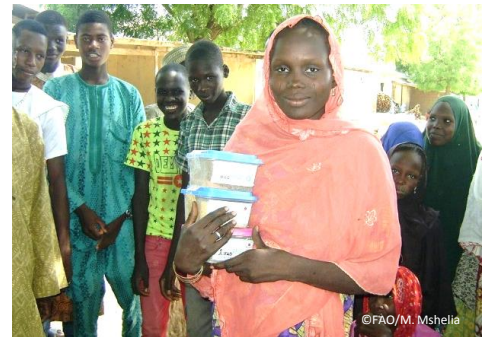




EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

The insurgency in northeastern Nigeria caused a massive loss of civilian lives and triggered a protracted humanitarian crisis that has lasted for nine years. According to the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, some 1.8 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes as a result, the majority of whom reside in formal and informal camps in host community settings. Agriculture is the main source of food and income for over 80 percent of the population, but livelihoods were severely affected by livestock losses, reduced access to fishing grounds and arable land, and the disruption of extension services. Against this background, the project aimed to improve agricultural production for recent most vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs) and their host communities in the northeast states of Adamawa and Yobe.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project provided critical support to IDPs, returnees and host communities to enhance their access to diversified foods and improve agricultural production through the distribution of improved vegetable seeds, fertilizers and water pumps. Vegetable kits were tailored to support the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly women and the elderly. The kits included improved vegetable seeds that mature in a short period, enabling beneficiaries to quickly consume or sell their production and better cope during the lean period, when food is scarce and food prices escalate. The project focused on support for irrigated off-season farming. A joint approach was undertaken with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the provision of food assistance or unconditional cash transfers to ensure the protection of distributed inputs. Beneficiaries were trained on good agricultural practices and basic concepts of irrigation for improved water resource management. Groups of beneficiaries were formed and provided with motor pumps to enhance irrigation activities and jointly pool resources to maintain the water pumps. Overall, the project activities safeguarded crisis-affected populations' right to food and their ability to meet basic needs.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 490 000

Duration

December 2016 – December 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partners

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the Adamawa and Yobe State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), the Presidential Committee for the North East Initiative (PCNI) and the World Food Programme (WFP)

Beneficiaries

Households of most vulnerable IDPs and host families in the northeast states of Adamawa and Yobe; returnee households and IDPs with limited access to inputs, with priority given to women; households residing in newly accessible areas and areas in a Cadre Harmonisé Phase 3-5; female-headed households with malnourished children and/or at risk of malnutrition

IMPACT

Project activities contributed to increasing the availability of nutritious, locally produced food, thereby improving nutrition and food security in the affected areas, as well as increasing beneficiaries' incomes. An increased productivity of 62 percent for vegetable production was recorded, which was attributed to the use of fertilizers and high-yielding vegetable seed varieties. Women were empowered to pursue agricultural livelihoods to produce nutritious food for themselves and their families, and generate income from selling vegetables produced. A post-harvest survey was carried out to assess the project impact, which established that 87 percent of beneficiaries relied on rainfed agriculture as the main source of food and 38 percent as the main source of income; and 62 percent had access to all necessary nutrients through their own production. Beneficiaries reported that cereal/pulse and vegetable production and productivity had improved. All food security indicators compared with the baseline had significantly improved, as shown in the table below.

Impact on food security		
Indicators		Results achieved
Food Consumption Score (acceptable)	+15.24%	Dietary adequacy (macronutrients and energy) of FAO beneficiary households
Household Dietary Diversity (>3)	+35.11%	Better diversity diet of FAO beneficiary households
Household Hunger Scale (none or light hunger)	45.6%	Among FAO beneficiaries fewer households with hunger and problems of nutrition
Coping Strategy Index (no or low coping strategy)	+31.1%	Among FAO beneficiaries fewer households recurring negative coping mechanism leading to food insecurity
Average number of months food coverage (cereals)	6.2	Averagely longer food availability for FAO beneficiary households

ACTIVITIES

- Areas of project intervention were selected (Adamawa and Yobe states) using evidence-based planning; needs for agricultural inputs were determined; and implementing partners were selected and engaged.
- A variety of targeting tools were utilized to identify beneficiaries; committees were formed, and household surveys and questionnaires were administered to verify that the identified beneficiaries met the set criteria.
- Following the receipt of procured seeds from selected seed suppliers, inspections were undertaken to verify the quality and quantity of inputs prior to their distribution to beneficiaries through germination, moisture content and purity tests on randomly collected samples.
- A total of 11.3 tonnes of vegetable seeds and 325 tonnes of fertilizers were distributed to 13 000 beneficiary households (91 000 people).
- Prior to the distribution of water pumps, a needs assessment was carried out to determine priority areas. A total of 2 000 beneficiaries were provided with water pumps, who also received training on their use and maintenance.
- The drilling and rehabilitation of 400 boreholes was carried out to support irrigated farming; groups for borehole management were formed, which received training on how to cooperatively share, manage and maintain boreholes, as well as how to construct them.

Project Code

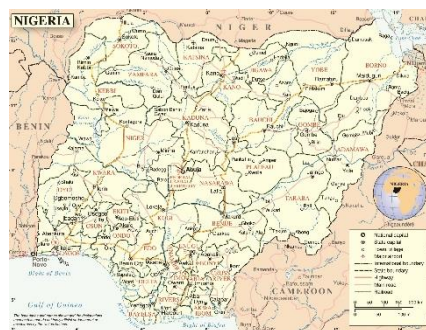
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Project Title

Emergency assistance for livelihood support to vulnerable internally displaced populations and hosting families in the northeastern states of Adamawa and Yobe

Contact

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS