future interventions should explore to use for horizontal expansion (reaching more beneficiaries) during lean seasons or if the caseload for people in need of humanitarian assistance goes up during an ongoing intervention.

- ❖ For better results, future projects of a similar nature should minimize on the level of food sharing either through scale up (reaching more vulnerable households) or through creation of multiple wallets depending on the market functionality.
- ❖ Beneficiaries that were reported to have sold part of their food ratio, or colluded with vendors did so in search of cash to purchase non-food items. Partitioning the current wallets into an e-voucher and cash is highly recommended. In Yobe for instance, beneficiaries incurred a minimum of NGN 1000 transport cost to access their food ratios.
- ❖ For better results, future projects of a similar nature need to fully embrace a combination of community based targeting and vulnerability based targeting. The project evaluation assessed the beneficiaries to have mastered the targeting criteria meaning that any future targeting process will be compromised.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 The project under assessment

For effective coordination in the delivery of emergency support to the most vulnerable, PUI, COOPI and ZOA formed a consortium with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal. PUI and ZOA food security and nutrition programs were being implemented in Bollori II Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, Borno State, COOPI is also implementing similar program in Bade, Geidam and Yunusari Local Government Authorities in Yobe State.

The three-partner's food security and nutrition programs were funded by the United States Govt. (Food for Peace-FFP) targeting a total of 9,657 HH which include the population of all age in a household. The FFP program is being implemented through Food assistance using E-vouchers modality for cash transfer (RedRose cash transfer system) and community sensitization on nutrition. This platform allows beneficiaries to access a wide range of food items from the designated vendors to buy when they need it.

The overall goal is to Support internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities to improve food and nutrition security. Specifically, the program aims to achieve the following outcomes.

Outcome 1: The Food Security of the most vulnerable households has improved

Expected result:

- i. 68,680 of target beneficiaries enabled to meet their basic food needs
- ii. 80% of target beneficiaries have reached acceptable FCS
- iii. 100% of target beneficiaries have received their functioning E-cards
- iv. Average household's dietary diversity score (HDDS) has improved from 3.3-5

Outcome 2: The nutritional security of the most vulnerable household has improved

Expected result:

- i. 2200 people trained in child health and nutrition through USG supported programs
- ii. 2200 Children from 6 to 59 month screened with MUAC during the project cycle.
- iii. 180 Lead Mother trained in IYCF promotion and MUAC screening
- iv. 2200 PLW identified who know and adopt at least 4 optimal IYCF practices

1.1 Objectives and Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation had two main objectives thus:

1. Assess the relevancy, appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of consortium response to food insecurity in the wake of the humanitarian crisis in Borno and Yobe

State in north eastern Nigeria in the short and medium term. The following five dimensions were explored under this specific objective:

- ✓ To assess the change in the nutrition knowledge levels, attitudes and skills as a result of programs intervention interventions
 - ✓ To identify any other changes at household level, intended or unintended, which have resulted from the programme
 - ✓ To provide insights into progress against set targets of the programme
 - ✓ To examine how and why the programme has or has not contributed to the outcomes
 - ✓ To provide recommendations to the consortium on what strategies should be adopted in order to achieve project outcomes.
2. Identify and compile lessons learnt throughout the lifespan of the project to inform future programme design in similar context. The following two dimensions were explored under this specific objective:
- ✓ What were the key factors of success and how can these be replicated?
 - ✓ Comparison to other similar project, what were the lessons learnt from them?

To respond to the two objectives, the evaluation sought to:

- ✓ To ascertain the **relevance** and **appropriateness** of the project to the priorities of the target populations;
- ✓ To determine if the end results (**outcomes**) of the projects was **achieved** and if the modalities were **appropriate** for the intervention;
- ✓ To find out if there are advantages of working in a **consortium** model to improve future programming;
- ✓ To examine **contextual changes** and challenges that impacted project implementation and identify lessons learnt for future programming.

Using the above stated Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria, the following questions were to be answered by the evaluation questions

1. **How can we ensure that we do the right things?**
 - ✓ To what extent has the project considered people's different needs according to age, gender, and ethnicity? How has the project adapted to meet those differing needs?
 - ✓ Did the intervention reach the people it was designed to reach in the right proportion and at the right time and were the modalities appropriate?
2. **What were the benefits and drawbacks of working as a consortium?**
 - ✓ Is there any evidence that working as a consortium contributed to greater impact than working as individual agencies?
 - ✓ How effective was the level of cooperation amongst partners?
3. **To what extent were outcomes achieved (including the improvement in household income and improved access to services and response to their primary protection concerns) achieved?**

- ✓ To what extent were the objectives achieved?
- ✓ What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
- ✓ Were objectives achieved on time?
- ✓ What real difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries?

CHAPTER TWO: STUDY METHODOLOGY

The End Term Evaluation methodology was designed to address the overall objectives of the project's outcomes and output indicators. A combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques was employed, with emphasis placed on participatory data collection approaches.

2.0 RESEARCH METHODS

The evaluation adopted a mixed methods approach with quantitative primary data being collected through household surveys and qualitative data collected through both focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The latter would later be used to triangulate the findings as revealed by the household survey and grounding arguments alongside the DAC criteria.

Five methods of data collection were used namely; review of secondary data, Key Informant Interviews (KII), In-depth Interviews (IDIs)/household interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). These methods are elaborated further in the data collection section below.

The evaluation team used a variety of instruments targeting different cohorts of the evaluation respondents. The secondary and primary data was gathered from four sources viz:

1. **Desk review:** This involved desk review of all relevant project documents including the project proposal, baseline report, progress reports, PDM reports, and many others availed to evaluation team by the consortium members. The consultants reviewed additional external documents such as food security and nutrition monitoring system (FSNMS) and market monitoring done by FEWSNET¹ and World Food Programme (WFP) with an aim of gathering contextual information necessary for in-depth analysis of the project beneficiary situation. Reports on local climate and weather trends as well as seasonal productivity monitoring were reviewed.
2. **KIIs:** This targeted the consortium staff, vendors, lead mothers, and community nutrition mobilizers. Data from these sources was collected using structured and semi-structured interview schedules. A total of 21 KIIs were held during the evaluation as shown in annex 4 of this report.
3. **Survey:** Project beneficiaries were interviewed using a close ended HH questionnaire using the Open Data Kit (ODK) portal. A total of 1041 households participated in the household survey.
4. **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** A total of 12 FGDs (comprising 146 participants - 102 males and 44 females) were conducted; 8 in Borno and 4 in Yobe state. A focus group discussion guide was used to facilitate the discussions.

¹ The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) is a leading provider of early warning and analysis on food insecurity.

2.1 SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

The Fischer's (1998) Model standard formula was applied to determine a representative sample for the end line evaluation:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq D}{d^2}$$

Where:

n = required sample size (for population >10,000) assuming the population for each area is >10,000.

