Operational Context

Despite progress in reducing malnutrition in Ghana at the national level, high rates of poverty and stunting persist in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone, at 21 and 28 percent respectively. Nearly 1.5 million people (4.5 percent of the population analysed), are food insecure in Phases 3 and 4 of the Cadre Harmonisé. The 1.37 million people represent a 119 percent increase compared to the historical trends and post-COVID-19 projections in 2021. 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. As of June 2023, Ghana recorded an influx of over 4000 asylum seekers abandoning their homes and livelihoods due to violence.

Data from the Ghana Statistical Service shows a 54.20 percent food inflation in June 2023. 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.

Operational Updates

- **Farmers Support Activity (FSA):** WFP launched its FSA thanks to USAID support. This project aims to strengthen the resilience of 17,000 smallholder farmers in Upper East, Upper West, Northeast and Northern regions of northern Ghana. Through this project, WFP also intends to preserve the agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers and prevent them from resorting to negative coping mechanisms that may compromise household food security. The selected productive farmers in USAID’s Zones of Influence districts with at least one acre of landholding, will receive a total cash transfer of US$ 315 equivalents to 3,465 Ghanaian cedis (GHC) via mobile money between June and August. In addition, WFP will also enhance awareness and capacity of smallholder farmers on good agronomic practices. As of 30 June, WFP had transferred US$ 3.1 million (GHC 34.1 million) to 16,125 farmers to meet their immediate agricultural needs.

- **Nutrition Livelihood Intervention:** With support from WFP, the Savanna Women Integrated Development Agency distributed 3,000 boxes of liquid organic fertiliser to village savings and loan associations’ beneficiaries to cultivate about 2,065 acres of land during the farming season (March-August) to enhance their yield. Crops cultivated included maize, rice, soya beans, groundnuts, and vegetables. Some 180,000 vines of orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP) were also distributed to 1,500 village savings and loan associations’ members for cultivation and 12 OFSP vine production centres were established to sustainably enhance their household vitamin A intake.

- **School-meal Programme:** The WFP Rockefeller Foundation project dubbed “Catalysing Good Food through School Feeding Programme” is being piloted across 12 selected schools in Ghana. After a nationwide landscape analysis of the rice value chain, a dissemination workshop was organised in June which drew participants from the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP), the Savanna Agricultural Research Institution of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-SARI), the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Academia, and rice processors, among others.

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Photo Caption: A WFP Farmer support activity beneficiary displaying his entitlement at the launch of the intervention. WFP/Derrick Botchway

In Numbers

20,490 people assisted

US$ 3,119,718 of cash-based transfers made

US$ 5.4 million six-month (July–December 2023) net funding requirements
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94.1 million</td>
<td>46.3 million</td>
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2023 Requirements (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (July - December 2023)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.4 million</td>
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</tbody>
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Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 5: Crisis-affected populations can meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: Crisis Response

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 school and other vulnerable groups.
- It came out strongly that a relatively higher proportion of rice processors are willing to engage in the fortification of rice and other whole grains when given the needed support by WFP and other partners.

Monitoring

- Market Price Monitoring: Ghana’s year-on-year inflation rate increased for the first time since the beginning of the year to 42.2 percent in May from 41.2 percent in April. Food, housing, and transportation, remain the major drivers of the increased inflation rate.
- Prices for key staples and agricultural inputs experienced moderate to significant increases in May compared with April. The average monthly prices of key staples, such as maize and rice, were over 50 percent higher when compared with May 2022 and over 120 percent when compared with the five-year average.

Voice the field

Being a lab technician in a WFP-assisted agro-processing firm like Yedent Agro Group of Companies is an exciting opportunity for young people to contribute to this important sector.

Maame-Yaa Ofori
Food Safety and Quality Assurance Officer. Yedent

Donors

Donors to WFP Ghana CSP (2019 – 2023) include Australia, Canada, France, Ghana, Japan, Private Donors, Rockefeller Foundation, Master Card Foundation, UN Other Funds and Agencies and the United States of America.