



World Food Programme



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief June 2024

Operational Context

Benin remains a relatively stable country with a culture of peaceful transition of power since 1990. Benin faces the threat of a spill-over of the conflict in Central Sahel and organized transnational crime Benin remains a relatively stable nation with a tradition of peaceful power transitions since 1990. This has led to population displacements both towards and within Benin, with asylum seekers and refugees increasing from 3,357 at the end of 2022 to 13,114 by February 2024, and potentially reaching 30,000 by the end of the year. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) now number approximately 13,452, mainly in the Atacora and Alibori departments. This influx of nearly 26,000 refugees and asylum seekers and IDPs places immense pressure on already scarce food resources for host communities. Additionally, internal displacements disrupt agricultural production as people abandon their livelihoods for safety, increasing malnutrition risks among vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children. Recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS, 2023) show worsening nutritional status among children under two, with stunting at 36.5 percent, severe stunting at 14.8 percent, underweight at 21 percent, and wasting at 8.3 percent. Post-COVID-19 and the onset of the Russo-Ukrainian war have driven up staple food prices, with maize prices increasing from 229 to 322 FCFA between January to May 2024 and tubers from 300 to 374 FCFA according to the market bulletin of May 2024 by CT-SAGSA. Food insecurity prevalence has worsened, rising from 9.6 percent in 2017 to 25.5 percent in 2022. The latest Cadre Harmonisé results from March 2024 indicates that more than 100,000 people in Atacora and Alibori alone are projected to face food insecurity from June to August 2024.



2021 Human Development Index:
166 out of 191

2022 Gender Inequality Index:
152 out of 170

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Population: **13.7 million**

In Numbers

17,983 mt of food distributed

US\$ 4 million six-month net funding requirement
(July-December 2024)

Operational Updates

Emergency

- In June, WFP conducted a top-up nutrition exercise targeting 1,133 pregnant and breast-feeding women and girls and reaching 763 children aged 6 to 23 months.
- WFP signed an agreement with *Agence Nationale de Protection Civile* (ANPC) for preparation and response to shocks. An operational memorandum of understanding (MoU) is under discussion to support the Government in the registration of internally displaced persons (IDPs), followed by unconditional assistance for three months.
- WFP aims to conduct a one-week training for its staff and cooperating partners in preparation of the next round of assistance scheduled for early August.

School Meals Programme

- By the end of the 2023-2024 academic school year in June 2024, 5,689 of 5,709 canteens were serving daily meals to over a million students, 48 percent of whom were girls.
- WFP commenced stock take, inventory management in school storage rooms, closure of canteen management documents (stock and cash points).
- WFP is targeting 20 schools with canteens to benefit from IFAD's technical support to promote integrated school gardens and fields for the 2024-2025 school year.
- WFP will receive 200 mt of par-boiled rice from *L'Union Régionale des Femmes Etuveuses de Riz des Collines* (URFER-C). Additionally, WFP purchased 70 mt of par-boiled rice from Union of Rice Parboiling Women in Collins (URFER-C.) with additional funds from SODEXO to support school canteens and empower women.

Support to Smallholder Farmers and value chain

- WFP is conducting a vulnerability analysis on resilience activities in various villages where community participatory assessments have been carried out.
- WFP trained four communities on managing productive assets (arboreal half-moon, deep trenches) and construction of improved stoves and compost production.
- WFP trained 172 producers and 58 percent were women.

Contact info: Courage Nyamhunga (courage.nyamhunga@wfp.org)
Deputy Country Director: Caroline Schaefer.
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/benin

Photo Caption: ©WFP/ Bismarck Sossa

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
386.4 million	229 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July -December 2024)
81.4 million	4 million

SDG target 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: People affected by shocks in Benin can meet urgent food and nutrition needs before, during and after shocks, by 2027.

Focus area: *Crisis response.*

Activity 1: Provide food and nutrition assistance to shock-affected people, including school children, to meet their needs and technical assistance to national institutions and local actors to strengthen their emergency preparedness and response capacities.

SDG target 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: School-age children and communities in Benin have access to affordable, nutritious diets and basic social services because of the leveraging of the school feeding programme as an entry point for the achievement of enhanced nutrition, health and education outcomes, by 2027.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activity 2: Provide nutritious school meals to schoolchildren through an integrated and inclusive programme that benefits the community.

Activity 3: Provide technical assistance to targeted food value chain actors to improve the availability of locally produced nutritious food products, especially for school canteens.

SDG target 9: Capacity building

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted institutions and systems in Benin have strengthened capacity to implement school feeding and other inclusive programmes to promote food security and nutrition, by 2027.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activity 4: Provide technical assistance to national institutions to enable them gradually to take operational ownership of the national school feeding programme.

Donors:

Donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027) include Australia, *Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit* (BMZ) Brazil, Government of Benin, China, Choithrams Foundation, Denmark, France Netherlands, Rockefeller Foundation, SODEXO.

Additionally, 14 agricultural technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries were trained, including 3 women, on asset creation and vulnerability analysis.

Capacity Strengthening:

- WFP is working with the national nutrition agency (ANAN) regarding the transfer of the *Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire Intégré*, (PNASI II) programme to the Government starting with the 2024-2025 academic year. ANAN, in collaboration with WFP has set up multisectoral working groups to support the design of a national model for school feeding, the strengthening of local purchases from small producers and the preparation of a national monitoring and evaluation system.
- WFP signed a contract with a private actor to construct three sheds for income-generating activities led by women's groups. WFP is in the process of purchasing equipment for the processing of cassava into gari.
- WFP continues to support capacity strengthening of women's groups in the par-boiled rice sector. WFP is targeting women's groups in the Collines department enabling them to increase their production and access to markets to sell their agricultural products and improve their efficiency.

Monitoring and Assessments

- From 11 to 15 June, WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture on a joint mission to uncover the underlying causes of the surge in everyday food product prices.
- WFP participated in level 1 training of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) tool version 3.0 of food security indicators from 24 to 28 June.
- So far, WFP has monitored 30 percent of all primary schools under the school meals programme. Small-holder farmers have also been monitored during June to assess the impact of the School Meals Programme on the local economy.

Communications, Advocacy and Marketing:

- WFP gathered content from refugees in the commune of Péhuncu during the top up nutrition operation.
- The content gathered will contribute to the joint WFP/UNICEF/UNHCR/IOM story to support fundraising efforts for the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) response plan.
- WFP in partnership with local media covered the field visit of the Vice President of the Republic of Benin to URFER-C, a women's organization in Bantè, Zou province.