Z = the standard normal deviate at the required confidence level, (set at 1.96 corresponding to 95%, confidence level adopted for this study).

p = on the chance that somebody gives a certain answer or 0.5 is used).

q = 1-p

d = desired precision (set at 0.05 for +/-5%).

D = the design effect.

Therefore, on substitution:

$$n = \frac{1.962 \times 0.5 \times (1-0.5) \times 1}{0.052}$$

$$n = 384.1 \approx 384$$

A total 384 respondents were planned for interview in each of consortium project sites translating into 1,152 interviews across all sites. The project beneficiary list was used as the sampling frame with a total reach of 1040.

2.2 TRAINING, DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The training of fieldwork personnel took 1 day at PUI and COOPI offices for Borno and Yobe states respectively. This was followed by pre-testing of the household survey tool. The feedback received from the pre-testing was used to refine the household tool, especially the skip pattern/ sequencing of the questions in the data collection tablets.

The training covered the contents of the questionnaire as well as the project survey concepts, research ethics, logistics and other related issues. The survey personnel were also taken through the standard survey methodology and data collection procedures which included among others; how to undertake interviews and record different types of responses and application of the skip patterns. To ensure data quality, the consultants supervised the data collection process including quality checks through spot checks, and accompanied interviews.

2.3 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Quantitative data was collected through ODK enabled tablets and the data downloaded into excel. Data cleaning was done and thereafter descriptive statistics were generated using SQL

software which offers data mining functions. Analyzed data was presented in simple formats using tables, graphs and cross-tabulations for ease of reference.

Qualitative data on the other hand was analyzed through intra case and cross case analysis. During interviews and group discussions, the consultants took note of issues that were raised by respondents and organized the comments into similar categories such as concerns, suggestions, strengths, weaknesses, similar experiences, programme inputs, recommendations, outputs, outcome indicators, among others. Similarly, efforts were made to identify emerging patterns, associations and or causal relationships in the themes. Thereafter comparisons were made between the concerns and recommendations raised by respondents across the different themes discussed.

2.4 FIELD CHALLENGES

There were no major challenges encountered during the evaluation exercise. Minor challenges included faster power depletion by some of the tablets and some FGD members not observing time for interviews. Where possible spare tablets were provided and the evaluation team spent extended period of time in the field to manage the time keeping constraint.

CHAPTER THREE: CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

This section presents the demographic characteristics of End Term Evaluation (ETE) survey respondents. The survey shows that 72.6% (n=755) of the HHs were headed by female and 27.40% (N=285) by male headed. The distribution is shown in table 1 below. The observed HH formation affirms the observation made through the Post Distribution Monitoring reports (PDM 1 – 7).

Table 1 Distribution of the Gender of the HH Head

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Gender of Household Head	Female	Count	239	516	755
		% of Total	23.0%	49.6%	72.6%
	Male	Count	79	206	285
		% of Total	7.6%	19.8%	27.4%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

Average household size in the project area was 8.5 (8.8 Borno, 9.3 Yobe). On average, 74.3% of the interviewed respondents had never attended any formal school. The table below shows the HH distribution alongside the transfer size allocation modality. From the results, it is observed that majority of the benefiting HHs fell within the category of 6-10 members (54.3%).

Table 2 Household Size Category

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Household size category	1-5 members	Count	58	126	184
		% of Total	5.6%	12.1%	17.7%
	6-10 members	Count	153	412	565
		% of Total	14.7%	39.6%	54.3%
	Above 10 members	Count	107	184	291
		% of Total	10.3%	17.7%	28.0%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

Agriculture was the primary livelihood activity across the two states (36.3%), followed up by artisanal (27.4%) and urban petty trading at 22.6%. At the state level, agriculture was more typical in Yobe (25.6%) compared to Borno (10.6%), while urban petty trading was common in Borno (20.9%) compared to Yobe (1.7%). The observed difference would relate to access to farmland (better access in Yobe) and proximity to urban communities in Borno. Of the total respondents 6.6% reported complete lack of income (total dependency) while 56.2% reported that they had a secondary source of income. For HHs reporting secondary source of income, options included petty trade at 11.3%, and sale of crop at 22.7% (typical in Yobe state at 16.9%).

Average HH incomes were found to be NGN 11,079.25 for Borno and NGN 16,700.93 for Yobe states. At least 1 HH member was reportedly actively engaged in an income source activity (mean 0.85 Yobe state and 0.87 for Borno). Children were found to engage in HH income generation at 11% with majority involved in provision of on-farm (agriculture) and non-farm (petty trading) labour. In Yobe a mean of 0.94 school age child per sampled HHs was found not to be attending school, this was higher in Borno at 1.27. This observation indicates the need for child protection programming across the two project areas.

Table 3 Household's Main Livelihood Strategy

			A.6 State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Household's main livelihood strategy	Agriculture	Count	268	110	378
		% of Total	25.8%	10.6%	36.3%
	Agro Pastoralist	Count	0	15	15
		% of Total	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%
	Artisan	Count	4	281	285
		% of Total	0.4%	27.0%	27.4%
	Casual labour	Count	2	34	36
		% of Total	0.2%	3.3%	3.5%
	Fisheries	Count	11	6	17
		% of Total	1.1%	0.6%	1.6%
	Formal employment	Count	3	17	20
		% of Total	0.3%	1.6%	1.9%
	Pastoralist	Count	11	20	31
		% of Total	1.1%	1.9%	3.0%
	Unemployed	Count	1	22	23
		% of Total	0.1%	2.1%	2.2%
	Urban petty trading	Count	18	217	235
		% of Total	1.7%	20.9%	22.6%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

From the table below, households in Borno were found to spend more on food per month compared to their Yobe state counterparts at NGN 8,512.78 to 6,011.64 representing 76% and 36% (respectively) of HH total monthly income. It would from this observation be construed that Yobe beneficiaries were more food secure as compared to their Borno counterparts. Non-food related costs especially for cooking fuel and water were also found higher in Borno as compared to Yobe State at NGN 1497.57 and NGN 567.24 for fuel and NGN 971.96 and NGN 87.11 for water respectively. The observed differences would relate to the urban formation of the project sites in Borno State and advance some of the observation made on part ration sales (1.3%) that beneficiaries explained was meant to meet unmet non-food HH costs.

Table 4 Food Expenditure per State

	A.6 State	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Amount (in Naira) spent by the household within the last month for food	Yobe	318	6011.64	8318.234	466.463
	Borno	722	8512.78	7415.642	275.982

From table 5 below; 72.5% of the HHs in the project area met the minimum household dietary diversity scores. Yobe state had the highest HDDS of 6.63 with Borno recording a score of 4.05. The observed differences relate to own consumption, the food market formation (access to diverse foods at the vendor store), and the influence of the nutrition education component on food purchase (COOPI had undertaken cooking demonstration in Yobe a factor that could have attributed to the observed high HDDS).

