

- In March, WFP assisted 1.2 million Nigerians in conflict-affected zones in the Northeast of the country through cash-based transfers, in-kind food assistance and specialised nutritious food distributions. The total number of people assisted increased by 10 percent compared to January and February 2017. For the fourth consecutive month over one million people in Northeast Nigeria have been reached by WFP assistance.
- For the critical implementation and expansion of its emergency operations, WFP has established partnerships with 15 local and international humanitarian organizations.

## WFP Nigeria Country Brief

### WFP Assistance

Providing life-saving support to households directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria EMOP 200777 Nigeria Component	2017 Total Requirements (in USD)*	Total Resourced (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements**
	447 m	14%	232 m

\*Includes estimated budget for Budget Revision #9  
\*\*April 2017 – September 2017

#### Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200777

WFP's Regional EMOP addresses urgent food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable people and communities in conflict-affected areas and displacement sites of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

WFP has adopted an agile response, using the most appropriate and context-specific types of assistance and delivery mechanisms to address needs. WFP uses either food- or cash-based transfers to support displaced people living in camps or with host communities, as well as vulnerable host populations.

WFP continues to reach remote areas that were previously inaccessible due to the fluctuating security situation through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) – established jointly with UNICEF – which includes extensive use of helicopters and the pooling of logistics and telecommunications resources across the humanitarian community.

The prevention of malnutrition for children aged 6 to 59 months, as well as for pregnant and nursing women, will remain integrated with cash or in-kind food assistance. In areas where population returns are possible, livelihood support interventions will be incorporated to contribute to early recovery and help reduce reliance on food assistance.

Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Nigeria SO 200834 (Aug 2015 to Dec 2017)	2017 Total Requirements (in USD)	Resourced* (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements*
	19.3 m	77%	1.3 m

\* April 2017 – September 2017

#### Special Operation (SO) 200834 – United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

Since August 2015, UNHAS flights have allowed the humanitarian community to implement and scale-up relief activities to assist affected populations. Due to the recent closure of the Abuja international airport, the operational base of UNHAS fixed-wing aircraft has moved for the six-

week closure period (8 March-19 April) to Kaduna, with regular service to Yola and Maiduguri.

Helicopter flights were introduced on 7 July 2016, and they constitute a critical tool to access remote and hard-to-reach areas in Northeast Nigeria.

Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sector Coordination and Services to augment the Humanitarian Response SO 201302	2017 Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Resourced (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements*
	9.1 m	24%	1.7 m

\*April 2017 – September 2017

#### Special Operation (SO) 201032

On 7 November 2016, WFP launched a Special Operation to address the main logistics and telecommunication gaps faced by the humanitarian community in Northeast Nigeria.

The Logistics Sector is responsible for logistics coordination and information management, augmentation of storage capacities in Borno State and coordination of cargo movements.

The Emergency Telecommunications Sector seeks to establish and upgrade security telecommunications in Borno and Yobe States enabling the humanitarian community to carry out its activities efficiently and safely.

### In Numbers

**1.2 m** people reached by WFP food assistance in Borno and Yobe States in March 2017

**1.9 m** people displaced in Northeast Nigeria (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, January 2017)

**4.7 m** people food insecure in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States (Phases 3, 4 & 5, "Cadre Harmonisé", March 2017)

Pockets of famine-like conditions have been reported in Borno and Adamawa States for close to **44,000** people (Phase 5, "Cadre Harmonisé", March 2017)

## Operational Updates

- In March, WFP, both directly and through partners, reached 1.2 million people in Northeast Nigeria.
- A total of 937,000 people – most of them internally displaced, in camps or in host communities – benefited from in-kind distributions across Borno and Yobe States, while a further 247,000 people were assisted through cash-based transfers.
- A total of 374,600 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women were assisted with specialised nutritious food.
- In April, WFP will be targeting over 1.3 million people, expanding its food assistance to Adamawa State in line with the findings of the March *Cadre Harmonisé*, which indicated critical food needs (Phase 5) in Borno and Adamawa States for close to 44,000 people.
- For the critical implementation and expansion of the project, WFP has established partnerships with 15 local and international humanitarian organizations.

## Challenges

- Limited or complete lack of humanitarian access to affected populations continues to be the key impediment to operations.
- Urgent financial support are needed to continue to scale-up the response to the humanitarian crisis in Northeast Nigeria.

## A Story worth Telling

When Boko Haram kidnapped five of his children and took away all his possessions, Bintu's husband could not take it – he died of complications from his hypertension.

The family had just returned to their home in northeastern Nigeria after spending months on the run, moving from village to village with nowhere to sleep, trying to escape the violence.

After her husband's death, Bintu – left to care for her five children on her own – had to flee again. "They took everything from us including our clothes. They kept us without food and water," she says.

Now living in in Dikwa, Bintu and her family are among the hundreds of thousands of people the World Food Programme (WFP) is supporting through its rapid response mechanism in Borno state.

Under this, specialist teams fly into remote, hard-to-reach areas where they remain for up to seven days. Food is trucked in and handed out at distribution centres.

"We were hungry before, but with the food we are receiving from WFP our condition has improved. If this food assistance stopped we would not have any recourse except begging," Bintu says, describing how she and her children were forced to beg food off neighbours and passers-by. [Read more](#)

## Country Background & Strategy



Nigeria is a federal constitutional republic in where the capital Abuja is located. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has over 500 ethnic groups.

As at 2015, Nigeria was the world's 20<sup>th</sup> largest economy and overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. Some 68 percent of the Nigerian population is literate, and the rate for men (75.7 percent) is higher than that for women (60.6 percent).

The crisis induced by the Boko Haram insurgency remains the principal driving factor of instability in Northeast Nigeria. Founded in 2002 in Borno State, Boko Haram has been advocating for the creation of an Islamic state in northern Nigeria. Since 2010, the group has increasingly expanded its operational capabilities, and in March 2014 a state of emergency was declared by the Government in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States.

As of January 2016, according to IOM's displacement tracking matrix, around 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are reported to be in Northeast Nigeria, 80 percent of which are located across Borno (1.5 million), Adamawa (0.15 million) and Yobe (0.11 million) States. Children constitute 56 percent of the IDP population, and 54 percent of the IDP population are women.

Population: **184 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **152 out of 188**

Income Level: **Largest economy in Africa and 20<sup>th</sup> in the world**

Literacy: **68 percent (75.7 percent men and 60.6 percent women)**

## Donors

United Kingdom, United States of America, European Commission, UN CERF, Germany, Norway, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Japan, Finland, Private Donors and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

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