

NIGERIA RAPID RESPONSE CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE 2020

20-RR-NGA-46483

Matthias Schmale

Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator

PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:		
Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated. AAR was conducted on 8 February 2022 and was attended by UNOCHA, WFP, food security sector of other food security support staff.	08/02/2 oordinator	
Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).	Yes 🖾	No 🗆
Yes, the report was shared and presented at the HCT meeting on 23 February 2022.		
Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?	Yes ⊠	No 🗆

The final report was shared with WFP and Sector Coordinator.

1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

This CERF grant was one of the single largest sources of CVA funding to beneficiaries, increasing flexibility of choices for beneficiaries and reactivating local economies/livelihoods for IDPs, following government camp closures in the state capital and subsequent IDP relocations to areas/communities with weaker economies. The CERF grant through the rapid response window, enabled WFP and food security partners achieve positive food security outcomes, with 51% of households achieving an acceptable food consumption score, a score 6 percentage points higher than initially planned. It served as significant support in addressing food insecurity which was on the increase due to deteriorating economic situation, rising inflation and the economic and social effects of Covid-19 preventive measures. The grant allowed WFP to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to 103,662 people, including 36,800 women, 26,434 men, 25,086 girls and 15,342 boys.

At the start of the CERF grant implementation in 2021, WFP, like many partners, encountered challenges with the government in implementing the CVA project. Among other things, distribution was halted by the Borno State Government for some months and some of the selected beneficiaries were relocated during the distribution period. The situation also required WFP to reconcile the targeted beneficiaries against the Government list. These challenges called for a dynamic approach to cash and voucher assistance programming.

Following these challenges on the implementation of CVA programming, the Cash Working Group (CWG) in 2021 with the support of the HCT and other key humanitarian stakeholders, intensified engagement with authorities including financial regulators and law enforcement at field level and high-level federal agencies with a series of trainings and workshops rolled out for government partners/agencies ultimately resulting in a better context for CVA programming. By the end of 2021, cash programming was estimated at about 39 percent (\$283,686,000) of all humanitarian programming in Nigeria. More partners continue to shift to CVA modality with CVA modality expected to be more than 40% of the humanitarian response in 2022.

CERF's Added Value:

The findings from the March 2021 Cadre Harmonize (CH) analysis found that the food security situation had deteriorated rapidly, projecting that 4.4 million people would be food insecure across BAY States, facing crisis or emergency (CH Phase 3 or 4) in the peak of the lean season of 2021. The number of people projected in the Emergency Phase 4 (immediate stage before famine) in the lean season of 2021 increased to about 774,416, which was about 84% and 16% increase compared 2019 and 2020 peak respectively.

This CERF project was implemented at the peak of the lean season, allowing the food security sector to cover more needs in areas where needs would otherwise have gone unaddressed. The project's final food consumption score showed a marked improvement among beneficiaries of the project and also reflected positively in the food sector's gap analysis which showed a decrease in the number of people in need.

Did CERF funds lead to a <u>fast delivery</u>	of assistance to people in need?	
Yes □	Partially ⊠	No □
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While the project initially planned to support 90,552 people for a consecutive period of six months, various administrative challenges forced WFP to change the implementation plan. The key reasons include, temporary halt of the implementation in June and July 2021 by the Government at the initial stage, delayed targeting exercise due to additional time required by the Nigerian Government for the consolidation of the targeting beneficiaries. Therefore, distribution took eight months, instead of six months. Based on the context, WFP revised and resubmitted the implementation plan and submitted non-cost extension request, which were approved by CERF.