Table 5 Household Dietary Diversity Score by Location

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
HDDS category	Unmet minimum diversity score	Count	27	259	286
		% of Total	2.6%	24.9%	27.5%
	Met minimum diversity score	Count	291	463	754
		% of Total	28.0%	44.5%	72.5%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

3.2 END LINE EVALUATION SETTING

3.2.1 Market Trends

The conflict now in its 9th year, continues to affect the supply of commodities to households through large-scale disruption of trade flows into and within the two states. During the project period, maize, millet, and sorghum prices remained stable or slightly above previous months in most markets. Legume prices were higher than both last year (2017) and average price levels, due in large part to dryness and an early end to the rainy season. Generally, the cost of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a family of five in northeastern Nigeria increased from December 2017 to March 2018. However, the SMEB in Damaturu and Maiduguri markets have decreased five and eight percent respectively between February and March 2018 as a result of improved upstream market linkages (FEWSNET May 2018).

A monthly commodity price monitoring undertaken by the project affirms the observation made by FEWSNET above. From Figure 1 below it would be observed that no food item experienced major price shift across the project period. This could be argued partly to relate to the fact that the project had negotiated on a range of prices (minimum and maximum) with the vendors in addition to prompt payment of vendors allowing for restocking. The price stability could further be argued to relate to improving access to primary markets and supply chain connectivity. The price stability was a rationale for the project to maintain the same transfer value across the 7 cycles.

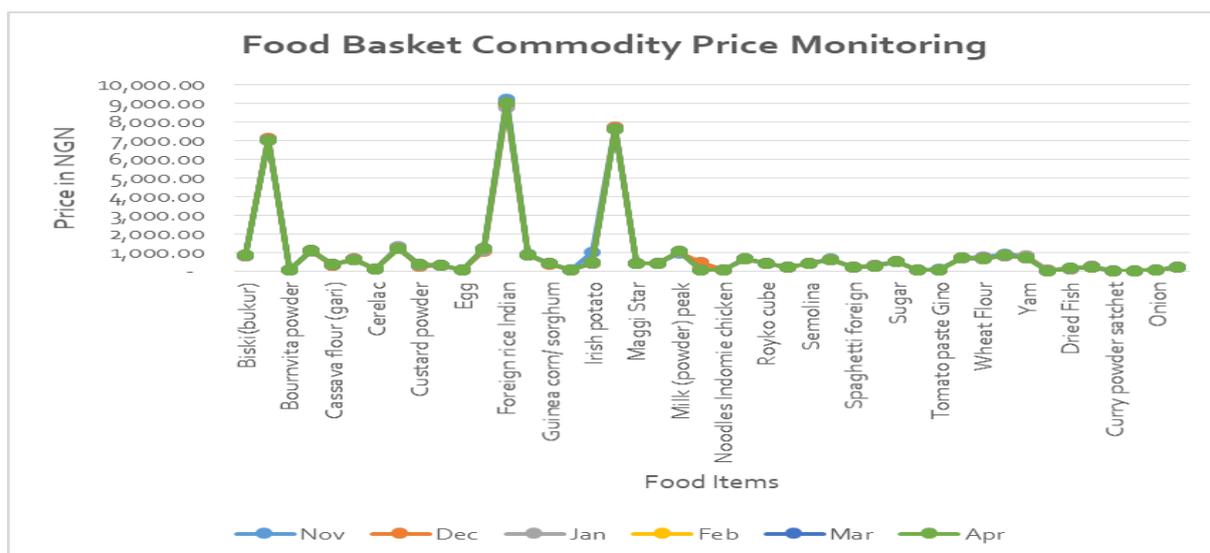


Figure 1 Food Basket Commodity Price Monitoring (Nov 2017 – April 2018)

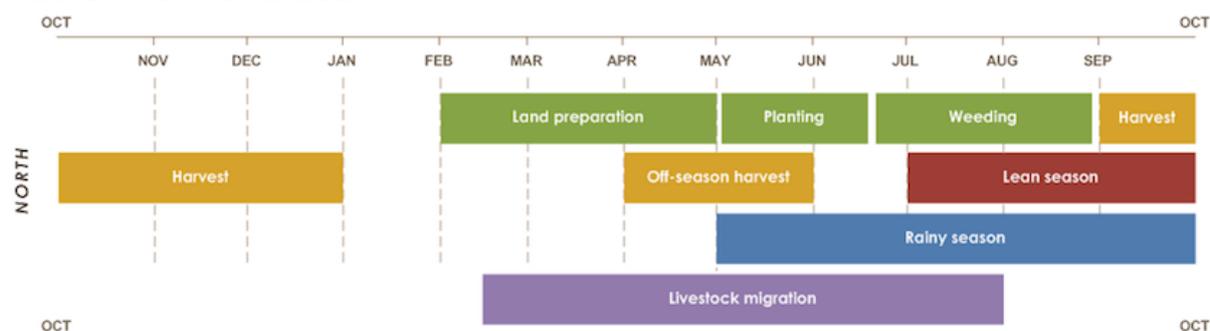
Source: FFV Project Data

3.2.2 Seasonal Calendar

The table below represents the seasonal calendar for the project area with a focus on; socio-economic activities of importance to the project success. From the calendar, the project area has two seasons; the dry season (November to April) and the wet season (May to October). Rainfall patterns influence crop production, fishing and access to basic services including markets. The dry season is characterized by high cereals market prices, livestock sales and low food diversity score. The lean season occurs between July and October (part of the dry season and the wet season). From the seasonal calendar, it would appear that the evaluation was conducted a month into the lean season a position that could influence observations made on food security especially on dietary diversity scores given the limited levels of own consumption.

The project activities are influenced by seasonal trends and market behaviour thus the end line evaluation takes this into consideration. With the project occurring between October 2017 and April 2018, the project fell outside of the typical lean season (July – September) an indication that the protracted crisis has interfered with the typical own consumption patterns necessitating social safety net programming.

Table 6: Seasonal Calendar



Source: FEWSNET

CHAPTER FOUR: PROJECT PERFORMANCE

This section gives a brief introduction on the sampled population and proceeds to assess project performance in relation the DAC criteria for evaluation of development project. The sections start with an assessment of project performance in relation to implementation of project work plans and attainment of project outputs and outcomes (project impact) as stated in the project indicators. This is followed by an assessment of project scope and relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. Other issues such as project coordination and participation will also be addressed here.

4.1 OVERALL PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES.

In table 7 below, the evaluators summarize the review of the project's successes in activity outputs and outcome realization. An activity audit with the project team showed that most (98%) of the activities had been initiated and completed on time. In Yobe state the third cycle (December 2017) was delayed after the vendors pulled out of the project citing payment delays by the consortium member. Despite the delays, the project met its outputs.

