

RESEARCH TITLE: [Improving the Prospects for Peace in Nigeria: Spotlight on Cash-Based Transfers](#)

DATE COMPLETED: October 2022

RESEARCH PARTNER: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

COUNTRY(IES) INCLUDED IN STUDY

Nigeria

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this stabilization deep dive is to explore the potential for WFP crisis response to reduce direct violence, enhance basic physical security and contribute to stability. The study forms part of a broader knowledge partnership between SIPRI and WFP, in which Nigeria is one of 12 case study countries.

RESEARCH QUESTION(S)

The guiding questions for the research were: What is WFP's contribution to improving the prospects for peace? How could WFP enhance its contribution to improving the prospects for peace? How can WFP measure its contributions to improving the prospects for peace?

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the CBT deep dive is to examine the potential for cash-based programming to limit, mitigate or avoid the diversion of aid for uses that fuel conflict. In addition, it explores whether there is anything distinctive about cash-based programming that can promote social cohesion and strengthen the state–citizen contract. The objective of the measurement deep dive is to explore the readiness and institutional adaptation needs of WFP to manage the evidence on its contribution to improving the prospects for peace through an independent analysis of WFP's preparation, transmission and analysis of performance data.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **WFP should conduct a study of the local political economy in areas where WFP engages**, to identify the economic sectors and subsectors that have benefited from cash injections from e-vouchers and determine the money-multiplier effect on the local economy.
2. Where the financial service provider landscape allows, **WFP should consider moving to bank transfers and mobile money to spread the economic benefit more widely**. Where e-vouchers are necessary, it should expand B2B activities in the retailer network.
3. **WFP should seek partnerships with organizations that can help integrate social measures**, such as inclusive solutions through dialogue forums and conflict prevention and mitigation capacity building at the local level, alongside WFP's market-oriented interventions. At the structural level, WFP should consider including technical support for macroeconomic and redistributive policies at the macro, federal and state levels in their existing capacity development initiatives.
4. **WFP should include questions in the FSOM survey on the act of sharing CBTs**. Systematic evidence would help understand the scale of sharing and reciprocity, and its social impact.
5. **WFP should conduct more targeted monitoring of possible cases of social or group pressure on intended beneficiaries** to surrender part of their entitlement, particularly where asymmetrical power relations exist, for example, between intended beneficiaries in IDP camps and camp officials.
6. **WFP should monitor community perceptions around vulnerability and targeting** to be able to adjust, where necessary, the process through which targeting is conducted and explained to community members so that it conforms with local definitions and understandings of vulnerability.

7. **WFP should better explain its community feedback mechanisms to affected communities**, and continue to seek information through regular household surveys and the use of information-gathering sessions to solicit feedback from intended beneficiaries, as well as non-beneficiaries who may not otherwise have any contact with WFP.
8. **WFP should consider a governance-oriented approach that includes vertical integration and partnerships** between local public and private sector actors at the household, community and systems levels.
9. **WFP should aim as much as possible to include women in its retailer network** by developing their capacity and ability to access the necessary facilities, credit and other essentials for business that their male counterparts might have easier access to.
10. **WFP should adopt a long-term vision with regard to gender-specific resilience programmes and mobilize long-term and flexible funding from major donors** to be able to commit the necessary time, and carry out adequate planning and follow-up.
11. **WFP should include political economy analysis in its resilience programmes.** Such analysis could help provide a better understanding of the local power dynamics and pre-existing inequalities that overlap with the economic opportunities created and shaped by CBTs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Overall, the findings highlight the potential for WFP's crisis response to increase stability by reducing food- and non-food-related stresses that expose individuals to violence and physical insecurity. General Food Distribution (GFD) helps individuals avoid negative coping strategies, which in turn has a positive impact on reducing sexual and gender-based violence. If the amount of food aid is sufficient to free up resources, GFD allows individuals to meet their basic needs better, and even to save and invest, generating clear gains for longer-term stability. To this end, enhancing the probability of children going to school emerged as the most significant result of WFP's work. However, it should be noted that important worrying findings also surfaced. One such finding was the perception that WFP imposes values that go against cultural traditions and traditional ways of living. The evidence indicates that WFP programming could contribute to enhancing stability in north-east Nigeria if WFP were to intentionally seek to do so. Contributing to stability could be controversial for a humanitarian agency, but WFP's operational footprint, presence, and reach make it well placed to not only thoroughly understand, but also mitigate the drivers of violence, and to begin to lay the foundations for longer-term stability and improving the prospects for peace in north-east Nigeria.