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Benin

Annual Country Report 2023

Country Strategic Plan
2019 - 2023

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Overview

Despite facing external challenges in 2023, such as border closures with Niger and rising gas prices linked to Nigerian reforms, the Government's dedication to social protection programmes - particularly the national school feeding initiative - was instrumental in advancing Sustainable Development Goals 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In line with this, WFP reached 1.4 million people in need with vital food assistance throughout 2023. This primarily included school meals and assistance to conflict-affected populations. WFP also increased its efforts on capacity strengthening for development and emergency operations. This included the integration of gender equality throughout WFP programme design, implementation and monitoring, and a strong emphasis on data collection and evidence generation.

WFP assisted over 1.3 million children with nutritious meals each school day, which enabled schoolchildren to meet their basic food and nutritional needs, while improving school retention rates. School feeding programming went beyond hot school meals. It included an integrated, comprehensive, and multi-sectoral approach that complemented daily meals with initiatives and partnerships in agriculture, education, health, nutrition, and social protection to holistically support students' health, nutrition and learning while also promoting local nutrition-sensitive value chains and supporting local agriculture.

Special emphasis was also placed on the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) approach in 2023. This included the promotion of local, nutritious food production through the procurement of food for school meals directly from smallholder farmers and processors, while also creating a stable market for them. This increased income generation within local communities, creating a powerful safety net for Benin's children, farmers, and communities.

WFP further supported the Government in strengthening and scaling up HGSF across the country. For example, initiatives were facilitated to create synergies and bolster local food production, improve post-harvest processing, and enhance local skills development in agriculture, processing, storage, and marketing throughout the agricultural value chain. Ultimately, the programme strengthened nutritional value chains, supported local economies, and empowered local communities.

By nurturing local agriculture, this programme holds the potential to catalyse long-term, sustainable development and fortify food security nationwide. In 2023, WFP facilitated access to the school canteen market for 30 smallholder farmer organizations from which 9,301 smallholder farmers, sold over 7,622 mt of produce, generating an estimated revenue of USD 3.6 million. This marked an astounding 800 percent surge in purchases from local smallholders compared to 2022. Moreover, 2,094 smallholder farmers, of which 47 percent were women, received training in post-harvest management, business skills, and marketing. This not only enhanced their skill set but also empowered them to optimize their agricultural practices. Looking ahead to the school year 2023-2024, WFP has been actively forging partnerships to safeguard livelihoods and bolster productive capacities for households and communities. This proactive approach has resulted in an increase in the number of smallholder farmer organizations, which could potentially serve as suppliers, to 71, collectively representing a total of 24,000 producers.

To effectively combat complex causes of malnutrition, WFP implemented a comprehensive package of integrated nutrition interventions. These included early detection protocols, rapid assessments of infant and young child feeding practices, and extensive nutrition education programmes. By targeting diverse community members, these initiatives tackled malnutrition's root causes - directly and indirectly - and empowered vulnerable communities to make lasting changes.

To empower communities and improve infant and young child feeding practices, WFP established community-based support groups and held cooking demonstrations. These showcased balanced meals using locally available ingredients and provided families with the knowledge and skills to prepare nutritious food for children and women. WFP also initiated formative research studies to understand existing community knowledge and habits. This valuable information will effectively help tailor communication strategies and channels to address malnutrition within the communities.

Using cash, in-kind food distributions, and programmes focused on social protection, particularly school feeding, WFP supported vulnerable groups, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and children aged 6 to 23 months.

WFP's efforts also focused on building the capacities of local communities. This involved activities such as assistance in feeding infants and young children, maternal health monitoring, working to improve women's and caregivers' knowledge of nutrition, the provision of support for breastfeeding, and help in overcoming dietary challenges during crises.

As a key partner, WFP actively supports the Government of Benin in achieving its vision of eradicating hunger by 2030. This collaboration addresses technical gaps and strengthens the Government's capacity to respond to shocks.

In northern Benin, WFP continues to be a lifeline for over 26,000 refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers affected by the conflict in the Sahel. Through WFP's partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), critical food assistance was provided through cash transfers and emergency distributions.

WFP's Government support also included helping to finalise the school feeding law, conducting the Fill the Nutrient Gap study and analysis, and strengthening the integration of nutrition within the school meals programme - one of its key areas of success.

WFP also delivered innovative training through digital and distance learning solutions. Over 450 participants were trained on crucial topics like school feeding management, logistics, monitoring, nutrition, and gender equality. Training materials were additionally developed for emergency responders.

Additionally, WFP continues working towards an efficient transfer of the national school feeding programme to the National Agency for Nutrition and Food Security (ANAN, in French) and supporting the development of a national school feeding law. It also included piloting different innovation and alternative approaches and implementation methods and strengthening the Government's capacity to manage programmes.

WFP recently completed an evaluation of its Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 [1]. This assessed WFP's strategic approach, its effectiveness in achieving goals, and overall efficiency. Building on this success, WFP started its new CSP 2024-2027 in January 2024.

1,414,755

Total beneficiaries in 2023



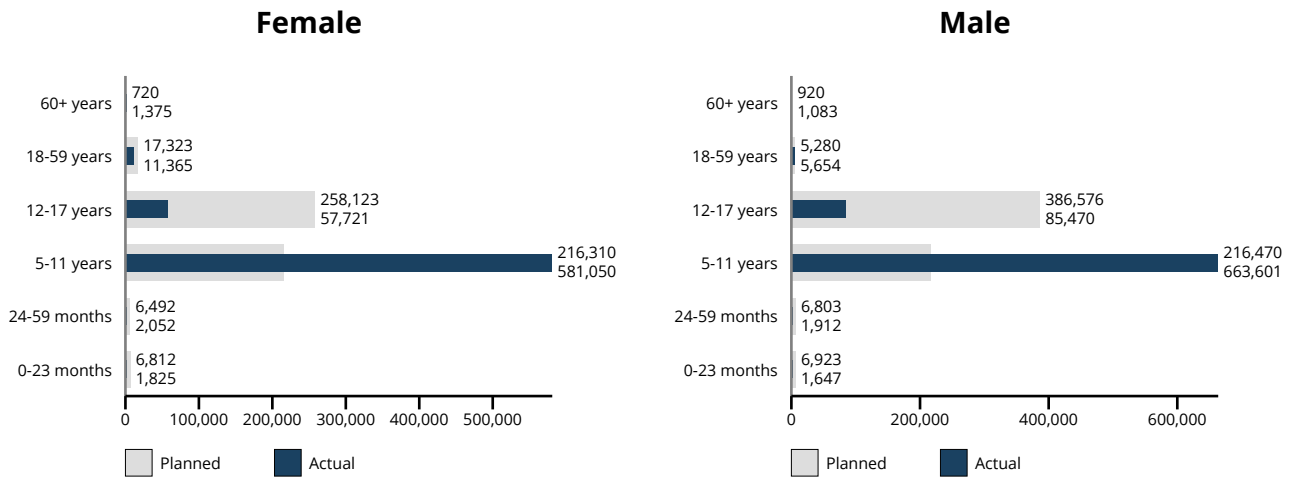
46% female



54% male

Estimated number of persons with disabilities: 7,488 (60% Female, 40% Male)

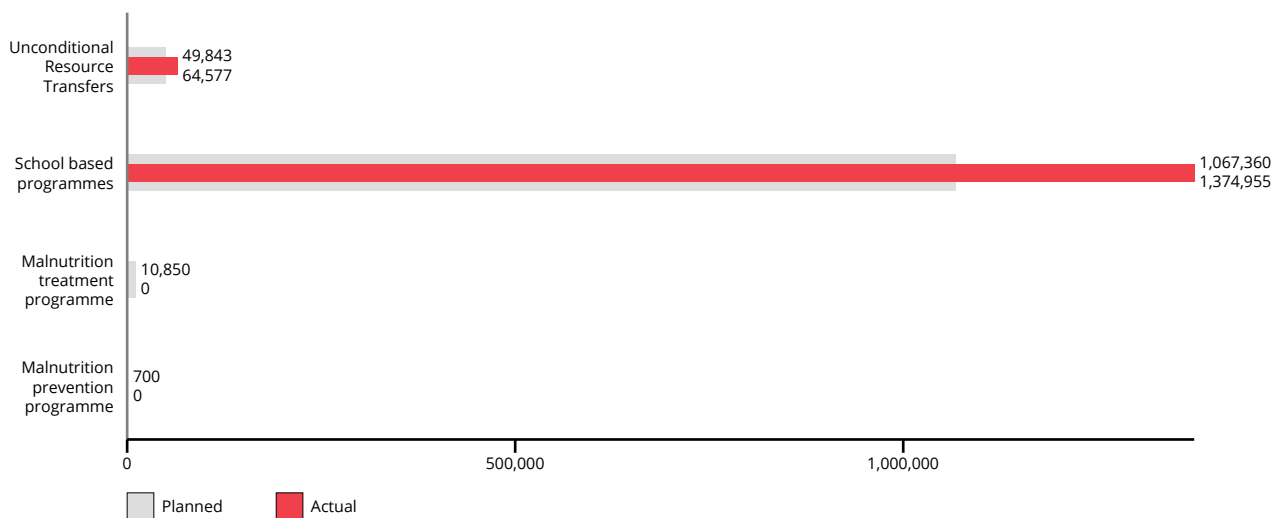
Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



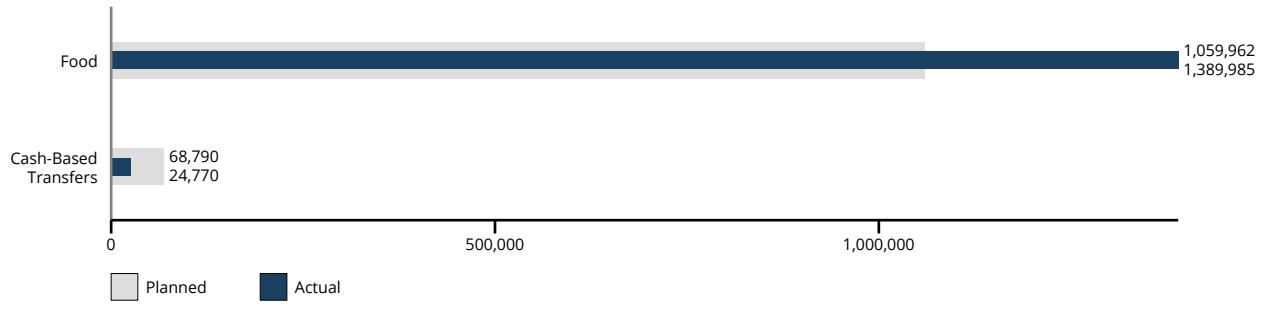
Beneficiaries by Residence Status



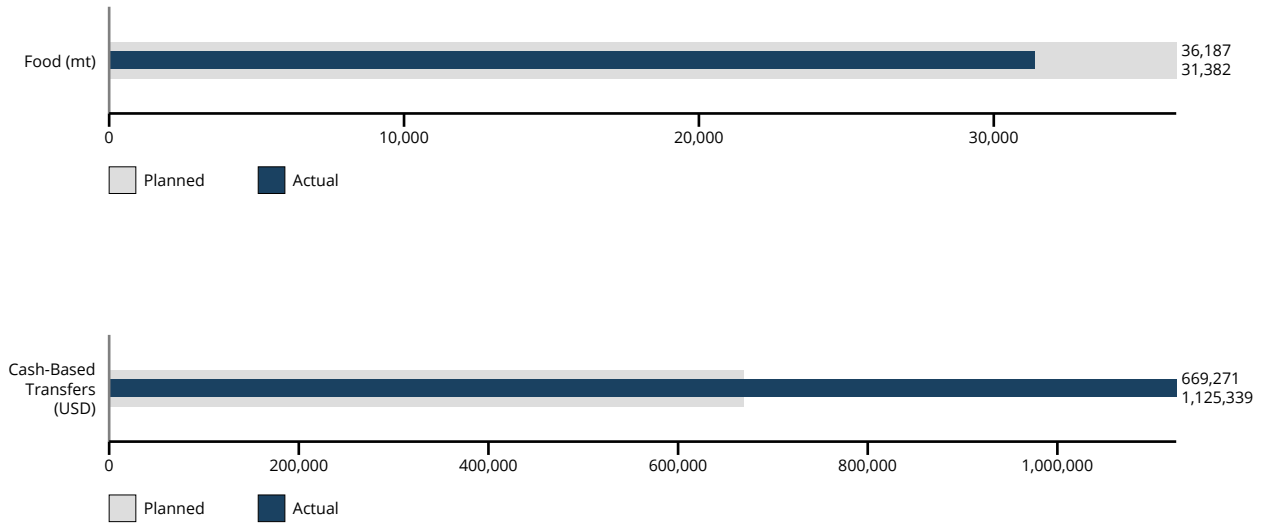
Beneficiaries by Programme Area



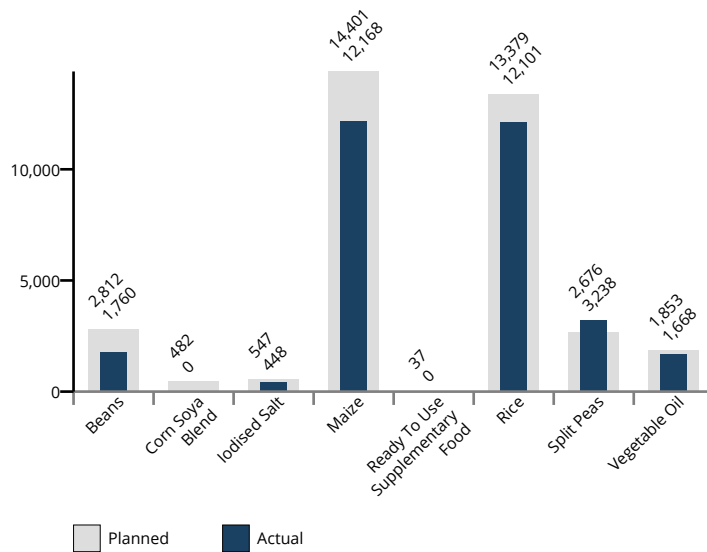
Beneficiaries by Modality



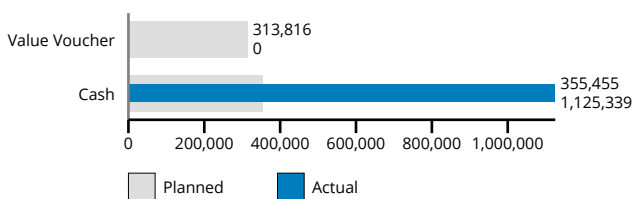
Total Transfers by Modality



Annual Food Transfer (mt)



Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher (USD)



Operational context



Benin is a lower-middle-income country with a gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 1,303 per capita [1]. It has continued with its efforts to grow economically, and fiscal transparency has progressed as attested by Benin's rank as second best performer in Africa on the "Transparency" indicator of the 2021 Open Budget Survey [2]. The share of

Benin's budget devoted to social sectors increased from 41 percent in 2022 to 47 percent in 2023 [3]. This investment was supported by new policies and strategies, such as the "Vision Benin 2060" [4]. The economic growth rate was 6.5 percent in 2023, compared to 6.3 percent in 2022, demonstrating a certain resilience of its economy in the face of shocks [6].

Benin was ranked 138th out of 148 countries on the 2022 Gender Inequality Index [7]. Significant gender gaps are most evident in areas of political empowerment and economic participation. Conversely, relatively narrow gaps exist in health, survival, and educational attainment. Despite these advancements in health and education, women, girls, and other marginalized populations often experience disproportionate barriers to food security. This is further exacerbated for persons with disabilities, who face heightened food insecurity, a situation worsened by inadequate social protection systems.

According to the March 2023 *Cadre Harmonisé*, around 412,140 people were acutely food insecure and living in Crisis (IPC 3) or Emergency (IPC 4) situations during the 2023 June-August lean season. In general, these populations had food consumption deficits that resulted in high acute malnutrition and could only meet their minimum food needs by adopting harmful "crisis" or "emergency" consumption strategies. Children and women continued to bear a disproportional brunt of the suffering. Stunting in Benin also remained high, affecting 37 percent of children under five (although significant regional and departmental disparities were seen) [9]. The population also faced unpredictable climate-induced weather conditions that hampered agricultural production. The price of food and fuel increased due to global supply chain disruptions. In 2023, Beninese people in Alibori and Atacora (in the north of the country) witnessed intensified conflicts and increased levels of displacement.

The ongoing crisis in the Sahel meant Benin experienced more than 155 security incidents from January 2021-December 2023. This included attacks and threats against schools and detonations of improvised explosive devices. Furthermore, 23,500 people in Benin were displaced, including over 13,400 refugees and over 10,000 internally displaced persons, primarily children and women. Within the joint effort of the United Nations in Benin, WFP supported the Government in responding to the situation and emergency response capacities in at-risk areas were also strengthened.

Through the school feeding programme WFP served hot meals to over 1.3 million children across the country in 2023. However, delivering food consistently proved to be challenging, especially due to access issues during the rainy season and supply chain challenges linked to the impact of the Ukraine crisis. Theft was also a concern, and WFP closely monitored these risks and implemented measures to mitigate them.

Under its first strategic outcome, WFP primarily focused on emergency food assistance, cash transfers, and nutritional support. This was particularly crucial in northern Benin, where health services are weaker. To prevent malnutrition and help curb the deterioration of nutritional status amongst vulnerable populations, WFP implemented the malnutrition prevention programme targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and children aged 6 to 23 months. The school meal programme also served as entry point, as a multipronged investment that improves children's health and education while also encouraging parents, especially with daughters, to send their children to school, narrowing the educational gender gap.

In northern Benin, women and girls facing hardships such as food insecurity sometimes resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as survival or transactional sex, increasing their vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. WFP partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to pilot approaches to address this by combining school feeding interventions with programmes that raised awareness of sexual reproductive health rights and those aimed to mitigate gender-based violence.

According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index, Benin is highly vulnerable to climate change, ranking 152 out of 181 countries in 2022 [10]. There have also been increases to temperatures and the frequency and intensity of droughts and floods [11]. To address this, the Government approved a National Plan in May 2022 that aimed to integrate climate adaptation into local development planning.

WFP programmes helped Beninese farmers weather the tough agricultural conditions. Over 2,000 smallholder farmers were trained regarding climate-smart agricultural practices and better storage techniques (e.g. post-harvest management), while women were assisted in decision-making to aid in their empowerment. WFP also boosted procurement from 9,301 smallholder farmers organised within 30 organisations, enhancing their access to institutional markets. Programme benefits reached beyond the farmers themselves. WFP addressed immediate food needs by providing nutritious meals to schoolchildren and supporting their overall health and education.

WFP's logistics expertise was especially valuable. Its supply chain, procurement unit, and expertise in geographic information systems provided vital technical support and information to humanitarian partners, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and various non-governmental organization (NGOs), strengthening the overall response and ensuring everyone on the ground could work more effectively.

WFP implemented joint programmes and initiatives with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization and other actors across all its activities. These collaborations allowed WFP to leverage broad expertise and offer people in need a more comprehensive safety net. Ultimately, WFP aimed to empower communities to become more resilient and less vulnerable to future crises.

Risk management

Several factors threatened food security in Benin in 2023, including climate change, conflict in the Sahel spilling over into northern Benin, and the Ukraine crisis. Rising food prices in neighbouring countries like Niger and Nigeria added further pressure.

Despite these obstacles, a regularly maintained real-time risk register allowed WFP to identify threats and develop mitigation strategies and plans. This proactive approach helped ensure WFP operations continued and supported people in need amidst operational challenges including access issues, increased operational costs, logistical difficulties, facility break-ins and theft of food and materials.

WFP strategically addressed these challenges through forward-thinking planning. WFP purchased food locally, with over half of the food distributed consisting of staples of corn and rice. Importantly, WFP made these purchases during the harvest season nine months in advance, when prices were lower. This foresight helped WFP avoid the full effects of rising food prices.

While staff turnover was a concern, WFP hired additional staff in critical roles. This helped the organization to respond more effectively to the emergency in the north and manage the expansion of the school meals programme. WFP also invested in training and staff development to strengthen the existing workforce. To fill staffing gaps, WFP shifted from temporary agreements to fixed-term contracts, which provided greater stability.

Unfortunately, WFP faced increased thefts that targeted food used in the school meals programme. WFP ensured continued advocacy and engagement of communities, local authorities, and security forces to ensure their mobilisation to take actions and set up preventive measures.

Lessons learned

WFP gained insights into key strengths and weaknesses across various operations, including critical areas of budgeting, programme implementation, monitoring, and supply chain management. Across the supply chain, for example, WFP effectively utilised reserve stocks to address food shortages and disruptions caused by the global food crisis linked to the Ukraine crisis. Additionally, WFP's involvement in the National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI, in French) since 2017 provided valuable learning experiences. These insights were especially useful in expanding the programme's reach from 51 percent in 2021 to 75 percent in 2022.

The lessons learned reinforced the importance of integrating accountability, gender equality, and nutritional elements, the need for strong preparation and anticipation, especially on the supply chain side and explore alternative operational models to ensure more sustainability, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

In light of the importance of the homegrown approach to school feeding, WFP organised a formalised capitalisation on the local procurement from smallholder farmers, involving all actors to draw lessons learned and formulate recommendations for the future.

Goodness and growth



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Elisabeth Bokpè, a committed woman serving the school canteen at Lago Public Primary School, Dangbo, Benin.

Benin's school feeding programme allows children to eat daily hot meals at school. While the benefits are readily apparent - especially in children's food security, nutrition, and school attendance - the empowerment of women working in school canteens is more subtle. Some women have freed themselves from financial dependence and domestic violence thanks to their involvement in WFP's school meals initiative.

At the Lago Public Primary School in Dangbo - a commune in the Ouémé valley a few kilometers from Benin's capital of Porto-Novo - the school canteen provides children a hot meal every day at midday. This is the case for more than a million schoolchildren in Benin covered by the National Integrated School Feeding Programme, supported by WFP.

Quality food is elemental to the effective functioning school canteens - and this is what WFP delivers. WFP is the operational arm that supports the Government of Benin in implementing its school feeding initiative. Schools use commodities such as corn, yellow peas, oil, rice and salt. To offer an appropriate menu that incorporates these items, the wider school community brings additional ingredients, such as onions, peppers, tomatoes, and other vegetables (which are not part of WFP food basket). These are often purchased at markets near schools, or from school gardens. At Lago Public Primary School, things are evolving. Elisabeth Bokpè, a mother of four children, with two that attend the school, shared that, "often before school, we buy condiments at the market. But today, we no longer buy. It's in our garden that we take the products and cook for our children."

Elisabeth Bokpè is the president of the Mahukpégo 1 women's group. This active group of 30 women maintain a school garden and develop income-generating activities to support the operation of the school canteen. "When the canteen came to our school, we reinforced the gardening activities because we are happy that the canteen came to our community," she said.

Thanks to the school canteen, Elisabeth and the women in her group made the school an entry point to share and reinforce newly acquired practices and knowledge of market gardening. "In our garden today in Lago, you will see a variety of vegetables which are primarily intended for our children's meals," she explained. These ingredients were broad in type and flavour, and included amaranth, basil, lemongrass, nightshade, moringa, okra, peppers, and tomatoes. All are used in the preparation of daily meals for schoolchildren. "It's a great opportunity for us, and we must especially thank WFP because it strengthened our abilities through training and allowed us to maintain our garden in a different way," claimed the young mother.

Sustainability activities organized near schools presented opportunities for committed women who realised the possibilities offered by the presence of a school canteen in their community. This was exactly the case for Elisabeth's group, which secured an income source from the sale of the surplus products harvested in the garden of the Lago Public Primary School.

"The surplus that we sell, we divide the income into three," explained Elisabeth. "A part is devoted to the operation of the canteen, a part is returned to the group's fund and the third part is shared between the members," she said. Elisabeth also insisted that with this new source of income, the group is now economically free within their own households. "Before, if our husbands didn't give money for household expenses, we had to wait. If he comes home and you ask for money, he can, in a violent mood, be vociferous against you and in his anger slap you," she stated. This example justified how important the income from garden activities has been in promoting a level of financial freedom for the women of the association, while also helping to protect them from domestic violence.

In low-income households, the economic dependence of women on their husbands can exacerbate their vulnerability and create situations where women are subjected to various forms of violence - insults, deprivation of goods, humiliation, and physical beatings, being some of the most common. With the activities that have been created from the implementation of school canteens, women in vulnerable conditions have opportunities to source their own income and contribute to household expenses. "When we work in the garden, the income from the sale of products helps, because we no longer need to wait for our husbands' contributions before eating," Elisabeth said with confidence.

As occurred for Elisabeth and her group, school canteens have delivered examples of positive changes in women's lives across communities. The indirect impacts of National Integrated School Feeding Programme go beyond simply feeding children. "As you know, if women have a certain autonomy and income, this has a strong impact on the living conditions of households overall," stated Ali Ouattara, Resident Representative of WFP's Benin Country Office.

Programme performance

Strategic outcome 01: Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round



1,374,955 students supported through the **school feeding programme**; **46 percent girls**



31,022 metric tons of **food** distributed through **school-based programmes**, including beans, maize, rice, split peas



5,709 schools assisted, including **3,146 schools** provided with **food** from **9,301 smallholder producers** via the **home-grown school feeding model**



WFP's partner network expanded from 30 to **71 smallholder farmer organizations**, with **24,000 members**; **35 percent women**

WFP is a key partner in Benin's flagship National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI, in French). In April 2022, it expanded significantly, increasing from 51 to 75 percent coverage of public primary schools. WFP also took responsibility for 152 schools previously managed by Catholic Relief Services, from February 2023. With funding from the Government, bilateral donors, and the private sector, WFP ensured quarterly food deliveries to all participating schools. Balanced food baskets that contained cereals (maize and rice), pulses (beans and split peas), iodised salt and vitamin-fortified oil were supplied. Community involvement was also encouraged through the programme with contributions of in-kind and/or cash donations to support meal preparation. This collaborative approach ensured that school canteens regularly operated in 95 percent of schools supported by WFP.

