



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief September 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 2017 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 since the 2008 crisis, food prices have maintained an upward trend which affect the households' 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 and only 38 percent of the population are literate, of which 27 percent of women, who suffer from structural and socio-cultural discrimination that limit their access to education, economic opportunities and empowerment.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.



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Main Photo

Caption: The Benin State Minister of Planning, the Chinese Ambassador and WFP Country Director inspecting the stocks of Chinese rice in Cotonou warehouses, before their dispatch to primary schools throughout the country.

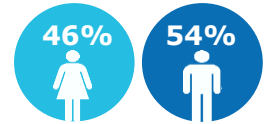
Credit: WFP/Serge BOYA

In Numbers

5,619 mt of food distributed (for the quarter)

US\$ 14 m six months (October 2019-March 2020) net funding requirements

575,884 people assisted



Operational Updates

- The integrated school feeding programme represents the major activity of WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023, that started on 1 July 2019.
- Arrangements and preparative measures were taken to ensure that the children attending the 3,799 public primary schools benefiting from the school feeding programme managed by WFP in Benin received a nutritious meal on their first day back at school.
- WFP programme teams, NGO partners and social mediators of implementing partner NGOs, visited schools in each of their respective communes and department, to assess and support the preparedness of the school canteens' facilities and equipment, such as the construction or renovation of kitchens, the cleaning of the school warehouses, the installation of the handwashing device, or the preparation of the school gardening activities.

The logistics of food

- There is sufficient food stock at the schools for the current school year and activities are ongoing for the timely stocking for the the first endowment of the 2019-2020 school year. The delivery of food commodities started in mid-August and 5,619 mt of rice, maize, beans/split yellow peas, fortified oil and salt were transported throughout the country and delivered to the beneficiary schools, on time for the first school day.

3,700 mt of rice donated by China to Benin

- The food basket items included 3,700 mt of rice donated by the People's Republic of China to the Benin government: *'Education can make destiny. A country that knows how to take good care of its children is one who knows how to prepare their future'*, said Peng Jingtao, Chinese Ambassador to Benin during the official handover ceremony held at the Benin Ministry of Planning in Cotonou.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
129 m	59 m	14 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable population including school-aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year-round

Focus area: Root causes

Budget: USD 123,183,663

Activities:

- Provide nutrition sensitive meals to school children every school day
- Provide access to markets and information on integrated school feeding to local smallholder farmers
- Provide capacity-strengthening activities to school meals management committees

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable population including children under 5, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G) in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national target by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Budget: USD 3,926,566

Activities:

- Provide specialised nutritious food and nutrition counselling to treat acute malnourished children and PLWG
- Provide supplementary feeding to children, adolescents and PLWG to prevent chronic malnutrition
- Provide social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities to caregivers, PLWG and adolescents
- Provide capacity-strengthening activities on nutrition education and SBCC activities to Benin health services

Strategic Result 5: Institutional capacity-strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National and local institutions in Benin have increased capacity to implement an integrated school feeding programme and to achieve food security by 2023.

Focus area: Root causes

Budget: USD 2,365,861

Activities:

- Provide capacity-strengthening activities to national institutions on the effective implementation of a national integrated school meals programme
- Provide support to national institutions to develop a school feeding legislation
- Provide capacity-strengthening activities to local and national government to manage early warning and food security and monitoring systems

Monitoring

- WFP contracted with local NGOs to monitor the functioning of the school feeding programme. The NGOs social mediators were trained in Mobile Data Collection Analytics (MDCA), the WFP technology used to collect and transfer real-time monitoring data via smartphones.
- WFP office in Cotonou is administrating the MDCA platform and centralises, analyses and reports data collected by the NGOs social mediators and WFP programme assistants during their field missions.

Partnership with local community radios

- Benin community radios, aligned to local communities and causes and broadcasting in all regions and in different local languages, were identified as the best media to inform, sensitise and mobilise the population in rural communities about the importance of their contribution for the sustainable functioning of the school canteens.
- WFP Benin will partner with 15 community radio stations, selected on the grounds of their recognized reputation, expertise, geographical coverage, and broadcasting languages, that will produce and broadcast radio shows, debates and reports on the national school feeding programme throughout the 2019-2020 school year.
- Workshops were held with representatives of all the radio stations to discuss and agree on the terms of the partnership. The radio journalists and directors received an informative briefing on the key thematic, objectives and challenges of the school canteen programme, to help them prepare the content of the radio programmes.



Front page cover by daily print title 'La priorité' reporting on the collaboration between WFP and the community radios at the workshop organised in Bohicon on 13 August 2019.

Read : Article posted by online media [MamaBenin](#)

Partners

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

Donors

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