\$80 million CERF allocation to support cash programming in response to increasing food insecurity in six countries. Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs? Partially No \square Yes 🛛 Despite the temporary halt of the implementation in June and July 2021 by the Government at the initial stage and the delayed targeting exercise due to additional time required by the Nigerian Government for the consolidation of the targeting beneficiaries, the cash distribution largely took place in the critical months of the lean season, thereby addressing the needs at the most critical time. Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community? No □ Yes Partially The project was the only project under the CERF RR 2020 support to Nigeria. There were some concerns raised at the AAR about the pre-allocation discussions which did not include the sector coordinator or FAO, with the sector feeling excluded from the decision on how the CERF funds would be implemented. However, during implementation, due to relocations by the government and the temporary halt of the project, the humanitarian community worked together to interface with the Borno government to reach a decision on beneficiary selection and implementation leading to a closer working relationship between the food sector, its members and the government. Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources? No 🖾 Yes Partially

WFP kept CERF country team informed about the changing context and challenges as they were unfolding. This project is part of an

Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas¹:

Food and inflation continue to be a major concern in north east Nigeria, not only related to insecurity and existing humanitarian situation, but because of the compounded effects of flooding, COVID and government relocations. In the recent analysis by the sector and the cadre harmonize of 2021, reports in the affected locations show that the needs remain high and there remains a significant gap in ability to meet unaddressed needs due to limited resources. Persons with disability are among the most marginalized people and are disproportionately affected by the conflict and emergency situation. To meet immediate needs, consideration was given to two out of the four ERC's priorities in this CERF allocation, including;

- The project targeted disabled people with 5,183 reached with the voucher assistance. This assistance was particularly
 importance as there is little dedicated support for people with disability.
- Protection was mainstreamed in beneficiary targeting and project implementation, with selection and distribution processes aimed at reducing vulnerability and preventing the occurrence of GBV and other protection concerns.

CERF has already made efforts to address the needs for people with disability by providing additional funding in 2021 specifically targeting PLWD to meet multi-sectoral needs. The principal challenge in addressing identified needs was limited resources.

In January 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility when funding is allocated to humanitarian action. The ERC therefore recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and HCTs/UNCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. These areas are: (1) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (2) programmes targeting disabled people; (3) education in protracted crises; and (4) other aspects of protection. While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the questions and answers on the ERC four priority areas here.

Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)

Total amount required for the humanitarian response	385,000,000
CERF	15,000,005
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	
Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)	15,000,005

Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
WFP	20-RR-WFP-056	Food Security - Food Assistance	15,000,005
Total	·		15,000,005

Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)

Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods			
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	0		
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	0		
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	0		
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0		
Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*	0		
Total	15,000,005		

^{*} Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex.

2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation:

The crisis in northeast Nigeria continues to disrupt the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. Violent attacks by non-state armed groups and Nigerian military counter-operations concentrated in Borno State have displaced people, disrupted farming and other livelihoods, and limited functionality of markets and other basic services. Conditions have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated surge in food prices since April 2020. Restrictions on movement and closure of businesses, markets and public gatherings – ordered by the Government to curb transmission of the virus – had unintended negative impacts on people's livelihoods, particularly those engaged in work within the informal sector.

According to the food security assessments at the start of the project, over 3.4 million people faced critical levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) between October and December 2020 – a 16 percent increase over the same period in 2019. The findings from the March 2021 Cadre Harmonize (CH) analysis found that the situation had deteriorated rapidly, projecting that 4.4 million people would be food insecure across BAY States, facing crisis or emergency (CH Phase 3 or 4) in the peak of the lean season of 2021. The number of people projected in the Emergency Phase 4 (immediate stage before famine) in the lean season of 2021 increased to about 774,416, which was about 84% and 16% increase compared 2019 and 2020 peak respectively. Without a sustained scale-up of humanitarian assistance, the number of critically food-insecure people would increase, adding to the suffering in the area.

Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

CERF allocated \$15 million from its Rapid Response window to WFP that enabled WFP to implement life-saving activities. WFP provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 103,663 people, including 36,801 women, 26,434 men, 25,086 girls and 15,342 boys and distributed USD 12,344,869. Beneficiaries received USD 22.72 equivalent Nigerian Naira per person per month to support their needs for food and other essential items. The unconditional cash transfers allowed beneficiaries to use the cash in a way that covered needs across various sectors to meet their essential needs for the period of implementation. This project was part of an \$80 million CERF allocation to support cash programming in response to increasing food insecurity in six countries.