Benin's school feeding programme showed positive results on complementary activities in 2023. For example, 40 percent of schools had functional gardens by the end of 2023 (versus 34 percent in 2022); 29 percent had community fields (23 percent in 2022); and 6 percent raised small livestock such as poultry and rabbits (3 percent in 2022). These efforts contributed to more sustainability overall. Furthermore, the school dropout rate decreased significantly from 12.8 percent in 2022 to 3.3 percent in 2023 - better than the 10 percent target. The retention rate also increased from 89 percent to 97 percent, while the pass rate remained steady at 79 percent. However, additional factors must be considered when evaluating this data, including the quality of teaching and social backgrounds of students.

Schools newly included in the programme received non-food items in late 2023, including kitchen utensils, while WFP also helped them establish canteens and Integrated School Canteen Management Committees. Ongoing coaching was also provided by WFP to committees in all schools. This helped boost community initiatives that directly benefited canteens and empowered communities to take ownership of the programme.

Private sector funding enabled 45 schools to receive maize mills. This allowed them to produce fresh maize flour for school meals, which subsequently improved nutritional quality and helped generate additional income. Women's groups near schools further benefitted from equipment provided to support income-generating activities, such as the production of red palm oil and gari (fermented cassava semolina).

WFP is committed to continuous improvement. In 2023, it successfully re-contracted all 11 non-governmental partner organizations (NGOs) after a successful performance evaluation, to ensure the monitoring of school canteens, implementation, capacity strengthening, implementation and community mobilisation support. WFP also invested in capacity building through remote learning modules and in-person training that covered nutrition, hygiene practices, and school canteen operations, which were crucial for the programme's success. Over 600 NGO staff (field workers and administrators) received training on school canteen operations, while 215 canteen cooks participated in hands-on

training on nutrition and hygiene practices.

WFP strengthened its collaborations with government ministries at central and decentralised levels, especially those focused on maternal and primary education, agriculture, development, health, economics and finance. This led to the expansion of basic health and nutrition services in schools through the Ministry of Health. These included nutrition education, nutritional monitoring of schoolchildren through anthropometric measurements, deworming, and the supplementation of vitamin A for children 6 to 59 months. Services were offered in 30 new canteen schools in addition to the 30 pilot schools already benefiting from the programme. Funding from the World Health Organization also enabled health inspections for canteen cooks.

WFP actively promoted the National Integrated School Feeding Programme via multiple advocacy activities in 2023. A high-profile visit by Benin's Vice President to a school canteen in May to WFP's EB session raised awareness of the programme's benefits and successes - particularly for girls' education and community involvement - which enabled further lobbying for the programme. Recognition of the importance of community engagement led WFP to expand its outreach efforts through radio in 2023. Twelve new radio stations joined WFP's existing network of 15 partners to increase audience reach. Stations broadcast messages on important topics like girls' education, school nutrition and canteen management, the importance of good hygiene and sanitation practices in schools and community involvement.

Despite success, the school feeding programme faced challenges in 2023. The spillover of the Sahel crisis forced the closure of 10 schools in northern Benin for several months. This included 4 in Atacora (Materi municipality) and 6 in Alibori (Karimama and Banikoara municipalities). By the end of the year, 8 schools remained closed due to ongoing security concerns. Heavy rains during the rainy season also disrupted operations in some canteens, particularly in the Atlantique, Borgou, Mono, Ouémé and Zou regions. WFP continued to work with the Government and communities to address these challenges and ensure continued success of the programme.

WFP significantly increased its local food purchases in Benin in 2023, procuring 20,951 mt of maize, cowpeas and rice from local markets (139 percent increase from 2022) injecting over USD 11.3 million into the local economy. This aligned with the home-grown school feeding approach, which prioritises buying directly from smallholder farmers. Such purchases increased to 7,622 mt in 2023 (from 900 mt in 2022). The local focus extended to fortified cooking oil for the first time, with a pilot purchase of 307 mt (with plans to increase this in 2024).

WFP partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to further empower smallholder farmers. Support was provided to 30 smallholder farmer organizations through the purchase of advanced farming equipment and provision of training on post-harvest management and access to market. Funding came from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Netherlands and the Beyond Cotton project (2021-2023) from WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil. Through these efforts, WFP aimed to strengthen the capacity of over 2,000 smallholder farmers, improve their access to markets, and ensure the traceability of food delivered to school canteens.

Moving forward into 2024, WFP will significantly expand its partner network from 30 to 71 smallholder farmer organizations. With over 24,000 members (35 percent women) these partners will play a crucial role in WFP's programmatic success. To ensure long-term sustainability and further strengthen partnerships, WFP developed a digital tool for capacity assessments. This helped identify areas for improvement, enhanced partner capabilities, managed risks, and enabled targeted capacity-building support. The tool will be transferred to the Benin Government to support future success.

To improve the nutritional quality of school meals, WFP used a two-pronged approach. Firstly, it aimed to diversify school canteen food baskets by incorporating more locally produced fortified and/or nutritious foods to create demand for healthier options. Secondly, it partnered with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to promote agroecological practices that enhanced school garden yields and ensured effective vegetable production.

WFP worked diligently to make Benin's school feeding programme environmentally friendly and sustainable in 2023. Beyond ongoing initiatives, WFP launched two pilots on energy-saving solutions in school canteens. These involved improved cooking stoves and heat retention bags to ideally reduce fuel consumption. Additionally, WFP partnered with the Beninese Agency for Rural Electrification and Energy Management to further explore renewable energy solutions for schools. WFP also submitted a proposal to the Green Climate Fund around "Locally Supplied, Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Green School Canteens in Benin". This aims to transition Benin's National Integrated School Feeding Programme to a low-emission and climate-resilient model.

WFP used technology to improve the school meals programme. The School Connect Platform commenced with the 2023-2024 academic year, with a view to improving data collection and management, and therefore overall programme efficiency. WFP also partnered with mobile money provider Moov Africa to facilitate delivery of electronic cash-based transfers (CBTs) to school cooks, promoting their financial inclusion. WFP additionally established a community feedback mechanism, with a green line, to ensure programme transparency and recognition of community concerns.

WFP also initiated distance learning tools to support capacity development. Lastly, WFP aims to pilot CBTs as part of programme implementation in urban and peri-urban areas (pending approval from the Ministry of Economy and Finance).

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide integrated, inclusive and gender responsive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production	3 - Fully integrates gender

Strategic outcome 02: Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023



Over **1,060** pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and children 6 to 23 months old reached with a nutrition top up



Over **250** nutrition support group members trained and over **6,800** people reached through SBCC

WFP prioritised the integration of nutritional activities into all its activities in Benin. This included the school meals programme, emergency response efforts, and initiatives to improve smallholder farmers' market access. To ensure successful integration, WFP signed strategic partnerships at the operational level with the Food and Nutrition Council, an agency of the Benin Government. This collaboration helped mobilize various sectoral ministries and their local offices to ensure a more comprehensive approach to nutrition initiatives. WFP partnered with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop complementary nutrition and health initiatives within the school meals programme. These included nutritional education, deworming, the promotion of hygiene, and monitoring of the nutritional status of schoolchildren. In addition, WFP collaborated on delivering emergency response nutrition packages in northern Benin.

Through the Food and Nutrition Council, WFP supported the Government in the administration of the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis. This involved broad participation from various sectors and food and nutrition stakeholders.

Results revealed significant challenges to food security and nutrition in Benin, including the overall nutrition situation across the country and the policy barriers that hindered people's access to nutritious food. For example, specific data highlighted the severity of the situation; 60 percent of people lacked access to a nutritious diet; 60 percent of households were unable to secure a nutritious diet; and 21 percent of households were unable to afford a basic energy-providing diet. These insights prompted WFP to advocate even more enthusiastically among Government ministries, NGOs, and international organisations for additional collaborative solutions that address malnutrition in the country.

Results of the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis will also inform future improvements to WFP's responses and should orient national interventions, and policies. Accordingly, they will be used to design more effective nutrition-sensitive programmes across different sectors, in areas of agriculture, emergency response, school feeding and any others that are relevant to specific local needs. These will also consider the needs of people in each region of Benin.

The National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI, in French) reached nearly 1.3 million children. This provided them with a crucial opportunity to improve their nutritional well-being and future success. As part of this work, WFP trained 215 cooks on good hygiene and meal preparation practices. Good hygiene and healthy eating habits were promoted in 125 schools, with 52,000 children reached. This pilot programme will be expanded in 2024 to cover at least half of all participating schools.

By recognising the potential of school canteens to create local markets, WFP has actively worked to improve the nutritional value of meals in various ways. In partnership with WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), an innovative approach to enhance school and community garden yields was piloted. This supported 25 schools involved in cattle breeding, with another 25 schools planned for the next phase. WFP also launched feasibility studies on food fortification and an acceptability study on the introduction of biofortified maize and parboiled rice and a study on animal protein. These will provide valuable data to guide future decisions regarding the composition of food baskets.

WFP and partners implemented a comprehensive emergency nutrition response in northern Benin to address the needs of people displaced by conflict. WFP partnered with the Food and Nutrition Council to ensure a targeted and integrated emergency nutrition response. The emergency component of the response complemented the existing cash-based transfer (CBT) programme, which assisted over 24,000 displaced people. The nutrition component, implemented in Atacora, focused on strengthening community-based approaches and included risk communication and community engagement. Social behavioural change and capacity building was promoted regarding local solutions for better nutrition and cash top-ups for nutrition which ensured people in need received additional cash assistance specifically for purchasing nutritious food. The intervention directly benefited 1,069 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and children 6 to 23 months old - a critical group for nutritional support. WFP also trained 250 community nutrition workers through culinary demonstrations, home visits, and educational sessions on nutritious and

healthy eating principles and the effective management of cash transfers in emergencies. Based on the success of the Atacora programme, it will be replicated in the Alibori department in 2024.

WFP partnered with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to support associations for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) through income-generating activities. This approach aimed to improve their food and nutritional security and adherence to treatment, which is crucial in HIV treatment success. WFP provided capacity-building sessions for 124 health actors, including PLHIV association leaders, to strengthen their management and PLHIV care services. Additionally, seven PLHIV associations received agricultural equipment to support income generation. WFP recognises the importance of food security and nutrition in managing HIV, and its strategy and ongoing work remain aligned with UNAIDS' 95-95-95 targets [1] and the achievement of an AIDS-free generation by 2030.

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change	4 - Fully integrates gender and age

Strategic outcome 03: 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



640 field agents from non-governmental organizations and **12 cooperating partners** trained on **nutrition, community mobilization** and **field security**



WFP supported the draft **School Feeding Law** for **Benin** and informed **64 parliamentarians** about the **National Integrated School Feeding Programme**

WFP launched a new user-friendly remote-learning platform in 2023 to efficiently address the growing need for partner training. This offered flexible learning opportunities on various topics crucial to the success of the school feeding programme. In the initial training cycle, WFP trained 640 field agents from non-governmental organizations (NGO) and 12 cooperating partners on essential areas of nutrition, community mobilization, field security, inventory management, monitoring and evaluation, and partnership building. Recognising the platform's potential, WFP broadened its reach later in 2023 to include training on emergency response and cash-based transfers (CBTs).

WFP also leveraged technology and outreach strategies to broaden its knowledge-sharing and advocacy efforts in Benin. Building upon lessons learned from WFP's first experience with the distance learning tool and its own internal learning tool *WeLearn* (which provides access to online courses on various thematic areas) access to the digital training platform was provided to a broader audience. This included national Government and civil society partners. Content included targeted training that aimed to strengthen national capacities in areas relevant to WFP's expertise and needs. The training platform offered online videos on various technical, management, and organisational topics pertinent to school feeding programmes.

To provide members of the Beninese Government with a comprehensive understanding of the National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI, in French), WFP partnered with the Office of the National Assembly to organise a one-day information session. This provided 64 parliamentarians of the 9th legislature with information on the programme and its benefits, while also aiming to garner support for successful passage of the School Feeding Law. Representatives from the Ministry of Maternal and Primary Education, the Presidential PNASI monitoring unit, and the National Food and Nutrition Agency actively participated in the session. This collaboration aimed to equip parliamentarians with the knowledge to contribute effectively to the programme's implementation and long-term success. WFP played a pivotal role in securing the legal framework for the school feeding programme and approval of the School Feeding Law by Benin's Council of Ministers on 26 April 2023. This critical legislation will ensure the long-term sustainability of the National Integrated School Feeding Programme. WFP received funding from the Common Improvement Fund (CIF) to support country capacity strengthening activities, which directly contributed to the progress of the School Feeding Law.

To ensure a smooth transition when the Government takes over the National Integrated School Feeding Programme, WFP is actively building capacity and refining the programme model. For example, WFP supported the development and dissemination of a new training manual - *Managing a School Canteen in Benin* - and a revised canteen management guide. These resources will equip local actors with the necessary knowledge to run school canteens effectively. As part of the collaborative process for a sustainable national school feeding model, WFP integrated 20 new schools into the pilot programme. This brought the total to 50 and allowed for further testing and refinement of a national school feeding model to inform the government handover. The introduction of allowances for school cooks and the School Connect initiative in 50 pilot schools will provide valuable evidence regarding the effectiveness of these incentives in supporting programme sustainability once the government handover takes place. Consultations on different components of the national school feeding model are ongoing, with post-analysis reports being produced. This will ensure a well-defined and effective programme for the future and will be vital for a successful programme transfer.

