



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP GHANA Country Brief

January 2020



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 28.5 million and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 2,220 in 2019. Despite progress in recent years in reducing acute malnutrition and stunting at the national level, high rates of poverty and stunting persist in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone, at 21.4 and 31 percent respectively. In addition, the November 2019 Cadre Harmonise indicates that 65,645 people were estimated to be food insecure during the 2019 post-harvest season, while 21,712 people are expected to be food insecure during the upcoming lean season (June-August 2020).

WFP's interventions focus on direct food assistance using vouchers to improve nutritional status of targeted populations, in line with national targets. WFP also aims to ensure vulnerable communities benefit from efficient and resilient food systems which support nutritional value chains, capacity strengthening interventions 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: **28.5 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **142 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

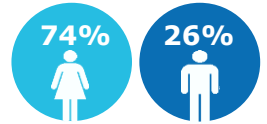
In Numbers

45,000 beneficiaries targeted for nutrition support during the CSP (2019-2023)

22,020 smallholder farmers, 12 nucleus farmers and 8 aggregators targeted for capacity strengthening and market linkages during the CSP (2019-2023)

US\$ 6.6 m six months (February-July 2020) net funding requirements

24,694 beneficiaries received direct food assistance through vouchers in January 2020



Operational Updates

- Special visit in Ghana of the ambassador of WFP and special advisor on nutrition:** Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan visited the Northern Region of Ghana to familiarize herself with the nutrition situation in these communities and WFP's nutrition response as part of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2019-2023), which seeks to address the triple burden of malnutrition. Two health facilities (St. Lucy Polyclinic and Kalpohin Health Centre) were visited, where the Princess had the occasion to observe the distribution of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) and interacted with the beneficiaries.
- Joint monitoring of Ghana school feeding programme's model schools:** WFP and other key stakeholders of the school feeding programme carried out a joint monitoring mission to review the implementation status of the pilot model school feeding initiative, share experiences and lessons learnt and chart a way forward for improved implementation. All key stakeholders got the opportunity to witness firsthand the progress and then jointly provide recommendations to issues identified.
- Finalization of project operational guidelines and training manual:** WFP worked closely with the Ghana Health Service to finalize the Adolescent Girls Nutrition Initiative's (AGNI) operational guidelines and training manual. This is expected to be followed by training of implementers in the Northern Region. WFP would be co-facilitating the sessions of the terms of trade (ToT) and provide technical assistance.

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Main photo

Credit: Derrick Botchway (Digital and Multimedia Assistant)

Caption: Princess Sara Zeid interacting with beneficiaries during her visit.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
15.9 m	10.8 m	6.6 m

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.

Activities:

- 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

Activities:

- 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

Activities:

- 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)

- Food technologists from WFP's headquarters, the Regional Bureau and Country Office visited the Premium Foods Limited (a local food processor benefitting from WFP's assistance) to provide technical assistance during the factory's hot commissioning. Premium Foods conducted site acceptance tests of key equipment for their 100-metric tonne per day extruded cereal blends production line. Some corrections and improvements were recommended for Premium Foods to complete requirements for super cereal production.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted on-site distribution monitoring and technical support visits to all distribution sites to provide support to health staff and retailers. The monitoring visits highlighted that retailers were having issues identifying vouchers on beneficiaries' cards. This was taken up by the information technology (IT) unit and was resolved by downgrading the application versions of the mobile point of sale devices. Remote support was provided to health staff and retailers in all the 50 distribution sites.

Partnerships

- WFP in 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 (FAO and IFAD), to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP continues 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 findings of the cost benefit analysis conducted in Ghana in 2019.
- Final assessment of selected medium-scale and community-level food processors was done jointly with the Food and Drugs Authority, Food Research institute and Women in Agriculture (a unit under the Ministry of Agriculture).
- The partnership with UNICEF on Adolescent Girls' Nutrition Intervention towards addressing the triple burden of malnutrition targeting out of school adolescents is ongoing.

Donors

Canada, Ghana, Japan and private donors.