Operational Context

The Guinean economy is dependent largely on mining and agriculture. However, low productivity, poor farming techniques and significant post-harvest losses undermine the agricultural sector, while poor road infrastructure hinders access to markets. Moreover, Guinea faces major socio-economic and political challenges. Poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition rates are alarming, especially in rural areas. On average, 55 percent of the Guinean population lives below the poverty line, most women have limited access to assets and credits, and more than 21 percent of households are food insecure. The nutritional situation of children remains precarious; 6.1 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffer from global acute malnutrition (of whom 1.7 percent are severely affected) and 24.4 percent of children under 5 suffer from stunting.

WFP targets vulnerable groups of people in the four regions of Guinea particularly in rural areas, in order to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance resilience and contribute to improve education achievements, all while contributing towards the achievement of SDGs 2 and 17 and aligning with national priorities (PNDES 2016-2020) with a special focus on women and youth. The approach also aims to increase national ownership through institutional capacity strengthening. WFP has been present in Guinea since 1964.

In Numbers

- **330.351 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 2.1 m** six months (March-August 2020) net funding requirements
- **134,129 people assisted** in February 2020

Operational Updates

Smallholder Farmers: The country office’s initiative “Transformation Rurale 2019-2022” leverages an integrated package of food assistance for assets (FFA) and smallholder agricultural market support (SAMS) activities that addresses smallholders’ food insecurity and limited access to agricultural markets targeting 5,520 beneficiaries.

In February, through this project, WFP Guinea provided farming equipment, including motor pumps, wheelbarrows and hoes to 33 farmer organisations (FOs). These FOs were equally provided with agricultural inputs and received trainings on techniques to improve soil fertility and productivity.

Nutrition: WFP provided assistance to 4,704 children aged 6-59 months (55 percent girls) through its moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment activity in the form of specialized nutritious foods distribution.

The country office also provided hygiene kits and information on infant and child good feeding practices to 2,100 pregnant and lactating women and girls, mainly focusing on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding of children aged 6-23 months.

School Feeding: In February, WFP launched school feeding activities in 26 pre-primary schools in the regions of Nzérékoré and Labe reaching 1,428 preschool children (52 percent girls) with 8.5 mt of specialized nutritious foods.

Food delivery to all WFP assisted schools was completed for the second term of the school year.

Mainstreaming Gender

To step up its commitment to gender equality in all its activities, and to ensure women and men, boys and girls benefit equitably from the programme outputs, the CO is finalizing a Gender Strategy that will inform an action plan to be rolled out in 2020 and that will advance the actions already taken to advance gender equality in all WFP activities in the country.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations including children, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs), HIV/TB antiretroviral therapy (ART) clients, people living with disability and orphans in Guinea, have improved nutritional status by 2030

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:
- Support beneficiaries through the provision of specialized nutritious food and integrated programmes including SBCC and strengthen partner’s capacities to prevent and treat all forms of malnutrition.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Food insecure and climate-affected populations, including smallholder farmers, youth and women in targeted areas have improved their livelihood sources, have more efficient and inclusive value chains and resilient food systems by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:
- Provide climate-resilient livelihood support to targeted groups to sustainably increase and diversify their role along the food value chain, strengthen access to markets including in relation to school meals/HGSF and improve food handling and processing.

Strategic Result 5: Countries Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have enhanced capacities to manage food security and nutrition, social protection and disaster risk management systems by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:
- Deliver capacity strengthening support to national institutions and other partners including through South-South Cooperation on the design and implementation of social protection, emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk management and supply chain systems.

Emergency Preparedness

In view of the current and rapid spreading of the COVID-19 epidemic with some cases detected in neighbouring countries, the country office is preparing a Business Continuity Plan (BCP), which will define its preparedness strategy. WFP is also working in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, the Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire (ANSS) and the Ministry of Health for an integrated approach.

Monitoring

To strengthen accountability to affected populations, WFP is putting in place a Complaint Feedback Mechanism (CFM) to be fully functional by June 2020. The preparation/roll-out process is ongoing in close collaboration with WFP Regional Bureau of Dakar and Headquarters. A CFM management committee has been established and designated focal points in the field are now in place.

February’s findings through the monthly food price collection in eleven Guinean markets revealed availability and diversity of food across the country. A decrease of 8 percent in the price of local rice (staple food) was recorded in Kankan.

Challenges

The approaching legislative election and constitutional referendum may result in civil unrest and hamper project implementation and the consolidation of earlier 2020 achievements.

Ongoing strikes by different sectors of society (including teachers and protests in response to the upcoming parliamentary elections and referendum) in February led to the closing of 80 and 30 percent schools in the regions of Labé and Boke respectively.

Food assistance (specialized nutritious foods) to beneficiaries under the “first 1,000 days project” is still discontinued due to the global shortage of Super Cereal.

Donors

Japan and Republic of Korea