



# Tom Brown: A COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM

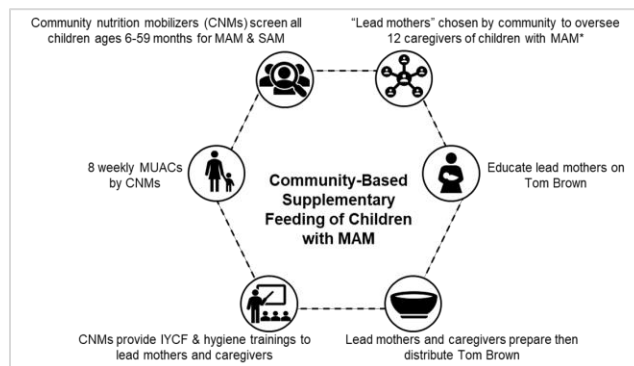
## OVERVIEW

Northeast Nigeria has been severely impacted by an insurgency led by non-state armed groups for more than ten years. This conflict has created massive displacement and undermined food security across northeast Nigeria. To combat food insecurity and acute malnutrition, CRS and its partners (Justice Development and Peace Commission, Nira Community Development Foundation, and Northeast Youth Initiative Forum) initiated the Tom Brown supplementary feeding program in 2018 to close an identified gap in services for children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in areas of Borno and Yobe states. According to a 2019 analysis, about 70 percent of children suffering from MAM in Borno state were not receiving treatment. CRS' Tom Brown activities targeted areas where there were no other existing MAM treatment or supplemental feeding activities.

CRS' Tom Brown feeding program is an eight-week community-based supplementary feeding program. CRS uses locally sourced ingredients (millet, sorghum, soy, and groundnuts) to create a porridge known locally as "Tom Brown." In targeted areas, all children 6-59 months are screened for acute malnutrition.

Caregivers of children with MAM then meet weekly for education on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and hygiene and to jointly prepare Tom Brown take home rations. Weekly follow home visits provide additional IYCF support and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening for children.

Figure 1. CRS' Tom Brown Model



*\*Children with SAM referred to outpatient therapeutic program or stabilization center*

**61,100 children**  
screened 2019-2020

**4,138 children**  
with MAM enrolled 2019-2020

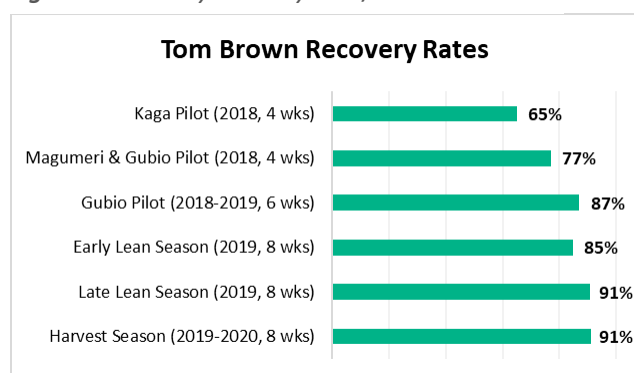
**89 percent**  
of children completed with healthy MUAC

CRS and its partners have provided Tom Brown in six local government areas (LGAs) of northeast Nigeria – Gujba and Gulani LGAs of Yobe state and Gubio, Jere, Kaga, and Magumeri LGAs of Borno state. CRS currently only implements Tom Brown in Borno state.

## Results

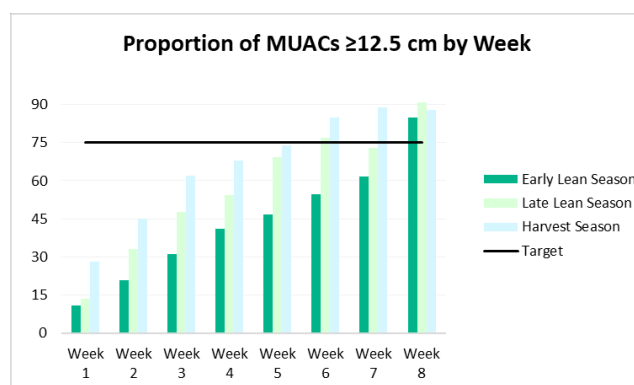
Between 2019 and early 2020, CRS has screened over **61,100 children** for acute malnutrition and enrolled over **4,138 children** in northeast Nigeria. For Tom Brown programming in 2019 (under FFP funding), the proportion of children with healthy MUACs exceeded Sphere standards' minimum recovery rate of 75%, shown in **Figure 2**. To date, **3,692 children** out of **4,138 enrollees (89%)** have finished the program with a healthy MUAC.

**Figure 2. Recovery Rates by Pilot/Season**



**Figure 3** illustrates the proportion of enrollees with healthy MUACs ( $\geq 12.5$  cm) by follow up week for programming in 2019 under FFP funding (early lean season, late lean season, and harvest season). As demonstrated below, more than 75% of enrollees had healthy MUACs at week 8 for all periods.

**Figure 3. MUAC by Week**

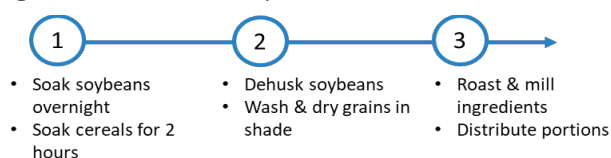


## Preparation

To prepare Tom Brown, families need cereal, soya beans, and groundnuts in a **ratio of 6:3:1** – 6 measures of millet, sorghum and/or maize (8.0 kg each), 3 measures of soya beans (8.0 kg), and 1 measure of groundnuts (2.7 kg).

Families then follow the subsequent process over the course of three days to make and receive their weekly 1.5 kg take home ration of Tom Brown:

**Figure 4. Tom Brown Preparation Process**



Caregivers may also add cloves as a preservative, as well as milk, sugar, and fruit to enrich the meal and sweeten to personal preference. If stored in an air-tight container, Tom Brown rations have a shelf-life of six months.

## Nutritional Value

Tom Brown is a nutrient rich, locally produced supplementary food. The following chart compares a ration of Tom Brown against three other popular supplementary feeding products: corn-soy blend plus (CSB+) and CSB plus-plus (CSB++), fortified blended foods, and Plumpy'Sup, a lipid-based ready-to-use supplementary food.

PRODUCT	RATION	NUTRIENT PROFILE
Tom Brown	214 g	869 Kcal 43 g protein 28 g fat
CSB+	200 g 20 g oil 15 g sugar	986 Kcal 31 g protein 36 g fat
CSB++	200 g	787 Kcal 33 g protein 20 g fat
Plumpy'Sup	100 g	535 Kcal 14 g protein 35 g fat

Source: NutVal 4.1

## Additional Information

Have questions on the Tom Brown feeding program or wondering how to adapt it for implementation? Consult our Tom Brown implementation guide and frequently asked questions.