



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief December 2022



Operational Context

The Republic of Benin is a low-income West African country ranked 166 out of 191 countries on the 2021/2022 Human Development Index report. The estimated population of 11.5 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 30 percent of the national gross domestic product.

Benin is faced with various shocks, including floods, pockets of drought, rising prices, and the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors increase the vulnerability of the population to food insecurity and malnutrition. Malnutrition represents the greatest risk factor for mortality and morbidity among young children in Benin.

Food insecurity, which 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.

The results of the [November 2022 Cadre Harmonisé](#) reveal that of the 58 municipalities analyzed, 14 are in phase 2 (under pressure) and 44 in phase 1 (minimum) both in the current phase and in the projected phase (June, July and August 2023). 2.48 percent of the total population analyzed, is currently in phase 3 (crisis).



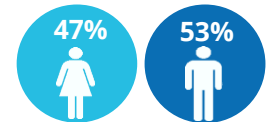
Population: 11.5 million
Income level: lower middle
2021 Human Development Index: 166 out of 191
2021 Gender inequality Index: 152 out of 170

In Numbers

1,089,403 people assisted in December 2022

2,269,62 mt of food assistance distributed in December 2022

USD 14.9 million six-month net funding requirements (December 2022 - May 2023)



Operational updates

- WFP continued to support the training for NGO agents as part of the National Integrated School Feeding Program (PNASI). The training sessions started last November and covered three main areas: Gender, Protection, and Accountability. On these matters, particular attention was given to gender-based violence, Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, Accountability to affected populations, and community Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (CFM).
- On 6 December, WFP organized and held a workshop with external stakeholders as part of the process of reviewing the Benin Country Strategic Plan (CSP). It brought together roughly 50 participants, representing the national government and state-owned bodies, relevant NGOs, development partners and other UN agencies. It enabled the identification of key activities to support the Government's national priorities according to strategic alignment.
- WFP contributed to the organization of cross-cutting activities addressing policy change and partnerships management with the support of an external team from Dakar Regional Bureau. These efforts led to the launch of a scoping mission held on 12-13 December to review and develop the new Benin Country Strategic Plan.
- On the sidelines of the PNASI, WFP held the second meeting of the Quadripartite Committee on 22 December. This meeting saw the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Maternal and Primary Education (MEMPE), the Education Unit of the Presidency, and other relevant NGOs. Discussions encompassed reviewing and updating activities carried out during the school year's first quarter.

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Main Photo: Participants to the workshop for market information collectors in Benin, 7-8 December 2022
Credit: WFP Benin

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
34 m	47.8 m	14.9 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 aged 24 – 59 months, 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 specialized 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 behavior-change.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacity

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 1: 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, during and after crises.

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.

Donors

Top five donors to the WFP Benin in 2022 include the Government of Benin, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and the Choithram Foundation.

WFP Regular Programmes

School Feeding

- WFP worked out the distribution plan of 4,353 mt of supplementary foodstuffs to meet the requirements for the second quarter of the 2022-2023 school year of more than 5185 schools.
- Procurement challenges related to the local unavailability of adequate maize and white cowpeas were observed during the first quarter.
- With the support of the Regional Bureau, WFP School Feeding Unit has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with regard to the operational planning of food and non-food distributions for school canteens, management of schools with canteens in at-risk areas, and reporting of food incidents.
- WFP will progressively launch the pilot phase of cash-based transfers in five communes, supporting the PNASI geared towards attaining a 100 percent national coverage rate.

Nutrition

- Following the launch of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Analysis in September, WFP supported the organization of a capacity-building workshop for market information collectors alongside CT-SAGSA (Chef Cellule Technique de Suivi et d'Appui à la Gestion de la Sécurité Alimentaire), the National Institution for Monitoring Market Prices. The three-day sessions engaged about 50 agents, among which the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStAD), the Directorate of Agricultural Statistics, and the Permanent Secretariat of the Food and Nutrition Council (SP-CAN) and resulted in a common and shared understanding of the methodology for calculating the Cost of Food (CotD). From January 2023, food prices will be collected nationwide in 68 markets.

Country Strengthening

- WFP benefited from Dakar Regional Bureau's support mission on capacity-building and development of the Benin school feeding model. The mission launched the drafting of a capacity-building strategy and informed the model's review and mapping of the "food supply system" block. The strategy is set to be refined in the months ahead.
- WFP facilitated discussions and exchanges with the technical committee set up for drafting the national law on school feeding in Benin. WFP will continue to monitor the drafting process and ensure that the contributions from key sectoral ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Nursery and Primary Education, Ministry of Finance, the Presidency) are integrated effectively into the draft of the national law.

Development of strategic partnerships

- WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health through the National Primary Health Care Agency (ANSSP), with the aim to pool efforts for the implementation of health and nutrition activities under the PNASI, to strengthen the provision of health services in terms of specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in health centers and community settings, and finally to contribute to the reduction of malnutrition across the country, particularly in emergency situations.