People Directly Reached:

The total number of unique beneficiaries is 103,663. Initially, WFP proposed to reach 90,552 beneficiaries consecutively for six months. However, the distribution was halted by the Borno Government for a short period of time and some of the selected beneficiaries were relocated while the distribution was ongoing. WFP had to reconcile the targeted beneficiaries with the Government against the Government list. This verification process took some time and caseload was increased to complete the distribution within the project duration.

People Indirectly Reached:

N/A

Table 4

	Planned					
Sector/Cluster	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	
Food Security - Food Assistance (PLANNED)	32,146	23,091	21,913	13,402	90,552	
Food Security - Food Assistance (REACHED)	36,801	26,434	25,086	15,342	103,663	

Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category*

Category	Planned	Reached	
Refugees	0	0	
Returnees	0*	0*	
Internally displaced people	48,898	55,978	
Host communities	3,622	4,147	
Other affected people	38,032*	43,538*	
Total	90.552	103.663	

Correction notes: *Other affected people included people who were previously IDPs within Nigeria and just returned to the place of origin. These people are as vulnerable as IDPs with no or minimal source of income, therefore, they are reliant on humanitarian food assistance. Previously they were classified as returnees. Currently, WFP assistance does not include refugees and returnees.

Table 6: Total No	umber of People Direct	Number of peodisabilities (Pv	pple with vD) out of the total	
Sex & Age	Planned	Reached	Planned	Reached
Women	32,146	36,801	1,607	1,840
Men	23,091	26,434	1,155	1,322
Girls	21,913	25,086	1,096	1,254
Boys	13,402	15,342	670	767
Total	90,552	103,663	4,528	5,183

3. LESSONS LEARNED

OBSERVATIONS FOR COUNTRY TEAMS

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/ improvement	Responsible entity
AAP highlighted the need for improved consultations in country in the grant allocation process. Food Security Sector expressed concern about the allocation process and felt strongly that it both Sector Lead Agencies (WFP and FAO) should have been consulted at the allocation phase for inputs. It expressed that this meant that the decision for WFP to solely implement limited the food security support that could have been provided, there was no provision made for emergency livelihoods which could have been covered under the parameters of the grant.	In the planning stages of the allocation, ensure extensive consultation with the both Sector Lead Agencies.	OCHA, HC, HCT
Planning phase should take into account the fluidity of the context as many beneficiaries are part of government's resettlement plan and government may relocate them within a short period of time. The project was planned with the assumption that the beneficiaries will remain in the same location throughout the implementation period. However, there were relocations done and implementation was halted for 2 months as WFP reconciled its beneficiary list with the government's list.	Future project implementation plan should consider this type of fluid context and keep strong coordination with the host government to keep track of any changes in scenario.	WFP, RCO
Project implementation plan needed flexibility in terms of targeting and implementation as the political context in northeast Nigeria, particularly in Borno state is complex and may change on short notice.	Project implementation plan should be flexible considering the complex political context in northeast Nigeria.	OCHA, WFP, RCO

PART II - PROJECT OVERVIEW

4. PROJECT REPORTS

3.1 Project Report 20-RR-WFP-056

1. Proj	ect Inform	ation						
Agency:		WFP	WFP Country:			Nigeria		
Sector/cl	uster:	Food Security - Food A	ssistance		CERF project	code:	20-RR-WFP-056	
Project ti	tle:	Food Assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 in the northeast Nigeria						3
Start date	e:	14/01/2021			End date:		31/12//2021	
Project re	evisions:	No-cost extension	\boxtimes	Redeploym	nent of funds		Reprogramming	
	Total re	quirement for agency's	sector res	ponse to curi	ent emergency	<i>r</i> :		US\$ 385,000,000
	Total fur	nding received for agen	cy's secto	r response to	current emerg	jency:		US\$ 69,198,246
	Amount received from CERF:						US\$ 15,000,005	
Funding	Total CE	ERF funds sub-granted t	o implem	enting partne	rs:			US\$ 0
F E	Government Partners						US\$ 0	
	International NGOs							US\$ 0
	Natio	onal NGOs						US\$ 0
	Red	Cross/Crescent Organisa	tion					US\$ 0

