



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Côte d'Ivoire Country Brief March 2020



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 security 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.



Prevalence of food insecurity: **4 % of the population**

2018 Human Development Index: **165 out of 189 countries**

2018 Gender Inequality Index: **157 out of 162 countries**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.6% of children between 24-59 months**

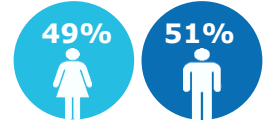
In Numbers

234 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.4 m six months (April 2020 – September 2020) net funding requirements

121,771 people assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

- In March, nutritious hot school lunches were provided to 121,771 primary schoolchildren in seven priority regions in the country, to contribute to improving their educational achievements and nutrition. However, school canteens were only operational between 9 and 12 days on average, before their closure on 16 March, due to the government measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As school lunches provide vital support for low-income families and represent the main meal of the day for some schoolchildren, WFP is assessing the possibility to provide take-home rations, when and where possible, as social safety nets to the most vulnerable households until school canteens re-open.
- Under the Small Agriculture and Market Support (SAMS) project, which aims to contribute to improved food and nutrition security and incomes of 48 rural smallholder farmer groups in rural northern and western Cote d'Ivoire, the harvesting phase of off-season crops is still ongoing, given the low count of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the rural farming communities. Nevertheless, WFP has partnered with UNICEF and local authorities to sensitize smallholder women farmers on health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the women farmer groups are able to continue their farming. With the scale-up of the SAMS activity to include more women farmer groups, a total of 335 mt of food has been produced so far this year, compared to 250 mt in 2019. Part of the food produced will be donated to the school feeding programme (either in-kind or cash), another part will be divided and consumed by the women and their families to contribute to household food security, and the third part will be sold and reinvested in the project for sustainability.
- The 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. Nevertheless, 15 out of 17 smallholder farmer groups assisted are continuing agricultural activities independently. Strong level engagement of the beneficiaries and the local communities has contributed to ensuring the sustainability of these livelihood activities supported by WFP since 2013.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Marie Dasylya

Caption: Soro Djata, the secretary of Fapaha farmers' group (Northern Cote d'Ivoire) and her husband, March 2020.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sixth Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
15.6 m	8.5 m	3.4 m

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 4: 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 Government of Cote d’Ivoire has implemented measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. An emergency health response plan of XOF 96 billion aims to reinforce the detection and treatment of the disease. Additionally, an Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan valued at XOF 1,700 billion has been prepared for a rapid restart of activities at the end of the pandemic, aims to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on populations and economic actors in formal and informal sectors. To complement this plan, WFP and the UN System are supporting the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Poverty Alleviation in the development of a multisectoral response plan estimated at XOF 43 billion. The plan estimates that 10 percent of the population (26 million) are food insecure, and 1.3 million people would require urgent food assistance.
- WFP is working with the Ministry of Agriculture (MINADER) to set up a food security monitoring system in the capital to track the impact of the health crisis and movement restrictions on food security. Abidjan is currently the most affected, recording 84 percent of the confirmed cases. Movement restriction measures have been put in place since 26 March, cutting off Abidjan from the rest of the country to minimize the spread of the virus.
- The International Women’s Day also marked the agenda in March. To this end, UNFPA, in collaboration with other UN agencies, including WFP, organized a brainstorming session, under the theme: “I AM GENERATION EQUALITY: REALIZING WOMEN’S RIGHTS”. This session was an opportunity to reflect on the role and status of women and the UN’s contribution towards gender equality in Cote d’Ivoire. In Cote d’Ivoire, WFP’s gender transformative activities contribute towards improving gender equality and empowering women through access to quality education by encouraging girls to complete the primary education cycle through targeted take-home rations, and by enhancing the production capacities and increasing the revenues of women smallholder farmers.

Challenges

- Critical funding constraints will potentially hamper WFP’s ability to effectively implement adequate preparedness and response measures in Côte d’Ivoire to curb the unprecedented spread of COVID-19 and to address the immediate food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable groups. Moreover, WFP country office is currently developing a food security monitoring system and aims to support nationally led life-saving interventions, for which it requires an additional USD 556,554.

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