**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.

In Benin, as of 7 January 2022, there have been 25,522 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 161 deaths. In addition, as of 3 January 2022, a total of 1,897,214 vaccine doses have been administered. It represents 12 percent of the population (Benin - COVID-19 Overview - Johns Hopkins (jhu.edu)).

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.

**In Numbers**

1,858 mt of food assistance distributed in 3,848 schools in December 2021

USD 1.3 M six months net funding requirements (January-June 2022)

686,318 people assisted in December 2021*

*figures to be finalized

**Operational Updates**

**School feeding**

- WFP completed the delivery of food supplies to all beneficiary schools for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, which represents 3,848 schools and 686,318 school children supported, among which 46 percent of girls and 54 percent of boys.
- From 14 to 15 December 2021, WFP participated in a joint mission between the technical and financial partners of the education sector and the Ministry of preschool and primary education (MEMP) in the departments of Couffo and Zou. Its objective was to monitor the implementation of activities and discuss synergies opportunities among stakeholders.
- The official handover to Goulo Sodzi public primary school of a canteen and refectory funded by Moov Africa Foundation was organized on 17 December 2021.
- In October 2021, WFP received an official notification from the Government’s National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI) extending WFP’s school feeding programme reach from 51 to 75 percent of schools in Benin. The number of assisted schools will increase from 3,850 to about 5,500 schools. WFP has developed and is implementing an integrated roadmap to ensure a successful operation.

**Capacity strengthening and knowledge management**

- The Government and WFP Benin Country Office received, between 7 and 13 June 2021, a high-level delegation of 22 people from Burundi headed 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. After its finalization, the visit report was disseminated in December 2021.
- Capitalising on previous Benin experiences and as part of the extension activities of the National Integrated School Feeding Programme, a training manual for school canteen trainers has been developed in December 2021.
- In the framework of institutional capacity building, WFP is supporting the Government of Benin in the development of a law in favour of school feeding. In December, the terms of reference and the roadmap for the activity were finalized jointly with the Government and with the assistance of CERFAM.
### WFP Country Strategy

#### Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2021 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>1.3 m</td>
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**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 (PLWG) 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.

- WFP commissioned in 2021 a study on the nutritional status of school children. The final report was presented on 16 December 2021. The overall finding of this study is that global malnutrition combined with anaemia and vitamin A deficiency is a serious public health problem in almost all the target schools.

### Emergency response

- The COVID-19 Borgou/Alibori Resilience Project (RECOBA) aims to provide humanitarian assistance to the populations of these departments affected by recurrent flooding and the effects of COVID-19.
- For this project, WFP implemented its first CBT operations and assisted 3,233 mothers with children aged 6-23 months and 993 households in the 25 villages of Karimama and Malanville. The Post Distribution Monitoring survey was completed. The results will be available in February 2022.

### Partnerships

- WFP is actively strengthening and expanding its strategic partnerships to ensure Benin’s achievements are preserved in the long term. WFP key focus areas are smallholder agricultural market support, the home-grown school feeding model, the development of a national law on school feeding and long-term financing mechanisms.
- On 13 December 2021, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Her Excellency Madam Catharina Geertuïda Maria Tjoelker-Kleve, received WFP Country Director. This meeting aimed to formalise the collaboration between WFP and the Wageningen University in the framework of the development of the home-grown school feeding model. They also discussed the comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis 2021, funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The data collection will begin in January 2022.
- On 22 December 2021, the Country Director met with His Excellency M. Marc Vizy, Ambassador of France. The objective was to present WFP’s activities and explore partnerships opportunities, in particular a collaboration with research organisations CIRAD and IRD in the framework of the development of the home-grown school feeding model.

### Security

Benin recorded terrorist attacks on 1 December and 22 December 2021 near the border with Burkina Faso, resulting in 5 dead and 2 seriously injured on the side of the military and 2 dead on the side of the attackers.

### Donors

The top five donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) are the Government of Benin, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and China.