



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief June 2021



Operational Context

The Republic of Benin is a low-income West African country ranked 158 out of 189 countries on the 2020 Human Development Index report. The estimated population of 11.8 million is predominantly rural and juvenile, with an average age of 21 years. The quality of education and the school environment are poor, and in many rural districts the primary school enrolment rate remains below 50 percent, particularly among girls.

The agricultural sector, predominantly small fragmented farms with low productivity, employs around 70 percent of the population and contributes to 33 percent of the national gross domestic product.

Households spend on average 63 percent of their budget on food. Food insecurity mostly affects impoverished rural households, worsens during the lean season and increases after natural disasters such as the heavy floods that affect the country every rainy season. Benin is classified by RISK INFORM as the 36th nation most vulnerable to climate change out of 190 states considered.

In Benin, from 3 January 2020 to 9 July 2021, 8,227 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, including 105 deaths. As of 5 July 2021, a total of 46,108 vaccine doses have been administered.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.



In Numbers

1,805 mt of food assistance distributed in May 2021

USD 3.2 m six months net funding requirements (July-December 2021)

627,110 people assisted in May 2021



Visit in Benin of the First Lady of Burundi

- The Government of Benin and WFP Benin country office received, between 7 and 13 June a delegation of 22 people from Burundi and accompanied by Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of Burundi. The delegation was made up of the ministers of agriculture, education and environment, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from WFP.
- The purpose of the visit was to showcase the Beninese home-grown school feeding model to Burundian decision-makers and technicians, to help them develop an integrated school canteen program based on the Beninese experience.
- The delegation visited the school canteens of Fingnikanmè, Goulo-Sodji, Agontinmè and Dodji Ho (in southern Benin), production and processing sites for cereals (rice) in the Ouémé Valley and Adja Ouèrè (in southern Benin), as well as the Songhaï center, a recognized center of agricultural training and production. The school canteens' kitchens and improved stoves, dining halls, community gardens, income-generating activities around school canteens including the capacity building of businesses and society of farmers' organizations, and processing units (to transform local foods needed by school canteens) were all presented to the delegation.
- The first lady and her delegation left very satisfied with a roadmap drawn up on the actions to be carried out once back in Burundi. Among the actions were the development of a plea for an increase in the resources allocated to the school canteen program in Burundi, the development of activities focused on nutrition including through local food procurement to supply school canteens.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau

Main Photo: Two women preparing lunch for the schoolchildren

Credit: WFP/David CHENU

New partnership established for the school feeding programme

- Direct Aid is a Kuwaiti international humanitarian, social and development organization present in Benin since 1997. It works in several areas, including education, sustainable socioeconomic development, poverty reduction, access to drinking water and the provision of primary health care.
- Through this new 3-year partnership with Direct Aid, the two organizations aim to:
 - Support the creation of drinking water points in schools with school canteens.
 - Increase provision of first aid, health, and socio-health services for the benefit of schoolchildren and stakeholders in schools with school canteens.
 - Support income-generating and microcredit activity programs for women's groups around school canteens.
 - Increase awareness on the importance of schooling and keeping children in school, especially girls.

Benin Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)

- WFP Benin, in close collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE), is preparing to carry out the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA 2021)¹, by following a rigorous methodology with a representative sample of 26,000 households in the 77 municipalities of the country.
- More specifically, it involves observing the profile of food insecure households, identifying the regions where these vulnerable households live, and analyzing different aspects, including: the functioning of markets and impacts on households' food security, the coping strategies adopted by households when facing shocks, as well as the consequences that may result from these coping strategies adopted by households on their resilience. The objective is to propose strategies to improve household food and nutrition security by analyzing the typology of the food system and its main root causes.
- The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA 2021) will map the current situation of food and nutritional insecurity in the country's municipalities and its evolution in relation to the data from the CFSVA 2017, with a focus on the food system.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Permanent Secretariat of the Food and Nutrition Council, FAO, IFAD and UNICEF will be associated with this 6-month study.

¹ In French : AGVSAN (Analyse Globale de la Vulnérabilité, de la Sécurité Alimentaire et de la Nutrition)

Donors

Top five donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan include the Government of Benin, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and the Choithram Foundation.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
33 m	10 m	3.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable population including school-aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year-round
Focus area: Root causes

Activity:

- Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable population including children under 5, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G) in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national target by 2023
Focus area: Root causes

Activity:

- Provide specialised nutritious food to children and PLWG to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender-sensitive behaviour-change.

Strategic Result 3: Institutional capacity-strengthening

Strategic Outcome 3: National and local institutions in Benin have increased capacity to implement an integrated school feeding programme and to achieve food security by 2023.
Focus area: Root causes

Activity:

- Provide technical assistance and policy support, including through South-South cooperation, to local and national institutions in the areas of gender-sensitive school feeding, food security, and emergency food preparedness and response.

Strategic Result 4: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 4: Crisis-affected populations in Benin can meet their basic food and nutrition requirements in the aftermath of shocks.
Focus area: Crisis response

Activity:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity and coordination among national partners in responding to crisis as a contingency measure.



Photo: Burundi delegation visits a school garden in southern Benin. WFP/David CHENU