WFP prioritised the procurement of local produce for the school meals programme from local suppliers. This empowered women smallholder farmers and strengthened the local economy. In addition, WFP provided pilot schools with grain mills and processing equipment. Mill shelters and shaded areas were also constructed to facilitate income-generating projects for these communities. Training sessions were organised for mill operators and women's groups to ensure the proper management of this equipment and to strengthen the link between these projects and school canteens. Recognising the importance of a robust legal framework and a supportive policy environment, WFP

actively supported the drafting of a School Feeding Law, which aligned with the recommendations from past programme evaluations including the PNASI and WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 evaluations. The School Feeding Law was adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 2023 and is currently being considered by Parliament. If passed, this will create a favourable legal framework for the programme's long-term sustainability.

WFP's contributions extended to the establishment of the National Agency for Food and Nutrition (ANAN, in French) through a presidential decree in July 2023. This agency is expected to play a crucial role in future food and nutrition initiatives and the management of the national school feeding programme. WFP also contributed to the review process of the National Social Protection Policy, aiming to contribute to a more comprehensive approach to social welfare in Benin and further strengthen food and nutrition security efforts in Benin.

WFP is collaborating with the Government of Benin to comprehensively evaluate the school feeding programme. This evaluation will utilise the Systemic Approach to Better Education Results (SABER) tool. The initial stages have commenced, with the validation of the roadmap, preparatory meetings with regional and internal teams, and recruitment of two national consultants to facilitate the process and ensure a detailed assessment is undertaken. This inclusive approach will involve consultations across different regions and is expected to be finalised in April 2024. WFP will provide technical expertise and financial support to the Ministry of Maternal and Primary Education, including the facilitation of consultations and organization of a national workshop.

WFP actively supported advocacy efforts of the Benin Government for the school feeding programme throughout 2023. WFP partnered with the Government to organize departmental and national activities to commemorate African School Feeding Day on 01 March 2023. As part of effective knowledge management and the sharing of good practices, WFP also facilitated government participation in a workshop hosted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) from 3-4 October 2023 on local food production for school feeding programmes. This event provided a platform for Benin to share its successful home-grown initiatives and lessons on the expansion of local food production with other countries. Furthermore, the Minister of Maternal and Primary Education participated in a panel discussion on innovative financing for school meal programmes at the School Meals Coalition conference in Paris in October 2023. These activities raised awareness about the programme's benefits and importance. High-level government officials also visited schools with newly built school canteens, which generated greater awareness and further public and political support for the programme.

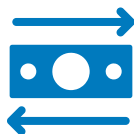
WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide technical assistance and policy support, including through South-South cooperation, to local and national institutions in the areas of gender responsive school feeding, food security, and emergency preparedness and response	3 - Fully integrates gender

Strategic outcome 04: Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises



24,770 people reached with cash-based transfers (CBTs); **55 percent women**



USD 1.1 million in cash distributed to displaced people



15,030 people supported via food distributions; **54 percent women**

In 2023, WFP provided emergency food assistance to 39,800 people in Benin, of which 55 percent were women. This intervention addressed food insecurity worsened by climate-related shocks and the crises in the Sahel and Ukraine. WFP prioritised a gender-sensitive approach throughout the intervention in two ways. Firstly, women who headed vulnerable households were encouraged to receive assistance on behalf of the entire family. Secondly, offers of complementary nutrition interventions were made to help prevent malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6 to 23 months.

In response to the ongoing crisis in northern Benin, WFP delivered three months of in-kind food assistance to 15,030 people facing food insecurity, helping to improve their lives. WFP also provided jointly with UNHCR unconditional cash-based transfers (CBTs) through mobile money to support vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, and refugees who arrived due to the spillover of the Sahel crisis. WFP partnered with Moov Africa as its financial service provider for cash transfers. WFP reached 24,770 people with CBT assistance (55 percent women), which exceeded its 2023 target of 15,000 by a wide margin.

WFP effectively partnered with the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator to ensure a coordinated response to the crisis in northern Benin. This collaboration helped ensure resources were efficiently allocated to meet the needs of the various populations. To further enhance the impact of the CBT programme, WFP introduced a complementary nutrition top-up element. This targeted intervention provided additional assistance specifically for the purchasing of nutritious food. This programme benefited 1,020 people in the Atacora department, and yielded significant improvements in food security, particularly among female-headed households. The percentage of food-secure households in this group rose from 2 percent to 10 percent.

WFP's food assistance programmes significantly improved the conditions of people affected by the crisis in northern Benin. In areas like Dogbo and Houéyogbé, 60 percent of households received in-kind food assistance, which contributed to improved food security. Prior to receiving assistance, less than 10 percent of households were food secure. Following WFP's intervention, this figure rose to 78 percent in Dogbo and 60 percent in Houéyogbé.

WFP's post-distribution monitoring data revealed a significant improvement in the nutritional status of recipient households compared to those who did not receive assistance. Households that received assistance increased their consumption of foods rich in essential nutrients, such as protein, iron, and vitamin A, from an average of 51 percent to 95 percent. Social behavioural change communications strategies were integrated into the integrated nutrition package alongside food distributions and nutrition cash top-ups. This approach encouraged positive dietary choices and behaviours. Monitoring reports highlighted the positive experience of people in need during food distribution activities. WFP's commitment to a positive duty of care ensured distributions were conducted in a respectful and dignified manner. WFP prioritised people's safety and well-being, while protection training courses were provided for field officers. Local complaint management committees, led by local communities, were established to promptly address any concerns.

In addition to the provision of its emergency response, WFP actively invested in preparedness and capacity strengthening of government agencies across Benin. WFP supported the National Civil Protection Agency responsible for crisis management and the Technical Unit for Monitoring and Support for Food Security Management (CTSAGSA, in French) to enhance their response capabilities and in the development of the *Cadre Harmonisé* process. This tool was used to identify areas at risk of food insecurity and assess the vulnerability of the population to food insecurity. WFP supported the collection of mVAM data (mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) - a key component of the *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis - and collaborated with the Directorate of Agricultural Statistics and CTSAGSA to build capacities of computer-assisted data collection, quality control, and data processing. Through these collaborations WFP helped refine the analysis of food security indicators. This enabled more effective and continuous monitoring of the food

situation while improving preparation efforts for potential shocks.

A joint WFP-CTSAGSA mission assessed the situation of Benin's main markets. This included evaluations of food stocks, general consumer price trends, institutional and market supply and demand, market functionality (availability of basic products, cash crops, and livestock) to forecast potential inflation of food prices. In 2023, WFP made strong progress in the implementation of critical Minimum Preparedness Actions. These included the establishment of strong partnerships with cooperating partners in the two northern regions. To ensure transparency and efficient management, WFP engaged a third-party monitor to oversee food distributions, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, and to monitor the community feedback mechanism, which ensured prompt resolution of any concerns raised by people in need.

WFP supported the establishment of complaint management committees in municipalities across Benin. Committee members received comprehensive training to ensure they could effectively address concerns of people in need. WFP was a key stakeholder in the development of a national contingency plan, collaborating with other United Nations agencies in the pre-validation process. This plan will be crucial for the coordination of a unified response to future emergencies. In addition, WFP recognised the specific needs of displaced populations and therefore contributed to the development of a comprehensive national contingency plan for refugees. WFP also contributed to the creation of a regional response plan for countries in the Gulf of Guinea. This addressed the unique challenges faced by the region and aimed to ensure a more unified approach to potential emergencies.

WFP supported a remote monitoring system by reactivating the mVAM tool, a remote mobile phone-based system for collecting real-time data on food security and market conditions. This strengthened the government's capacities in data collection and early warning systems. To ensure effective use of mVAM, WFP trained ten government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. These officials came from various departments crucial for data management, including Information Systems, Agricultural Statistics, and the Technical Unit for Monitoring and Support for Food Security Management. The training covered computer-assisted telephone data collection protocols, data processing, sampling methodology, quality control, and the analysis of direct evidence indicators of food safety. WFP also assisted the Government to register internally displaced persons in northern Benin. This data was vital for delivering targeted assistance to vulnerable populations. WFP is currently working with the Government of Benin to transfer ownership of the mVAM system. This will include training phone operators, establishing quality control measures, and overseeing the ongoing data collection process.

WFP actively participated in the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response. This group ensured a unified approach to emergencies throughout 2023, with WFP as lead agency ensuring the group's effective coordination. Leveraging the working group's platform, WFP implemented its emergency response strategy alongside other United Nations agencies. In northern Benin, WFP partnered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to implement a joint cash-based transfer programme. This provided crucial, comprehensive, and impactful assistance to vulnerable populations affected by the crisis.

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response and coordination	4 - Fully integrates gender and age

Cross-cutting results

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

Existing socio-cultural norms have led to persistent gender inequality in Benin. Women and girls often face gender-based violence (GBV) and are less likely to have access to quality education, good health, and nutrition. Recent data indicated that 34 percent of women suffered from physical, sexual and emotional conjugal violence, either perpetrated by their current or most recent partner (INSTAD, MICS Benin 2021-2022 survey) [1]. Women continued to face challenges with access to land, agricultural technology, and factors of production, as well as equal access to economic opportunities and markets. For example, 47 percent of all agricultural workers were women, however, only 10 percent of women producers held titles to land [2].

In Benin, food insecurity affected households with poor access to arable land, particularly those headed by women in rural areas. As a result, women, girls, and other marginalised populations, such as people with disabilities, were more likely to face disproportionate barriers to food security. To reduce existing inequalities, the Government of Benin implemented several initiatives, including the Gender Equality Support Programme, piloted by the Ministry of Social Affairs since 2022 (and continuing until 2026). This programme focused on increasing women's participation in political leadership while encouraging women and communities to speak out against gender-based violence and to report cases of such violence to authorities.

WFP conducted a gender analysis to both assess the status of gender mainstreaming within organizational activities and interventions, and to identify gaps in the implementation of gender-transformative activities that required additional capacity. Findings included the under-representation of women in decision-making roles, low levels of women in leadership, and women being in lower positions in mixed farmer's cooperatives and school-based committees.

Women accounted for 29 percent of school canteen management committees and small farmer cooperatives. While they also continued to face challenges in accessing the agricultural technologies they required, women were key players in the agricultural production and food processing value chain. The Ministry of Agriculture noted that around 10 percent of women engaged in agricultural mechanisation were exposed to excessive use of manual labour (such as long hours in the field), which further exposed them to health and protection risks. Working to mitigate these issues, WFP increased the number of women recommended for membership of integrated school canteen management committees from 30 percent to 50 percent. WFP is also aiming to reduce the physical effort, work time and increased exposure to health risks for women. It has set up improved cooking stoves in schools with school canteens to benefit women cooks, while continuing to train them in best practices for cooking and hygiene. WFP has also facilitated women's access to annual medical check-ups in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. In addition, WFP acquired agricultural equipment to facilitate packaging tasks for harvested commodities - a stage of the agricultural process at which many women are involved. WFP also increased women's access to markets through the introduction of a criterion that required 15 percent of market quotas to be exclusively reserved for women.

After several advocacy initiatives, WFP obtained agreement from the Beninese Government to pay allowances (CBTs) to 18,407 women cooks in 5,498 schools with canteens nationwide to support and encourage them for their work. To promote women's financial and digital inclusion, CBTs were the modality chosen for implementation. Mobile network operator Moov Africa was used to deliver CBTs via SIM cards distributed to participants. The use of digital instruments as a means of payment highlighted WFP's ongoing efforts to contribute to women's economic empowerment, particularly those without civil status documents. These women were able to obtain the necessary SIM cards to register for the distribution with the support of agents from a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that WFP partnered with.

A multi-sectoral assessment of the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced populations affected by the security crisis in northern Benin revealed an increase in protection challenges linked to the worsened insecurity situation. Several unaccompanied children were recorded, as well as protection incidents that involved early marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls.

Leading up to the joint emergency response operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), teams from WFP conducted field consultations with mixed groups and women-only groups regarding protection risks and the specific needs of different groups in the context of distribution operations. These consultations identified differentiated risks for men and women. For example, women were exposed to higher risks of gender-based violence (GBV), particularly on return journeys from distributions, especially at night and over long-distances. In some cases, women were also at risk of post-distribution marital conflict. The risk of community tensions was also noted, with men being more exposed to post-distribution reprisals from host communities not included in the initial distributions. Women mentioned cases of physical and verbal aggression to which they were already victims (particularly around water points) which were likely to be exacerbated after the distributions took place.

In line with the identified risks, WFP organized training regarding protection for response actors and ensured the implementation of appropriate prevention measures. This included clear and transparent communication, involvement of local stakeholders, implementation of adaptations at sites to reduce risks, an increase in distribution sites to reduce distances people needed to travel, and communication with host communities through the involvement of local leaders. These aimed to mitigate the risks of reprisals or post-distribution tensions. Complaints mechanisms that included male and female representation were also established, with staff trained to collect any reported complaints and protection issues for WFP to effectively address them.