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

WFP received USD 15 million from CERF from its Rapid Response Window on 12 January 2021 to implement life-saving activities. This enabled WFP to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to 103,663 individuals in IPC (IPC/CH Phase 3 and 4) in Borno and Yobe States. Beneficiaries included 36,800 women, 26,434 men, 25,086 girls and 15,342 boys. Total beneficiaries include 54 percent IDPs, 42 percent people who were previously IDPs and recently returned to the place of origin and 4 percent host communities.

Beneficiaries received USD 22.72 equivalent Nigerian naira per person per month to support their needs for food and other essential items. The project initially planned to support 90,552 beneficiaries for a period of 6 months, however, due to the multiple administrative challenges and challenges with negotiations at the state government level on the percentage of allocation between Yobe and Borno States, the start of the implementation was delayed. The implementation started in mid-April and WFP gradually increased the beneficiary caseload while reconciliation of the beneficiary checklist with the government checklist was ongoing. However, the Government of Borno State completely halted implementation in June and July in Borno State (except in one local government area) until the reconciliation process was completed. This disrupted the implementation plan in Borno State while distribution in Yobe State continued as planned. Considering the limited time to complete the distribution, WFP required two no-cost extensions and increased beneficiaries to 103,663. While the number of unique individuals increased, project locations remained as originally proposed. Distribution was completed in November 2021.

3. Changes and Amendments

WFP initially planned to support 90,522 unique beneficiaries in northeast Nigeria (Borno and Yobe states) for six months, including the beginning of the 2021 lean season when food security was expected to rapidly deteriorate. However, there were challenges with negotiations with state level governments on the percentage of funding allocation between Yobe and Borno states. WFP concluded the planning phase. Based on the outcome of this negotiation it was expected that WFP would align targeting to that of the state through the

ongoing verification exercise conducted in Borno, which was closely linked with the Government's resettlement plan. However, considering the longer than anticipated planning phase, WFP requested a three-month extension until 13 October 2021 and received an approval.

WFP began distributions in April while the collaborative verification exercise was ongoing with the Borno state government. However, the Borno state government halted distribution in all locations in Borno state, except in one camp (NYSC) due to pending government verification. This disrupted June and July distribution in Borno state. Distribution in Yobe continued. Considering disruption of the implementation plan, WFP asked the CERF Secretariat via Nigeria OCHA for a second extension of this grant until 31 December 2021 which was also approved. The distribution was completed in November 2021 having reached 103,662 unique beneficiaries.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance									
	Planned				Reached					
Category	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	17,359	12,469	11,833	7,237	48,898	19,872	14,274	13,547	8,285	55,978
Host communities	1,286	924	876	536	3,622	1,473	1,057	1,003	614	4,147
Other affected people*	13,501	9,698	9,204	5,629	38,032	15,456	11,103	10,536	6,443	43,538
Total	32,146	23,091	21,913	13,402	90,552	36,801	26,434	25,086	15,342	103,663
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	1,607	1,155	1,096	670	4,528	1,840	1,322	1,254	767	5,183

Correction notes: *Other affected people included people who were previously IDPs within Nigeria and recently returned to the place of origin. These people are as vulnerable as IDPs with no or minimal source of income, therefore, they are reliant on humanitarian food assistance. Previously they were classified as returnees. Currently, WFP assistance does not include refugees and returnees.

