



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief January 2020



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 high food prices 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.

Only 38 percent of the population is literate.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964 and is currently implementing a national integrated school feeding programme in 3,852 public primary schools throughout the country.

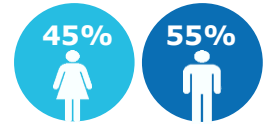


In Numbers

1,957 mt of food distributed

US\$ 14 m six months net funding requirements
(February-July 2020)

618,695 people assisted



Operational Updates

- The implementation of an integrated school feeding programme and the elaboration of a national model represent the major activity of WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023, that started on 1 July 2019.

Development of a national school feeding model for Benin

- On 28 and 29 January 2020, WFP organized a two-day workshop to launch discussions on the elaboration and operationalization of a national school feeding model adapted to the realities of Benin.
- The meeting brought together the Ministries members of the Technical Committee piloting WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023, the stakeholders in the implementation of the school feeding program, and policy advisors from the World Food Programme in Abidjan, Dakar and Rome.
- This model will be based on the home-grown school feeding (HGFS) concept, that is the promotion of local and sustainable agriculture to supply the canteens with a variety of products adapted to local tastes while creating a value chain benefiting the local economy.
- The workshop made it possible to identify the vision, objectives and key elements of the national model. A Strategic Action Plan was agreed for 2020, which will see the development of an institutional framework and the review of pilot projects within targeted communities.

Assistance to flood-affected victims

- From September to November 2019, Benin has been the victim of continuous rains leading to heavy floods. A joint assessment mission conducted by UN Agencies along with the National Disaster Management Agency in the flood-stricken areas concluded that a total of 318,000 persons were directly affected and lost access to their resources and assets and that 48,992 hectares of farmlands had been destroyed just before harvesting season. The Benin government declared a state of emergency and called for international humanitarian aid.
- Like the other UN agencies in Benin, WFP responded favorably to that demand and was able to mobilize resources to meet the food and nutritional needs of the affected populations.

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Main Photo: Opening of the national school feeding model workshop, Cotonou, 28 January 2020.

Credit: Jonas HOUNMANOU

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
130 m	59 m	14 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has 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

Activity:

- Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from 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

Activity:

- Provide specialised nutritious food to children and PLWG to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender-sensitive behaviour-change.

Strategic Result 5: Institutional capacity-strengthening

Strategic Outcome 3: 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

Activity:

- Provide technical assistance and policy support, including through South-South cooperation, to local and national institutions in the areas of gender-sensitive school feeding, food security, and emergency food preparedness and response.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 4: Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity and coordination among national partners in responding to crisis as a contingency measure.
- WFP will provide 3-month food and nutrition assistance to 40,000 individuals identified as the most vulnerable flood-victims in the targeted areas. In addition to a General Food Distribution of 640 mt of family rations to targeted households (consisting of maize, pulses, fortified vegetable oil, and iodized salt), specialized nutritious products will be distributed to children under five and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls, to prevent a deterioration of their nutritional status.
- These operations will strengthen the collaboration with the Benin government and the national agency for civil protection. WFP and its partners will learn to develop better early warning tools, rapid assessment of needs after shock and more effective and appropriate crisis response methods.

WFP partnership with EDUCO

- Access to water remains one of the major obstacles to the successful implementation of an integrated school feeding programme. Currently, only 28 percent of the primary schools benefiting from the programme have access to a drinkable water point within their compound.
- WFP Benin has entered into a partnership agreement with the Spanish NGO EDUCO that led to the realization of water adduction and drilling activities in public primary schools with canteens in the northern Borgou department.
- Thanks to that partnerships, 13 schools will now have access to drinkable water, a necessary requirement to prepare the meals and clean the utensils and dishes, but also to put into practice complementary activities such as handwashing and school gardening.
- The schools will also receive gardening tools and seeds kits and will be given advice and support by EDUCO and WFP for the realization of their school gardens. The fruits and vegetables produced in the school gardens will help to diversify and improve the nutritional quality of the meals prepared and served by the school canteens.



Inauguration with the community of a water pump built by EDUCO within the Public Primary School of KPARO in the Borgou department, on 22 January 2020. Copyright: Jonas HOUNMANOU.

Partners

Government of Benin, EDUCO, UNICEF, FIDA, 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.