Operational Context

Based on the last 2021 general population and housing census (RGPH), the population living in Côte d'Ivoire is estimated at 29.4 million. According to the African Economic Outlook (2021) Côte d'Ivoire's has rebounded strongly with a real growth of 6.2 percent in 2021 compared to 1.96 percent in 2020. Despite the robust economic growth, the Cadre Harmonisé study conducted in March 2022 revealed that 4 percent of the population (662,002 people) is classified in the emergency crisis phase and will need urgent emergency intervention. However, the food security study conducted by Sava (2018) exposed that Côte d'Ivoire's food insecurity is 10.8 percent. 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.

On Covid-19, as of 31 July 2022, Côte d'Ivoire had 85,363 confirmed cases, out of which 84,448 people cured, 811 deaths, and 104 active cases and a total of 17,322,856 doses of vaccine were administered by that date.

Since 1968, 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 people.

Operational Updates

- Important steps have been taken in rice fortification in Côte d'Ivoire. The mixture of rice and kernel for the acceptability study sample has been completed, and thus, 450 kg of local rice and 450 kg of imported rice were fortified. The recruitment of the consultant to conduct the feasibility study is still ongoing. In parallel, discussions are underway with stakeholders to implement the pilot phase. The Agency for the Development of the Rice Sector (ADERIZ) in Côte d'Ivoire has agreed to supply 250 metric tons of local rice, two industrial grain blending units, and to contact private processors in the local rice sector for the distribution of fortified rice.

- The report on the Cost of Hunger in Côte d'Ivoire (COHA) has been transmitted by the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Focal Point to the Vice-President of Côte d'Ivoire for validation by the technical ministries concerned.

- In order to prepare for a potential cash response to food insecurity in northern Côte d'Ivoire, a Market Functionality Index assessment covering 99 markets and 985 traders in six regions, was conducted from 20 June to 7 July 2022. Preliminary results according to the nine dimensions are satisfactory for assortment (8.7), availability (9.6), resilience (7.7), competitiveness (9.4), quality (7.9), and access-protection (9.7), while weaknesses remain for the dimensions relating to prices (6), infrastructure (5.9) and services (4.6).

- WFP in collaboration with the Direction des Cantines Scolaires de Côte d'Ivoire (DCS) organized a technical meeting to respond to the recommendations of the mini-workshop on the estimation of the cost of retrocession of 613 schools assisted by WFP held on 29 June 2022.

- Women farmer groups assisted by WFP have harvested 10mt of tomatoes in July. WFP and the Bureau de Vente des Produits (BVP) facilitated market access and enabled the commercialization of 8 mt to wholesalers.

- 75 culinary sessions have been conducted by the NGO WOPILE SANGA in forty villages in northern Côte d'Ivoire, with the participation of 500 women, out of whom ten were pregnant and 32 were breastfeeding.

In Numbers

USD 3,3 m six months (Sept 2022 - Feb 2023) net funding requirements.
The Country Office participated in a workshop, organized by the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection in partnership with FAO and Inclusive Guarantee on 14 and 15 July 2022 in Abidjan, to capitalize on the pilot project results to extend social protection to informal rural workers in Côte d’Ivoire. The workshop brought together 60 participants and aimed at reviewing the progress of the FAO/RAF/3703 technical cooperation project. It enabled the consolidation of good practices and encouraged the adhesion and contribution of all stakeholders to the implementation of a programme for the extension and monitoring of social protection initiatives in the agricultural and informal sectors in Côte d’Ivoire.

**Challenges**

- The availability of funding for emergency response is a challenge for WFP while the country enters the lean season and suffers from prices increase.
- Funding challenges may prevent WFP from delivering on its commitment toward sustainability and local sourcing of school meals to complement the McGovern Dole funding. An estimated USD 800,000 is needed to fill the gap and initiate the complementary activities planned.

**Donors**

Top donors to WFP Côte d’Ivoire Country Strategic Plan 2019-2025 include the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, ECOWAS, private donors, and the United States of America. Additional support has been provided by the UN.