



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Ghana Country Brief June 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, 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 2024, 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.



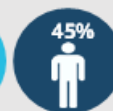
Human Development Index:
133 (2021)

Chronic malnutrition:
17% of children aged 6-59

Population: **34.7 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers



32,789 beneficiaries assisted, inclusive of 3,229 school children.

US\$ 489,148 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 5.5 million six-month net funding requirements (July – December 2025)

Operational Updates

- **Strategic Partnership with Local Rice Millers:** Under its rice fortification initiative, WFP Ghana partnered with selected local rice millers to supply 44.5 metric tonnes of parboiled unpolished rice to seven schools in the Upper East Region. This intervention aims to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals, supporting adolescent health and cognitive development.
- **Cash based Transfers to Refugees and Host communities:** WFP continued its support to 1,004 refugee households (3,157 individuals) and 331 host community households (1,655 individuals) across Ghana's Bono East, Upper East, and Upper West regions. In partnership with Mobile Money Limited, WFP provided unconditional cash assistance to help meet the immediate food and nutrition needs of vulnerable households. This support included targeted assistance for 427 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), 119 adolescent girls, and 222 children aged 6–23 months among refugees, as well as 302 PBW, 308 adolescent girls, and 183 children aged 6–23 months within host communities.
- **Cash based Transfers – Lean Season Response:** In June 2025, WFP provided unconditional cash assistance to 3,501 households, including 2,218 male-headed and 1,283 female-headed households. This is part of WFP's ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of the 2024 prolonged dry spell on affected populations. The intervention aims to facilitate timely monthly cash transfers, in partnership with Mobile Money Limited, to targeted and verified vulnerable households across five regions (Northern, Oti, Savannah, and Upper West, Upper East) and nineteen districts. This support is intended to bolster food security, improve livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of farmers in the affected districts.
- **Resilience and Livelihoods Intervention:** WFP and its partner ADRA implemented livelihoods interventions to support asylum seekers and host communities in the Tarikom Refugee Reception Centre and surrounding areas. Fifteen female asylum seekers completed vocational training and received business starter kits, 11 in pastry making (flour, sugar, oil, utensils) and 4 in dawadawa processing (aluminum pots, sieves, trays, and locust beans). Additionally, 75 individuals (60 asylum seekers and 15 host community members) were trained in onion and cabbage cultivation. They received agricultural starter packs, including seeds, fertilizers, tools, agro-chemicals, and ploughing services. GPS demarcation was completed for 45 onion producers across 37.7 acres, and by late June, 34 participants had begun nursing seeds in preparation for transplanting in early July. These activities aim to promote food security, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Support to women microprocessors:** WFP and the Government of Ghana supplied new processing equipment to support rural Ghanaian improve food processing quality.

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Photo Caption: Rafatu 12years, enjoying her meal under WFP's homegrown school feeding for low-fee-paying private schools in Northern Ghana
WFP Photographer: © WFP/Abdul-Wahab

WFP COUNTRY STRATEGY

Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2024–2028)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
160.7 million	53 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (Jul–Dec 2025) (US\$)
41.9 million	5.5 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 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

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.

- Building on this, WFP is partnering with Regional Agriculture Departments in 10 regions to strengthen the capacity of 4,000 microprocessors (80 percent women, including 2,000 youth) in Business Management, aiming to boost their business activities.
- **Local Fabricator Initiative:** Smallholder farmers in Ghana face significant challenges in reducing post-harvest losses, largely due to the unavailability of affordable and accessible post-harvest equipment. The Local Fabricator initiative therefore seeks to address this challenge by strengthening the capacity of young artisans to produce this equipment for youth smallholder farmers, especially women. Under the local fabricator initiative, WFP has signed a technical Agreement (TA) with Gratis Foundation to train 231 local youth artisans to enhance their capacities in manufacturing post-harvest equipment.

Monitoring

- **Market Functionality in Northern Ghana:** A Market Functionality Index (MFI) conducted in June in three northern Ghanaian regions revealed partially functional markets with an overall score of 5.7. Key weaknesses were identified in market infrastructure (4.8), service provision (5.0), and price volatility (5.4). While access, competition, and assortment scored high, specific markets like Sang and Nyoli showed imminent risk of stock-outs due to low availability. Consequently, most markets were deemed high to very high risk for Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) operations. Recommendations include close price monitoring, supporting vendors with adequate premises and licenses, rehabilitating infrastructure in the long term, and integrating retailer capacity strengthening into Market Development Activities (MDA) for CBT operations, especially where service delivery is a challenge.
- **Food Security in Ketu South (Volta Region):** A rapid needs assessment in April, published in June by the UN and Ghana Government (with WFP contributions), highlighted that communities displaced by tidal waves in Ketu South, Volta Region, are heavily relying on negative food-based and livelihood coping strategies. Although 97 percent of households maintain acceptable consumption levels, over 70 percent have resorted to coping strategies like ration cuts or consuming less preferred meals. More than half of households are also using emergency, asset-depleting strategies, which increases their economic vulnerability to future shocks.

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.