Table 7 Outcome Tracking at End line Based on the Project Indicators

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Consortium End line	Individual partner endline achievement during reporting period
Specific Objective				
Direct beneficiaries	0	68,680	72 528 ²	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 55,744 Yobe State: 16 784</i>
Percentage of targeted beneficiaries satisfied by the project	N/A	100%	84.46%	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 76.7% Yobe State:100%</i>
Percentage of households improving their Coping Strategy Index	N/A	80%	93.33%	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 100% Yobe State: 80%</i>
Result 1				
Number of people enabled to meet their basic food needs	0	68,680	78 806	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 45,717 Yobe State: 33,089</i>
% of beneficiaries who reached FCS acceptable	0%	80%	79.22%	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 88.33% Yobe State: 61%</i>
% of beneficiaries who received their functioning e cards	0%	100%	99.87%	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 99.99% Yobe State: 100%</i>
Average household dietary diversity score	Yobe: 5.95 Borno: 3.3	5	Yobe: 6.63 Borno:4.05	<i>Yobe State 6.63 Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11) 4.05</i>
Result 2				
Number of people trained in child health and nutrition	0	2200	2846	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 1,779 Yobe State: 1067</i>

² Indicators' results are an average of the 3 months of implementation in each area of intervention

through USG-supported programs				
Children from 6 to 59 months screened with MUAC during the project	0	2200	43 444	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 40,410</i> <i>Yobe State: 3034</i>
Number of lead mother trained in IYCF promotion and MUAC screening	0	180	200	<i>Borno State (Bolori 2, 9, 10,11): 120</i> <i>Yobe State: 80</i>
Number of PLW who know and adopt at least 4 optimal IYCF practices	0	2200	(note collected yet?)	Comparison of baseline and end line values will only be possible after endline surveys with MCGs planned for November 2018.

4.2 PROJECT RELEVANCE /APPROPRIATENESS

The evaluation team assessed the appropriateness of the project design, and relevance of the project strategies and approaches considering the operational context. This review also assessed the extent to which the project objectives addressed and met the problems and real needs of the target groups/right holders or institutions as well as assessing the extent to which the project objectives are still valid.

It is the opinion of the consultants that the design of the project and the theory of change adopted were sufficiently relevant to the context and the immediate needs of the target population³. This is further illustrated by the detailed assessment of the appropriateness of the key project components as described below. However, the project design could have been improved through better integration of the food security and nutrition components.

The assessment team assessed the two project components (food assistance and nutrition education) to have been both relevant and appropriate as per below:

- i) As at the time of the evaluation, over 2 million people needed food assistance in both Borno and Yobe states⁴. Under the protracted crisis (getting into its 9th year) agricultural activities in the two states continue to be disrupted by insecurity and displacement drastically reducing own consumption. In most of Borno, eastern Yobe and northern Adamawa Crisis (Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes prevail (FEWSNET, May 2018). As such, food assistance remains relevant across the project area.
- ii) Exclusive breastfeeding – A SMART survey (baseline) conducted by PUI in Bolori II revealed that only 32.1% (n=18; 95% CI 21.0 – 45.8) of children aged 0-5 months (n=56), received only breastmilk in the preceding 24 hours before the survey. The proportion of infants exclusively breastfed by age was 60% (n=9; 95% CI (33.5 - 81.7) among the younger age cohort (0-1 month old) but declined to 21% (n=4; 95% CI 7.7 - 45.9) among older children (4-5 months old). Interviews with lead mothers, community nutrition mobilizers and representatives of mother care groups pointed out Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) as a challenge across the two

³ In most of Borno, eastern Yobe and northern Adamawa Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes prevail (FEWSNET May 2018).

⁴ Food Security Status (FEWSNET May 2018).

project sites (Borno and Yobe), given the low IYCF knowledge base and cultural infant feeding practices.

- iii) Cultural breastfeeding practices including expression of first milk: As a cultural practice, mothers express the first milk (colostrum) for a period of 2 – 3 days before they can breastfeed the new-born. The colostrum is considered harmful to the new-born. During this period the new-born is fed with alternative milk products. Non-first time mothers participating in FGDs revealed that they had observed weight gain differences and low disease prevalence between their current baby and the previous ones because of non-expression.
- iv) *Embracing family planning:*

The evaluation team sought to understand first, if the IYCF module on family planning was appropriate to the religious context, and second; if the module addressed felt needs at the community level. Female respondents in women only FGDs reported of the socio-economic pressure women underwent because of large household sizes. A female respondent would observe **“we are tired, it is even worse when we are in displacement and have to survive on humanitarian assistance, seeing your children go to bed hungry or having them drop out of school to beg or do menial jobs for a living is so painful”** (respondent 1). Discussions with mother care group representatives indicated that majority of the women were keen to discuss the concept with their spouses. Discussions with male respondents and the imams observed the family planning component as relevant to the community but expressed concern over the minimal inclusion of men yet family planning would require buy in from both husband and wife.

Table 8 below reveals that overall 94.8% of the beneficiaries found the e-voucher an appropriate transfer modality for their context. Probed further, respondents explained that e-vouchers redefined their dignity, safety and security. The 5.2% preference reported for UCT would relate to the need for non-food items reported by vendors and expressed by beneficiaries including the need for money to buy water and transportation.

Table 8 Preferred Modality of Transfer

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Preferred Modality of Transfer	E-voucher	Count	272	714	986
		% of Total	26.2%	68.7%	94.8%
	Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT)	Count	46	8	54
		% of Total	4.4%	0.8%	5.2%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

Through beneficiary FGDs and vendor KIIs, respondents affirmed that e-vouchers had proved appropriate given the following:

i) ***E-voucher and beneficiary protection***

In both KIIs and FGDs respondents felt that using e-vouchers beneficiaries' safety and security was safeguarded. First, through the e-voucher platform, the account crediting would be done in phases to minimize crowding at the vendor's store – a security risk to the beneficiaries; second, e-vouchers were reported as less prone to theft given the security features including passwords (PIN) and biometrics for the case of Yobe state. In addition, beneficiaries felt that e-vouchers eliminated the amount of commotion and pushing witnessed during direct food distributions with certain cases having casualties. A respondent in Yobe state observed ***"people used to fight over food during direct distributions, but not anymore given the e-voucher system. With the e-vouchers I can discreetly visit the vendor and redeem as many times as I see fit"*** (respondent 2).

ii) ***E-vouchers and vendor reactions:***

The evaluators sought to understand the vendor's reaction to the use of technology (e-voucher). This was split into; one, ease of use (system friendliness) in voucher redemption; second, ease in clearance and payment (invoicing). Apart from cycle 3 in Yobe and cycle 7 in Borno that had been marred by payment delays – vendors affirmed the fact that the e-voucher platform was easy to engage. Vendors reported that it took them on average 15 minutes to serve a single beneficiary minimizing the need for crowd management. In addition, clearance and invoicing was on real time basis given the project implementer had a view of the back end to the platform actions.

4.3 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

This involved an analysis of the extent to which the project results and objectives as stated in the project proposal have been achieved including an analysis of whether the project strategies were the best in fulfilling the purpose of the project. The evaluation also investigated the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives.

