



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP GHANA

Country Brief

MARCH, 2021



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of over 31.7 million 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 of March 2021 is 2,410. The Government of Ghana instituted a national plan and budget to respond to COVID-19. The global confirmed cases as of March 2021 was 219m. 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

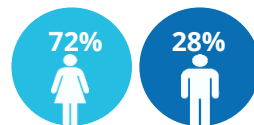
In Numbers

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 13 m six months (April -September) net funding requirements

32,132 beneficiaries received direct food assistance through vouchers in March 2021.



Operational Updates

- WFP organized a retailer performance review and refresher training on both the Stunting Prevention Programme (SPP) and the DSM Project in Bosomtwe and Asokore Mampong districts in the Ashanti Region. The meeting created a platform for discussions on implementation, challenges, knowledge sharing, best practices, and strategy to improve redemptions.
- The implementation of the retail project has so far led to some desirable outcomes including the introduction of sale of local nutritious food at the retail outlet, and three fortified products supplied to retailers for commercial sales. A retailer performance review meeting helped review the progress of the retail project and help address problems that have the potential of affecting the project. It was also used to provide feedback on the sales data collection and resolution of IT/TEC related challenges with tablets used in data collection.
- Trainings on Climate Smart Agriculture and gender mainstreaming in Agriculture value chains:** The trainings were conducted in four regions: Ashanti, Bono East, Upper West, and Upper East in two phases. The first phase targeted Agriculture extension Agents (Training of Trainers) and had a total of 57 Agriculture Extension Agents trained. The second phase entailed step-down trainings where the trained Agriculture Extension Agents trained farmers at the community level in their respective districts. A total of 17,608 farmers were trained out of 16,000 targeted in the four regions (110 percent achievement under this activity).

Contact info: Emma Anaman (emma.anaman@wfp.org)
Country Director: Rukia Yacoub
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/ghana
Main photo: Local nutritious food being displayed for sale
Credit: Shaibu Osman (DSM Lead)

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	2.9 m	13 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 Result 1: SR 1 – Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

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

Remote monitoring was conducted to follow up on food distribution and the Adolescent girl nutrition intervention clinic. A total of 52 distribution sites were followed up remotely via phone calls and social media to track progress of activities.

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.