



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Côte d'Ivoire Country Brief April 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.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the state of emergency has been activated in Cote d'Ivoire since 24 March 2020. WFP's operations are currently suspended or limited in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

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

0 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.1 m six months (May 2020 – October 2020) net funding requirements

0 people assisted in April 2020

Operational Updates

- The school feeding activities are currently suspended since 16 March, due to the government measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, the Ministry of Education identified alternative learning opportunities for the primary schoolchildren via national TV, radio and social networks. In collaboration with the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) Foundation, WFP's school feeding partner, the radio classes have been recorded and will be broadcasted during the month of May. WFP is also reconfiguring its work to reach 125,000 schoolchildren in insecure zones, who are no longer receiving their daily school lunches, through take-home rations. This aims to minimize the socio-economic impact of the health crisis on poor households, especially during the lean season when food shortages might increase.
- In the localities targeted as part of the Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS), 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, over 205 mt of vegetables were produced and harvested. These harvests will continue until the end of May. In view of the continuity of smallholder farmers' agricultural activities, WFP collaborated with UNICEF and local authorities, who provided community awareness sessions on COVID-19 and distributed hygiene kits to WFP beneficiaries. These beneficiaries will serve as community agents to sensitize other members of their communities.
- On 21 April, WFP launched a food security surveillance system in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MINADER). In order to achieve this aim, WFP monitors will conduct 750 phone interviews, aimed at tracking the impact of the health crisis and movement restrictions on food security of the most vulnerable households in the economic capital. Movement restrictions 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.
- WFP has developed a partnership with the private sector partner, the Magic System Foundation, and UNAIDS, to provide cash assistance to 1,000 most vulnerable households in Abidjan, which records 95 percent of the confirmed cases.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Marie Dasyva

Caption: Okra harvest of one of the smallholder farmers supported by WFP in northern Cote d'Ivoire, Korhogo 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	12.5 m	2.1 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.

- In April, WFP added two markets in Abidjan under its food markets price surveillance, to track the impact of movement restrictions on food market prices. Usually, this collection is done directly on the markets, but due to COVID-19 health restrictions, this collection is done by phone. Since 2002, WFP has independently collected the prices of basic foodstuffs on a few markets in the country. This is a part of WFP’s global alert system to monitor food prices from a consumer perspective. Previously, market price surveillance was mainly focused on markets in rural areas, where WFP has an operational presence.
- WFP sought to enhance government’s capacities through implementing integrated nutrition programmes, by providing its technical support to the Ministry of Health. In April, WFP provided its support for the delivery of over 87 mt of specialized nutritious foods (SNF) to the various health facilities, aimed at preventing and reducing chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

Challenges

- The level of security throughout Cote d’Ivoire remains at level two, relatively calm. However, political tensions between opposition parties in the lead-up to the 2020 presidential elections continue to challenge peace and stability in the country.
- Even if the COVID-19 health crisis is not classified as a food crisis, the lack of resources, both in cash and food present a major risk for the country office. In the event of a change in the situation, the timely response to the emergency could be delayed.
- With the start of a rainy season, the country office remains alert to the risk of flooding, which occurs every year in Cote d’Ivoire.

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