It is the opinion of the consultants that the project was generally effective given the fact that most of the factors that hindered progress in some of the stated objectives were mainly due to external factors beyond the control of project implementers. At the output level, most of the project targets were achieved and therefore effective. This is illustrated by the activity audit conducted. However, there are cases where outcome level targets have not been achieved (for instance the HDSS in Borno) as shown in the indicator tracking table (Table 7). The failure to achieve these targets is due to external factors or in some cases internal challenges as explained in the subsequent sections.

The two major project components were found to have been effective; first; per the March 2018 Cadre Harmonize (CH) findings the number of people facing acute food insecurity in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States stood at 2.3 million (March to May 2018). Further, the CH food and nutrition insecurity situation analysis projects that the figure might increase to 3 million during the lean season of June through September 2018. Under the protracted displacement (9th year), food assistance is critical in addressing severe food insecurity. However, the approach/modality employed would determine if at all the intervention is effective in addressing food insecurity. For instance, addressing practices including food

ration dilution (leakages) through sale or sharing would be a challenging but impactful. Addressing could relate to how best the targeting process is done or how post distribution surveillance is conducted included ensuring that the nutrition education component is leveraged on redemption points.

To tease out how effective the food assistance component was in addressing food insecurity, the evaluation team reviewed key food security indicators (FCS, CSI and HDDS) against their baseline at project inception. The three indicators had recorded positive improvement. Yobe state returned the highest HDDS at 6.63 against Borno's 4.05. In total 78, 806 people had their FCS and CSI improved by 88%; 100% and 61%; 80% for Borno and Yobe State respectively. The differences recorded here relate to better levels of own consumption in Yobe and a recovering or competitive market system in Borno.

The evaluators followed a few lines of thought to draw a better understanding on the project effectiveness:

i) Nutrition education and beneficiary food purchase

The nutrition education component was found to have had limited influence on beneficiary's purchase of nutritious foods from the vendor. Nutritious foods stocked by the vendors included; eggs, fruits, vegetables, dry fish, ground nuts, powder milk amongst others. As revealed in Figure 2 below: majority of the beneficiaries were more likely to purchase food items that would last them more rather nutritious foods. During a FGD with a mother care group member in Bolori 9, a female respondent would posit "**from the nutrition education, I know the food groups items I could get from the local vendor towards a nutritious diet. But with a large family like mine my concern is not about nutrition rather hunger**" (respondent 3). Figure 2 reveals minimal or near zero purchase of fresh foods including fruits and vegetables that would have a great impact on nutrition.

Discussion with vendors pointed towards limited fresh foods stocking; with very few having stocked fresh foods citing very low demand from the beneficiaries. A vendor in Yonusari (Yobe State) observed "**I stocked fresh foods including fruits and vegetables under the second cycle. The demand from the beneficiaries was very low and so I dropped that idea**" (respondent 4). A few female respondents in beneficiary FGDs confirmed that the nutrition education component had influenced their food purchase behaviours a confession affirmed by the community nutrition mobilizers.

Across the two states, men are the typical buyers of food from the markets. A female respondent in Bade would observe "**under normal situation, the male head of household is the one that buy food from the market. With the e-voucher, it is us women that go to buy food. Nutrition education without their inclusion cannot be effective**" (respondent 5). In Yobe state, the inclusion of cooking demonstrations were found to have effectively influenced beneficiary food purchase behaviours particularly for PLW and those with small household sizes. During the project period, PDM data indicated that **87.7%** of the card holder (female) were responsible for the use of the e-voucher.

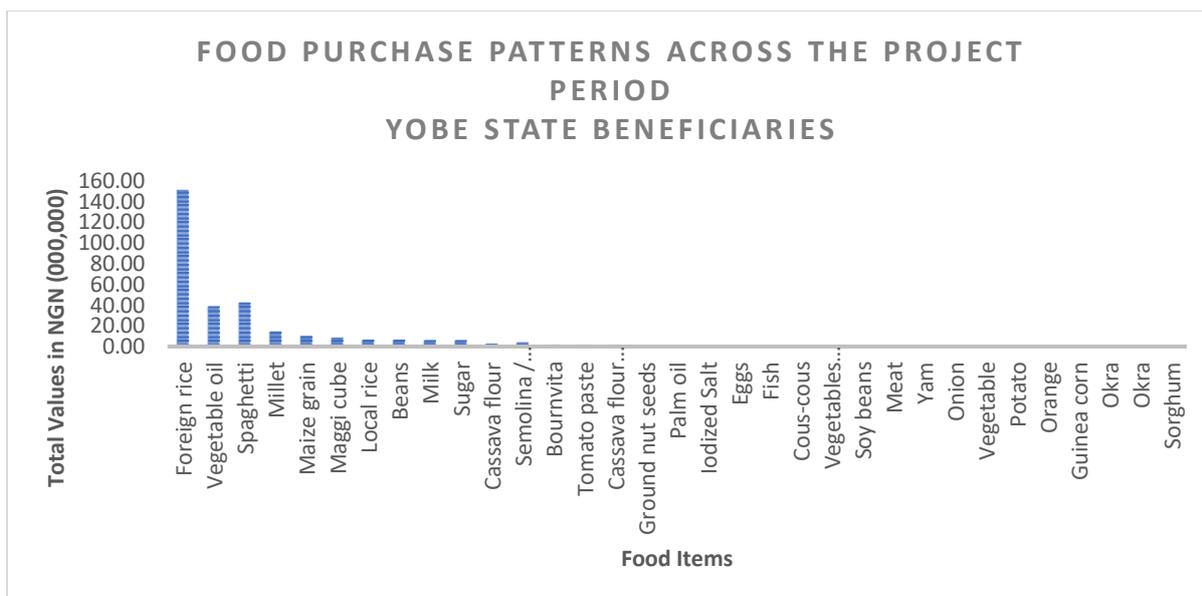


Figure 2 Food Purchase Patterns (Commodity Preference)

ii) *Vendor monitoring/distribution surveillance*

The project was found to have undertaken vendor (shop) monitoring/distribution surveillance for every cycle. This was a common practice across all consortium members. With vendors being profit driven, close surveillance of both their physical store and online activity (after the operation hours) were critical towards beneficiary safeguarding. A few cases of vendor/beneficiary conspiracy had been detected and addressed. In addition to distribution surveillance on commodity stocking, both project staff and the community committees were on the watch for vendor - beneficiary malpractices including conspiracy to redeem food or non-food items not part of the project's food basket.

iii) *Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM):*

The project was found to have undertaken PDM for every transfer cycle. In addition to PDM providing data for real time learning across the project period, PDMs provide a platform for beneficiaries, vendors and the community committees to give indications on the project's progress towards its objectives and mapping out aspects that need to be addressed before the next transfer cycle. The PDMs had been utilized to further measure beneficiary satisfaction with the project with 98% reporting they were satisfied with the project. Across the project sites, beneficiaries reported they were satisfied with the project activities. The evaluation found that the implementing partners embraced PDM differently citing instances where the PDM data was not analysed on time to provide real time lessons. These observations triggered house to house visits by project staff with an aim to tease out the cause of the observed status. In most cases, the observation (stagnated FCS) related to sharing of the food ration a practice reported by 1.3% of the sampled beneficiaries.

iv) *Transfer value versus the need:*

The evaluation team sought to understand if the transfer value was adequate to cause the desired food security status. The project had with the advice of the Food Security Sector adopted two per capita transfer values of NGN 3530 and NGN 3533. Across the project, the MEB had either remained stable or decreased hence no need to adjust the transfer value. The

food ration was found to have lasted for 2 to 3 weeks depending on the level of sharing. Ideally, without sharing, the transfer value would shift to 3 to 4 weeks. From table 9 below, 77% of the sampled HHs reported that the food assistance was sufficient for their household. So, for 23% of the HH, food was insufficient for all the area. HHs that reported the food assistance to have been insufficient cited the transfer size to have been small (59.4%) while the rest cited sharing the main reason for insufficiency (39.3%), the rest (1.3%) identified ration sell as the main cause of insufficiency.

