



WFP Côte d'Ivoire Country Brief June 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

With an estimated 25.1 million inhabitants (48.4 percent women), Cote d'Ivoire has enjoyed steady economic growth since the end of the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis, restoring its middle-income status. However, this has not translated into inclusive socioeconomic development for most of the population. Poverty rates remain high, affecting 46 percent of the population, food security continues to be a challenge and the country suffers from the triple burden of malnutrition, represented by micronutrient deficiencies, undernutrition and overnutrition, with significant regional disparities. WFP is providing support in Cote d'Ivoire according to the national context. WFP operations are currently focused on development interventions to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance education achievements and minimize gender inequalities. WFP activities are concentrated in northern and western rural areas which are particularly more vulnerable and food insecure.

WFP has been present in Cote d'Ivoire since 1969.



Prevalence of food insecurity: **10.8 %**
of the population

2017 Human Development Index: **170**
out of 189 countries

2017 Gender Inequality Index: **155**
out of 160 countries

Chronic malnutrition: **21.6% of children**
between 24-59 months

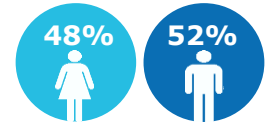
In Numbers

823.05 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2,344 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1.6 m six months (July-December 2019) net funding requirements

116,285 people assisted
in June 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP partnered with the Foundation Louis Dreyfus (LDF) to support 20 new women's smallholder farmer groups (nearly 2,000 smallholder farmers) in northern Côte d'Ivoire for three years starting June 2019. The primary objective of this partnership is to contribute to improved food and nutrition security and income of rural smallholder farmer households in the area, through more efficient and inclusive value chains, sustainable food systems and strengthened capacities of farmers. The project will also support the national school feeding programme, women's empowerment and households' diet diversification. Emphasis will be placed on improving their technical capacities throughout the food value chain, including their post-harvest loss management and market access capacities, and on promoting improved nutrition and hygiene practices. This project will also help targeted farmer groups to formalize into organized and structured cooperatives. As part of the planning phase, WFP is carefully identifying and contracting the implementing partners, selecting the localities, assessing the needs to be addressed and detailing out the implementation plan.
- Meanwhile, capacity strengthening to 3,817 women farmers organized in 35 women's smallholder farmer groups is ongoing. The emphasis this year will be on strengthening the achievements of these groups supported since 2017/2018 and fill the gaps where necessary, to facilitate community takeover of the programme and gradual withdrawal of WFP and partners. In line with this objective, WFP is launching a literacy pilot project in partnership with UNESCO and the Directorate of Literacy and Nonformal Education (DAENF) of the Ministry of Education, to address the low literacy levels of rural women smallholder farmers. The region of Poro in the north was selected for this pilot phase as northern Côte d'Ivoire is not only one of the poorest, food insecure and malnourished, but it also records the lowest literacy levels. A joint mission was thus organized in June to assess the training needs of the targeted ten farmer groups.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Marie Dasyuva

Caption: Beneficiary of WFP's Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) programme in Côte d'Ivoire, Korhogo 2018.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sixth Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
13.9 m	10.7 m	1.6 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Primary-school-age children and their households in food-insecure areas have access to adequate nutritious food all year

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide school meals, take-home rations complementary services to primary-school-age children during the school year and promote the purchase of locally produced food for school meals.

Strategic Outcome 2: Populations affected by shocks have access to food to cover their basic food and nutritional needs during and in the aftermath of shocks

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide an integrated assistance package to affected populations, including food assistance, SBCC and specialized nutritious food to children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls and people living with HIV, to improve access to food and prevent malnutrition.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable food-insecure populations in targeted areas – particularly children, women of child-bearing age and people living with HIV – have improved nutritional status by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support the implementation of the national nutrition programme, with a focus on the development and implementation of a gender-responsive social behaviour change communication strategy; the implementation of the national strategy for the fortification of regularly consumed staples; enhancement of the primary education curriculum to include nutrition; and the generation of evidence on the activities in the national multisectoral nutrition plan.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Targeted populations and communities have stronger livelihoods, are more resilient to climate and other shocks and benefit from more efficient and equitable value chains and sustainable food systems by 2023

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide an integrated and gender-transformative assistance package to smallholder farmers, especially women's farmer groups, comprising training on good agricultural practices, equipment and social behaviour change communication-related activities that place value on local agricultural potential, asset creation and targeted food assistance; and provide technical support for generating evidence to inform the scale-up of farmer groups' activities.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have strengthened capacity to better target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities

- Provide technical support to national partners in their efforts to address school feeding, food security, nutrition, social protection and emergency preparedness and response.

- In June, 116,055 primary schoolchildren across the 613 schools supported by WFP in seven targeted regions in northern and western Côte d'Ivoire enjoyed their last school lunches, before going on summer holidays. In the three regions targeted by the take-home rations activity, 10,433 girls in fifth and sixth grades received their last quarterly take-home rice ration (50 kg/girl) of the academic year 2018/2019.

- In partnership with UNHCR and DAARA of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WFP continued to support the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian returnees, providing food assistance to 230 beneficiaries (48 percent women and 52 percent men). In total, 2.99 mt of food and USD 2,344 (1,382,500 FCFA) were distributed to meet the returnees' and their households' immediate food needs.

Story Worth Telling

Adjaratou is a 12-year-old schoolgirl in fifth grade at the Pangarikaha primary school, a village in northern Côte d'Ivoire. Since the second marriage of her mother, Adjaratou, her four brothers and her sister live with their grandmother. In the presence of her grandmother, the girl tells us about her daily school life in this remote village of Côte d'Ivoire: "When there was no canteen, I came home at noon. Everyone was in the field, so I had to prepare something to eat when I came home. It was me who made the fire and cooked. Then returning to school for the afternoon classes was difficult because it exhausted me and often, I was late." For this 12-year-old schoolgirl, going home for lunch and having to prepare lunch before returning to school was a real source of fatigue and demotivation, as would be the case for any child of her age.

Since Adjaratou started eating at the school canteen, things changed a bit. "Today, with the canteen, I do not have to worry about going back home and preparing my lunch. When the bell rings noon, I am happy because I have my meal waiting for me at the canteen. And I like it a lot. I can follow my lessons better and I have good results!"

Adjaratou is also really happy about the take-home rice rations her big family of eight has been receiving since the 2017-2018 school year: "the rice that we receive, I know it relieves a lot my grandmother and my brother. They are the ones who grow the rice we eat at home. So often we would eat the "to" [a maize dough largely consumed in the northern region] because it is easier for them to grow. With the rice that I now bring back home, we can vary our dinner between maize and rice."

With a belly full and her place in school, Adjaratou can feed her dream of continuing her studies into the secondary school and become a teacher one day.

Donors

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and Private Donors.