



WFP GHANA

Country Brief

September 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. In addition, the March 2019 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment - Cadre Harmonise- indicates that 51,857 people were in a food crisis during the 2019 lean season- Jun-Sep- (IPC phase 3).

WFP's interventions focus on direct food assistance using vouchers to improve nutritional status in line with national targets, ensure communities in Ghana benefit from efficient and resilient food systems which supports nutritional value chains, capacity strengthening activities to manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes and the advocacy and coherent policy frameworks support to key cooperating partners

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**

In Numbers

45,000 beneficiaries targeted for nutrition support in 2019.

22,020 smallholder farmers, 12 Nucleus farmers and 8 aggregators targeted for capacity strengthening and market linkages in 2019.

US\$ 5.7 m six months (October 2019 -March 2020) net funding requirements.

22,722 beneficiaries received direct food assistance through vouchers in September 2019



Operational Updates

- For the commencement of the Adolescent Nutrition Programme, a protection Risk Assessment and Baseline survey training was organized for enumerators, including Ghana Health Service (GHS) staff from headquarters, regional and district levels, to collect baseline data from the 52 locations (health facilities).
- WFP is working with the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) to improve food safety and quality in seven districts in northern Ghana. Under that collaboration, FDA officers inspected 38 retail facilities who distribute specialized nutritious foods (SNF) to WFP beneficiaries under the CBT programme as well as other retail shops in the communities. FDA also educates the retailers on ways to improve food safety. In addition, the FDA is conducting an extensive confirmatory laboratory analysis of SNF samples and is following up with tailor-made food safety trainings for the retailers.
- WFP provided financial support to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Summit. The summit was preceded by a monitoring of all national social protection programmes, which findings formed the basis for panel discussions as part of the summit. WFP led the discussion on school feeding, making critical recommendations to improve the programme. The key recommendations for school feeding, and for the other programmes were the need to strengthen coordination using existing local structures, the need for realistic and timely data that will support fiscal prudence and sustainability. An Aide Memoire will be signed by Representatives of the various agencies that will support social protection, on the way forward to improve on the programmes.

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Main photo: Gender and market initiative (GAMI)

Credit: WFP/Vera Araba Boohene

Caption: Beneficiary women using the Donkey Carts during the launch.

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	5.7 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.

- All the distributions sites planned for monitoring were visited. Retailers were visited and received remote support as well whenever required.

Challenges

- There is an outbreak of a contagious skin disease, suspected to be scabies, which is spreading rapidly through several communities in the northeast region. The highly contagious skin infection is already thought to have affected over 200 poor families in more than 10 rural communities across the poorly-resourced and newly created North East region. The outbreak started in the East Mamprusi municipality which is one of WFP's implementing districts and has spread to Bunkprugu and Yunyoo districts. There are also reports of the infection from the regional capital, Nalerigu. Affected persons are receiving treatments and sensitization is ongoing by the GHS to help them adhere to acceptable hygienic practices.

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
- Final assessment of selected Medium scale and community level food processors was done jointly with Food and Drugs Authority, Food Research institute and Women in Agriculture; a unit under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- WFP is also partnering with UNICEF on Adolescent Girls Nutrition Intervention towards addressing the triple burden of malnutrition targeting out of school adolescents.

Funding opportunities for CSP

Canada, Ghana, Japan, Private Donors.