

RESULTS SUMMARY

Life Saving Cash Support

Author: Mission East – Emergency and Development (MEED), 2024

[Find project on OpenAid](#) 

PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Cash distribution to most vulnerable IDPs
	<i>Partner:</i>	ZOA Nigeria
	<i>Country:</i>	Nigeria
	<i>Period:</i>	2023

CHANGE

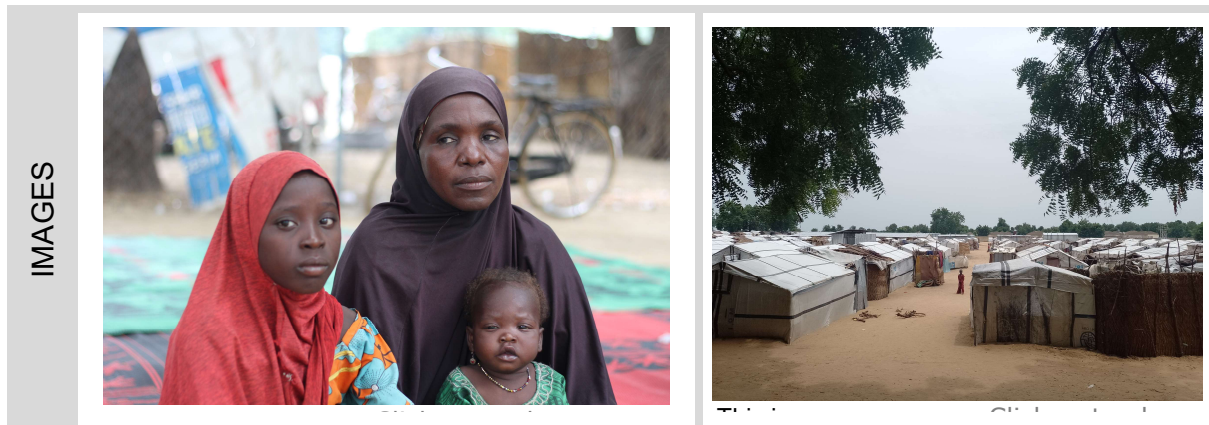
Multi-Purpose Cash Distributions (MPCA) have decreased the poverty, vulnerability and marginalisation levels for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in North-East Nigeria. IDPs’ arrival in the camps represent an extremely vulnerable time where MPCA brought immediate relief increasing directly the Food Consumption Level and reducing the use of desperate coping mechanism. 2,884 IDPs (1,677 females, 1,207 males) have been supported for 3 months upon arrival being able to meet their most urgent needs (food and livelihood).

CONTEXT

Insurgency by a Boko Haram faction has had devastating impact in North-East Nigeria, forcing people to flee with nothing. IDPs reach the camps after a long period on the move with no access to food and water and often in a very violent and insecure context that traumatizes them. More than 8 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid. This protracted crisis forced IDPs to resort to harmful survival mechanism (sex for food, child labour and child marriage) and extreme rates of malnutrition prevail including among children below 5 years.

CONTRIBUTION

MEED agreed the strategic priority to providing MPCA with ZOA Nigeria, based on priorities set in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023. The value of the monthly cash support are set by the Cash Working Group, calculated based on the cost of a Minimum Expenditures Basket that is adjusted against the high inflation experienced in the area. All cash beneficiaries are registered with IOM to avoid duplication. ZOA manages the cash disbursements and undertakes monthly post-distribution surveys to establish impact.



[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Beneficiaries are selected based on vulnerability criteria. The Red Rose system is applied in the cash distribution. The individual beneficiaries are equipped with an electronic withdrawal card through which up to one month cash support can be disbursed at the time. Each beneficiary decides how large a share of the monthly support he or she will receive at the time from the money dealer who can read the card with an app. Most beneficiaries choose to have the full amount disbursed at once and spent majority of the cash at the local market to obtain food stocks at bulk prices and avoid the risk of carrying cash. ZOA Nigeria has been providing MPCA to IDPs in the area since 2017 and the general experience is that approximately 90% of the distributed cash are spend by the beneficiaries as intended for basic essentials such as food, cooking fuel, health, transport, communication etc.

LESSONS

The IDP camps targeted are located within security trenches guarded by the Nigerian armed forces, reflecting a high security risk related to movement beyond the camp boundaries with many cases of kidnappings, assaults and killings by Boko Haram. The access to livelihood opportunities such as agriculture or collection of firewood for sale are therefore limited, leaving many IDPs with restricted opportunities for establishment of new livelihood during their often long periods of displacement. Therefore, many IDPs, particular the most vulnerable, will be in need of support (such as entreprenaural trainings, business start-up kits and/or micro kitchen gardening) to establish longer-term income sources replacing the short-term MPCA. It is beneficial to provide such livelihood support along side the MPCA support to avoid gaps in the means of sustenance for the most vulnerable target groups.

EVIDENCE

Evidence collected in post-distribution surveys documents significant impact that can be directly attributed to the MPCA. Baseline data categorises the Food Consumption Score (FCS) of 85% of the target group as "poor", 7% as "borderline" and only 8% as "acceptable". A post-distribution suvey conducted a few months later shows tremendous changes. While approximately the same percentage (6%) of people are in the middle category "borderline", 78% now have an "acceptable" FCS while only 16% is left in the "poor" category. As data on the most severe survival mechanism are difficult to collect due to their sensitive nature, data on less sensitive coping mechanisms documents significant reductions in their application among this specific target group. Only 38% now reduce their number of meals per day (baseline 97%). Only 33% limit the portion size of meals (baseline 94%). Only 34% borrow food or rely on a relative or friend (baseline 81%).

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Creating hope
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-