



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Ghana Country Brief November - December 2023



In Numbers

11,246 people assisted

US\$ 294,202 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 10.6 million six-month (January-June 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 per cent respectively. The November Cadre harmonise analysis estimated that about 2 million people, representing 6.1% of the population are in the vulnerable bracket of food insecure (CH phase 3 & 4) in the current period of October to December 2023. During the projected period (June to August 2024), the number of food insecure people who are considered vulnerable is expected to rise slightly to 2.2 million people (6.7% of the population).

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 the 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

Nutrition: With funding from the Australian Government, a new project to build resilience in the Gulf of Guinea countries including Ghana was initiated. The pre-planning and the Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) phases have been completed in 24 communities across the Karaga district in the Northern Region to identify challenges and tailor programme responses to local needs. In addition, WFP is also supported by WFP-dsm-firmenich to implement nutrition in retail in the Asokore Mampong and the Bosomtwe Districts in the Ashanti Region and Karaga and Sagnarigu Districts in the Northern Region with the overall objective to create demand and improve dietary diversity among the target population.

Food Systems: WFP collaborated with World Vision International (WVI) to successfully conduct a participant targeting, training to enumerators in six regions. The training extended to government partners, including the Department of Agriculture, covering 210 communities in five districts per region. A total of 16,433 participants were targeted, 69 percent of whom were youth. WFP established technical agreements with the Regional Agriculture Department (RAD) in 11 regions, focusing on Post Harvest Loss Management, and climate-smart agriculture training. RAD's responsibilities include community targeting of youth, spot checks, forming new youth Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs), and facilitating access to funding and inputs. WFP also signed a Technical Agreement with the Association of Ghana Industries to assess and strengthen youth based FBOs. Supplementary targeting in USAID Zones of Influence in Northern Ghana aimed to reach 220 beneficiaries, prioritizing women, youth, and Persons living with Disabilities. Each beneficiary received \$294 through cash transfers, collaborating with partners like the District Departments of Agriculture and Mobile Telecommunications Network to enhance the initiative's impact.

Social Protection: WFP enhanced school meal management by training 62 participants, including coordinators and nutrition officers, from various organizations in Ghana on using School menu plan Plus—a menu planning tool. The training aimed at optimizing meals for affordability, nutrition, and local sourcing. Furthermore, WFP conducted final sessions for caterer training and cooking demonstrations in Greater Accra, emphasizing the use of parboiled unpolished rice for improved nutrition in school meals. These initiatives are crucial for providing safe and nutritious meals and fostering the growth and development of school children.

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Photo Caption: Barakisu Adams, showing her harvested groundnut from her farm in Tilli, Upper East Region. Cash assistance from the Gulf of Guinea Project (**Support to host communities**).
WFP/Photographer: *Christabel Asamani* (Business Support Assistant)

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\$) (January-June 2024)
15.4 million	10.6 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

In November, monitoring efforts encompassed 17 sites, focusing on cash transfers to host communities in areas with a high influx of asylum seekers. A comprehensive approach, including a baseline study and process monitoring, was employed to collect data on food security indicators and cross-cutting indicators. Transitioning to December, an expanded initiative involved the monitoring of approximately 86 sites. The intervention extended to support a food-insecure district through food assistance and livelihood interventions. An outcome monitoring process was executed to capture valuable data on food security indicators and cross-cutting indicators in this targeted area.

Challenges

Challenges persisted in the Community Feedback Mechanism, with most beneficiaries in November expressing a lack of knowledge on how to contact WFP for feedback. In December, the issue persisted, with approximately half of the beneficiaries still unaware of the feedback communication channels with WFP. WFP however as part of its monitoring activities endeavours to share the toll-free number with the beneficiaries to reach out to.

Donors

Donors to WFP Ghana CSP (2019 – 2023) include Australia, Canada, France, Ghana, Japan, Private Donors, Rockefeller Foundation, Master Card Foundation, UN Other Funds and Agencies and the United States of America.