



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ghana Country Brief October 2024



In Numbers

6,680 people assisted



US\$ 602,071 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 8.9 million six-month net funding requirement (November - April 2025)

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% 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% 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

Operational Updates

Food Systems: WFP facilitated placements for 276 out of 398 participants enrolled in the Post-Harvest Mechanization Training Program funded by the Mastercard Foundation and provided capacity-building and technical training to 500 youth smallholder rice farmers as part of the Aveyime Irrigation Scheme. WFP implemented activities in three regions to facilitate linkages between 2,100 smallholder farmers (SHFs) and local maize aggregators. The Food Systems and Nutrition team, based in Tamale, conducted a technical support visit to communities in the Karaga District of the Northern Region as part of the DFAT-funded Resilience and Livelihoods Programme. The visit aimed to provide guidance on specific topics, such as the accumulation of biomass from leguminous crops planted for land rehabilitation, and the cultivation of drought-resistant leguminous crops, such as haricot, within water-harvesting microstructures (i.e. halfmoons, eyebrows, micro-trenches, and soil bunds) to enhance water retention and soil fertility. The visit also served to gather evidence of progress, documenting successes for future learning and experience sharing.

Nutrition in Retail: activities were implemented in four districts, included cooking demonstrations for 4,847 people, a Social Behavioural Change (SBC) campaign reaching 12,650 breastfeeding mothers and caregivers through 12 health facilities, and the training of 225 students and teachers on agronomic practices for school gardens. Fourteen school gardens were established that will provide green leafy vegetables for students. Other activities include a nutrition-focused quiz competition being implemented in schools, and TV and radio discussions addressing post-natal care. Additionally, through the Kpododo mobile platform WFP sent nutrition messages to 1,383 pregnant women and 617 mothers on pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Dry Spell Response: WFP, alongside the Government of Ghana, is supporting households affected by the prolonged dry spell through cash transfers. WFP has been working with cooperating partners to ensure the successful targeting and registration of affected households, which include marginalized pastoralist groups. The beginning of the disbursements is planned for late November.

UN Joint Gulf of Guinea response: in September, a Joint UN program was launched focusing on food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience for asylum seekers and host communities. WFP has been leading the way as lead coordinating agency. The program, funded by the French government and expected to run from August 2024 to January 2026, aims to assist 10,200 vulnerable individuals—8,200 from host communities and 2,000 asylum seekers—in the Upper East and Upper West Regions. In November, WFP signed a field level agreement (FLA) with the Adventist Relief Services (ADRA) as key cooperating partner.

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Photo Caption: Lydia, an ESRF beneficiary, carefully sorts her groundnuts in preparation for making groundnut paste to sell
WFP/ Daniel Kwasiyi

Total Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (US\$) (November 2024 - April 2025)
137.5 million	8.9 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

The monitoring of **Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS)** was undertaken in the Eastern Region for MCF beneficiaries who were trained as GALS Champions. The exercise focused on measuring gender-related outcomes on topics such as joint decision making at the household level, GBV, male participation in unpaid caretaking activities traditionally done by women, financial inclusion and savings, and agency.

WFP conducted its **annual outcome monitoring related to Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and food systems**. The exercise covered **4,945 households** in **457 communities** across **10 regions**, and focused on food security, livelihoods, and resilience. The survey found that cash transfers enabled access to seeds, fertilizers, education, and healthcare, and helped strengthen Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). However, farmers identified the need for better post-harvest training and pointed out gaps in nutrition knowledge. Climate challenges, including extended dry spells and crop infestations, significantly affected food security, leading farmers to seek alternative income sources and consider temporary migration. The findings highlight the need for continued support through well-targeted interventions.

On October 31st, WFP conducted a **verification exercise** at the **Tarikom Settlement Centre** in Ghana's Upper East Region for asylum seekers who arrived between September and October 2024. In partnership with UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board, 78 additional households were enrolled, bringing the total to 613 eligible households.

Dry Spell Response: A joint assessment by FAO, WFP, IFAD, IWMI, and UNICEF revealed that 1.04 million people in eight regions of Ghana are severely affected by the ongoing dry spell, with food shortages, water scarcity, livestock mortality, and high food prices leading to negative coping strategies. In response, WFP plans to assist 141,190 households (approximately 693,224 individuals), though funding limitations may affect the scope of assistance.

Donors

Donors to WFP Ghana CSP (2024–2028) include the Government of Ghana, Ireland, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States of America, and private donors such as the Mastercard Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and AB InBev Foundation.