



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP GHANA

## Country Brief

FEBRUARY, 2021



### Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 31,732,129 m in 2021 and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 71.95 in 2021. 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).

In relation to COVID 19, The number of active cases as at February 2021 is 6,095. 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 closed land 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 2021)

2019 Human Development Index: **138 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 6-59 months**

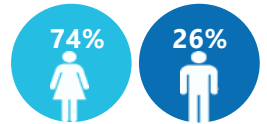
### In Numbers

**45,000 beneficiaries** targeted for nutrition support in 2021

**22,020 smallholder farmers, 12 nucleus farmers and 8 aggregators** targeted for capacity strengthening and market linkages in 2021

**USD 6.5m** six months (February-July) net funding requirements

**19,696 beneficiaries** received direct food assistance through vouchers in February 2021.



### Operational Updates

- The stunting prevention distributions for children, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are ongoing in some distribution sites. 9,000 bags of 6 kg of Maizoya were received and dispatched to some retailers in Sagnarigu. This consignment will be able to serve three to seven districts. Distribution data analysis was prepared and shared with district and regional nutrition officers for presentation in their annual review meetings.
- A virtual performance review meeting was held with the partners (Alpha communications, Sight and Life and the Ghana Health Service) leading the Social & Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and social marketing campaign under the retail project. The participating partners made presentations on milestones achieved so far, successes, challenges, lessons learnt and priorities for the coming months of implementation.
- WFP Supported the Regional Department of Agriculture in the Upper West and Upper East Regions to organize training of trainers for 40 participants including Agriculture Extension agents on gender mainstreaming and climate smart agriculture. The trained officers will organize step training for more than 8,000 WFP supported smallholder farmers at the community in their respective operational areas.
- WFP analysed commodity mobilization data from smallholder farmers sales and market data submitted by two aggregators including Savannah Farmers Marketing Company and Big Ajar Enterprise Ltd for the last quarter of 2020. From the analysis, the two firms mobilized a total of 560.3 mt of soybean and maize valued at USD 146,467. Also, they have sold 522 mt of maize and soybeans worth USD 164,064 to processors and other buyers including Premium Food Company Ltd.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/ghana](http://www.wfp.org/countries/ghana)

Main photo: Annual national review of the Stunting Prevention Programme(SPP).

Credit: Tani Aduko Bukari (Nutritionist)

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	8.2 m	6.5 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 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

- Onsite visit was conducted to 54 distribution sites to provide support to retailers and health staff on the Adolescent Girls Nutrition Initiative's (AGNI) clinic and distribution. Over 4,000 adolescent girls were interacted with during AGNI clinic and about 203 health staff and 35 retailers were supported in the process. Remote support was provided to retailers and health staff to carry out the children, adolescent and adult interventions in the stunting prevention programme.

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 on nutrition and Ghana School Feeding Programme in advocating for increased investment in school feeding, 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 2021 include Canada, Japan, the Government of Ghana and private donors.