



World Food Programme

WFP Guinea Country Brief

April 2020

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 and more than 21 percent of households are food insecure. The nutritional situation of children remains precarious; 6.1 percent of children aged 6-59 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. In addition, the present COVID-19 pandemic is likely to aggravate the already fragile situation in the country.

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 SDG 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.



Population: **13.4 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **174 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low income**

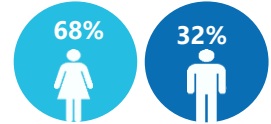
Chronic malnutrition: **24.4% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

78 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 27.7 m six months (May-October 2020) net funding requirements

26,568 people assisted in April 2020



Operational Updates

WFP's Response to the COVID-19 pandemic: According to the March 2020 *Cadre Harmonisé* results, 113,641 people are food insecure from March to May and this number is projected to rise to 267,170 people between June and August 2020. Figures do not take into account the socio-economic effect of the pandemic. The country office is developing an emergency response plan targeting 300,000 people under its crisis response operation (strategic outcome 2).

The plan entails unconditional assistance (food and cash based transfers) during the lean season (June-September) and livelihood support with conditional assistance afterwards (October-December) supporting vulnerable populations towards resilience.

With the aim to implement a 'whole of society' approach, geographic coordination, to ensure the coherence and impact of response, the country office is mapping ongoing interventions in Guinea, in consultation and close collaboration with the Government, key partners including UN agencies, the civil society and communities.

Smallholder farmers: In line with national and WFP prevention measures, food assistance for assets (FFA) and smallholder agriculture market support (SAMS) activities including land rehabilitation for rice production are ongoing under reorganisation to limit the number of group participants including shift work. New activities are also being introduced including the production and distribution of masks, soaps and handwashing kits to beneficiaries and communities, combined with sensitisation messages against COVID-19.

School Feeding: The country office is finalizing plans for the distribution of take-home rations to 150,000 schoolchildren to mitigate the effects of school closure on the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable children. WFP Guinea actively participate in the National Education Cluster supporting the development and implementation of distance learning using Television and radios to ensure class continuity during school closure.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/ Aurelie LECRIVAIN

Caption: Logistic support for the transportation of Chinese and Jack Ma's donation.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.8 m	7.3 m	27.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure populations, including pre- and primary school-aged children, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year round

Focus area: Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of a crisis

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals to pre- and primary school children, including take home rations for girls prioritizing local purchase and strengthening partners' capacities
- Provide an integrated emergency food and nutrition assistance including SBCC and livelihood support to crisis-affected populations.

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

Funding Shortfall

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP's funding shortfall has significantly increased totalling USD 27.7 m needed for the next six months to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to identified food insecure population and those affected by the socio-economic effects of COVID-19. Where pending, WFP's capacity to provide assistance will be limited. A budget revision and donor approach to mobilise fund and explore possibilities of using earmarked contributions is ongoing.

Logistics

WFP is the lead agency of the UN logistics and operational support pillar in Guinea. In April, the country office provided logistic support to the Government for the transportation of medical equipment including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Chinese Government and nine ventilators from the Jack Ma Foundation.

To respond to the soaring numbers of confirmed cases, WFP installed two wickhalls (each, with a holding capacity of 50 beds) at the Nongo epidemic disease treatment centre to support urgent and increasing needs.

At the request of the Government, WFP also participated in the evaluation of former Ebola sites to assess whether they could be used immediately for COVID-19 treatment.

Monitoring

The country office is providing technical support to the Government in the development of a common mechanism for market and food security monitoring using its mVAM system.

The country office monitored approximately 60 WFP-supported schools using cash based transfers (CBT) modality and their respective food suppliers (farmer organizations) through telephone data collection to be used to inform future programming. Results showed the need to review and improve CBT payment processes including the time length until payment of food suppliers.

A baseline survey on SAMS and FFA activities through telephone data collection targeting WFP-supported smallholder farmers and communities is ongoing and preliminary survey result will be available in May 2020.

Following monthly food price collection, April findings show an overall 10 percent increase in food prices. Reflecting the effects of restriction of movement and other containment measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic. The increase particularly affects rice, beans, cassava, eggplants, tomatoes and groundnuts.

Challenges

School closure as part of the national COVID-19 preventive measures adapted has disrupted WFP School Feeding activities..

Donors

Japan, Republic of Korea