Protection and accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity. Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

The continued deterioration of security in the Sahel and its spillover into northern parts of Benin was a cause for concern in 2023. The unfolding events continued to trigger movements of Burkinabe and Togolese populations in search of safer areas in the interior of Benin. In addition, Beninese populations that lived close to border hamlets and villages were also moving to more central villages in search of protection. At times, tensions escalated between displaced people and host communities due to the convergence of dwindling resources at the community level and increased needs of all concerned.

In the Atacora Department, there were 180 new incidences of GBV in the first quarter of 2023 alone. Furthermore, the May 2023 multi-sectoral assessment report from the United Nations-organized mission revealed high protection risks, compared with 2022. Problems with protection were linked to early marriages - including child marriage - and sexual abuse, as well as the exploitation of women and girls that were displaced or refugees. To prevent and mitigate these protection risks WFP's work primarily incorporated capacity building across all protection areas, including gender-based violence. As such, 517 agents from cooperating partners were trained in these areas by WFP between December 2022-March 2023.

In terms of WFP's emergency response work, the organization partnered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to conduct preliminary field consultations to identify any protection risks during the distribution of humanitarian assistance. Results led to the implementation of several activities. Firstly, training on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) was provided for all partners involved in emergency responses. Secondly, inclusive complaint and feedback mechanisms were implemented with the complaint's office and local complaints management committees. WFP launched a 24-hour telephone hotline to provide a transparent and inclusive feedback communication loop. Lastly, measures were implemented in the field, including the use of multiple distributions sites, the use of separate lines and toilets based on gender, as well as measures to accommodate needs of disabled people, such as the installation of wheelchair ramps and the use of sign language for hearing impaired people.

Regarding the school meals programme, WFP commenced its payment of allowances to 18,407 women cooks across 5,498 school canteens throughout Benin. To ensure operational efficiency, WFP established a complaints and feedback system that consisted of circumstantial and hybrid complaints table (a combination of a complaints table and complaint management committees at distribution sites). As a result of these measures 3,190 complaints were registered in 2023, with 79 percent closed and 21 percent that are still being processed.

In addition, WFP regularly undertook post-distribution monitoring to gather feedback from recipients of assistance regarding its activities. The results obtained were used to improve WFP operations, particularly in the context of emergency assistance. For example, the post-distribution monitoring following the first distribution of WFP's emergency response in the north revealed that people believed certain distribution sites to be too remote, while people also indicated there was poor dissemination of information of WFP operations, and during distributions, there long waiting times in queues and the absence of minimum amenities at certain locations were highlighted.

Based on this feedback, a detailed follow-up was conducted with the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) responsible for implementing distributions to ensure that they implemented all necessary corrective measures. Consequently, post-distribution monitoring of successive distributions revealed that all people in need reported being treated with respect across the different WFP sites. Further data analysis showed that almost all people that received assistance had trouble getting to distribution locations and had encountered difficulties once there. To improve this, WFP opened new distribution sites to reduce the distances covered by people in need. An NGO that specialised in third-party monitoring was recruited by WFP to oversee operations and coordinate the implementation and monitoring of complaints mechanisms.

In response to shortcomings observed in the operation of community-level complaints committees, a workshop was organized in Alibori and Atacora departments. The workshop brought together the local actors involved in the response, representatives of community groups, local elected officials, and decentralized state structures. In each department, the workshop provided an opportunity to take stock of how the mechanisms were working, and to identify

the measures needed to improve or revitalise them.

Environmental sustainability

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment

Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF)

Benin is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change according to the 2021 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index, which ranked it 153rd out of 185 countries [1]. However, it also had one of the lowest rates of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to 0.05 percent of global emissions [2]. While these emissions are expected to increase with the country's future development, Benin's primary climate-related challenge is vulnerability to extreme weather events. In the future, the length and duration of wet and dry seasons are likely to become more extreme, with more droughts and floods [3].

Recognising food insecure households' vulnerability to climate-related risks, WFP has supported livelihood diversification options to build stronger resilience capacities. As well as facilitating the creation of safety nets, WFP's interventions have also promoted agricultural practices aimed at reducing soil erosion, improving soil fertility, and reducing overexploitation of land through traditional farming practices. WFP specifically worked with women to foster the adoption of energy saving fuel-efficient stoves during the implementation of the school feeding programme. These stoves reduce the use of wood and associated emissions. Efforts were also made to address risks linked to environmental protection and gender-based violence associated with the collection of firewood for school feeding activities.

In the Atacora and Alibori departments of north Benin, WFP noted increased deforestation due to the needs of internally displaced persons, including households' requirements for cooking fuel, shelter, and income. In response, WFP has been exploring the use of community discussions regarding fuel efficient stove initiatives and associated income generating activities.

With regard to the indicator "Proportion of Field-Level Agreements (FLAs)/Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)/Construction Contracts (CCs) screened for environmental and social risks", the 11 agreements concluded in 2023 with partner organisations were screened for environmental and social risks.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

WFP's Regional Bureau Dakar (RBD) supported the WFP Benin Country Office to undertake an Environmental Management System (EMS) assessment. It included environmental site assessments of the country office premises in Bohicon and Cotonou, as well as engagement with the Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development on waste management and clean energy in Benin. Discussions were also held with the Cotonou Mayor's office to discuss best practices for waste management. These activities helped WFP to create a systematic approach for the identification and management of environmental risks using a continuous cycle of improvement. For the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2027, the WFP Benin Country Office will focus on energy, waste and water management as well as sustainable procurement opportunities, and increasing staff awareness of environmental issues. Recommendations are currently being prioritised for the efficient implementation of the Environmental Management System action plan.

In line with EMS recommendations, solutions that incorporate renewable energy (e.g. the installation of new lighting in warehouses) will be considered and implemented within WFP operations. Solar energy has been identified as an area with strong potential. The possibilities offered by WFP's Energy Efficiency Programme (EEP) will also be explored in 2024.

WFP engaged with the Government in late 2023 to pilot a project focused on South-South cooperation with national stakeholders from Benin and other West African countries. As part of this proposal, WFP would facilitate technical exchanges to promote waste management and the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability activities in the region.

To strengthen community resilience and programme sustainability, WFP implemented several environmental protection measures and reinforced its capacities in 2023. Firstly, an Energizing School Feeding mission by the regional Energy for Food Security Advisor was completed in June 2023 with an aim of assessing energy requirements for the integration of clean cooking solutions in WFP-assisted schools in Benin. Secondly, a Sustainable Supply Chain mission from WFP headquarters was conducted in 2023 to help the country office optimise its school feeding programme (e.g. implementing the best routes for food distribution and reducing carbon emissions along the value chains of different commodities). Lastly, an energy expert joined WFP's Benin country office in September 2023 as Standby Partner from Swiss Humanitarian Aid with a goal to further develop WFP's energy and environment interventions.

As waste management is particularly challenging in Benin, WFP is currently identifying recycling partners to support its waste management objectives (primarily for plastic waste). To improve the sustainability of in-house operations, WFP has prioritised sustainable design strategies, using local construction resources, furnishings, and traditional technologies to maximise the use of renewable energy with sustainability-certified contractors. Environmental and social screening will be conducted by WFP during the proposal development phase to ensure no unintended harm to the environment or populations is caused.

Nutrition integration

Communities, households and individuals supported by WFP are able to meet their nutritional needs and protect their nutrition status in the face of shocks and long-term stressors, through an effective combination of fortified food, specialized nutritious products and actions to support diet diversification

Despite Benin's efforts in recent decades, slow progress has been made in the improvement of key nutritional indicators. The prevalence of stunting remained one of the highest in the West and Central Africa Regions at 37 percent which is above the World Health Organization threshold of 30 percent [1]. Approximately 1 million children under five years suffered from stunted growth (37 percent of children in this age group) [2]. Global acute malnutrition also affected 8.3 percent of children under five years old, of whom 2.4 percent suffered from severe acute malnutrition [3]. Malnutrition in Benin is associated with poor hygiene and sanitation practices, as well as inadequate feeding of infants and young children. Furthermore, the achievement of minimum dietary diversity of young children has not seen significant progress. According to recent data from the 2021-2022 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), only 22 percent of children received a diversified complementary diet in Benin, and only 9 percent had a minimum acceptable diet [4]. Faced with this situation, WFP reviewed its nutrition strategy in 2023, with a renewed focus on two key pillars: the strengthening of human capital; and the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among populations experiencing shocks.

Nutrition has been integrated into all WFP activities, with a primary focus on school feeding, emergencies, and market support for small producers. Partnerships at strategic and operational levels with the Permanent Secretariat of the Food and Nutrition Council (SP-CAN, in French), made it possible to mobilize the various sectoral ministries - and their decentralised structures - as well as local partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to develop complementary nutrition and health initiatives within the framework of school feeding programmes. This included nutritional education, deworming, monitoring schoolchildren's nutrition and the promotion of good hygiene practices, as well as the delivery of the emergency response nutrition package in the north of Benin.

Nutrition and School Health

The national integrated school feeding programme covers nearly 1.2 million children and has been used as an entry point for the improvement of nutritional indicators. For example, WFP has undertaken capacity building regarding good hygiene and meal preparation practices for 215 cooks and promoted hygiene and good nutritional practices in 125 school spaces. These activities impacted 52,458 school children. Efforts are done to improve the nutritional value, building on the potential of fresh food as well as fortified products.

Nutrition in Emergencies

Faced with spillover of the Sahel crisis into Gulf of Guinea countries and the consequent risk of a deterioration of the nutritional situation in northern Benin, WFP and its partners systematically integrated nutritional activities within the overall emergency response. The operational partnership with the SP-CAN made it possible to ensure that the emergency nutrition response was targeted to those in most need. Cash transfers were made to 24,770 households, while 1,069 households received nutrition top-ups thanks to effective targeting of nutritionally vulnerable groups, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and children aged 6 to 23 months. Work towards the prevention of acute malnutrition associated with the emergency response was implemented locally through social and behavioural change communications activities. This was based on the large network of nutrition-focused community workers from various nutrition assistance groups. WFP also supported 250 nutrition-focused community workers with capacity building sessions which enabled them to deliver culinary demonstrations, home visits, educational talks on the principles of nutritious eating and the optimisation of monetary transfers in emergency contexts. In 2023, WFP assisted 690 pregnant women, 3,173 breastfeeding mothers and 1,094 children aged 6 to 23 months from households of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The current nutrition landscape in Benin, does not fully explain the inaccessibility and low availability of nutrient-rich foods at the household level. To gain further data and insights, WFP technically and financially supported SP-CAN to coordinate the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis in 2023. This analysis provided WFP with comprehensive understanding of the policy challenges that have created barriers and limited people's access to nutritious food in the country. For example, data showed that 60 percent of households did not have access to nutritious food, while 1 in 5 households (21 percent) were unable to consume an energy-only diet. Accordingly, WFP initiated engagements with key stakeholders to advocate for enhanced synergy and complementarity of actions to resolve Benin's malnutrition challenges. The Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis also provided Benin's Governmental Ministries and other partners (e.g. national and international

NGOs) with tangible evidence regarding the prevailing national nutrition situation. In future, such analyses will better inform nutrition-sensitive programming.

HIV Interventions

WFP undertook capacity building activities for 124 health actors involved in the management and overall care of people living with HIV. This included the leaders of associations for people living with HIV to deliver improved nutritional care for patients. Seven such associations benefited from support, including from various items of agricultural equipment for the implementation of income-generating activities.

Partnerships

In 2023, WFP's operational footprint and unparalleled capacity for delivering interventions in hard-to-reach places in Benin attracted many vital partners committed to serving communities in need. WFP also strengthened donor relationships through field visits and meetings. Ambassadors and/or representatives from traditional and new donors visited WFP's activities across the country to gain a better understanding of WFP's wide range of operations. These activities resulted in new funding opportunities, with support for WFP's emergency response and support to small-holder farmers being notable examples. Furthermore, 2023 saw the Vice-President of the Republic of Benin visit a school that had benefited from WFP's school meals programme.

WFP frequently met with donors and partners to share key operational information, including the impacts of rising security challenges in the north of Benin and the ration size pilot (based on data from needs-based assessments and WFP market analyses following the Ukraine crisis and COVID-19 pandemic).

WFP worked diligently to maintain existing relationships with traditional and non-traditional partners in organizational operations and to advocate for new funding opportunities with regular briefing engagements during the implementation of activities. Private donors and individual giving campaigns simultaneously increased the level of available flexible funding, which was instrumental for the expansion of WFP activities. In September 2023, WFP conducted a mapping exercise of potential companies to foster new partnerships and explore new public-private opportunities. WFP designed a strategy to find entry points with the private sector in Benin, and consequently shortlisted companies for future discussions. An action plan for potential engagements was also devised. With support from the WFP Regional Bureau Dakar, the country office established a Partnership Action Plan for execution in 2024 and beyond.

WFP's multi-year funding in Benin has provided greater predictability until 2026. A portion of such funding has facilitated long-term planning for WFP's emergency response capability, as well as sustaining the school meals programme or nutrition projects for the next three years.

