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 observing a decline of active COVID-19 cases. As of 30 May 2021, 47,233 cases have been reported (including 46,642 recovered, 303 deaths and 288 active) and over 540,245 people vaccinated under the COVAX initiative. 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 May, 119,343 schoolchildren were reached through the national school feeding programme in WFP-assisted schools. On-site monitoring activities were cancelled during the last half of the month to not disrupt the school exam period, but remote monitoring and capacity strengthening of school canteen staff continued to enhance the management of school canteen warehouses and food conservation.

- As the first five years of the McGovern-Dole (MGD) programme is coming to an end, WFP organized a series of workshops in different project sites of the national school feeding programme. Under the programme, WFP provided school meals to 125,000 school children in 613 schools across 7 high-priority regions. In May, regional workshops took place in Bondoukou (north-east) and Man (west), while additional workshops will continue in June. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange on best practices and lessons learned from the first phase (2016-2020) in order to address shortcomings and improve implementation during the second phase (2021-2025), which will be launched through a national workshop in Abidjan in June. The workshops resulted in exchanges of productive discussions thanks to the very high attendance rate and active participation from all stakeholders.

- Under the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programme, 27 smallholder farmer groups were monitored to document the crop yield of the off-season harvest of vegetable crops and to strengthen social cohesion within the members of the group.

- WFP is closely monitoring the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in the northern and north-eastern regions that resulted in the displacements of over 500 people from Burkina Faso across the border to Côte d’Ivoire (Source: UNDSS Côte d’Ivoire). A meeting with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is planned to ensure a smooth coordination and timely response to assist the affected population.

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 watering her crops in the northern region of Côte d’Ivoire

In Numbers

385 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 3.6 m six months (June – November 2021) net funding requirements
120,315 people assisted
In May 2021

Operational Updates

- In May, 119,343 schoolchildren were reached through the national school feeding programme in WFP-assisted schools. On-site monitoring activities were cancelled during the last half of the month to not disrupt the school exam period, but remote monitoring and capacity strengthening of school canteen staff continued to enhance the management of school canteen warehouses and food conservation.

- As the first five years of the McGovern-Dole (MGD) programme is coming to an end, WFP organized a series of workshops in different project sites of the national school feeding programme. Under the programme, WFP provided school meals to 125,000 school children in 613 schools across 7 high-priority regions. In May, regional workshops took place in Bondoukou (north-east) and Man (west), while additional workshops will continue in June. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange on best practices and lessons learned from the first phase (2016-2020) in order to address shortcomings and improve implementation during the second phase (2021-2025), which will be launched through a national workshop in Abidjan in June. The workshops resulted in exchanges of productive discussions thanks to the very high attendance rate and active participation from all stakeholders.

- Under the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programme, 27 smallholder farmer groups were monitored to document the crop yield of the off-season harvest of vegetable crops and to strengthen social cohesion within the members of the group.

- WFP is closely monitoring the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in the northern and north-eastern regions that resulted in the displacements of over 500 people from Burkina Faso across the border to Côte d’Ivoire (Source: UNDSS Côte d’Ivoire). A meeting with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is planned to ensure a smooth coordination and timely response to assist the affected population.

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 watering her crops in the northern region of Côte d’Ivoire

Operational Updates

- In May, 119,343 schoolchildren were reached through the national school feeding programme in WFP-assisted schools. On-site monitoring activities were cancelled during the last half of the month to not disrupt the school exam period, but remote monitoring and capacity strengthening of school canteen staff continued to enhance the management of school canteen warehouses and food conservation.

- As the first five years of the McGovern-Dole (MGD) programme is coming to an end, WFP organized a series of workshops in different project sites of the national school feeding programme. Under the programme, WFP provided school meals to 125,000 school children in 613 schools across 7 high-priority regions. In May, regional workshops took place in Bondoukou (north-east) and Man (west), while additional workshops will continue in June. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange on best practices and lessons learned from the first phase (2016-2020) in order to address shortcomings and improve implementation during the second phase (2021-2025), which will be launched through a national workshop in Abidjan in June. The workshops resulted in exchanges of productive discussions thanks to the very high attendance rate and active participation from all stakeholders.

- Under the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programme, 27 smallholder farmer groups were monitored to document the crop yield of the off-season harvest of vegetable crops and to strengthen social cohesion within the members of the group.

- WFP is closely monitoring the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in the northern and north-eastern regions that resulted in the displacements of over 500 people from Burkina Faso across the border to Côte d’Ivoire (Source: UNDSS Côte d’Ivoire). A meeting with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is planned to ensure a smooth coordination and timely response to assist the affected population.
Realities on the ground: Can the local products survive the competition from the imported ones?

Women in Côte d’Ivoire represent the majority of the labour force in the agriculture sector, especially for the production of vegetables, where they are considered the driving force. In the agriculture calendar, off-season starts from December with the planting of vegetable crops and lasts until May when the harvest period ends.

This year, as WFP-assisted smallholder women farmers prepared to harvest their onions which resulted in low yield due to lack of rainfall, they were confronted with another challenge. In March, massive imports of onions from Burkina Faso and Mali disrupted the market prices, being sold to wholesalers at 40 percent cheaper than the local products (Source: field monitoring report, WFP Côte d’Ivoire). In order to make a reasonable profit, farmers are forced to conserve their products for several months up until July when the stocks of competing products decline, and market prices stabilize back to normal. However, the reality is that most groups have not fully mastered the conservation techniques nor have access to appropriate equipment.

In the face of these realities, WFP continues to provide technical support and training of agricultural practices to these smallholder farmers, to improve their food production, post-harvest management and access to market information. WFP remains optimistic that the smallholder farmers and their crops will remain resilient throughout these challenges to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Donors

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