



World Food Programme

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# WFP Benin Country Brief July 2022



## 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 old. 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 for 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 36<sup>th</sup> nation most vulnerable to climate change out of 190.

In Benin, as of 5 August 2022, there have been 27,316 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 163 deaths. As of 3 July, a total of 3,681,560 vaccine doses have been administered and 22.8 percent of the population was vaccinated ([covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/bj](https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/bj)).

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.



Population: **11.8 million**

Income level: **lower**

2020 Human Development Index: **158 out of 189**

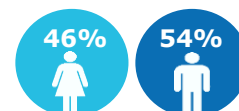
Gender inequality index 2020: **158 out of 189**

## In Numbers

**2,404** mt of food distributed in 5,332 schools in June 2022

**USD 2.5 m** six months net funding requirements (August 2022-January 2023)

**954,906** beneficiaries assisted in June 2022



## Operational Updates

- In June 2022, WFP supported school canteens operations in 5,332 schools and 954,906 school children (46 percent girls and 54 percent boys). In July 2022, no school canteens activity was conducted as it was the holidays. WFP completed its food allocation plan for the first quarter of the next school year.
- In July, cooperating partners collected monitoring data for all schools and produced June 2022 reports via MODA, the monitoring tool. In collaboration with the communities, WFP has planned for adequate storage of the remaining products to avoid losses at the beginning of the next school year.
- WFP in-country school feeding activities are implemented by local non-governmental cooperating partners, who support the community mobilization, implementation, and monitoring of activities. For the 2022-2023 school year, WFP developed an integrated roadmap, including the recruitment of cooperating partners. In July, twenty-seven cooperating partners made applications on the UN Partners Portal. WFP will conduct the assessment of the bids in August.
- Smallholder farmers are essential to the sustainability of WFP school feeding activities and emergency response. In this regard, WFP trained approximately 500 smallholder farmers, (39 percent women), on its requirements to enable local food procurement. In May, they committed to supplying 4000 mt of maize for WFP school meals, which the WFP superintendent verified as good quality. In July 2022, the analyses showed that products comply with WFP's standards. WFP will finalise the procurement process in August.
- WFP is implementing the "Emergency food assistance in Benin in response to COVID-19 and natural disaster" project which supports 50,000 beneficiaries of Athieme, (Oueme), Adjohoun, Aguegues, and Dangbo (Mono). In June, WFP assisted 85 percent of the target. From 18 to 22 July, WFP carried out the final phase of food distribution and assisted the remaining 15 percent.
- Since March 2021, WFP commissioned the final decentralized evaluation of its school meals programme whose report was jointly approved in July with the Ministry of Preschool and Primary education. The evaluation concluded that the programme met its objectives to provide school-aged children with adequate nutritious meals every school day and to improve school enrolment and retention. The key recommendations included improving the food delivery chain and the following steps are response management and dissemination.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/benin](http://www.wfp.org/countries/benin)

**Photo:** Food distribution ceremony at Adjohoun

**Credit:** WFP Benin

Since 2021, WFP, supported by the Centre of Excellence for the Fight against Hunger in Brazil, has been implementing the "Beyond Cotton" project, which aims to strengthen the capacities of smallholder farmers and facilitate the supply of food for school canteens. In July, WFP trained 182 farmers in the communes of Banikoara, Boukombé, Kandi, and Malanville to produce maize, beans, and rice. It will improve their performance and increase the food quality. In August, the training will focus on organic fertilization, soil fertility, and pest management.



**Photo:** Farmers Field Schools at Bokombé.  
**Credit:** WFP Benin

## Monitoring

- In June 2022, WFP and its cooperating partners visited 5,245 primary schools out of 5,332 (99 percent of monitoring). The main issue identified was the students' parents' low commitment to supporting the operations of the canteens in most of the new schools. They carried out awareness-raising activities with parents' committees, canteen management committees, and local authorities to enhance their full involvement.
- WFP is working at establishing an inter-agency complaint and feedback mechanism to support the school feeding program and any other program supported by WFP or other UN agencies.

## Challenges

- Insecurity persists in the North. On 26 July 2022, explosive devices hit a military patrol in Parc W. This situation may restrict WFP's monitoring activities. To better monitor the security condition, a new Security Officer has been hired and will take office next month.
- Scarcity of cereals and beans on the local and international market is seriously affecting the school canteens' operations because it prevents WFP suppliers from delivering on-time commodities for the next school year. WFP emphasizes strengthening smallholder farmers' technical and material capacity to enhance local procurement and further promote rural economies.

## Donors

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

### Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
34.5 m	48.3 m	2.5 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 and improved inclusive systems to achieve SDG 2 including for integrated school meals and 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 of national partners on emergency response and coordination.