



# WFP BENIN Country Brief



## Highlights

- WFP participated in the Sahel/West Africa Forum on food security and malnutrition held in Cotonou, Benin from 4 to 8 December 2017.
- The country office held meetings with the government counterpart to discuss and find solutions about main challenges of supply chain and communication plan for the National Programme of School Meals.

## WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Benin 200721 (2015 – 2018)	13.1 m	7.9 m (61%)	1.9 m

\* January – June 2018

### GENDER MARKER CP20072

The Country Programme supports the Government in taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It focuses on three main areas:

- support to national integrated school meals approach;
- nutritional support for vulnerable groups; and
- enhancement of community resilience in vulnerable and disaster-prone areas.

While the school meals activities are implemented nationwide, nutrition and resilience activities are concentrated mainly in the districts of Karimama and Malanville in north Benin, deemed to be the most vulnerable districts according to social indicators. These districts are also defined as the convergence zone for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014–2018.

**School meals** focuses on areas with high food insecurity and low enrolment or high dropout rates. It contributes to human capital development through: i) increased access to primary education and increased retention, especially among girls; ii) enhanced capacities to sustain a national school meals programme; and iii) a multi-sector approach that links education, local food production, nutrition and hygiene, and serves as an entry point for local development and as a safety net for vulnerable groups.

**Nutrition** activities cover: i) targeted supplementary feeding to reduce moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and malnourished pregnant and lactating women; ii) a caregivers' ration for mothers accompanying severely malnourished or sick children aged 6-59 months at therapeutic feeding centres to encourage adherence to treatment; and iii) blanket supplementary feeding for six months in lean seasons to prevent chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months.

In response to frequent floods and droughts which exacerbate the precarious food security and nutrition situation in the northern part of the country, WFP works on: i) enhancing **community resilience** through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities to develop productive assets and improve agricultural production; and ii) providing training aimed at developing preparedness and response capacity.

WFP is taking FFA as an opportunity to use cash-based transfers (CBT) in the district of Malanville where assessments showed that the markets are well stocked throughout the year. WFP ensures that women and men participate equally in identifying FFA activities and that they have equal access to benefits.

Main Photo

Credit: David ADOMAHOU  
Caption: School's meals cooking by awareness cooks at Codji-Adohoun school, in Athieme district, December 2017



December 2017

## Operational Updates

- From 4 to 8 December 2017 at the Golden Tulip hotel in Cotonou, Benin hosted the Sahel and West Africa Week events, including the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA). This 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Network brought together nearly 300 participants, representatives of Sahelian and West African governments, parliamentarians and local elected representatives, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), civil society and the private sector, technical and financial partners, media, etc. During these five days of workshop, WFP had the opportunity to lead, alongside government partners, a discussion panel on the national school meals policy in general and on the integrated approach of school meals, which is currently underway in the school canteens of Benin.
- Following the completion of data collection for the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), preparedness activities for the national workshop to validate the final report that is scheduled for 15 January 2018 have started.
- For the 2017/18 school year, school meals activities have started since 18 September 2017 both for the country office regular programme and the Government school meals programme. For the country office school meals programme, 101,297 schoolchildren were fed with WFP commodities and 326,721 schoolchildren through the government programme since the beginning of the 2017/18 school year up to now. In addition, the Supply Chain Working Group (SCWG) held a series of meetings to set the pipeline of the TF201090 updated and efficient.

### Local NGOs facilitators and supervisors training and school meals monitoring

- After three months of local NGOs activities to monitor the management of the canteen and community intermediation (Community intermediation is constituted by activities made by Local NGO towards community to make behaviour changing, get their implication and progressive participation to school meals activities) of PNASI schools, WFP is preparing to extend the contracts of these NGOs, at least for those which will have better results from the current performance evaluation. These are the six-month amendments (from January to June 2018).
- Following the training sessions for the facilitators and supervisors from the selected NGOs in the frame of community monitoring and intermediation in the 1,574 schools of the integrated Programme of school meals with the Government, it is the turn of those recruited for the regular activities of school meals. These training took place from 30 November to 1 December 2017. Fifty participants from two NGOs (FADeC and GRADE) were trained.



Credit: David ADOMAHOU  
Caption: Joint WFP/Government team monitoring for school canteens, in the district of Mono, Benin.

## Country Background & Strategy



Benin population is predominantly rural; 51.2 percent are women and 17.4 percent are children aged 6-59 months. Over 36 percent of this population remains poor and life expectancy is 59.2 years. The population growth rate is 3.2 percent, among the highest in Africa.

Although agriculture is the economy's key sector, structural and natural disaster problems negatively affect food security, nutrition and the trade balance.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) conducted in 2013 estimated that 11 percent of the population is moderately and severely food insecure and 34 percent have limited or poor food consumption. According to the last Integrated Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions results (EMICoV, 2011), 32 percent of children aged 6-59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition. The HIV prevalence among adults is 1.2 percent according to UNAIDS (2013).

Although the 2015 national net enrolment rate is 98 percent (99.6 percent for boys and 96.3 percent for girls), Benin still has several rural districts with net enrolment rates below 50 percent, especially in the Northern part of the country.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.

Population: **9.9 million**

Chronic malnutrition: **34% of children between 6-59 months**

Income Level: **Least developed**

2016 Human Development Index: **167 out of 188**

Germany through a multilateral fund, private donors

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