



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief July 2023



In Numbers

15,000 people to receive emergency assistance in the next two months.

9,300 mt of food assistance distributed since January 2023.

US\$ 23 million six-month (August 2023 – January 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Benin remains a relatively stable country with a culture of peaceful transition of power since 1990. Benin faces the threat of a spill-over of the conflict in Central Sahel and organized transnational crime. The quality of education and the school environment is 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 effects of 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. As per the 2023 March Cadre Harmonisé, some 547,422 people are estimated to be facing acute food insecurity i.e. in Phase 3+ (i.e. 4.21 percent of the population analysed). These people require immediate food assistance and livelihood protection. The impact of insecurity from the Central Sahel (mainly from Burkina Faso) to the coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) including Benin has become very high and already started to materialize with violent attacks on the border of the northern regions, leading to internal population movements.

WFP has been present in the country since 1964.



Income Level: **Lower middle**

2021 Human Development Index: **166 out of 191**

2022 Gender Inequality Index: **152 out of 170**

Operational Updates

- WFP is working on its new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2027 to be submitted to the Executive Board in November. The key activities that have been identified aim to support government efforts in scaling up the school-meal programme and enhance the government's ownership of this programme.
- The CO is planning to launch the Last Mile Solution (LMS) in October and intends to train 450 non-governmental organization (NGO) staff members before the full rollout. LMS is an application tool used by WFP to record real-time movement of food assistance and improve accountability and accuracy of food delivery information while increasing efficiency.
- **School – Feeding programme:** WFP is preparing for the next school year (2023- 2024) starting on 18 September. The number of schools has increased from 5,511 to 5,698 as new school canteens will be opened. WFP will distribute over 16,300 mt of commodities (including non-food items) during the first quarter of the school year, including to schools receiving internally displaced and refugee children from Burkina Faso
- In September, School Connect will be introduced to ease the collection and management of the distribution data from the school canteens.
- Additionally, in September. the cash-based transfer (CBT) modality will be piloted in 50 schools starting with ten schools in the capital city of Porto-Novo. Lessons from the pilot will be used to scale up CBT use in the framework of school feeding in urban and suburban areas.
- **Emergency:** In August, WFP aims to reach over 2700 households inclusive of asylum seekers and IDPs, with cash-based assistance for two months- needs.
- **Nutrition:** Through the cash nutrition top-up, WFP plans to reach 4,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with nutrition supplies in Atacora over the next two months. The targeted vulnerable groups will benefit from cash-based transfers and community engagement sessions to curb malnutrition. National capacities will be strengthened in nutrition preparedness and response.

- **Country Strengthening:** WFP initiated the drafting of a capacity-building strategy and informed the school-meal model's review and mapping of the food supply chain. WFP also facilitated discussions and exchanges with the technical committee set up for elaborating the national school-meal programme in Benin.

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response and coordination.

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
155.9 million	103.2 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August 2023 – January 2024)
43.7 million	23 million

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*

Activities:

- 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*

Activities:

- 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 behaviour-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*

Activities:

- 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*

Monitoring and Assessments.

WFP carried out a baseline study on food security indicators in the communes of Dogbo and Houéyogbé as a prelude to in-kind assistance. WFP aims to reach over 15,000 people in these two communes.

Partnerships

- WFP is working with UNHCR to support 15,000 people in Atacora and Alibori, in northern Benin, as part of its emergency response.
- WFP is supporting the Government in carrying out a diagnosis of the school-meal programme using the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) tool.
- WFP and UNHCR are jointly rolling out cash-based-transfer in response to the Sahel crisis spill over in Atacora north Benin.

Voices from the Field

- In July, the Executive Director (ED) Cindy McCain visited Benin during her Gulf of Guinea tour which took her to Chad, Togo, and Benin. In Benin, she met with high-level government officials, including the Vice-President of Benin Mariam Chabi Talata.
- The ED met several government ministers during a ministerial meeting led by the Minister of State.
- The various discussions held during the visit relate to Benin's school feeding programme and WFP's partnership with the Government of Benin. A snippet of the discussions is available [here](#).

Donors

Donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023) include Australia, *Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ)* Brazil, Government of Benin, China, Choithram Foundation, Denmark, Netherlands, Rockefeller Foundation, South Korea.