



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Benin Country Brief July and August 2024

### Operational Context

Benin remains a relatively stable country with a culture of peaceful transition of power since 1990. Nonetheless, it faces the spill-over effects of the conflict in Central Sahel and organized transnational crimes. 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 25,927 in August 2024 (UNHCR), 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 forcibly displaced persons 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 breastfeeding women (PBW) 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 Ukraine crisis have driven up staple food prices, with maize prices increasing by 45 percent and tubers by 20 percent. Food insecurity prevalence has worsened, rising from 9.6 percent in 2017 to 25.5 percent in 2022. The Cadre Harmonisé results from March 2024 indicate that more than 108,000 people in 15 communes of Atacora and Alibori alone are projected to face food insecurity from June to August 2024.



Income Level: **Lower middle**

2023/24 Human Development Report: **173 out of 193**

Population: **13.7 million**

## In Numbers

**18,873 mt** of food distributed since January 2024

**1.3 million** schoolchildren daily assisted through support to the National School Feeding Programme

### Operational Updates

#### Emergency Response

- In July 2024, WFP conducted a consultative survey in Atacora and Alibori to assess protection risks and needs among displaced persons and host communities. Additionally, from 30 July to 2 August, WFP participated in an inter-agency shock preparedness mission with the Government.

#### School Meals Programme

- The transition of the School Feeding Programme to the *Agence Nationale de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition* (ANAN) is progressing smoothly. WFP has planned the transfer of staff and equipment to ANAN to ensure a seamless handover. For the 2024-2025 academic year, WFP has delivered over 12,000 mt of food to 5,709 schools, completing food stock-taking and reviewing cash management records. This involved setting up school canteen management committees following ANAN's recommended approach.
- WFP is preparing to implement the Joint Integrated School Feeding and Nutrition Project (PIASN) with UNICEF in 400 schools across eight districts with support from the Netherlands. The pilot for cash-based transfers (CBT) for school canteens will also be launched during the 2024-2025 school year, promoting local food purchases and improving the nutritional impact of school meals.

#### Nutrition

- WFP trained 29 health workers, including midwives, doctors, and nurses, from Karimama and Malanville, to improve the nutritional management of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). Additionally, 155,400 schoolchildren received complementary nutrition, and 6,958 school cooks were trained in good hygiene practices and food handling. Furthermore, 17,139 children were monitored for their nutritional status.

#### Capacity Strengthening

- WFP is building momentum in supporting the School Meals Programme by enhancing best practices in managing school canteens. In partnership with IFAD, WFP is working with 35 school canteens to integrate school gardens and farms, providing technical support to small-scale producers and women's groups engaged in income-generating activities.

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## WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2027)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>386.4 million</b>	<b>129 million</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Sep 2024 – Feb 2025)
<b>81.4 million</b>	<b>0 million</b>

### 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.

## Resilience

- WFP conducted 13 capacity-building sessions in Banikoara and Tanguiéta, benefiting over 1,300 participants, including 793 women. These sessions focused on improving livelihoods through better agricultural and pastoral practices, with topics such as livestock management and rice cultivation techniques covered.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP carried out assessments on market functionality and the feasibility of cash-based transfers (CBT) for 10 schools in Djidja, Zou department. Data collection is ongoing and it will contribute to the harmonized framework. In addition, WFP conducted monitoring visits to ensure proper storage of food supplies in schools during the vacation period to prevent infestation.

## Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- WFP organized content creation activities in Ouémé and Plateau departments to produce a TV documentary highlighting achievements under the PAEEM project. A media visit was also conducted to document preparations for school feeding activities at the start of the academic year.
- WFP organized a media visit to document the preparations of school feeding activities at the onset of the 2024-2025 academic year. Several articles were covered in various publications, see examples [here](#). WFP continues to promote the visibility of its projects through social media channels.

## Partnerships

- WFP is currently in discussions with the Delegation of the European Union regarding possible funding for the Joint Response Plan for the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). The focus is on securing regional funding to enhance the response and monitoring mechanisms. This would include implementing stronger food security monitoring systems for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities, particularly in Materi and Banikoara. These efforts aim to provide a more comprehensive and targeted response to the growing challenges faced by vulnerable populations in these areas.

## Donors

Donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan (2024 – 2027) include Australia, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ) Brazil, Government of Benin, China, Choithrams Foundation, Denmark, France Netherlands, Rockefeller Foundation, SODEXO.