



Guidance Note: Food Assistance Northeast Nigeria

Sixth Edition

Updated March 2023

1. Executive Summary

This guidance note **takes effect starting the month of June 2023**, including on ongoing programs already funded.

This guidance note **supersedes any other previously shared** and is applicable to all Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states.

During the **peak of lean Season** months starting June to September (4 months), the sector partners will **scale-up the number of food insecure people** to receive emergency food assistance. The Transfer Value during the peak of the lean season will be **5,870 naira per capita (per person) per month**.

During the **Off Lean Season**, partners will **scale-down the number of food insecure people assisted** outside the lean season (October to April - 8 months), focusing on only the extremely vulnerable categories. The Transfer Value off lean season will be the same as the lean season - **5,870 naira per capita (per person) per month**.

2. Background

With about fourteen years into the conflict in the Northeast states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) in Nigeria, over 2 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to persistent violence and remain internally displaced. There are nearly 1.5 million returnees who lack essential services and livelihoods, and 4.8 million people in host communities that have otherwise been affected by the conflict.

3. Context

A total of 4.3 million people in the BAY states are expected to face food insecurity in the 2023 lean season peak (June to August). The number of food insecure people in the BAY states has consistently been above 4 million since 2020 for different reasons including the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on

the wider economy, inflation, limited income generation and agricultural production due to the continued conflict among others.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria (January 2023), in January 2023, the **headline inflation rate** rose to 21.82% compared to December 2022 headline inflation rate which was 21.34%. Looking at the trend, the January 2023 inflation rate showed an increase of 0.47% points when compared to December 2022 inflation rate. However, on a year-on-year basis, the headline inflation rate was 6.22% points higher compared to the rate recorded in January 2022, which was 15.60%. This is the highest inflation rate since September 2005.

The **national food inflation rate** in January 2023 was 24.32% on a year-on-year basis; which was 7.19% points higher compared to the rate recorded in January 2022 (17.13%). The rise in food inflation was caused by increases in prices of Bread and Cereals, Oil and Fat, Potatoes, Yam and Other Tubers, Fish, Vegetable, Fruits, Meat. The **average annual rate of food inflation** for the twelve -months ending January 2023 over the previous twelve-month average was 21.53%, which was a 1.44% points increase from the average annual rate of change recorded in January 2022 (20.09%).

In the **base markets of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council and Jere**, according to the multi-partner monitoring, the cost of food basket has consistently increased since by 18% in February, 2023 as compared to the same period in 2022, and by 116% as compared to the same period 5 years ago (February 2018).

4. Rationale

The number of food insecure people has remained relatively high and resources for delivering food assistance have reduced, hence a decision to review the food assistance response, to ensure that partners continue to provide food assistance in the most efficient way possible to the most vulnerable.

5. Purpose of the transfer

The purpose of the new transfer value is to cover the gap for the minimum calorie intake per person (2,100 Kilocalories), as calculated in the Rights-based Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

6. Methodology for calculating the food assistance transfers

The new food assistance transfer value to cover all Local Government Areas in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states is based on the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) approach and the [cost of food basket calculator](#), using prevailing multi partners' market rates as at February 2023.

Baseline locations of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council and Jere for Borno, Damaturu for Yobe, were set a threshold.

The calculation of the transfer value will take into consideration the household incomes, latest prevailing market prices (February 2023), which takes into the inflation rates and the market functionality challenges because of the Naira scarcity.

Cost of Rights-based SMEB (Per Capita as at February, 2023) – Household Incomes spent on food (Per Capita based on the HEA and Income/Expenditure analysis, February, 2023) = Gap in food assistance to be covered (Per Capita per month)

9,405 naira – 3,535 naira = 5,870 naira per capita per month as the food assistance gap

7. Transfer Values

What is the old transfer value?

- Borno State.
 - Magumeri: Cost of food basket was the highest then and the transfer value has been 5,394 per capita since June, 2022.
 - MMC and Jere: The transfer value is 3,500 naira, since February 2023. This had been reduced from 4,844 naira, which had last been updated in June, 2022.
 - Kaga, Konduga, Gubio: The updated per capita transfer value has been 4,844 Naira since June, 2022.
 - Other deep-field LGAs: Transfer Value in those respective LGAs will be 4,495 Naira (70% of the cost of the food basket 6,421 Naira), since June 2021.
- Yobe
 - In Yobe, the transfer value is 4,229 Naira, which is 70% of the cost of the food basket (6,041 Naira) since June 2021.

What will the new transfer values be starting June 2023, going forward?

a) Seasonality

- I. **Transfer Values** will contribute to covering the gap per month taking into consideration seasonality. There will be one-transfer value for both the lean season and off-lean season (5,870 naira per capita).
- II. The **number of households to be targeted** for food assistance will increase to the maximum possible during the peak of the lean season, and reduced off lean season to target only the extremely most vulnerable.

The food assistance response calendar will be divided into two.

Lean Season

During the peak of the lean season months starting June to September (4 months), the sector partners will scale-up the number of food insecure people to receive emergency food assistance, given that these are the months of the peak of the lean season.

The Transfer Value during the peak of the lean season will be **5,870 naira per capita (per person) per month**. This implies 100% of the gap of the food needs of the food insecure households, but 62% of the rights-based SMEB.¹

Off Lean Season.

