



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief April 2019



Operational Context

The Republic of Benin is a low-income food-deficit country with an estimated population of 11.2 million, who are predominantly rural. A politically stable democracy since 1990, with a socio-political environment that is friendly and conducive to business, the country nevertheless ranked 163 of 189 countries on the 2018 Human Development Index and the national poverty rate stood at 40.1 percent in 2015.

More than 70 percent of the population depends on employment in the agricultural sector, which accounts for 25 percent of GDP. However, productivity is low, farmlands are small, and the country relies on food imports. Since the 2008 crisis, food prices have maintained an upward trend which affect the households' economic access to food. More than 43 percent of households are on the verge of food insecurity while chronic malnutrition, which prevents body growth and cognitive development with irreversible consequences after the age of 2, affects 32 percent of young children.

The education system in Benin faces persistent challenges. Only 38 percent of the populations are literate of which, 50 percent men and 27 percent women. Women suffer from structural and socio-cultural discrimination that limit their access to economic opportunities and empowerment.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.

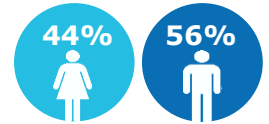


In Numbers

788 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 six months (May-October 2019) net funding requirements

431,072 people assisted



Operational Updates

Country Strategic Plan's Inception workshop:

- WFP in Benin is finalizing the development of its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023, which will be its strategic, programmatic and governance instrument and support assistance to the country starting 1 July 2019.
- In March, WFP held a three-day CSP inception workshop for about 55 participants, all key stakeholders and partners directly interfacing with the programme and its beneficiaries (Government Ministries, UN agencies, Development and cooperation agencies, partner NGOs, technical institutes, professional organisations). The fundamental objective of the workshop was to assist the country office and its partners to understand and take ownership of CSP's programme goals and objectives, as well as setting a stage for the development of the first operational workplan, one that is fully defined in terms of deliverables, milestones and timing.

HIV-Aids patients project:

- Between January and April, WFP conducted a project targeted at groups of pregnant and lactating women living with HIV (PLWHIV), with the objective to improve the quality of life of these women and their households through their economic and educational empowerment.
- The departments of Mono-Couffo and Donga were identified as zones of interventions because of their high HIV/AIDS prevalence, poverty and food insecurity rates compared to the national average.
- Training on nutritional monitoring, nutrition education and communication sessions for Social and Behavioral Change (SBCC) were provided to patients and health workers at 12 health centres. In parallel, the project invested in agricultural intrants and equipment that enable the women's groups to grow, transform and sell crops to develop income generating activities (IGAs).

WATCH [video of beneficiary telling about the impact of the support received.](#)

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28 m	18.8 m	0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: School-aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe and nutritious food all year-round

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide nutrition sensitive meals to school children
- Provide capacity strengthening to relevant government institutions.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G) in targeted areas have improved nutritional status in line with national target by 2021

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious foods to malnourished children and PLW/G
- Provide supplementary feeding to children at risk of stunting

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder and vulnerable communities in Benin have improved livelihoods and stronger resilience to recurrent shocks by 2018.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide asset creation and livelihood support to vulnerable communities

Monitoring

- To ensure social intermediation and the functioning and monitoring of the school canteens, WFP contracts local NGOs. The territory has been divided into 10 zones with one NGO per zone, which recruits social mediators, supervisors, and a dedicated program officer who receive training in stock management, nutrition education, and the use of the MDCA (Mobile Data Collection Analytics) tracking platform used to transfer collected data.
- WFP Monitoring & Evaluation office administers the MDCA platform. It centralises, analyses and reports data collected in the field by NGOs social mediators and WFP Program Assistants, who regularly conduct joint-field missions together with the NGOs management teams.
- Every month a consultation meeting takes place with all partners NGOs to discuss the activities of the previous month, upcoming ones and the orientations.

Africa Day of School Feeding

- African Heads of State established 1 March as Africa Day of School Feeding at the 26th African Union (AU) Summit in January 2016 to ensure that governments prioritize school feeding through policy and legislation. In terms of investment in school feeding programmes, Benin is an example and model to follow in the West African sub-region. The Government of Benin committed USD 87 million to the Integrated National School Feeding Programme (PNASI 2017-2021) and entrusted WFP Benin with its implementation in 3,179 public primary schools located throughout 77 communes, reaching over 50 percent of schools in Benin.

WATCH [video presenting the PNASI programme implemented in Benin by WFP.](#)

READ [article 'Political will and commitment to school feeding in Africa' by George E. Fominyen / WFP](#)

- On the occasion of the 2019 Africa Day of School Feeding, Benin President Patrice Talon re-iterated his commitment: "This measure deserves special attention because it contributes to improving access to school and retention rates. It also contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on Zero Hunger."



World Food Programme West Africa
3 hrs · 🌐

L'alimentation scolaire c'est aussi l'affaire des gouvernements !

« Le Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire Intégré (PNASI) est une priorité nationale dans le Programme d'Action du Gouvernement (PAG). Cette mesure mérite une attention particulière car elle contribue à l'amélioration de l'accès à la scolarisation et au maintien des enfants dans le système scolaire. Elle contribue également à l'atteinte de l'Objectif de Développement Durable (ODD) 2 relatif à la « Faim Zéro ».

Son Excellence M. Patrice TALON, Président de la République du Bénin



Donors

Government of Benin, Germany (through a multilateral fund), Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Choithram International Foundation.

Partners

Government of Benin, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), UNAids, local/international NGOs.