



WFP GHANA Country Brief

May 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 28.2 million, and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 3,980.20 in 2016. Despite progress in reducing acute malnutrition and stunting at the national level in recent years, high rates of poverty rate of 21.4 percent 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: **28 million**.

2017 Human Development Index: **140 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Contact info: Emma Anaman (emma.anaman@wfp.org)

Country Director: Rukia Yacoub (rukia.yacoub@wfp.org)

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

Main photo: Beneficiaries receiving their rations.

Credit: Alexander Osei Yeboah (Nutrition officer)

Caption: PLW receive their entitlements with joy.

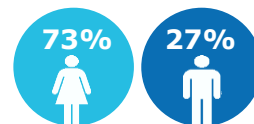
In Numbers

45,000 beneficiaries targeted for nutrition support in 2019.

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

US\$ 0.1m six months (June-November) net funding requirements.

13,939 people assisted in May 2019



Operational Updates

- Northern, North East and Savanna Regions**
 The third cycle of distribution for the pregnant and lactating women (PLW) under the country strategic plan (CSP) will end on 22 June. The social behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities led by Ghana Health Service (GHS) continued in all the 50 health facilities, where nutrition and health education, and targeted counselling were given to the beneficiaries on general health and nutrition practices and the benefits.
- The dissemination of the Food Security Assessment of HIV/AIDS affected households in selected regions (Northern, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Central) was done in Ghana. Under the coordination of the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) and sponsored by WFP, stakeholders from government, civil society organisations and the private sector dialogued on the implications of the assessment findings and the next steps in support. Some of the findings and recommendations are as follows:
- Food insecurity is a problem for thousands of the HIV – affected households in the four focus regions: the “worse off” (8.9 percent) and the “vulnerable” (41.9 percent) need to be prioritized for government support.
- The people living with HIV (PLHIV) adopt negative coping strategies such as reduced portion size of meals; reduced number of meals eaten per a day; relying on less expensive or preferred foods and sometimes harvesting immature crops.
- The GAC indicated that, they will address these negative coping strategies through appropriate national safety net programmes. The GAC, Ghana Health Service, WFP and other partners will institutionalize and incorporate routine food insecurity and vulnerability profiling of PLHIV households at facility level to obtain timely data that will inform policy and programmatic decisions, in addition to the periodic food security assessments.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.1 m	7.7 m	0.1 m

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

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable populations including children and women of reproductive age in high burden regions have improved nutritious status in line with National targets by 2025.

Activity:

- 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

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:

- 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 women's groups, and financial and technical support for two industrial fortified flour producers in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions
- 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:

- 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.

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:

- 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.

- Monitoring of health facilities and retail shops by programme staff continued in all the seven implementing districts, including the conflict zone (Chereponi District).
- Health staff were encouraged to intensify education on the benefits of the specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) to improve on the redemption. They were also encouraged to communicate the source of the support to beneficiaries to create visibility at community level.

Challenges

- Depreciation of the Cedi against the US dollar has 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.
- The Bank who was the lead financial service provider for WFP Ghana was recently downgraded to a savings and loan institution caused by the banks' inability to meet the minimum capital requirements set by Bank of Ghana. Because of this, WFP dissolved its contract with the Bank and is in the process of striking an agreement with another Bank 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 school feeding and nutrition using the Ghana Cost Benefit Analysis for school feeding, and the Ghana Cost of Hunger Africa Analysis.

Funding opportunities for CSP

Canada, China, EU – DEVCO Funds & Foundations (WFP 2030 Fund etc), Germany (BMZ), AfDB, Ghana - Government Counterpart Cash Contributions, Japan, KOICA, Private Sector and World Bank.