



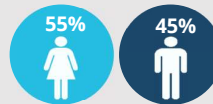
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Ghana Country Brief May 2024



### In Numbers



10,221 people assisted

US\$ 78,697 cash-based transfers made

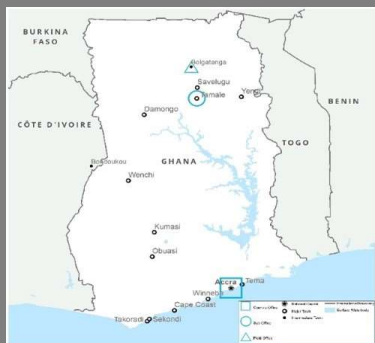
US\$ 9.1 million six-month (June-November 2024) net funding requirements

### 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 through the take home ration intervention 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

### Operational Updates

**WFP deepens Support to Asylum Seekers in Bolga:** In keeping with the humanitarian work of saving lives and re-establishing livelihoods, WFP has provided unconditional cash assistance to asylum seekers in the Tarikom Settlement Centre within the Upper East region. This assistance, which took place on 14-15 May, through the facilitation of ABSA Bank, reached 1,535 asylum seekers (72 male and 235 female-headed households), including 112 pregnant and breastfeeding women, 52 adolescent girls, and 60 children. Covering the period of May and June 2024, this cash transfer represents a 30 percent increase from the previous month's disbursements.

**Emergency Support to Rural Livelihoods and Food Systems Project:** Following a remote validation of infrastructure status, ESRF beneficiaries in all 13 project regions have been provided a total of 108 poly tanks. This is expected to ensure reliable source of water supply to boost overall farm productivity, particularly in periods of irregular rainfall and water scarcity.

**Technical Working Committee Set Up to Strengthen Agricultural Advocacy:** In strengthening policy dialogues on Ghana's high post-harvest losses, WFP in collaboration with government partners are working towards establishing a Technical Working Committee. This committee which is being set up as part of the WFP-Mastercard project will provide advice and support in advocating for higher budgetary allocation to the Agric sector beyond the usual 2 percent. Membership of this committee is being drawn from Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana Standards Authority, National Service Scheme, Women in Agriculture Development, Regional Agriculture Department (MOFA), Directorate of Crop Service (MOFA), Association of Ghana Industries, Chamber of Agribusiness and Ministry of Finance. Based on the expected results of the project on post-harvest loss as well as anticipated impact on the over 100,000 targeted smallholder farmers, this committee will put together a policy brief to advocate for the achievement the Maputo declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

**Data sharing agreement signed with 11 Agro champions:** In ensuring access to a database of about 96,000 smallholder youth farmers, a data sharing agreement was signed with all 11 agro champions under the Mastercard Foundation project in May 2024.

### Monitoring

**Post Distribution Monitoring for Host Communities and Asylum Seekers and Distribution Monitoring for Asylum Seeker Cash Distribution:** WFP conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey in 16 host communities for host communities and asylum seekers using a mixed-method

Contact info: Abigail Mbord (abigail.mbord@wfp.org)  
Country Director: Barbara Clemens  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Ghana](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Ghana)

Photo Caption: Staff of Marvmay Enterprise express delight after receiving processing equipment from WFP and partners.  
WFP Photographer: Daniel KWAYISI (Communication Associate)

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
137.5 million	25 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in US\$) (June-Nov 2024)
31.7 million	9.1 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.

approach. This included quantitative surveys of 582 households (396 female-headed, 186 male-headed) in the Upper East and Upper West regions, and eight focus group discussions (FGDs) in four communities. The FGDs, each involving 8-12 participants and focusing on vulnerable groups such as disabled individuals, and pregnant, and breastfeeding women, provided critical qualitative insights. Additionally, distribution monitoring of the cash distribution to asylum seekers was conducted to assess the efficiency of WFP's cash distribution arrangement.

**Supplementary Verification of Asylum Seekers:** WFP received additional data from UNHCR for 32 asylum seeker households in Tarikum Settlement Centre, bringing the total to 383 households through the institutional data-sharing mechanism. To ensure comprehensive coverage and that "no one is left behind", WFP conducted a supplementary verification exercise for the newly onboarded and previously verified households – a total of 118 asylum seeker households. This exercise verified and enrolled 75 additional households for WFP cash assistance, increasing the total enrolment in Tarikum Settlement Centre to 308 households. During the second cycle of cash distribution, 307 out of the 308 verified households received cash assistance.

**Integrated Targeting for Optimization and Amplification of Impact:** WFP is implementing an integrated targeting approach for smallholder farmers (SHFs) under two projects: the USAID-funded Farmer Support Activity (FSA) and the Mastercard Foundation-funded Agribusiness for Youth Employment (AgYE). This strategy aims to enhance operational efficiency and amplify the impact of both projects. The FSA will focus on improving the productivity of youth SHFs identified through this integrated targeting, while the AgYE will provide support to these same SHFs in reducing post-harvest losses.

## Challenges

Tight time constraints on the targeting and DFAT activities in Karaga before the upcoming rainy season hampers the work in the field. Regarding the Gulf of Guinea response, fewer asylum seekers were present at the Tarikom centre, thus reducing the overall number of people reached with food assistance. For FSA, transfers are yet to be done, owing to extended targeting exercises and levels of verification.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Ghana CSP (2024 – 2028) include Ghana, Ireland, Japan, France, Norway, Sweden, USAID, KOICA, and private donors such as Mastercard Foundation, Rockefeller, and ABInBev Foundation.