In Numbers

- **5,000 beneficiaries** received direct food assistance through vouchers in September 2022
- **USD 4 million** six-month (October 2022 – March 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In Karaga district where the food assistance component of the nutrition programme will take place, 12 retailers were trained in preparation for distributions in October. In addition, 5000 beneficiaries were supported in the district to improve their livelihoods. They were trained in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and trades of their choice.
- In 40 districts across the country, staff of the Ghana Health Service have received additional training in Social and Behaviour Change Communication and are targeting communities and caregivers with nutrition and health messages. Ghana Health Service staff are further training 2,400 district staff who will be promoting healthy eating and lifestyle choices.
- Strategic engagements were held with government and private sector partners on the upcoming pilot of a rice fortification project. The pilot, which will be implemented in selected districts seeks to improve nutrient quality of school meals using fortified rice and other locally available nutritious foods. It will be complemented with Social and Behaviour Change Communication messages to create demand for nutritious school meals. The engagement with government and private sector was to solicit their buy-in of the project and for ownership.
- Arrangements have been made to finalize the communities and medium-scale food processors in three Northern regions. Contractors have been hired to finalize the construction and installation of equipment for three processing units. The initial phase involved construction of improved buildings and support to improve the equipment for processing maize and soybeans blends. The second phase involved landscaping security fence, branding, sorting electrical issues and finding tuning to be processed machines to make ready for operation and commission.
- The Country Office conducted a value chain analysis, for three commodities (rice, maize and soybean) in preparation for the implementation of the MasterCard project. This involved the collection from six regions (out of nine targeted regions) and covering national agencies, smallholder farmers and other value chain actors.

Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income and food-deficit country, with an estimated population of 32,443,428 million in 2022 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, over 400,000 people in northern Ghana were projected to be in food security crisis, IPC 3 and 4, during this lean season in March-May 2022 (Cadre Harmonise, March 2022).

In relation to COVID 19, the number of active cases as of September 2022 in Ghana was 514. Not only COVID-19 pandemic but also the war in Ukraine and liquidity and debt challenges have had a negative impact on the economy. Global oil price rises, as well as the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi, are resulting in gradual price increases which could impact on the food security and nutrition of the citizens. The UN Country Team, including WFP, Ghana, is contributing to fund the gaps in the national response, based on each agency’s comparative advantage.

WFP’s interventions focus on using value 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, and capacity strengthening interventions to manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes. WFP has been present in Ghana since 1963.

Population: **32.4 million** (UNFPA 2022)
Income Level: **Lower middle**
2021 Human Development Index: **133 out of 191**
Chronic malnutrition: **18 percent of children between 6 – 59 months**

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Main photo: Rural women broadcasting fonio seed
Credit: Deric Botchway (Communication Assistant)
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**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 children and women of reproductive age in high burden regions; General Distribution; Modality: CBT & In-kind Food

Monitoring

- From the country office in 2022, no monitoring of distribution sites has taken place yet because distributions are yet to start for the Karaga intervention in Northern region.

Partnerhips

- 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.
- WFP and the Mastercard Foundation have embarked in March 2022 on a five-year programme to strengthen food systems to promote increased value chain employment opportunities for young people in vulnerable communities.

Donors: Donors to WFP Ghana CSP (2019-2022) include Canada, Japan, the Government of Ghana, Multilateral Funding and private donors.