



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ghana Country Brief September 2022



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)

2021 Human Development Index: **133 out of 191**

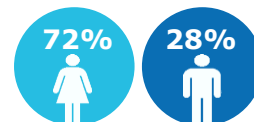
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18 percent of children between 6 – 59 months**

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.

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Main photo: Rural women broadcasting fonio seed

Credit: Deric Botchway (Communication Assistant)

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18 m	7.2 m	4 m

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable populations including children and women of reproductive age in high burden regions have improved nutritious status in line with National targets by 2025.

Activities:

- Provide cash and vouchers for specialized nutritious foods and/or micronutrient-dense fresh foods for vulnerable children aged 6-23 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women under government safety nets, and support the Ghana Health Service about social and behaviour change communication to promote healthy diets in high burden areas.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted populations and communities in Ghana benefit from more efficient, inclusive and resilient food systems that support nutrition value chains by 2030.

Activities:

- Provide technical support for community and industrial production of fortified flour and for food safety and quality assurance. This includes technical support on food safety and quality for up to 30 community milling and blending women's groups, and financial and technical support for two industrial fortified flour producers in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions.
- Provide support and Link smallholder farmers with the One District, One Warehouse programme by providing training and equipment to minimize post-harvest losses and facilitate quality assurance and market linkages with processors and institutional customers (SMS: Smallholder agricultural market support activities).

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 3: Local and national institutions have enhanced capacity to target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2030

Activities:

- Provide technical support, including through South-South cooperation, for the national school meals programme, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the National Disaster Management Organization, the Food and Drugs Authority and the Ghana Health Service to optimize the nutritional quality of school meals; food security monitoring; the early-warning system; disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, food safety and quality, and food-based dietary guidelines.

Strategic Result 6: Policy coherence

Strategic Outcome 4: Government efforts to achieve zero hunger by 2030 are supported by advocacy and coherent policy frameworks

Activities:

- Advocate for the promulgation and enforcement of policies and legislation on school feeding, gender equality, nutrition, food safety, weights, measures and standards, smallholder-friendly public procurement and market support (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)

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 COVID-19 crisis-affected patients in containment and quarantine centres, refugees, adolescent to girls to return to schools, and other vulnerable groups; 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.

Partnerships

- 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.