



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief June 2023



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 13.7 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 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, and increases after natural disasters such as the heavy floods that affect the country every rainy season between (April to August). Benin is classified by RISK INFORM as the 36th nation most vulnerable to climate change out of 190 states. As per the 2023 March Cadre Harmonisé, some 5323,900 people are estimated to be facing acute food insecurity i.e., in the Emergency phase (i.e., 4.21 percent of the population analysed). These people require immediate food assistance and livelihood protection.



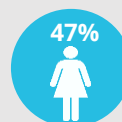
Population: **13.7 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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

In Numbers



15,000 people to receive assistance in Alibori and Atacora, north of Benin.

3,400 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1 million cash-based transfer to over 15,000 beneficiaries in north of Benin

US\$ 22 million six-month (July 2023 – December 2023) net funding requirements

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.

WFP met with Moov Africa mobile network operator and signed a financial service provider agreement towards the cash-based transfer distribution set for September in response to the situation in Atacora and Alibori, north of Benin.

Regular Programmes Updates

- School - meals programme:** The school year ended in June. WFP has so far reached 5,511 schools which operate school canteens availing meals to learners.
- WFP conducted a spot-check mission and assessed the capacities of implementing partners responsible for the national integrated school-meal programme (PNASI). Additionally, WFP visited schools receiving support from the school meal programme.
- Emergency:** WFP is planning to collaborate with UNHCR in September to reach 15,000 people (asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and host families) with cash-based transfers, in northern Benin for two months.
- Nutrition:** WFP aims to reach 4,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women with nutrition supplies in Atacora. 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 in Benin.

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Photo Caption: Recipients of in-kind assistance distributed in the village of Honton in the commune of Dogbo with support from the Japanese Government.
 ©WFP/Bismarck Sossa.

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\$) (July – December 2023)
43.7 million	22 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

Activities:

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

Partnerships

- The Council of Ministers validated the draft school meal law. Consequently, the law will be forwarded to the National Assembly for their vote.
- WFP partnered with Klouékanmè area hospital and conducted medical examinations on 1,380 cooks in school canteens under the school meals programme.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP is supporting the Government in diagnosing the school – meal programme using the SABER (System Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results) tool.

Voices from the field

- WFP distributed in-kind assistance to beneficiaries in Dogbo and Houéyogbé with support from the Government of Japan, reaching over 15,000 people. The distribution activities can be accessed [here](#)
- WFP received a delegation from the government of Togo and WFP Togo to learn best practices in implementing the home-grown school feeding programme. The delegation visited the Songhai Centre, an integrated development centre that is focused on agricultural production, livestock breeding and entrepreneurship activities. The exchange visit can be accessed [here](#).

Donors

Top donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023) in 2023 include Brazil, Netherlands, Germany, Government of Benin, Choithram Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia) and Denmark.