Challenges facing food security and agriculture

The decade-long armed insurgency continues to affect food production systems in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, causing significant population displacements, enormous human, social and economic losses, as well as high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. The influx of IDPs is placing an additional burden on host communities who already face limited access to land and other resources thus affecting food production and forcing them to depend on humanitarian assistance.

For the 2022 rainy season, FAO aims to provide 42,500 households with quality seeds and fertilizers. Furthermore, FAO will establish ten integrated aquaculture and horticulture production centres and four fish processing centres. This adds to over a million vulnerable households that FAO has reached in northeastern Nigeria since 2016, enabling them to restart their agriculture-based livelihoods (crops, livestock and aquaculture production), ensure safe access to fuelwood energy and strengthen their resilience.

With relative stability returning in some parts, the Government of Borno State has continued to carry out a resettlement programme for IDPs calling upon development partners to support its efforts to implement sustainable livelihood interventions. Under the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO has increased its funding requirement for 2022, compared with the previous year, to respond to the additional needs that have recently emerged in order to support the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of resettled IDPs.
In 2021, FAO’s dry and rainy seasons farming, aquaculture and livestock support programme in the Northeast contributed to increased food security among conflict-affected households, providing a key source of food and income. Nonetheless, households’ food stocks are likely to be exhausted by the beginning of the next lean season (June–August 2022). Despite the ongoing conflict, access to land, as well as staple food and cash crop production have slightly increased in 2021 compared with the five-year average in the three most affected states in northeastern Nigeria, with 86.8 percent, 76.9 percent and 90.8 percent of the population engaged in 2021 rainy season production activities in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, respectively. It is therefore critical to provide vulnerable families with the necessary inputs to engage in agricultural activities to safeguard their livelihoods and prevent worsening levels of food insecurity.

Priorities (April–June 2022)
- 1,135 households benefiting from 159 agroprocessing enterprises to receive training and mentorship | 42,500 households to receive rainy season input kits including fertilizers, staple crop and vegetable seeds; and 50 farmer field school facilitators to receive training | 3,700 households to be provided with goats (three female and one male/household), feed, mineral blocks and veterinary services | ten integrated aquaculture and horticulture production centres and four fish processing centres to be established | 11,500 households to receive homestead gardening kits | 40,700 households to be provided with fuel-efficient stoves (FES) and briquette kits; and 840 women and youth to receive training and technical assistance on FES and briquette production | 455 Trainers of Trainers to be trained on gender equality.

Response to date (January–March 2022)
- 4,000 households received poultry farming kits | 1,850 households provided with goat farming kits | 21,700 households provided with dry season farming kits | 23 agroprocessing enterprises established benefiting 230 households | 4,400 households supported with fresh food vouchers | 99 savings and loans associations and 2,590 households trained and enabled to access finance | 420 households supported with zeer pots to enhance food preservation | 4,300 households provided with homestead gardening kits.

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