Table 9 Food Assistance Sufficiency (Beneficiary Self-Assessment)

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
During the FFP project food and nutrition support, was the amount of food accessed through the assistance sufficient for your household?	No	Count	60	17	77
		% of Total	5.8%	1.6%	7.4%
	Somewhat	Count	129	33	162
		% of Total	12.4%	3.2%	15.6%
	Yes	Count	129	672	801
		% of Total	12.4%	64.6%	77.0%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

v) *E-voucher in reducing food ration dilution:*

The evaluation team sought to understand if the e-voucher had been effective in reducing the level of ration dilution (sharing). Sharing was reported as a common practice (over 50% of the sampled HHs reported to have shared their food rations with relatives and or neighbours) given the level of need across the community (there were more vulnerable HHs unreached by the intervention) and the social fabric in existence. In addition to sharing among polygamous households observed across all project sites, in Yobe specifically community leaders were in support of the sharing practice as part of community cohesion driven by a notion that everyone in the community was vulnerable. In future, it would be interesting to test if partitioning the e-voucher into say 4 wallets (weekly redemptions) would have any effect on the level of sharing. This should be done in consultation with the vendors and reinforced by the project staff.

4.4 EFFICIENCY

This involved an analysis of how economically the project inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted into expected results and make recommendations for improving efficiency for similar or future projects operating in the same context. Also, an analysis of whether outputs were delivered on time and whether the delivery mechanisms were the most efficient compared to other alternatives.

From the assessment, the project was generally efficient with all activities implemented on time although a few experienced delays. Most of the project delivery mechanisms were found efficient with a few that were found inefficient as described below.

i) *The targeting process efficiency:*

The project targeting process was found to have been efficient; although the effectiveness of the approach was in certain cases compromised by beneficiary mastery of the targeting criteria. The combination of community based targeting (CBT) and vulnerability based targeting (using food security indicators: FCS, CSI and HDDS) was very commendable in minimizing targeting errors (inclusion/exclusion). Table 9 below indicates that 79.5% of the sampled beneficiaries assessed the targeting process fair. For the 20.5% that felt that reported targeting process to have been unfair, the evaluation team would later learn was in relation to large households (polygamous families) that had been registered as a single household necessitating sharing.

Table 10 Targeting Process Fairness Test

			A.6 State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Was the project targeting process fair?	No	Count	21	192	213
		% of Total	2.0%	18.5%	20.5%
	Yes	Count	297	530	827
		% of Total	28.6%	51.0%	79.5%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

ii) *Project structure, formation and efficiency:*

Two key project structures were established at the community level with an aim to enhance the project efficiency. These included; i) the community complaints committee, and ii) mother care groups. The evaluation sought to understand how efficient these structures were in enhancing the success of the project. The mother care groups had done a commendable job cascading nutrition education (IYCF) to PLW regardless of their project beneficiary status. Female respondents in mother care groups FGDs recalled very well key nutrition messages (for instance food groups) an indicator that the training had impacted knowledge to the target group. The complaints and grievances committees had in collaboration with the project team sensitized the beneficiaries on the complaints procedure. Post the targeting stage that saw majority of cases raised on inclusion/exclusion concerns, there were minimal cases later into the project. The minimal cases raised related to lost/misplaced cards, forgotten passwords or unreadable finger prints (biometrics); these were adequately dealt with and as such did not impact on the project efficiency.

The lead mother approach was found very efficient in cascading the IYCF messages to PLW irrespective of their FFP project beneficiary status. With the population density in Borno the

evaluation would observe that the project would have reached more PLWs at the same cost with a higher number of lead mothers.

iii) *Employing technology towards efficient aid management:*

The use of the e-voucher and the RedRose platform was lauded by both the beneficiaries and vendors to have eased aid management including the ease to use. On average 98% of the sampled beneficiaries reported to have accessed all their entitlement with dignity using the e-vouchers. The evaluation team recorded minimal challenges in relation to the performance of the technology adopted. In Yobe, technology challenges related more with biometrics – fingerprints challenges, but this were adequately handled and did not delay beneficiary access to the food assistance. Table 10 below indicates that 89.6% of the sampled beneficiaries found the technology user friendly.

Table 11 Friendliness of Transfer Technology

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Was the food transfer technology used by the project user-friendly?	No	Count	10	98	108
		% of Total	1.0%	9.4%	10.4%
	Yes	Count	308	624	932
		% of Total	29.6%	60.0%	89.6%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

The technology was found to have reduced the needed time for vendor clearance, invoicing and payment with vendors efficiently receiving their payment in maximum 14 days allowing vendors time to restock for the next cycle. In addition to allowing for flexibility of redemption by beneficiaries with an aim of easing the financial pressure on vendors, the vendors were encouraged to invoice in phases. However, none embraced that with majority citing that they were comfortable with single rather multiple invoices. Given the same vendors would complain when payment is delayed there is need to get their buy-in for the multiple invoicing approach.

iv) *Multiple redemption:*

The technology adopted by the project provided beneficiaries with an option to multiple redemption. It would be observed in project sites with close proximity to vendors (for instance Borno) and given the income levels of the beneficiaries – food purchase is a daily rather a monthly practice. With beneficiaries practicing single redemption; this would mean an alteration to their purchase patterns and is likely to lead to sharing and or selling of the food ration. The evaluation data reveals that 81% of the beneficiaries redeemed their e-vouchers once. Those that redeemed more than once (average twice) reported of their close proximity to traders as the main reason for multiple redemption in addition to the

sensitization done by the project staff. In contrast to the project’s aim to have beneficiaries practice multiple redemption – majority of the vendors that the evaluation team spoke to stated they were not comfortable with the approach.

v) *On boarding and ongoing vendor efficiency strengthening:*

The project was found to have done a commendable work strengthening vendor capacity to handle the beneficiaries. Appreciating the fact that some vendors can be crafty – the project had in addition to agreeing on the food basket (commodities) undertook vendor store surveillance during the transfer period to safeguard the beneficiary entitlement to diverse commodity supply. In addition, the project oriented the vendors on the use of the technology in addition to ensuring that a project officer was on standby during transfer period to handle any technological issues.

vi) *Timely transfers:*

The project was found to have had all the transfers delivered in a timely manner (see table 11 below) with an exception of one-off occurrence in Yobe state where delays were occasioned by delayed vendor payment. To ensure that crowding does not occur at the vendor’s store the beneficiary e-voucher accounts were credited in a phased manner spread over 10 days. This was in addition to enhancing beneficiary and vendor security (through crowd control) meant to ensure that the numbers released to the market could be efficiently supported by the lean project team as needed. In addition, beneficiaries were sensitized that e-voucher redemption could go beyond the 10 days (multiple redemption options).

Table 12 Timeliness of E-vouchers Transfers

			State		Total
			Yobe	Borno	
Did the assistance come in a timely manner to meet your household needs?	No	Count	17	29	46
		% of Total	1.6%	2.8%	4.4%
	Yes	Count	301	693	994
		% of Total	28.9%	66.6%	95.6%
Total	Count	318	722	1040	
	% of Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%	

vii) *The project’s choice of vendors:*

The project was found to have done a commendable job in vendor identification and contracting. With the market system in the project area disrupted, vendors have been sceptical to work for NGOs worse still in areas that are still considered insecure to operate large stores. Majority of the vendors that the evaluation team visited and engaged with were found to have previous exposure working with NGOs, had the both the needed financial and

human resource capacity. A vendor in Bolori 9 would observe ***“during the distributions I ensured that I had a team of causals that enabled me to serve a beneficiary in maximum 6 minutes. I would provide the beneficiaries with drinking water, constructed a shed to protect them from harsh weather and at times would hire kekenape (motorcycle taxi) for those coming from the farthest end of the settlement or the elderly. With these they kept coming back to me yet they could still go to other vendors”*** (respondent 7).

viii) *Platform operability across multiple vendors:*

The e-voucher platform allowed for operability across vendors. As such beneficiaries had the freedom to move from one vendor to another for better prices, commodity diversity or even vendor conduct. In addition to ensuring that vendors enhance their efficiency (to safeguard their market base); the flexibility on vendor access was aimed at minimizing access to food on credit by beneficiaries given the risk that the beneficiary could still move to another vendor hence losses for the vendor. Interviews with vendors and beneficiaries revealed that the practice of access to food on credit (with the e-voucher) as a collateral was common across all project sites. However, this was limited to cases where the traders knew the beneficiary personally. A trader in Bade would observe ***“most of the beneficiaries were our customers even before the project, if they come to me and say that they have no food at home, I would offer them some food and deduct that once their cards are credited without any extra cost”*** (respondent 8).

Despite the interoperability nature of the system, the evaluation data indicates that only 18% of the sampled beneficiaries redeemed their voucher in more than one vendor. Discussions with beneficiaries pointed towards an informal social contract established between vendors and beneficiaries based on vendor friendliness, price discounting and the need to build trader confidence through beneficiary loyalty at time leading to access to alms and food on credit.

4.5 PROJECT IMPACT

This involved an analysis of the positive and negative changes produced by the project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. At a project level, there is evidence of positive change.

- i) *Enhanced beneficiary dignity:* The project did a commendable job enhancing beneficiary dignity using e-vouchers. In addition to the discreetness that came with the cards, the safety and security of both the beneficiary and their entitlement was of positive effect on a community that described direct food distributions as messy, risky and attractive to AOGs. The establishment of the CRM, the related structure and beneficiary sensitization on the same gave them a voice to be heard and recognized. The evaluation findings indicate that 75.1% of the sampled HHs knew of the CRM, with 66.3% of those that had launched

complaints reporting they were satisfied with the response or support they got through the CRM.

- ii) *Vendor capacity and market system recovery:* Discussions with vendors indicate that on average vendors would make a net profit of between NGN 1000 – 1500 for the lowest and highest e-voucher. Averaged this translates into NGN 1250 per voucher. With a total of 11,066 beneficiaries reached through seven transfers the project is estimated to have pumped NGN 96,827,500.00 into the local market system. With the much-needed support for market system recovery across the two states, this was a needed intervention. Vendors that the evaluation team spoke to reported that with the FFP project experience, they had attracted bigger contracts with WFP or other NGOs. In addition, vendors confirmed that they had established new and stronger supply networks in addition to consolidating a customer demand base through the project. With the protracted crisis getting into its 9th year – the role of markets in reaching the affected population will remain critical.
- iii) *IYCF knowledge base, desired practices and behaviour:* In addition to the nutrition knowledge gain displayed by the representatives of mother care groups through recall exercises, Community Nutrition Mobilizers (CNMs) and lead mothers expressed their confidence on the increased adoption of EBF across the project sites. The evaluation team was introduced to two proud cases of EBF. The mothers to the babies reported of the significant changes they had observed on their baby health and nutrition through practicing EBF. In addition to the increased adoption of EBF, lead mother and CNM reported that the cultural practice of expressing the first milk after birth had reduced through the IYCF training sessions and house to house visits by lead mothers and CNMs. The eagerness expressed by female respondents to have their male counterparts reached with the family planning component was an indicator that beneficiaries would take positive action on family planning but were constrained by the non-inclusion of their male counterparts in the learning process.
- iv) *Improved food security status:* The project was found to have positively impacted on the three food security indicators adopted in the results framework (see table 7). The states specific HDDS had improved from a baseline of 5.95 to 6.63 in Yobe and from a baseline of 3.3 to 4.05 in Borno an indication of improved food consumption across the two states. The project was found to have missed to hit the HDDS target of 5 in Borno, but recorded the highest improvement (0.75) in HDDS the same state. An almost similar size of improvement had been recorded in Yobe at 0.68 units. The CSI project set target of 80%, scoring 93.3% but the FCS fell slightly below the 80% target scoring 79.2%. With minimal sharing of food and

uptake of the nutrition education, a similar project would record better food security results.

- v) *Evidence base on use of technology in protracted crisis:* The project contributes to a growing evidence base that technology can be used for better aid management even under protracted crisis. The inspiring acceptance by the beneficiaries and vendors on the use of technology and the related effects on safety, security and potential to use the same in minimizing the levels of sharing and sell offers grey areas for advancement in future interventions of a similar nature.
- vi) *Beneficiary mastery of targeting criteria:* Given the level of need, against the limited resources community members were found to have mastered the targeting criteria (vulnerability assessment). A few cases were reported where beneficiaries had “adopted” household members with an aim to increasing their chances of inclusion or with the hope that their transfer value would be higher given their household size. This observation raises a red flag that future targeting processes in the same areas will need to be thought through for the intervention to reach those most in need of support.

4.6 SUSTAINABILITY

This involved an assessment of whether the benefits of the project are likely to continue at the end of the project, extent to which the local community groups are viable institutions able to deliver services beyond the project life and potential for replication. This also looked at the extent to which the program approaches have incorporated participation, promotion of ownership of processes, networking and collaboration with other stakeholders.

