



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP GHANA

Country Brief

OCTOBER 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 March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé indicates 21,712 people were food insecure during the lean season (June-August 2020).

The current number of active COVID-19 cases as at 31 October 2020 was 50,941. The Government of Ghana instituted a national plan and budget to respond to COVID-19. The global confirmed cases as at 30 October 2020 was 57,274,018. 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 the 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**

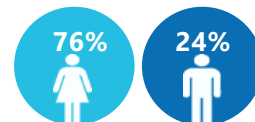
In Numbers

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 9.4 m six months (November 2020-April 2021) net funding requirements

18,840 beneficiaries received direct food assistance through vouchers in October 2020.



Operational Updates

- WFP in Ghana conducted an onsite refresher training for health staff and retailers to prepare them to roll out the Adolescent Girls Nutrition Intervention (AGNI) in seven districts. The AGNI programme is to be integrated with Girls Iron Folate Tablet Supplementation (GIFTS) programme supported by UNICEF, so the onsite training touched on strategies for the integration and how the adolescent commodity (value voucher) will be managed.
- A monthly adolescent clinic has been planned to be instituted where all the adolescent girls will receive nutrition and adolescent sexual and reproductive health education; take the month's dose of the iron & Folic Acid (IFA) and redeem their vouchers from the selected retailers. In all, 198 health staff and 37 retailers were trained.
- Ghana Health Service continued the social and behaviour change and communication (SBCC) key messages for positive nutrition and health behaviours and sensitization on the AGNI programme was given to adolescent girls to prepare them for a start of the intervention. Issues about COVID-19 protocols were included in the SBCC messaging.

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Main photo: A refresher training for health staff in St. Lucy Polyclinic in Sagnarigu Municipal

Credit: Alexander 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)
22.8 m	10.8 m	9.4m

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 to girls to return to schools, and other vulnerable groups; General Distribution; Modality: CBT & In-kind Food)

Monitoring

Remote monitoring was conducted to all 52 distribution sites to provide support to retailers and health staff during the food items distribution. Onsite visits were also conducted to 52 facilities and 37 retail joints to prepare them towards the start of the AGNI programme. Ghana health Service SCOPE registration was also followed up to ensure challenges faced by the registration officers were addressed.

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

Donors to WFP Ghana in 2020 include Canada, the Government of Ghana and private donors.