



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Ghana Country Brief February 2024

Operational Context

Ghana, situated in West Africa, exhibits significant disparities between its northern and southern regions, as well as between rural and urban areas. Despite national-level improvements, hunger and malnutrition persist, particularly in northern Ghana and rural communities. In the north, where agriculture is the primary livelihood for 90 percent of families, numerous challenges such as climate change, low prices, poor infrastructure, and inadequate education prevail. Varying food availability leads to price fluctuations countrywide, impacting affordability, especially considering Ghana's status as a food deficit nation vulnerable to global price spikes, like those of imported rice.

Ghana faces the triple burden of malnutrition, with stunting among children under 5 decreasing nationally but remaining high in the Northern Region. Vitamin and mineral deficiencies, notably anaemia, disproportionately affect women and children, with higher rates in the north. The Cost of Hunger in Africa study underscores the economic toll of child undernutrition, with Ghana losing 6.4 percent of its GDP annually.

Since 1963, the World Food Programme (WFP) has collaborated with the Ghanaian government to tackle food security and nutrition challenges. Over the past five years, WFP has advocated for food fortification standards and promoted the consumption of fortified foods nationwide, particularly through Ghana's School Feeding Programme, which provided food vouchers as part of livelihood support and social behavioural change solutions, benefitting 5,000 vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. In 2023, WFP provided direct cash assistance to thousands in need and supported institutional capacities amid various challenges, including climate change and food price hikes. By involving the private sector, WFP aims to enhance food systems, alleviate malnutrition, and fortify social protection programs.



Human Development Index: 133 (2021)

Chronic malnutrition: 17% of children aged 6-59

Population: 34.7 million

Income Level: Lower middle

In Numbers



2,539 people assisted

US\$ 129,519 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 8.6M six-month (March-August 2024) net funding requirement

Operational Updates

- **Emergency Support to Rural Livelihoods and Food Systems Project:** Under the livelihood intervention with funding from the Japanese Government, two new communities were supported to establish a vegetable farm. Furthermore, of 50 girls trained in soap making, 34 started their own businesses, with 10 expanding by investing profits into soap cutters. As a safety measure, members have been encouraged to participate in the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) where they were guided to open group bank accounts and save their profits. Seven group members who lacked access to banks were supported to acquire a group mobile money SIM card so that they could utilize the mobile money savings service to secure their money in a digital manner.
- **DSM-Firmenich Project:** A stakeholders' review meeting at the Royal Lamerta Hotel in Kumasi gathered over 30 participants from various sectors to evaluate the 2023 Near Infrared Radiation activities. The meeting aimed to identify challenges, gaps, and devise solutions. The Association of Ghana Industries, Savana Signatures, and Alpha Communications and Health Foundation, each presented their 2023 work, followed by a session to provide concise solutions and recommendations for the 2024 workplan.
- **Response to Asylum Seekers:** A cross-functional team oversaw the verification and enrolment process for CBT assistance, informed by a training session at Bolgatanga. The exercise at the Tarikom settlement verified and enrolled 233 of 351 asylum-seeking households from a UNHCR dataset. WFP provided cash assistance via ABSA Bank to meet immediate needs, with the data authenticity confirmed through a verification exercise. As GRB/UNHCR registered more asylum seekers, WFP worked with WVG and the Camp Management Committee to manage feedback during registration, verification, and cash-out processes.

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Photo Caption: Vimbayi (Head of Field Office in Bolgatanga) and an asylum seeker who is visually impaired at the Tarikom Center, Upper East, Ghana.

WFP Photographer: Daniel KWAYISI (Communication Associate)

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
137.5 million	22 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in US\$) (January-June 2024)
31.7 million	8.6 million

SDG target 2.1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations (including refugees and internally displaced) in Ghana can meet their essential needs (food, nutrition and non-food) before, during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity 1: Work with actors at the national, institutional, community and individual levels to strengthen their capacity to enhance gender-sensitive, evidence-based early warning analysis for informed anticipatory action, preparedness, disaster risk reduction and response, including disaster risk financing mechanisms like climate insurance.

Activity 2: Provide unconditional assistance, including social and behaviour change activities to crisis affected populations.

SDG target 2.2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in Ghana, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, children, people with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, have improved diets by 2028.

Focus area: Root causes

Activity 3: Promote nutrition-sensitive policies, programmes and social and behaviour change initiatives at the national, local, institutional, and individual levels to create an enabling environment that supports people in Ghana to have healthy diets and healthy lifestyles.

SDG target 2.4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Food systems in Ghana, including for nutritious food value chains, are inclusive, provide sustainable livelihoods, meet essential nutrient needs for all and are more resilient to local and global financial, climate and geopolitical shocks and value chain disruptions, by 2028.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activity 4: Work with national actors to equitably provide knowledge, skills, tools, de-risking instruments and links that will enable them to strengthen food systems and agrifood value chains, in accordance with demand and in line with national priorities.

SDG target 9: Capacity building

Strategic Outcome 4: Ghana's social protection system is gender-transformative, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive, and inclusive and reaches its target beneficiaries more effectively and efficiently by 2028.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activity 5: Work with relevant actors to strengthen capacity at the national, community and individual levels to assist in creating an environment that fosters policy coherence and efficiency in the implementation of equitable and inclusive national social protection systems, including the Ghana school feeding programme.

SDG target 17.3: Diversified resources

Strategic Outcome 5: Government and other actors are efficient in delivering their mandates through effective partnerships and streamlined on-demand services.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activity 6: Provide on-demand services to government and other actors to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and coordination in the implementation of interventions.

Monitoring

Baseline for Asylum Seekers and Post Distribution Monitoring for Host Communities:

WFP conducted a baseline study in March to gather food security and nutrition data, using both quantitative and qualitative methods including Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and household surveys. FGDs involved elderly and young individuals from Mosi and Bisa communities, discussing perceptions of change due to unrest, coping mechanisms, and social cohesion dynamics. Quantitative data from households focused on economic capacity, malnutrition prevention, protection and accountability, and process monitoring related to WFP assistance.

March 2024 Cadre Harmonise Analysis: WFP continued collaborating with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and other stakeholders to conduct the Cadre Harmonise (CH) analysis, which relies on the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS). Preliminary findings from the March 2024 analysis indicate that an estimated 1.05 million people in Ghana would face food insecurity (IPC/CH phase 3 and 4) between June and August 2024. Although this reflects a notable decrease from the 2.2 million projected in November 2023, it aligns with concerning projections from March 2023, where 1.37 million people were estimated to be food insecure. High food prices, exacerbated by natural hazards like flooding, remain significant drivers of food insecurity in Ghana, despite some alleviation in inflation.

Challenges

The livelihood intervention faces a challenge: high demand for vegetable production support exceeds the project's capacity, despite some beneficiaries reinvesting their farming income.

Donors

Donors to WFP Ghana CSP (2024 – 2028) include Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, USA, and Private donors such as Mastercard Foundation, Rockefeller, and AB InBev Foundation.