Operational Context

With an estimated 25.5 million inhabitants (48.4 percent women), Côte d’Ivoire maintained peace and a remarkable economic recovery over the past years. However, the approach of the 2020 presidential elections is challenging current stability and raising some uncertainty. Despite its remarkable growth rate, social inequalities persist. With almost half of the population living below the poverty line (46 percent), malnutrition and food insecurity remain challenges, slowing down the progress towards Zero Hunger.

Present in Côte d’Ivoire since 1969, WFP has been providing support according to the national context. WFP’s operations are currently focused on development interventions to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance education achievements and minimize gender inequalities. WFP activities are concentrated in northern and western rural areas, which are particularly more vulnerable, and food insecure.

In Numbers

- **275 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 0** cash-based transfers made
- **USD 4.2 m** six months (March 2020 – August 2020) net funding requirements
- **118,298 people assisted** in February 2020

Operational Updates

- In February, nutritious hot school meals were provided to 118,298 public primary schoolchildren in seven targeted regions across the country, to contribute to improved school attendance, nutrition and education achievements of the schoolchildren.
- As part of the Small Agriculture and Market Support (SAMS) project in northern Côte d’Ivoire, aiming to improve food and nutritional security, and income of rural smallholder farmer households, off-season vegetable production is ongoing and advancing well, with 1.13 mt of vegetables harvested. A diversification of vegetable production has been noted, including onion, cabbage, okra, local leafy greens, chili peppers, eggplants and zucchini. A part of this production is expected to be allocated to school canteens, another part consumed and sold, to increase smallholder farmers’ dietary diversity, food and nutrition security, and income. In the context of reducing post-harvest losses, the support to the smallholder groups has been provided in order to strengthen their capacities on drying, winnowing, bagging, and stockpiling techniques.
- In February, WFP has made available 35 mt of relief food (including rice, pulses and vegetable oil) to UNHCR in support to the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian returnees, to be distributed as three-month initial assistance and to cover their immediate food needs.
- Although activities under the food assistance for assets programme (FFA), providing livelihoods and resilience strengthening support to Ivorian returnees and vulnerable host communities ended in December 2019, the monitoring of the assets created is still ongoing. The modern poultry and aquaculture farming activities are developing successfully, contributing to improved income levels and food security of targeted beneficiaries, and allowing them to reinvest back in the project. In addition, the successful crops harvesting allowed some groups to also contribute to school canteens to enrich schoolchildren’s daily meals.
- As part of the preparation of the new National Development Plan (PND 2021-2025), the Government organized several workshops during the month of February. The objectives of these workshops were to conduct a review of the implementation, achievements and lessons learned from the current development plan (PND 2016-2020). Ministers, senior officials, civil society, as well as several UN agencies including WFP gathered in these workshops to discuss the priorities and recommendations to improve education, health, agriculture, environment, and peace and social cohesion in Côte d’Ivoire, in the next five years.
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Sixth Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 Total</td>
<td>15.6 m</td>
<td>8.5 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Primary-school-age children and their households in food-insecure areas have access to adequate nutritious food all year

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activities:**
- Provide school meals, take-home rations complementary services to primary-school-age children during the school year and promote the purchase of locally produced food for school meals.

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Populations affected by shocks have access to food to cover their basic food and nutritional needs during and in the aftermath of shocks

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**
- Provide an integrated assistance package to affected populations, including food assistance, SBCC and specialized nutritious food to children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls and people living with HIV, to improve access to food and prevent malnutrition.

**Strategic Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable food-insecure populations in targeted areas – particularly children, women of child-bearing age and people living with HIV – have improved nutritional status by 2023

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activities:**
- Support the implementation of the national nutrition programme, with a focus on the development and implementation of a gender-responsive social behaviour change communication strategy; the implementation of the national strategy for the fortification of regularly consumed staples; enhancement of the primary education curriculum to include nutrition; and the generation of evidence on the activities in the national multisectoral nutrition plan.

**Strategic Result 3: Sustainable food systems**

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Targeted populations and communities have stronger livelihoods, are more resilient to climate and other shocks and benefit from more efficient and equitable value chains and sustainable food systems by 2023

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**
- Provide an integrated and gender-transformative assistance package to smallholder farmers, especially women’s farmer groups, comprising training on good agricultural practices, equipment and social behaviour change communication-related activities that place value on local agricultural potential, asset creation and targeted food assistance; and provide technical support for generating evidence to inform the scale-up of farmer groups’ activities.

**Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities**

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National institutions have strengthened capacity to better target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2023

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activities:**
- Provide technical support to national partners in their efforts to address school feeding, food security, nutrition, social protection and emergency preparedness and response.

- The ‘Supply Chain Optimization through Logistics, Visibility and Evolution’ (SOLVE) project, launched in Côte d’Ivoire in 2018, aims to strengthen health supply chain capacities to improve medical product availability at the ‘last mile’. As part of its logistical support, WFP supported the training of 20 New Pharmacy for Public Health (NPSP) drivers, from January 20 to February 2 in Grand Bassam. This training was focused on presenting good driving techniques and trucks’ maintenance practices, as well as driving methods that contribute to reducing fuel consumption. All the participants have underlined the importance and the necessity of this training and were accredited with the certificate of completion. Moreover, following the technical mission in December with NPSP, aimed to support effective planning to improve the distribution circuit of medical products, the results of this analysis were presented in a discussion seminar between NPSP and WFP, held on February 11. In addition to discussing these results, the next steps in the NPSP-WFP collaboration were also defined, including the collaboration regarding the fleet management of trucks.

**Challenges**

- Recurring disputes over land ownership remain an important source of inter-communal tension in western Côte d’Ivoire. Two inter-communal conflicts occurred during the month of February, in Kabacouma (Biankouma) between indigenous Yacouba and Allogens Lobi and Burkinabés, which left three people dead, several seriously injured, and caused internal displacements, and significant material damages. Although these movements did not affect the activities of WFP, they require extreme vigilance. WFP continues to closely monitor the security situation in this area.

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