



WFP GHANA

Country Brief

AUGUST 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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).

Preliminary findings from the nationwide Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) conducted in Dec 2020 revealed that about 12 percent of the population are food insecure and of which most affected households are found in the Northern part of Ghana.

In relation to COVID 19, The number of active cases as of August 2021 is 1,139. The Government of Ghana instituted a national plan and budget to respond to COVID-19. 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 7 m six months (August 2021 -January 2022) net funding requirements

4,591 beneficiaries received direct food assistance through vouchers for the nutrition programme in August 2021.



Operational Updates

The visit of the WFP Regional Director from the regional Bureau of Dakar, Mr. Chris Nikoi and the farewell tour of WFP Ghana's Representative and Country Director, Ms. Rukia Yacoub took place in August. As part of the agenda, both paid a courtesy call on the Northern Regional Director of Agric; participated in and handed-over silos to selected smallholder farmers; visited a health facility and witnessed ANC (Antenatal Care) and CWC (Child Welfare), interacted with health staff and beneficiaries; visited and interacted with a DSM (Dutch states mines) retailer; as well as a medium scale food processor, all in the Sagnerigu Municipality of the Northern region.

UN Food Systems Summit: WFP provided support in facilitating National and sub-national dialogues, particularly under action track 5-building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress. WFP is represented in the National Technical Working Group on Food systems and continues to provide technical support in development of various documents including the government's commitment paper, food systems transformation pathways, among others.

WFP supported the construction and installation of equipment for Songtaa Tie Taa Enterprise, a medium scale processor based on Eremon in the Lawra Municipality of the Upper West Region. In addition, two aggregator preselection workshops were organised in Tamale and Techiman. The two workshops were attended by 24 participants including 18 aggregators, three regional department of agriculture staff from Bono East and Ashanti Regions including Regional Director for Bono East and three staff from Sesi Technology.

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Main photo: Regional Directors' mission to Ghana
Credit: Derrick Botchway (Communication Assistant)
Caption: Handing over of silos to MOFA.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20 m	8.8 m	7 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

Remote monitoring was conducted to follow up on food distributions. Overall, 49 distribution sites were followed up remotely via phone calls and social media (WhatsApp) to track progress of activities.

Preliminary results from the CFSVA have been validated by key stakeholders in the food and nutrition sector and the final report would be launched in November 2021. Mid-Term Review of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) is in the process with recruitment of external consultant, and this will take off between October to December 2021. Ghana and Togo COs are exploring the possibility of working with Centre for Technology and Economic Development (CTED) based in Kumawu, Ghana on the use of technology in promoting research and also the innovation in addressing marketing challenges using the MarketPlace mobile App.

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.