**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.

**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 meals, 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 Côte 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.
Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Focus area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Result 1:</strong> Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>- 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.</td>
<td>Root causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Result 2:</strong> No one suffers from malnutrition</td>
<td>- 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.</td>
<td>Root causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Result 3:</strong> Sustainable food systems</td>
<td>- 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.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Result 4:</strong> Resilience building</td>
<td>- 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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Result 5:</strong> Countries strengthened capacities</td>
<td>- Provide technical support to national partners in their efforts to address school feeding, food security, nutrition, social protection and emergency preparedness and response.</td>
<td>Root causes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

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

### 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.

### Donors

USA and Private Donors.