¹ In humanitarian contexts, “essential needs” have been understood as referring to access to full rights as set out by international humanitarian law and the Humanitarian Sphere Standards. The term “rights-based MEB” is derived from this understanding. Please see for more information: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000074198/download/>

Partners will scale-down the number of people assisted outside the lean season, to focus on strictly the extremely vulnerable food insecure people only. The number of food insecure people assisted will be phased down during the period from October to April (8 months), while following a strict prioritization criteria focusing on the extremely vulnerable food insecure people only. These include among others the new arrivals especially from inaccessible and hard to reach areas, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the most vulnerable Host Communities, and referrals from the Protection Sector who might not already be on the regular beneficiary list.

The Transfer Value off the peak of the lean season will be the same as the peak of the lean season - **5,870 naira per capita (per person) per month**. This is to ensure that the extremely vulnerable can still meet the minimum food requirements.

Partners are encouraged to increase assistance towards risk reduction capacities, and livelihoods support for self-reliance and strengthen resilience to shocks. Partners are also encouraged to further ensure support households with nutrition-sensitive livelihoods assistance.

Summary of percentages of Kilocalories covered by the assistance per season

		Value in Naira (Per Capita Per Month)	% Kilocalories	Comment
	Rights-based SMEB	9,405	100%	
Lean Season and Off- Lean Season	Transfer Value	5,870	62%	
	Household Income spend on food	3,575	38%	

b) How much will be transferred (In kind and Cash Voucher Assistance) per HH with varying household sizes?

The [household per capita transfer value calculator will](#) be maintained with the summary below.

I. Households of 1-3 members

Transfer Value to be calculated based on a Cap (Ceiling) of HH 3 as the Per Capita Transfer Value for HH sizes 1,2 & 3.

II. Households of 4-8 members

Transfer Value to be calculated based on actual number of Households members

III. Households of 8+

Transfer Value to be calculated based on a maximum of household size 8 members.

In addition to the household food transfer value, a 2,000 Naira will be provided per household for cooking fuel.

Summary table of transfer values per household size during the lean and off lean season – Same transfer values, but varying numbers of people targeted.

Household Sizes										
For both the Lean and Off Lean Season		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Above 8
Food Transfer Value (NGN)	5,870.00	17,610.00	17,610.00	17,610.00	23,480.00	29,350.00	35,220.00	41,090.00	46,960.00	46,960.00
Cooking Fuel (NGN)		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Transfer per HH (NGN)		19,610.00	19,610.00	19,610.00	25,480.00	31,350.00	37,220.00	43,090.00	48,960.00	48,960.00

When does the guidance note take effect?

This guidance note takes effect starting the month of June 2023, including on ongoing programs already funded.

This will allow partners doing comprehensive sensitization of all beneficiaries, beneficiaries and partners as well to adjust to the changes. This will also ensure we have one major change in June for the lean season, as compared to making changes in May and again in June.

Joint monitoring of the changes in the approach to delivery of food assistance

Quarterly monitoring of the new approach for the food assistance response and taking feedback from the affected population will be done to improve efficiency.

Note: The current guidance has taken into consideration various compromises due to the funding cuts including but not limited to;

- Reducing the lean season months to four instead of five, by excluding May. This is cognizant that the 2023 lean season might start as early as April, due to the 2022 floods, which affected harvests.
- The lean season and off lean season transfer value is 62% of the rights-based SMEB,
- Including the generalization that all the food insecure HHs can generate the average income of 3,530 per capita to be spent on food as indicated in the HEA in the urban and peri-urban areas.
- Keeping energy at 2,000 naira per household. The actual market rates indicate simple averages around 2,600 naira per HH with medians from 1,700 to 3,000 Naira.
- Taking protection and nutrition concerns of the most vulnerable especially peak of lean season into consideration
- Targeting the most vulnerable for food assistance.

The new guidance note also takes into the consideration key points below:

- The new food assistance approach including the transfer values were reviewed and updated also takes into consideration the aspect of equity among all the various food insecure vulnerable

people in the different locations, including MMC and Jere which had recently been lowered in February, 2023 due to funding challenges.

- Scaling up livelihoods support wherever possible with the right targeting especially in areas where there is relative increase in opportunities such as land access and increased demand for production, livelihoods and income generation by the affected population.

6. References

Catholic Relief Services Monthly Market Price Monitoring (February, 2023)

Food Assistance Taskforce Meeting 25 March 2023.

FSS Harmonization Taskforce meetings between March 04 to 24, 2023

Mercy Corps Monthly Market Food Price Monitoring (February, 2023)

Nigeria national Bureau of Statistics (January, 2023)

Save The Children Monthly Market Food Price Monitoring (May, 2021)

Save The Children Household Economy Analysis Outcome Report (February, 2022)

WFP Yobe and Borno Market Monitoring January, 2023)

WFP Income and Expenditure Analysis (February, 2023)

Food Security Sector Food Assistance Taskforce Members: *Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services, Action Against Hunger, ZOA, Save The Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, World Food Programme, International Medical Corps, INTERSOS, ACTED, JDPC, GREENCODE, SWNI, CCDRN, CARE, Christian Aid, Cash Working Group, Cash Working Group*