^{*} Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

N/A

Project objective	IDPs, returnees, refugees and local on nutrition needs during an in the aftern		by crisis in Nigeria are able	to meet their basic foods an
Output 1	Food-insecure IDPs, returnees, refug their basic food and nutrition needs.	ees and local commu	nities affected by crises rece	eive food assistance that meet
Was the planned o	utput changed through a reprogram	ming after the applic	cation stage? Yes	⊠ No □
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving 6 rounds of food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening transfers	90,552	103,663	Monitoring data
Indicator 1.2	Total amount of cash and vouchers transferred to targeted beneficiaries (USD)	12,344,869	12,344,869	Monitoring data
Indicator 1.3	Percentage of beneficiaries reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner.	>90	93%	Monitoring data
Indicator 1.4	Percentage of households by Food Consumption Score (FCS) phase (Poor, Borderline, and Acceptable)	(<=11.4%, <=43.8%) >=44.8%)	, 51%	Food security outcome monitoring (target of 44.8% exceeded - acceptable food consumption score)
Indicator 1.5	Percentage of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households (all/most/some/none), according to their priorities	10 - all / 35 - most (cumulative) / 70 - s (cumulative) / 30 - n		Assessment data
Explanation of out	put and indicators variance:	N/A	1	'
Activities	Description		Implemented by	

7. Effective Programming

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP) 2:

Following the Protection and AAP Strategy (2020-2023) WFP's dedicated protection and AAP team continued providing guidance to the programme unit on how to communicate with communities, conduct consultation with them, provide them with information and establish a functioning community feedback mechanism. Cooperating partners had dedicated AAP officers who conducted assessments to understand affected populations' access to information. WFP and partners also worked with the community to establish project management committees that were representative of the community to complement WFP existing engagement with community leaders.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

WFP has an active community feedback mechanism (CFM) which comprises of a hotline, help and feedback desk and community outreach. The hotline is currently deactivated due to contractual challenges. While working to reactivate the hotline, WFP is currently relying on alternative CFM channels, including help and feedback desks, field monitoring, and the CFM service desk mailbox. Beneficiaries were informed about the CFM channels and how to access them through regular outreach. All feedback received was addressed while maintaining confidentiality.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):

WFP ensured that all WFP interventions complied with the WFP Executive Director's Circular on the Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse,³ subsequent WFP circulars on PSEA outlining special measures,⁴ WFP Code of Conduct, and the WFP whistle-blower protection policy. WFP conducted several awareness raising sessions for WFP personnel, widely shared gender-based violence and SEA referral pathways and messages developed by the Nigeria PSEA Task Force on protection from PSEA. WFP also conducted PSEA awareness sessions for cooperating partners and third-party monitors.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

Women, particularly women headed households are prioritized for WFP assistance due to their high vulnerability. Similar priorities were given to CERF RR funded beneficiaries. WFP ensured that pregnant women, nursing mothers, people with disabilities, elderly women and unaccompanied minors were prioritized at the distribution sites. Distribution points were selected considering safety and easy access of all beneficiaries, particularly women. WFP also conducted a series of gender awareness training session for vendors and retailers.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

While disability is not a direct indicator for WFP projects, WFP assistance includes and prioritizes people with disabilities. An estimated 5 percent of the beneficiaries are people living with disabilities. WFP ensures that people living with disabilities have safe access to distributions and are able to receive their entitlement.

f. Protection:

Following the Protection and AAP Strategy (2020-2023), WFP ensured that its interventions do not increase protection risk for crisis-affected people and contribute to people's safety, integrity and dignity. WFP conducted gender and protection risk assessments, presented standard operating procedures for the Protection Sector on how to manage protection cases, conducted multiple capacity strengthening workshops to mainstream protection and APP among the humanitarian partners, and conducted awareness raising sessions on protection mainstreaming and information dissemination.

² AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the <u>IASC AAP</u> commitments.

³ Circular No. ED2004/001.

⁴ ED2003/005, ED2005/004 and OED2014/020.

g. Education:

N/A

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	103,663

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multipurpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

Based on the minimum expenditure basket agreed by the Food Security Sector WFP distributed USD 22.72 equivalent Nigerian naira per person per month to meet their urgent needs for food and other essential items.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Activity 1.1	103,663	US\$ 12,344,869	Food Security - Food Assistance	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

	·		
Title	Weblink		
N/A			

ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Not applicable.