Focus on localization

In 2023, WFP partnered with 11 organizations (91 percent local) all selected through the United Nations Partner Portal. This platform identifies and verifies the capacity of non-governmental organisation (NGOs) that are authorised to operate in Benin, as well as their alignment to the country's national development policy. Therefore, WFP was able to select appropriate partners based on area of specialty, geography and scope of work. WFP also met with NGO partners to raise awareness about the organization's activities and partnership policies.

WFP remained a strategic partner to the Government via its work to cover governance and technical gaps, by strengthening shock response capacities and through its work to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. In the short term, WFP strengthened national and provincial capacities to manage emergency responses. WFP also advanced its ambition to transfer expertise and the overall management of an equitable and inclusive national school meals programme.

In 2023, WFP also supported Benin's Ministries of Agriculture; Finance and Economic Planning; Maternal and Primary Education; and Social Affairs and Microfinance. WFP advanced its relationship with international financial institutions and positioned itself as a valuable development partner that brings key expertise in tripartite relationships between them and Benin's Government.

Focus on UN inter-agency collaboration

WFP's partnerships with United Nations agencies leveraged expertise across different sectors, enabling the organization and its partners to implement programmes in complementarity, and to progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

WFP continued to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), providing cash assistance to displaced people and long-term social cohesion interventions within host communities. Work with UNICEF and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was furthered, with each providing expertise and

complementary activities in nutrition, education, and social protection programmes. A strengthened collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), positively impacted WFP activities aimed at the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and the provision of services to survivors. Furthermore, collaborative efforts are in place for sustainable partnerships with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships through food fortification projects.

During 2023, WFP implemented several activities through its leadership of technical and financial partners in Benin's education sector. These included the organization of monthly consultation meetings and the organization and participation in sector reviews and joint field visits. Alongside the Minister of Nursery and Primary Education and the Minister of Education, WFP coordinated partnership actions between technical and financial partners and the Government. Under co-leadership, the Partnership Compact was prepared, validated, and submitted to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). More than USD 38 million was allocated to Benin by the GPE Executive Board for the transformation of the education system (USD 25.7 million) and for the acceleration of girls' education (USD 12.9 million).

Financial Overview

In 2023 WFP revised its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023 budget from USD 138.7 million to USD 155.9 million to incorporate the increased needs of people facing growing hunger challenges. The 2023 funding requirements were set at USD 43.7 million.

Throughout 2023, WFP experienced noteworthy developments regarding the securing of funding and fostering of partnerships. A total of USD 29 million additional funding was mobilized during the year. This included USD 4.9 million in direct bilateral contributions from Benin government partners and funding from Australia to implement activities focused on resilience and food value chains.

Furthermore, new funding and the utilisation of the immediate response account enabled WFP to support the Benin Government's emergency preparedness and response. A complementary contribution from France also provided crucial support as it secured three months of assistance to people impacted by the spillover of activities in the Sahel. A significant collaboration was also established with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address emergencies in northern Benin.

Overall, the operations in Benin were fully funded given balances from contributions carried over from 2022 that include multi-year funding for the school feeding programme until 2026. Going forward with the implementation of WFP's new CSP 2024-2027, WFP continued to advocate for greater flexibility in funding to allow for rapid responses to emergency needs and to plug potential funding gaps across Beninese operations. For example, flexible funding allowed WFP to purchase more food locally, which shortened transportation times and reduced risks associated with the long lead times of imported commodities.

















Given the increasing importance of local purchases within the school feeding programme, a dedicated activity and budget was established to strengthen work supporting smallholder farmers and local food value chains. This reflects the dynamic nature of budgetary requirements and strategic considerations within the CSP 2019-2023 and the need to align with evolving circumstances and contractual agreements.

Additional funding underscored the commitment of international partners to bolster WFP's efforts aimed at addressing Benin's food security challenges. These collaborations and diverse funding sources not only strengthened WFP's response capabilities, but also contributed to the resilience of affected communities. Despite unforeseen circumstances - including the need for resource reorientation - WFP remained adaptable and ensured that funds were effectively utilised. Overall, WFP worked effectively to meet the evolving needs of Benin's population while addressing emergent challenges throughout 2023.

Annual CSP Financial Overview by Strategic Outcome (Amount in USD)

	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditure
SDG Target 1. Access to Food	37,445,529	35,181,432	72,215,030	40,436,715
SO01: Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round	35,586,587	34,530,173	70,363,086	38,697,094
Activity 01: 1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production	34,673,560	34,530,173	69,711,860	38,625,788
Activity 05: Provide support to smallholder farmers (men and women) and other actors along the value chain to improve food quality, diversify livelihood and incomes and improved access to markets	913,027	0	646,857	71,305
Non-activity specific	0	0	4,368	0
SO04: Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises	1,858,941	651,259	1,851,944	1,739,621
Activity 04: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination	1,858,941	651,259	1,851,944	1,739,621
SDG Target 2. End Malnutrition	1,365,478	0	827,817	199,297

SO02: Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023	1,365,478	0	827,817	199,297
Activity 02: Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change	725,034	0	88,249	82,495
Activity 06: Provide an integrated nutrition prevention package (including gender sensitive behaviour change, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations	640,443	0	739,567	116,801
SDG Target 5. Capacity Building	400,487	336,983	618,590	287,721
SO03: 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	400,487	336,983	618,590	287,721
Activity 03: 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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response	400,487	336,983	618,590	287,721
Non-SDG Target	0	0	814,235	0
Total Direct Operational Costs	39,211,495	35,518,415	74,475,673	40,923,734

Direct Support Costs (DSC)	 1,810,872	 1,597,200	 4,538,958	 2,304,323
Total Direct Costs	 41,022,367	 37,115,615	 79,014,631	 43,228,058
Indirect Support Costs (ISC)	 2,666,453	 2,412,515	 2,152,190	 2,152,190
Grand Total	 43,688,821	 39,528,130	 81,166,822	 45,380,249

Data Notes

Overview

[1] WFP, Evaluation of Benin WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 <https://www.wfp.org/publications/evaluation-benin-wfp-country-strategic-plan-2019-2023>

Operational context

[1] Benin Sustainable Development Report 2023: https://finances.bj/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Benin_Sustainable-Development-Report-2023.pdf

[2] Transparency" indicator of the 2021 Open Budget Survey: <https://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Open-budget-survey-2021-1-.pdf>

[3] Benin Sustainable Development Report 2023: https://finances.bj/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Benin_Sustainable-Development-Report-2023.pdf

[4] UNDP Benin Vision 2060: <https://www.undp.org/fr/benin/communiqués/le-benin-lance-le-processus-de-formulation-de-sa-vision-de-developpement-lhorizon-2060>.

[5] Vision Benin 2060 aims to make it possible to articulate a long-term national development strategy to meet the major challenges of Beninese society, namely: peace, poverty, inequalities, climate change, dividend demographics, decent employment, gender, human capital, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development. More detail: <https://www.gouv.bj/article/2462/vision-nationale-developpement-horizon-2060-gouvernement-mise-planification-avenir-radieux/>

[6] Benin Sustainable Development Report 2023: https://finances.bj/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Benin_Sustainable-Development-Report-2023.pdf

[7] The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is a composite metric of gender inequality using three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market. A low GII value indicates low inequality between women and men, and vice-versa. Available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index>

[8] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC): A five-phase scale which classifies levels of acute food insecurity, with 1 being the least acute, and 5 being the most acute.

[9] The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report 2023: https://reliefweb.int/report/world/state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-report-2023-urbanization-agrifood-systems-transformation-and-healthy-diets-across-rural-urban-continuum?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw5ImwBhBtEiwAFHDZx_YZvC-TRZwu0Gp1aQUdmGG7XaqEdXV7Mjmazsa pTorRH00CH6OkBoCfnsQAvD_BwE

[10] The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index is the world's leading Index showing which countries are best prepared to deal with global changes brought about by overcrowding, resource-constraints, and climate disruption. Free and open source, the Country Index uses 20 years of data to rank countries annually based on their vulnerability and, uniquely, how ready they are to adapt. Available at: <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings>

[11] Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Report 2023: <https://www.undrr.org/media/91954/download?startDownload=true>

Strategic outcome 02

[1] 95–95–95 targets: 95 percent of the people who are living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 95 percent of the people who know that they are living with HIV being on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, and 95 percent of people who are on treatment being virally suppressed. More detail: https://www.unaids.org/en/topics/2025_target_setting.

Strategic outcome 04

Comment on indicators A.2.1 Quantity of food provided through conditional or unconditional assistance and B.2.1 Quantity of specialized nutritious foods provided to treat or prevent malnutrition: the planning involved a combination of in kind and cash-based transfers. WFP did not receive in kind contributions, whilst WFP received CBT funding, hence the lower level.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

[1] INSTAD, MICS Benin 2021–2022 survey: <https://instad.bj/actualites/530-rapport-de-l-analyse-de-l-enquete-mics-benin-2021-2022>

[2] African Development Bank Report: https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/projects-and-operations/bad_benin_-_country_gender_profile_ang-last.pdf

Environmental sustainability

[1] The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index is the world's leading Index showing which countries are best prepared to deal with global changes brought about by overcrowding, resource-constraints and climate disruption. Free and open source, the Country Index uses 20 years of data to rank countries annually based on their vulnerability and, uniquely, how ready they are to adapt. Available at: <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings>

[2] Greenhouse gas emissions from the emission index platform. Available at: <https://www.emission-index.com/countries/benin>

[3] Benin Country Climate and Development Report, World Bank, 2023. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/benin/publication/benin-country-climate-and-development-report>

Nutrition integration

[1] Global Nutrition Report. Available here :

https://globalnutritionreport.org/documents/896/Executive_summary_2022_Global_Nutrition_Report.pdf

[2] Ibid

[3] Ibid

[4] Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Available here:

<https://instad.bj/images/docs/insae-statistiques/enquetes-recensements/MICS/Rapport%20d'analyse%20de%20l'enqu%C3%AAte%20MICS%20B%C3%A9nin.pdf>

Annex

Reporting on beneficiary information in WFP's annual country reports

To produce estimates of the total number of unique beneficiaries WFP has assisted yearly, the data from all activities and transfer modalities must be adjusted to eliminate overlaps and add new beneficiaries. Further background information is provided in the summary tables annex of the ACR.

The final estimated number of beneficiaries assisted in each country is validated by country offices and entered in COMET at the end of every year:

- the total number of beneficiaries, which is the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under all country level activities and outputs, based on the adjusted totals that seek to eliminate overlap;
- the total number of beneficiaries receiving food transfers, cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers or capacity strengthening, the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under the activities and outputs for each of these transfer modalities, based on the adjusted estimates that seek to eliminate overlap;
- the total number of beneficiaries assisted under outputs defined by country offices and specific to their operations;
- the total number of beneficiaries assisted under each programme area, the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under WFP's eight programme areas at the country level;
- the number of schoolchildren assisted under school-based programmes, the sum of all participants assisted under the school-based programmes, adjusted to exclude overlaps and activity supporters such as teachers and cooks.

Although WFP conducts quality assurance to provide beneficiary data which are as accurate as possible, numerous challenges remain regarding data collection, verification, entry and processing. Beneficiary numbers in ACRs should be considered "best estimates", subject to over- and under- estimation.

Figures and Indicators

Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	622,972	759,367	122%
	female	505,780	655,388	130%
	total	1,128,752	1,414,755	125%
By Age Group				
0-23 months	male	6,923	1,647	24%
	female	6,812	1,825	27%
	total	13,735	3,472	25%
24-59 months	male	6,803	1,912	28%
	female	6,492	2,052	32%
	total	13,295	3,964	30%
5-11 years	male	216,470	663,601	307%
	female	216,310	581,050	269%
	total	432,780	1,244,651	288%
12-17 years	male	386,576	85,470	22%
	female	258,123	57,721	22%
	total	644,699	143,191	22%
18-59 years	male	5,280	5,654	107%
	female	17,323	11,365	66%
	total	22,603	17,019	75%
60+ years	male	920	1,083	118%
	female	720	1,375	191%
	total	1,640	2,458	150%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	1,128,752	1,414,755	125%

Beneficiaries by Programme Area

Programme Area	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Malnutrition prevention programme	700	0	0%
Malnutrition treatment programme	10,850	0	0%
School based programmes	1,067,360	1,374,955	128%

Programme Area	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Unconditional Resource Transfers	49,843	64,577	129%

Annual Food Transfer (mt)

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Access to Food			
Strategic Outcome 01			
Beans	2,676	1,720	64%
Iodised Salt	535	445	83%
Maize	13,379	12,168	91%
Rice	13,379	11,803	88%
Split Peas	2,676	3,238	121%
Vegetable Oil	1,784	1,648	92%
Strategic Outcome 04			
Beans	135	40	30%
Corn Soya Blend	194	0	0%
Iodised Salt	11	3	27%
Maize	1,012	0	0%
Rice	0	297	-
Vegetable Oil	56	20	35%
End Malnutrition			
Strategic Outcome 02			
Beans	1	0	0%
Corn Soya Blend	288	0	0%
Iodised Salt	0	0	0%
Maize	9	0	0%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	37	0	0%
Vegetable Oil	13	0	0%

Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher (USD)

