



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ghana Country Brief July 2023

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. Food insecurity is increasing in number and intensity; 1.37 million people are projected to be food insecure (in Phases 3 and 4 of the Cadre Harmonisé), during the planting season from June to August 2023. Data from the Ghana Statistical Service shows food inflation was 55 percent in July 2023.

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 July 2023, Ghana had recorded an influx of over 8,000 asylum seekers who had abandoned their homes and livelihoods due to violence. As part of WFP's sub-regional strategy, WFP Ghana plans to meet urgent food security, nutrition, and essential needs of asylum seekers and host communities. WFP will continue working with the Government of Ghana to prevent and reduce humanitarian needs, lessen existing fragilities, build communities' resilience, and increase access to social services and infrastructure.

WFP's interventions include provision of value vouchers to improve the nutritional status of targeted populations, ensuring 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.



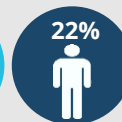
2023 Human Development Index : **138 out of 189**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Population: **34 million**

In Numbers



4,877 people assisted

US\$ 50,435.31 of cash-based transfers made

US\$ 7.3 million six-month (August– January 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Nutrition in Retail Project: Nutrition education is one of the key activities conducted in July. Targeting people in two Districts in the Ashanti Region and two Districts in the Northern Region of Ghana. Multiple channels including social media, TV, radio, counselling in health facilities and schools, and interactive voice response messaging, were employed to increase awareness of the people WFP assists.

Youth Link Up Against Hunger: WFP organized a youth forum on 8 July dubbed, "*Youth Link Up against Hunger*" at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi in the Ashanti region. The event had three objectives: to generate interest and identify opportunities in agribusiness for youth employment; to identify challenges in the sector; and to proffer solutions. The forum provided a platform for interaction between young people in agribusiness and aspirants. Four young participants who had overcome obstacles to excel in their spheres of agribusiness interactively discussed the importance of the youth playing an active role in agribusiness and shared their experiences to encourage other young people.

South-South Triangular Cooperation: WFP supported the Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX) to conduct high-level stakeholder sensitisation meetings for government partners, local leadership, and private sector agencies as part of South-South Triangular Cooperation activities in Ghana. The sensitization meetings took the form of regional community engagements, training sessions and radio programmes in the northern and southern parts of the country. A series of workshops and trainings were held to enable smallholder farmers to trade on the GCX E-commerce platform.

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies (IAWGE) undertook a multi-sectoral rapid assessment of host communities of asylum seekers to provide humanitarian and development organizations with timely information and analysis on the impact of asylum seekers from Burkina Faso on the needs of host communities, especially those with significant levels of pre-existing vulnerabilities. Key recommendations from the mission included: Providing cash and/or food assistance to the host communities to enable them cope with situation before harvest: Need for farm inputs support. Harness the available water resources (White and Red Volta rivers) into an irrigation scheme for all year-round food crop

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Photo Caption: WFP Ghana's support to Agro processors ensure a reliable market for smallholder farmers like Akorfa.

WFP/Derrick Botchway

production while providing sustainable jobs for the unemployed youth in both districts: Provide capacity building for the unemployed youth to engage in Climate-Smart Agriculture with the potential of improving food security while maintaining environmental sustainability.

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
94.1 million	46.6 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August - January 2024)
15.4 million	7.3 million

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.

Focus area: Root Causes

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 breastfeeding women under government safety nets, and support the Ghana Health Service on 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.

Focus area: Resilience Building

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 the Bono 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 (Smallholder Agricultural Market Support activities (SAMS)).

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

Focus area: Root Causes

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 and nutrition monitoring, early-warning systems, 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.

Focus area: Root Causes

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 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 girls to return to school and other vulnerable groups.

Monitoring

WFP is strengthening its complaints and feedback mechanism from programme participants, starting with the development of a comprehensive Community Engagement (CE) Action Plan involving the Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) and Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) units. The CE Action plan would support ongoing efforts to improve AAP mechanisms and address bottlenecks impeding participants' access to information about WFP's programmes.

Market Price Monitoring: Ghana's year-on-year inflation rate for July 2023 was 43.1 percent. Month-on-month inflation between June 2023 and July 2023 was 3.6 percent. Food, housing, and transportation remain the major drivers of the increased inflation rate.

Prices for key staples and agricultural inputs rose in July. The average monthly prices of key staples, such as maize and rice, were 3.8 percent higher than in June 2023 and over 120 percent higher than the five-year average. Due to the high cost of nutritious foods, nutrition activities are reduced to only one highly food insecure district, Karaga, as per the CFSVA 2020; thus, fewer pregnant and lactating women, adolescents and children will receive assistance through the value voucher interventions for the year.

Highlights



A picture of Premium Foods Limited factory which was supported by WFP with funding from Canada.

Super Cereal by Premium Foods Limited. Thanks to WFP technical and financial support, Ghana became the first country in West Africa to export specialized nutritious Foods.

Donors

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