For the food assistance component to cause sustainable outcomes, future projects of similar nature need to integrate resilience building under protracted crisis with an objective to enhancing food access through purchase as food production remain challenged by limited access to farm land and farm inputs. For the Borno beneficiaries, future programming will need to embrace urban livelihoods programming for them to recover and build their purchasing power. The project under review was emergency in nature, in addition to not aligning itself well with the lean period. The outcome from it therefore primarily remain lifesaving.

Generally, the evaluation team identified two project outcomes that are likely to continue post the project period.

- i) *Nutrition (IYCF) education and the desired behaviours:* The nutrition education component (IYCF) was found to have been impactful given the recall capacity (of key IYCF messages) displayed by respondents in mother care group FGDs. With reinforcement and better linkages to existing MCH interventions in the project area, the observed outcomes on IYCF are likely to be sustainable including EBF and potential uptake of family planning. The lead mothers are likely the only

project structure with a high likelihood of continuing to promote IYCF in the project areas given the level of motivation and volunteering witnessed – ideally they now stand as community reference persons on matters IYCF and are likely to engage post the project period.

- ii) *Vendor capacity and role in market recovery:* In addition to financial gains to vendors that majority claimed was vital in expanding their stocking levels, the post project beneficiary–vendor relations is also likely to continue to exist as evidenced through the access to food on credit so far witnessed. Further, the experience to operationalize humanitarian response through technology, the vendor’s capacity to scale up is critical to both the recovery of the market system as well as building a resilient local response system.

4.7 CONSORTIUM COORDINATION

The evaluation team sought to understand if the consortium approach had worked or not worked. It is the opinion of the evaluation team that the consortium did a commendable job in the development of all needed tools, formation of project structures and cross learning. The three implementing partners were found to have signed separate contracts with the platform service provider (RedRose). In future, it would be interesting to negotiate for a single contract (licence) with multiple users with the service provider with the lead agency taking responsibility. This is likely to positively impact on the project’s value for money.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Based on findings from the evaluation, the evaluation team conclude and recommend as below:

- ❖ The project has had a positive impact on household food security comparing project indicators data collected at baseline, PDMs and the final evaluation. Both qualitative and quantitative data affirm this observation. However, the project would have done better on food security indicators particularly FCS had the level of sharing been reduced.
- ❖ The nutrition component did a great job on both EBF, but was not very influential on beneficiary food purchase patterns at the vendor's store given the level of sharing reported across the project area.
- ❖ The project coordination was found to have worked well during the implementation period. The evaluators are of the opinion that the consortium would have used the opportunity to negotiate for a single contract with the e-voucher service provider – hence value for money.
- ❖ The two project sites (Borno and Yobe) are not homogenous. The evaluation reveals that beneficiaries in Yobe state are less vulnerable compared to their Borno counterparts. This observation justifies the need to embrace resilience building in protracted crisis especially in Yobe where communities have fair access to farmland and livestock keeping compared to their Borno counterparts.
- ❖ The project design was appropriate as it addressed the prioritized needs of the local communities. With an exception of Yobe state, the integration of nutrition into the food assistance component was found limited or none existent in Borno. With PLWs under the nutrition component not deliberately targeted for the food assistance and assuming the broad vulnerability across the project area, the food assistance component was unlikely to attain nutrition outcomes. The evaluators strongly recommend for the targeting of PLWs from the start.
- ❖ The use of technology was found appropriate to the context. In addition to the positive attributes including beneficiary dignity enhancement, safety, security, injection of capital into the local economy, the evaluation team felt that there are grey areas of interest to future programming including the use of multiple wallets (including e-voucher, and unconditional cash) to minimize on the risk of food sharing or sale. In addition, it would be interesting to see how having an additional UCT wallet for the same beneficiaries will impact on practices such as food sale.
- ❖ Project strategies were found effective but selected interventions would require additional complimentary activities or follow up programme to build on the achievements of FFP project and maximize impact. For instance, the positive

reception of the family planning component under the IYCF by female beneficiaries would not yield much in exclusion of the male counterparts yet regarded as extremely relevant by 98% of female respondents.

- ❖ The project was generally found efficient although there were few cases where efficiency was reduced due to operation delays including vendor payments. The IYCF component was found the most efficient given the achievements it had made with minimal resources. Where cooking demonstrations were included, the nutrition indicators were evidently achieved.
- ❖ The evaluation mapped out two project outcomes with potential to sustain post the project period. The IYCF component given the community participation (strongly owned by female beneficiaries and achieved much with less resources). The lead mothers will continue to be IYCF knowledge contact points even post the period.
- ❖ The project did a good job in addressing gender mainstreaming in the CRM committees but could have done a better job by inclusion of male participants into the IYCF component as some of the access and control dynamics rested with the male. For instance, food purchase was reported as typically a male activity meaning that households would benefit from the men's IYCF knowledge post the project food transfers.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions made in section 3.1 above, the following recommendations can be made;

- ❖ For better impact, future projects of similar nature should ensure that complimentary activities that are critical to achievement of impact of core project interventions should be prioritized. A clear case here being the cooking demonstrations as part of the IYCF training.
- ❖ Project design should be well grounded on adequate needs analysis to capture complimentary needs and local attitudes. Family planning was found to have both religious and cultural dimensions that would have an impact on the project success.
- ❖ To enhance project efficiency, future intervention of a similar nature should rethink potential to negotiate with service providers as a consortium rather separately as implementing partners. This is likely to have an impact on the value for money.
- ❖ For better results on nutrition outcomes, interventions of a similar nature would need to rethink the project food security – nutrition integration design. An entry point would be deliberate targeting of PLWs under the nutrition component for food assistance.

- ❖ Future intervention of this nature would have better results if they are designed with a shock responsive safety net thinking in place. Although market prices were stable across the project period, the project had not build in a crisis modification component for eventual vertical expansion (transfer value adjustment) in the event of market disruptions.
- ❖ The targeting process had registered at least 80% of the households in the project area. This is a value universal beneficiary register that future interventions should explore to use for horizontal expansion (reaching more beneficiaries) during lean seasons or in the event that the caseload for people in need of humanitarian assistance goes up during an ongoing intervention.
- ❖ For better results, future projects of a similar nature will have to minimize on the level of food sharing either through scale up (reaching more vulnerable households) or through creation of multiple wallets depending on the market functionality.
- ❖ Beneficiaries that were reported to have sold part of their food ratio, or colluded with vendors did so in search of cash to purchase non-food items. Partitioning the current wallets into an e-voucher and cash is highly recommended. In Yobe for instance, beneficiaries incurred a minimum of NGN 1000 transport cost to access their food ratios.
- ❖ For better results, future projects of a similar nature need to fully embrace a combination of community based targeting and vulnerability based targeting. The project evaluation assessed the beneficiaries to have mastered the targeting criteria meaning that any future targeting process will be compromised.