Operational Context

With an estimated 26.4 million inhabitants, Côte d’Ivoire has maintained peace and experienced remarkable economic recovery since the end of the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis. Despite its growth, almost half of the population (46 percent) continues to live under the poverty line and the majority of the population suffers from the triple burden of malnutrition, represented by micronutrient deficiencies, undernutrition and overnutrition, slowing down WFP’s efforts towards Zero Hunger.

Since 1969, WFP Côte d’Ivoire has been providing support in alignment with 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. Activities are concentrated in northern and western rural areas, which are known to have higher concentration of food insecure and vulnerable populations.

Côte d’Ivoire is continuously experiencing a moderate increase of new confirmed COVID-19 cases. As of 28 March 2021, 43,180 cases are reported (including 38,719 recovered, 237 deaths and 4,224 active). WFP is continuing its operations and activities while strictly abiding by the health and sanitary measures to ensure the safety of its staff, partners, and beneficiaries.

Operational Updates

- In the effort to better assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees affected by the October 2020 presidential election, WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of WFP’s assistance and the residual needs of the affected population. The monitoring results indicated that 29 percent of the IDPs remain affected and displaced mostly in Tonkpi and Cavally (western regions), where prevalence of food security is classified to be “under pressure” at 17 percent and 9 percent in respective regions (source: Cadre Harmonise March 2021). The report also indicated positive results of WFP’s food assistance, where 4.4 percent of WFP-assisted households were food insecure against 5.4 percent of non-assisted households (method used to assess food insecurity: Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)). Further leveraging on this outcome, WFP is planning an additional phase of cash assistance in the coming months to support returnees who lost their homes and sources of livelihoods.

- In March, 119,270 schoolchildren were reached through the national school feeding programme in 613 WFP-assisted schools. To ensure the smooth operation, WFP conducted monitoring visits to 98 schools and continued to strengthen the capacity of the management and advisory board of these schools through sensibilization trainings. Some schools were encouraged to increase participation of community members and to activate monitoring committees to guarantee the local ownership of their local school canteens.

- The issue of water scarcity in the northern region of Côte d’Ivoire is exacerbated by the climate change as the rainfall and temperature variability continue to impact the livelihoods of farmers. Accordingly, WFP-assisted smallholder farmer groups witnessed a significant decrease in yield during harvest season. To minimize this impact, WFP partnered with the local non-governmental organization Bureau de Formation et de Conseil en Développement (BFCD) to construct five water wells in two farming lands in Fononvogo and Kokaha (northern regions).

Contact info: Min Lee (minjung.lee@wfp.org)
Country Director: Ussama OSMAN
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cote-ivoire
Main photo: Credit: WFP/Min Lee
Caption: WFP-assisted smallholder farmer during harvest season of vegetable crops in the northern region of Côte d’Ivoire.

In Numbers

- 370 mt of food assistance distributed
- USD 5,364 cash-based transfers made
- USD 3.9 m six months (April – September 2021) net funding requirements
- 119,374 people assisted
  - In March 2021

Operational Context 2018 Food insecurity: 10.8 % of the population
2020 Human Development Index ranking
162 out of 189 countries
2019 Gender Inequality Index: 153 out of 162 countries
Chronic malnutrition: 21.6% of children between 24-59 months

The following data and information are sourced from the UN World Food Programme and the World Food Programme’s internal reports and database.

In March 2021, 119,374 people were assisted.

The report also indicated positive results of WFP’s food assistance, where 4.4 percent of WFP-assisted households were food insecure against 5.4 percent of non-assisted households (method used to assess food insecurity: Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)). Further leveraging on this outcome, WFP is planning an additional phase of cash assistance in the coming months to support returnees who lost their homes and sources of livelihoods.

In March, 119,270 schoolchildren were reached through the national school feeding programme in 613 WFP-assisted schools. To ensure the smooth operation, WFP conducted monitoring visits to 98 schools and continued to strengthen the capacity of the management and advisory board of these schools through sensibilization trainings. Some schools were encouraged to increase participation of community members and to activate monitoring committees to guarantee the local ownership of their local school canteens.

The issue of water scarcity in the northern region of Côte d’Ivoire is exacerbated by the climate change as the rainfall and temperature variability continue to impact the livelihoods of farmers. Accordingly, WFP-assisted smallholder farmer groups witnessed a significant decrease in yield during harvest season. To minimize this impact, WFP partnered with the local non-governmental organization Bureau de Formation et de Conseil en Développement (BFCD) to construct five water wells in two farming lands in Fononvogo and Kokaha (northern regions).
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Focus area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Root causes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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, and complementary services to primary-school-age children during the school year and promote the purchase of locally produced food for school meals.  
- 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 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:  
- 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 3: Sustainable food systems

| Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations and communities have stronger livelihoods, are more resilient to climatic 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 farmers’ activities. |  |

| Strategic Outcome 4: 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. |  |

Beneficiary Story: “This is all I have left to feed my family.”

- The smallholder farmer group supported by WFP and partners through the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support programme in Nakaha is an important social gathering that brings women together. During a field visit to this northern village, WFP staff met with a 70-year-old smallholder woman farmer named Silué Tiagban, who suffered from an undiagnosed disease that left her disabled in her youth. Her legs are no longer straight, and it prevents her from standing upright, but this limited mobility does not stop her from going out in the field to participate in agricultural activities promoted by WFP and partners. When she is in the field, she is surrounded by the other members of the farmer group who do not discriminate based on age or status because they all share a common goal of feeding their family. Silué has three grandchildren to support and the eldest is responsible for watering the family plot upon returning from school. “What else could I do? I didn’t go to school, so I don’t know how to read and write. I have spent my entire life in my village. I would rather rest but this is all I have left to feed my family.”

Challenges

Recent events in the political and security landscape of the country raise some uncertainties about implementation of planned activities. The main ones include the parliamentary elections and uncertainties of civil unrest; and the sudden death of the Prime Minister and funeral service programmes.

Terrorist attacks in the northern and north-eastern regions which overlap with WFP-supported school feeding project sites. This political and security context has had an operational impact on WFP and its partners - limited access and mobility of UN staff in project sites - resulting in the suspension of certain school canteen monitoring activities and field missions in the concerned regions.

Donors

Top donors to WFP Côte d’Ivoire Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 include the USA and private donors.