



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP GHANA

Country Brief

JUNE 2020



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 31.1 million in 2020 and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 2,220 in 2019. Despite progress in recent years in reducing acute malnutrition and stunting at the national level, high rates of poverty and stunting persist in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone, at 21.4 and 31 percent respectively. In addition, the November 2019 Cadre Harmonise indicates that 21,712 people were expected to be food insecure during the June-August 2020 lean season.

The confirmed COVID 19 cases in Ghana was 5,127 (12 May 2020). The Government of Ghana instituted a national plan and budget to respond to COVID-19. The global confirmed cases as at 12 May 2020 is 4.18 million. The immediate national focus has been on containing the spread of the virus and enabling the healthcare system to cope. Concerns over the negative impact on the economy and wellbeing has been raised. The combination of lockdown measures, closed borders and broader global economic disruptions is already causing loss of household income due to reduced economic activity, higher prices for basic goods and reduced access to social services. The UN Country Team including WFP Ghana, are contributing to fund the gaps in the national response, based on each agency's comparative advantage.

WFP's interventions focus on direct food assistance using vouchers to improve nutritional status of targeted populations, in line with national targets. WFP also aims to ensure vulnerable communities benefit from efficient and resilient food systems which support nutritional value chains, capacity strengthening interventions to manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes and the Advocacy and coherent policy frameworks support to key cooperating partners. WFP has been present in Ghana since 1963.



Population: **31.1 million** (UNFPA 2020)

2018 Human Development Index: **142 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

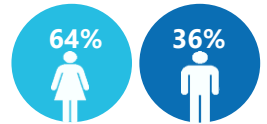
In Numbers

45,000 beneficiaries targeted for nutrition support in 2020

22,020 smallholder farmers, 12 nucleus farmers and 8 aggregators targeted for capacity strengthening and market linkages in 2020

USD 4.06 m six months (June-Nov 2020) net funding requirements

32,887 beneficiaries received direct food assistance through vouchers in June 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP country office in Ghana continues to support the Government through Ghana Health Service to reach community members with Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) key messages on health and nutrition and preventive measures to curb the COVID-19 outbreak. Under the WFP and Ghana Health Service (GHSS) collaboration, three regions in the North and Ashanti undertook distribution of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months. Hand washing, hand sanitizing and social distancing protocols were put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. SBCC messaging at health facilities and community level also included COVID-19 preventive protocols.
- A fourth beneficiary group (adolescent girls) has been included in the nutrition programme under strategic outcome 1 as part of efforts to address the triple burden of malnutrition. The Adolescent Girls Nutrition Initiative (AGNI) is expected to prevent anaemia among the older adolescent girls, delay their first pregnancies and prepare them to begin the first 1,000 days window of opportunity with good nutrition status. Out of school adolescent girls, 15-19 years are targeted under this intervention with SNFs and value voucher (restricted cash to enable them to purchase some nutritious food products and other nutrition sensitive items), complemented by SBCC.
- The process to approve Premium Foods – a local food processor supported by WFP to increase their capacity to support the nutritional value chain – as a supplier for Super Cereal in the RBD has begun. A remote assessment was carried out by a Food Safety Auditor from DQS Auditing Firm. This will be followed by a food safety and quality audit when Premium Foods Ltd has closed gaps identified during the assessment. Premium Foods will continue to receive technical support to close these gaps in their food safety and quality management system.

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Main photo: Beneficiaries washing their hands before redemption.

Credit: WFP/Alex Osei-Yeboah (Nutritionist)

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
15.9 m	10.8 m	4.06 m

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable populations including children and women of reproductive age in high burden regions have improved nutritious status in line with National targets by 2025.

Activities

- Provide cash and vouchers for specialized nutritious foods and/or micronutrient-dense fresh foods for vulnerable children aged 6-23 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women under government safety nets, and support the Ghana Health Service about social and behaviour change communication to promote healthy diets in high burden areas.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted populations and communities in Ghana benefit from more efficient, inclusive and resilient food systems that support nutrition value chains by 2030.

Activities:

- Provide technical support for community and industrial production of fortified flour and for food safety and quality assurance. This includes technical support on food safety and quality for up to 30 community milling and blending women's groups, and financial and technical support for two industrial fortified flour producers in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions.
- Provide support and Link smallholder farmers with the One District, One Warehouse programme by providing training and equipment to minimize post-harvest losses and facilitate quality assurance and market linkages with processors and institutional customers (SMS: Smallholder agricultural market support activities).

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 3: Local and national institutions have enhanced capacity to target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2030

Activities:

- Provide technical support, including through South-South cooperation, for the national school meals programme, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the National Disaster Management Organization, the Food and Drugs Authority and the Ghana Health Service to optimize the nutritional quality of school meals; food security monitoring; the early-warning system; disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, food safety and quality, and food-based dietary guidelines.

Strategic Result 6: Policy coherence

Strategic Outcome 4: Government efforts to achieve zero hunger by 2030 are supported by advocacy and coherent policy frameworks

Activities:

- Advocate for the promulgation and enforcement of policies and legislation on school feeding, gender equality, nutrition, food safety, weights, measures and standards, smallholder-friendly public procurement and market support (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)

Strategic Result 1: SR 1 – Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 5: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of shocks

Activities

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations including COVID-19 crisis-affected patients in containment and quarantine centres, refugees, adolescent girls to return to schools, and other vulnerable groups; General Distribution; Modality: CBT & In-kind Food)

Monitoring

- Remote and onsite monitoring were conducted to follow up on food distribution and the adolescent girls SCOPE registration. a total of 52 distribution sites were followed up remotely via phone calls and social media to track progress of activities. All the seven districts implementing the stunting prevention programme in the three northern regions were visited to provide technical support to GHS staff on adolescent SCOPE registration. Handwashing and sanitizing, social distancing and registration without biometrics were adopted as COVID-19 preventive measures

Partnerships

- WFP in Ghana maintains an active collaboration with government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations agencies, particularly the Rome-based Agencies (FAO and IFAD), to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP continues to participate in working groups in key sectors such as education, social protection, agriculture, health and nutrition. WFP also collaborates with the National Development Planning Commission to advocate for increased investment in school feeding and nutrition, using the findings of the cost benefit analysis conducted in Ghana in 2019.
- Final assessment of selected medium-scale and community-level food processors was done jointly with the Food and Drugs Authority, Food Research institute and Women in Agriculture (a unit under the Ministry of Agriculture).
- The partnership with UNICEF on Adolescent Girls' Nutrition Intervention towards addressing the triple burden of malnutrition targeting out of school adolescents is ongoing.

Donors

WFP, Canada, Ghana, Japan and private donors.