ACTION AGAINST HUNGER NIGERIA MISSION -

Per Household Food Assistance Targeting Experience in NE Nigeria

FSS Meeting - Maiduguri, Borno State
16th July, 2019.
Overview

The objective of AAH’s Food Assistance intervention is to ensure Improved Food and Nutrition security of conflict affected communities in North East Nigeria, particularly Household food security of vulnerable households, especially of women and children, is improved through integrated cash transfer scheme and behavior change interventions.
FOOD ASSISTANCE MODALITY

Action Against Hunger has adopted a three-pronged approach towards fighting hunger and malnutrition in North East Nigeria, which are;

- General Food Distributions
- Cash Transfers
- Food Vouchers
The cash transfer modality utilizes the RedRose platform.

Through the RedRose system, value amounts are uploaded onto the smartcard.

Beneficiaries withdraw this amount from money agents.

In locations with no phone connectivity in Monguno, Magumeri and Nganzai, Action Against Hunger staff follows up with beneficiaries directly after distribution on any feedback on the distribution.
TARGETING STRATEGY

- The beneficiaries are targeted using household vulnerability criteria.
- Priority is given to vulnerable households including: female and child-headed households, households with pregnant and lactating mothers, and children with SAM/MAM.

Factors for scoring include:
- Head of Household vulnerability
- Protection
- Income and productive assets
- Household Dependency ratio
- Household Hunger Scale
- Food Consumption Score.

- The selection criteria are based on standard food security and livelihood indicators,
- Data collected on HH vulnerability is uploaded to a database, filtered, and scored electronically for impartiality.
MONITORING

- Monitoring and CRM approach
- Stakeholder involvement and coordination
- Monthly Food Basket
  - 100% of the food basket in Monguno, Magumeri and Nganzai LGAs
  - 70% of the food basket in MMC/Jere with Cash/Food Vouchers (50%/50%)
  - 70% of the food basket with Cash Vouchers
ADVANTAGES

- Targeting is easy
- **Rapid Response** - Reaching out to many BNFs within a short time (Monguno Response in January 2019)
- **Cost Effective:** More HHs with < average size of HHs in the targeted locations
- **Duplication reduction:** Possibility of duplication is reduced as registration is done per HH
- **Fraud Prevention:** The use of RedRose without sub-partners is helpful in preventing fraud because the final authority to approve transfer disbursements lies with the Action Against Hunger Country Director. This level of control eliminates the potential risk for funds to be diverted by intermediaries.
- **Protection enhancement:** Electronic cash transfers also support increased protection through limiting corruption, allowing for flexibility in modality choice and timing of collections, and limiting mass-congregating at distribution sites
- **Market strengthening:** From experience drawn from already existing Action Against Hunger projects in Borno and Yobe States, and from partner agencies through coordination & technical working groups, a careful use of the cash modality has continually stimulated recovery of sustainable local market systems.
HH PROPORTIONS IN RELATION TO THE AVERAGE SIZE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HHs with total number of Individuals</th>
<th>MMC/Jere</th>
<th>Magumeri</th>
<th>Nganzai</th>
<th>Monguno</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HHs Size lower than Average HHs Size</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>2,670</td>
<td>4,037</td>
<td>10,695</td>
<td>19,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average HHs Size (6 members)</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>1,928</td>
<td>4,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHs size above Average HHs Size</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,417</td>
<td>1,533</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>2,104</td>
<td>8,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,047</td>
<td>5,229</td>
<td>6,411</td>
<td>14,927</td>
<td>32,414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHALLENGES

- Logistics issues: Delays in Delivery of Food
- Crowd Control
- Card Reader Issues and Non-Sensing of Beneficiaries Biometrics
- Fraud
  By:
  - ACF Staff: Conspiring with Vendors and Ghost Beneficiaries
  - Vendors: Conspiring with Beneficiaries and some staff
  - Beneficiaries; Conspiring with Vendors and staff;
  - Beneficiary “importation” from other non-intervention locations for registration.

- Security Challenges
STRATEGIES FOR QUALITY CONTROL:

- Proper targeting using Food Security and Nutrition Indicators
- Mitigation of family/HH splitting through physical marking of Household shelters
- Vendor transactions are restricted to working hours (9am-5pm) and monitored by staff
- Discussions are ongoing with RedRose to restrict transactions on vendors device at offline hours
- Close external audit of vendors which has led to the suspension of erring vendors
- Dedicated toll free line (where mobile network is accessible) and CRM booths at camps/communities without mobile network
- For families with more than one family within one Household established beyond reasonable doubt, cards are issued for the individual HHs
AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Biometric capture of 100% Household members to prevent households having double smart cards
- The use of both Food/Nutrition security indicators combined with physical assessment criteria for better targeting
- A functional financial institution structure that can support cash activities needs to be established. Advocacy should be directed towards ensuring this happens.
- Exploration of sending notifications to beneficiaries upon crediting
Thank you