



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ghana Country Brief January 2019



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 24.2 million, and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 1,340 in 2015. Despite progress in reducing acute malnutrition and stunting at the national level in recent years, high rates of poverty and stunting persist in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone.

WFP's long-term vision in Ghana includes improved food security and reduction of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies in the northern regions. This will be achieved through technical and policy support for the scale up of nutrition-sensitive social protection programming, as well as through public-private sector partnerships.

WFP has been present in Ghana since 1963



Population: **24.2 million.**

2015 Human Development Index: **148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

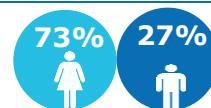
In Numbers

45,000 beneficiaries targeted for Nutrition support in 2019.

22,020 smallholder farmers targeted for capacity strengthening and market linkages in 2019.

US\$ 3.9 six months (Jan 19- Jun 19) net funding requirements.

12,992 people assisted in January, 2019.



Operational Updates

- A WFP mission carried out a cash-based transfer (CBT) assessment in Asokore Mampong in the Ashanti region of Ghana as part of scaling up its nutrition support to beneficiaries. Being a new operational area, it was necessary to assess the capacity of the partners, markets/retailers closer to the health facilities, financial institutions as well as telecom companies in the districts to implement the CBT. This is a partnership with the Ajinomoto Foundation.
- Some capacity strengthening will be required for the new retailers identified in Asokore Mampong and will need to be linked to banks; generally, the district is secure, markets are functioning, telecommunication companies and financial institutions are available, and the use of mobile money technology is widespread in the areas, and this will support the CBT implementation.
- WFP Ghana is preparing to host the 2019 RBD Country Directors' meeting in Ghana in March.
- Stunting Prevention distributions to children aged 6-23 months started in January; children were given locally produced Lipid-based nutrient supplement (LNS).
- WFP Ghana is providing financial support to two industrial processors to upgrade their equipment and increase their capacity to produce more fortified super cereal type products to address the challenge of malnutrition and promote good nutrition in Ghana. These factories received ongoing technical support in food technology, including setting up food safety and quality management systems in their new and existing factories to meet requirements to supply super cereal to the region and beyond.

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Photo credit: WFP/George Akonor, Food Technologist (WFP)

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/ghana

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.1m	7.7 m	3.9 m

Strategic Result 2: Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Addressing the triple burden of malnutrition Vulnerable populations including children and women of reproductive age in high burden regions have improved nutritious status in line with National targets.

Activity:

- 1. Provide cash and vouchers for specialized nutritious foods and/or micronutrient-dense fresh foods for vulnerable children aged 6-23 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women under government safety nets, and support the Ghana Health Service about social and behaviour change communication to promote healthy diets in high burden areas (NPA: Malnutrition prevention activities)

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted populations and communities in Ghana benefit from more efficient, inclusive and resilient food systems that support nutrition value chains by 2030

Activities:

- 2. Provide technical support for community and industrial production of fortified flour and for food safety and quality assurance. This includes technical support on food safety and quality for up to 30 community milling and blending concerns, predominantly women's groups, in the three northern regions and financial and technical support for two industrial fortified flour producers in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)
- 3. Provide support and Link smallholder farmers with the One District, One Warehouse programme by providing training and equipment to minimize post-harvest losses and facilitate quality assurance and market linkages with processors and institutional customers (SMS: Smallholder agricultural market support activities)

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 3: Local and national institutions have enhanced capacity to target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2030

Activity:

- 4. Provide technical support, including through South-South cooperation, for the national school meals programme, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the National Disaster Management Organization, the Food and Drugs Authority and the Ghana Health Service to optimize the nutritional quality of school meals; food security monitoring; the early-warning system; disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, food safety and quality, and food-based dietary guidelines (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)

Strategic Result 6: policy coherence.

Strategic Outcome 4: Government efforts to achieve zero hunger by 2030 are supported by advocacy and coherent policy frameworks

Activity:

- 5. Advocate for the promulgation and enforcement of policies and legislation on school feeding, gender equality, nutrition, food safety, weights, measures and standards, smallholder-friendly public procurement and market support (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)

Monitoring

- Due to some pockets of conflict in some districts which affected the peace, not all the sites in the seven implementing districts could carry out the distributions; six sites were visited out of the 50 implementing facilities to provide support to retailers. Frequent remote support was also provided to retailers and health staff to ensure that the distribution was done successfully.
- Continuous SCOPE registration is conducted by GHS every month to enrol eligible beneficiaries into the programme frequently.
- Baseline surveys will be conducted for new activities in new locations for existing activities particularly in the Asokore Mampong District and other districts identified in the North.
- The Feedback mechanism in place was very active during in January with positive/negative feedback on the nutrition programme and support to the girl child programme respectively; complaints about sexual harassment towards underage girls who are beneficiaries of the take-home ration to Girls' in Junior High Schools were made known to WFP. WFP is liaising with Government partners (Ghana Education Service) in taking steps towards resolving the issue permanently.

Challenges

- Depreciation of the Cedi against the US dollar affected the purchasing power of most Ghanaians, especially the poor and vulnerable. A review of the transfer values to beneficiaries must be undertaken to provide transfers that are commensurate with the price increases.
- GN Bank who was the lead financial service provider in the implementation of the CBT and other programmes for WFP Ghana was recently downgraded to a savings and loan institution. This was caused by the banks' inability to meet the minimum capital requirements set by the Bank of Ghana. Because of this, WFP dissolved its contract with the Bank and in the process of setting up an agreement with Ecobank to handle its financial delivery to beneficiaries.

Partnerships

- WFP Ghana maintains an active collaboration with government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations Agencies, particularly the Rome-based Agencies, to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP will continue to participate in working groups in key sectors such as Education, Social Protection, Agriculture, Health and Nutrition. WFP also collaborates with the National Development Planning Commission to advocate for increased investment in nutrition using the Ghana Cost of Hunger Analysis

Funding opportunities for CSP

Canada, China, EU – DEVCO Funds & Foundations, WFP 2030

Fund ,Germany (BMZ), AfDB, Ghana Government Counterpart Cash Contribution (GCCC) Japan, KOICA, Private Sector and World Bank.