



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief June 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.

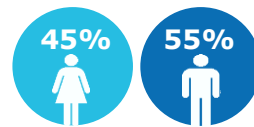


In Numbers

603 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 six months (July-Dec 2019) net funding requirements

529,489 people assisted



Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023

- The Country Strategic Plan for the Republic of Benin (2019-2023) was approved by the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP) in June 2019. The CSP will be WFP's strategic, programmatic and governance instrument to provide support to the country starting 1 July 2019.
- The CSP will strengthen the collaboration between WFP and the Government of Benin by consolidating the achievements of recent years and supporting the development of a national school feeding strategy.
- Aligned to the National Actions Programme 'Benin Révélé' and the National Development Plan of Benin (2018-2025), the CSP will establish strategic, technical and financial partnerships, seeking to enable WFP, the Government and their partners to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in Benin.

Financial and strategic partnership agreements

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands has committed EUR 10 million to the implementation of the national school feeding programme in 294 public primary schools for the 2019-2023 period. Through this project, 'the Netherlands want to promote nutrition, agriculture and food security in Benin where malnutrition and food insecurity affect about one million people' declared HE Harry Van Dijk, the Dutch Ambassador to Benin.
- Through WFP, Benin will also benefit from a financial contribution of EUR 5 million by the Federal Republic of Germany' initiative 'A World without Hunger' (SEWOH), that will provide school meals to 130,000 children from 2019 to 2023. [WATCH S.E. Achim Tröster, German Ambassador to Benin, explain the motives for the financial partnership.](#)
- A partnership with the international NGO EDUCO will build drinkable water sources in 13 schools in the northern department of Borgou. The UN Coordinator in Benin, Mr Siaka Coulibaly, congratulated WFP and EDUCO for this partnership: 'access to water will ensure that the integrated school feeding programme which include hygiene, nutrition and school gardening activities, will be fully implemented.'

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Main Photo Credit: WFP/Makeba Tchibozo

Caption: WFP Country Director and Dutch Ambassador to Benin

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 contracted local NGOs. The territory has been divided into seven zones with one NGO per zone, which recruited social mediators, supervisors, and a dedicated programme officer who received 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 are administrating the MDCA platform. It centralises, analyses and reports data collected in the field by NGOs social mediators and WFP programme assistants who regularly conduct joint-field missions together with the NGOs management teams.
- Every month, a consultation meeting takes place with all NGOs partners to discuss on activities and orientations.

Schoolchildren drawing competition

- The 2019 edition of the schoolchildren drawings competition was organized by WFP in Benin with the topic 'What does a school meal mean to you?' More than 1,515 drawings were received from children in 303 public primary schools based in three selected departments of Benin.
- The five laureates were invited together with their school Directors to receive their price at WFP Office in Cotonou, where the ceremony was presided by HE Salimane Karimou, Minister of Primary and Maternal Education.
- According to Mr. Guy Adoua, WFP Country Director, 'The drawings are a message for WFP' and this competition is an opportunity to exchange and gather the feedback from the direct beneficiaries of the school feeding programme.

WATCH a video presenting the school drawing competition organised in Benin by WFP.



Suivre

Remise officielle des prix aux lauréats du concours de dessins d'enfants des écoles à cantine organisé par le PAM au Bénin 🇧🇪 autour du thème "Que représente un repas scolaire pour toi ? ". La cérémonie a été présidée par le Ministre des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire.



Donors

Government of Benin, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Choithram International Foundation.

Partners

Government of Benin, EDUCO, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, UNAids, local NGOs.