Operational Context

The Guinean economy is largely dependent 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 population live below the poverty line and more than 21 percent of households are food insecure. Children nutritional situation remains precarious with 6.1 percent of children aged 6-59 months suffering from global acute malnutrition (of whom 1.7 percent are severely affected).

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 (Plan national de développement économique et social 2016-2020) with a special focus on women and youth. The approach also aims to increase national ownership through institutional capacity strengthening.

The COVID-19 pandemic, beyond its immediate effect on public health combined with the resurgence of Ebola, is affecting the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, particularly the poorest households, casual labourers and petty traders. WFP has been present in Guinea since 1964.

Operational Updates

- On 14 February 2021, the Ministry of Health declared the resurgence of the Ebola virus disease in Gouécké, Nzérékoré (Forest region) since its last outbreak in 2013-2015. As of 28 February, 13 cases have been confirmed with 4 probable cases and more than 500 contacts. WFP received USD 350,000 from the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) to support its logistics operations for the transportation of Ebola vaccines and equipment as well as humanitarian personnel to Gouécké, strengthening the government’s response capacity. Vaccinations are ongoing to prevent the spread of the virus.

- As a support to the Government, WFP provided a refrigerator to the National Health Security Agency (ANSS) for the storage of COVID-19 vaccines. It has a storage capacity of about 9,000 vaccines.

- The phase 2, resilience building (through the creation of assets and conditional cash-based transfers) of the European Union funded project, RESIGUI has been launched, targeting 10,000 households (50,000 people) in eight prefectures across the country. The rehabilitation of 304 ha of agricultural land for market gardening and 48 kilometres of degraded road leading to farms, digging of 42 wells for agriculture and construction of nine community warehouses are ongoing with 3,396 people participating in the work. These people and their household members will receive cash-based transfers, thus reaching 16,980 beneficiaries. Unconditional cash-based transfers (phase 1, emergency assistance), worth USD 372,660 is also ongoing, reaching 20,880 vulnerable people (4,176 households) against 25,280 targeted (5,056 households) in the region of Kankan and Boke.

- WFP is promoting market gardening activities, supported by the Government of Japan, through the rehabilitation of agricultural lands in 37 villages in the region of Boké, Kindia and Nzérékoré. A total of 408 people participate in the community work and will receive cash-based transfers in return for their labour taking into account their household members, thus reaching a total of 2,040 beneficiaries.

In Numbers

- 503.173 mt of food assistance distributed
- US$ 372,660 cash-based transfers made
- US$ 1.8 m six months (March-August 2021) net funding requirements
- 155,641 people assisted in February 2021

Population: 13.1 million
2019 Human Development Index: 178
out of 189
Income Level: Low income
Chronic malnutrition: 24.4 % of children aged 6-59 months

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Kadijah SAVANE
Caption: Logistics support for the transportation of Ebola vaccines and humanitarian personnel to Gouécké, Nzérékoré (Forest region).
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>2021 Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 m</td>
<td>4.7 m</td>
<td>1.8 m*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 10 March 2021.

**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

**Activities:**
- Provide nutritious school feeding to pre- and primary school children including take home rations for girls prioritizing local purchase and strengthening partners’ capacities, including through social and behaviour change communication and nutrition-sensitive activities within the framework of HGSF approaches.

**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 an integrated package of emergency food and nutrition assistance that includes gender-responsive and gender transformative social and behaviour change communication and livelihood support, for 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, people living with HIV or TB and receiving treatment, persons with disabilities and orphans in Guinea, have improved nutritional status by 2030.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

**Activities:**
- Support beneficiaries equitably - women, men, girls and boys - through the provision of specialized nutritious food and integrated programmes including social and behaviour change communication and strengthen partner’s capacities to prevent and treat malnutrition.

**Strategic Result 3:** Sustainable food systems

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Food insecure and climate-affected populations including smallholder farmers, youth and women in targeted areas have improved livelihood sources, more efficient and inclusive value chains by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**
- Provide targeted groups with climate-resilient livelihood support that enables them to sustainably increase and diversify their role along the food value chain, strengthens their access to markets including school feeding and HGSF interventions and improves food handling and processing.

**Strategic Result 5:** Countries strengthened capacities

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National institutions have enhanced capacities in the design and use of management systems for food security and nutrition, social protection and disaster risk by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**
- Deliver capacity-strengthening support to national institutions and other partners including through South-South Cooperation in the design and use of systems for the management of social protection, emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk, post-harvest losses and supply chain for food security and nutrition objectives.

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**WFP is exploring urgent funding opportunities** to implement lifesaving and logistics operations within the context of the Ebola resurgence in Guinea.

**Challenges**

- Community based participatory planning are ongoing in 24 targeted villages in Nzérékoré, through the joint WFP, FAO and OHCHR project, funded by the UN Peace Building Fund launched on 16 February in collaboration with national authorities. This aims to engage community members in identifying the challenges they live and find potential solutions to build resilience and ensure their ownership of the project on a long term.

- **WFP is prepositioning food** in its sub offices for the second term of the school year (April-June 2021) to assure continuity of assistance to children in 1,016 schools by providing hot meals. To date, 1,042 mt of food have been delivered and planning are ongoing to provide USD 600,000 to 200 schools, practising the cash based transfers model.

- Through the **WFP moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)** treatment, 809 children aged 6-59 months and 295 pregnant and lactating women and girls received nutrition assistance across the country.

- **WFP has signed field level agreements** with five local non-governmental organisations for the distribution of rice and oil, locally purchased to 3,500 targeted HIV patients under antiretroviral treatment and their family members (700 households) in eight prefectures.

**Monitoring**

- **Preliminary baseline survey results** undertaken in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics in line with the European Union funded project, RESIGUI showed that 72 percent of households surveyed in targeted areas are poor, 32 percent are very poor, and 16 percent classified themselves as middle class. Thus, WFP adapted cash-based transfers as the modality of assistance through the project.

- In line with the joint WFP, FAO and OHCHR project, a baseline survey on social cohesion was undertaken in Nzérékoré, forest region and results will be available in March 2021.

**Donors**

Donors to WFP Guinea in 2021 include BHA, China, European Union, Japan, MPTF, UN Peacebuilding Fund and South Korea.