Modality	Planned Distribution (CBT)	Actual Distribution (CBT)	% Actual vs. Planned
Access to Food			
Strategic Outcome 01			
Value Voucher	313,816	0	0%
Strategic Outcome 04			
Cash	355,455	1,125,339	317%

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01: Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round				Root Causes	
Output Results					
Activity 01: 1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production					
Corporate output 2.3: School-age children and adolescents have access to school-based health and nutrition packages					
CSP Output 01: Targeted school children (equitably girls/boys) receive nutritious meals every school day, including food produced by smallholder farmers, in order to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and improve school enrollment and retention					
Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1.3 Number of girls and boys receiving food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening transfers through school-based programmes	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	469,635	632,480
			Male	597,725	742,475
			Total	1,067,360	1,374,955
A.2.3 Quantity of food provided to girls and boys through school-based programmes			MT	34,429	31,022.27
A.4.2 Total value of vouchers (value voucher or commodity voucher) transferred to family members of girls and boys benefiting from school-based programmes			USD	313,816	
A.8 Number of rations provided through conditional or unconditional assistance		School feeding (on-site)	Number	181,561,930	187,909,806

Other Output					
Activity 01: 1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production					
Corporate Output 2.3: School-age children and adolescents have access to school-based health and nutrition packages					
CSP Output 01: Targeted school children (equitably girls/boys) receive nutritious meals every school day, including food produced by smallholder farmers, in order to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and improve school enrollment and retention					
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.6.2: Number of schools or institutional sites reached through school-based programming	A.6.2.1: Total number of schools assisted by WFP	School feeding (on-site)	school	5,708	5,709
CSP Output 01: Targeted school children (equitably girls/boys) receive nutritious meals every school day, including food produced by smallholder farmers, in order to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and improve school enrollment and retention					
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
N.1.1: Feeding days as percentage of total school days	N.1.1.1: Feeding days as percentage of total school days	School feeding (on-site)	%	100	98
N.6: Number of children covered by HGSF based programmes	N.6.1: Number of children covered by HGSF based programmes	Smallholder agricultural market support Activities	Individual	6,000	580,724
N.7: Number of schools supported through the home-grown school feeding (HGFSF) model	N.7.1: Number of schools supported through the home-grown school feeding (HGFSF) model	School feeding (on-site)	Number	3,146	3,146
N.8: Number of producers/smallholder farmers supplying schools	N.8.1: Number of producers/smallholder farmers supplying schools	Smallholder agricultural market support Activities	Individual	2,000	9,301
Activity 05: Provide support to smallholder farmers (men and women) and other actors along the value chain to improve food quality, diversify livelihood and incomes and improved access to markets					
Corporate Output 2.3: School-age children and adolescents have access to school-based health and nutrition packages					

CSP Output 02: Targeted smallholders, especially women smallholders, and other actors along the value chain benefit from strengthened technical and operational capacities to improve food quality, strengthen market access and increase their incomes

Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
F.3: Number of smallholder farmer aggregation systems supported	F.3.1: Number of farmers' organizations supported	Smallholder agricultural market support Activities	Number	20	30

Outcome Results

Activity 01: 1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production

Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: SMP - Location: Benin - Modality: - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)						
Annual change in enrolment	Female	3.74	≥6	≥6	4.89	WFP
	Male	5.46	≥7	≥7	5.74	programme monitoring
	Overall	4.15	≥6.5	≥6.5	5.37	WFP programme monitoring
Attendance rate	Female	81.16	≥90	≥90	83.33	WFP
	Male	82.32	≥95	≥95	84.97	programme monitoring
	Overall	8,174	≥92.5	≥92.5	84.18	WFP programme monitoring
Graduation rate	Female	70.36	≥96	≥96	78.63	WFP
	Male	70.77	≥96	≥96	78.95	programme monitoring
	Overall	70.64	≥96	≥96	78.84	WFP programme monitoring
Retention rate, by grade: Retention rate	Female	86.91	≥90	≥90	96.67	WFP
	Male	87.38	≥90	≥90	96.78	programme monitoring
	Overall	87.19	≥90	≥90	96.72	WFP programme monitoring

Strategic Outcome 02: Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023				Root Causes	
Output Results					
Activity 02: Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change					
Corporate output 2.2: Children, pregnant women and girls and new mothers, and other nutritionally vulnerable populations benefit from programmes to prevent and treat malnutrition and improve diets					
CSP Output 03: Moderate acute malnourished children 6-59 months and PLWGs in targeted areas receive specialized nutritious foods and nutrition counselling to improve their nutritional status					
Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1.1 Number of people receiving assistance unconditionally or conditionally (complementary with UNICEF, FAO, WHO)	Children; Pregnant Breastfeeding Women and Girls	Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition	Female	5,208	
			Male	5,642	
			Total	10,850	
A.2.2 Quantity of food provided to nutritionally vulnerable people through malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes			MT	337	
CSP Output 04: Targeted children 6-23 (girls and boys) adolescent and PLWG receive nutritious food or supplement to prevent malnutrition					
Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1.1 Number of people receiving assistance unconditionally or conditionally (complementary with UNICEF, FAO, WHO)	Activity supporters	Prevention of acute malnutrition	Female	336	
			Male	364	
			Total	700	
A.2.2 Quantity of food provided to nutritionally vulnerable people through malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes			MT	12	

Strategic Outcome 03: 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	Root Causes
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Other Output

Activity 03: 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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response

Corporate Output 4.1: National actors have increased capacity and knowledge to enhance policies, strategies, processes and programmes, contributing to the achievement of zero hunger and other SDGs

CSP Output 07: School children benefit from strengthened capacity provided to national institutions for effective implementation of a sustainable, gender responsive and inclusive scaled-up, cost-effective National Integrated School Meals Programme, in order to ensure access to food

Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
C.4: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national stakeholder capacities contributing to Zero Hunger	C.4.g.1: Number of government and national partners staff participating in training and other technical assistance initiatives provided through WFP-facilitated South-South Cooperation	School Based Programmes (CCS)	Number	640	640
C.4: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national stakeholder capacities contributing to Zero Hunger	C.4.g.2: Number of government and public sector staff participating in training and other technical assistance initiatives	School Based Programmes (CCS)	Number	74	74
C.6: Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national systems contributing to zero hunger and other SDGs as part of WFP capacity strengthening	C.6.g.1: Number of tools or products developed	School Based Programmes (CCS)	Number	4	4

CSP Output 08: Vulnerable populations (women and men) benefit from enhanced national and local government capacity to manage early warning and food security and monitoring systems, shock response/preparedness, social protection and food systems, in order to improve their access to food and their resilience

Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
C.6: Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national systems contributing to zero hunger and other SDGs as part of WFP capacity strengthening	C.6.g.1: Number of tools or products developed	School Based Programmes (CCS)	Number	4	4

Outcome Results

Activity 03: 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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response

Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: CS - Location: Benin - Modality: - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)						
Number of national policies, strategies, programmes and other system components relating to school health and nutrition/including school feeding enhanced/developed with WFP capacity strengthening support and/or advocacy	Overall	1	=1	=1	1	WFP programme monitoring

Target Group: CSI - Location: Benin - Modality: - Subactivity: SC/Other Services						
Number of national policies, strategies, programmes and other system components contributing to Zero Hunger and other SDGs enhanced with WFP capacity strengthening support	Overall	0	=3	=3	3	WFP programme monitoring

Strategic Outcome 04: Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises	Crisis Response
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Output Results

Activity 04: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination

Corporate output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs

CSP Output 09: individuals affected by shocks receive timely and adequate nutritious food and/or cash-based transfers (CBTs) in order to meet their immediate food and nutrition needs

Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1.1 Number of people receiving assistance unconditionally or conditionally (complementary with UNICEF, FAO, WHO)	All	General Distribution	Female	14,925	8,121
			Male	10,075	6,909
			Total	25,000	15,030
A.2.7 Quantity of food provided unconditionally or to restore infrastructure and community assets			MT	1,215	359.78

Corporate output 1.2: Crisis-affected children, pregnant women and girls and new mothers, and other nutritionally vulnerable populations benefit from programmes to prevent and treat malnutrition and improve diets

CSP Output 10: Crisis-affected Children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and other nutritionally vulnerable populations affected by crises (Tier 1) receive specialized nutritious food to treat and prevent malnutrition in emergency areas.

Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1.7 Number of people in emergency contexts receiving assistance unconditionally or to restore infrastructure and community assets (complementary with UNICEF, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP)	All	General Distribution	Female	8,955	13,695
			Male	6,045	11,075
			Total	15,000	24,770
A.1.7 Number of people in emergency contexts receiving assistance unconditionally or to restore infrastructure and community assets (complementary with UNICEF, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP)	Children	General Distribution	Female	2,880	195
			Male	3,120	98
			Total	6,000	293
A.1.7 Number of people in emergency contexts receiving assistance unconditionally or to restore infrastructure and community assets (complementary with UNICEF, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP)	Pregnant Breastfeeding Women and Girls	General Distribution	Female	3,843	727
			Total	3,843	727
A.2.1 Quantity of food provided through conditional or unconditional assistance			MT	194	
A.3.1 Total value of cash transferred to people			USD	355,455	1,125,339
B.2.1 Quantity of specialized nutritious foods provided to treat or prevent malnutrition			MT	194	

Outcome Results

Activity 04: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination

Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Alibori - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: Unconditional Resource Transfers (CCS)						
Consumption-based coping strategy index (average)	Female	19.34	<10	<10	3.67	WFP survey
	Male	18.55	<10	<10	3.71	WFP survey
	Overall	18.76	<10	<10	3.7	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	Female	49	≥85	≥85	99	WFP survey
	Male	59	≥85	≥85	91	WFP survey
	Overall	54	≥85	≥85	95	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score	Female	30	<10	<10	1	WFP survey
	Male	27	<10	<10	9	WFP survey
	Overall	28.5	<10	<10	5	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score	Female	21	<5	<5	0	WFP survey
	Male	14	<5	<5	0	WFP survey
	Overall	12.5	<5	<5	0	WFP survey
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Atacora - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: Unconditional Resource Transfers (CCS)						
Consumption-based coping strategy index (average)	Female	0	<10	<10	1.71	WFP survey
	Male	0	<10	<10	0.87	WFP survey
	Overall	0	<10	<10	1.17	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	Female	0	≥85	≥85	86	WFP survey
	Male	0	≥85	≥85	98	WFP survey
	Overall	0	≥85	≥85	92	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score	Female	0	<10	<10	14	WFP survey
	Male	0	<10	<10	2	WFP survey
	Overall	0	<10	<10	8	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score	Female	0	<5	<5	0	WFP survey
	Male	0	<5	<5	0	WFP survey
	Overall	0	<5	<5	0	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Couffo - Modality: Food - Subactivity: Unconditional Resource Transfers (CCS)						
Consumption-based coping strategy index (average)	Female	23.16	<10	<10	0.79	WFP survey
	Male	18.92	<10	<10	1.04	WFP survey
	Overall	21.57	<10	<10	0.92	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	Female	4	≥85	≥85	41	WFP survey
	Male	8	≥85	≥85	29	WFP survey
	Overall	6	≥85	≥85	35	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score	Female	24	<10	<10	46	WFP survey
	Male	30	<10	<10	54	WFP survey
	Overall	27	<10	<10	50	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score	Female	73	<5	<5	13	WFP survey
	Male	62	<5	<5	17	WFP survey
	Overall	67	<5	<5	15	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Mono - Modality: Food - Subactivity: Unconditional Resource Transfers (CCS)						
Consumption-based coping strategy index (average)	Female	28.59	<10	<10	1.54	WFP survey
	Male	26.36	<10	<10	1.73	WFP survey
	Overall	27.69	<10	<10	1.52	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	Female	4	≥85	≥85	41	WFP survey
	Male	8	≥85	≥85	29	WFP survey
	Overall	6	≥85	≥85	35	WFP survey
Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score	Female	24	<10	<10	46	WFP survey
	Male	30	<10	<10	54	WFP survey
	Overall	27	<10	<10	50	WFP survey

Food consumption score: Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score	Female	73	<5	<5	13	WFP survey
	Male	62	<5	<5	17	WFP survey
	Overall	67	<5	<5	15	WFP survey

Cross-cutting Indicators

Nutrition integration indicators

Nutrition integration indicators						
Cross-cutting indicators at CSP level						
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Percentage of people supported by WFP operations and services who are able to meet their nutritional needs through an effective combination of fortified food, specialized nutritious products and actions to support diet diversification	Female	0	=100	=100	5.72	WFP programme monitoring
	Male	0	=100	=100	7.66	
	Overall	0	=100	=100	6.49	
						WFP programme monitoring

Environmental sustainability indicators

Environmental sustainability indicators						
Cross-cutting indicators at Activity level						
Activity 01: 1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production						
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: SMP - Location: Benin - Modality: - - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)						
Proportion of field-level agreements (FLAs)/memorandums of understanding (MOUs)/construction contracts (CCs) for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risks	Overall	100	=100	=100	100	WFP programme monitoring

