



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Benin Country Brief August 2023

In Numbers

16,400 mt of food to be distributed under the National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI) during the first quarter of 2023-2024 academic year.

US\$ 1.7 million net funding requirements for the next six months (October 2023-March 2024).

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 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 (May to November). The impact of insecurity from Central Sahel (mainly from Burkina Faso) to Gulf of Guinea (GoG) coastal countries including Benin has become very high and already started to materialize with violent attacks in the border of the northern regions, leading to internal population displacement. Cadre Harmonisé, some acute food insecurity i.e. population analysed). These assistance and livelihood



- Population: **13.7 million**
- Income Level: **Lower middle**
- 2021 Human Development Index: **166 out of 191**
- 2022 Gender Inequality Index: **152 out of 170**

Operational Updates:

- Over **12,400 people** have been internally displaced (IDPs) in Atacora and Alibori departments, north of Benin. Field assessments and analysis reveal that refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people's (IDP's) immediate needs are food, health care, education, and shelter.

School Meals Programme:

- WFP is facing challenges in accessing Dangbo and Adjohoun districts in Ouémé department and Malanville and Karimama districts in Alibori department for food delivery, due to flooding.
- WFP has successfully advanced with the programmatic arrangements to resume the school feeding when the new academic year 2023/2024 commences in September.
- WFP trained over **600 staff members** including staff from cooperating partners, for the schools connect project with support from Headquarters and the Regional Bureau in Dakar (RBD).

Emergency Response:

- In response to the situation in the north, WFP is working with Caritas Benin and UNHCR to distribute cash to refugees and IDPs. WFP and its partners distribute codes to beneficiaries who do not have identity cards to allow them to receive assistance as they cannot have a mobile money account without identity cards.

Nutrition:

- Social mobilization workshops involving nutrition community workers are ongoing in Atacora and Alibori, north of Benin.
- The school meals programme resumed training of cooks for the new academic year 2023 -2024 and **120** cooks in Banikoara of the Alibori department have so far been trained on good practices of food preparation and food hygiene.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
155.9 million	326 million*
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2023 – March 2024)
43.7 million	1.7 million

*Include a recent multiyear Government contribution to fund the School feeding programme for five years.

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.

Capacity Strengthening:

- WFP conducted an online training on WeLearn with all 549 focal points of the school meals programme. The training focused on communication, community participation and social mobilization, nutrition monitoring and evaluation.
- WFP trained 78 staff members from cooperating partners in Natitingou on protection and Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- In August, WFP met with local authorities in 5 communes in Mono (commune of Houéyogbé, Lokossa and Grand Popo) and in Ouémé (commune of Seme-kpodji) to support the new schools participating in the pilot phase of developing a new school meals model.
- WFP is working with the Ministry of Maternal and Primary Education, Ministry of Economy, and Finance and Plan International in finalizing the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) project focusing on strengthening national capacity and the national school meals model.

Monitoring and Assessments:

- WFP operationalized mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) to collect data on the food security situation ahead of the *Cadre Harmonisé* to be held in late October and early November. The data will be collected using mobile phones at the *Adkcontact* call centre targeting 32 municipalities comprising of 5,400 households.
- WFP is conducting a final evaluation of the school canteen project supported by the Netherlands from 2019 to 2023. The evaluation will analyze a sample of 195 schools with canteens and another 195 schools without school canteens.

Voices from the Field:

- The RBD communications team was in Benin to collect multi-media content in Malanville, north of Benin. This mission was premised on documenting the humanitarian access challenges at the border between Benin and Niger.
- WFP interviewed the Vice President of Benin on the progress of the school meals programme. The interview will be aired during the upcoming global Home-Grown School Meals Programme during the regional conference in Dakar, Senegal from 3 to 6 October.

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.