

COUNTRY STRATEGY

WFP responds to challenges related to food insecurity and malnutrition in Cameroon through a mix of relief, recovery and development operations. Vital emergency support is provided to refugees from C.A.R and Nigeria, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host populations through two regional emergency operations. Additionally, WFP is supporting the Government in the implementation of its development and recovery priorities.

WFP has been present in Cameroon since 1978 as a key player for both development and humanitarian assistance.



OPERATIONS

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Total Funded (%)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*	Top 5 Donors
Nigeria EMOP 200777	Jan- Dec 2015	225,900	39,695,113	n/a	n/a	17,733,430	USAID, ECHO, CERF, SWISS, UK,
C.A.R. EMOP 200799	Jan- Dec 2015	182,670	33,139,251	n/a	n/a	3,963,324	USAID, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Japan, UK
PRRO 200552	Oct 2013 – Sep 2015	143,173	23,834,413	10,213,880	43%	3,526,307	USA, UN CERF, Multilateral, Japan, Canada, Switzerland
CP 200330	Jan 2013 – Dec 2017	210,550	21,241,836	4,395,729	21%	2,306,840	Multilateral, France, Cameroon

*July – December 2015

Summary of WFP assistance:

WFP continues to respond to two simultaneous regional emergencies affecting the east and northern regions of the country through the provision of emergency food support to refugees, IDPs, and host populations. In addition, WFP implements a Country Programme (CP) and a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) to address long-term needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by recurrent crisis.

WFP continues to support people displaced by the conflict in Nigeria and related insecurity in the Far North region of Cameroon. The operation targets 225,900 refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations through food and nutrition support. WFP is currently adjusting targets in accordance with latest assessments findings. Food support will be scaled up to an additional 20,000 from severely food insecure host population during the peak lean season, while Blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) activities are extended to children among the IDP population and targeted host communities. Presently, the coverage of the programme is limited to Nigerian refugees in the Minawao camp.

WFP aims to meet urgent food needs of vulnerable refugees from C.A.R and host populations affected by the refugee influx in the East, Adamawa and North regions of Cameroon. It combines food support with robust nutrition programmes aimed at preventing and treating acute malnutrition in children and pregnant and nursing women amongst the refugees and host populations. Malnourished people living with HIV receive nutritional assistance through the Food by Prescription Programme. The operation plans to assist 182,670 people.

A PRRO in the East, Adamawa, North and Far North regions of Cameroon, reaching refugees from C.A.R. and local populations, seeks to improve the nutritional status and livelihood prospects of vulnerable people. The primary focus is on building resilience to enable recovery of individuals affected by recurrent climate related shocks. The operation aims to support 143,173 individuals.

WFP promotes primary education, through school feeding operations; improves household food security by enhancing resilience to recurrent climatic shocks and provides nutritional support for vulnerable groups. Through its CP WFP assists 210,550 individuals.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<p>Nigeria Crisis: In May, WFP assisted 50,342 people. In June, support was further extended to 80,000 IDPs, 40,000 refugees and 20,000 vulnerable host populations. WFP has reinforced support by providing specialised nutritional food to health centres in and around camp settings to treat malnourished children between 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women. Distributions of nutritional products in the Minawao camp reached 8,664 young children and 1,038 pregnant and nursing women in June. WFP has put in place an additional 5,200 mt of storage capacity and boosted up staff presence in the Far North region to provide adequate surge capacity to respond efficiently to the crisis.</p> <p>C.A.R Crisis: In June, General food distributions were delivered to 131,406 refugees, achieving 95 percent of the planned monthly target. BSF activities targeted 41,000 young children and 8,000 pregnant and nursing women. Significant improvements in the nutrition situation have been noticed following the scale-up of humanitarian activities in the East and Adamawa regions. Monthly screening data (using MUAC) from Blanket Supplementary Feeding activities indicate a decrease in the prevalence of GAM among beneficiaries targeted by food and nutrition assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most critical concern is the limited funding to provide support to Nigerian refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations. Significant ruptures in the food pipeline from September onwards may force WFP to cut rations or suspend activities to certain groups. • Security concerns and difficulties in accessing remote areas remains a major challenge. The current situation is further exacerbated by the ongoing rainy season, which renders access increasingly challenging. To ensure food availability during this critical period, WFP is making arrangements to preposition a two month ration in hard to reach areas in the course of July distributions. • Logistical constraints and supply chain challenges resulting in occasional ruptures of the food pipeline have been major concerns in the first half of 2015. In May significant delays in the receipt of commodities led to a pipeline break for targeted food distributions to C.A.R. refugees. • The Rapid Food Security Assessment conducted in the Far North region points to a precarious food security situation for households in conflict affected areas. Particularly among refugees and IDPs, where food insecurity affects over 45 percent of the population. The incidence of severe food insecurity amongst IDPs is exceptionally high at 18 percent. WFP is adapting its response to address these alarming trends.

PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic and complementary partnerships have been strengthened to respond efficiently to the current crises. General Food Distributions are covered through a tripartite agreement with UNHCR and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in East region and with IEDA Relief and Public Concern in the Far North. Meanwhile nutrition interventions are implemented jointly with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and NGOs such as African Humanitarian Action, IMC, MSF and PLAN.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Cameroon is a lower middle income country with a Global Hunger Index (GHI) value of 14.5 in 2013. The country ranks 150 out of 187 countries according to the 2014 Human Development Index and has a GDP of USD 2,090 per capita. Cameroon's economic growth over the last decade has been too slow to lead to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Over 40 percent of its population of 20 million people are living below the poverty line. Seventy percent depend on agro-pastoral activities. In rural areas, almost 10 percent of households are food insecure (2.2 percent severely and 7.4 percent moderately).

High levels of wasting and stunting are reported in the northern part of the country, which is located in the Sahelian and Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zones and suffers from poor soil, erratic rainfall, drought, disease, low food crop production and crop destruction, often caused by locusts, resulting in chronic food shortages and food insecurity. The SMART survey conducted by UNICEF in late 2014 shows a light increase in malnutrition rates in the Far North, North and Adamawa regions compared to results from 2013. Nutrition interventions are urgently required in these regions, especially in the Far North. The national net rate of school attendance for girls is about 77 percent and 88 percent for boys.

