WFP Côte d’Ivoire
Country Brief
November 2021

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 (39.4 percent) continues to live under the poverty line (EHCVM, INS, 2018). The Cadre Harmonisé study conducted in October 2021 revealed that 6 percent (944,561 people) are classified in the emergency crisis phase who will need urgent emergency intervention. Further, a study by ENV (2015) showed that the percentage of women living under poverty is 45.9 percent and that of men is 46.4 percent.

As of November 2021, there has been improvement in the covid-19 related health situation in Côte d’Ivoire with 61,758 registered confirmed cases, 60,797 cured cases, 704 deaths, and 251 active cases with 4,526,040 doses of vaccine administered since March 1, 2021.

Since 1969, WFP Côte d’Ivoire has been providing support in alignment with the national context focusing on development and humanitarian 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 a higher concentration of food insecure and vulnerable populations.

In Numbers

20,922 MT of food assistance distributed.

USD 0 cash-based transfers made.

USD 3.4 m six months (December 2021 – May 2022) net funding requirements.

32,222 people assisted in November 2021.

Gender Inequality Index: 62 out of 189 countries

Operational Updates

• In November, 32,222 students (68 percent of girls and 32 percent of boys) benefitted from 20,922mt of assorted food commodities provided through the school canteens. The school canteen coverage during the month account for around 26 percent of 125,000 total planned students to benefit from the school canteen programme.

• Cadre Harmonisé study conducted in October 2021 revealed that 6 percent of the total population (944,561 people) in Côte d’Ivoire are classified in the emergency crisis phase and will need urgent emergency intervention.

• WFP organized a five-day workshop from 29 November to 2 December 2021 during which Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for resilience projects were developed. The workshop was attended by WFP’s partners involved in resilience projects; Direction des Cantines Scolaires (DCS), Ministry of Agriculture (MEMINADER) and ANADER. These SOPs would serve as a framework for the implementation of the Mc Govern-Dole project component related to supporting smallholders’ farmers groups.

• The baseline evaluation of the Mc Govern-Dole 2015-2020 project and the final evaluation of the former McGovern Dole phase are currently underway. The Evaluation company IMPAQ international trained the enumerators and field-tested the data collection tools, under the supervision of WFP and its partners, Association des Volontaires pour le Service International (AVSI) and the Direction des Cantines Scolaires (DCS).

• WFP provided technical support to the ministry of agriculture while it conducted the “Cadre harmonisé” investigation for food security assessment and the “Dispositif de Suivi de la Sécurité Alimentaire (DISSA)”.

• WFP Health supply chain unit continued to support the central medical store (NPSP), a branch of the ministry of health, to improve its fleet management system and optimize its distribution network. The first draft of key performance indicators has been submitted to the NPSP. Additionally, the emergency preparedness tool of the ministry of health has been fully reviewed as a first step towards preparation of a pandemic response.

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Main photo: WFP Côte d’Ivoire/Souleymane Berthe
Caption: WFP staff visiting a tomato harvesting site in a hydroponic field
Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities:</strong> Provide school meals, take-home rations complementary services to primary-school-age children during the school year and promote the purchase of locally produced food for school meals and initiative of rice fortification project.</td>
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<th>Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition</th>
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<td><strong>Activities:</strong> 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.</td>
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<th>Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems</th>
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<td><strong>Activities:</strong> 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.</td>
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<th>Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities</th>
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<td><strong>Activities:</strong> 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 farmer groups' activities.</td>
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### 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

### 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

### Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable food-insecure populations in targeted areas – particularly children, women of child-bearing age and people living with HIV – have improved nutritional status by 2023

**Focus area:** Root causes

### Strategic Outcome 4: Targeted populations and communities have stronger livelihoods, are more resilient to climate and other shocks, and benefit from more efficient and equitable value chains and sustainable food systems by 2023

**Focus area:** Resilience building

### Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have strengthened their capacity to better target and manage food security, nutrition, and social protection programmes by 2023

**Focus area:** Root causes

### Activities Outcome 5

Provide technical support to national partners in their efforts to address school feeding, food security, nutrition, social protection and emergency preparedness and response.

### Story: Christelle a HIV positive CBT beneficiary

430,000 people are living with HIV in Côte d’Ivoire, making it the second highest adult HIV prevalence rate in West Africa. Out of this figure, 270,000 people are on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in the country.

Christelle aged 38, is a widow and single mother of two kids who also receives support from WFP Cash Based Transfer (CBT) and UNAIDS. She sells fruits in Abobot, the second largest commune in Abidjan with its 1.5 million inhabitants. Her little wooden kiosk occupies just a few meters in a tiny roadside in a location that does not attract customers. She had to hold on to that unfavourable business location because she couldn't afford to pay the rent of vendor spots in a market with flashy customers. Despite that, she used to earn enough for herself and her son and daughter. However, when the Coronavirus pandemic hit the country in 2020, the situation turned critical. The people and vehicles that used to be her customers withered and the few ones passing by were even afraid to buy because they feared they would contract the COVID-19, and above the fear, people's behaviour changed to spending sparingly as there were no jobs. “She was cash-strapped,” and entered a situation of hopelessness.

For Christelle, this hopelessness was like the crisis she experienced five years ago, when she first contracted HIV. Back then, she worked as a tailor, but she had to stop tailoring because she had an allergic reaction to the anti-viral drugs, she took to treat her new disease that affected her eyesight. She couldn't see the threads and needles anymore. This prompted her to change to a new job by using part of the cash she received from WFP under its HIV programme as capital to start her fruit selling business. This fruit selling business helped her earn a daily income, although thinner than before, but at least sufficient to meet her families' daily nutritional needs, pay for medical treatment and pay the school fees of her two children. She compared her happiness when she received support from WFP to “someone breathing fresh air in the morning in a beautiful and calm environment.”

### Challenges

The delay in the registration process of “Direction des Cantines Scolaires” (DCS) and “Agence Nationale pour le Développement Rural” (ANADER), in the US Government system called System for Awards Management (SAM) will impact the smooth and timely running of the school canteen in the first semester.

### Donors

Top donors to WFP Côte d’Ivoire Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 include USA, private donors, UN other Funds and Agencies and ECOWAS. Additional support has been provided by the UN.