



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ghana Country Brief December 2022



Operational Context

Ghana is a lower middle-income country with a population of over 32 million in 2022 and a gross domestic product per capita of USD 2,445 in 2021. Despite progress 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 and 28 percent respectively. From June - August 2023, nearly 719,200 people are expected to be acutely food-insecure (IPC Phases 3 and 4), according to the November 2022 Cadre Harmonisé findings.

Persistent activity of non-state armed groups in the Sahel region, notably Mali and Burkina Faso, continues to threaten the peace and security of West African countries, including Ghana. More than 1,000 Burkinabe fled to Ghana in 2022, abandoning their homes and livelihoods due to violence.

The Ukraine crisis and debt and liquidity challenges have had a negative impact on the economy. Global oil price hikes, as well as the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi against major currencies are resulting in rapid increases in prices, which could impact the food security and nutrition of citizens. In 2022, Ghana recorded the highest food price inflation (122 percent) in sub-Saharan Africa, according to World Bank findings. Year-on-year consumer inflation was 54 percent in December 2022, according to the Ghana Statistical Service, the highest rate in 22 years. At the close of December 2022, the local currency was exchanged at a high of GHS 12 to 1 USD.

Supporting Ghana during this complex period, WFP's interventions include the provision of 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

2021 Human Development Index: **133 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 42,000 in vouchers redeemed

3,053 people assisted in December 2022

USD 5.5 million six-month net funding requirement (January 2023 - June 2023)



Operational Updates

WFP's operational activities focused largely on nutrition support to at-risk households, advocating for improved food systems, and resilience-building in consultation with internal and external partners. WFP continues to transition from its role as an implementor in Ghana to a facilitator or convenor of transformative activities. WFP undertook its third distribution under a stunting prevention pilot in Karaga, Northern Region where malnutrition rates are above 30 percent according to the Ghana Health and Demographic Survey. An estimated 33 percent of children in the region are stunted and 17 percent more are either underweight or wasted (low weight for height).

To combat malnutrition among at-risk groups, WFP provided value vouchers to more than 3,000 caretakers of children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and adolescent girls at-risk of malnutrition. Nearly 2,000 caretakers of children received monthly vouchers valued at USD 7 for supplementary feeding of a small child, while over 900 PLW and over 200 adolescent girls of childbearing age were issued monthly vouchers valued at USD 16. Working hand-in-hand with retailers in the region, vouchers were redeemed for nutritious local foods and KOKOPlus, a micro-nutrient powder aimed at children aged 6-23 months.

Yedent, manufacturers of KOKOPlus on behalf of KOKOPlus and Ajinomoto foundations, previously received technical and financial support from WFP to construct a multi-use greenfield food manufacturing plant. KOKOPlus, a protein-micronutrient powder is commercially available, relatively affordable at GHS0.60 (USD .05 cents) per sachet, and meets the basic nutrition needs of vulnerable children.

In December, WFP continued to provide technical support to another Ghanaian company Premium Foods Limited, to shore up their supply of specialized nutritious food (Super Cereal) to humanitarian operations in West Africa and across the world. The operations faced issues with finished goods storage capacity, intermittently hindering the flow of goods. Nearly 5,700 tonnes of nutritious foods valued at USD 7.5 million have been procured by WFP since 2021.

WFP Ghana organized the maiden edition of "Youth Linkup Against Hunger," an annual youth-led event that brought together 190 young people to dialogue on issues related to food and nutrition security in Ghana. The discussions focused on the role of youth in food and nutrition security and explored the challenges and opportunities facing young people in the sector. Panelists shared their views on the importance of applying technology to help overcome industry challenges including the affordability of feed, fertilizer, start-up capital, and land availability. The event generated over 31,000 Twitter messages, trending for the day.

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Photo: Participants raised a series of questions during the panel discussion during WFP's Youth Link Up in December, 2022. Derrick Botchway/WFP Ghana

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
15.4m	7.2 m	5.5 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: SR 1 - Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

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 and Assessments

WFP undertook beneficiary selection activities in regions targeted under the MasterCard Foundation Project geared at post-harvest loss reduction. The team visited Upper East, Upper West, Savannah, North East, Bono, Bono East, Eastern, Ashanti, Volta, and Oti regions. In collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, local authorities, and traditional leadership and farmer-based organizations, WFP selected 7,317 individuals (31 percent men, 69 percent women), specifically farmers, processors and aggregators who met the beneficiary criteria (such as access to land, vulnerability). Further community-level verification and targeting will be undertaken ahead of final inclusion of these individuals in the project, to minimize inclusion and exclusion errors. In other food system support activities, WFP issued agricultural equipment including threshers, weighing scales, tricycles, moisture meters and tarpaulins to 17 aggregators across 6 regions, facilitating productive activities.

WFP provided support to the Government of Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture's Statistics, Research and Information Directorate (MOFA-SRID) and Ghana Health Service (GHS) to conduct the quarterly Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS). The food security component of the exercise was upscaled from 60 to 120 districts in Ghana. WFP and UNICEF also supported a nationwide upscale of the nutrition component to all 262 districts in Ghana. Preliminary findings of the FSNMS showed that about one in every five households (21 percent) had inadequate diets (poor and borderline food consumption). Moreover, 35 percent of the surveyed households rely on markets for their cereals and tubers, hence, the soaring prices of food commodities pose a risk for food security due to their weakened purchasing power. 40 percent of the surveyed households have either adopted food or livelihood-based coping strategies to meet their food needs such as ration cuts, consumption of less preferred or less expensive food and sale of assets. Sustained adoption of these strategies heightens the risk of malnutrition and economic vulnerability of the most affected households, due to their negative impact on future productivity. The final report for the FSNMS is expected in January 2023.

Challenges

Escalating inflation has affected WFP's operations nationwide, leading to increased operational costs and affecting the value and impact of cash-based transfers. WFP Ghana has instituted a work from home option for national staff twice a week to mitigate the high transportation costs for those who are profoundly affected by the high cost of living in Accra and Tamale.

Donors

Canada, Ghana, Japan, MasterCard Foundation, Metro AG, Rockefeller Foundation, Royal DSM.