Gender equality and women's empowerment indicators

Gender equality and women's empowerment indicators

Cross-cutting indicators at Activity level

Activity 04: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination

CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Alibori - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions jointly made by women and men</i>	Overall	57	≥70	≥70	61	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by men</i>	Overall	29	<10	<10	24	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by women</i>	Overall	14	<20	<20	15	WFP survey
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Atacora - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions jointly made by women and men</i>	Overall	0	≥70	≥70	73	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by men</i>	Overall	0	<10	<10	9	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by women</i>	Overall	0	<20	<20	18	WFP survey
Target Group: Residents - Location: Dogbo - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions jointly made by women and men</i>	Overall	0	≥70	≥70	23	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by men</i>	Overall	0	<10	<10	24	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by women</i>	Overall	0	<20	<20	53	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Houeyogbe - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions jointly made by women and men</i>	Overall	0	≥70	≥70	39.5	WFP survey
Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by men</i>	Overall	0	<10	<10	16	WFP survey

Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - <i>Decisions made by women</i>	Overall	0	<20	<20	44	WFP survey
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Protection indicators

Protection indicators						
Cross-cutting indicators at Activity level						
Activity 04: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination						
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Alibori - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services	Female	4	=20	=20	4	WFP survey
	Male	6	=20	=20	6	WFP survey
	Overall	10	=20	=20	10	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes	Female	0	=100	=100	99.17	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	99.72	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Atacora - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services	Female	0	=20	=20	12	WFP survey
	Male	0	=20	=20	22	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=20	=20	34	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes	Female	0	=100	=100	98.57	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	99.58	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	99.21	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidentst - Location: Dogbo - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes	Female	0	≥90	≥90	95.52	WFP survey
	Male	0	≥90	≥90	97.18	WFP survey
	Overall	0	≥90	≥90	96.38	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Dogbo - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services	Female	8	=20	=20	8	WFP survey
	Male	13	=20	=20	13	WFP survey
	Overall	21	=20	=20	21	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Houeyogbe - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services	Female	11	=20	=20	11	WFP survey
	Male	16	=20	=20	16	WFP survey
	Overall	27	=20	=20	27	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes	Female	0	≥90	≥90	95	WFP survey
	Male	0	≥90	≥90	96.63	WFP survey
	Overall	0	≥90	≥90	95.69	WFP survey

Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes	Female	0	=100	=100	99.24	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	99.51	WFP survey
Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance	Female	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Male	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey
	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	WFP survey

Accountability to Affected Population indicators

Accountability indicators						
Cross-cutting indicators at CSP level						
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Country office has a functioning community feedback mechanism	Overall	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	WFP programme monitoring
Country office has an action plan on community engagement	Overall	No	Yes	Yes	No	WFP programme monitoring

Accountability indicators						
Cross-cutting indicators at Activity level						
Activity 04: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination						
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2023 Target	2023 Follow-up	Source
Target Group: Refugees & IDPs - Location: Atacora - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA	Female	0	≥75	≥75	71.43	WFP survey
	Male	0	≥75	≥75	75	WFP survey
	Overall	0	≥75	≥75	73.68	WFP survey
Target Group: Refugees IDPs - Location: Alibori - Modality: Cash - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA	Female	27	≥75	≥75	90.91	WFP survey
	Male	63	≥75	≥75	85.17	WFP survey
	Overall	45	≥75	≥75	87.11	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Dogbo - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA	Female	25	≥75	≥75	93.24	WFP survey
	Male	35	≥75	≥75	92.19	WFP survey
	Overall	30	≥75	≥75	92.75	WFP survey
Target Group: Résidents - Location: Houeyogbe - Modality: Food - Subactivity: General Distribution						
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA	Female	35	≥75	≥75	69.57	WFP survey
	Male	45	≥75	≥75	75.64	WFP survey
	Overall	40	≥75	≥75	73.11	WFP survey

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Women winnowers sort corn at the Djidja store in Zou

World Food Programme

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Financial Section

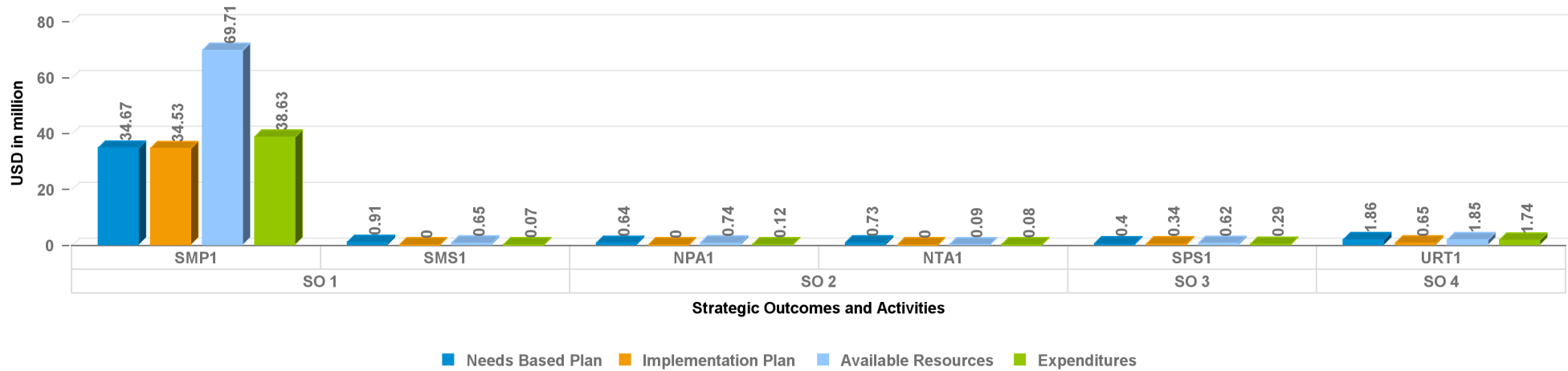
Financial information is taken from WFP's financial records which have been submitted to WFP's auditors.

Annual Country Report

Benin Country Portfolio Budget 2023 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

Annual CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome	
SO 1		Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round
SO 2		Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023
SO 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
SO 4		Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises
Code	Activity Code	Country Activity Long Description
SO 1	SMP1	1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production
SO 1	SMS1	Provide support to smallholder farmers (men and women) and other actors along the value chain to improve food quality, diversify livelihood and incomes and improved access to markets
SO 2	NPA1	Provide an integrated nutrition prevention package (including gender sensitive behaviour change, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations
SO 2	NTA1	Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change
SO 3	SPS1	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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response
SO 4	URT1	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination

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Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

SDG Target	Strategic Outcome	Country Activity Description	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
2.1	Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination	1,858,942	651,259	1,851,945	1,739,621
	Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round	1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production	34,673,560	34,530,173	69,711,860	38,625,789
		Provide support to smallholder farmers (men and women) and other actors along the value chain to improve food quality, diversify livelihood and incomes and improved access to markets	913,028	0	646,858	71,306
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	4,368	0
Subtotal SDG Target 2.1 Access to Food (SDG Target 2.1)			37,445,530	35,181,432	72,215,031	40,436,716

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Benin Country Portfolio Budget 2023 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

SDG Target	Strategic Outcome	Country Activity Description	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
2.2	Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023	Provide an integrated nutrition prevention package (including gender sensitive behaviour change, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations	640,444	0	739,567	116,802
		Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change	725,035	0	88,250	82,495
Subtotal SDG Target 2.2 End Malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			1,365,478	0	827,817	199,297
17.9	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	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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response	400,487	336,983	618,590	287,722
Subtotal SDG Target 17.9 Capacity Building (SDG Target 17.9)			400,487	336,983	618,590	287,722
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	0	814,236	0
Subtotal SDG Target			0	0	814,236	0
Total Direct Operational Cost			39,211,495	35,518,416	74,475,674	40,923,735
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			1,810,872	1,597,200	4,538,958	2,304,324
Total Direct Costs			41,022,367	37,115,616	79,014,632	43,228,059
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			2,666,454	2,412,515	2,152,190	2,152,190
Grand Total			43,688,821	39,528,131	81,166,822	45,380,249



Wannee Piyabongkarn
Chief

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

Expenditures

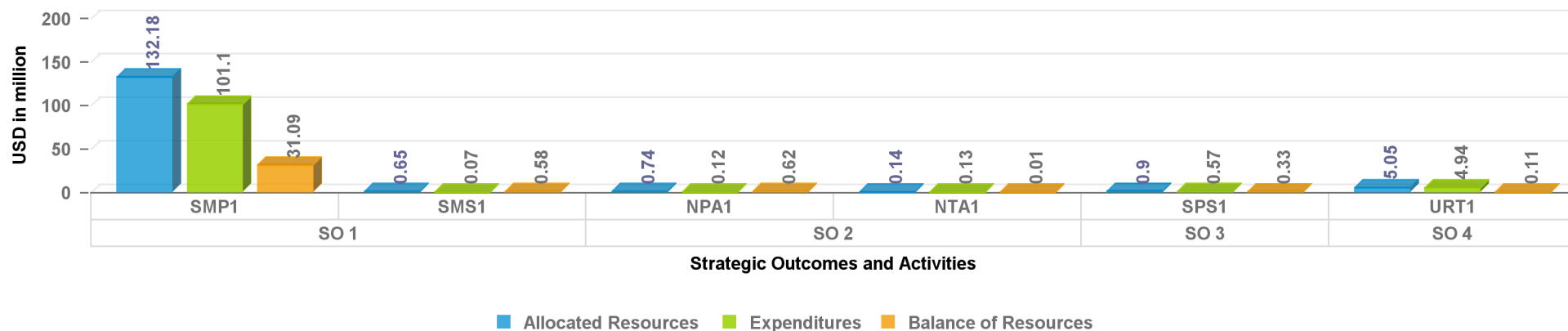
Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

Annual Country Report

Benin Country Portfolio Budget 2023 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round
SO 2	Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023
SO 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
SO 4	Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises

Code	Activity Code	Country Activity - Long Description
SO 1	SMP1	1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production
SO 1	SMS1	Provide support to smallholder farmers (men and women) and other actors along the value chain to improve food quality, diversify livelihood and incomes and improved access to markets
SO 2	NPA1	Provide an integrated nutrition prevention package (including gender sensitive behaviour change, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations
SO 2	NTA1	Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change
SO 3	SPS1	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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response
SO 4	URT1	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination

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Benin Country Portfolio Budget 2023 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

SDG Target	Strategic Outcome	Country Activity Description	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
2.1	Crisis-affected populations in Benin are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs requirements the aftermath of shocks during and after crises	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of national partners on emergency response, preparedness, early recovery and coordination	8,754,897	3,229,340	1,819,474	5,048,814	4,936,491	112,323
	Vulnerable populations including school aged children in Benin have adequate access to safe, nutritious food and basic social services all year round	1. Provide integrated and inclusive school meals programmes in targeted communities in a way that relies on and stimulates local production	123,295,745	132,181,951	0	132,181,951	101,095,880	31,086,071
		Provide support to smallholder farmers (men and women) and other actors along the value chain to improve food quality, diversify livelihood and incomes and improved access to markets	913,028	646,858	0	646,858	71,306	575,552
		Non Activity Specific	0	4,368	0	4,368	0	4,368
Subtotal SDG Target 2.1 Access to Food (SDG Target 2.1)			132,963,670	136,062,517	1,819,474	137,881,991	106,103,676	31,778,315

This computer generated report is certified by the Chief of Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch (FINC)

Annual Country Report

Benin Country Portfolio Budget 2023 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

SDG Target	Strategic Outcome	Country Activity Description	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
2.2	Vulnerable populations, including children under 5 and PLWGs in targeted areas have improved their nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023	Provide an integrated nutrition prevention package (including gender sensitive behaviour change, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations	640,444	739,567	0	739,567	116,802	622,765
		Provide specialized nutritious food to children and PLWGs to treat malnutrition and prevent risk of stunting and support Benin health services on nutrition education and gender transformative behaviour change	3,488,503	140,463	0	140,463	134,708	5,755
Subtotal SDG Target 2.2 End Malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			4,128,946	880,030	0	880,030	251,510	628,520
17.9	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	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, social protection, food systems, and emergency preparedness and response	2,102,020	902,208	0	902,208	571,340	330,868
Subtotal SDG Target 17.9 Capacity Building (SDG Target 17.9)			2,102,020	902,208	0	902,208	571,340	330,868
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	814,236	0	814,236	0	814,236
Subtotal SDG Target			0	814,236	0	814,236	0	814,236

This computer generated report is certified by the Chief of Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch (FINC)

Annual Country Report

Benin Country Portfolio Budget 2023 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2023 (Amount in USD)

SDG Target	Strategic Outcome	Country Activity Description	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
		Total Direct Operational Cost	139,194,636	138,658,991	1,819,474	140,478,465	106,926,526	33,551,939
		Direct Support Cost (DSC)	7,230,756	7,086,003	84,898	7,170,901	4,936,267	2,234,634
		Total Direct Costs	146,425,392	145,744,994	1,904,372	147,649,365	111,862,793	35,786,573
		Indirect Support Cost (ISC)	9,517,650	6,324,333		6,324,333	6,324,333	0
		Grand Total	155,943,042	152,069,327	1,904,372	153,973,698	118,187,125	35,786,573

This donor financial report is interim



Wanee Piyabongkarn
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures