



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Ghana Country Brief October 2023



In Numbers

5,779 people assisted

US\$ 207,216 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.5 million six-month (November -April 2024) net funding requirement

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 50.4 and 33 percent respectively. Food insecurity is increasing in number and intensity; 1.37 million people were projected to be food insecure (in Phases 3 and 4 of the Cadre Harmonisé), during the planting season from June to August 2023. The updated Cadre Harmonisé analysis report will be published in December 2023.

Inflation rate has declined from 38.1 per cent to 35.2 per cent in October. Persistent activity of non-state armed groups in the Sahel region, notably Mali and Burkina Faso, and the recent political crisis in Niger, continue to threaten the peace and security of West African countries, including Ghana. 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.



2021 Human Development Index: 133

Chronic malnutrition: **19 percent of children between 6-59 months**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Population: **34 million**

Operational Updates

Catalysing Good Food through School Feeding Programs' Project:

Reiterating WFP's commitment to enhancing school meals, caterer training and cooking demonstrations took place in the Kasena-Nankana, Tolon, and Ejisu districts from 8 to 13 October. The focus was on strengthening the capacities of school matrons, caterers, and cooks in utilizing parboiled unpolished rice and other locally nutritious foods. Following nutrition education sessions in the respective districts covering food handling, nutrient conservation, benefits of fortified and parboiled unpolished rice, food safety etc., participants showcased their creativity by presenting visually appealing parboiled unpolished rice dishes, including dawadawa jollof, rice and beans (waakye), and rice balls. One hundred and one caterers, cooks, and matrons from partner schools, along with officers from Ghana Health Service, Ghana School Feeding Programme, Ghana Education Service, and District Assemblies, actively participated in this initiative.

Food Systems:

WFP supported Youth Consultations in the Eastern Region to gather young women and men's perspectives on the implementation of the WFP-Mastercard Foundation project which is aimed at strengthening food systems and bolstering the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. This engagement aimed to create awareness for the Mastercard Foundation-funded Project while assessing the aspirations, challenges, and opportunities of participants. A total of 64 participants (52 percent women and 48 percent men), took part in this valuable initiative.

From 9 to 20 October, a supervisory mission conducted by the IFAD team and the Government of Ghana under the Emergency Support to Rural Livelihoods & Food Systems Exposed to COVID-19 Food Programme (ESRF) sought to evaluate the performance of the ESRF programme, identify implementation challenges, and devise strategies to address limitations. Field visits were made to the Greater Accra and Volta regions, allowing for interaction with individual and group processors.

Throughout October, the cooperating partner (SWIDA) visited 105 out of 150 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups to sensitise members on nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation. USD 7,850.00 in share-outs (funds distribution) was recorded in October. A total of 18 groups have successfully enrolled in the digital VLSA platform where group data is managed.

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Photo Caption: Abdul-Jalil Sulemana and his family from Wugu, Sagnarigu District, Northern Region display harvested pepper from their USAID/WFP Farmer Support farm
WFP/Photographer: Daniel KWAYISI (Communications assistant)

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 Requirement (in US\$) (November–April 2024)
15.4 million	2.5 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 behavior 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.

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 centers, refugees, adolescent girls to return to school and other vulnerable groups.

Monitoring

There was a sharp decline from October in food distributions as 2,200 beneficiaries completed their food assistance and graduated from the intervention. This brought the number of beneficiaries receiving food assistance to 2,899 beneficiaries consisting of 1,125 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW), 373 adolescent girls and 1,401 children 6 – 23 months. The food commodities redeemed by the beneficiaries included fortified corn-soy flour, Koko plus (protein-based micronutrient powder), maize, cowpea, groundnuts, eggs, millet, sorghum, green leafy vegetables, amani (dry fish), fruits and iodized salt.

Challenges

Late loan repayment is affecting the share-out process for some VSLA groups.

Voice from the Field



"In my 8 years as a school cook, local rice meals have never been welcomed warmly like this by students. Our exposure to these nutritious recipes and their special cooking methods have brought about this huge difference in appeal and taste. We are so grateful to WFP for this practical learning

opportunity and experience on the use of parboiled unpolished rice."

- **Grace Abaka, Cook, Ejisu Senior High Technical School**

Donors

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