



World Food Programme

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## WFP Ghana Country Brief March 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 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



**9,172 beneficiaries** assisted

**US\$ 52,295 cash-based transfers** made

**US\$ 7.6 million** six-month net funding requirement (April- September 2025)

### Operational Updates

- **Emergency food assistance to refugees and host community:** WFP provided unconditional cash assistance to 980 refugee households (4,900 people) in five settlement sites across Upper East, Upper West, and Bono East, and to 796 host community households (3,980 people) in Upper East. Beneficiaries included pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescent girls, and children aged 6–23 months. Transfers were made through Mobile Money Limited and ABSA Bank.
- **Transition from Cash in Hand to Mobile Money:** Following the Government of Ghana's official recognition of refugee status for asylum seekers, WFP is shifting from cash-in-hand to Mobile Money transfers for refugees starting April. In partnership with Mobile Money Limited, this transition aims to improve efficiency, security, and timely access to funds for food, nutrition, and other essential needs.
- **Rapid Assessment: Tidal Wave in the Volta Region:** As Chair of the IAWGE, WFP coordinated a joint multisectoral rapid assessment in three tidal wave-affected communities in Ketu South, Volta Region, with participation from government bodies, NGOs, and UN agencies including NADMO, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, CARITAS, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The assessment aimed to understand the impact and guide a coordinated response. Findings showed over 200 affected households, damaged or collapsed homes, displacement, loss of livelihoods, and rising food insecurity. WFP is providing cash transfers to support affected populations.
- **Resilience and Livelihoods Intervention:** In March 2025, community engagement, targeting, and beneficiary selection for a joint WFP-UNICEF-IOM program (funded by France) focused on gender equity and inclusion of both refugees and host communities. A total of 136 host community members (83 females, 53 males) and 301 refugees (250 females, 56 males) participated. 196 refugee households (161 headed by women) and 49 host community households (33 headed by women) were selected for the livelihoods intervention. Among host communities, 80 percent of participants opted for small ruminant rearing, 18 percent chose crop production, and 2 percent opted for guinea fowl rearing. For refugees, preferences included 32 percent for vegetable production, 25 percent for crop production, 21 percent for small ruminants, with the rest choosing aquaculture, skills training, or guinea fowl rearing.
- **DFAT Resilience and Livelihood Project:** A review meeting for the DFAT Resilience Project was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, to assess the 2024 implementation of phase one, with input from implementing partners and community leaders. The success of improved fuel stoves was highlighted, reducing firewood use and heat exposure for women, with a request to include them in every household in phase two.

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**Photo Caption:** Buala, a youth empowered through a mechanization training now works as an engineer at an agrifood processing facility in Ghana  
**WFP Photographer:** © WFP/Abdul-Wahab

WFP COUNTRY STRATEGY

Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2024–2028) *	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
161.6 million	53 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (Apr–Sep 2025) (US\$)
41.8 million	7.6 million

\*Based on ongoing budget revision

**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 17.9: 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.

- Recommendations for phase two included scaling up energy-saving stove construction and expanding homestead gardens and agroforestry. A refresher training on Food for Assets technologies took place on March 4th, attended by 35 participants, including new government partners.
- Collaboration with the Regional Agricultural Department (RAD):** The Food Systems Unit has been working with RAD on the implementation of the Agribusiness for Youth Employment (AgYE), Abinbev, and Changing Life Transformation Fund (CLTF) projects. A review meeting was held with RAD representatives from 11 regions (Volta, Oti, Eastern, Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Savannah, Northeast, Northern, Upper West, and Upper East) to assess the collaboration and realign food systems activities with the new CSP. A total of 40 participants (13 women, 27 men) attended the meeting.

Monitoring

- Preparation for April 2025 Cadre Harmonise:** WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ghana Health Service, will conduct a Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey (FSNMS) targeting 13,350 households. The data will inform the April 2025 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, updating the March 2024 estimate of 1.05 million food-insecure Ghanaians.
- WFP’s dry spell response through cash assistance in 39 districts of Northern Ghana** improved food security and social cohesion. Among dry spell-affected households, acceptable Food Consumption Scores increased from 23 percent to 55.4 percent, and poor scores dropped from 41percent to 8.2 percent. Pastoralist households saw stable food consumption, reduced negative coping strategies, and invested in food, health, and livelihoods. WFP will expand support during the lean season.
- Update of Minimum Expenditure Basket (Food) to bridge consumption deficit and enhance access to food amongst people WFP serves:** The revised MEB ensures that cash-based transfers can meet basic food needs and bridge consumption deficits, aligning with the SPHERE standard of 2,100 kcal per person per day. Nationally, food basket costs rose by over 145 percent on average, with some regions seeing increases up to 250 percent, mainly due to surging maize prices. Before these recent shocks, households could only meet 63 percent of the food MEB, highlighting the urgent need for adjusted support, especially following the 2024 dry spell. WFP will use the updated MEB to establish transfer values and will work with government agencies for regular market monitoring and timely adjustments to maintain effective assistance.

Donors

Donors to WFP Ghana’s CSP (2024 – 2028) include: the Government of Ghana, FCDO, USAID, KOICA, the Government of Korea, Japan, the MasterCard Foundation, Australia, ABINBEV, France, Germany and the Rockefeller Foundation.